H. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

149th Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Abbreviations: UMC - United Methodist Church; PNWAC - Pacific Northwest Annual Conference; PCH - Pre-Conference Handbook; BAC - Business of the Annual Conference; GNW - Greater Northwest (our Episcopal Area). Names of ordained clergy are printed in italics.

Meetings online via Zoom

PNW CLERGY SPECIAL CALLED SESSION,
FEBRUARY 24, 2022 7:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM

The purpose of this special clergy session (¶369 and 603.5, 605; BOD 2016) was limited to acting on a recommendation from the Board of Ordained Ministry to recognize the orders of Megan Madsen and transfer her into the PNW Conference. Megan was an ordained Elder in the Church of the Nazarene, appointed as Pastor of Covenant UMC in Spokane, WA, since July 1, 2021. In consultation with the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and with the unanimous consent of the district superintendents of the PNWAC this meeting was duly called, and the action put to the clergy for a vote. 71 votes were cast, 100% affirmative. Megan Madsen was received in transfer.

PNW CONFERENCE CLERGY SESSION,
JUNE 1, 2022, 1:30-4:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM

Actions and results are reported in the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) 2022, Journal Section I.

PNW FOCUS SESSION 1, CONNECTING IN MISSIONS
JUNE 8, 2022, 6:30-8:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM

David Valera began the session with welcoming words and prayer, then introduced Janet’ Crouse as chair of the focus session.

Patrick Scriven addressed items of hospitality, including how to access various interpreters and how to actively participate in the online session.

Shane Moore, of the Rules Committee, ran a test vote using the polling feature and reviewed the rules for the proceedings.

Petition #12 “Strive for Creation Justice” was presented, moved by Megan Madsen and
seconded by Wes Stanton. Following discussion and editing for clarification, it was put to a vote. With votes of 133 affirmative (91%) and 13 negative (9%) the petition was approved.

**Creation Care Ministry**

In panel-discussion format, two conversations were hosted by Kathryn Neary.

**Land Acknowledgement Practices** were modeled and explained. Rev. Dr. Allen Buck, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Oregon-Idaho Conference elder at Great Spirit UMC in Portland, OR, and Director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries of the GNW Area of the UMC, spoke to the value and purpose of land acknowledgements, both for those making the acknowledgements and for those whose lands are being acknowledge. He spoke about how the process evolves overtime as relationships are initiated and grown.

Jenny Phillips, Senior Technical Advisor for Environmental Sustainability at General Board of Global Ministries, reflected on the ongoing need to do more to both protect and steward the lands, and to assist in recovering from the harm done by previous generations. She presented Green Teams from local congregations that name injustices, lead repentance, and commit to ways to be in relationship to the whole of creation. Every ministry in the church has the capacity to promote the flourishing of God’s creation.

**Creation Justice Ministries**

Amy Swanson from Kent UMC, Robin Inlow & Aurora Pavon from Wesley, Yakima, and Laura Baumgartner, together with Allen Buck, shared about the ministries of their local congregations to care for God’s creation and to promote similar care by others beyond their congregation. Agencies and other local resources were recommended, including Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light (WAIPL) and the Greening Congregations Tool Kit.

**PNW FOCUS SESSION 2, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

**JUNE 13, 2022, 6:30-8:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

David Valera began the session with welcoming words and prayer, then introduced Mele Aho as chair of the Focus Session.

Patrick Scriven addressed items of hospitality, including how to access various interpreters and how to actively participate in the online session.

Shane Moore, of the Rules Committee, ran a test vote and reviewed the rules for proceedings.

Petitions #1 - #11 were presented for action. Petitions #1 - #7 were affirmed and placed on the consent calendar, approving Conference Advance Specials, Minimum Compen-
sation for Clergy, Moving Allowance, Past Service Pension Rate, Retirement Annuity Responsibility, Retirement Grants, and Disability Benefits. Note: petition #5 was amended before presentation to include two additional names for retirement annuity.

Petitions #8 & #9, the closure of Bonney Lake Foothills UMC and the 2023 CFA Budget Recommendations, respectively, were affirmed above the 90% threshold and will proceed to the plenary session in accordance with Conference Rules.

Petition #10 to establish a Disability Awareness Sunday with offering was affirmed by 86%, but in failing the 90% threshold, the petition advances to the plenary session for further debate, the Focus Session recommended Concurrence.

