H. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

148th 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.*

*Meeting online via Zoom, Sunday, June 20 – Wednesday, June 23, 2021
Ordination held for Friday, June 25*

OPENING SESSION, SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021, 6:34 P.M.

The opening session began informally with Alaska Conference Superintendent *Carlo Rapanut* welcoming everyone and inviting them to indicate the geographic location from which they are participating in the conference in the Zoom chat space. He also welcomed returning interpreters, who have supported the General Conference and would be interpreting for both Spanish and Korean language users.

All members of the Conference were asked to choose the language of their choice in the Zoom application so that later when interpretations into English might be needed, it would happen automatically.

Members were further invited to text (855) 917-5263 with their zip code to ascertain the name of the Native tribe(s) of their congregation’s land. Our complicity in the harm done to Native Americans and First Peoples was named, along with thankfulness for their stewarding of the land. Through our culture and our institutions, we have been complicit in the harm done. *Rapanut* hoped our land acknowledgment would increase awareness and call us to action, confess our sin, and enter new, non-colonial, and life-affirming relationships with our native neighbors. *Rapanut* invited us to take off our shoes, for we are standing on holy ground, and here we worship.

Opening Worship

Worship began with a procession, the song “Cuando el Pueblo” and 1 Corinthians 13. *Bishop Elaine Stanovsky* preached on the conference theme, “Love Never Ends.”

We have endured bad news #1 of the coronavirus public health crisis, its politicization, and how it exposed inequities in our society; bad news #2 of persistent, systemic racism enabled by white people and church colonialism; and bad news #3 of climate change leading to widespread damage to God’s creation. The good news: God knows about these life-threatening sorrows and dark challenges, understands our questions and fears, and assures us it will be ok; it won’t be easy or straightforward, but God is at work in the middle of this chaos, and we are God’s partners. God invites us with love to respond with love, God’s love, holy love, love that never ends. We are not powerless; there are things we can do to protect ourselves and others. We can celebrate and honor those who grieve, who
work on the front lines. We are not powerless when we walk through the long shadows of white supremacy and prejudice; suspend judgment, be willing to listen. We can become allies to help those whose voices are not heard when we speak up for justice. We are not powerless when we confront the magnitude of climate change on the planet. John Wesley wedds knowledge and piety. We can affirm God is always with us, and we can take steps. God is at work, and God hears our prayer.

Out time closed with the song, “One Foot — Lead with Love,” and a benediction.

Native American Ministries -- Video Report

Members of the Nez Perce Tribal Exec Committee and descendants of the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce said acknowledging Indigenous lands can translate to powerful actions, and the return of sacred lands are good acts of decolonization. The Oregon-Idaho Conference made the gift of Wallowa UMC land to the Nez Perce people.

Formal Call to Order

Bishop Stanovsky formally called the meeting to order with a gavel at 7:21 p.m. and a blessing: May God bless this gathering, and may this gathering be a blessing to the earth. The session number for each conference: 50th Alaska, 53rd Oregon Idaho, 148th Pacific Northwest.

Laity — Video Report

Conference lay leaders Jo Anne Hayden (AK), Jan Nelson (OR-ID), Nancy Tam Davis (PNW) gave a unified report. While we have done the unbelievable of not meeting for worship or food, we have not stopped loving each other. Stories were shared of laity loving from across the GNW Area. Specifically named was the Willow UMC (AK) food pantry that providing food, firewood, and connections in an ecumenical way; Newman UMC in Grants Pass, OR, in a very conservative area, joining the reconciling ministries network, raising their profile as social-justice seeking congregation; hanging flags supporting other marginalized people for which they were picketed. Newman is very active in the community, starting a food pantry, homeless support, and vaccine clinic—they are more than a one-issue church. Many congregations replaced their coffee hour with technology and regular in-depth virtual conversations about who we are and how we came to be. Relationships deepened because laity were intentional about this. Many congregations took up studies about racism and changing on deep levels. The lay leaders shared a letter from the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders Executive Team.

Members expressed appreciation for the report through Zoom chat. Jan Nelson, retiring as OR-ID Lay Leader, was given well wishes.

Disaster Response Work – Video Report

Bishop Stanovsky introduced the video by saying The UMC has a reputation in disaster response and is one of the organizations FEMA turns to; we have feet on the ground
and leadership at top levels. Often the work seems intermittent, but 2020 taught us that disaster needs a year-round response.