Petition #11 to Revise Limits on Church Property Sale Use was presented with the idea that if affirmed it would be forwarded as a petition to General Conference. The petition was not affirmed, with a vote of 86% against the petition; however, with the vote failing to meet the 90% threshold the petition proceeds to the plenary session for further debate, and with a recommendation of non-concurrence.

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GNW LAITY SESSION
JUNE 14, 2022, 6:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM

Paul Nickell, OR-ID Conference Lay Leader hosted the session with greetings and instructions on how to participate and general hospitality guidelines.

_Bishop Elaine Stanovsky_ greeted the gathering and reminded all that God invites everyone to be bold, awake, attentive and responsive saints.

In recognition of and in solidarity with the people of Tonga, following the catastrophic volcanic eruption and tsunami, Lents Tongan Fellowship sang, in Tongan, including _What a Friend We Have in Jesus_. Scripture was read in Inupiaq, English, Korean, Tagalog, Spanish and Tongan. It was followed by a devotion by _Fungalei Taufoou_.

Nancy Tam Davis, PNW Lay Leader, introduced Sharon Gregory, Western Pennsylvania Conference Lay Leader. We have a precious gift from God, that when opened will not quench the Spirit but serve the whole church. She titled her talk: One God, Many Households, One Great Family, maintaining unity and peace.

Jo Anne Hayden, Alaska Conference Lay Leader, expressed thanks to many, then invited members to join their respective conference laity sessions.

_PNW Laity Session_, Immediately following the GNW Laity session, the PNW laity convened a session with prayer led by out-going Associate Lay Leader Angelina Goldwell. The position and responsibilities of Associate Lay Leader were described. Candidate Andy O'Donnell of Renton UMC shared his reasons to serve in this roll and was duly elected.
Nancy Tam Davis closed the meeting with a blessing.

**GNW OPENING SESSION**
**JUNE 19, 2022, 6 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM,**
**BROADCAST FROM DES MOINES UMC**

*David Valera* welcomed everyone to the shared session of PNW, OR-ID, and AK Conferences. He laid out the threefold plan for the session, which included worship, the experience of being together as an episcopal area, followed by PNW action to receive their budget recommendations according to conference rules.

Worship included song, liturgy, and an episcopal address. *Bishop Stanovsky* offered words of encouragement and a call to perseverance. She highlighted the area's efforts to address racism in our churches, including the continuing work by the Innovation Vitality Team under its new executive director, Kristina Gonzalez. In its cross-cultural competency work, the team has recently concluded a five-month process of assisting Portland First Church in receiving its first person of color as pastor. Kristina Gonzalez introduced herself as the new executive director of the Innovation Vitality Team, and spoke about its change theory, a combination of inclusion and innovation. A video produced by GNW Director of Innovation for an Engaged Church *Rev. Dr. Leroy Barber*, offered a spoken word reflection marking the Juneteenth holiday.

During her address, the bishop also touched on ways local churches are active in mission, including anti-racism. She highlighted a new initiative on gun control by Olympia First UMC and the response by Lents Tongan UM Fellowship in Portland to the tsunami-driven devastation in Tonga.

In multiple languages, Bishop Stanovsky led in a renewal of baptismal vows. As she concluded her message, she said, “Stand firm in your faith, that when God is doing a new good thing, there may be disruption. But there will be a way through it, and it will be worth it.”

**Laity Address**

The three conference lay leaders – Jo Anne Hayden (Alaska), Paul Nickell (OR-ID) and Nancy Tam Davis (PNW) – offered a shared Laity Address spotlighting ways laity were engaging in the ministry of the church, including ramping up the learning opportunities and callings to step up into leadership.

**Tonga Offering**
Paul Nickell named the need for help by the Tongan people, and the several Tongan fellowships that are leading efforts to collect goods to send to Tonga. Giving during conference session will be used to send a container of goods to Tonga and to support other relief work.

**GNW Disaster Response**

Jim Truitt, GNW Disaster Response Coordinator, Dan Wilcox (AK), Louise Kinsey (OR-ID), and Kathy and Dana Bryson (PNW) reported on record-breaking floods and the most damaging wildfires in history. Each conference has been very active is assisting survivors and helping them return to some form of normal.

**Video Report: Circle of Indigenous Ministries**

*Rev. Dr. Allen Buck* reports on this new initiative coming out or OR-ID but reaching across the GNW. This is an effort to be in ministry with indigenous tribes and communities and churches more intentionally. The first step was to assess the reality and strategize priorities. There are only six indigenous ministries in the GNW, a surprising low number. Site visits, workshops, and storytelling about the trauma and healing that is needed will be some of the next steps. A resource for doing land acknowledgements is available on the GNW website. Prayers and financial giving are appreciated.

Directions for participating in the next meetings were given before adjournment for the evening.

*Bishop Stanovsky* closed the meeting with a blessing.

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**PNW PLENARY SESSION**

**JUNE 19, 2022, 7:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM, BROADCAST FROM DES MOINES UMC**

*Bishop Stanovsky* called the meeting to order.

Jan Kallshian, outgoing chair of CF&A, presented and explained the process of compiling the budget. Conference Treasurer Brant Henshaw was available for questions. The efforts of recent years to “right-size” the budget have resulted in shrinking budgets the last eight of nine years. Honoring the rules, the budget was presented more than 12 hours before it would be considered, presented as Petition #9 for $4,526,784 which is a less than 1% increase over 2022.

*Bishop Stanovsky* closed the meeting with a blessing.
Welcoming and Opening Prayer, 9:05 a.m.

Bishop Stanovsky welcomed everyone and reflected that she wished we could be meeting in person, but that the number of COVID infections reported in the last week has been alarming, including two in the conference office staff, which made her glad for the decision to meet virtually. She led an opening prayer.

Opening Worship / Bible Study

Charles Brower, Alaska Conference, led a bible study reflecting on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, the theme scripture for this conference session. Considering both ancient Corinth and contemporary Alaskan native peoples in their struggles for authentic life, Brower encourages all of us, in a world and church plagued by conflict and division, to focus on Christ. Justin White closed with Morning Has Broken.

Call to Order

After thanking Charles Brower for the study and Justin White for providing music, Bishop Stanovsky called to order the 149th Annual Conference Session of the PNW Annual Conference at 9:27 a.m.

This year’s gathering is mostly remote. Those who were in person were introduced: Shirley DeLarme, Conference Secretary; Nancy Tam Davis, Conference Lay Leader; Shane Moore, Rules Committee Chair and session Parliamentarian; Pam Osborne, Orders of the Day chair; David Valera, Director of Connectional Ministries; Brant Henshaw, Treasurer; Rhondalei Gabuat, Assistant to the Bishop, and the whole tech team.

Accessibility & Translation

Sharon Ryder, chair of the Disability Ministry Committee, spoke of the availability of interpreters, how to enable captions, and how to request assistance through the Q&A function. She named the growing understanding of Disability Theology in their ministry with and by those with disabilities. She reminded us that the Disability Community is the
largest minority in the world and that anyone can join at any time.

**GNTV Media Ministry**

GNTV staff member David Wood gave instructions for using the voting application, how to get recognized to speak, and then led in a practice vote with the question: Do you play an instrument? The vote tally indicated 187 voted yes, 127 voted no. A larger percentage of those voting play an instrument.

**Procedural Motions for Virtual Meetings & Electronic Remote Voting**

Conference secretary, Shirley DeLarme, moved that the program and schedule provided on the PNW Conference website shall be the official program and schedule of the conference; that the process used in the registration procedure be designated as the official roll call for the 149th annual session of the PNW Conference; that the bar of the conference be established as those who, according to their status within and relationship with the PNW Conference, have voting rights and are thus given passcode access to voting procedures provided by GNTV and conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing; and that the minutes of the daily sessions of the conference, as kept by the secretary, when approved and certified by the president and secretary thereof, together with the reports of the councils, boards, commissions, and committees of the PNW Conference of the UMC, be published and be the official record of the 149th Annual Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the UMC. The motion was seconded by many. Total votes cast 234, yes 231, no 3. The motion was approved.

**Video Report: #BeUMC**, our choice and our story join the story of others as we respond to natural disasters, worship together, serve others, participate in bible studies, VBS, social action, and local churches who nurture, care, and transform. These 100 countries, 43,000 local congregations, and 12 million members build partnerships and share a history and a passion. We are the church together.

**Announcement on the Rules** Shane Moore, Rules Committee chair, announced that the hybrid conference format is enabled by conference Rule 5, Section 5.