Jim Truitt, GNW Area Disaster Response leader, reported via video. February 2020 saw heavy rains in the Blue Mountains of WA & OR, 600 homes destroyed or damaged, no lives lost; the pandemic stopped in-person help. Dry summer and winds produced wildfires destroying 80% of Malden, WA. Heavy rains hit Alaska in December, destroying more homes. Not being able to respond in person, we applied for grants. We secured $10,000 UMCOR solidarity grants, and two $10,000 grants from America Cares, thousands of face masks, 4000 UMCOR hygiene kits, and more grants for $10,000 each, and more. We are hoping to deploy volunteers as more people get vaccinated and infection rates drop. Already we are preparing to respond to a difficult fire season in 2021. Congregations can help by getting prepared and planning to volunteer. Let’s go help some people.

Dan Mosler is retiring this year from his position as OR-ID Disaster Response Coord.

First Elected Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences – Video Report

Bishop Stanovsky introduced the GNW Delegations elected in 2019 for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, twice postponed, until 2022, due to the pandemic. This means action on the separation plan is also delayed. We appreciate the steadfast ministry of the first-elected delegates and hold them in prayer.

In their report, the first elected delegates shared that there has been much waiting for conferences, episcopal retirements and elections. We also await decisions about the church’s future while acknowledging that many continue to be marginalized and oppressed. Delegations have not been idle. God is preparing us for what will come next, even if we don’t know what will happen. While there will be no General Conference until August-September 2022, there will be a special virtual session of the Western Jurisdiction Conference on July 17, 2021.

Work has been happening. Anticipating the episcopacy fund shortfall, the Western Jurisdiction proposed, among other ideas, dropping from five to two bishops. The movement toward separation must wait for General Conference so we have a mechanism by which to act. We owe it to one another to wait for Holy Conferencing. The landscape of The United Methodist Church is changing, and churches are leaving the denomination independently. The Alaska Omnibus Proposal has joined the protocol on reconciliation and gracious separation, and a proposal for regionalization initiated by African churches would give regions autonomy.

The pandemic’s impact remains to be seen. We have all become more aware of the sin of racism in our church, country, and world. We believe the church must play a vital role in building a society where everyone has value and worth and a chance to thrive. The team has been strategizing and planning so their work can be effective. The group issued a statement, including these pieces: Called to be a church that is created in Wesleyan tradition, grounded in scripture, empowered by Holy Spirit; committed to growth in discipleship moving toward perfection in love; inclusive to all, especially those historically marginal-
ized; and resistant to the forces of patriarchy, white supremacy, and colonialism. Called to support regionalization in the denomination to be contextual and diverse; allow churches to leave gracefully and with needed resources; redefine “connectionalism” so that it centers local churches rather than the annual conferences; reshape the office of episcopacy to be theologians, pastors, advocates more than administrators; flatten the church hierarchy so ministry can be contextual and relationships deeper. We have a lot of work to do.

**Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy – Video Report**

Mary Huycke, the chairperson of the committee, reported that this summer’s jurisdictional conference is called for the particular purpose of organizing, retiring Bishop Hoshibata, and allowing the delegates to continue conversations about church structure and the role of the episcopacy. Elections will wait until late fall 2022 when the shape of the denomination will be more apparent. We will elect candidates for the episcopacy at PNWAC 2022. The committee thanks Bishop Stanovsky for extending her term as bishop to help us stay steady; this is a gift. “We appreciate your leadership, and we appreciate you.”

**Episcopal Address**

Bishop Stanovsky announced that Carlo Rapanut would be a half-time assistant to the bishop for a limited period using monies saved by reduced travel in the past year.

Bishop Stanovsky referenced John Cobb’s self-transcending self-hood, describing it this way: a person can be born into their context, grow into this inherited culture, and be led by God’s Spirit to open themselves to something more, perhaps even something that contradicts what they grew up believing. We might never understand this, but we can get out of the way and make way for the new self to emerge. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can become more than we can even imagine, that God can lead us to places we had not thought to go.

When facing the three strategic priorities (combating pandemic, dismantling racism, reversing climate change), self-transcending selves have no trouble doing what is needed. It is not about what we need or want or are accustomed to, but that we live as agents of God’s love for everyone and the whole creation. We can transcend what we have inherited.