**Episcopal Affirmations, Part 1** Mary Huycke, chair of the WJ Committee on Episcopacy, explained the new process, created by the Committee on Episcopacy, for identifying and lifting potential future bishops to be elected during the fall of 2022 Western Jurisdictional Conference to fill vacancies created by Bishop Robert Hoshibata 2021 retirement, and the expected retirements of Bishops Grant Hagiya and Elaine JW Stanovsky at the end of 2022. The new process encourages discernment on the parts of both the nominees and the nominators. Additional resources will be provided by the Western Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy to possible candidates in the months leading to November. When
elections take place at the Western Jurisdictional Conference, delegates will elect three new bishops who will work well together, along with Bishops Minerva Carcaño and Karen Oliveto.

To make this new process possible in the PNW, Elizabeth Schindler, on behalf of the General Conference delegation, moved to suspend Rule 11, Sec 5. Votes cast: 244, 230 yes, 14 no, the rules were suspended.

**Video Report: Evangelism and Church Revitalization GBGM** We are finding new ways to make disciples, cultivate new faith communities, revitalize churches, and embrace mutuality in mission.

**Instructions for Nomination Process** Shane Moore, Rules Committee chair, indicated people must have approval from anyone being nominated before filling out the nomination form, which is available online. At 1:50 p.m. the list of nominees would be shared, and at 2:50 p.m. a poll would be taken, with each name receiving its own yes or no vote. All names with over 50% of votes cast in the affirmative will have their names passed on in the process. A few questions were asked and answered.

**Reading of Appointments, Crest to Coast Missional District** Bishop Stanovsky and Kathleen Weber fixed the appointments, which were affirmed by District Co-Lay Leader Lyn Rush.

Bishop Stanovsky commented on the responsibility and challenge of the appointment process while looking for that magic between people and congregations.

**Focus Session Report: Connecting for Mission** Janet Crouse, presented the consent calendar which contained only petition #12, Strive for Creation Justice, moving concurrence. Votes cast: 240, yes 236, no 4; the motion was approved.

**Video Report: Humanitarian Relief and Recovery** is at the core of GBGM work. UM-COR, disaster response, support of refugees, efforts to increase environmental sustainability and decrease food insecurity are all work of GBGM. The work is collaborative among churches, case workers, and others.
Focus Session Report: Administrative Support  Mele Aho, Focus Session chair, presented the consent calendar, containing petitions #1 Conference Advance Specials, #2 Minimum Compensation, #3 Moving Allowance, #4 Past Service Pension Rate, #5 Retirement Annuity Responsibility, #6 Retirement Grants, and #7 Disability Benefits. The Focus Session moved concurrence. Total votes: 242, yes 240, no 2; the motion was approved.

Video Report: Lazy F Camp & Retreat Center The upcoming program has changed from the past but retained some of the favorites. Members were invited to send kids, volunteer, or provide financial support.

Focus Session Report: Administrative Support  Mele Aho, Focus Session chair, presented petition #10 Disability Awareness Sunday, the focus session moved concurrence. Total votes: 229, yes 205, no 24; the motion was approved.

Video Report: Ocean Park Camp is ready for an exciting summer and looking forward to the kids with a new zipline and other fun.

Focus Session Report: Administrative Support  Mele Aho, Focus Session chair, presented petition #11 Revise Limits on Church Property. This petition was intended to be sent for General Conference 2024’s consideration and did not assume the Annual Conference had authority to change the rules. The focus session moved non-concurrence. While this motion is non-debatable, due to some confusion around the motion Bishop Stanovsky asked if the body wanted to open debate anyway; opening debate was moved by Douglas Wood, seconded by John Weston, and approved with 240 votes, 143 yes, 97 no. No one chose to speak, so the main motion of non-concurrence was, again on the table. Total votes 242, 208 yes, 34 no. The motion of non-concurrence is supported; the petition will not be forwarded to General Conference 2024.

Video Report: Camp Indianola 2022 The camp is so excited for this camp season, back and ready to have a blast.

Reading of Appointments, Puget Sound Missional District  Bishop Stanovsky and Mark Galang fixed the appointments, which were affirmed by District Lay Leader Keith Skore.

BREAK

Focus Session Report: Administrative Support  Mark Galang read a litany of remembrance for Bonney Lake: Foothills UMC. Mele Aho, Focus Session chair, presented petition #8 Bonney Lake: Foothills UMC Closure, the Focus Session moved concurrence.
Kathleen Weber shared a bit of the congregation’s story. Total votes 235, yes 230, no 5; the motion was approved.

Bishop Stanovský took a moment to introduce all the district superintendents, and to appreciate their work and efforts this past year.

The district superintendents led a litany of thanksgiving and gave a prayer of committal for the Bonney Lake church.

Memorial Service The first conference memorial service in two years was held, remembering beloved clergy, spouses, laity who served in the life of the PNW Conference, and bishops who have died over the past two conference years. Prayers, music, and photos of those who have gone ahead of us were shared.

LUNCH BREAK

Reading of Appointments, SeaTac Missional District Bishop Stanovský and Derek Nakano fixed the appointments, which were affirmed by District Lay Leader Andy O’Donnell.

Video Report: General Conference First Elected Delegates Elizabeth Ingram Schindler, first elected clergy delegate, reports there have been many delays for General Conference 2020. Due to multiple time zones and inconsistent internet access in our truly global church, equal participation by all members would not be possible remotely, therefore General Conference will next gather in person in 2024. Sooner, however, some bishops need retire, so a jurisdictional conference will take place in November for the purpose of episcopal elections. Meanwhile, the delegation continues to meet and work with other delegations in the jurisdiction, and accomplished the following: monitoring what happens in the wider church, including the launch of the Global Methodist Church and church disaffiliations; work on changing the UMC and Western Jurisdiction for good; discerning a new process for episcopal election, updating the roles of episcopal leaders, a new mission statement; open forums for feedback on jurisdiction-wide issues; and imagining new leadership structures.

Video Report: Board of Ordained Ministry Geoff Helton, chair of the full board, reported on the extensive work of the board in the past year, which included: training new members for the board, adapting to the ever-changing landscape of the UMC in the lingering pandemic, supporting district committees, renewing commitment to give all candidates equal consideration regardless of gender or orientation, finding new ways to support and equip clergy and pastoral leaders. Vonda McFadden, chair of the fellowship of licensed local pastors, welcomed newly licensed pastors. Janelle Kurtz, chair of the provisional membership team, presented seven candidates for provisional membership. Shalom Agtarap, chair of the full membership committee, presented two candidates for ordination as deacon. She also reported that eight who are continuing in the committee’s care, and two
who withdrew from the process. Kathy Morse, chair of the formation committee, reported on support services for ordained ministers career development and financial support for continuing education and formation. The scope of opportunities that qualify for compensation and set an individual quadrennium cap of $3500 per person. David Nieda, co-chair of the conference relations committee, welcomed three transferees from Oregon-Idaho, Mountain Sky, and New York; celebrated those 7 who are retiring; and prayed for them.

**Video Report: Retirees** spoke to us, reflecting on the conference theme words.

**Episcopal Affirmations, Part 2** The following names were lifted up as potential candidates for bishop: Shalom Agtarap, Steve Baber, Joe Kim, Katie Ladd, Derek Nakano, Tim Overton Harris (OR-ID), David Parker, Carlo Rapanut.

**Reading of Appointments, Seven Rivers Missional District** Bishop Stanovsky and Daniel Miranda fixed the appointments, which were affirmed by District Lay Leader Billie Fitzsimmons.

**Video Report: Lay Servant Ministry Inland District** Lay Leader John Townsend introduced the video explaining Certified Lay Ministries (CLM), including the three distinct roles of Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, and Certified Lay Minister.

**United Women in Faith** Janet’ Crouse named the challenges and celebrated the accomplishments of the United Methodist Women over the course of the pandemic. Many kinds of meetings were moved online to a Zoom format and proved successful. Rebranding happened on a global scale, including the new name United Women in Faith.

**Video Report: United Women of Faith** Love in action can change the world.

**Video Report: Mission u PNW** Carol Mariano invited members to Mission u, an integrated intergenerational study that will include communal projects and missional events.

**Reading of Appointments, Inland Missional District** Bishop Stanovsky and Daniel Miranda fixed the appointments, which were affirmed by District Lay Leader John Townsend.
BREAK

**Episcopal Affirmations, Part 3** Eight names were on the poll, one from Oregon-Idaho, all are Elders in full connection as required. *Bishop Stanovsky* noted that this process has turned a competitive process into a collaborative process. Those affirmed included: Shalom Agtarap, Joe Kim, Katie Ladd, Derek Nakano, Tim Overton Harris, Carlo Rapanut. Those affirmed and those not affirmed are welcome to move forward in the process.