Self-transcending individuals noted over the last year include the GNW cabinet, who engaged in cultural competency training monthly. Becky Platt, member of Whitney United Methodist Church, Boise, ID, manager of databases, who provided COVID-19 info for weekly report for the GNW Area Cabinet on the county level for all 400 churches. Dan Mosler, who came out of retirement to take on disaster response work in OR-ID when the position came vacant unexpectedly, along with Jim Truitt and Dan Wilcox doing recovery ministries. Alan Buck, from Oklahoma, doing Indigenous Ministries, assisting with the Wallowa land return.

Carlo Rapanut invited us to lay virtual hands on the bishop and pray for her.

Following some announcements and a blessing by the bishop, the meeting was in recess until the following day. The evening closed with music, “Be Thou My Vision.”
Focus Sessions -- June 21, 2–6 p.m.

Focus sessions took place consecutively, referring to the plenary session the administrative support petitions #1-9, and connecting for mission domestic petitions #17-18 on their respective consent calendars. Administrative support petitions #10-16 and 19 were referred directly to the plenary session for action.

PNW PLENARY SESSION #1 – JUNE 22, 6–8:30 P.M.

Welcome 6:00 p.m. PT

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky initiated the virtual gathering with a greeting and welcome,

While she officially called the conference to order previously, June 20, she called this session to order to both remind us and to ask God’s presence to be with us as we do God’s work and lowered the gavel.

Introductions

Bishop Stanovsky introduced the people at the head table, including orders of the day chair Pam Osborne, conference secretary Shirley DeLarme, PNW Conference Lay Leader Nancy Tam Davis, and parliamentarian Shane Moore. David Valera introduced the many people behind the scenes, including musicians, GNTV and others from the conference, paid and volunteer staff.

Accessibility & Translation

Sharon Ryder, representing the committee on disability ministry, invited those who need support to contact their team. The committee celebrates that people who cannot attend in person can now connect with worshiping communities; it is essential not to forget what we have learned. The committee is ready to support local churches with consultations and recommendations.

Paul Roadarmel, GNTV, introduced the Spanish language and Korean language interpreters available via Zoom. He invited English speakers to select English so that the interpretation is ready to go when others speak in their native language. Don Reasoner (Spanish) and Jacob Lee (Korean) will translate. Paul gave voting instructions and led the conference in a practice vote, “Do you like pickles?” and how to use the “Get Recognized” button. Total ballots cast - 225, needed - 113, yes - 188, no - 37. We like pickles.

Procedural Motion for Virtual Meeting & 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 148th 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 pro-
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 coun-
cils, boards, commissions, and committees of the Pacific Northwest Conference of The
United Methodist Church, be published and be the official record of the 148th Annual
Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.
A second was made by Joanne Coleman Campbell, and adopted by GNTV ballot. Votes
Cast - 230, needed to pass - 116, yes - 230, no - 0.

Missionaries – Video Report
God calls missionaries from communities everywhere in the world to serve in communi-
ties anywhere in the world as evangelists, health professionals, educators, agriculturalists
and more to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and care about people, following
Christ’s example of unconditional love, going wherever God leads.

Announcement on Rules for the Conference
Shane Moore, chair of the Rules Committee and parliamentarian for this conference de-
clared we would operate within our conference rules and Roberts Rules of Order, speci-
cally working online as provided by Conference Rule 5, section 5.

Conference Council on Finance and Administration
Jan Kallshian, CF&A chair, presented the budget to be voted on the next day. The 2022
PNW Budget, found on PCH pgs J10-J23, was recommended by 98% of the Focus Ses-
sion. The 2019 budget was $5.1 million, reduced for 2022 to $4.5 million. CF&A recog-
nizes financial stress at the local church level and will continue to right-size the budget
going forward. Questions are to be sent to Brant Henshaw for answer the next day.

Reports from the Focus Sessions
Daniel Miranda reported from the Administrative Support Focus Session. Two hundred
eighty voting members were present at the session, and they addressed all petitions, al-
though the session went overtime because of energy and questions in the room.
Consent calendar ballot, PCH pg J-3 through J-7, petitions #1-9, the Focus Session rec-
ommended concurrence; Approved. Votes Cast - 240, needed - 121, yes - 236, no - 4. The
consent calendar was adopted, including #1 Conference Advance Specials, #2 Minimum
Compensation, #3 Moving Allowance, #4 Conference Treasurer, #5 Past Service Rate,
#6 Extension Ministry Added to Conference-Elected Entity, #7 Retirement Annuity
Responsibility, #8 Disability Benefits, and #9 Retirement Grants.