**Video Report: PNW Student Scholarships** Grace Walton and others thanked the conference for awarding them scholarships.

**Video Report: Global Ministries** From everywhere in the world, to anywhere in the world, called by God to go where God leads, doing many tasks, following Christ’s example of unconditional love.

**Video Report: Global Health** Responds to the world’s needs for mental, physical, and spiritual health.

**Nominations Report** *Derek Nakano*, chair of nominations, noted that new leaders, by rules, will not be elected until following General Conference 2024; however, interim leaders may be selected for this 6th year of the 4-year quadrennium. Those still serving are struggling, morale and engagement have fallen as ministries are shut down or de-activated. They face obstacles for meeting and sustaining their present programs and ministries, and for keeping people engaged and inspired for their work. Ministry teams have asked the nominations committee to help recruit people in this interim season and to communicate their needs and concerns to the wider Conference leadership. Also, they have expressed an openness to resourcing and training that will equip both old and new members alike for this challenging and changing season in our ministry.

The nominations committee commits to letting go of some of the work that we have done, some of the old ways of working together, knowing that it was meaningful and effective in its time, but aware that its time may have passed, and new needs and new visions are calling us to new ways of being and doing in our work. New voices and diverse perspectives and experiences in leadership will open the door to things that were never imagined to be possible. Nimbleness and flexibility, imagination and creativity, will be
needed, and a willingness at times to “break the rules,” not arbitrarily, but with purpose
and a belief that we are being led there by God, recognizing that the old modes of loco-
motion will not get us to the new land of promise.

In addition to finding interim chairs for ethnic ministries, the board of congregation
development, communications, CFA, and rules, Nominations has also recruited members
of the Alaska Missionary District to begin serving on the various boards and agencies in
PNW.

**Hispanic Ministries Report** Cruz Edwin Santos, rejoiced in the use of the rainbow flag
at conference because it symbolizes the inclusiveness of the church and helps people find
ways to serve.

**Video Report: Hispanic Ministries** “Blessed Are Thee”, Hispanic Latinx video em-
phasizes the need for LGBTQIA+ inclusion, immigrant inclusion, and people of color
inclusion.

**Video Report: Certified Lay Minister** In both Spanish and English, Certified Lay
Ministries was explained and the process for participation in the learning and preparation
were outlined.

**Focus Session Report: Administrative Support** Mele Aho, Focus Session chair, present-
ed petition #9 - 2023 PNW Conference Budget, the focus session moved concurrence.
Total votes 233, yes 228, no 5.

**Video reports: General Commission on the Status and Role of Women** Fifty years after
the creation of the commission, there is still a lot of work to be done to overcome resis-
tance to a woman as pastor; sexual harassment against women, unequal representation in
positions of power, unequal pay for equal work. Participate in providing education, tools
for participation and leadership development training, guiding the church in the preven-
tion and response to sexual misconduct.

**Ruth Award** (Clergy women honoring|Lay women ho have supported clergy wom-
en, since 1990). Joanne Carlson Brown presented the award and a walking stick to Sue
Magrath, a spiritual director and licensed mental health counselor, retired, for all her work
on behalf of clergy and clergy wellness in the PNW Conference.

**Video Report: Volunteers in Mission** When the Coronavirus stopped mission teams from going out into the community for in-person service, they began serving the community with virtual missions to create awareness, provided education for the UMVIM sites, teams and congregations a way to study the issues mission partners face, and provide orientation for teams and their sending congregations as they prepare for in-person mission service.

**Reading of Appointments, Extension Ministry** Bishop Stanovsky and David Valera fixed the appointments, which were affirmed by Conference Lay Leader Nancy Tam Davis.

**Closing Motion** Conference Secretary Shirley DeLarme moved the closing of this 149th session of the Annual Conference following Wednesday’s ordination and commissioning service, Saturday morning’s shared closing session with the Greater Northwest Area, and the Saturday afternoon celebration of the retirement of Bishop Stanovsky at the end of 2022. Shane Moore, rules chair, seconded the motion. Total votes: 221, yes 219, no 2.

**Bishop’s Response** We do business as usual today even though we know there is nothing as usual, but we know God is at work and we do not lose sight of God’s good vision.

**Closing Worship** By previously prepared video, Debbie Sperry preached about old and new wine skins, and Justin White provided music. Jesus tells the pharisees and us that the new things we are seeing and witnessing, the things of God, that Jesus is doing, that become the gospel for us, won’t fit into the old mold. We will have to let go of the old ways, if we ever hope to hold on to the new things God is doing in our midst. Justin White closed with music.

**PNW Conference Closing Session**

*June 25, 2022, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm Pacific Time, via Zoom*

Following a welcome and greeting, Bishop Stanovsky expressed appreciation for the team at Portland First UMC for hosting the session.
Allen Buck provided instructions for using the language interpretation options, reminded everyone of the grace needed when meeting via an online platform.

A devotional moment, in a mixture of Spanish and English, both spoken and written in crisscrossing parallel tracks was beautiful and effective. Thanks were offered to David King and Keren Rodríguez. The Lord’s Prayer IV was sung by all.

Laurie Day, OR-ID Director of Connectional Ministries, made introductions: Carlo Rapanut, Rhondalei Gabuat, Paul Cosgrove (parliamentarian), Allen Buck (agenda chair), Lisa Talbot (AK), David Valera (PNW), Jim Doepkin (AK), Kristin Caldwell (OR-ID), Patrick Scriven (PNW), GNTV Laura Poarch and David Wood, along with the tech team, staff, and volunteers at Portland First UMC.

Bishop Stanovsky exclaimed that the past seven days of meetings had been exciting, and she invited the secretaries from each of the three conferences to summarize the actions of their conferences, respectively. Secretaries Carlo Rapanut, Laura Jaquith Bartlett, and Shirley DeLarme did so.

A Late-Breaking Matter was brought to the Conference for action. Following the release of the US Supreme Court ruling that overturned a previous Supreme Court ruling called Roe v Wade, several members of the conference had written a statement calling for support of reproductive autonomy and healthcare. That statement was presented to the conference for later action. It is not being considered as legislation, but as a statement, and therefore will not be put up for adoption, but for affirmation. The statement was distributed for later action.

Episcopal Affirmation and Discernment process was explained as having the goal to deepen the pool of candidates, rather than narrowing candidates to the one elected. Blessings were offered to individuals during their discernment, and on the delegates and delegations as they prepare for and go to the Western Jurisdictional Conference in November 2022 where the elections will happen.

Video Report: GNW Vitality Commission Dr. Daymond Glenn, chair of GNW Vitality Commission. Charged with drafting new legislation for the formation of a GNW Vitality Council, they formally requested an additional year to finish the work. All three conferences voted simultaneously, with each conferences’ vote begin tallied separately.
AK 25 ballots, 25 yes, 0 no.
PNW 164 ballots, 153 yes, 11 no.
OI 115 ballots, 112 yes, 3 no.
An extension of time for the work was approved by all three conferences.

**Video Report: Faith Foundation Northwest** Those serving on the foundation reported a strong position managing $90 million, despite the current market. They emphasized long-term investing without frequent changes. A new name to open the door to a diverse organization. Any agency, church, or camp may access their services, almost all of which are offered free of charge, either on-line or in-person.

**Video Report: GNW Missions Cohort** Ronda Cordill, and her counterparts in the other conferences, gathered early in the pandemic to discuss ministry challenges, pray for each other, strategize continuing GNW ministries by working cooperatively and collaboratively, and continue to expand the ministries presence. They have added the Immigration and the Tonga Relief task forces. Volunteers in Mission stopped traveling and focused on needs in their own communities. Teams are now beginning to serve ministries with whom they formally had relationships, and to begin new relationships. The cohort initiated the Love Beyond Borders Conference Advance Special. The Immigration Task Force is sponsoring a second roundtable in October. The Cohort was formed out of the COVID pandemic but finds they are stronger together, larger resource space to draw from, can utilize conference resources effectively, more consistent services, and can expand opportunities to be in mission.

**Tonga Relief Giving Update** Brant Henshaw reported that, with $5200 given so far, the offering is slight, with less than $1 per mile provided to move the container of goods from a mainland port to an island port. Supply containers are hard to ship with supply chain issues at play. The people of Tonga need help, prayers, and the assurance that someone far away cares for them. *Bishop Stanovsky* mentioned that Methodism has been in Tonga longer than in Colorado or the GNW; they are our Methodist elders. There are more Tongans who live outside Tonga than on the Island, mostly in New Zealand, Australia, and the US.