Wildfire Response – Video Report
A single day wildfire event of 70+ fires, over 400,000 acres burned in a day, resulting in
unhealthy air conditions and destroyed homes and communities; UMCOR and people
ready to serve and support provided UMCOR hygiene kits and school kits, masks, immigration passports and other necessary replacement paperwork, food to places like Pateros, Oroville, Bridgeport, and several Hispanic ministries. “I'm here, driven by hope, since falling in love with Jesus.” Be the hope, be there, give today.

Focus Session -- Report, cont.

Church Closure Petitions #10, 11, 12, 13, 14 found on PCH pgs J-8 through J-9, and late submitted petition #19 on page J-32. Bishop Stanovsky recognized the difficult nature of these actions after the years of faithful service by each church. Daniel Miranda invited Mark Galang to share a litany of remembrance, recognizing six congregations have reached the faithful completion of their ministries.

- Daniel Miranda shared petition #19, PCH pg J-32 Skamokawa UMC Closure; Focus Session moved concurrence. Kathleen Weber shared the congregation’s story.
- Daniel Miranda shared petition #13, PCH pg J-9 Kendrick Community UMC Closure; Focus Session moved concurrence. Gregg Sealey shared the congregation’s story.
- Daniel Miranda shared petition #12, PCH pg J-8 Clark Fork UMC Closure; Focus Session moved concurrence. Gregg Sealey shared the congregation’s story.
- Daniel Miranda shared petition #14, PCH pg J-9 Milton UMC Closure; Focus Session moved concurrence. Derek Nakano shared the congregation’s story.
- Daniel Miranda shared petition #11, PCH pg J-8 Malott UMC Closure; Focus Session moved concurrence. Joanne Coleman Campbell shared the congregation’s story.
- Daniel Miranda shared petition #10, PCH pg J-8 Toppenish UMC Closure; Focus Session moved concurrence. Joanne Coleman Campbell shared the congregation’s story.

The floor was open for debate or discussion. Elizabeth Ingram Schindler asked to hear what will “happen to the property and the buildings of these churches?” Brant Henshaw responded:

- Toppenish, possible sale, since even the New Harvest Church Plant was closed the end of August when the church planters moved away;
- Malott, in conversation with Malott Improvement Society on the adjacent property to see about their interest;
- Milton property was given to Good Seed United Methodist Church, a growing Korean faith community in the area;
- Clark Fork, no action yet since it is a very recent decision to close;
- Kendrick likely sold this fall as a landslide damaged it;
- Skamokawa, approached by two parties for sale.

To the question of who is responsible for the property when a church is closed, Pat Simpson referenced The Book of Discipline ¶2549 and said the conference trustees try to be cognizant of what the congregation would have wanted. Proceeds are used for new ministries.

Following a prayer by the bishop, a single ballot with six questions is taken, with choices
to vote “yes,” “no,” or “abstain” for each petition/church. Music by Grace Cajuat & Grace Pugh Hubbard

Ballots Cast 270, needed 136. All petitions were adopted.

- #19 Skamokawa, yes - 261, no - 8, abstain - 5
- #13 Kendrick, yes - 262, no - 8, abstain - 4
- #12 Clark Fork, yes - 258, no - 10, abstain - 6
- #14 Milton, yes - 259, no - 8, abstain - 7
- #11 Malott, yes - 258, no - 9, abstain - 7
- #10 Toppenish, yes - 251, no - 13, abstain - 10

Gregg Sealey began a responsive litany of thanksgiving, in which all the district superintendents participated. Kathleen Weber offered a prayer of committal.

Hispanic Ministries – Video Report

A people who keep quiet and live in the shadows with fear—give birth to citizens yet have no rights; elderly with no rights to healthcare, pensions, social security pay taxes. Thirst for justice, but who do they call for when facing crime, oppression, racism, injustice? Thirst for justice, to work, to travel, to vote, to have status, to have a paycheck. Will you be part of the problems or part of the solutions? Will you quench the thirst of the thirsty and free the feet of the enslaved?

Reports from the Focus Sessions

Karen Yokota Love reported from Connecting for Missions—Domestic.

Consent calendar ballot, PCH page J-26 through J-31, petitions #17-18, the Focus Session recommended concurrence. Most of the focus session was spent on petition #18 as participants tried to both sensitively and carefully highlight leadership by historically marginalized people and to increase the number of BIPOC individuals serving on this commission from seven individuals to 70% of the individuals on the commission. The change was adopted, and the petition was included on the consent calendar. Consent calendar votes cast - 280, needed to pass - 141, yes - 266, no - 14. The consent calendar was adopted, including Alaska United Methodist Conference: An Invitation to Live into a Mission District Status and Creation of Cross-Conference Vitality Commission.

Camp Indianola – Video Report

The camp had a hard time in the pandemic but is excited to reopen and do summer camp with adaptations to be COVID safe, including family camp and small-group youth wilderness camping and adult programming in the fall.
Nominations Report

Derek Nakano reported that this is the 6th year of the 2016 4-year quadrennium. Per conference rules, an entirely new slate of nominees for conference boards and agencies will not be considered until the annual conference following the delayed 2020 General Conference. Again, we request board and agency officers and leaders to continue their service for the new conference year. The monumental changes facing the denomination make it necessary for many to stay the course. Those who need to step down are encouraged to speak to their district superintendent or ministry chair, or district lay leader; we understand and will release you with gratitude. If you are a chairperson with positions to fill, work with Derek Nakano, your district superintendent and district lay leader. Seek people of different backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, abilities, ages, ethnicities, and from Alaska. We can bring them on board for the interim until they can be elected following General Conference. If you are not serving but would like to, speak with your district superintendent. Boards and agencies are asked to work on their sense of mission and vision for your work area, evaluating the work over the past year and quadrennium, and the changes in the denomination, churches, and world, and to use new voices, new people, with unique gifts, stories and experiences. How are we now being called to respond to the changes we face? Like Queen Esther, we are placed in these circumstances to bring forth God’s life-giving saving presence and spirit, to give it voice and agency, to speak truth to power, to stand for and with the marginalized and those threatened with extinction, to create a new church for a new day.

Bishop Stanovsky celebrated the Holy Spirit’s descent on Derek Nakano as he gave this report. That was an amazing turning from a time of scarcity when we can feel burdened and stuck and unable to move forward, into a moment of opportunity.

Appreciation was expressed for the mentoring and companioning given by David Valera to the sons of Cruz Edwin Santos, Hispanic Ministries Consultant. Edwin Jr. & Joshua are part of the tech team for this conference and have also worked with the music team. Edwin Jr. & Joshua Santos closed the evening session with prayer.

Plenary was adjourned for the night, to be resumed the following morning.

PNW PLENARY SESSION #2 – JUNE 23, 9:30 A.M.

Claremont School of Theology – Video Report

Kab-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President, CST in Claremont, CA and Salem, OR. The Lord directs their steps to remain in Southern California. CST has invested in ways to make theological education more accessible to communities, and today envisions delivering education to all parts of the world while remaining United Methodist, ecumenical, inter-religious. CST continues encountering financial challenges but welcomes new faculty members funded by other agencies, sharing their space with other institutions and reducing operating costs. They are the first seminary to endow a Pacific and Asian American Theology chair, named in honor of Bishop Roy Sano and Mrs. Kathleen Thomas-Sano. Gifts are solicited. We are your seminary in Claremont and at Willamette. The student body is
most inclusive, including the LGBTQIA community and hybrid learners both in-person and online.

Bishop Stanovsky greeted the people by reading a portion of Psalm 89.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Video Report

Geoff Helton, Chair, expressed appreciation and gratitude to those who did so much during a challenging time. The board began processes to improve their work with candidates and clergy, especially those seeking to be or have been ordained as deacons or licensed as local pastors, including bringing in a consultant to help make the process more effective and supportive.

DJ del Rosario, chair of the Provisional Team, reported the class of 2021, including Yvonne Agduyeng, Murray Crookes, Laura Holmes, Danielle Ramsey, will be commissioned June 25 or another time.

Shalom Agtarap, chair of the Full Membership Committee, reported class of 2021, recommended for full membership, includes Alexa Eisenbarth, Jesse Farias, Sheila Miranda, and Sandy Ward; recommended for ordination as elders are Alexa Eisenbarth, Jesse Farias, and Sandy Ward. Other candidates continue in full membership care.

Vonda McFadden, chair of the Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors, welcomed newly licensed local pastors Loumaile Hola, Mark Wagner, and Leslie Moreno. She prayed for all clergy.

Kay Barckley, chair of the Order of Deacons, reported on the Safe Harbor candidacy policy whereby colleagues are standing in the gap with LGBTQ+ clergy whose orders are at risk in their conference. Our board receives their orders and grants the clergy-person leave; candidates whose processes are at risk are folded into our path. We celebrate with our two Safe Harbor candidates, one in each order.

Cathlynn Law, chair of Conference Relations Committee, cares for transfers of colleagues from other conferences and other denominations into PNW: Thomas Irby, from Alabama West Conference, and Thomas Yang, from the northern Illinois Conference. We also welcome two clergy colleagues from other Methodist denominations: Troy Lynn Carr, from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Lisa Ishihara, from the Free Methodist Church. We also celebrate the contributions of clergy colleagues retiring after 300 years of service: Joanne Brown, Joanne Coleman Campbell, John Coleman Campbell, Karla Fredericksen, Terry Hall, Phill Harrington, Jin Ming Ma, Dennis Paschke, Julia Reinholz, Tom Steffen, Richard Vinther, Denise McGuiness, a Deacon, and Local Pastor Colleen Sheehan.

Lara Bolger, a member of the Conference Relations team, gave a prayer of blessing on behalf of our retirees.

Geoff Helton named those who died, but whom we remember and celebrate: Wes Arms, Miki Craighead, Jim Graham, Ray Hanke, Kathy Lee Kramer, Carolyn Krupke, Thomas Slate, Phyllis Todd, Robert Vahey. (Note: These will be memorialized when the annual conference can meet in person.) Helton thanked the board members for their work and commitment.
and the creativity, reverence, and love they give to the work. Special thanks were expressed to Lara Bolger, who will now transition to the Conference Relations Committee after serving as chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, then as vice-chair while Helton transitioned into the position. Prayer was said for our clergy and pastoral leaders. Retiring clergy read small portions of 1 Corinthians 13. Retiree video statements followed these, and a musical blessing by Joel Rodriguez, Grace Cajiuat & Grace Pugh Hubbard of “Blessed Assurance,” perfect submission verse, medlied with “This is my story, this is my song” refrain.

Reports from the Focus Sessions continued

Daniel Miranda presented Administrative Support petition #15 for Council on Finance and Administration Recommendations, Budget items, found on PCH J-10 through J-23; the Focus Session moved concurrence. Brant Henshaw responded to a previously submitted question regarding the Innovation Vitality Team, saying that the GNW is not an entity that can hire staff, so the PNW hires. Still, the cost is shared across the GNW area. Ballots cast - 257, needed - 129, yes - 248, no - 9. The budget petition was approved.

Discipleship Ministries, See All the People – Video Report

What would happen if we stopped fixing our churches and started seeing all the people Christ calls? These resources are Discipleship resources, in multiple languages, to help us focus on the main thing of making disciples for Christ.

NW UM Foundation – Video Report and Live Report

Tom Wilson, director of the Northwest United Methodist Foundation, thanked those who worked with the Foundation. Julia Frisbie reported that investing with the Foundation leverages the church’s capital for positive social change; the Foundation is divesting from problematic business practices and investing to make the world a better place. Sarah Culp reported that interest paid for loans goes back into the connection. David Nieda told us that 60 years of experience would help answer the questions we have and create a culture of generosity. Heidi Smith informed us the Foundation could help us transfer stock.

In a live report, Tom Wilson shared that despite the ups and downs, the Foundation is doing well, serving churches over four states and with $90 million assets under their management. Working with Wespath, currently, the year-to-date returns on the portfolio are 5.9%. Twenty-two million of those funds have been invested in the Foundation’s social values choice portfolio, which is in line with petitions from recent conference years regarding screening of stocks in companies that extract and refine fossil fuels and Palestinian conflict companies.

Bishop Stanovský expressed appreciation and celebration for Tom’s 30 years of work, the great report, and the secular world work that makes love grow.

Casey Banks, via a note, affirmed the report of GNW’s first-elected delegates to General Conference and requested making that report available for interpreting to churches what is going on as we prepare for 2022.
Reports from the Focus Sessions

Daniel Miranda presented Administrative Support, PCH pgs J-24 through J-25 for petition #16 regarding Overbroad Waivers for Background Checks. Following a lot of great discussion, and by an extremely close vote (49/51), the focus session moved non-concurrence.

Petition author Deb Conklin and PNW Conference Treasurer Brant Henshaw asked the Conference parliamentarian Shane Moore how this motion for non-concurrence could be addressed to put the petition on the table for discussion. Moore suggested this: since the motion for non-concurrence is not debatable, the motion needs to be voted down if the body would like to discuss the petition.

With votes cast - 273, needed - 137, yes - 101, no – 172, the motion for no-concurrence failed, putting the petition before the Conference without recommendation. Deb Conklin moved to refer petition #16 to a committee of six individuals with Conklin and Brant Henshaw as co-chairs with four additional members to be appointed by the co-chairs to bring a report to the PNW Annual Conference in 2022; seconded Marie Kuch-Stanovsky. Ballots cast - 283, needed - 142, yes - 254, no - 28. The petition was referred.

Lazy F Camping – Video Report

Welcome, we are a bit rusty. Typically, we have 140 guest groups, but this year we had 2. This has been stressful for staff and a financial burden. But with God’s guidance and generosity, they know love never ends. They received six different grants from the county, a community foundation, the PNW Conference, the paycheck protection program of the federal government, friends of the camp, and matching gifts efforts. They renovated the kitchen and lounges, made camperships, provided school-age childcare and distance learning opportunities for foster and low-income children, and family camps this summer.

Ocean Park – Video Report

Brandon and Carole Sheer, camp directors, thanked everyone for the support of the past year. So far, they have been able to weather the storm and are planning family programming for the summer and fall, with family, church and other organization events.

Closing Motion

Conference Secretary Shirley DeLarme moved the closing of this 148th session of the Annual Conference following the shared sessions with the Alaska Conference and the Greater Northwest Area and the Commission and Ordination Services. Seconded by Susan Griggs, the motion was approved. Ballots cast - 277, needed - 139, yes - 274, no -3.

Bishop’s Reflection

In response to an ad-lib conversation about whose grandchild is the best, Bishop Stanovsky reflected on the fullness of God’s love in which every grandchild is the best, and every one of us is the best, and there is more than one story and more than one right way. That is the
abundance of God’s love.

Words of gratitude were offered to the many people who accomplished the colossal task of putting together this conference. David Valera acknowledged the pastors and local churches who made video productions work during the past year and participated in this conference through screens and media. Special thanks to the team.

- Onsite Media Team: Patrick Scriven, Teri Tobey, Ian McKnight, Tyrone Olds, Edwin Santos, Joshua Santos, Karen Biggers, and David Valera,
- Musicians: Grace Cajiuat and Grace Pugh Hubbard,
- Behind the Scenes: Melissa Bortnick, Rachel Fitzgerald
- GNTV Production Team: David Wood, Paul Roadarmel, and their team
- Host Church: Des Moines UMC, Pam Osborne and the office staff
- PNW Lay Leader Nancy Tam Davis, and PNW cabinet members

Global Ministries – Video Report

Roland Fernandez from Global Ministries said that the Holy Spirit is again sweeping the church into a new mission age. While denominational uncertainties often preoccupy us, we need to look outside the church at the opportunities God’s mission gives us in this time of Covid19, rampant racism, and rapid climate change. Global ministries are sharpening our focus, engaging in collaborative partnerships, and carefully using our resources to alleviate suffering and share the love of God around the world. He named a few ways United Methodist missionaries are answering God’s call to mission

Closing prayer and blessing

Bishop Stanovsky delivered a closing prayer and blessing.

ALASKA / PACIFIC NORTHWEST SHARED SESSION – JUNE 23, 2 P.M.

GNW Area Bishop Stanovsky opened this Shared Session of AK and PNW Conferences, naming this a “special occasion to meet together” and a continuation of Global Ministries’ long-time plan to dismantle the missionary conference as a way of ministry.

Stanovsky announced that Alaska Conference Superintendent Carlo Rapanut would preside over this shared session in anticipation of his role, beginning July 1, 2021, as Executive Assistant to the Bishop of the GNW Area.

Carlo Rapanut reported that in 2016 a petition was submitted to General Conference to dissolve the missionary conferences. In February 2020, the Alaska Conference requested to be a part of the PNW Annual Conference. The follow-up action was postponed by COVID-19, which has allowed us more time to transition well, even before it becomes official. In this period nationally, colonialization and racism rose before us. Yesterday, rec-
ognizing the harm that has been done to the Alaskan indigenous peoples by the church, the Alaska Conference took action to commit to the work intended to dismantle colonization and racism in exchange for a partnership. We will live into this, not with concrete plans, but with shared values.

As PNW Focus Session chair, Karen Yokota Love reported the results of PNW Petition #17: Alaska United Methodist Conference: An Invitation to Live into a Mission District, and #18: Creation of a Cross—Conference Vitality Commission, both of which passed overwhelmingly. She celebrated sharing in the vision of the mission district and the vitality commission that will pool diverse and rich resources together to revitalize existing ministries and grow new ministries.

Lisa Talbot, Alaska Conference Leadership Team Chair, responded with an affirmation, “we are grateful you accepted our invitation to live into mission district status in a de-colonized way, respecting our values and our contextual knowledge.

Bishop Stanovsky shared some of the ways the Conferences are already living into this new reality, including GNW Cabinet meetings, financial services, communications, disaster response, innovation vitality work, and more.

Carlo Rapanut reminded everyone of the architectural rule that “form follows function.” For our structure going forward, that will be true, in addition to the rule “form follows a deep why.” We will assess our shared values, combine our structures, and create new systems for the future.

Fixing of Appointments

Alaska Conference appointments were read first, with a reminder that as a missionary conference, Alaska’s clergy have come from many places. Also noted was that Lisa Talbot will be the new director of connectional ministries for Alaska when Carlo Rapanut steps into his new role as executive assistant to the GNW Area Bishop. These positions are not yet well defined, according to Bishop Stanovsky.

PNW appointments were read next.

To complete the fixing of appointments, lay leaders Jo Anne Hayden (AK) and Nancy Tam Davis (PNW) accepted and blessed the appointments by sharing a litany.

GREATER NORTHWEST AREA SHARED CLOSING SESSION
JUNE 23, 4:00 P.M.

The shared session opened with a musical medley of “And are we yet alive” and “We’re marching to Zion” and a reading of Psalm 90.

Bishop Stanovsky welcomed everyone back as one family. She reflected that while we have separate work, the three conferences are family and will come together again. We know that God’s vision and God’s genius, that we still struggle to comprehend and understand, at creation was multiplicity and diversity. And that God intended the diverse members of the human family, in the search for truth, meaning, peace, justice, that we would struggle,
stumble, take different paths, even quarrel at times. But, we would come to understand each other and see God’s good vision and promise more fully. Thanks for being part of the family and staying in the conversation as we come to see and love more clearly and follow Christ more nearly.

Thanksgiving was lifted to all the musicians for their outstanding contribution to the conference, specifically Grace Cajiuat, Grace Pugh Hubbard, Joel Rodríguez, Providence Kamana.

Bishop Stanovsky introduced us by photo to her granddaughter, born in April 2021 to Walker Stanovsky and Marie Kuch Stanovsky. She declared this baby to be the best grandchild while acknowledging the abundance of God’s goodness through grandchildren and that every grandchild is the best!

Conference secretaries for each conference were asked to report on the works of this year’s Conference, especially as the works of the three conferences overlapped. All three Conferences reported on the petition: Inviting Alaska to live into a Mission District Status with PNW, and the petition Creating a Cross-Conference Vitality Commission. The other work celebrated by PNW reflected the many upbeat reports shared by video from camps, agencies, and other entities across the region of ministries accomplished despite the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A musical blessing was given on these reports. “We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the love of God.”

Carlo Rapanut offered a prayer for the unity of the church.

Kathleen Weber, District Superintendent of Crest to Coast Missional District, invited the three conferences of the Greater Northwest Area to just maybe meet in person by holding the 2022 meeting(s) at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup on June 9-12, dates set by Bishop Stanovsky. The Bishop accepted the invitation, who also acknowledged that “When we plan, God laughs. But we live in hope that is unquenchable and knowing that all plans are aspirational.”

Bishop Stanovsky gave a few closing remarks, reflecting on the words of the “Bishop’s Song,” a long-standing tradition of PNW Conference. She remembers hearing this song as a teen and having the sense that the clergy were humbly but hopefully presenting themselves for service before the bishop who would appoint them. When she hears the song’s words, she remembers her lay and clergy companions in ministry leaning into the hope and the confidence that the music expresses. She shared the lyrics of the song.

These sessions will be adjourned at the close of the ordination services scheduled throughout the summer. The musicians sang the Covenant Prayer Song, and the bishop gave a prayer and blessing before the recession.