**Boy Scouts of America & The United Methodist Church** *Dan Wilson-Fey & Brant Henshaw* reported the process and progress of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) bankruptcy and victim’s compensation plans. In February 2020, BSA filed for bankruptcy & restructuring for purposes of facing class action, rather than individual, lawsuits against the 82,000 claims of abuse. The UMC-related claims are fewer than 5,000, with GNW facing fewer than 100 claims, most predating 1980. The total settlement obligation is $2.7 billion dollars to be shared by many. Much work has happened behind the scenes to examine the relationship between the UMC and BSA, a relationship full of anxiety and
confusion. Next steps are pending the judge’s ruling, and subsequent automatic review by the Circuit Court; the process is not expected to be completed before fall or winter.

UMC settlement commitment, signed by all three conference Boards of Trustees, CFAs, DCMs, treasurers, and the bishop. Every annual conference in the nation has participated in making a commitment to 100% of what was asked of us as financial contribution to survivor trust fund. More discussion is needed before decisions on who pays and how, including local congregations named by survivors. In total Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest, and Alaska will pay $650,000 legal expenses, insurance forensic costs, etc.

There is a newly negotiated relationship between the UMC and BSA, which includes an affiliation or facility use agreement, depending on how deeply engaged congregation will be; increased clarity on indemnification and increased insurance coverages. Moving forward, the BSA will recruit, screen, and train all leaders; act as fiscal agent for all troops or units; remove all banks accounts and assets from local church.

Three other commitments were made, including: the review and update of all local church and conference safe sanctuary policies; publishing articles provided by UMC and BSA leadership team about this matter; and recruiting of leaders to listen to survivors’ stories as we provide opportunities to promote healing.

Bishop Stanovský reminded everyone that predators seek out places where there are vulnerable people and too often the church is such a place. We must watch for the signs that vulnerable people are not being protected. Thanks to GCFA and CFA for their leadership, and our apportionment dollars that help this process to move away from harm and toward healing.

**Video Report: Deaconesses and Home Missioners** Commissioning/consecrating people to serve beyond the church walls, serving people who never come looking for us, but for whom we go looking. Ronda Cordill and Caesar Marciales were previously consecrated and commissioned and the report shared. The number of people responding to this call is small but growing. Others in the GNW include Kelly Marciales, Chivi Crookes, Gloria Marple, Alethea McGavran, Lynn Swedberg, and Myra Salapang Duncan.

**Hispanic Ministries /Latinx Ministries** Working in the PNW and supporting OR-ID, Cruz Edwin Santos resources DSs for charge conferences, serves as a contact person for new Hispanic ministries, and assists Disaster Response Teams with his expertise and sensitivity. He shared an example – when responding to Latinos it appeared there were too many addresses required on forms, which scared the Latinos.
**Video Report: Hispanic Ministries** “Blessed Are Thee”, Hispanic Latinx video emphasizes the need for LGBTQIA+ inclusion, immigrant inclusion, and people of color inclusion.

**Late-Breaking Action** The statement seeking support of reproductive autonomy and healthcare is not legislation that binds the Conference(s) but a statement of the collective membership. A vote was taken on the willingness of the members of the three conferences to embrace this as their own statement and speak it. Clear language for sharing this document will be provided. Votes cast 314, yes 276, no 38.

**Adjournment** Ian McKnight of PNW, Laurie Day of OR-ID, and Lisa Talbot of AK together moved to adjourn. By overwhelming margins adjournment was approved, with 1 negative vote. Daniel Miranda gave a closing prayer and benediction.

**LUNCH**

**Closing Worship & Bishop Retirement Celebration** Worship opened with lots of music, including a marimba band, a praise team, and congregational singing. A land acknowledgment was followed by prayers in many languages and a pre-recorded virtual choir. Wendy Woodworth, prayed for Bishop Stanovsky, invoking the memory of her baptism. Megan Bartlett read Mark 1:9-11. Bishop Stanovsky and Mark Galang, spoke on preparing for the apocalypse, which is a revelation. We face the many fault lines in our lives, but instead of -isms, God calls us beloved. Bishop called us to say it and believe it: we are beloved children of God. The baptism remembrance was followed with a renewal of our Baptismal vows. Worship concluded with the presentation of many gifts and words of recognition and gratitude for retiring bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky.