



Portland, Oregon

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Vol. 4, No. 8

Conference Pleads with Bishops for Leadership

By Kathy L. Gilbert and Sam Hodges (UMNS)

Delegates asked the Council of Bishops to lead the church out of the “painful condition” it is in after an address by Bishop Bruce Ough that called for unity but did not address full inclusion of LGBTQ people.

The Rev. Mark Holland, a delegate from Great Plains, said the May 17 call for unity did not provide a path forward. He asked the Council of Bishops to meet today and bring back a report tomorrow. His motion passed 428-364.

The bishops do not have a vote at General Conference, but they can call for a special session of the General Conference.

“This morning, Bishop Ough said that at General Conference, the role of the bishop was to preside,” said the Rev. Tom Berlin, Virginia Conference. “Quite frankly, bishop, we think it’s your role to lead. We are asking for your leadership.”

As delegates returned to the plenary, a large group of LGBTQ supporters were singing, “Blest Be the Tie that Binds,” as they held up hands bound in rainbow stoles while others were bound hand and foot on the floor.

“You have the right to call a special General Conference to focus on this particular issue of how do we reorder our life so that we have a chance to move forward, whatever that looks like,” said the Rev. Adam Hamilton, Great Plains Conference.

The Rev. Jerry Kulah, Liberia Conference, speaking against the referral, said, “I would like for us to follow the rules and not compromise the integrity of our General Conference.”

Hamilton pleaded with the bishops to help.

“We are in a stuck place at this General Conference. We in theory could find ourselves leaving on Friday still stuck and wounded.

“I’m pleading with you. Please help us.”

Hodges and Gilbert are United Methodist News Service reporters. Contact them at newsdesk@umcom.org.

Divisions Hinder Our Strength

If you untwist a cable, how weak is it in the several parts of it! A threefold cord is not easily broken, but a single one is. Divide a strong current into several rivulets and how shallow and weak will the course of the water be!

They hinder our doing good in public: **that which concerns many must be done by many.** But how can two, much less many, walk together, if they are not agreed? That which one does the other seeks to undo.

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.

Agenda for Wednesday, May 18

The agenda for the day is now available in the Daily Christian Advocate in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili. Please see pages 2372-2373 for the agenda in each of these languages.



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Worship Leaders for May 18, 2016

Prelude: **The Northwest Chorale; Local Singers**
from Oregon & Washington

Litany of the Water Voice 2: **Silverio Sanchez;**
North Texas

Litany of the Water Voice 3: **Cheryl Jefferson Bell;**
Great Plains

Prayer: **Kim Simpson; Central Texas**

Scripture Reader: **Eunice Vega-Perez;**
Greater New Jersey

Sermon: **Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.;**
Mississippi Episcopal Area

Anthem: Providence Kamana; **Democratic Republic**
of the Congo

Thanksgiving Prayer Leader: **Stanislas Kassongo;**
West Congo

Litany of Thanks Reader 1: **Rochelle Alfred;**
Central Texas

Litany of Thanks Reader 2: **DJ del Rosario;**
Pacific Northwest

6:10 P.M. closing devotions

Scripture Reader: **Rini Hernandez; Florida**

Reflection Reader: **Kenneth Livingston; Texas**

Strife Won't Gain What Love Can

There is no person living who does not repent that
he or she ever got their way by strife and contention
when it might have been obtained by love and peace.

From *The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions*,
compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792.
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Wednesday, May 18

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 James Swanson Jr.

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

Calendar Items & Conference Business

Imagine No Malaria (9:48 A.M.) (12 minutes)

10:00 – 10:20 A.M.

Morning Break

10:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Opening Prayer

Calendar Items & Conference Business

Global AIDS Report (12:18 P.M.) (7 minutes)

Vital Congregation Moments (12:25 P.M.)

(5 minutes)

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 W. Earl Bledsoe

2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Opening Prayer

Calendar Items & Conference Business

General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Report (3:51 P.M.) (7 minutes)

30th Anniversary: DISCIPLE Bible Study (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 on the Sand Creek Massacre (5:40 P.M.)

(30 minutes)

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

6:10 – 6:30 P.M. Closing Devotion

6:30 P.M. Adjournment

Quarta-feira, 18 de Maio

6h30

Comissão da Agenda e Calendário

7h00

Instruções para Estudantes de Seminários

8h00 – 9h00

Culto

Orador: Bispo James Swanson, Jr.

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

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Imagine No Malaria (Imagine que não existe malária)

(9h48) (12 minutos)

10h00 – 10h20

Intervalo de manhã

10h20 – 12h30

Oração de Abertura

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Relatório Global sobre SIDA (12h18) (7 minutos)

Momentos de Congregação Vital (12h25) (5 minutos)

12h30 – 14h00

Folga para almoço — por conta própria

12h40 – 13h10

Serviço da Santa Ceia (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Presidente: Bispo W. Earl Bledsoe

14h00 – 16h00

Oração de Abertura

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Relatório da Junta Geral de Pensões e Benefícios de

Saúde (15h51) (7 minutos)

30o Aniversário: Estudo da Bíblia de Discípulo

(DISCIPLE Bible Study) (15h38) (2 minutos)

16h00 – 16h20

Intervalo de tarde

16h20 – 18h10

Oração de Abertura

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Relatório sobre o Massacre de Sand Creek (17h40)

(30 minutos)

17h00 – Limite diário para impressão do DCA

18h10 — 18h30 Encerramento da Devoção

18h30 – Adiamento

Mercredi 18 mai**6h30**

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

7h00

Briefing pour Séminaristes

8h00 – 9h00

Culte

Prédicateur : Mgr James Swanson, Jr.

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

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Imagine No Malaria (9h48) (12 minutes)

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

Prière d'ouverture

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Rapport mondial sur le SIDA (12h18) (7 minutes)

Moments clés de la Congrégation (12h25)

(5 minutes)

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

Service de la Sainte Communion

(Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Président : Mgr W. Earl Bledsoe

14h00 – 16h00

Prière d'ouverture

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Rapport de l'Agence générale pour les rentes et assurances sociales (15h51) (7 minutes)

30e Anniversaire : Étude biblique pour les ADEPTES (DISCIPLE Bible Study) (15h58) (2 minutes)

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

Prière d'ouverture

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Rapport sur le massacre de Sand Creek (17h40) (30 minutes)

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

Kamati ya Ajenda na Kalenda

7:00 Asubuhi

Maelezo kwa Wanafunzi wa Seminarari

8:00 – 9:00 Asubuhi

Ibada

Mhubiri: Askofu James Swanson, Jr.

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

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano Angamiza Malaria (9:48 Asubuhi) (Dakika 12)

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

Maombi ya Kufungua

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

Ripoti ya UKIMWI Duniani (12:18 Adhuhuri)

(Dakika 7)

Vipindi vya Makutano Muhimu (12:25 Adhuhuri)

(Dakika 5)

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

Ibada ya Ushirika Mtakatifu (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Msimamizi: Askofu W. Earl Bledsoe

2:00 – 4:00 Alasiri

Maombi ya Kufungua

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

Ripoti ya Halmashauri Kuu ya Pensheni na Mafao ya Afya (3:51 Alasiri) (Dakika 7)

Maadhimisho ya 30: Mafunzo ya Biblia ya

Wanafunzi (DISCIPLE Bible Study) (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 kuhusu Mauaji ya Sand Creek (5:40 Jioni) (Dakika 30)

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

Errata in DCA

Page 2069: In the Inter-Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy list, the name of the lay delegate from Oklahoma is correctly spelled Donald Hyungjoon Kim.

Page 2246: At the bottom of the rightmost column, the sentence “We will make the world a must better place” should appear as “We will make the world a much better place.”

Page 2248: In the middle of the leftmost column, “face-driven United Methodist people” should appear as “faith-driven United Methodist people.” In the center and rightmost column, “Hanna” should appear as “Hannah.”

Page 2253: In the rightmost column, the phrase “I would like thank” should appear as “I would like to thank.”

Page 2283: Under the Filipina Deaconesses list, the first name is correctly spelled Kaye Celyn Cainglet.

Page 2329: Under Calendar Item 506, Andrew Lewis Postell should be listed as Andrew Lathem Postell.

Page 2335: At the top of the first column, the correct date is Monday Morning, May 16, 2016. In the middle of the center column, “spiri,t” should appear as “spirit,”

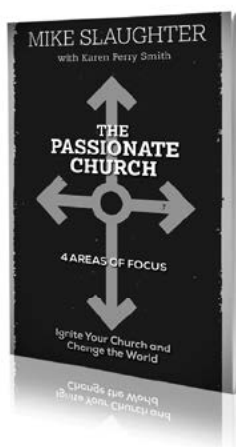
Page 2345: In the middle of the rightmost column, the words *Book of Discipline* should be italicized.

Page 2346: Near the bottom of the rightmost column, the words “committee agenda” should appear as “Committee on Agenda.”

Page 2362: At the top of the rightmost column, the correct date is Monday Afternoon, May 26, 2016.

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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, 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!

Divisions Offend Our Brothers and Sisters

These divisions grieve and offend our brothers and sisters. This should not be a light matter with us.

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.

GC2016 Celebrates Africa University

By Erik Alsgaard (UMNS)

As Africa University approaches its 25th anniversary, delegates to the 2016 General Conference took a few moments Monday afternoon to celebrate one of the best things this denomination has ever done.

With an enrollment of more than 1,500 full-time students and 800 part-time students, Africa University, located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, today boasts more than 6,100 graduates from 32 African countries. More than half of the students (53 percent) are female — more than double other universities throughout Africa.

“We are proud of our students and our graduates,” said Munashe Furusa, vice chancellor of Africa University. “If you want to judge a university, look at its graduates.”

Furusa highlighted how graduates are in key leadership roles in the church, government, the business sector, and civil society throughout Africa. Through its graduates, AU has evolved into the cornerstone institution for United Methodist-related efforts on the continent of Africa, and is a crucial feeder system for human capital to nurture a new generation of leaders and transform communities.”

Furusa said that the church’s investment in Africa University has produced excellent results. Continuing that investment means The United Methodist Church will

produce a growing number of effective disciples and tangible positive change.

“We have been—and will continue to be— good stewards of your faithful giving,” he said.

The church’s investment goes into scholarships for students—especially for orphans and females—who are hardworking and socially-engaged but have no way to pay for a university education on their own, Furusa said.

Other changes in the school’s future include IT and distance-learning capacity to reach more students; expert faculty, research and teaching resources; and more housing and recreation facilities on campus to continue to enhance the quality of student life.

As the Africa University choir ended the report by bringing a General Conference to its feet, delegates were reminded of the power and potential of a school that, just 36 years ago, was merely a vision.

“The university matters because a relevant and holistic education generates a living legacy that changes everything,” Furusa said. “You and The United Methodist Church have answered a call to witness through this transforming ministry. It should not be abandoned while it is still growing and striving to reach its full potential.”

*Alsgaard is editor of the **UMConnection**, a publication of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.*



The Africa University choir sings during the presentation of the Africa University report May 16 at the 2016 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Ore. Photo by Mike Dubose, UMNS.

David Makobo: Welcome Help in a Parched Land

By Christie R. House

David Makobo N'Shikala, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), is an Africa University graduate who is a Global Ministries' missionary working in agricultural ministries. He is assigned to serve with the Senegal Mission Initiative.

How do you teach farmers to increase their yield and conserve their energy in a place that only has a six-week rainy season annually? This is David Makobo's task, a missionary from the DR Congo who serves in the northern part of Senegal. The DR Congo, Makobo's home country, has a rainy season that extends for eight months of the year. Yet, his approach to this challenging problem is yielding results for the farmers with whom he works.

Makobo stopped by the Global Ministries' exhibit area at the 2016 General Conference to talk about his work with some of the delegates and visitors who gathered there. He said the United Methodist mission in Senegal is located, for the most part, in the northern part of

the country, where the soil is especially poor and sandy.

The Senegal agricultural projects Makobo coordinates have two main objectives. One is to work with church members in the Senegal United Methodist Church to start agricultural projects so that local churches can become self-supporting, letting go of some of the support they receive from U.S. churches. These agricultural projects are designed to provide enough surplus vegetables for the churches to sell to earn income. A couple of crops that grow quickly, given the short rainy season, are millet and okra, and he has recommended these cash crops.

A second objective for Makobo is to work with local small-scale farmers. He cautioned his listeners: "Don't think of small-scale by US standards. By African standards, these are very small plots of land and the farmers use donkeys or oxen to plough. It is hard to produce many crops under these conditions."

"I don't choose any particular group to work with, Christian or non-Christian. Senegal has a population that is 90% Muslim. So most of the groups I work with are Muslim, but some are Christian," Makobo said. "One



Missionary David Makobo N'Shikala, from the DR Congo serving in Senegal, talks with Katherine Parker, a United Methodist missionary from California serving in Nepal, at Global Ministries' exhibit in the Oregon Convention Center. Photo: Christie R. House

large group I work with—35 women, all single mothers—are Catholic. The only income-generating activity they have for supporting their families is agriculture. I work with them to produce more for their families.”

Families in Africa are big, Makobo said, but in Senegal they are even bigger. Men may marry up to four women, and generally women have an average of six children each, so a family unit may have twenty-four members or more. He explained that the farmers are putting in so much work and getting little to show for their efforts. Makobo teaches better methodology for dry-climate agriculture, the result of which, over the past two years, has yielded better harvests in Senegal.

Better harvests have resulted in overall improvements in living standards. Makobo mentioned a particular family he knows that was living in a grass house for many years, a tiny structure where the parents raised six children. But after the harvest last year, the family was able to build a concrete house with a metal roof. Many changes like this have happened within Makobo’s first three years of service in Senegal. He was touched by a group of the Muslim farmers who said, “We are surprised and thankful to see a Christian come from another country to help us. You didn’t even know who we were. This can only be the work of God.”

“We have been seeing great changes like these in the last two years,” Makobo concluded. He will continue to

work with Senegal’s local United Methodist churches on both agriculture and animal husbandry projects to improve their returns. He is working with one church currently on a pig-raising project, and with another on crop production.

In closing, Makobo mentioned that creating relationships across communities has been very rewarding. “Sometimes,” he said, “they just want to see me. They are happy for my attention, and they want so much to show me what they have done. Please pray for these relationships to continue and grow.”

Christie R. House is the editor of *New World Outlook* magazine, a publication of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Divisions Dishonor Christ

Our divisions are very dishonorable to Jesus Christ.
It would not be so bad if our divisions
darkened our name only.

From The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions,
compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792.
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Dear Delegates:

We want you to know:

The English language version of *The Book of Discipline* was available free online in the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

The new 2012 edition was again posted for free access in a searchable format early in 2013. (<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=87&page-id=920&rank=15&txtSearchQuery=book+of+discipline>)

The 2016 edition will also be posted for free access in a searchable format early in 2017 (not 2019 as recently suggested).

The English language version of *The Book of Resolutions* will be posted in a free online searchable format at the time of publication in 2017.

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Publisher of The United Methodist Church

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UMC Book Editor

Interpretation and Translation at General Conference

The global nature of The United Methodist Church is evident in the interpretation and translation that is done here every day. Ten languages are being spoken at the 2016 General Conference: English, American Sign Language, French, German, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili and Tagalog from the Philippines.

The Commission on the General Conference has intentionally worked to be more inclusive of the various languages of The United Methodist Church. This is the first general conference where all delegates have to wear equipment. It is also the first time that a bishop may preside in languages other than English.

Jason Matthias, executive of Translations.com, which has provided translation services at the two previous General Conferences as well as this one, defines *translation* in terms of written language and *interpretation* as spoken language. Translation can be done either on or off site, which happens via telephone. Translators can localize and adapt for local vernacular and format. Examples of localization include the differences between the English language spoken in the United Kingdom and the USA or the French spoken in France and the Ivory Coast.

Equipment for translation and interpretation is needed in all rooms where the legislative committees meet as well as the plenary sessions. It takes a lot of equipment, but the channels are the same no matter where delegates meet in the convention center.

Providing for all 10 languages in the 12 legislative groups plus the subcommittees is a challenge. There could be six languages spoken in any one of them. Depending on the makeup of the groups, as many as 25 teams could be needed at once.

Almost 200 interpreters were needed the first week of General Conference, but due to a variety of circumstances, approximately 180 interpreters and technical support people were on duty. Hearing hotspots help. Visitors can download a free app on their phones and listen to all the translations. All delegates and officers and bishops receive infrared systems so that they can hear what is being said in all languages.

The convention center had some problems with the hotspots and its staff members have been working to make corrections, but the hearing hotspots don't work equally well everywhere in the building. Overall, the technology has worked well for interpreters and delegates according to Donald Reasoner, Director of

Interpretation Services for the General Board of Global Ministries.

There are fewer than 80 interpreters and tech supporters this second week of the conference. There are not as many spaces to cover with legislative work being mostly done, but there are side meetings that may have last minute needs for interpretation. For example, GCFA needed a French interpreter for their lunch meeting on Tuesday. The team tries to coordinate so that equipment can be used in spaces more than once.

Teamwork is an essential part of interpretation and translation. When one person is on the microphone another works through the pages of the DCA or writes notes. Acronyms and "United Methodist speak" can be challenging to the interpreters so they help each other and take turns being on the microphone or in the supporting role.

There are two types of interpretation. One is consecutive or sequential; a speaker pauses, has some give and take with the interpreter, and then listens as the interpreter speaks into the microphone.

Simultaneous interpretation is what usually happens on the plenary floor. Speakers don't stop; the interpreters have to listen and interpret at the same time. The end of a sentence can change the whole meaning of the sentence, as is true for German and other languages. The Romance languages take 20 percent more words to say the same thing as another language such as English. If people go too fast, it is hard to keep up so only more experienced people are in the booth.

"Interpretation is a human effort," says Don. "We're not perfect, that's why we have teams; if there's a major problem we will make corrections if possible. It is a team effort."

Different categories of interpreters are serving here. There are professional interpreters who are state certified. Some have degrees in foreign languages or linguistics. Most interpreters are experienced; they may not have academic credentials, but they have life experience in interpreting. More experienced ones do the simultaneous interpretation.

It helps if interpreters and translators have linguistic knowledge as well as knowledge of The United Methodist Church. Specifically United Methodist terminology can be a challenge for interpreters who are unfamiliar with it. Nowhere will the word "connectionalism," for instance, appear in standard dictionaries. And of course it

helps to know that a charge conference is not necessarily a place where batteries are charged.

Some international students work as interpreters if their visas allow it. If persons come from abroad whose visas don't allow them to work but their expenses are covered, they are volunteers, not working for pay. Missionaries who are able to adjust their schedules are here, and pastors using their vacation time also serve. The local host committee has recruited volunteers to help with hospitality for international folks.

Some interpreters have gone extra miles to be of service. In the case of injury or illness, the interpreters assist with EMT or go to the hospital and translate with local medical staff to assure their care.

The workload was heavier during the first week of conference than the second. Interpreters are present as long as their services are needed. They work long hours and are grateful for the 6:30 adjournment. The second week's work schedule is more manageable. They are able to have different shifts, except for side meetings, where again, interpreters stay as long as they are needed. The Standing Committee on Conference matters met before and will meet after General Conference. The Commission on the General Conference also serves above and beyond times that delegates work.

In the interest of stewardship, Reasoner pleads with delegates to be sure that they are careful in their use of the equipment and return it by the end of the conference. The equipment cannot be used anywhere else; it only works with the system in the convention center. The equipment used is rented unless persons are using their

own hotspots on phones. It costs up to \$400 each if the equipment is lost. Keeping track of equipment is a challenge. In an attempt to get equipment back, those who are not delegates can rent equipment but have to leave a credit card or other documents. Approximately 1,300 people are using the hearing hotspots, but some have moved to the equipment because the signal may drop depending on where persons are in the plenary.

Don Reasoner works for the General Board of Global Ministries. He grew up in Brazil in a missionary family and was a missionary in Central America. He started his interpretive work at the 1992 General Conference in Louisville. Interpretation and translation work has expanded greatly since then.

In 2000 GBGM purchased the infrared system being used here for non-English speaking delegates. The 2000 General Conference was a turning point; up till then the budget was more limited. In Cleveland, a chairperson suspended all work because an additional 40 interpreters were needed but not available. Since then, the board has been more intentional about meeting the delegates' interpretation needs. Once GBGM receives their filled-out forms, they have a sense of who is bilingual or not, and what services are needed. They try to prepare as much as possible.

The work of interpretation and translation is a necessary part of General Conference. United Methodist Communications is live-streaming the proceedings into different languages and posts on its website. Don said, "We need to have a common language in order to have equal parts in the connection."

Delegates pause for a moment of prayer following the May 12 morning discussion and expressions of confusion in the plenary at the 2016 United Methodist General Conference. From left are Vasylyna Babych and Laszlo Vukszta, Ukraine-Moldava Provisional Conference, and Alexander Pererva and Alexandr Meinikov from the Southern Russia Provisional Conference. Photo by Kathleen Barry, UMNS



Vital Conversations Report From The General Commission on Religion and Race

Have you been in dialogue with someone who has a different perspective than yours on the matters being considered? Did it change your understanding or perspective in any way?

In the Book of Acts, we see the difficulties and celebrations of an emerging movement. In Chapter 11, we witness the struggling community as the news comes that “the Gentiles also had received the word of God” (NIV). This anxiousness about how the Church would be shaped continues in the subsequent chapters of Acts. There was real tension and some even criticized key leaders such as Peter for being in conversation with those they saw as unclean or outside their realm of interest.

Social media posts related to #UMCGC indicates that some of this same atmosphere is being unleashed. Unfortunately, social media also allows many to hide behind a mask of anonymity when posting destructive comments that belittle and demean one another. There can be no authentic relationship or vital conversation if we cannot see the “other” in the conversation.

The General Commission on Religion and Race invites all who have gathered for General Conference to consider what being a diverse Church in a diverse world would require of all of us. How might we do things differently and seek to dialogue even as we struggle?

“In order for us to be relevant to the people we call family, it is very important for The United Methodist Church to celebrate the diversity within the denomination that truly makes us who we are. However, we are experiencing something very different at this General Conference. It seems that the church is working very hard to take that diversity away. We are constantly making decisions that make our church more and more homogenous. We are passing legislation that hurts the ministries already in place with people of color in our denomination and beyond that exclude persons who serve our church tirelessly and faithfully and take away their place from tables of conversations and decision making. I pray that we will work towards remaining relevant to our diverse membership and not turn our focus inward.”

—Rev. Alka Lyall, Northern Illinois Conference

The early Church also struggled with a growing diversity of cultures, which brought into the small emerging community an influx of values, practices, and

COMPARING DEBATE, DISCUSSION AND DIALOGUE

	DEBATE "Might is right"	DISCUSSION "The noisier, the smarter"	DIALOGUE "Connectivity for community"
OTHER-ORIENTATION	In debate, one listens to the other side in order to find flaws and weaknesses to counter its arguments.	In discussion, one listens only to be able to insert one's own perspective. Discussion tends to encourage individual sharing, sometimes at the expense of listening to and inquiring about others' perspectives.	In dialogue, one listens to the other side(s) in order to understand, find meaning, and points of connection. Dialogue involves a real concern for the other person and seeks to not alienate but yet speak what is true for oneself. Dialogue creates an openness to learning from mistakes and biases.
END-STATE	In debate, winning is the goal. Debate implies a conclusion.	In discussion, the more perspectives voiced, the better. Discussion can be open or close-ended.	Dialogue remains open-ended. In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal.

* compiled and adapted by Ratnesh Nagda, Patricia Gurin, Jaclyn Rodriguez & Kelly Maxwell (2008), based on "Differentiating Dialogue from Discussion" a handout developed by Diana Kardia and Todd Sevig (1997)

norms. What had been once a homogeneous community was now being strained by a rapidly expanding encounter with the world.

The United Methodist Church is wrestling with some of the same underlying tensions in 2016 as evidenced here in Portland. It is often easier to give tacit acknowledgement of diversity than it is to live fully into the creative chaos of forming a diverse and vibrant community of faith.

Earlier in the week we heard from voices from the Central Conferences. Today, we lift up other voices for reflection. May we continue to experience God's grace in our process of becoming.

"I'm really hopeful that this general conference will help us be the model of diversity. Not just in terms of culture and ethnicity but in also terms of theology and politics and all the things that make us total people and understand that even in our differences God has a way of bringing us together in a spirit of unity because it's under his banner that we continue to move forward."

—Rev. Joseph Harris, Oklahoma Conference

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Monitoring Report

Now that we are in plenary, rather than legislative committees, we are led by our Bishops who are great at inclusivity, both in who they are, and their work as presiding officers. All have been exceptional to this point, and we expect nothing less throughout the coming week. We do want to offer a bit of special appreciation to Bishop Stanovsky who reminded delegates, if they had already spoken, to consider letting other people speak. Thank you Bishop! We all know who those people are, but evidently they themselves do not. Keep those gentle reminders coming.

Up until now, the participation of men and women across the committees was fairly equal to the gender representation of the delegates overall. That is, women

delegates make up just over a third of the delegates, and have been speaking about one third of the time, more in some committees, less in others. Notably though, during the Tuesday morning plenary, women made up only 22 percent of the speakers. So, while some might consider limiting their voices, others should consider just the opposite.

Finally, as we have mentioned in earlier reports—and as we've now heard from visitors in the stands calling out – where are the women? The constant references to God, clergy and people as only male does not present the inclusive church that we claim to be and for which the Commission on the Status and Role of Women stands.

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General Conference Moves Toward a New United Methodist Hymnal

Portland, Ore., May 17, 2016--The General Conference of The United Methodist Church voted today to take decisive steps leading to the eventual approval of a new collection of hymns, tunes, and liturgical resources for worship. Approval was given to form two new groups that will review and recommend material to be included in a new United Methodist Hymnal.

The new hymnal will be offered in ways that allow local congregations to create unique versions by combining core (required) content augmented by selections chosen from a collection of approved additional options. The core content and approved optional selections will be recommended by the Hymnal Revision Committee and must be approved by the 2020 General Conference.

"Discipleship Ministries is grateful to the General Conference for adopting the legislation for the constitution of a hymnal revision committee that will lead us in bringing forward a proposed hymnal to the 2020 General Conference," said the Rev. MaryJane Pierce Norton, Interim General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, which will have editorial supervision of the contents. "We anticipate the canon that is developed will be fully reflective of the diversity of our United Methodist Church with inclusion of hymns and songs, worship and

ritual resources that reflect a variety of styles appropriate for churches of every size. We look forward to working with the committee in partnership with The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH)."

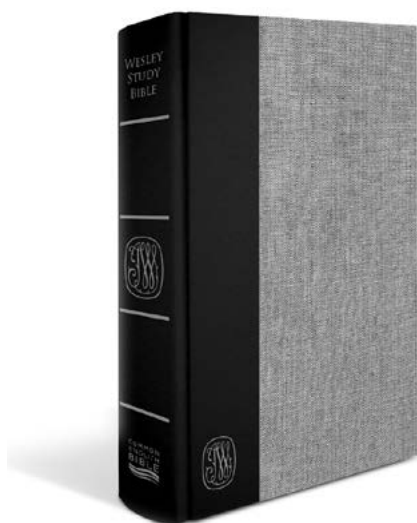
"The new United Methodist hymnal collection will serve our worship needs as we move into the future," said Brian K. Milford, Chief Content Officer and Book Editor of The United Methodist Church and incoming President and Chief Executive Officer of The United Methodist Publishing House, publisher of the hymnal. "UMPH in partnership with Discipleship Ministries is eager to get started with this groundbreaking approach building on our Wesleyan tradition with treasured and new hymns and worship aids that will help us honor God as a singing people."

The legislation also calls for a Standing Hymnal Advisory Committee, which will bring new recommendations to each General Conference starting in 2024 to ensure the collection is expanded and refreshed every four years.

The new hymnal will be available to congregations in both digital and print editions. The current United Methodist Hymnal was published in 1989.

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Motions from the Floor on May 17, 2016

Two motions made on the floor during the plenary session of General Conference on Tuesday, May 17 required printing material in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Wednesday, May 18. The first motion was made by Joe Kilpatrick of the North Georgia Annual Conference. The second motion was made by Christopher Ritter of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The motions and the material they requested to be printed appear on the pages that follow.

Motion by Joe Kilpatrick, North Georgia Annual Conference

[In reference to Calendar Item 513, petition number 60929, DCA page number 2324]

Print a proposed amendment in the DCA with a chart—see attached. Amend the petition by substitution.

Attachment:

Take the following action:

Amend ¶ 705 as follows:

¶ 705. General Agency and ~~Connectional Table~~ Membership—The people of God are called to faithful discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ. “He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12). In response to God’s call, some are called forth from local congregations to fulfill the common mission of The United Methodist Church as an expression of the Church made visible in the world. This call includes the invitation to some to be in ministry with others who together seek to fulfill the vision for the Church as members of general Church bodies. Such persons come to this ministry as servants of the whole Church, entrusted with caring for the missions and legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the agencies. The basic responsibilities of the boards of the general agencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Select the general secretary.
- b) Support and evaluate the general secretary.
- c) Ensure effective planning.
- d) Monitor and strengthen programs and services.
- e) Ensure adequate financial resources.
- f) Protect assets and provide proper financial management.
- g) Ensure legal and ethical integrity.
- h) Enhance the agency’s public standing.

The following provisions shall govern the nomination .

¶ 705.1. Nominations by Conferences—a) Each annual and missionary conference in the United States, upon recommendation from a committee composed of the bishop and the general and jurisdictional conference delegation, and having allowed opportunity for nominations from the floor, shall elect persons to be submitted to a jurisdictional pool. The jurisdictional nominating committee shall select persons for election to the following general Church bodies: Connectional Table; General Board of Church and Society; General Board of Discipleship; General Board of Global Ministries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; The United Methodist Publishing House; ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships; General Commission on Communication and United Methodist Communications;~~ General Commission on Religion and Race; and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Jurisdictional conferences may decide that persons elected by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States for inclusion in the jurisdictional pool shall not serve as members of the jurisdictional nominating committee. Before election, nominated members will be informed of the fiduciary, strategic, and generative responsibilities they will be assuming upon election so that they may clearly understand the time and resource commitment they are making.

¶ 705.3.f) The total central conference membership, including central conference bishops, in general Church bodies shall be allocated as follows: three (3) members on the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH), nine (9) members on the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), ten (10) members on the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD), fourteen (14) members on the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), eleven (11) members on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), three (3) members of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, three (3) members on the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), four (4) members on the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCOSROW), seven (7) members on the Connectional Table (CT), three (3) members on the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), three (3) members on each of The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH), the United Methodist Men (UMM), and ten (10) members on United Methodist Communications (UMCOM).

For each of the following agencies, one of the central conference members shall be a bishop: **GCAH, GCOSROW, GBCS, GBOD, GBGM, GBPHB, GCORR, GBHEM, UMPH, UMM, UMCOM.** The central conference membership shall be allocated to the central conferences by the Council of Bishops. Europe and the Philippines shall each be allocated eight (8) of the members with the remaining members to be distributed among the African central conferences as determined by the Council of Bishops. The central conference members who are not bishops shall be assigned to the general agencies as determined by the Council of Bishops. As allocated to them by the Council of Bishops, central conferences shall elect members to general agencies from a pool of candidates supplied by their annual conferences by a method to be determined by each central conference as appropriate to its culture and circumstances.

¶ 705.4. General Program Board Membership— a) Each general program board shall have the number of members herein specified in ¶¶ 1006, 1105, 1311, and 1407.

b) Jurisdictional Membership—Each jurisdiction shall elect the number of persons herein specified listed in the specific legislation for membership on each of the four general program boards. In the jurisdictional nominating process for membership on those boards, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (§ 256.3), young adults, older adults, people with disabilities, and persons from small membership churches. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons (Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that at least 30 percent of a jurisdiction's membership on each of these general program boards be racial and ethnic persons. It is further recommended that the jurisdiction membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen ~~(except as provided in §§ 1105.1, 1311.2; see also §§ 1311.6, 1407)~~. The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership. For each program board, including the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, clergy, laywomen, and laymen shall be elected to the board by the jurisdictional conferences upon nomination from the annual conferences based on the following:

General Board of Church and Society: North Central—3, Northeastern—2, South Central—3, Southeastern—5, and Western—1.

General Board of Discipleship: North Central—3, Northeastern—2, South Central—3, Southeastern—5, and Western—1.

General Board of Global Ministries: North Central—2, Northeastern—1, South Central—2, Southeastern—4, and Western—1.

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: North Central—2, Northeastern—2, South Central—3, Southeastern—4, and Western—1.

~~c) Central Conference Membership—The total central conference membership, including central conference bishops, in general Church bodies shall be allocated as follows: two members on the General Commission on Religion and Race; three each (one from each region: Philippines, Europe, Africa) on the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Communication, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and The United Methodist Publishing House; three each on the General Council on Finance and Administration; seven each (one from each Central Conference) on the Connectional Table, the General Board of Church and Society; and three on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; four (at least one from each region from the Philippines, Europe, and Africa) on the General Board of Discipleship; and ten on the General Board of Global Ministries, only one of whom shall be a bishop. It is recommended that the aggregate central conference membership on the program boards be composed of one third clergy (half of whom shall be women), one third laymen, and one third laywomen. The central conference membership, excluding episcopal members, shall be elected by the Council of Bishops.~~

d) Episcopal Membership—The episcopal membership of the general program boards shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference with two (2) bishops to serve on each of the following agencies, one of whom shall be from a central conference: (see exception, ¶ 1311.6). At least one of the episcopal members of each general agency, with the exception of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, shall be a central conference bishop and, in the case of the General Board of Global Ministries, three central conference bishops (one from each region: Africa, Europe, Philippines). the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

e) Additional Membership—(1) Additional members shall be elected by each general program board in order to bring into the board persons with special knowledge or background that will aid in the work of the agency, to consider differing theological perspectives, and to perfect the representation of racial and ethnic persons, youth (¶ 710.3), young adults (¶ 710.3), older adults, women and men, people with disabilities, and persons from small-membership churches. After the election of central conference members as provided in ¶ 705.3.f) ¶ 705.4c, and with the exception of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (¶ 2104.1.b), the remaining number of additional members shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that membership of each board reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In executing this responsibility the secretary has authority to make adjustments in the allocation of members so that the total number of members of each church body as provided herein is the prevailing principle when rounding numbers is required. ~~In the determination of proportionate allocation, minor fractions shall be rounded down and major fractions rounded up to the nearest integer,~~ and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. Insofar as possible, the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional membership positions from their jurisdictions insuring diversity as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline (¶ 705.4b). Each of the following general program boards shall elect six (6) additional members, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction: the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. ~~as specified in general program board membership paragraphs. Insofar as possible, no more than one person shall be elected from each episcopal area.~~ It is recommended that such additional membership shall maintain the one-third laymen, one-third laywomen, and one-third clergy balance.

Add a new sub-paragraph following all that remains in ¶ 705.4 as follows:

¶ 705.4. [NEW] Total Membership—Each of the following general agencies shall have a total membership, including jurisdictional members, central conference members, and episcopal members, as follows:

General Board of Church and Society: thirty (30)

General Board of Discipleship: thirty one (31)

General Board of Global Ministries: thirty-one (31)

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: thirty (30)

Delete the existing text of ¶ 705.5.a) and b) and replace it with the following text:

705.5. Other General Agencies—a) From the jurisdictional pool nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States the jurisdictional conferences shall elect to each of General Commission on Archives and History, the Connectional Table, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, General Commission on Religion and Race, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, The United Methodist Publishing House, and United Methodist Communications clergy, laywomen, and laymen as members, as follows:

General Commission on Archives and History: North Central – 1, Northeastern- 1, South Central- 1, Southeastern- 1, Western- 1.

General Commission on Religion and Race: North Central-2, Northeastern, 1, South Central-2, Southeastern- 4, Western-1.

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women: North Central- 1, Northeastern- 1, South Central-1, Southeastern- 1- Western- 1.

Connectional Table: North Central—3, Northeastern—3, South Central—3, Southeastern—6, and Western—1.

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits: North Central—3, Northeastern—3, South Central—5, Southeastern—8, and Western—1.

United Methodist Publishing House: North Central—3, Northeastern—2, South Central—3, Southeastern—6, and Western—1.

United Methodist Communications: North Central—3, Northeastern—3, South Central—4, Southeastern—4, and Western—2.

b) Additional Members—The number of additional members to be elected by each other agency, with the exception of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that membership of each agency reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In executing this responsibility the secretary has authority to make adjustments in the allocation of members so that the total number of members who are not bishops of each agency as specified herein is the prevailing principle when rounding numbers is required, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. Insofar as possible the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional membership positions from their jurisdictions insuring diversity as otherwise provided in the Book of Discipline (¶ 705.4b). The agencies shall consider names forwarded

to them by the Connectional Table as having been nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States or in the central conferences, but not elected by these conferences to general agency membership. Additional names may be considered in order to perfect the representation as provided in ¶ 705.4e. Each of the following general agencies shall have the following number of additional members:

Connectional Table: five (5). One of these additional members shall be named by each of the recognized racial and ethnic caucus groups of The United Methodist Church, which are Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans, Native American International Caucus, National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, and Pacific Islanders National Caucus United Methodist.

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits: eight (8)

General Commission on Religion and Race: six (6)

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women: seven (7)

United Methodist Publishing House: six (6)

United Methodist Communications: seven (7)

Other paragraphs of the Discipline notwithstanding, membership on the United Methodist Publishing House shall be by classes based on term of office for one, two, or three quadrennia, attention being given to the principle of rotation so that, as far as practicable, one third of the membership shall be elected each quadrennium. The principle of rotation is also applicable to the executive committee of that agency.

Add a new ¶ 705.5.c) as follows:

¶ 705.5.c) Episcopal Members—The following general agencies shall have the number of episcopal members as follows:

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits: two (2)

General Commission on Religion and Race: three (3)

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women: two (2)

United Methodist Publishing House: two (2)

Connectional Table: six (6)

United Methodist Communications (3)

Add a new ¶ 705.5.d) as follows:

¶ 705.5.d) Other Members—1) The Connectional Table shall have as members the presidents of the following agencies:

General Board of Church and Society

General Board of Discipleship

General Board of Global Ministries

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

General Council on Finance and Administration

United Methodist Communications

General Commission on Religion and Race

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

2) The Council of Bishops shall elect one bishop to serve as a member of the Connectional Table.

3) The Connectional Table shall have as nonvoting advisors the general secretary or other employed chief executive officer of each of the following agencies:

Connectional Table

General Board of Church and Society

General Board of Discipleship

General Board of Global Ministries

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

General Commission on Religion and Race

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

General Council on Finance and Administration

United Methodist Communications

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Women

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

United Methodist Publishing House

Add a new ¶ 705.5.e) as follows:

¶ 705.5.e) Total Members—Each of the following general agencies shall have a total membership, including jurisdictional members, central conference members, episcopal members, and nonvoting advisors as follows: Connectional Table: forty-six (46) General Board of Pension and Health Benefits: thirty-two (32) United Methodist Publishing House: twenty-five (25) United Methodist Communications: thirty-five (35)

Delete ¶¶ 1006 and 1007 in their entirety Delete ¶ 1105.1 in its entirety

Delete ¶ 1302.5 to transfer the ecumenical functions of the General Board of Global Ministries to the Council of Bishops.

Delete ¶¶ 1311.1 and 1311.6 in their entirety.

Delete ¶ 1407 in its entirety.

Amend ¶ 1502.1 (General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits) as follows:

¶ 1502. 1. Membership—a) The membership of the general board shall be composed of two bishops, elected by the Council of Bishops; sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences from the annual conference nominations on a ratio providing for an equitable distribution among the various jurisdictions, based on the combined clergy and laity membership thereof, as determined by the secretary of the General Conference; six members, with not more than two from the same jurisdiction, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops; and eight additional members of the General Board as provided in ¶ 705.5 for the purpose of bringing to the general board special knowledge or background, not more than two from the same jurisdiction, shall be nominated and elected by the general board in such manner as it shall provide in its bylaws, other provisions of the Book of Discipline notwithstanding.

~~b) The aforementioned electing bodies shall give consideration during the nominating process to equitable representation on the basis of race, color, age, gender, and people with disabilities.~~

c) The general secretary of the general board shall be an ex officio member thereof, without vote.

~~d) The terms of all members so elected shall be four years, to take effect at the first meeting of the general board following the General Conference, hereinafter referred to as the organizational meeting.~~

~~(1) Members shall serve during the terms for which they are elected and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.~~

(2) Other paragraphs of the Discipline notwithstanding, members of the general board may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

~~(3) In case a vacancy occurs between regular sessions of the jurisdictional conferences for any cause, the general board shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term from that jurisdiction in the representation of~~

~~which the vacancy occurs, except in the case of members elected by the General Conference or the general board where such vacancies would be filled by the general board in the manner prescribed by its bylaws without regard to geographic or jurisdictional representation.~~

Delete all the existing text of ¶ 1602 except subparagraph ¶ 1602.1.i, so that ¶ 1602 shall read as follows:

¶ 1602 The publisher of The United Methodist Church (¶ 1614) shall be an ex officio member of the board without vote.

This legislation, or any portion of it approved by General Conference, shall take effect at the close of General Conference 2016.

Rationale:

¶ The growth of The United Methodist Church outside of the United States continues every quadrennial. Participation is a major component of our connectional system. Therefore, membership on various general Church bodies should take into consideration the growth of The United Methodist Church beyond the United States of America. Proportionate and . . .

[illegible]

Motion by Christopher Ritter, Illinois Great Rivers Conference

I have a piece of legislation that I'd like to offer as a substitute at some point in the conference, and I'd like to request that the body ask this be printed in the *DCA* tomorrow so they can consider it.

[The presiding bishop understood this as a request for printing, ruled the motion in order, and the motion passed.]

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Conferences Legislative Committee

Substitute Petition for 61026-CO-¶500-I; Ritter, Chris – Geneseo, IL, USA

Submitted by same

Rationale:

This submission represents v. 3.1 of the “Love Alike Plan” for amicable unity in the United Methodist Church. It is a hybrid of plans by Adam Hamilton, The Connectional Table, Chris Ritter, and authors of the Covenantal Unity Plan. See www.jurisdictionalsolution.org. This may be substituted for all jurisdictional solutions as this new proposal has the great advantage of not requiring constitutional amendments.

¶ 539. *Dissenting Annual Conferences.* In response to significant disagreement in our church related to human sexuality, the processes in this paragraph may be followed for annual conferences in the United States to take a position of dissent from certain official positions of The United Methodist Church.

1. Once the jurisdictional and conference boundary changes enabled by this paragraph are enacted, conferences choosing a position of dissent, their congregations, and their clergy shall not be held accountable to the italicized portions of the following United Methodist positions found elsewhere in our Discipline:

a. *“The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.” (¶ 304.3).*

b. *“Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.” (¶ 341.6).*

c. *“A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference, local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies...” (¶ 2702.1)*

d. *“...Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage... The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.” (¶ 161.F)*

e. "We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity *between a man and a woman*. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman." (¶ 161.B)

f. "The [conference council on finance and administration] shall have authority and responsibility to ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶ 613)

2. As an enabling measure to the provisions of this paragraph, General Conference defines the boundaries of each of our several jurisdictional conferences to be the same as the boundaries of The United States of America. This change becomes effective upon certification of the consent required in ¶16.12.

3. The following defines the processes by which U.S. annual conferences may be recognized as dissenting conferences under this paragraph:

a. Before an annual conference shall become a dissenting conference, the following resolution must be passed by the jurisdictional conference to which the annual conference belongs: "The [name] Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, does hereby set the boundaries of each of the several annual conferences in our jurisdiction as the full extent of our jurisdictional boundary as established by General Conference." Simple majority passage of this resolution shall suffice and these votes may be taken at the regularly scheduled jurisdictional conferences in 2016 so as to speed enactment of this paragraph.

b. The respective cabinets of U.S. annual conferences or their designees may develop guidelines describing the ministry focus of their annual conference. These parameters should be specific enough to serve as a guide to congregations studying transfer to another annual conference under ¶41. Annual conferences may express openness to creating new districts remote from their traditional place of ministry or serving as a temporary home for congregations while future annual conferences are being formed. These guidelines shall be presented to the regular annual conference session following General Conference 2016 for majority approval.

c. Each annual conference in the U.S. shall vote their consent to the jurisdictional boundaries set by this paragraph at the next regularly called session following the 2016 General Conference session. Consent of a majority of annual conferences in the several jurisdictions shall be required in keeping with ¶16.12. The results of these votes shall be canvassed by the college of bishops of each jurisdictional conference.

d. Annual conferences wishing to exercise the privileges of a dissenting conference shall accept the following resolution by a 2/3 majority vote: "Be it resolved that the [name] Annual

Conference hereby intends to adopt a dissenting status to certain official positions of The United Methodist Church related to homosexuality as described in ¶539. We understand that this will require releasing congregations and clergy of our annual conference for whom this decision creates a violation of conscience.” Annual conferences who achieve passage of this resolution by 2/3 majority vote shall notify each clergy and congregation of this decision and communicate to them their rights under this paragraph. Passage of this resolution of intention shall be a required step for adopting a dissenting position.

e. Congregations of dissenting conferences shall have six months from the time of written notification to take the following steps:

i. The church council or equivalent body may vote to explore membership in any U.S. conference that has not passed the above resolution. They may create a task force for the purpose of exploring annual conference options. Cabinets of the several U.S. annual conferences shall develop information to be made available to inquiring churches.

ii. A church council or equivalent body making a recommendation on conference transfer shall secure a letter from the cabinet of a conference certifying that their church fits within the parameters adopted by the conference. Request may then be made for a charge conference called for the purpose of voting upon the transfer recommendation in keeping with ¶40.1.a. Other disciplinary paragraphs notwithstanding, the district superintendent of a congregation requesting transfer shall authorize and schedule on a timely basis a charge conference to consider the proposal. The vote on whether or not to approve the transfer recommended shall be taken by secret ballot and the results announced to the congregation as soon as possible, and not longer than ten days from the time of the vote.

iii. A church whose charge conference has requested transfer from a dissenting conference may afterward schedule the congregational meeting described in ¶41.1b, to be held under the following rubric:

i) The congregational meeting shall be held at a time and place fixed by the church council or equivalent body.

ii) Notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be given at least ten days in advance by two or more of the following (except as local laws may otherwise provide): from the pulpit of the church, in its weekly bulletin, in a local church publication, or by mail.

iii) The church council or equivalent body shall designate both a chair for the congregational meeting and a secretary. The secretary shall send minutes of the congregational meeting to the church council, district superintendent, and cabinet of both conferences.

iv) A vote shall be taken by secret ballot of all professing members present at the congregational meeting. A 2/3 majority vote shall be required. The result of the vote should be announced as soon as is practical and not more than ten days following the vote.

v) Representatives of the annual conference to whom the congregation is considering transfer may be present at the congregational meeting. Any clergy appointed to the church may attend this meeting and these clergy shall not interfere with the right of the congregation to hold the meeting.

f. The cabinet of each annual conference that has voted their intention to dissent shall compile a complete listing of congregations that have voted to transfer to another conference under the provisions of this paragraph, along with the name of the conference to which each as voted to transfer. These names shall be added to the following annual conference resolution that grants final dissenting status to the conference: "We the [name] Conference of The United Methodist Church do hereby vote dissent to certain official positions of the church on homosexuality as described in ¶539 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. To enable this dissenting status, we approve the transfer of the following congregations from our annual conference to the annual conference(s) listed: [a complete list of congregations that have completed the approvals for transfer listed in 539.3e shall be inserted here along with the name of the conference to which each has voted transfer]." Upon 2/3 majority passage of this resolution, the liberties of a dissenting conference described in this paragraph shall be in effect on the January 1 following this vote.

g. The transfer of congregations from dissenting conferences shall be final upon completion of the steps outlined in ¶367.3,a-f and upon a 2/3 vote of the annual conference to which the congregation seeks transfer.

4. Other provisions:

a. Dissenting annual conferences and their congregations are to place a single distinguishing keyboard character after their name on church letterhead and signage. This character will be assigned by GCFA and is to be neutral in design, so as to elicit neither shame nor pride. The symbol should not directly reference human sexuality.

b. Non-dissenting conferences are strongly encouraged to cooperate with congregations and clergy who express a desire to join a dissenting conference. These transfers will occur under the authority of ¶139 and ¶347.

c. Conferences and their cabinets are encouraged to assume a loving, non-punitive posture toward these churches and pastors who pursue transfer to another conference under this paragraph. Stability of pastoral appointment for up to 36 months after notification is encouraged through the transition process.

d. The provisions of ¶1347 notwithstanding, clergy shall have the right to transfer from dissenting conferences when they express in writing a moral objection to the dissenting status of the conference to their supervising bishop.

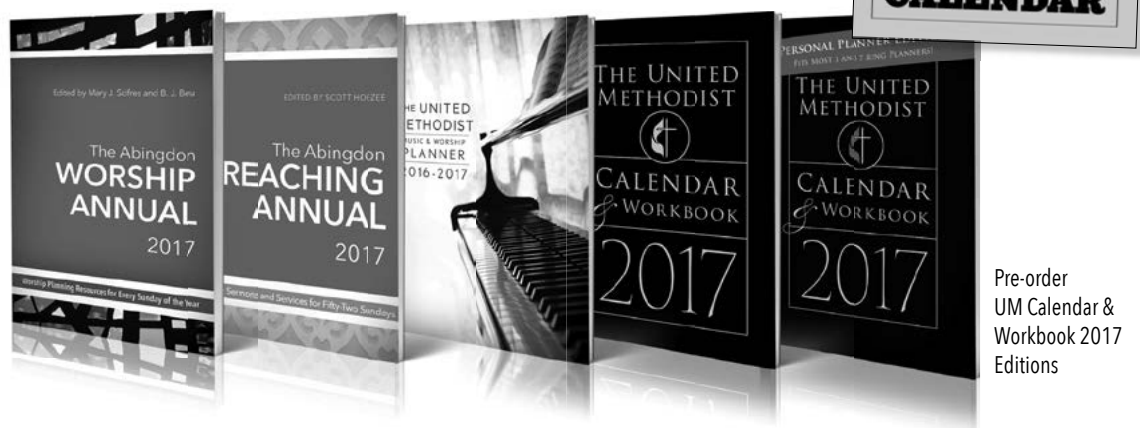
e. General church resources shall not be used to develop customized rites and resources for use by dissenting conferences and congregations. Dissenting conferences are expected to work together on developing these resources and share any costs involved. If all annual conferences in a jurisdiction assume a dissenting position under this paragraph, resources of the jurisdiction may be used to develop rites and resources for their dissenting congregations and clergy that reflect their dissenting position.

f. After the change in boundaries enabled by this paragraph are enacted, annual conferences may vote to transfer to any jurisdictional conference upon recommendation of their most recent jurisdictional delegation and upon a 2/3 majority vote. The final votes shall be held at least eighteen months before the start of the next regularly scheduled jurisdictional conference. Annual conference secretaries must notify the college of bishops of both jurisdictions involved and GCFA within ten days of the vote. The transfer will become effective on September 1 of the year of a regularly scheduled jurisdictional conference. A conference that has transferred to a new jurisdiction must stay in that jurisdiction for at least eight years unless it is dissolved by General Conference action.

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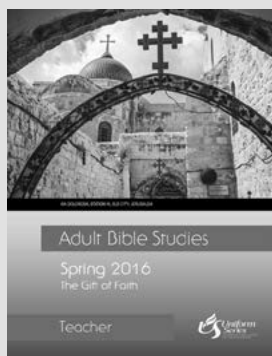
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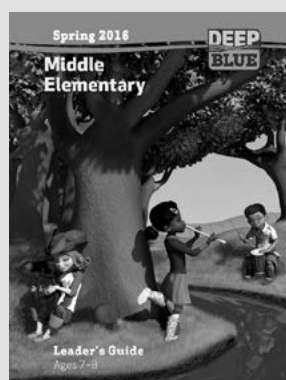
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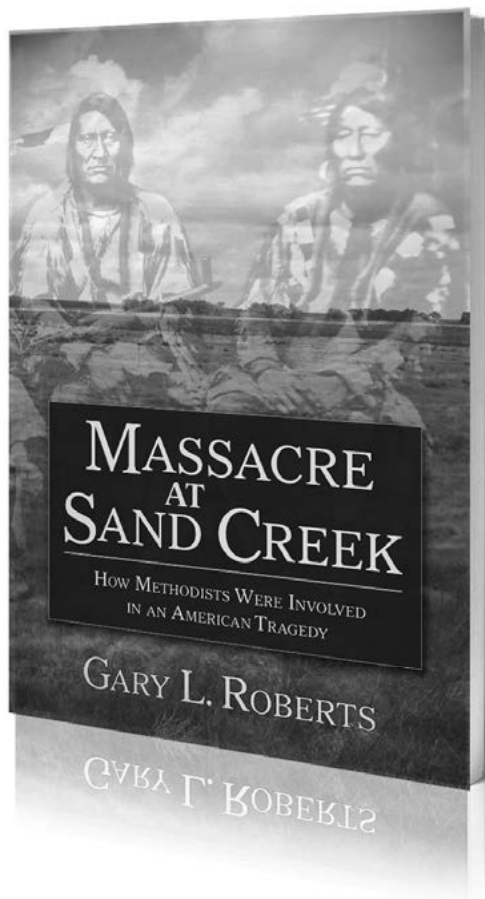
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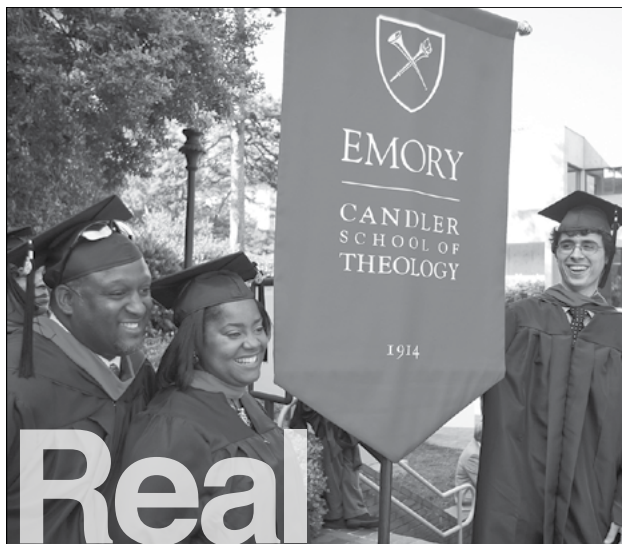


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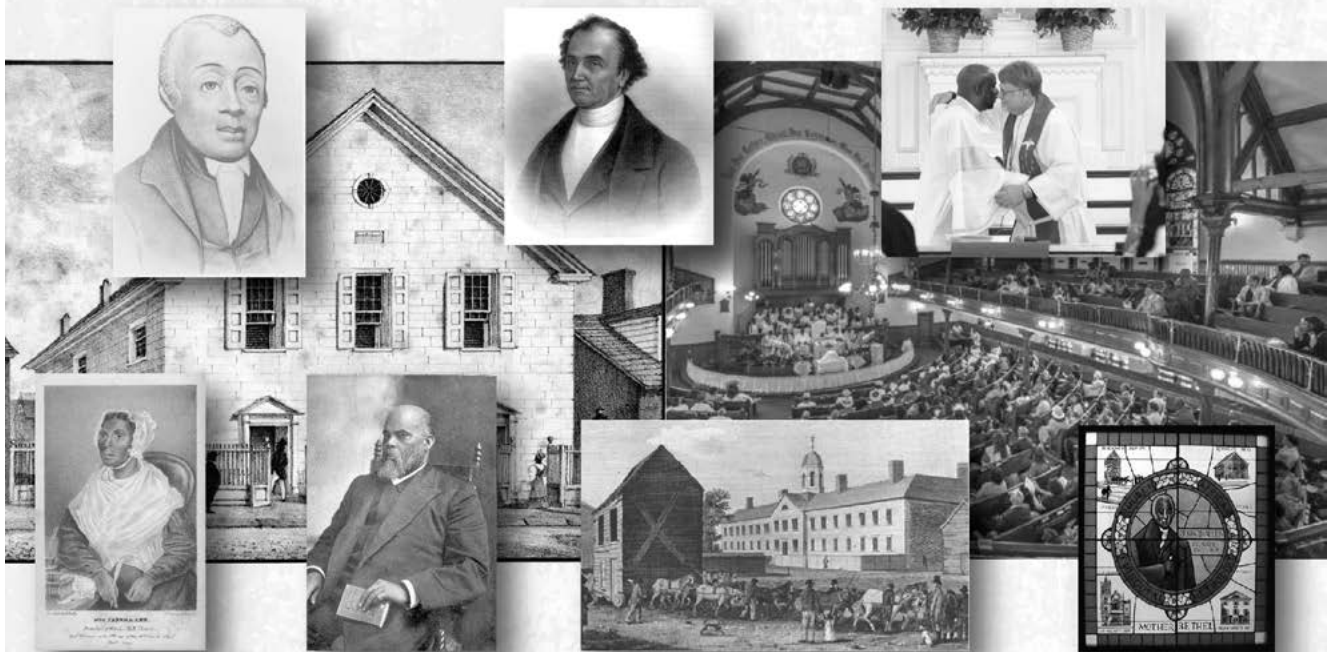
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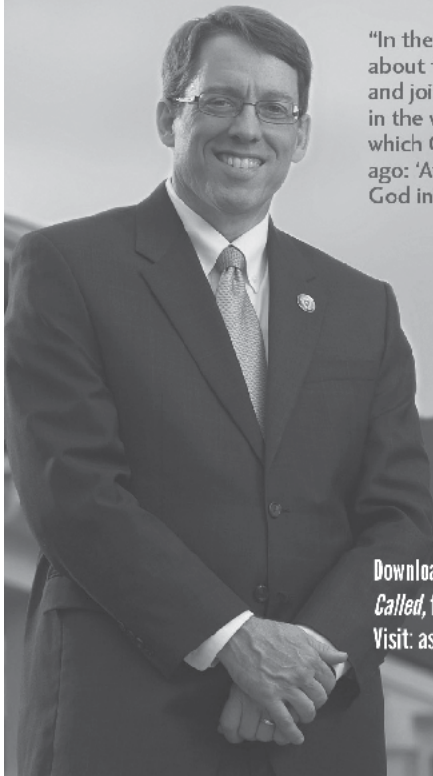
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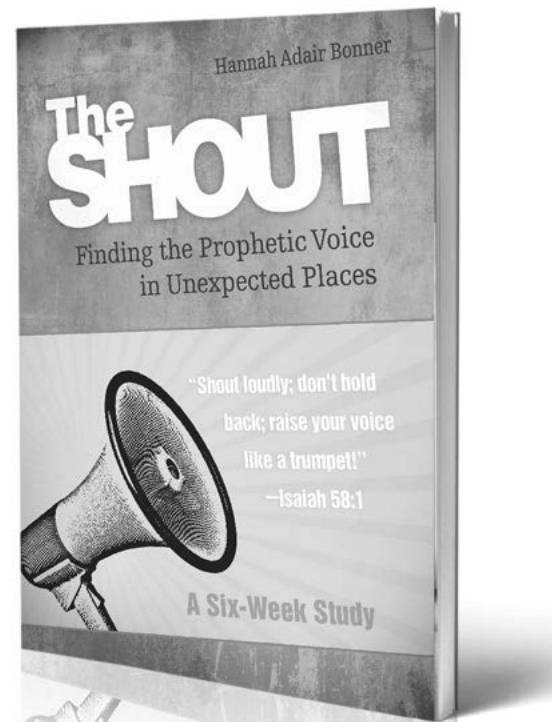
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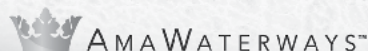


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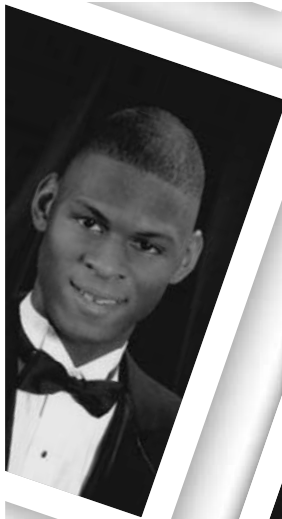


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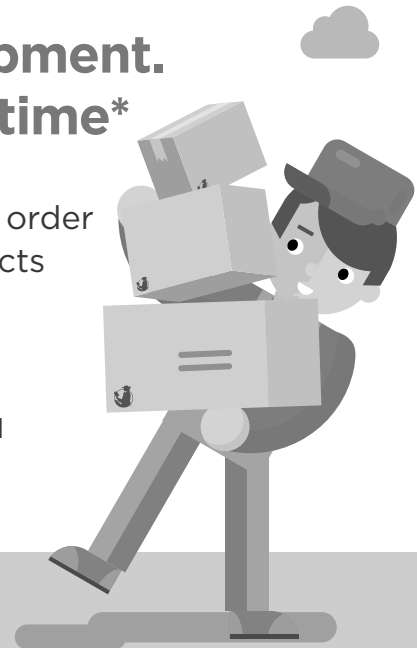
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Maud Keister Jensen: 1956 Received Full Clergy Rights
 Emma P. Hill: 1956 African American Ordained/Washington Conference
 Antonia Wladar: 1958 Ordained/Central European Conference
 Gusta A. Robinette: 1959 Ordained/DS/Indonesia-Medan Chinese District
 Julia Torres Fernandez: 1961 Latina Ordained Elder
 Margaret Henriksen: 1967 American District Superintendent
 Cornelia Mauyao: 1971 Ordained/Philippines Central Conference
 Mutombo Ilunga Kimba: 1979 Ordained Elder/Congo/Africa Central Conf.
 Marjorie Matthews: 1980 Bishop in the UMC
 Mamie Ming Yan Ko: 1982 Chinese American Ordained Elder/CA-Pacific Conf.
 Mochie Lam: 1982 Chinese American Ordained Elder/CA-Nevada Conf.
 Colleen Kyung Seen Chun: 1983 Korean American Ordained Elder/CA-Pacific Conf.
 Leontine T.C. Kelly: 1984 African American Ordained Bishop
 Lois V. Glory-Neal: 1989 Native American/OK Indian Missionary Conf.; 1992 DS
 Sharon Brown Christopher: 2002 President of the Council of Bishops
 Linita Uluave Moa: 2003 Tongan Ordained Elder
 Minerva G. Carcaño: 2004 Latina Bishop
 Rosemarie J. Wenner: 2005 European Bishop
 Joaquina Filipe Nhanala: 2008 African Bishop



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Rule 33. Consent Calendar

Calendar items are automatically placed on a consent calendar when the item has ten (10) or fewer votes against the prevailing position of the legislative committee. Rule 33(3)(a)

There are three different consent calendars:

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

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

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

Any twenty (20) delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by submitting a Consent Calendar Removal Request Form by 3:00 p.m. of the day the calendar item first appears in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. The form can be picked up from room B119 and returned to room B117. Reserve delegates may sign requests to remove items from the consent calendar only while seated as voting delegates.

Consent Calendar B06

482-FO22-R9999-A-G

Subject: Study of Ecclesiology

Petition: 60033-FO-R9999-G

Membership: 73; Present: 67;

For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended by substituting with the following:

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

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

1. A teaching document on ecclesiology will be made available electronically through

www.umc.org, www.gbhem.org, and www.gbod.org along with a brief study and response guide to facilitate study of the document. These documents will be translated into the language of the General Conference.

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

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

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

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

6. The Committee on Faith and Order will be responsible for evaluating the study process, considering the responses received, and will offer appropriate action to the 2020 General Conference. The Committee on Faith and Order will send to the 2020 General Conference a theological teaching document on ecclesiology for adoption as an official document of the church, comparable to *By Water and the Spirit* and *This Holy Mystery*.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Corrections to the Calendar

482-FO22-R9999-A-G

Subject: Study of Ecclesiology

Petition: 60033-FO-R9999-G

Membership: 73; Present: 67;

For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;

Date: 5/14

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

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Committee Moves to Adopt the above

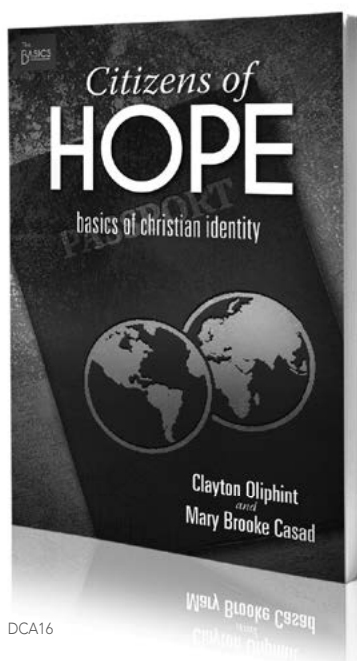
[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

Moved from Consent Calendar B05 to Consent Calendar B06

Correction Reason: Change Title of Calendar/Committee Item (delete "Document-Wonder, Love, and Praise")

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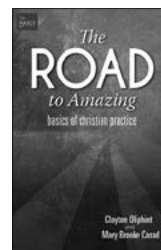
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Proceedings of the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Monday Afternoon,
May 16, 2016**

(continued from page 2366)

Election for University Senate

BISHOP COYNER: We're going to turn now to University Senate, same page, and we'll vote in categories. We'll start first with the CEOs. You should look at those on p. 2076. These votes are a plurality vote, so we'll be casting two votes for CEOs nominated either by the Council of Bishops or the floor, and then we'll do a second set of votes for the right hand column. So, I hope you're clear. We're voting on p. 2076 under University Senate, those on the left hand column where it says, "CEOs nominated by the Council of Bishops and/or CEOs nominated from the floor." You'll be casting votes—you'll be casting two selections, but it's only a plurality vote, so whoever the two highest vote-getters will be those who are elected. Are we ready to vote?

If you'll take your voting devices, I'll wait for the screen to come up.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: It's coming, they say.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: They're changing the computer system to read from majority to plurality because that's the rules for this election. So hang on a minute.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, it's on your screen. We'll be doing

two different selections. So, if you would, at this point, enter the number of your first selection and press send, please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP MICHAEL COYNER: All right, if you'll enter now your second selection and press send, please vote now.

(pause)

Tshibang and Ohou Elected to University Senate

BISHOP COYNER: All right, we'll hold for the results, remind you this is plurality votes; whoever are the top two vote getters are elected and they are: Kasap Owan Tshibang, I'm saying this wrong I'm sure and Nathaniel Ohou. They are elected on the CEO side of that page. If you would now look on that same p. 2076 and on the right hand column, you can vote for any two persons nominated either by the Council of Bishops or from the floor. Wait for that screen to come up and we'll be ready to cast two selections again.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Wait just a moment. OK, following this, this last election which we're doing, I will start in the calendar business and Bishop Streiff you'll be the first one up, so just you could come on up and be prepared for that please. Are we ready?

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: All right, if you'll enter your first selection, the numbers of your first selection and press send, please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: All right, if you'll enter your second selection, the numbers for your second selection and press send, please vote now.

(pause)

Arnold and Watson Elected to University Senate

BISHOP COYNER: All right, thank you, the votes close now; we'll wait for the results. Again this is a plurality so it'll be the top two vote getters. And here are the results, so two would be: Bill Arnold and David Watson.

So congratulations folks; that completes all of this kind of voting you're doing today and electing. You can applaud for that; that'd be okay.

(applause)

BISHOP COYNER: As I get ready to turn now to planned calendar items, I have a couple points of order on the screen so let me ask if they still are relevant. Timothy Riss mic. 6, did you have a point of order?

TIMOTHY RISS (New York): Yes, and you can tell me if it's still relevant. On the previous ballot, it is mathematically impossible for all nine positions to get more than 50% of the vote, because they have to add up to the number of voters times nine—

BISHOP COYNER: times six

RISS: Actually times six, yeah.

BISHOP COYNER: I can't, I don't know any more than what I've told you which has the tech people told me that what you're not seeing are the numbers of invalid ballots.

RISS: It doesn't matter.

BISHOP COYNER: If you wish to – is there an action you would like the conference to take?

RISS: I would like to revote because it's just not possible.

BISHOP COYNER: Let me test the body and see if they'd like to revote, that was the election of, which one was that clergy alternates. I'm sorry it was the . . . it was on the Judicial Council vote . . . the alternates. Let me test the body. If you take your voting machines, if you would like to re-take that vote, you'll be pressing 1 for yes, if you don't want to, you'll press 2 for no, which means the results I announced would stand. We're not quite ready yet for that cause they're still processing other things. Let me see if I can try out the cards since their system isn't ready. If you take your cards, let's try the old fashioned way, if you'd like me to re-take that vote on the six clergy alternates, would you raise your cards? Thank You. Put them down. And if you don't want to re-take that vote would you raise your cards? Clearly you don't want to re-take the vote, so the vote will stand, thank you. I do understand the concern, I'm not a mathematician, so I apologize. Marshall Bailey mic. 6, had a point of order or inquiry. Marshall Bailey.

MARSHALL BAILEY (Virginia): Bishop, Marshall Bailey, Virginia Conference. Just for the math on that, if you take 500 times six you get 3000 and then you divide that by nine and you get 333 which means you can have nine candidates elected.

BISHOP COYNER: All right.

BAILEY: Just to point that out, thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: I regret that it was a long time ago I took a math class. OK, Ron Enns mic. 3 says he has new business that really would need to be related to the calendar items we're calling upon, let

me hear what you have to say Ron Enns mic. 3 I think it was.

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas): Thank You Bishop, Ron Enns Northwest Texas

BISHOP COYNER: I don't know where you are. Oh there you are.

ENNS: I have a petition to refer a matter to the Judicial Council.

BISHOP COYNER: That would be in order.

*Motion for Judicial Council
Declaratory Decision on
Paragraphs 542.1, 2*

ENNS: I move that the General Conference petition the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church for a declaratory decision on the meaning and application and effect of paragraphs 542.1 and 542.2 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church with respect to:

(1) Whether the time and place of meetings of the Central Conference after its first meeting, is to be determined by the Central Conference or its Executive Committee or by the Central Conference itself or its bishops and as to the impact of an adaptation of these provisions of *The Book of Discipline* in paragraph 409 of the 1990 Congo Central Conference *Book of Discipline*.

(2) Whether under the aforementioned paragraphs the College of Bishops of the Congo Central Conference has the authority to change the time and place of the meeting from that established during the 2012 meeting of The Congo Central Conference. If I got a second, I would like to speak—

BISHOP COYNER: Is there a second? I don't hear one, is there a second? I hear one now. Go ahead, sir.

(pause)

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas): Bishop, I was asked to present this request by members of the Congo Delegation. And I'm just going to repeat some comments that they wrote down. "We are very disappointed that our bishops have changed the time and place for our Central Conference meeting from this year until March of 2017. We don't know what to do about it. We do not have any recourse."

From a clergy member: "Our bishops are merely extending their terms for an additional seven months. There is no valid reason for this change, and the reasons they give are just a pretext for the underlying reason. If this decision can be challenged and changed, we would be very glad. We've always met in August of the year of the General Conference, except in 2005 when these bishops criticized Bishop Onema for delaying Central Conference. Now it is they who are manipulating the system for themselves."

An additional clergy from South Congo: "We would appeal this decision and do not feel the bishops have the authority to do this, but we are afraid of what they would do to us if we spoke publicly. Our *Book of Discipline* seems clear, and we would be glad to have a decision from the Judicial Council on this matter and will abide by their ruling. We will vote for this motion."

An additional clergy from Central Congo area: "Our bishops act like they are tribal chiefs" – and I apologize, this is not my language – "our bishops act like they are tribal chiefs and answer to no one for their violations of our *Book of Discipline*. This is only one of the times that they have ignored the *Discipline*, but we are powerless to question or oppose them. We have no recourse if they decide to punish us. Our ministerial committees are manipulated by

them to punish us. *The Discipline* is a weapon that is used against us but does not apply to them.”

And finally, a layman from South Congo: “Why would they move our Central Conference meeting outside of the Congo to Zambia? It will make it very difficult for many delegates to attend the conference. We do not understand this unprecedented move. We don’t know how to appeal it. We will all vote for this motion so as to get clarity on this question.” Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. This is a request to go to Judicial Council. It needs pass only by twenty percent of you. So, I’m gonna go ahead and take the vote unless I see someone urgently wanting to speak, so I think you want to move on. So, if you would take out your voting devices, if you vote number one (1) for “yes,” it means you want this referral to go to Judicial Council. If you do not, you would vote two (2) for “no.” Please vote now.
[Yes, 703; No, 94]

BISHOP COYNER: So obviously more than twenty percent, so the request is referred to Judicial Council, and it’s been brought forward in writing, so I’ll have it for them. Thank you. We’re gonna move on now to where we would have been at two o’clock. And that is we’re turning to our *DCA* items and calendar items. The first person up for report is Bishop Patrick Streiff. And he’ll come and share that item of business with you. Bishop Streiff.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Bishop Streiff is gonna explain where we are, and he’s going to speak to it in French, so I just want you to be prepared.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: What I say first in English, the first

calendar item you will find on p. 1906 of your *DCA*. Calendar Item no. 7.

(pause)

BISHOP STREIFF (simultaneous interpretation): I will speak French. At p. 1906, you will find Item 7. The first thing to be debated. If I speak French, it is so that you will have a simulation of what it is to be part of the permanent committee. The standing committee. We have English, French in our deliberations. I would like briefly on Item 7, there are several amendments to this petition. In the first lines, it is to adopt something that is necessary . . .

[INTERPRETER: I’m sorry. I’m having trouble hearing the Bishop. If someone could help me . . .]

BISHOP STREIFF: It is language that says . . .

(Bishop conferring on stage)

[INTERPRETER: Thank you. It’s been corrected. Thank you.]

BISHOP STREIFF (simultaneous interpretation): Further down around line twelve, what is written is that the persons are named by the Council of Bishops. That is the current situation. And we will simply be continuing the current situation. You have the persons not present at the General Conference, so that they can be elected at General Conference. And then, four lines further down, we have a new proposal in this amendment, so that the Central Conferences that have more than three bishops will receive additional members as members of the standing committee. So those are the three Central Conferences in Africa who will thus receive more members. And then further on, in this middle column, we are changing the bishop from the Central Conference who will be a member of the standing committee for the bishop who is in

the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships. And at the end, in the right column at the bottom, the middle, you have an addition that this legislation, if you vote for it, will take effect immediately, so that we can vote during this General Conference for the delegates, the additional delegates from Africa. These are the amendments to this petition.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, thank you. So what’s before us is the entire Calendar Item no. 7. Bishop Streiff has indicated to you the ways in which it has been amended. It is now before you as an entire calendar item. Are there those who want to speak for or against this calendar item before we vote on it?

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Calendar Item no. 7. So there’s no one in the queue and no one waving any cards, so I’m going to put the vote for Calendar Item 7. You will be using your machines and no. 1 will mean you vote to approve Calendar Item 7; no. 2 will mean you vote not to approve it. As soon as they’re ready, we’ll put that up on the screen. Please enter and vote now.
[Yes, 709; No, 83]

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. It has been approved. We now turn to our next calendar item which is Calendar Item No. 6 and Bishop Streiff, are you also presenting that?

BISHOP STREIFF (simultaneous interpretation): Is point 6 that asks that Rwanda could be a provisional annual conference. A small reminder, the petition is on p. 911 of the *DCA*. The creation of a provisional annual conference must be decided by the general conference. Rwanda meets all of the necessary criteria and for that reason the Standing Committee has voted in favor of this petition.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. It is properly before you. Any discussion or questions about Calendar Item No. 6? Seeing none, we'll be ready to put to vote. Again, you'll vote by your keypads and vote number one (1) if you approve, number two (2) if you do not approve. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: And it is approved.

[Yes, 738; No, 59].

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you for your voting. I'm gonna just test the house verbally. Are you doing so well with this these kind of votes we could do it in 20 seconds? Can we do 20 seconds when we take the next votes? Any objection? Alright, we'll try that. Thank you. We're now ready for Calendar Item No. 3. Again, Bishop Streiff is presenting that.

BISHOP STREIFF (simultaneous interpretation): This is the initial petition. You will find it on p. 914 of the ADCA. It is about the creation of the Uganda Annual Conference and the Standing Committee voted to send this petition, this request, back to the Central Conference in Africa. Why this referral back to the Africa Central Conference? *The Book of Discipline* says that Jurisdictional Conferences and Central Conferences may decide about the number and the limits of the annual conferences. That authority—if the Central Conference decides, that can be done. So we decided that we should not make the decision here in the General Conference, but to refer it back to the Africa Central Conference so that the Africa Central Conference can act on this request. And thus, we are proposing that it be referred back to the respective Africa Central Conference.

BISHOP COYNER: OK. That is properly before us as a referral. I

have in the queue Nancy Denardo, mic. 6, who wishes to amend that motion to refer. You'd have to do so to amend it. Nancy, where are you? There you are. Thank you.

NANCY L. DENARDO (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Nancy Denardo, Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, laity. I move to amend the petition by the following: On line 1, after Uganda, add "Kenya", "and Kenya."

BISHOP COYNER: Excuse me Nancy, but the motion is actually to refer so I don't think an amendment on the petition is in order. You'd have to be amending the referral motion.

DENARDO: OK. I would like to amend the motion to refer.

BISHOP COYNER: Go ahead.

DENARDO: Or is that not allowed? OK.

BISHOP COYNER: What I'm saying is the content of the petition is not before us. What's before us is the motion to refer the petition.

DENARDO: I see. I can do that.

BISHOP COYNER: I bet you can.

(laughter)

DENARDO: Will you permit me?

BISHOP COYNER: Why don't you go ahead and let's try it.

DENARDO: OK. Thank you. The Standing Committee of Central Conference Matters recommended referral of the petition to the Africa Central Conference College of Bishops. Given the lack of resolution on the GCFA and GBGM complaint after three years and Judicial Council direction, there is a lack of confidence that assistance would be offered to aid Uganda and Kenya in any way.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. I believe what you're doing is making a speech against referral, then.

DENARDO: Oh, I'm sorry.

BISHOP COYNER: Is—you're saying you don't want to refer to that group.

DENARDO: Correct.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, thank you.

DENARDO: Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: Anyone else wish to speak for or against the referral? I have Sara Cissy Namukose, mic. 5, wants to speak in favor, I believe of referral. I apologize if I'm messing up your name.

SARAH CISSY NAMUKOSE (East Africa): Thank you, Bishop. Sarah Cissy, East Africa Episcopal Area.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you.

NAMUKOSE: East Africa Episcopal Area is composed of six independent countries, and it will be a disadvantage to the rest of the other independent countries if Uganda alone is appointed to be an annual conference. And, to add onto that, it was not successfully adopted in the Africa Central Conference. So for those reasons I refer that this petition be referred back to the Africa Central Conference for more consideration. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. So, we've had a speech for, against, and then for this motion to refer. Anyone else wishing to speak for or against it? I see no one in the queue, so we'll put the vote. And the question is do you want to refer it as indicated by the committee. Patrick, you want to speak for the committee?

BISHOP STREIFF (simultaneous interpretation): If we send it back to the Central Conference, the Central Conference will be the one to say if this annual conference is created in addition and also to say what the boundaries, the limits of that annual conference will be. So, the annual conference is free to say if it wants to include Kenya or no.

But, it belongs to the Central Conference to make that decision. That's where the decision resides properly.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. So the motion is to refer. If you will approve that motion be pressing one, if you do not approve that be pressing two. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP MICHAEL COYNER: And you've said, "Yes." The motion is referred as indicated.

[Yes: 658; No: 143]

So, we'll go to our next calendar item. Let me alert Charles Boayue that we will be coming to you after Bishop Streiff finishes another calendar item or two. Bishop Streiff, I think we are ready for Calendar Item 5.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF (Simultaneous Interpretation): The next item is number 5. Comprehensive Plan for Africa. The president for this work in the standing committee is going to speak on this point. His name is Rodney Steele.

Call for new African Bishops

RODNEY STEELE (Arkansas): My name is Rodney Steele from Arkansas. I want to share with you that this petition is based on upon prayer, spiritual discernment, an objective criteria that focused on the workload of a bishop. For example, we looked at the number of congregations and pastors, the number of districts and superintendents, the size of the area staff and ministries, all of which are indisputable statistics. We also considered the geographic size of the episcopal area, as well as the number of time zones and the languages used within. We examined the amount of infrastructure for communications, transportation, education, and basic public services, as well as a number of national borders crossed by the episcopal area. With our criteria

in hand, we made onsite visits and came to the conclusion that is stated in the petition, five new bishops for Africa beginning in 2020. We've been asked, "if the need is so great, why wait until 2020?" To use an analogy, if you throw a pebble into the lake it will make ripples. If you throw a lot of big rocks at one time, they will make waves. This will make a big impact on our budget and GCFA will need the time and the mandate to prepare for the funding. This is not a request to study the issue for four more years. If approved, it becomes a mandate to prepare for five new bishops in Africa, beginning in 2020.

The Central Conferences will need the time to prepare properly to receive and support the new bishops. Previously, this did not happen with the most recent new episcopal area and they were not ready and it led to a delay in frustration. If we vote for this, we need to have everyone ready from day one to begin their ministry. Moreover, our plan offers a great opportunity for representatives and leadership of the Central Conferences to come together and envision the best places for the new areas. Not imposed upon them, but created by them and a future-oriented collaborative process, if they so choose. This time will allow for new possibilities that are beyond simply dividing existing episcopal areas. With unanimous vote in the standing committee, we ask for your support for this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. Thank you. So, Calendar Item Number 5 is before us, properly. If there are persons who want to speak for or against that, this will be a motion to adopt, not to refer, but to adopt Calendar Item Number 5. I see Rudolph Merab; mic. 6, wishes to amend.

RUDOLPH MERAB (Liberia): Rudolph Merab, Liberia Annual Conference, would like to thank the

committee for doing such a brilliant job, but I think they present a (*unintelligible*) that wouldn't want to put a rock that would cause a big wave. So, would like to amend this petition by saying that we create two episcopal area now and three can wait for 2020, so that impact today will be on two and the one for 2020 will be on three, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. That's the motion to amend. Is there a second? I hear seconds. Would you like to go ahead and speak to it Rudolph?

MERAB: Yes, bishop. The issue of Africa is an issue that I want all you to grasp with. It's a huge continent and the bishops are overloaded. And, right now, we think we do need bishops to help us in our job in evangelizing, and therefore, we are requesting that we get two additional bishops and therefore, we ask that we amend this to add two bishops immediately.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, thank you. This might be a point to remind the body that when we pass anything like this, if it were passed with financial implications, it also would be referred to GCFA, which I chair. To bring back recommendations, part of the final budgeting, but it's before us properly.

MERAB: And bishop, one in Nigeria and one in Zimbabwe.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, we'll take that as part of your motion to amend; to establish two new episcopal areas now: Zimbabwe, Nigeria; and the other three to be indicated as is listed in the petition.

Alright. Are there those who wish to speak for or against this? In the queue, I see a lot of people wanting to speak. I hope it's on this topic. John Auta, A-U-T-A, you want to speak, mic. 1, speaks for. Are you speaking for the amendment, sir?

JOHN AUTA (Central Nigeria): Yes. John Auta from Nigeria, Bishop.

I want to pick for this motion. Looking at Africa and looking at a lot of work our bishop are doing, I want to move that this conference should agree that two more bishops be created in the area as said in the amendment. Bishop, Nigeria, in particular, if I want to tell you, is just like the size of Alaska and even more, that it becomes very difficult for one bishop, for one bishop. Conference, General Conference, I want to make appeal that it's becoming impossible for one bishop to take care of this very large country. A country that is going under hostility of Boko-Haram. I think this conference should vote for this additional two bishop. Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. This is a speech for. I have no one wanting to speak against, but I have some inquiries or points of order. Let me turn to them next. Mande Muyombo, mic. 3, I believe is a point of order or clarification.

MANDE MUYOMOMBO (North Katanga): Bishop, thank you. It seems to me that there was a study that was conducted for specific context with analysis of data, interviews, visits. So, if there was any consideration of the actual, I would like to know what are the specific places where the study was conducted?

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, I see your point. Your point of information is to ask, "What study would identify these two areas to be implemented immediately?" Is that correct, sir?

MUYOMOMBO: What are the places, the countries, and episcopal areas?

BISHOP COYNER: Are you asking, sir, for the two immediate in the amendment, plus the additional three? Are you asking for the identification of the two areas?

MUYOMOMBO: I'm referring to the study of the standing committee.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. Let me ask the committee if they could respond to that, please?

STEELE: The areas studied, were North Katanga; I mean Katanga, South Congo, and Zimbabwe. Those were the specific areas that we studied onsite.

BISHOP COYNER: OK. You may have to talk more into the microphone next time.

STEELE: Yes, sir.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, I have another point of order parliamentary inquiry. Sandra Olewine, mic. 2. Let me know if it's a point of order or point of information or what it is, please? Sandra.

SANDRA KAY OLEWINE (California-Pacific): Thank you, Bishop. Sandra Olewine, California-Pacific Annual Conference. It's a point of information. I'm not clear on when we get the financial implications of this, before or after we vote, 'cause it seems like it doesn't make a lot of sense to vote for it and then get financial information following it, but I don't know the procedure.

BISHOP COYNER: In essence, what happens if you vote to approve this, it is a referral to GCFA who would bring that back for further action while we're here. I don't think they're ready right now to respond off the cuff; so, thank you.

William Brownson had a parliamentary point. Mic. 4, William Brownson; hope I'm saying your name right, sir.

WILLIAM H. BROWNSON (West Ohio): Yes, thank you, Bishop. Bill Brownson, lay, West Ohio. My question is, did the committee consider two episcopal areas now and three in the future as part of their deliberations which led to (*unintelligible*)?

BISHOP COYNER: Right. I'll ask the committee to respond. Did you consider this option now?

RODNEY STEELE (Arkansas): Say again please, sir?

BISHOP COYNER: They're wondering if you considered this type of action in your deliberations. The two and the three.

STEELE: Yes, we did and the need was so great that we wanted to increase the numbers. We wanted to not have a piecemeal procedure where individual requests were made but have a comprehensive approach to it, as well. Given those who are not able to work the process here at General Conference, who aren't familiar with United Methodist system, an equal chance to voice their concerns together with other Central Conference representatives and delegates.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, thank you. I now have some people who want to speak against the motion to amend, so let me call on one of those. I'm trying to keep this balance. Mande Muyombo wants to speak against from mic. 3.

MANDE MUYOMOMBO (North Katanga): Bishop, in regard of my previous question, I think we have to honor the work of the standing committee. There was time, resources, and they visited places. They interviewed pastors and they came up with this plan. Let me say this. If we want bishops, it is because of the work. So, let's test the work first. Let's not look for people who want to be bishops now; so, therefore, I vote against this.

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, sir. Thank you. We've had a speech for and against. Let me take another speech for the motion to amend. Betty—I'm not saying your name right—Katiyo? Mic. 3. Betty, Mic. 3.

BETTY SPIWE KATIYO (West Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. I would like to speak for.

BISHOP COYNER: OK.

KATIYO: I think it has been made very clear that this study was

very specific, and what they were actually looking for was the criteria to come up with bishops and they actually visited some of the annual conferences; and in speaking for, like I said, I think it is proper at this stage that we have the additional bishops rather than refer it and refer it for another quadrennium, when in their speech, they've indicated that there is a lot of wait going on and there is a need to have bishops. We are all aware that the church is growing in Africa and we don't want to stifle that growth, so I am speaking for. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. I'm going to turn now to someone who wants to speak against. Let me call on Janice Nelson at mic. 1. Janice, I believe you wanted to speak against the motion to amend.

JANICE E. NELSON (Oregon-Idaho): Jan Nelson, Oregon-Idaho. I want to speak against the amendment. I think I feel a little bit like I expect some of my Central Conference colleagues feel when we talk about something that affects primarily the United States. I don't have enough information. I don't know if these are the two places that are most in need of a bishop. I really think that if we make this decision now to put two bishops in these two places that too many of us don't know the best solution for Africa, and it would be much better to have a longer term solution rather than a quick fix, which might not be the best for the long-term future of the church in Africa. So, I speak against the amendment.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. We've had two speeches for and against the amendment. The amendment would be to have these two new areas immediately, the other three areas studied, I presume, as indicated in the original motion. I have

a lot of people who want to speak for and against. Let me see, I have one point of order; I lost him. Rukang Chikomb, mic. 2. Yes, sir. I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing your name, I'm sure I am.

CHIKOMB: Bishop, thank you. Rukang Chikomb, West Katanga—North-West Katanga.

BISHOP COYNER: North-West Katanga, yes.

CHIKOMB: My name is always a tough one to say. I forgive you.

(laughter)

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you, thank you.

CHIKOMB: Bishop, this is a point of information. I just want clarification. Can the standing committee give me a paragraph in *The Book of Discipline* that stop those conferences to support the bishop financially?

BISHOP COYNER: I'm sorry. Would you ask the question again? I was not hearing it.

CHIKOMB: Can the standing committee give me any paragraph in *The Book of Discipline* that says the annual conferences episcopal area requested cannot support financially their bishop; in case we want to pay for our bishop for a while?

BISHOP COYNER: Standing committee, can you answer that?

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: (simultaneous interpretation) The constitution of our church—all general superintendents must be treated equally. Therefore, through GCFA, we have the episcopal fund that pays for bishops. Altogether, we all participate into it and out of this general fund, the bishops are paid. None of the bishops are directly paid by their own annual conference or are depending on what the local conference or the episcopal area pays. This is our connectional operating mode.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. I have two different people who want to move the previous question. I'm just picking one randomly. David Bard, mic. 5. Is that the motion you want to make, sir?

DAVID ALAN BARD (Minnesota): Yes, it is, Bishop. David Bard, Minnesota Conference. I would like to move the previous question on the amendment.

BISHOP COYNER: Previous question on the amendment only. So, if you will take out your voting key-pads. If you want to end this debate and discussion and move toward the vote, you will vote one (1) for yes. If you don't want to end the discussion, you'll vote two (2) for no. So, the question is to move the question, which means to end the debate. If you would please enter your vote and vote now.

[Yes, 707; No, 83]

BISHOP MICHEAL J. COYNER: OK. That requires two thirds, and it is clearly more than two thirds. So, you have said you are ready to end the debate and now to vote on the amendment only. Let me ask the maker of the amendment if you could clarify one more time what the amendment is, and I will let the committee respond to it. Do we have the amendment here in writing? We do not have it in writing. Let me see if I can summarize it. The amendment was to go ahead and establish two new episcopal areas in Nigeria and Zimbabwe now and to follow through with the study of the other three areas as indicated in the petition. I believe that was the amendment.

RUDOLPH MERAB (Liberia): Yes, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: OK, thank you so much. So we are going to vote on that now. If you will approve the amendment you will be pressing one (1). If you do not approve that

amendment, you will be pressing two (2). Please vote now.

(voting in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Clear the queue. Alright, waiting for the results. While I am waiting, I am asked to remind you if you make an amendment or a motion of any kind, to bring a copy of it to the secretary.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Or to a page, yes.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Waiting for the results.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Do we have the results?

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: They are saying we need to revote on that amendment. I apologize. We are having some technical difficulties, as they say. So, once again, if you take your voting devices. If you approve the amendment, press one (1). If you do not approve the amendment, press two (2). Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: So, the amendment is not approved.
[Yes, 393; No, 417]

So, we are back on the main Calendar Item No. 5, and I am clearing the queue since we finished that last line of discussion. So, we're now back open to those who want to speak for or against Calendar Item No. 5, or are you ready to go ahead and vote on it? I see no one entering the queue or wanting to speak, so let me put Calendar Item 5 to a vote because we are up very close to our

order of the day which is a celebration of United Methodist Women. So, if we can have the screen, we are going to vote yes or no on Calendar Item No. 5 as it was printed. You will be entering, voting one (1) if you approve Calendar Item 5. You will vote two (2) if you do not approve it. Are we ready to take that vote? Not quite. I am trying not to rush.

We are still having problems with hot spots. So, let me just say part of our interference with these votes is when folks have a hot spot on, and it messes up the wireless in the room. So, if you have made your device into a hot spot, please turn that off.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: I'm sorry? Friends, I wonder if since the system is not working at the moment, if we could take the vote with your cards? Are you willing to do that? Oh, he's up now. Every time I say it's gonna come up. Alright. If you approve item, Calendar Item 5 press one (1). If you do not, press two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 678; No, 128]

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, you have approved Calendar Item No. 5. Thank you for all your attentiveness.

We are now to an important order of the day, a celebration of the anniversary of United Methodist Women. At the end of their presentation, I think they are asking me to give a benediction, and that will lead us into your break time, but be prepared for a celebration of this important group in the life of our church.

(pause)

(music)

United Methodist Women Report and Celebration

HARRIET OLSON (CEO, United Methodist Women): What happens when women organize for mission?

Women have been in mission for centuries, but it was in 1869 when The Methodist Episcopal Church women learned from the wives of male missionaries that women in India could not be served by the men, and they decided to do something about it. They organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and mobilized U.S. women to raise funds to send a woman doctor, Clara Swain, and an educator, Isabella Thoburn, to India to serve women and children. Their bold and courageous action galvanized a women's mission movement that is still turning faith, hope, and love into action today.

United Methodist Women members serve in their communities, and speak up against injustice. Their generous second, and third-mile giving supports mission around the world, and everywhere we go, we join women who are already at work as agents of change.

This is what happens when women organize for mission.

(applause)

YVETTE KIM RICHARDS (Missouri): What happens when women organize for mission?

The needs of women, children, and youth, who are the least of these in every society, not only get on the table, they are placed front and center on the table. That's what daring, giving, United Methodist Women deaconesses and leaders did more than a hundred years ago when they set out to serve women, children, and youth in the United States. Those women founded schools for newly freed African Americans after the

Civil War, settlement houses for new immigrants, and mothers' clubs for poor communities, and the foremothers work remains.

Today, United Methodist Women supports ninety-six national mission institutions providing services like childcare and family programs, camps for kids with special needs, and assistance to immigrants and survivors of human trafficking.

Church, this is what happens

OLSON and RICHARDS:
when women organize for mission.

(applause)

EMMA CANTOR (North Central Philippines): What happens when women organize for mission? The lives of international youth, women and children change. I know. I am Emma Cantor, as one of the United Methodist Women's regional missionaries, engaged in edgy and compassionate work for gender equality, for leadership development and peace building. Development experts now say what our foremothers knew long time ago: women's lives matter.

(applause)

Thank you. When women are educated and empowered, the lives of children, families, and communities improve, and their nation progresses because that's what happens

ALL WOMEN: when women organize for mission.

BETHANY AMEY (Greater New Jersey): So raise your hand in this place, make some noise, if you've ever been to a School of Christian Mission or Mission U.

(applause)

Thank you. Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world happens as we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. That's what happens at

Mission U. A transformative education program offered, not only to United Methodist Women members, but to also to the larger, wider church to promote spiritual growth and mission outreach that is informed, faithful, and loving. Yes, transformative education happens when

ALL WOMEN: women organize for mission.

ANNABELLE BRICKER (Florida): And women still need to organize for mission because in the twenty-first century, a quarter of a million women die worldwide from preventable causes related to pregnancy. Climate change is responsible for five million deaths annually. The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and the top 10 percent of the U.S. population has twice the amount of wealth than the bottom 90 percent. And that's why United Methodist Women will continue to organize for mission, grow in our most precious faith, and work on maternal and child health, climate justice, ending criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration, and ending economic inequality.

ALL WOMEN: In the twenty-first century, women still need to organize for mission.

CANTOR: I am proud!

AMEY: I am proud!

BRICKER: I am proud!

YVETTE KIM RICHARDS (Missouri): I am proud!

HARRIET OLSON (CEO, United Methodist Women): I am proud to be part of 150 year old women's movement organized for mission.

(music)

(video)

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: Thank you so much. We are now on break for twenty minutes, but let's celebrate with them and say once again, "Happy Birthday, United Methodist Women."

ALL: Happy Birthday United Methodist Women!

BISHOP COYNER: We are now on break.

Monday Evening, May 16, 2016

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Again, I invite you to come to your tables. Delegates please be ready. We will start with our session in just a minute. Please come to your tables so we can make good use of our plenary time.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: It's now time that I call you to order. I would like to welcome you to this last two hours of our plenary session at this afternoon. I am grateful for the good work we have done so far at this date. May I introduce myself? My name is Rosemarie Wenner, and I am the bishop of the Germany area of our church. I decided to speak in English. Please forgive me when I am not as fluent as several of us here who are native language speakers. It reminds us of our global nature of our church, and I also ask all of you to speak slowly when you are at the floor so that we can understand one another, and also make the life for the translators easier whom I want to give thanks even in that moment.

A Moravian Connection

BISHOP WENNER: I ask you to center for a moment, and I would like to share with you the sentence, the Scripture sentence that I was reading when I woke up this morning. I live with the Moravian daily texts. Many of the people in

my country do the same. They read when the day begins the word that chosen by the Moravian community for that very day, and the Scripture sentence for this day is Zechariah 13:9, and it reads, "I will say, 'they are my people,' and they will say, 'the Lord is our God.'" I will say, they are my people, and they will say, the Lord is our God. Friends, we are here because God says to us, "You are my people," and we are here to answer by saying, "the Lord is our God." The people of God. Thanks be to Christ Jesus who opened the door. It's open for people of all nations, of all colors, of all races, of all genders. Open for us all gathered here in this place. Some of those who belong to God's people are my friends. I love them dearly. They are close to my heart, but many of those who belong to God's people, I have some difficulties. They are so differently. I hardly can understand them. I disagree with them in many ways, and yet, God calls us together. I would like to invite you to be for one moment in the silent prayer. Think of someone for whom you are very grateful because he or she belongs to God's people as you and I do. Think of someone with whom you have difficulties. Pray for both, and then I will lead us in a prayer.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: Loving God, your Holy Spirit guide us on our path. You call us together as people from all the nations. You call us together, and your Holy Spirit, that Spirit of love, of compassion, of strength and hope. Well, help us to do the work that is before us. We trust in you, and we ask you. Help us to listen. Help us to discern your will, and most of all, inspire us so that we act and behave and relate to one another as people of hope that offer compassion to all your people on this earth. All this we pray in

the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Before we continue our business, I would like to give Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, the General Secretary of Church and Society, a moment of personal privilege. She has asked for that. She will come to mic. 1, and I would like, before you are speaking Susan, I would like to elect our brother who is sitting next to us because he is presenting a motion to us. The motion related to the Petition Item 109 to be prepared for that. I think it is a brother. I am not quite sure. Brother or sister.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: We're going to hold that until tomorrow.

BISHOP WENNER: Okay, we will hold that until tomorrow. So, sorry for stopping you up. Susan, it's your time now.

REV. SUSAN HENRY-CROWE: Bishop and members of the conference, in my comments to the plenary this afternoon, I inadvertently used a phrase that does not convey my long time and deeply held convictions. Because of our tragic and unfortunate history of racism in our Church, it is imperative that we continue to act vigilantly in the face of oppression. I am committed to continuing to lead the Church and the Board of Church and Society in our pursuit of racial justice and equity. I apologize for my comments this afternoon. And, yes black lives matter. Thank you very much. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Thank you, Susan, and all of us continue to be a learning community. Thank you that we can help one another in this journey. So, the petition that will brought to the floor belongs to the committee on Global Ministries. Charles Boayue is the chair of that commission and he is invited to come and help us. Charles

Boayue, would you please come to the—you are already here. Thank you. And let us know what to do in the next *(unintelligible)*.

CHARLES S. G. BOAYUE (Detroit): Thank you, Bishop Wenner and members of the Council of Bishops. Fellow delegates, friends, on behalf of the committee on Global Ministries committed to the mission of the church in our time, we bring our first calendar item. The original petition is found in your ADCA, p. no. 852. It is—the committee's action is recorded in the DCA, p. no. 2106, Petition No. 60306, entitled "Global Health." This petition creates a new sub-paragraph, 1313.5, to update and replace the health and welfare provisions that are being deleted from paragraph no. 1330 and being consolidated into a new global health program area. Budget implications are included in Global Ministries budget proposal already submitted to GCFA. The legislative committee had sixty-two present and voted sixty-one in favor, zero against. The one vote that was not recorded was the chairperson's vote which was being held in case of a tie. This was a unanimous vote and the committee recommends approval.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you very much, Charles. Before I invite you to let us know whether you want to speak in favor or in opposition to the present petition, I have a request for a point of order or a point of information. Jacquie Mujinga wants to speak, this is mic. 4. Please let us know your concern. Mic. 4. Jacquie Mujinga.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: I don't see her as she has cleared the *(unintelligible)*...now you are here. Yes, madam.

JACQUIE KAINDA MUJINGA (South Congo) (simultaneous interpretation): Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP WENNER: Please tell us first your conference, your name again, so that we know who you are.

MUJINGA: (simultaneous interpretation): Thank you, Bishop. I am Jacquie Mujinga from the South Congo Annual Conference. My problem is a point of personal privilege. I'd like to speak about our brother who came before us to speak on behalf of the annual conference for Congo. I would ask him to have some respect. The words that he spoke about our bishops, even if there are some who are retired, he must speak with words of respect. When speaking of them, I think that it should be someone from the Central Conference who should speak instead of him. Thank you, Bishops.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you very much. I hear you speaking with regards to the maker of the motion to appeal to the Judicial Council. I can hear your concern. I appreciate your reminder that we act towards another in a respectful manner. This motion is now before the Judicial Council, and thank you for bringing our attention again to this question. We are now on the motion that we were just introduced to, this is the subject on global health. And we come to that motion to discuss it, and to act on it. May I have it on the screen so that you can find the place where you could have a look on it? It's on p. 2106 in your *DCA*, the calendar item. I see no speech so far. We have heard the chair of the committee on Global Missions. Here you have the referral on the screen. Does anyone speak either in favor of that motion, want to speak either in favor of that motion or against that motion? No one is in the queue; that means we are ready to vote on this motion. We have heard that the committee moves to adopt the motion. And I ask you to vote now on that motion that is before us.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: We didn't start the time, you have to wait for a second. I understand it has started. We just don't see it. Please vote now. (voting in progress)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
Ten more seconds.

BISHOP WENNER: Ten more seconds.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: The vote is closed, and we will wait to see the result. And I would like to ask Bill Allen to be ready to present us the next petition in a short while. The vote is passed. You have adopted the motion. Thank you.
[Yes, 729; No, 32]

BISHOP WENNER: We now move to work that has been done in another committee. And Bill Allen, the chair, is ready to present it to us.

General/Global Book of Discipline

WILLIAM ARTHUR ALLEN (Upper New York): Thank you, Bishop. Bill Allen, clergy, Upper New York Conference, Conferences Committee. The first item before us is found on p. two-one-zero-five (2105) in the *DCA*. It is listed as Calendar Item No. one-one-zero (110). It's also found on p. 465 of the *ADCA* and its petition no. is six-zero-two-seven-seven (60277). The committee voted to recommend adoption of this petition. 61 votes for, 8 votes against. This petition rationale is a church-wide consultation process concerning the draft of the next section of a general *Book of Discipline* furthers the necessary preparation needed to submit a general *Book of Discipline* to the 2020 General Conference. Once again, the committee recommends adoption of the petition.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you very much. The petition is before us. It refers to an important part of our life in the church. I'm ready to receive your requests, either to speak in favor of that motion or in opposition.

(pause)

I see no one who wishes to speak. That indicates that you are obviously ready to vote, and you have heard that the committee moves to adopt the petition. So if you are ready to vote, please vote now: yes to adopt the petition to work on the global *Book of Discipline*, the general *Book of Discipline*; no if you disagree with that suggestion.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: You have adopted the petition. Thank you very much.
[Yes, 739; No, 39]

BISHOP WENNER: I believe we have another item of this committee?

ALLEN: Yes. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP WENNER: I ask you to continue.

ALLEN: The second item that we will cover is found on p. two-one-zero-five (2105) of the *DCA*. It is listed as Calendar Item No. one-one-one (111). That is also found on p. four-three-five (435) of the *ADCA* and listed as Petition No. six-zero-five-six-eight (60568). The committee voted to recommend adoption of this petition: 53 votes for, 21 votes against. The rationale is this: the addition of this one sentence to paragraph 34 of *The Book of Discipline* helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall be elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being appointed by the bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without delegates being properly

elected by the body of annual conference has been a practice in some central conferences. This solves that. The committee recommends adoption of this petition.

BISHOP WENNER: OK, the petition is before us, and again you are invited to list up due to the device that is before you if you want to speak in favor or if you want to speak in opposition to that motion. It refers to the election process in the conferences.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: I see no one who wishes to speak. You are ready to take decisions at this afternoon, I believe. We can vote on this petition when the screen is ready. Please vote now. And again the committee moves adoption of the petition.

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. You have adopted the petition. [Yes, 767; No, 22]

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you, Bill. This completes the work of your committee for today. We go ahead with Faith and Order. Right or no, with Joseph Harris, and this is Independent Commissions and after that Jessica Fargo should be ready here at the podium to help us with the petition that is then before us, but now we are with Independent Commissions, and Joseph Harris is here to help us find the right place for the petition.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Joseph Harris. I come from the Oklahoma Conference. I am clergy. I am accompanied for this report from my sub-committee chair who dealt with this petition, Andreas Elfving, from the Finland-Swedish Provisional Conference. I've had the privilege to serve as chair of the legislative

committee on Independent Commissions. The petition we are presenting is Calendar No. 121, the original petition is found on p. 975 in the *DCA* and is Petition No. 60659, Petition No. 60659 on p. 2106 in the *Advance Edition*. This petition seeks to add to the constitution wording on gender justice. The petition was amended in committee and the amended version is before you.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you.

HARRIS: We see, the rationale. We see how women and girls continue to be treated badly in many parts of the world with injustice, physical violence, human trafficking, domestic violence, slavery, kidnapping and other dehumanizing practices directed against women and girls proliferating. The committee feels that this constitutional addition is both timely and necessary. Some have said that this is taken care of already in our Social Principles, our *Book of Resolutions*, and elsewhere in our *Discipline* and do not think it needs to be included in our Constitution. It was noted, however, that our Constitution is our foundational document that has spoken to The United Methodist Church, and the world, from the beginning about issues such as inclusiveness and racial justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. The committee feels that it's time to add, as part of our core foundational beliefs, that this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet. I, therefore, move the adoption of Petition No. 60659 as amended.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you very much also for the rationale. The petition is before you and I invite

you to indicate if you want to speak, either in favor or in opposition to the petition. It will require a two-thirds vote afterwards because it is a constitutional amendment and to know that it also has to be dealt with then within the conferences. I see nobody who wishes to speak. So I believe you have made up your mind and are ready to vote on the petition. Again the committee moves the adoption as amended to the committee. We are ready to vote, please vote now "yes" if you adopt the petition as amended by the committee, "no" if you oppose it, oppose.

[Yes, 746; No, 56]

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: The petition passed. It has also the necessary two-thirds votes and see it and looking at the numbers. Someone wishes to speak with a point of order, and I take this first before we come to the next group, but first of all, I would like to thank Joseph Harris for helping us with the work on that. Timothy Risk, I do not know if I pronounce the name right. Rise or Rice, you want to speak rising a point of order or point of information, mic. 6 please.

TIMOTHY RISS (New York): Thank you, Bishop. My name is pronounced Riss. The rule that I am looking at is 38.2. I think. Yes. And I'm asking a question. Committee and minority reports that propose changes in *The Book of Discipline* shall be prepared in a particular manner. Existing words shall be in quotation marks; where it's to be deleted shall be struck through; where it's to be added shall be bolded, and the *Daily Christian Advocate* will use the same convention. I see, I take advantage of this time to say that I see in many reports in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, words that are in the *Discipline* are not struck through when they are changed. But instead words that were in the

petition are struck through when they are changed and amended by the legislative committee, and I find this very confusing. And if I'm the only one, then I will go and sit down and try and learn how to deal with it. But I'm always trying to compare what the *Discipline* said with what is being put before us, but instead, I'm trying to figure out, I have to know that the committee had a petition that already changed these things, and I'm not informed of it unless I go look things up. I noticed this with Bishop Streiff's presentation. And I call attention to the editorial people about this.

BISHOP WENNER: I trust that they have heard your concern and will pay attention to it. Thank you for raising our awareness towards that question, that issue. Thank you. We continue with some petitions that are brought forward by the Committee on Faith and Order. Jessica Vargo is here to present the work of the commission, of the committee.

JESSICA VARGO (East Ohio): Actually, it's Finance and Administration.

BISHOP WENNER: Sorry, sorry. I should have known that.

(laughter)

Translation of Discipline Referred

VARGO: I have two calendar items to bring forward to you at this time to be found on DCA p. 2106. Calendar Item 115, Petition No. 60591. It's entitled "Translate the Book of Discipline into Official Languages of the General Conference." Again, it's on 2106. The committee recommends referral of this petition to the General Council on Finance and Administration, and the United Methodist Publishing House.

BISHOP WENNER: The petition is before us, and as you have

heard, the committee wants to refer it to the two bodies: General Council on Finance and Administration and the Publishing House. We are speaking on that motion to refer. Is anyone who wants to speak either in favor or opposition to referral?

(pause)

BISHOP WENNER: I see nobody who wishes the floor and that indicates again that you are ready to vote on this petition. And we have set up the vote. If you move the referral, please vote yes. If you are against referral vote no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 706; No, 93]

BISHOP WENNER: You have referred the petition. I would like to recognize Robert Vaughn. Please go to mic. 6. You have indicated a point of order, or parliamentary inquiry, or point of information. Mic. 6.

ROBERT EMORY VAUGHN (Virginia): Bishop, Rob Vaughn from Virginia. I have a question. Would our referral prevent the appropriate agencies from moving ahead to make translation of *The Book of Discipline* and other materials prior to the next General Conference, or do they need an authorization from us?

BISHOP WENNER: I'm asking myself who might be the right person to answer that question. I see I'm not the person who could answer it. We could certainly figure out and let you know later at a time during our being here, but in the moment, I don't know the answer. Could you answer, Gere, or try? The secretary has a word on that.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): This should be referred to GCFA for financial consideration to report back to you this General Conference session because authorizing the publication would be fine; how-

ever, without authorizing the funding for the publication would make the authorization itself meaningless.

BISHOP WENNER: I believe that the committee didn't put that into your suggestion. You were speaking of the next quadrennium, and then

VARGO: We simply were referring it to the two bodies that would either be able to translate or be able to find the resources to do so. So GCFA and Publishing House would be the two bodies.

BISHOP WENNER: So if anyone wishes to have it done, so that we know exactly what happens then, we would have, we would need to ask GCFA to come back to an answer at this time here. I have a point of order. It's mic. 4, and the name is Tshimbu Muyombi. Please go to mic. 4. And those who wish to speak, please make use of the tablets.

TSHIMBU MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you for the floor. My name is Tshimbu Muyombi from the Congo. Just to let you know that we did not get interpretation, and we really did not, were not able to receive what was interpreted.

BISHOP WENNER: Sir, could you stand at the mic, and could you let me know if that relates to the last vote that was taken or to the point of order we were discussing.

MUYOMBI: (*simultaneous interpretation*) It does not pertain to the last vote. It was the last comment that was made. We did not hear. There was no translation with it. We did not hear anything.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. I would like to ask Gere Reist to repeat what he has said. I will wait until you are at your seat, and the interpreters are certainly ready to interpret what he is saying.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: The matter must be referred to GCFA for reporting back in this session if

you are seeking to have those books, those translations, done during this quadrennium, because an authorization to produce the books without funding to produce the books, really becomes a meaningless gesture.

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Alright, and as I indicated we would need a motion to make that happen during the time while we are here; this is not included in the motion that we have just taken.

I have a point of order, and the point of order is on mic. 4, Henoc Mwenze. Please go to mic. 4. And, Joergen Thaarup, you can go to mic. 1. I will recognize you afterwards. Mic. 4.

HENOC MWENZE (South-West Katanga): (*simultaneous interpretation*) The floor, Henoc Mwenze, from South-West Katanga. Thank you, Bishop. I wanted to say the same thing as my predecessor. The translation at some point was interrupted, so at some point, we did not hear anything and so he asked if we could correct the situation. Now, we are hearing again and that's the only thing that I wanted to say. Thank you. So that was what my, the person who spoke before me said also.

BISHOP WENNER: OK. Thank you. Joergen Thaarup, mic. 1.

JOERGEN THAARUP (Denmark): My name is Joergen Thaarup, Denmark Annual Conference, and my point of order is a question to the committee. I see in the idea of letting the General Conference do translation of *The Book of Discipline* a conflict with our authority. The Central Conferences already had to make translations and adoptions. So, I would ask the committee, have you reconsidered or have you any rationale behind to asking the General Conference to do what we already have asked the Central Conferences to do?

BISHOP WENNER: Joergen

Thaarup, we have already dealt with the referral. So, the committee is no longer the owner of that motion. You would certainly need to ask those bodies to consider the request you will have made. And, I am sure they have heard, and they will take care of it.

Beth Cook is the next one who wants to speak, and you will have indicated that you want to move new business, and it was microphone, and I was not quick enough to see it; it was mic. 1?

BETH ANN COOK (Indiana): Beth Ann Cook, Indiana Annual Conference. I rise to move what you were speaking about. I move that we ask GCFA in cooperation with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters to bring an approximate cost estimate for translating *The Book of Discipline* into our official United Methodist languages back to this body, this year, so that we can consider it, and that is on this same petition 60591.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. Is there a second for this motion? It is seconded. The motion is before you. I am asking that you indicate whether you want to speak in favor or against. I see a speak against, it's George Howard, mic. 4.

GEORGE HOWARD (West Ohio): George Howard, lay delegate, West Ohio Conference. What we've been talking about is the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters bringing a general *Book of Discipline* to us, in 2020, that's smaller, that all of us agree to. By coming to the General Conference in 2020 with that, it will already be translated into all the languages of the General Conference. For us to translate the document this year, is, we can find out what it costs, but it will be an extreme expense and then it will be our intention to change it and do it all over again four years from now. So, I rise, to speak against

this motion to allow them to come back to us in 2020 with a new general *Book of Discipline* that's translated into the languages of the General Conference.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. I have a speech for and this motion. It's Tshimbu Muyombi, mic. 4.

TSHIMBU MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Once again, thank you for giving me the floor, Bishop. I think that the problem of interpretation is a very precise one. We have just lost something because the interpretation was wrong. I spoke about a technical problem in the room, but the president didn't understand me, which means simply that even if we want to revise *The Book of Discipline*, which will be a worldwide revision, we will not be in a position to understand the innovations, if we do not understand what was written prior to that time. So, say that it would cost a lot of money, perhaps, yes, but at some point, we have to walk together. In order to run, you have to start at the starting point. So, I am for this motion, and we must do everything we can to translate *The Book of Discipline* into all of the languages, so that everyone understands what is in the book and when there will be another book, then we will have to make the contribution, as well. But, we constantly talk about it, but no one says how much it's going to cost. Do you know? We looked for volunteers, and we didn't find any. I could contribute, I know that other people could contribute, so that we would have *The Book of Discipline* translated into all languages.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. I have one person who indicates he wants to speak in favor, but I need, in order to balance, a speech against, if anyone wishes to speak against the motion that is before us. Does anyone wish to speak against? That means that Charles Temple,

who wishes to speak for the motion, can speak. I have no one who wishes to speak against the motion. It's mic. 2.

CHARLES TEMPLE (Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Chappell Temple Texas Annual Conference. Eight years ago, in Fort Worth, we had this same issue. We've had it for decades. We were told then, by our French interpreters, that there was no French edition of *The Book of Discipline* in its entirety available in the French language. There's still nothing. If we wait four more years, maybe we will have a new global book, maybe we won't, but this is a simple justice issue. We have a contention of the church that can't even read the rules of the church in their own language. If we can spend \$1,000 a moment, we can spend the money for this.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. There are no more speeches. This means, we are in a situation, that we can, if someone wants to move the previous question, but it's even not necessary, because no one wishes to speak. This is why I would like to ask Beth Ann Cook if you could repeat your motion or is it even here so that the secretary can read it, so that we are clear what we are voting upon? And then, I ask you to vote.

BISHOP ROSMARIE WENNER: There are no more speeches. This means that we are in the situation that we can—someone wants to move the previous question, but it is even not necessary because no one wishes to speak. This is why I would like to ask Beth Cook if you could repeat your motion or is it even here so that the secretary can read it so that we clear what we are voting upon, and then I ask you to vote.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): Move for GCFA, and Standing Committee on Central Conference

matters to bring cost estimate for consideration to General Conference 2016 on translating *Book of Discipline* into our official United Methodist Church languages.

BISHOP WENNER: This is the motion that is before you. We are ready to vote. Please vote "yes" if you are in favor of the motion. Vote "no" when you oppose it, and please vote now.

[Yes, 649; No, 148]

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP WENNER: We have adopted the motion and we will hear from these committees while we are here. Someone has indicated to move new business, Russell Abel, mic. 1. I don't know which motion you would like to bring before us. Please let us know.

Motion to Translate DCA Daily Editions

RUSSELL L. ABEL (Indiana): Thank you, Bishop. A related motion. I move that the 2016 General Conference task the teams preparing for the 2020 General Conference with publishing the DCAs in the official languages of our church. Further, I move that the cost of these daily translations be covered by funds created by reducing—by up to ten percent—the quadrennial budgeted amounts of the combined general agencies.

BISHOP WENNER: Is there a second? The motion is seconded. It is before you for consideration, and I trust . . . do you wish to speak to it? Yes, please.

ABEL: I would briefly, if I could.

BISHOP WENNER: Yes, you are, of course.

ABEL: Thank you. General Conference has been a wonderful experience for me so far. I have enjoyed, appreciated, and been

blessed by the relationships that I have begun to develop, the ones that I have nurtured, and the experiences that I've had. However, one of the painful parts that I have noticed are our international brothers and sisters who can't read the daily business of the conference in a language that is familiar enough, not even their own native language or natural language, but one familiar enough that they can keep up with the business that we're doing. I'm amazed by their ability to keep up as they do. It seems to me, and I recognize it's a really difficult, big task to be able to do this much translation in this short of amount of time, and I confess that I'm not even sure what that means, other than I know that the new friends I've made this annual conference, I grieve that they have to struggle to keep up. I also recognize that the ministries that would be impacted by a reduction in general agency funds, that they're also important ministries, and so I'm simply seeking some balance to be able to have these delegates be fully participatory while at the same time trying to balance the financial needs. Thank you.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. I would like to ask Joseph Harris to come to mic. 6. He wants to speak against the motion, and afterwards João Graca mic. 1. She indicates, she or he indicates that their speech is for.

JOSEPH L. HARRIS (Oklahoma): Joseph Harris, Oklahoma Conference, clergy. I speak against this motion and really any motion that comes that wants to take money from a particular section of the church. It seems like our agencies are fair game for everybody, rather than us sacrificing our budget and finding ways to fund things, not just from a pot of agencies who some feel aren't doing their job while others feel like they are doing great jobs. So, why should one section of

our church suffer and everyone else go without any pain? So, I would encourage this conference not to vote things that just drain the agencies.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank you. I have to ask João Graca to wait for a moment because two people have indicated point of order or parliamentary inquiry. Kimberly Woods is mic. 2. Please go to that mic. and afterwards I will ask Sean Shanks, mic. 1.

KIMBERLY DAWN WOODS (Illinois Great Rivers): Thank you. Kimberly Woods, lay delegate, from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Point of order, Bishop. While I appreciate what our brother is saying, the motion that he is making, if you look on today's DCA, on p. 2207, and I will let people turn to that, Item No. 393 on our calendared items is about the translation of the DCA. The Committee on Conferences and the sub-committee which I was on dealt with this. It is on the calendar, and I think it would be better to speak to it, make amendments to it, etc., as it is on the agenda for tomorrow rather than dealing with it today. Thank you.

BISHOP WENNER: OK. Thank you. I have to check with my colleagues here.

(Bishops conferring on stage)

BISHOP WENNER: I consider this as a speech against. The motion is before us, and I recognize Jay Brim. He has indicated that he wants to move to table or to postpone. Mic. 5, please.

Daily DCA Translation Referred to GCFA

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Bishop, Jay Brim, from Rio Texas Conference. I move to refer this matter to GCFA for a cost estimate before we vote.

BISHOP WENNER: Is there a second? This is a motion for refer-

ral. It is debatable, and we have to clean the queue because we have to see whether anyone wants to speak to that motion that is now before us, the motion to refer the motion. I see nobody who indicates that he or she wants to speak. And I believe you are ready to vote on the motion to refer the motion that is before us to GCFA for a cost estimate. Could we set up the vote? If you want to refer that motion, please say "yes." If no, "no," and please vote now.

[Yes, 611; No, 174]

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Thank you it is referred. We come back now to the Committee on Finances. You have another petition you wish to present.

Crowd Funding

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Yes, I have one another to present for today. Hopefully you left your DCA open to p. 2106 because we're back on that page on that page once more. This time Calendar Item 116, again p. 2106 Calendar Item 116. It's entitled "Crowd Funding." It's Petition No. 60937, the legislative committee moves adoption of this petition.

BISHOP WENNER: The petition is before you, and I invite you to line up if you want to speak in favor or against. Nobody wants to speak, so I think you are ready to vote on it. The committee moves to adopt that motion, and you see it before you. Please vote now if you support the motion of the committee vote yes; if you are opposing it vote no. Vote now.

[Yes, 698; No, 54]

BISHOP WENNER: OK, you have adopted that motion, and that completes for today the work of Financial Administration. Thank You to Jessica and the committee. We start to look at petitions of the next committee that is before us. Bethany

Amey is approaching us, and we need the written copy of the motion that is referred, the original motion, of course, that was referred.

GBCS Advocacy for the Persecuted Church

BETHANY LIN AMEY (Greater New Jersey): Good afternoon, I am Bethany Amey from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, Laity. We will be dealing with Church and Society A petitions, two of them today. The first petition that we will be dealing with is on the DCA p. 2105. Calendar Item No. 107 can also be found on your ADCA p. 195, and it is Petition No. 60550 "GBCS Advocacy for the Persecuted Church." The committee recommends you adopt this petition with the amendment that has been printed in the DCA. This petition is recommended for you to adopt. However, has amended the petition, the committee has amended the petition to delete the section requiring the board to dedicate a full-time staff person to this task. We felt, as a committee, that we should not micro-manage GBCS, and they are already currently advocating on behalf of people that are being persecuted for their faith. The committee recommends this adoption of the petition.

BISHOP WENNER: Thank You. The petition is before you, and if you want to speak to it, please indicate. No one indicates that, he, he/she wants to speak in favor or against that means that you are ready to vote on this petition. If you vote with the committee and take their motion, please vote yes. If you want to oppose the recommendation of the committee, please vote no. Vote now. *[Yes, 734, No, 55]*

BISHOP WENNER: You have voted in favor of the recommendation. Thank you very much. I believe, we can do one more at

least, if you are as quickly as you have been. No, the time has come; we have the order of the day. The timekeeper next to me reminds me of that. Thank you Bethany.

AMEY: Thank you, Bishop.

Africa University Celebration

BISHOP WENNER: We will come back to you tomorrow . . . to us tomorrow. Thank you. We have an order of the day at the moment, and this is the celebration of the Africa University, the work that we are doing there and also, I believe it's the time to celebrate the birthday again. I invite those people who help us in this celebration to come forward, and we are looking forward to what they have to share with us.

(pause)

JAMES HENRY SALLEY

(South Carolina): I'm James Salley, lay delegate from South Carolina and the associate vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement for Africa University. Good afternoon, it's my pleasure to present to you, Bishop Marcus Matthews the interim chair of The Africa University Board of Directors; Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa, the chair of the Finance Committee of the Board of Africa University; the General Secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Rev. Dr. Kim Cape; the General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, Mr. Thomas Kemper. Our Chancellor, Bishop David Yemba is not with us for this presentation. He is ill today and is on bedrest at a local hotel here. We also have with us other members of the Africa University Board of Directors seated on the stage, and we'd also like to present our Vice Chancellor Dr. Munashe Furusa and to recognize all of the members of the Africa University Advisory Development Committee, all graduates and current students of Africa University. And

it's often said that if you want to know if an institution is successful, look at its graduates. As we celebrate the first twenty-four years of Africa University's ministry, we have only to look around us in this General Conference gathering to witness Africa University's tremendous impact for ourselves. They're just a few of them seated in our midst. They are clergy; they are laity; they served and lead within and beyond their church. There are twenty-six elected delegates seated in this General Conference, thirty-two translators/interpreters, eleven recorders, nine staff that have come from other general agencies of the church. We are proud of these graduates.

(applause)

(video presentation)

DR. MUNASHE FURUSA (Vice Chancellor of Africa University): Good evening. Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am blessed to be charged with leading this great university. Thanks to our diversity, which is stronger than ever, Africa University is a place where Africa happens every day. The mission of Africa University is to train ethically and morally grounded leaders for Africa. The bold vision, prayers and gifts of this global church, we have come together to forge an excellent foundation for the ministry that is Africa University. Through this ministry, you, the people who call themselves United Methodists, are faithful and effective witnesses to the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your shared dedication and overwhelming generosity. The passion that you have for Africa University and its ministry is bearing fruit. Your faithfulness to the Wesleyan ideal is evident in our beautiful campus community. And in the contributions of

more than 6,200 graduates who are now changing lives through leadership and service on six of the world's seven continents.

As Africa University approaches its twenty-fifth year of existence, you can be confident that we have been and will continue to be good stewards of all that you entrust to a university in this ministry. Africa University's committed to a continual process of self-evaluation, pruning, growth and evolution. It is a world-class university for leadership development in Africa.

In strengthening our role as the flagship mission of higher education of The United Methodist Church in Africa, we are remaining true to the enduring pan-African vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa. Today, Africa University is more customer-friendly and accountable to all of its major stakeholders and publics. The university's continuing to improve the quality of life of its students.

Africa University Strategic Plan

Africa University's strategic plan for the next quadrennium prioritizes the construction of more dormitories and sports and recreation facilities and investment in information and communications technology to support high-impact learning, teaching, research, and community service. Going forward, Africa University's emphasis is on student success and increasing its focus on entrepreneurship, business incubation, and technology transfer initiatives. Africa University is engaging its partners to assist with enrollment growth by recruiting more fee-paying students and reaching the goal of having at least sixty percent of its students coming from outside Zimbabwe. In this regard, we are deeply thankful to the Africa University alumni who are working through the General Board of Global Ministries as interpreters

and translators at this General Conference. Led by theology graduate, the Rev. Kalaba Chali, these graduates are donating most of their stipends to Africa University to support crucial needs such as scholarships and staff development.

Together with you, Africa University is shaping the values, outlook and talent of a generation, equipping women and men to heal, feed, inspire hope, and build peace and abundance in all the places and just the and situations to which God has called them. We look forward to continuing to share with you, your congregations, and the entire United Methodist connection in this journey. Thank you.

(applause)

(music)

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Thank you very much. What an inspiring music, what an inspiring report. We are very grateful for the work that is happening in Mutare; and those of you who haven't been there, you'll hopefully, will now, decide to go and see what's been done right there. We give you thanks for this report and we move on and ask those who will prepare to present us the report of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries to continue with our work in this afternoon.

*Union Theological Seminary,
Philippines*

CONNIE SEMY MELLA (Mindanao Philippines): Good afternoon. I am Connie Semy Mella. I am an Ordained Elder. I am the associate dean for academic affairs at Union Theological Seminary in Covita, Philippines. At the last general conference, you have charged the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to strengthen leader-

ship development through three new initiatives. The Central Conference Theological Education Fund, The Seminary Indebtedness Taskforce, and the Young Clergy Initiative. We are here today to report of this efforts, the partnerships developed around them, and some of the accomplishments that we have from this quadrennium.

Think of a time in your life when you were trying to learn what God was asking you to do. A time that you felt that you're being called to serve God in your school, church, or at work. Think about the people you relied on to help you hear that call. My journey into ministry is a mosaic of inspiration from different people. Each one contributed and continues to contribute through who I am and who I am becoming. Even my name represents people and the community of faith. My name Connie combines the names of my two grandmothers. Consuela and Nieves believed that their faith in their own special ways. My second name, Semy, is actually the shortcut of seminary, representing a community where I was born, where my father studied at Union Theological Seminary at Covita, Philippines. I am quite literally a product of the United Methodist Higher Education.

(applause and laughter)

MELLA: I am a leader who serves in ministry because of the support I have received from The United Methodist Church and people just like you. Among the many people inspired me, three influenced me most. One clergy, one lay, and one a missionary. The clergy was Rev. Francisco Raphael Mella, my father. I saw firsthand his deep commitment to ministry. The layperson, Mary Pinatha Mella, my mother and my teacher. She dedicated her life to teaching Sunday school and religious instruction in public schools. I'd see

in her the joy of teaching. And the missionary, Ms. Doris Ann Garrett. Doris Ann dedicated her life to serving communities in Mindanao. She inspired me to also dedicate my life to service. She taught me that real education empowers. It empowers people to be principled leaders, to do what is good and right and not to make concessions for the good of the church.

*Central Conference Theological
Education Fund*

IANTHER MILLS: I am Ianther Mills, the interim president of the Board of Directors for GBHEM, and I know that many of you, in this room, are like Connie. You can name a church member, pastor, campus minister, deacon, or chaplain who, at some point in your life, inspired and encouraged you in a profound way, who helped you understand that God calls each of us to a unique purpose. Jenny Smith, a pastor at Marysville UMC, in Marysville, Washington, found her opportunity to explore her call at age sixteen.

(video)

MILLS: For Tyler Sit, entering ordained ministry put a title on a call he already recognized.

(video)

MILLS: Ann Dutchen, an Elder in the North Germany Annual Conference has a heart for the young people in her church and has followed her call to work with them.

(video)

MILLS: Proclaiming the gospel, leading people to commit their lives to God, nurturing them as they grow in their calling and then sending them into the world as well equipped leaders, that is our denominational mission; and it is the overarching task you have entrusted to us, to the

board, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

BISHOP JOHN INNIS (Liberia): I am Bishop John Innis, and I serve in the Liberia Episcopal area. It has been my honor to chair the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education Fund. The 2012 General Conference established the Central Conference Theological Education Fund. They assigned the Council of Bishops to elect a commission to oversee the fund and charged the General Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry to administer the fund. The fund has been instrumental in strengthening theological education in the central conferences through innovative projects.

For example, there is an e-Reader. Earlier, this quadrennium, Disciple Ministries, The United Methodist Publishing House, and Higher Education and Ministry worked together to launch the e-Reader project in Liberia. Before this project, students attending the Bangor School of Theology spent significant time and money hand copying passages from textbooks because many of their books were destroyed during our country's civil war. This project enables us to provide theological textbooks, including Hebrew, Greek, pastoral care, leadership resources, United Methodist History, doctrine, and polity and more. This effort replaces an entire library right in our student's hands.

Because of your World Service Fund, apportionment giving, as well as supplementary donations from individuals and churches, the e-Reader project now extends to seventeen schools in Africa and two schools in the Philippines and more institutions with some benefit. Praise the Lord!

applause

(applause)

REV. NBAY BONDA (North Katanga): I am Rev. Nbay Bonda from North Katanga of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since February 2015, staff and students and the faculty of theology at Africa University have received e-readers of theological training and pastoral ministry. In addition, e-readers are graduating students' companion in the ministry. Graduates receive e-readers that contend the results is neither to practice ministry. Now pastors can access resources written in their own language and use them to serve others any time and any place. The project also provides an avenue for theologians and scholars to publish new and cutting edge material that can be uploaded to the e-readers. This allows for the distribution of new content and the encouraging scholars to read and exchange new ideas developed by current theologians.

STEVEN BRYANT (Associate General Secretary for Central Conference Relations and Resourcing at Discipleship Ministries): Hi. I'm Steven Bryant, Associate General Secretary for Central Conference Relations and Resourcing at Discipleship Ministries. Support and partnerships from local churches like Tarrytown UMC in Austin, Texas; St. Andrews in Plano; Grapevine First; Highland Park United Methodist in the Dallas, Texas area; Atascadero UMC in California; Stillwater UMC in Oklahoma; Church of the Resurrection; Canterbury UMC in Birmingham, Alabama. These are just examples, and they have been key to making this project successful, successful. We have also received support from districts like the Connecticut District of the New York Annual Conference, from the Board of Ordained Ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference, and groups like Horizon Stewardship Company, and we

have plenty of room to add more partners. Ten to twelve schools of theology still need sponsors for this phase of the project. We are very grateful to you, the General Conference, for making this powerful project possible. We hope your local churches, your church, will consider supporting this opportunity. Together we can make theological education available to more people in more places than ever before. Join us as we continue to expand this project by adding new books to further enhance and strengthen our theological schools. The E-reader Project is just one of many projects made possible by the Central Conference Theological Education Fund. Other projects include the Course of Study opportunities for local pastors, improved libraries, and contribute to the development of faculty and curriculum.

SERGEI NIKOLAEV (Central Russia): I am Sergei Nikolaev, the president of the Moscow Seminary, E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism, and a member of the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education Fund.

United Methodists in the Democratic Republic of Congo received a grant to train the trainers, a program that seeks to strengthen lay preachers. Participants in this program learned United Methodist history, polity, doctrine, the purpose of worship and a variety of pastoral skills.

The United Methodist Church in Bulgaria received a grant to support theology scholarships used to train elders and another grant to develop their third year of Course of Study.

In the Philippines, grants supported innovative programs, like the emersion program at Wesley Divinity School. These students are required to live among people in the margins of society to learn from them, understand their struggles and hopes, and deepen theological reflection on

the relevance of the gospel to social issues.

Your gift to the World Service Fund in support of Central Conference theological education totals \$4.2 million this quadrennium. By the end of 2016, the commission will have awarded all the funds received. We already see the fruits of the projects funded this quadrennium. It is with confidence and great enthusiasm that the commission has requested you renew your approval of \$5 million for the next quadrennium.

Central Conference Theological Education Endowment Fund

Included in the work of the Central Conference Theological Education Fund, is the launch of the endowment fund for Central Conference theological education. A permanent endowment expected to reach a minimum of 25 million for the ongoing support of theological education throughout the Central Conferences. The campaign to build the endowment is now underway, and you can learn more about it by visiting the development center's booth while here at General Conference.

Seminary Indebtedness Task Force

TRACY ANNE ALLRED (Director of Student Services, Perkins School of Theology): The vitality of our denomination and its mission to the world depends on the vitality of our pastors and the vitality of our pastors is bound to their financial sustainability. I'm Tracy Anne Allred, the Director of Student Services at United Methodist-related Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, and I believe The United Methodist Church is ready and willing to address the issue of clergy financial sustainability.

The 2012 General Conference charged the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry with the task of creating a denominational plan to reduce and eliminate seminary debt.

(applause)

To lead these efforts, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry created the seminary indebtedness taskforce. As we look at the total picture of what it takes to fulfill the call to ordained ministry, we must recognize the financial costs we ask our seminary students to assume. Quality theological education is an expensive priority. Educational debt is a significant portion of many students' accumulated debt, especially for those who have earned the undergraduate and graduate degrees ordination requires. These rising costs make it difficult to afford a career in ministry.

The seminary indebtedness taskforce coordinated strategic planning and research for this initiative. By collaborating with the thirteen United Methodist seminaries, annual conferences, foundations, and financial aid professionals from colleges and universities, the taskforce has developed strategies to address educational debt. These strategies take into account the real life situations of students that I work with every day. Like the single mom commuting long hours for her theological training. She sought out grants and scholarships, but her needs still requires a federal student loan. Like the second career student who left his lucrative job to pursue God's call to ministry. Like the full-time student who landed scholarships but still must work part-time to make ends meet. We will teach students ways they can avoid debt. We will work with annual conferences to build stronger support systems for ministerial candidates, and we will be able to assist clergy who are already in debt.

I am happy to add that The United Methodist Church is receiving a major boost for the next quadrennium to continue our efforts to relieve clergy educational debt.

(applause)

Lilly Endowment Grant

BARBARA BOIGEGRAIN (General Secretary, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits): I'm Barbara Boigegrain, General Secretary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. And I'm here to share with you the exciting news that The United Methodist Church, through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, has received a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment.

(applause)

In partnership with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Texas Methodist Foundation, we will use this grant to improve financial literacy and overall financial well-being for pastoral leaders. Financial well-being contributes to the overall health of our clergy, and this grant will help move our denomination forward by providing better support for ministerial candidates and clergy.

Young Clergy Initiative

BOIGEGRAIN: The 2012 General Conference also stepped up in a major way to face the looming reality that The United Methodist Church may be only twenty years away from a possible shortage of ordained elders.

KIM CAPE (General Secretary, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry): Good afternoon. I'm Kim Cape, the General Secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. To address this possible shortage and

increase the number of young clergy among jurisdictional conferences, you created the \$7 million Young Clergy Initiative, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. We began our work by surveying the landscape of United Methodism in the United States to see what churches nurturing a call in young people were doing. We learned that churches successfully create a culture of call by asking young people early and often, “How are you called to ministry?” Many of these churches have a Call Sunday. This is a Sunday set aside for every activity and every group to consider one single theme—from the pastor’s sermon to Bible studies to youth group, music, and liturgy—in all these places, people are asked, “What is God calling you to do? And how can you respond?”

Sometimes God calls us to serve the local church and sometimes God calls us to extend the ministry of the church. When people don’t walk through the church doors, you have to go where they are. Take for example, Kimberly Lewis-Davis, whose parish is the Chicago Police Department.

(video)

Or Ann Haywood-Baxter, whose parish resides in Boston Children’s Hospital.

(video)

Or Keith Manry, who serves the men and women of the armed forces, wherever in the world that call takes them.

(video)

DJ DEL ROSARIO (Young Clergy Initiative Leadership Team): John Wesley said the world is my parish. The Young Clergy Initiative is helping youth and young adults discern God’s call in their lives

and to find their parish. I’m DJ del Rosario, pastor of Bothell UMC, and I serve on the Young Clergy Initiative Leadership Team. The Young Clergy Initiative was approved as a three-quadrannium effort. The candidacy and ordination process takes more than one quadrannium to finish. It will take a long-term commitment to measure the full results of our investment.

That said, we are already seeing very exciting progress from the seventy-six grants that you funded these last four years.

(video)

Using a Young Clergy Initiative grant, the Minnesota Annual Conference launched the Eli Project. The Eli Project is an internship program for college students as they explore ministry in a local church setting.

(video)

The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference used their Young Clergy Initiative grant to host a series of events. These events gathered young leaders in think tank sessions to cultivate their understandings and practices of church leadership in a Native American context.

One of the grants supports Project Transformation, a program that partners young adults who are discerning a vocational call to ministry with children experiencing poverty and who are at risk for lower educational accomplishments.

Justin Mayo has made meaningful life changes because of his participation. He says, “I’ve gotten more involved with campus ministry at the Wesley Foundation. I switched my major to social work. I now sing in the gospel choir at my church. I feel more at peace. While my relationship with God isn’t perfect, I’m trying to be more open to God’s path for me.”

Highpoint University sophomore, Robert Collier, is approaching

the end of his year-long internship with Christ UMC in Highpoint, North Carolina. The internship, made possible through a Young Clergy Initiative grant, has immersed Robert in his ministry to help him understand his call.

(video)

CAPE: The Young Clergy Initiative became the catalyst for United Methodists at every level of the church to focus more of the church’s resources on growing our future leaders. We encouraged applicants to find additional funding sources for their projects. Many project leaders secured matching funds from annual conference initiatives and special collections within local churches, districts, colleges, theological schools, endowments, and more. These matching funds allowed projects to increase the scope of their work, leveraging your investment to reach even more potential young clergy. In total, grant recipients raised an additional \$6.8 million, nearly doubling the General Conference’s investment. Congratulations! Well done!

(applause)

Every level of the church joined this effort to redirect funds to support the Young Clergy Initiative. We hope you will renew the funding for the next quadrannium because education is an act of love.

(applause)

CONNIE SEMY MELLA (Mindinao Philippines): Our church makes a difference for Christ in the world. Our worldwide vision of higher education and leadership development led to the creation of a vast network of educational network that now includes more than 700 schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries around the world. United

Methodist higher education has made me who I am today.

At the start of our presentation, we met Jenny Smith, Tyler Sit, and Andy Chen, who became pastors because of the education and support they have received from the church. Students receive e-readers. Interns gain hands-on ministry experience while discerning their call from God. As many of you here know first-hand, the value of United Methodist higher education. Thank you very much for your support of those initiatives. Immediately following this plenary session, we would like to invite you for a Higher Education Celebration Night. There will be plenty of food and great music by student choirs from all over the world. We will be upstairs at Portland Ballroom. Join us. See you there. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: We thank you for the report for the work you are doing and also for this kind invitation. We heard it already this morning. Welcome to the party.

Before we adjourn at this evening, let me express my appreciation for your work, for the good collaboration in which we could do the work at to the—were able to do the work today and also for your patience. Thank you to my colleague bishops, Bishop Rader and Bishop Hayes, who helped me while I was presiding. And thank you to all the staff who is helping us to work through our—all the long days. And thank you to the interpreters as well. Gere Reist has announcements before we ask the worship team to lead us in worship.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): First, the gentleman who spoke to me here on the platform earlier today about bringing something to

business: please see me afterwards. I think I gave you a piece of wrong information. We want to hold in our prayers Rev. Frank Wolfe of the California-Pacific Conference delegation who was at the hospital with abdominal pain. The Congo Central Conference has a display at Cokesbury in the Exhibit Hall with some nice material from Africa. Please help support the women as they do their ministries through their sales at that display. Three people have left their credit cards at Cokesbury. If you know who you are, you may want to go get them.

(laughter)

Per Diem Debit Cards

For those of you who have received your per diems through the cards, the debit cards, if you want to check your balance, you must use the zip code 37203. If you want to check your balance, use the zip code 37203. The Korean Night dinner on Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Ballroom 202 and 203, please visit the Peace Committee table in the Exhibit Hall to register. That's the Korean Night dinner on Thursday, May 19th, at 6:30 p.m., Ballroom 202 and 203. Please visit the Peace Committee table at the Exhibit Hall to register. Thank you.

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Thank you, and before we are dismissed into an evening of rest and hopefully refreshment for the work tomorrow, we are looking forward to have the devotional time. Thank you to the worship team that is leading us.

(pause)

(music)

MICHAEL: God welcomes all.

ALL: (sung) God welcomes all strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends.

STEPHEN: (speaking non-English)

ALL: (sung) God loves us all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends.

MISSY: (speaking non-English)

ALL: (sung) God loves us all, strangers and friends, God's love is strong and it never ends.

BRIELLE: (speaking in Tagalog)

ALL: (sung) God's love is strong, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends. God welcomes all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends. God welcomes all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends.

(music)

HELENE BINDL (Austria Provisional): (simultaneous interpretation) Speaking in parables the kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party but they didn't want to come. Again he sent other servants to them. Tell those who have invited "Look. The meal is all prepared. The butchered the ox and fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party." But they paid no attention and went away. Some to their fields. Others to their business. The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them. The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding party is prepared. But those who were invited weren't worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town. Invite everyone you find to the wedding party." Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the king came in and saw the

guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, "Friend, how do you get in here without wedding clothes?" But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, "Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. Many people are invited but few people are chosen."

(music)

(applause)

GEORGE WILSON JR.
(Liberia): Hear these words from our daily prayer guide, written by Bishop Cynthia Harvey. Many today share of royal weddings. Millions watched when Princess Diana and Prince Charles married. And "watch parties" met to view Kate Middleton and Prince William's wedding. Can you imagine not responding with a positive, RSVP, to a royal wedding? Or can we imagine sending out invitations, only to discover on the date of the wedding that no one wants to attend? Here in Matthew 22, we have a king who, after all the invitees regrettably decline, chooses to invite everyone willing to attend. Good and bad. Can you imagine a banquet full of fits and misfits? I can. You and I experience this every time we get at the communion table. And what are we to make of the one who comes terribly underdressed for the occasion? Can you imagine not dressing appropriately for a royal wedding? Did he refuse to wear the wedding robe traditionally provided by the king? Unimaginable. Or is it? How often have we refused to wear the wedding robe? Remember the time we thought we were better than them and didn't have to wear the wedding robe? Or the time we felt that we were not worthy enough to wear it? Truth be told, all of us need the wedding robe. Wearing the robe covers a

multitude of sins. Jesus invites us all to his banquet. A feast of the finest gifts of grace. A feast for fits and misfits. Good or bad. You and me. And best of all, robes of forgiveness, love and acceptance, robes that cover our brokenness and remind us of our worthiness are freely and readily available for all of us to wear.

(music)

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT:
I invite you as you are sitting to take your prayer beads if you have them or your prayer medallion or simply hold your own hands, your beautiful fingers that God created. Whenever you are holding, do it with a sense of joy and thanksgiving for the prayers that have upheld us, and which continue to pour down upon us. Give thanks as well for the security of God's love which holds us firmly even as we cling to our beads and to our prayers.

(pause)

(music)

BARTLETT: As you finger the individual beads in the strand, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for each person you know who extends the invitation of God's love to others.

(pause)

(music)

BARTLETT: Touch each bead again, and offer thanks for the comfort and reassurance of the love of God we know in Jesus Christ.

(pause)

(music)

BARTLETT: Allow your fingers to travel the length of the beads again. This time pray for those whom you will invite to God's party.

(pause)

(music)

BARTLETT: Let us pray now together as Jesus taught his disciples. Each of us praying aloud in our own first language the Lord's Prayer.

(music)

BARTLETT: Bear witness to the love of God in this world so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

(music)

(applause)

Judicial Council Accepts 542.1, 2 Plea

L. FITZGERALD REIST:
Please hold steady for a moment. I'm sorry to break the mood of the worship, however, the Judicial Council received the General Conference request for a declaratory decision on paragraphs 542.1 and 542.2 of the *2012 Book of Discipline*. The identified interested parties are the person who made the motion and the College of Bishops of the Congo Central Conference. Interested parties or any other persons who wish to file a brief in this matter should file a copy of the brief with the Secretary of the Judicial Council, seated in the Judicial Council assigned seating area which is located over that way by 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 17th, 2016. Our brother Belton Joyner is the Secretary of the Judicial Council. He will receive that information in that section over there by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thank you.

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Thank you and now go in peace.

(music)

Tuesday Morning, May 17, 2016

Introduction of Pan Methodist and Ecumenical Representatives

BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON (Ecumenical Officer, Council of Bishops): Good morning. I'm Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, and I'm the Ecumenical Officer for the Council of Bishops. Today is a day to celebrate God's command that we make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. My role as the Ecumenical Officer is to promote unity and peace through strengthening our ecumenical and our inter-religious relationships worldwide. And the very people who have come to sit on the stage that I'm going to introduce in a moment are truly our partners in this ministry. It is a great privilege for me to be able to introduce these brothers and sisters to our General Conference. And as I introduce the churches and the leaders of those churches who have come to be with us, I will ask that they come and stand up here, and you'll see all of them up here together. And then at the conclusion of all of that, we can truly greet them. Last week, we introduced some of our Methodist family church relationships from our affiliated, autonomous churches, our affiliated united churches, and the churches in which we have a concordat relationship. But we have some other Methodist family who are a part of this ecumenical community today, and these are our Pan-Methodist brothers and sisters, with whom we are in full communion relationship and who are a part of the Pan-Methodist Commission. So, I'm going to introduce them first and have them come and stand here before you. So, from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Jeffrey Cooper and Dr. Richard Al-

len Lewis. And Rev. Terry McCray Hill, he's not here right? Yeah. And then from the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Bishop W. Darin Moore and the Rev. Dr. George William Whitfield.

(applause)

And from the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Teresa E. Snorton, Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr., the Presiding Elder, and Dr. Jeanette Bouknight.

(applause)

OK. Joyce did get here. OK. You also have from the AME Zion Church the Rev. Joyce Smith, and she and I were neighboring pastors forty years ago. So it's very, very special. From the, from the Armenian Church Archbishop Vicken Aykazian. And many of us in our ecumenical community traveled to Armenia a year ago to be with them commemorating a hundred years since the Armenian genocide. From the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, the Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt.

(applause)

From the Community of Christ, the Rev. Valerie Walker.

(applause)

And leading our Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Rev. Jan Musgrove Elfers.

(applause)

And from The Episcopal Church, The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart Jr., the Bishop in Montana.

(applause)

And The Rt. Rev. Michael Hanley, the Bishop here in this area. And The Rev. Margaret Rose, the ecumenical leader there.

(applause)

And from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke.

(applause)

And from the Mennonite Church, Rev. Iris de León-Hartshorn and Katherine Pitts.

(applause)

And from the Moravian Church, Northern and Southern Provinces, we have The Rt. Rev. J. Christian Giesler, bishop in that church. And from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the president and secretary, Mr. Jim Winkler.

(applause)

From the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the Rev. Aleida Jernigan.

(applause)

From the Society of Friends, our Quaker neighbors, Joe Snyder.

(applause)

From the United Church of Christ, Rev. Linda Jaramillo and the Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris.

(applause)

And from the Uniting Church in Sweden, the Rev. Lasse Svensson.

(applause)

And from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from the Archdiocese of Portland, Chancellor Mary Jo Tully.

(applause)

And from the University of Portland, Ms. Beth Barsotti.

(applause)

And from the Wesleyan Holiness Consortium, the Rev. Dr. David Drury.

(applause)

And from Willamette University,
the Rev. Dr. Karen Wood.

(applause)

And from the World Council of
Churches, my colleague and friend,
the Rev. Dr. Garland Pierce.

(applause)

We do owe a big thank you to
Dr. Lowell Greathouse and other
colleagues from the Oregon-Idaho
Annual Conference who have really
helped us get to know the Oregon-
Idaho ecumenical leaders and to
welcome our ecumenical guests. And
we also give a very special thank you
to our preacher this morning, who is
Bishop Ivan Abrahams, the general
secretary of the World Methodist
Council. And now will you join me
in welcoming these our ecumenical
guests this morning.

(applause)

(music)

AMY E. LIPPOLDT (Great
Plains): The song of praise is not
ministry to the poor but ministry
with all God's people.

ALL: Tune our hearts to sing
God's praise.

LIPPOLDT: The song of praise
is not self-serving or self-congratu-
latory but a song of partnership and
solidarity with.

ALL: Tune our hearts to sing
God's praise.

LIPPOLDT: The song of praise
does not divide into us and them,
those who have and those who do
not.

ALL: Tune our hearts to sing
God's praise.

LIPPOLDT: Let us worship the
God whose song reverses the order,
where the least are valued most.

ALL: Tune our hearts to sing
God's praise.

LIPPOLDT: Where the little
ones reflect the face of God, where
the song liberates all.

ALL: Tune our hearts to sing
God's praise.

LIPPOLDT: Where all people
are sister and brother, the song of
praise is sung when together, we are
transformed by grace.

ALL: We will sing God's praise.

(music)

(applause)

LAURA JACQUITH BART-
LETT: Once again, I invite you to
take the prayer beads and medallions
that were created for you through
prayer. For many of us, these prayers
have been crucially important over
the past week. Hold the beads. Feel
their now familiar shapes, acknowl-
edge your gratitude for the prayers
they represent. If you don't have a
prayer object with you, simply sit
with your hands cupped and ready
to both receive blessing and offer
thanksgiving. And as you pray—with
or without beads—listen for this
phrase that I will speak, "But you,
O God, know them all." That will be
a cue to look to the screens for your
spoken response in the prayer. Let us
pray together.

Dear God, gathered in this space,
we are aware of the many prayers
that are lifted up for us, for our work,
for our church. More numerous than
all the beads in the room, there are
too many for us to count, but you, O
God, know them all.

ALL: God, you count each
prayer.

BARTLETT: Gathered in this
space, we come today from all the
corners of Methodism, all the cor-
ners of Christianity. We lift our voic-
es in many languages, many songs.
There are too many for us to count,
but you, O God, know them all.

ALL: God, you sing each song
of praise with us.

BARTLETT: Gathered in this
space, we rejoice in the opportunity
to worship and work as one flock,
together; but there are many oth-
ers who are not with us, who have
become separated from the flock.
There are so many who are too poor
to travel, too consumed with finding
food to worry about finding disci-
pline, too abused, too neglected, too
oppressed to be here with us. There
are too many for us to count, but
you, O God, know them all.

ALL: God, you love each one
of your children.

BARTLETT: We cannot count
as you count, God, but we can pray.
We can pray for the entire church.
We can love each person in our
Christian family even those—espe-
cially those—who are not here in
this space with us today. And we can
sing our praise to you with all the
voices of your church and with all
the angels in heaven. Amen.

(music)

(applause)

REGINALD CLEMONS
(Texas): Take care that you do not
despise one of these little ones for
I tell you, in heaven their angels
continually see the face of my Father
in heaven. What do you think? If a
shepherd has 100 sheep and one of
them has gone astray, does he not
leave the ninety-nine on the moun-
tains and go in search of the one that
went astray? And if he finds it, truly
I tell you, he rejoices over it more
than over the ninety-nine that never
went astray. So it is not the will of
your Father in heaven that one of
these little ones should be lost.

BISHOP IVAN M. ABRAHA-
MS (General Secretary, World Meth-
odist Council): Today's sub-theme,
Go in the name of Jesus of Palestine,
rather than Jesus of Constantine,
is important as we read the parable
about Jesus' teaching on the king-

dom of God, especially as there are other kingdoms that demand loyalty and obedience.

At last year's poverty summit, held in Georgetown University, speaker after speaker, including President Obama, cited our Scripture reading for today. This drew attention of many biblical scholars who contested how this parable should be interpreted. I do not intend to enter into the fray except to say that in the parable, Jesus showed deep understanding of the socio-economic, cultural, religious, and political life of common people. He throws side-by-side examples of everyday life and the struggles of people to show them that the kingdom of God was both present and yet to come.

Lest we forget, the Palestinian theologian, Naim Stifan Ateek, reminds us, like many Palestinians today, Jesus was born under occupation. He conducted his teaching and healing ministry under Roman domination. And was finally killed by the forces who colluded with the religious establishment of the day.

Jesus began by saying, "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones." The little ones in reference were children, who according to Jewish culture were of low social status and when Jesus fed the 5,000, women and children were not counted. In a careful reading of the Greek text, little ones, *mikros*, can also refer to those least esteemed, those on the margins of society, those considered lost, those who had gone astray. When Jesus used the example of the little children with the metaphor of the sheep, he wanted to demonstrate that anyone who wanted to be great should be prepared to be the least. Jesus knew that sheep were defenseless and vulnerable, just like Palestinians under Roman rule.

This parable is a challenge to the status quo. But friends, what does it mean to go in the name of

Jesus of Constantine? It is important to note that from the time of the Exodus to the wars of the Maccabees, there was always a quest of the people of Palestine to be free. This yearning for freedom spawned many messianic movements and it is against this background that we need to understand that Jesus came to start a new community of sisters and brothers in which there was egalitarian relationships, a sign of the kingdom of God.

In the early church in Acts, Chapter four, verse thirty-two, we read, "The group of believers was of one mind and heart. No one said that any of their belongings were their own, but they shared with one another everything they had." Another translation reads, "They shared their possessions, so that there was no poor amongst them."

Well now, this was revolutionary. It went against the pattern of the day. Furthermore, in Acts, Chapter seventeen, verse six to seven, we read that Paul, Silas and Jason, and some believers were dragged to the authorities and they were accused of causing trouble everywhere. They were breaking the law of the emperor saying, "There is another king and his name is Jesus."

Paul was very clear that Jesus unveiled God's kingdom. And that God's kingdom stood opposed to all other kingdoms, including that of Caesar. He unashamedly proclaimed that Jesus was Lord. And Jesus demanded total obedience and loyalty. The early Christian communities were drawn mostly from the lower classes who disavowed Roman domination and tyranny. And we only need to read in Revelation again, they considered Rome "the beast" and "the warmonger" that would be defeated by the cosmic Christ. They challenged the lordship of Caesar, and for this reason they were severely persecuted.

In 313, everything, though, changed for the Christians when Constantine issued the Edict of Milan. This decree sought to win the hearts and minds of Christians and to bring about social cohesion in the empire. To this end, the monogram of Christ was affixed to the helmets of the soldiers and to the standards of the emperor's armies. The wars now waged by Christian emperors was understood as wars to defend and allow the expansion of the gospel.

At the Council of Nicaea in 325, Christianity was declared the Imperial Religion. Constantine remained Pontifus Maximus, the Chief Priest of State. And he imposed a single date for Easter, repressed heretics by military force, credalized the Christian faith, institutionalized the Church, and domesticated the Jesus of Palestine to identify with a particular culture of the day. And sadly, yes, very sadly, the Church seduced by the political power, endorsed the status quo.

Friends, history is littered with examples of the Church identifying with Jesus of Constantine, seeking to build its own empires. And it is not my purpose this morning to catalog the east—the horrors perpetrated in the name of this Jesus throughout the ages. But who? Who can forget Charlemagne's brutal campaigns? Who can forget the Crusades against the Muslims, the Spanish Inquisition, the trials and burning for heresy, the violence of Protestants and Catholics during the Reformation, and the mistreatment of indigenous people during the Colonial Era?

(applause)

BISHOP IVAN ABRAHAMS:
Our century also bears the marks of Christian violence, with many perpetrators thinking that they are furthering the work of God. To go in the name of Jesus of Constantine

is to live comfortably with power, prestige, and profits, failing to hear the voices of the least of these. To go in the name of Jesus of Constantine means placing prophets before people, for the logic of the empire is that the ninety-nine is more important than the expendable one. To go in the name of Jesus of Constantine often means preaching Christ without the cross, kindling a brand of Christianity that does not afflict the comfortable, neither comforts the afflicted.

(applause)

BISHOP ABRAHAM: To go in the name of Jesus of Constantine often means blessing wars, which criminalize and demonize the least of these. How often don't I hear people say, "If only the poor can pull themselves up by their own bootstraps?" How cruel is that, because those people don't understand reality. Most of the poor don't have shoes.

(applause)

BISHOP ABRAHAM: We need to be weary of empire, as it often seeks loyalty in religions, which we can only pledge to Jesus of Palestine.

What does it mean, then, to go in the name of Jesus of Palestine?

Not since for days of Rome has the word "empire" been used as frequently as today. It is a reality of the 21st century, it is an ideology and the lens through which many view the world.

In his parable, Jesus taught that God goes to find those who are lost. He seeks those on the margins of society, those left out, because God's grace and love and forgiveness and justification is for all.

The Jesus of Palestine, whose Great Commission is the theme of General Conference, is the Jesus who was born in Bethlehem's manger, where anybody and everybody,

even the animals, were welcome. He was not born in Herod's palace, accessible only to the privileged few, but rather, he identified with the "least of these" in every possible way.

To go in the name of Jesus of Palestine is not a call for pity or for patronage, but it is a call for justice. The poor are not poor by some accident of history, and their lives cannot be mortgaged to transnational companies who serve the idols of neoliberal economic policies in a casino economy.

(applause)

BISHOP ABRAHAM: Jesus makes it clear that our salvation is tied up by how we respond to the "least of these." In Matthew 25, Jesus refers to all humanity as his sisters and brothers to remind us that we are all created in God's image. We are all God's children, irrespective of color and creed and gender or sexual orientation. We must together serve to make God's world more like God's plan for it. Friends, no matter how hard we try, we will never, never be able to contain Jesus of Palestine to the hygienic safety of our sanctuaries. He is lord of every sphere of reality, our social, political, cultural, and economic life.

A cursory examination of the New Testament shows that Jesus was deeply, deeply concerned about economic activities. It saturates the Scripture. Every sixteenth verse in the New Testament, every tenth verse in the Gospel, every seventh verse in Luke, every fourth verse in James speaks about money. Yet John Haughey writes, "We read the gospels as if we had no money, and we spend our money as if we know nothing about the gospel".

(applause)

BISHOP ABRAHAM: To go in the name of Jesus of Palestine is a

clarion call to all of us to abort a privatized, individualized, empty-calorie spirituality that will never satisfy our spiritual hunger. Jesus demands costly discipleship and a spirituality that feels the pain of the world. All Christian theology is a public theology that should be shaped on the anvil of justice for those on the margins. We uphold to live simply, so that others may simply live.

Our father in the faith, John Wesley was clear that there is nothing like a private religion.

To go in the name of Jesus of Palestine requires that we live at the nexus of power and powerlessness where we must critically engaged the empire and speak truth to power, even to governments that promote justice, peace, and security. The gospel radically challenges us to rediscover what it means to be a counterculture in a world that seeks to own us and make us conform to its ways.

To go in the name of Jesus of Palestine is to claim Christ's victory over sin and death. We must refuse to succumb to the finality of these three, but to live in hope and confidence and assurance that the dragon of the empire will ultimately be defeated. We must boldly declare that God's resurrection is God's insurrection to injustice and death and destruction, for the lamb will thrive because all power belongs to God and to God alone, and it is the same God who invites us to be copartners in mission for the restoration and recreation of God's world in which there is a promise of a new heaven and a new earth and where every tear will be wiped from our eyes. For those who follow Jesus in the company of the Wesleys, to go in the name of Jesus of Palestine is to rediscover and reaffirm our rich heritage of being found amongst the least of these. John Wesley was clear that religion must not go from

the greatest to the least, where the power would appear to be of men. The historian David Hempton argues that Methodism was a religion of the poor, a movement from the underside of history, which sought to transform the world through the empowerment of ordinary people, and this movement consisted predominantly of women, and singing was their way of doing public theology. Methodism was committed to those on the margins. Conference, is this still true for us today?

Friends, is this still true for us today? My sisters and brothers we are called to harbingers of hope in a bruised and broken world, a world that is pregnant with possibilities, a different world is possible. Let us follow Wesley's instructions and go not only to those who need us but to those who need us most. Let us go with renewed passion and commitment to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. The future is ours. Let us serve it well. Amen.

ALL: Amen

(applause)

(music)

(applause)

CLAY ANDREWS (Oregon-Idaho): I invite you to remain standing. As we pray together, we will use our bodies, our beautiful bodies made in the image of God to pray incarnationally. And so I invite you as you remain standing to keep your eyes open and simply follow the motions of our prayer leaders as they model each gesture.

God you have made us in your image, each one of us is a beautiful reflection of the light of the world, Jesus Christ, and yet we have not embraced your image in ourselves. We regularly block our vision of

your image in those around us. We deny your image in others and thus deny your love. Forgive us, O God. Challenge us to embrace all creation with the same love that you so passionately and patiently offered to us over and over and over and over again. Gather us once more into your flock, faithful shepherd. We need to hear again your message of love and grace. We push aside certain sheep we deem to be unworthy. We tear apart your flock. Show us again the beauty of your image in each one of us. And when we get a little too full of our own worth, with our good intentions of helping the less fortunate, those we think are somehow less worthy, remind us that we do our best work together, and you call us to be one flock together. When we are so busy helping people that we cannot see your image reflected in the faces around us, call us back to be your flock together. Call us back to be your disciples together. Call us back to live together in a world transformed by your love. Amen.

(music)

Celebration of African Methodist Episcopal Church

ALFRED T. DAY III (General Secretary, Archives and History): The African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the Free African Society with Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others established in Philadelphia in 1787. When officials at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church pulled blacks off their knees while praying, Free African Society members discovered just how far American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination against African Americans. Hence, these members of St. George's made plans to transform their mutual aid society into an African congregation. Al-

though most wanted to affiliate with the Protestant Episcopal Church, Richard Allen led a small group who resolved to remain Methodist. In 1794, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated with Allen as pastor to establish Bethel's independence from interfering white Methodists. Allen, a former Delaware slave, successfully sued in the Pennsylvania courts in 1807 and 1815 for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution because Black Methodists in other middle Atlantic communities encountered racism and desired religious autonomy. Allen called them to meet in Philadelphia to form a new Wesleyan denomination called the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

LAURA BARTLETT: At the 2000 General Conference, we United Methodists came together in an act of repentance for the racism that split the Methodist Church 200 years ago and which continues to do harm even today. This morning, we join our hearts in the prayer that was lifted up at that service sixteen years ago.

ALL: O God, the author of all mercy, who has reconciled the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and who has sent the Holy Spirit among us to effect the forgiveness of sins. Grant us pardon and peace and the courage to write both our personal sins and the wrongs of our church. May Almighty God have mercy on us. Forgive us all our sins. Strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. Amen.

BARTLETT: Through the all-encompassing love of Jesus Christ, we are invited to live in peace with one another. History tells us that peace takes work and intentionality. It takes a deep commitment to refrain from harm. It takes an acknowledgment that we need each

other. We need to be part of the same flock together. So, I invite you now to show one another signs of your commitment to live within the circle of Christ's peace. Offer a hand, a bow, a hug (if it's appropriate), or simply a smile and a nod. Most importantly, offer the peace of Christ to one another.

(music)

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: Awestruck at how God, time and time again, makes a way out of no way; astonished that hope raised up when disappointment and despair have a stranglehold; astounded at the remembrance of transformations come through impossible struggles, the Psalmist exclaims, "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

ALFRED T. DAY III (General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History): People called Methodists from many and diverse communions claiming the Wesleyan way of faith, gathered here in Portland at the United Methodist General Conference in the 250th year since the formation of the first Methodist Societies in America, stand at the edge of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, conceived in racial injustice and born out of the unquenchable thirst for freedom. To brothers and sisters of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, The United Methodist Church says, "You are the Lord's doing, and you are marvelous in our eyes." Your credo, "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Comforter, and Humankind our Family", is a dynamic testimony for the transformational ministry that has touched the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and environmental needs of all people, spreading Jesus Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed for more than two centuries.

BISHOP PALMER: When the then Methodist Episcopal Church said "no" to your ancestors, you kept faith with God and God's overpowering "yes" to all humanity. The Holy Spirit stirs in the telling of your story. You have moved from second-class, deferential treatment to the dignity of world-class leadership in academic, educational, political, economic, religious, artistic, and activist fields of endeavor. You have moved from enforced racial discrimination and, refusing victimization, you have created opportunities for individual and community self-determination. You, have moved from the balcony and the blacksmith shop to the chancel of worldwide Christian leadership, modeling Wesleyan, practical divinity.

(applause)

BISHOP PALMER: You have survived hostility and aggravated interference and grown more relentless in the divine quest for justice and equality for all God's people.

DAY: You have moved from unwanted outcasts to found and sustain a vital expression of Christianity, challenging the church beyond the limitations of eurocentrism. You are the spirit and substance behind the families of Charleston, South Carolina's Emanuel nine, meeting bigotry, hatred, and horrible death fired from the gun of a white supremacist with divine mercy and forgiveness. You have given us Richard Allen, freedom's prophet, founding father of the American nation and a global church. Your churches and Sunday schools have given us Jarena Lee, Reverdy Ransom, Rosa Parks, A. Philip Randolph, Henry O. Tanner, James Cone, Jacquelyn Grant, Vernon Jordan, Ramsey Lewis, Kathleen Battle, Judith Jamison, and D'Brickshaw Ferguson.

PALMER: Through the Holy Spirit's movement among you, you

have moved The United Methodist Church and people of God everywhere. African Methodist Episcopal Church, our full communion partners, you are the Lord's doing, and you are marvelous in our eyes.

DAY: The theme of your 2016 Bicentennial General Conference is "An Extraordinary History—An Incredible Future." Those words echo your life throughout the ages and continue to and through all that lies ahead. You are three million strong in more than seven thousand congregations, in twenty episcopal areas, nearly forty countries, spanning five continents.

BISHOP PALMER: The spiritual sons and daughters of the Wesleys, the people called Methodist, are blessed because of who you are and what, by God's grace, you are becoming. We rejoice to be in the Methodist family of Jesus Christ with you.

(applause)

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT: Hear these words and rejoice. The shepherd will not rest until all the sheep are found. The flock will be united in God's love, and there will be great rejoicing.

(music)

BARTLETT: Hear these words and rejoice. It is God's will that not a single one of these little sheep will be lost. Not a single creature will be despised. Not a single child will ever be outside the fold of God's love.

(music)

BARTLETT: Hear these words and rejoice. All praise to our redeeming Lord who joins us by his grace and bids us each to each restored together seek his face.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let us stand together.

(music)

Full Communion Uniting Church in Sweden

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Last May, in Berlin, when the Council of Bishops was meeting outside of the United States of America, attesting to the fact that United Methodists live and do ministry around the globe, leaders of the newly formed Uniting Church in Sweden and The United Methodist Church signed a declaration to be in full communion relationship. The signing of this historic agreement now ratified by General Conference to place in the Ecumenical Chapel of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche, a church left in ruins at the end of World War II. The remains of that church and the chapel that was built next to it are reminders of the horrors of what happens when humanity turns upon itself. They remind us that in order to give authentic witness to the love that God has for all people, we must stand together as one people united in the love of Christ.

Today, we celebrate a tangible sign of Christians drawing closer. Together, as full communion partners, we of The United Methodist Church embrace our sisters and brothers of the Uniting Church in Sweden and stand united in our commitment to love God's children everywhere. We stand together in the proclamation of the gospel and in our commitment to live lives that are holy and worthy of the one who creates us. We rejoice and seek God's blessing this day, and every day, for the ministry we now pursue side by side.

(applause)

Full Communion Moravian Church

BISHOP SUDARSHANA DEVADHAR: Just as today we

celebrate our new full communion relationship with the Uniting Church of Sweden, we look forward to celebrating a full communion relationship with the Moravian Church, Northern and Southern Provinces. The Moravian Church which inspired Wesley brothers and shared with Methodists their love for hymns, their small groups, and their fervor for mission is a part of our extended family tree drawing closer together is in many ways a return to our own beginnings as Wesleyans. Following on the recommendation of the Dialogue Committee between our two churches, this General Conference has taken the first step in granting its approval to the ratification of a full communion agreement between United Methodists and Moravians. It is our humble privilege to now turn to the synods of both of these provinces of the Moravian Church in the hope and expectation that they will grant their approval, as well, before the meeting of our next General Conference in 2020. May God bless Moravians and United Methodists as we stretch out our arms to embrace one another, committed to walking forward together in ministry side by side.

(applause)

Honors for Three Outstanding Ecumenists

BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON: Christian unity is a gift of God and in receiving this gift, our responsibility is to seek life in which no one is without the other. As we prayed at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Busan, Korea, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace."

This morning, we are going to honor three outstanding ecumenists who have led the way exactly in that. Now, if our Uruguay delegates

are at your table, come up here to help me receive as I tell you about this first one. If Rev. Oscar Bolioli is here or María Cristina Ferou, if you're here at your table, come on up here now to help me receive this first one; and Don Messer who's been in correspondence with him, if you would come and stand with me here to receive. Because, we want to tell you about the first recipient who is Mortimer Arias, who is now in his 90s and couldn't actually come and be present with us, but the delegates from Uruguay, Don has been in correspondence with him and the delegates from Uruguay are going to take his award to him.

Bishop Mortimer Arias

He was called to ministry and received his first appointment as a pastor in the Methodist Church of Uruguay and after a long pastorate there, in 1962, the World Methodist Council appointed him as a missionary to Bolivia. He became the first Bishop of the Bolivian Methodist Church, and he served in that post until the political situation forced him into exile. He studied in the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, known as the ISADT and at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. Bishop Arias was the main speaker at the fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi, Kenya in 1975, where he helped refocus The World Council of Churches commitment to evangelism. He has been a visiting professor at the Claremont School of Theology and the Iliff School of Theology in the 1980's, while also serving as president of the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica. He developed a public ministry articulating his evangelistic vision when he said, "The whole gospel for the whole person for the whole society for the whole world."

This evangelistic mission that began with his publication of *Bolivia: Manifesto to the Nation* and *Bolivian Theses on Evangelization in Latin America Today* and culminated in his book, *Announcing the Reign of God*.

The delegates from Uruguay are here to receive the award and to deliver it to him. So, we bestow the Council of Bishops Ecumenical Award for 2016 for Bishop Arias' ministries in social justice and lifting evangelism in all that we do.

(applause)

BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON: And now I will ask Diana Eck if you would join me here at the podium.

(pause)

Dr. Diana Eck

BISHOP SWENSON: Dr. Diana Eck grew up in the United Methodist Church in Bozeman, Montana, and she's told much of her story in her book, *Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras*, where she addressed Christian faith and a world of many faiths and, more broadly, the issues of religious diversity that challenge people of every faith. She's the Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies and the Frederick Wertham Professor of Law and Psychiatry in Society at Harvard University. She's a member of the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies and a member of the faculty of the Divinity School. She is the author of many books and heads research on religious diversity and the pluralism project, and in one of her books, she summarizes the situation this way, "The issue of living in a pluralistic society and thinking theologically about the question it poses is important today for every community

of faith. How do we think about our own faith as we come into deeper relationship with people of other faiths and as we gain a clear understanding of their religious lives?" Diana, we are honored today to present you the Council of Bishops Ecumenical Award for your contributions to ecumenical and interfaith work.

(applause)

The Reverend Dr. Thomas White Wolf Fassett

BISHOP SWENSON: And now I'll ask Thom White Wolf Fassett if you will come and stand beside me. Rev. Fassett is a citizen of the Seneca nation, and Emeritus General Secretary of the Board of Church and Society. He is a retired elder in the upper New York Conference and has served as Superintendent in The United Methodist Church in Alaska and is a District Superintendent in Central New York. In 2012 he led us in an advisory council for our denomination's General Confession and our Act of Repentance, "Healing Relationships with Indigenous People". He's hosted three radio programs, and he's co-hosted daily television series that ran for six years during NBC's "Today." He's written extensively for periodicals and scholarly publications and he's the author of *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*. When asked in a 2014 interview about the most pressing issue facing our denomination, he replied, "Racism. The same urgency for international missions is not shared for domestic missions. For example," he said, "if that were true, supportive Native American programs would be a high priority, as would other outreach programs to other ethnic communities." Thom, we are grateful for your service to The United Methodist Church and for your ministries in social justice

and inclusiveness. We are proud to present to you the Council of Bishops Ecumenical Award for 2016.

(applause)

BISHOP SWENSON: Greet all three of them, yes, once again.

(applause)

(music)

BISHOP IVAN ABRAHAMS: Let us go now in peace in the power of God's spirit to heal and transform the world. Amen.

(music)

(pause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Friends, we are on break until 10:20. Let's be back in our places at 10:20.

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Be in, be in order please. For those of you that may have wondered why we took so long a break, it was all but providential, because right at the break Bishop Dick Wilke fell from the platform and injured his shoulder and was just taken from the plenary room. And, we found out earlier this morning that Bishop David Yemba has been taken back to the hospital, and so I would invite us to a moment of prayer for Bishop Wilke, Bishop Yemba, and also continued prayers for Bishop Carter. Would you pray with me? O God, how we love Dick and David and Ken. We hurt because they hurt today. And, as deep as our love is for these three, we know that your love is even deeper. Surround them with your grace, touch them with your healing presence, and grant to them a peace that might even pass their understanding. Bless their family, their friends, their lives. We commend them to you this morning. In the name of Christ. And all God's children said, Amen.

Well, good morning, church. It's good to see you today. Did you know that Bishop Mary Ann Swenson is the first female bishop vice moderate of the Central Conference Committee of the World Council of Churches? How'd you like to have that title? Let's thank God for Bishop Swenson's ministry and her leadership.

(applause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: You know friends, nearly every day at some point in my life, when I wonder how things are gonna work out, I find myself reciting one of my favorite Scripture passages. You want to know what it is? "Our God is able to accomplish exceedingly, abundantly more than any of us can ever dream of or imagine." Paul's words to the church in Ephesus just keep ringing in my ears throughout my day. It's ringing in my ears right now. You know, our greatest witness today will not be a demonstration that we all think alike. Our greatest witness today will be a demonstration that we love each other in spite of our differences.

(applause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: And when I wonder in my own life how in the world is that gonna work out, when I wonder that from a human viewpoint, my ears start ringing. Paul starts to talk to me again that our God is able, able to accomplish exceedingly, abundantly more than any of us can ever dream of or imagine. The ringing in my ear just won't stop, and it doesn't ever let me go. That's my prayer for us today as we share this time together. My prayer is that throughout this morning, throughout this day, your ears might start ringing and that you would be reminded in significant ways of how our God might just surprise us with a love that will not let us go. I want to invite you, as we begin our time to-

gether, would you just reach out and grab the hand of someone next to you? Would you join me in prayer?

Loving God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, remove us from ourselves and fill us with you. And as a result of that, we pray, O God, that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts might be acceptable in thy sight. As we embrace one another in prayer and begin this session, bind us together, Lord. Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together not just with cords, but with rope, with chains, with all that it takes to keep us together. Bind us together, Lord. Bind us together, Lord. Bind us together in love. May it be so. Amen.

Friends, before we start our reports and legislation this morning, the President of the Council of Bishops, Bruce Ough, has requested a few moments of personal privilege to make a statement on behalf of the Council of Bishops. If you would grant that privilege to Bishop Ough, would you raise your placard? Opposed, like sign. And it is approved. Bishop Ough, would you come?

Bishop Ough Brings Special Message from Council of Bishops

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Thank you, Bishop Bickerton, and thank you, delegates, for this moment of personal privilege. I'd like to begin with a brief autobiographical story. On Christmas Eve, 1973, my family and I returned from Christmas Eve worship to find my twenty-year-old brother, who had remained home with a cold, having a heart attack. He was stabilized at our local hospital. A few days later, he was flown by air ambulance to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. There, the doctors performed open heart surgery. When they opened his heart, they discovered it was severely

diseased, probably from an undiagnosed case of rheumatic fever. There was nothing the doctors could do so, they sewed up his chest. Two days later, he had another heart attack. He had difficulty breathing and was placed on a ventilator. Next his kidneys failed, and he was placed on a dialysis machine. My brother, Greg, was dying.

The day of decision arrived. My parents, overcome with grief and misplaced guilt, were immobilized. So, at the age of twenty-three, it fell to me to make the decision to turn off the machines keeping my brother alive. My brother died of a diseased heart, but my heart was broken, scars I carry to this day. I know what it's like to have a broken heart, what it feels like to have a broken heart.

And, I know I'm not alone. Probably every person in this assembly could testify to an experience that has broken your heart. I stand before you today on behalf of my episcopal colleagues to tell you I have a broken heart and that, collectively, we have a broken heart. Our hearts break over the pain, distrust, anger, anxiety, and disunity we observe and experience in our beloved United Methodist Church and, quite frankly, also within our council. This brokenness surrounds or emanates from the matters of human sexuality, the interpretation of Scripture, how do we include our LBGQ brothers and sisters, and all is fueled by the despair over the decline of the church in North America.

Our broken heart and a profound clarity that we as your bishops are charged with the spiritual and temporal oversight of the church have driven us to our knees in prayer and into intense holy conversations with ourselves and others as we have been considering how to maintain unity and bring healing to the church.

Prior to arrival in Portland, and certainly while we have been

gathered at General Conference, we have been in dialogue with leading voices from various groups, our conference delegations, and General Conference officials. We have sought to fully understand differing perspectives and positions. We have been prayerfully listening and actively waiting for the movement of the Holy Spirit. We have risked exploring what many would consider radical new ideas to organize The United Methodist Church according to deeply held and differing values and convictions: ideas brought to the attention of the council by both persons more conservative and persons more progressive among us. I want to tell you that your council is not fearful, is not fearful of the level of vulnerability and humility required of anyone willing to engage in new, radical ideas.

I want to tell you that your council is not fearful, is not fearful, of the level of vulnerability and humility required of anyone willing to engage in new, radical ideas.

It is challenging to have this level of Christian conferencing in the anxious and time-constrained environment of the General Conference. Anxious, distrustful organizations have difficulty affording space to anyone, space necessary to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit's leading. It appears from social media that our conversations have unintentionally contributed to the anxiety at this General Conference, and for that I offer my sincere apology.

As shepherds of the entire flock, the Council of Bishops is committed to maintaining the unity of The United Methodist Church, not a superficial unity to serve as veneer over our pain and disunity, but an authentic unity born of the Holy Spirit, a unity not afraid of the truth, and a unity that is respectful and inclusive of all.

Even as we call for unity of the church, I come before you today to confess that we ourselves as a Council of Bishops are not fully united. And this work, this work of maintaining the unity of the church begins at home and we know it.

We are therefore not advancing or advocating any plan of separation or reorganization of the denomination. We clearly understand and respect the constitutional prerogative of this body to propose and act on legislation. It is our job to preside. And as presiders, we are committed to enabling this body, by the grace of God, to perform your legislative function.

At the same time, we remain open to new and innovative ways to be in unity. We will remain in dialogue with one another and others about how God may be leading us to explore new beginnings, new expressions, perhaps even new structures for our United Methodist mission and witness.

So much of who we are and how we are in mission together is working. Bishop Palmer testified to this reality in his powerful episcopal address. Amen?

VOICES FROM THE FLOOR:
Amen.

BISHOP OUGH: And yet so much of who we are and how we are in ministry together needs to adapt to new realities. Many voices, quite frankly, believe we are out of time.

This may be the moment to let God's unlimited imagination lead us to imagine a new way of being church. And so my prayer is: Come, Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit, and break through, set us free, revive and renew our United Methodist movement and connection. Mend our broken hearts. Call us back to be your flock together.

Dear friends, we belong to God. And we belong to one another. I urge you, as we have been encouraged this week, to join your bishops to

put on the garment of grace, to walk humbly with one another to seek justice for all.

We share a common heritage and a common rule of life: to do ha—to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God. Let us redouble our efforts, even now, to maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace, for there is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God, who is above all, and through all, and in all. Thank you for your courtesy.

(applause)

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Thank you, Bishop Ough. I would like to call the body once again to a time of prayer. What I'd like for us to do this morning is to do that at our tables. Just to spend a moment, to have someone designated at your table to lift up a prayer evoking the presence of the Holy Spirit to come upon this place, might be a prayer of confession or prayer of petition, a prayer of longing. But I wanna invite you as table groups to join hands together and pray with us that the precious Holy Spirit might fall upon us to grant us the grace we need to do the work that God has called us to do. Let us pray.

(pause for prayer)

(pause)

(music)

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: May it be so. Amen. I like to call on our committees for initial reports this morning, first Courtesies and Privileges.

CATHERINE SUE SULLIVAN (Texas): Good morning, I'm Sue Sullivan from Texas Annual Conference, lay person, Chair of Committee on Courtesies and Privileges. We have very brief statement this

morning. The Committee on Courtesies and Privileges acknowledges and extends appreciation to the many and various groups, churches, and individuals who have been in prayer for our General Conference, and continue to be in prayer for our sessions. That concludes our report.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you so much. I call on the Committee on Credentials, no report. Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision, no report. Committee on the Journal.

Committee on the Journal

RANDY LEE BIGERSTAFF (Missouri): Good morning church!

ALL: Good Morning.

BIGERSTAFF: Hello? Can we try that again? Good Morning!!!! Church!!!!

ALL: Good Morning.

BIGERSTAFF: Thank you, Please turn to p. 2278, where you will find the errata for today. There are several additions submitted to us this morning, but we have not yet verified them, and they should appear tomorrow if they are verified. This completes our report.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you so much. I call on the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. There's no report from the Committee on Reference.

Committee on Reference

TRACY SMITH MALONE (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Good morning everyone. You will find today's schedule printed in four languages . . .

(applause)

MALONE: On pp. 2276 and 2277 of today's *DCA*. I will repeat those page numbers, 2276 and 2277 in today's *DCA*. In addition to the orders of the day listed there, which were approved yesterday, we will

hear a report from GCFA on the two items for which a cost estimate was requested. You will hear from GCFA immediately following our report. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar is emphasizing calendar items with financial implications for today's plenary consideration, and we are doing this because according to the rules all items with financial implications must be considered and referred to GCFA seventy-two hours prior to final adjournment, which is 6:30 P.M. tonight. But the good news is we have received word from GCFA that they will receive financial items through tomorrow. But that's it. So by tomorrow, all items with financial implication, we will do our best as the Calendar and Agenda Committee to get those items before us. We plan to hear reports from the following legislative committees, Ministry on Higher Education/Superintendency, Judicial Administration, Faith and Order, Financial Administration, Conferences, Discipleship, and Global Ministries. That's the plan for today. And we will hear as many of these reports as time allows, and we have additional items ready, if the reports above are complete before the end of the day. So we encourage us to be good stewards of our time. Any remaining items will be considered for future scheduling by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. Bishop, I would now like to invite Susan Brumbaugh who is our coordinator of the calendar. She will come to guide us again on voting on the consent calendars, the ones that are printed in Monday's *DCA*, and she would also point out other calendar items printed in today's *DCA*.

Today's Consent Calendars

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH (Coordinator of the Calendar): Good morning.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Good Morning, Susan.

BRUMBAUGH: Let's begin by preparing to vote on the consent calendars that are printed in Monday's *DCA*. That's yesterday, I think. As a reminder, consent calendars that begin with the letter A contain disciplinary items, and calendar items, consent calendars that begin with the letter B contain non-disciplinary items, and consent calendars that begin with the letter C contain referrals. So, today's first consent calendar appears on p. 2185 of the *DCA*, 2185. That's yesterday's *DCA*, p. 2185, in the middle of that page is Consent Calendar A04, containing disciplinary items. So we are considering A04. One item has been removed from Consent Calendar A04. That item appears on p. 2193. So turn to p. 2193. On that page Calendar Item 218, 218 was removed, two hundred eighteen. That item was printed in today's *DCA* as a regular calendar item that can be scheduled for a future day. The remaining items in Consent Calendar A04 are before you.

MALONE: Bishop, I move approval of Consent Calendar A04.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Consent Calendar A04 is properly before you. If you'll take your voting devices. If you approve Consent Calendar A04 press 1, if not press no. Please vote now.

(voting)

(pause)

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: You've approved that motion. [*Yes, 761; No, 21*]

SUSAN M. BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico): On the next page, p. 2194, Consent Calendar B04; 2194 is the page no. and this Consent Calendar B04 contains non-disciplinary items. All the items on Consent Calendar B04 are correct as printed. No items were removed.

TRACY SMITH MALONE (North Illinois): Bishop, I move approval of Consent Calendar B04.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Consent Calendar B04 is properly before you. If you will approve that, press one (1); if not, press two (2). Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

And you have approved the motion. Tracy, Susan?

[Yes, 759; No, 29]

BRUMBAUGH: The last Consent Calendar is on the next page, 2204. That doesn't sound like the next page; I wonder if I did the wrong thing? Help me out to confirm.

BISHOP BICKERTON: It is 2204.

BRUMBAUGH: OK. So, I must have given you the wrong page no. on the last one, and I apologize. So, 2204, Consent Calendar C04; it is on the screen. This one contains referred items. Page 2204. The items on Consent Calendar C04 are correct as printed. No items were removed.

MALONE: Bishop, I move that we accept actions on Consent Calendar C04.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Consent Calendar C04 is properly before you. If you will approve that, press one (1); if not, press two (2). Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP BICKERTON: And it is approved. Thank you.

[Yes, 737; No, 34]

BRUMBAUGH: Now, as a point of information, I want to bring your attention to several lists that were printed in today's DCA. On p. 2319, 2319, you will see new Consent Calendars. On p. 2322, that's 2322-- is a list of regular calendar items that can be scheduled for ple-

nary discussion as early as tomorrow in addition to regular calendar items from previous days. Many of these were calendared as a result of a request to bring the item to the floor. On p. 2306—is that right? That doesn't seem like that—2306 is what I had, "Correction to Calendar Items." Someone confirm that for me. Is that not right?

BISHOP BICKERTON: No, that's not—2326.

BRUMBAUGH: I'm not getting a lot of sleep these days. OK, 2326. I apologize for that mistake. There are corrections to calendar items that were previously printed, and you might find it helpful to review those corrections to ensure you have the right information. And lastly, there is a handful of non-calendar items that you should review on p. 2333.

I again remind you that items can be removed from the Consent Calendar or this handful of non-calendar items can be calendared by submitting the appropriate form with twenty valid signatures to my office in B117.

MALONE: Bishop, that concludes our report.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you very much. Friends, these folks go to bed late and they get up early. Would you just give it up for them-- as the week goes on, they are giving us great work.

(applause)

Call on the secretary to read a letter that we've received.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: Thank you very much. This is addressed to me.

Thank you very much for your e-mail, dated 29 April 2016 conveying your greetings for the General Conference of the Methodist Church in India to be held from 15-22 May 2016, at Leonia Holistic Destination, Hyderabad.

Your greetings were placed before the Ninth Regular Session of the General Conference Methodist Church of India and the General Conference passed a resolution to reciprocate the greetings from the Methodist Church in India to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church being held from 10-20 May 2016, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. We pray for the deliberations of your conference, growth of The United Methodist Church, and the glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God almighty grant success in all your business. With prayer and best wishes, thanking you, yours in Christ, Rev. M. A. Daniel, general secretary of the Methodist Church in India.

Mr. Chairman, if you would, I would ask you to place before the body a request to be able to return the letter of greeting.

BISHOP BICKERTON: If you would like to return the letter of greeting on behalf of this General Conference would you raise your placard; and if not, raise your placard. And we will send greetings. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: I've a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. Tim Riss, mic. 6.

TIMOTHY J. RISS (New York): Bishop, forgive my confusion. We just passed some Consent Calendar items and then on p. 2326, I see them listed as corrections to the calendar—five of them, but should we have named these five as being removed from the Consent Calendars before we voted on those Consent Calendars? I'm not sure where we are in a parliamentary way.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Susan?

BRUMBAUGH: I didn't realize that had happened. Yes, they should have been removed from the Consent Calendars.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Word is that they should have been removed from the Consent Calendars.

BRUMBAUGH: And how many of them are there? All of them (unintelligible).

BISHOP BICKERTON: On p. 2326. Corrections to the Calendar.

BRUMBAUGH: OK. But all of them were on the Consent Calendar (unintelligible).

BISHOP BICKERTON: All right, they're going to get back to us. Thank you, Tim for raising that.

Call on Joe Kilpatrick at mic. 6.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. I wish to make a motion. I wish to move to print an amendment to calendar item 513, related to petition 60926. This petition increases the representation of Africa on our boards and agencies, to print this in the *DCA* with a chart that clearly presents the changes. If there is a second, I'll speak to the motion.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Is there a second? There is.

KILPATRICK: Friends, we are concerned about translations and fairness and hospitality, but at present, the African voice is less than 5 percent on our boards and agencies. The original petition from Africa asked simply for an increase in a simple way, saying, "Add one-third, make one-third work out to be their representation." But yet, there are many paragraphs that must be amended to achieve fairness. When everything had been written out to try to get even to 15 percent, there were four pages of changes that must be presented, so there is a simple one-page chart that will summarize the amendment and provide some clarity for our debate so that Africa's voice will be increased to about 15 percent in our agencies and the agencies especially that are critical to the work of the Africans. So, I would us encourage us to vote "yes" for this motion, that we might put the full amendment in printing so that is all

before us, and with a chart that helps us understand the changes that are being proposed. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you. It is properly before you to have this amendment printed. I don't see any speeches for or against. It appears that you are ready to vote. If you would support this motion to print this material in *DCA*, would you press one (1); if not, press two (2). Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Properly before you to have this amendment printed. I don't see any speeches for or against, it appears that you're ready to vote. If you would support this motion to print this material in the *DCA* would you press one (1), if not, press two (2). Please vote now.

[Vote: Yes, 632; No, 164]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved the motion. Thank you. I call on Susan again to give us clarity on the question that Tim Riss raised.

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico): I am Susan Brumbaugh, Coordinator of the Calendar, and I thank you for bringing that to my attention. Those items that were corrected should have been removed from the Consent Calendars. Of course, they are already printed as regular items, so that portion is taken care of. But in your own notes you may want to cross them off the list and we will work to have those items, the votes that were recorded removed from them, so that we can consider them properly. On p. 2319, 2319, Item 138, 138, and 175, 175, we will have the vote you took removed from those items, and it will be available for future consideration. And on the next page 2320, 2320, the first three items in Consent Calendar B05 will be reset as far as

the vote. So they should be removed from the Consent Calendar. 298, 305, and 354. So that's 298, 305, and 354 will be removed from the vote that you took, and they are already on the Calendar for consideration on future days. I apologize for the oversight.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you for that clarity.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Mic. 6. Tim Riss.

TIMOTHY RISS (New York): I was just wondering if we meant to keep them on today's *DCA*'s Consent Calendar, and you really wanted to remove them from yesterdays. So that we can vote on them tomorrow.

BISHOP BICKERTON: You are correct, and that's what will be done. Thank you, Tim, for that clarity.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Mic.2. Christopher Ritter has a motion to make?

CHRISTOPHER RITTER (Illinois Great Rivers): Chris Ritter, Illinois Great Rivers Conference. I move to substitute Item 508 on p. 2329 with new legislation. If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Is there a second? There is.

RITTER: Bishop Bowen's statement encouraged us to consider out-of-the-box proposals for unity in The United Methodist Church. I've authored a plan called the Love-a-Light Plan but it's not properly before this body. I tried to do that through legislative means yesterday, and I made a mistake. And so this would substitute a piece of an earlier piece of legislation that was rejected but pulled off the calendar with a new piece of legislation that recovered the same paragraph. It will put the Love-a-Light Plan before the body for consideration.

BISHOP BICKERTON: And what is the petition again?

RITTER: The petition is five pages long. It's one paragraph and

it's basically the Love-a-Light Plan, which has been available on social media but is not printed anywhere in before the body.

BISHOP BICKERTON: And what are you substituting it for?

RITTER: I'm substituting Item 508 on p. 2329, which is another piece of my legislation that was not acted upon by the body, with what's in my hand.

BISHOP BICKERTON: OK. How might I take it in the body's hand so that everyone could make a good decision about it?

RITTER: You know that's a good question, Bishop, I'd ask for your help with that.

BISHOP BICKERTON: There's a motion to substitute Petition 508 with another. Under our Rules of Motion, the substitute has to be there are no amendments to that. The body has to decide which piece it wishes to consider, and so it is before us to talk about whether to substitute paragraph 508 with another piece of legislation.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Mic. 2 Sergey Kim.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): (speaking in Russian)

BISHOP BICKERTON: We're not getting the translation.

KIM: I'm sorry. Dear Bishop, due to the translation that was not coming to me clearly I'm not quite sure what's going on. Can you please let us know where we are in the process?

BISHOP BICKERTON: Sergey, could you repeat what you were saying, please?

KIM: (simultaneous interpretation) Dear Bishop, with the incoherent translation I was unable to understand exactly what's going on and what are we voting for? My brothers have expressed the numbers on the petition. I have never encountered such petitions, the numbers on the petitions. Is it possible to repeat

which petitions are we discussing, what numbers, so that we maybe slow down the process?

BISHOP BICKERTON: I'm gonna rule that this is out of order. This is an item that's not before us at this time and I think that when it does come before the body, then a motion to substitute would be in order at that point. This is not before us at this point.

BISHOP BICKERTON: I would call on Moses Kumar or representatives from GCFA to give us interpretation on the referral that was made to them.

GCFA Report on DCA Daily and Discipline Translation Estimated Costs

MOSES KUMAR (GCFA): Thank you, Bishop. This is relating to the cost of translation of *Daily Christian Advocate*. Yesterday, you referred the motion relating to translating the *Christian Daily Christian Advocate* into the official languages of the church. That phrase is unclear, so I will give you a cost information we have developed based on two sets of languages. The first set consist of three non-English languages which the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate* is currently translated into: French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili. The cost to provide these translation at 2020 General Conference would be \$2.1 million. The same set of languages included those specified in the rules of the General Conference as languages of the General Conference which are French, Portuguese, Spanish, Kiswahili, German, Russian, Tagalog, and Korean. If that's the case, the cost of providing these translations in 2020 General Conference would be \$5.3 million. Should I also go ahead and do the *DCA*? Another question re-raised in terms of Petition No. 60591. It was referred to GCFA and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

I consulted with Bishop Streiff, and together I wanna make give this information to you all. Petition 60591, and both of us reviewed GCFA and Standing Committee reviewed, the cost estimate relating to translating *The Book of Discipline* into official languages of General Conference. We have analyzed the costs relating to translation of *The Book of Discipline* in digital format into the languages of General Conference. If digital format is desired, the cost total is roughly around \$900,000. The languages of the General Conference currently are French, Portuguese, Spanish, Kiswahili, German, Russian, Korean, Tagalog, and English. The full *Book of Discipline* is already available in English, Spanish, and Korean. If print versions are desired, the additional cost would be about \$160,000 (hundred thousand dollars), a total overall cost of \$1,060,000.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you that's information that's been reported out, and we appreciate that. Thank you, Moses.

BISHOP BICKERTON: I turn now to Kim Ingram from Higher Education Ministry and Superintendency for couple of petitions. Morning, Kim.

Africa University Funding

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Good morning. I'm Kim Ingram from the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. We will be looking at *DCA* p. no. 2107. *DCA* p. no. 2107. Calendar Item 128, and it can be found in the *ADCA* on p. 1177. 1177. The petition no. is 60348.

BISHOP BICKERTON: It is properly before you.

INGRAM: This resolution affirms Africa University as a priority by allocating \$10 million of apportioned funds over the next four years and an additional \$10 million raised

through the World Service Fund to continue the good work of educating students.

The Africa University presentation last night reminded us of the ways The United Methodist Church is educating people all around the world. As Jim Salley told us yesterday, graduates are impacting lives and changing communities in Africa and beyond. Twenty-six of Africa's fifty-four nations are represented at Africa University. Africa University has a 92 percent graduation rate, and 91 percent of their graduates return to work in their home countries. Over one hundred Africa University graduates and students are at General Conference. Africa University contributes the knowledge and leaders for the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ and realizing more equitable, peaceful, healthy, and prosperous communities. Africa University is making a difference.

The committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright. It's properly before you. Anyone with to speak to it? Looks as if you're ready to vote.

If you would support item 128 on p. 2107, would you press one (1)? If you would not support it, press two (2). Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved it. Thank you.

INGRAM: Our next petition is found in the *DCA* on p. 2217. P. 2217. The calendar item is no. 466. It can be found in the *ADCA* on p. 1170, and the petition no. is 60509.

Study of Ministry Approved

The Study of Ministry Commission has worked for the last four years to clarify theological understanding of ministry, the relationship between ordination and the sacraments, and to strengthen the

ministry of clergy through continuing formation, mentoring, and assessment. As you can imagine, as the group explores some areas, others come to light that weren't part of the original scope. As a result, there is a need to continue to study and to continue the commission. It goes right along with our United Methodist value of being lifelong learners. This petition recommends the formation of a study of ministry commissioned for the next quadrennium, 2017 to 2020. The next study of ministry would strengthen the church's articulation of a theology of ministry, contribute to the development of a general *Book of Discipline* as it relates to ministry structures, seek ways to strengthen clergy formation and education, examine funding sources for education, and recommend ways to make education more affordable and continue to develop ways to reduce educational debt. The makeup of the team is outlined in the petition. The committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar Item 466 is properly before you. Anyone wish to speak to it? Ready to vote? If you'll support Calendar Item 466, please press one (1). If you would not support it, please press two (2). Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved it. Thank you.

INGRAM: Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you, Kim.

I call on Kim Reisman to bring a couple petitions from Judicial Administration.

KIMBERLY DUNNAM REISMAN (Indiana): Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Good morning.

REISMAN: Good morning. Before I present the two items from

the Judicial Administration legislative group, I would like to thank my committee for their, their good work, and particularly express my gratitude to the help of my vice chair, Christopher Marshall, my secretary, Becky Sweet, and the two subcommittee chairs that did such good work for us, Tim Rogers and Amy Lippoldt.

Accountability and Oversight of Bishops

I bring, I bring two items to you this morning. The first one can be found on *DCA* p. 2214, 2214, item no. 446. You can also find that on the *ADCA*, p. 1085, 1085. We're dealing with petition no. 60912, 60912.

The committee recommends that you adopt the petition as printed. There were fifty members voting for, forty in favor and ten against, and we agree with the rationale. This petition stems from a Judicial Council decision, 475, which ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, and it referenced ¶50 of the Constitution. This legislation also follows Judicial Decision 1275, that requirement that a legislative resolution come from General Conference, so that the Council of Bishops may provide oversight for its individual members. Approving and adopting this petition would enable that to occur.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar Item 446 is properly before you. Anyone wishing to speak to it? Alright, you're ready to vote. If you will support calendar item 446, please press one (1). If not, please press two (2). Please vote now.

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Alright, you have approved that. That was a constitutional amendment that required two-thirds. I should have informed you that ahead

of time, but you've taken care of that yourselves. Thank you for that.

[Yes, 715; No, 79]

Complaints Against Bishops Moved From College to Council of Bishops

KIMBERLY REISMAN: Our second item is found on DCA p. 2215, Item No. 453. It can also be found on ADCA p. 1154. We're dealing with Petition No. 60130, which takes up paragraph 413.3. The committee is recommending that you adopt the petition as it has been amended. There were 49 members voting with 36 in favor and 13 opposed. The committee amended the petition by adding a Roman numeral number four (IV), which reads, "The Council of Bishops may, at any time in the process, after a complaint is filed, including after a just resolution, remove the complaint from the College of Bishops to the Council of Bishops with a 2/3 vote by the council." The rationale for this is that the change ensures the petition ensures the timely processing of complaints against bishops in a manner that is consistent with established review processes and that minimizes extra costs. Additionally, the amendment provides continuity between the College and the Council of Bishops in the complaint process.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar Item 453 is properly before you. Anyone wish to speak? You ready to vote? If you would support Calendar Item 453, press one (1) on your key pad; if not press two (2). Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved it. Thank you. Thank you, Kim.

[Yes, 693; No, 111]

Call on Bill Arnold from Faith and Order.

Faith and Order Returned to Discipline

BILL ARNOLD (Kentucky): Thank you Bishop. I also would like to express my gratitude to the leadership team for Faith and Order. My vice chair was Jerry Kulah, secretary was Carlene Fogle-Miller and our sub-chairs were led ably by Scott Johnson and Cheryl Jefferson Bell. These are remarkable leaders in our church, and it has been my distinct honor to serve with them on Faith and Order. We have just one petition for you today. DCA p. 2211. In your DCA p. 2211. Calendar Item 426. Calendar Item 426. The petition is originally printed in the ADCA pp. 770-772. Petition No. 60026, that's 60026. As General Conference 2012 was drawing to a close in Tampa, in those famously productive closing moments, the paragraphs authorizing the Committee on Faith and Order were inadvertently left out of *The Book of Discipline*. Mandated by the 2008 General Conference, the Committee on Faith and Order has continued its work this quadrennium through funding provided by the Council of Bishops. And relying on staff support from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Bill, let me interrupt you. Let's see what the placards are being raised for. Is there a problem, translation problems? Alright, let's see if the translators can re-set. Good. Alright. Bill why don't you start again?

ARNOLD: Start with the rationale again, page numbers . . .

BISHOP BICKERTON: Please. Let's just wheel it back.

ARNOLD: OK. So the, as General Conference 2012 was drawing to a close in Tampa, in those famously productive closing moments.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Now, let me just interrupt you Bill. Is it

OK everybody? Are we good? Alright. Bill, let's be famously productive.

ARNOLD: You just wanted to hear that joke again, didn't you?

BISHOP BICKERTON: Yes.

ARNOLD: The paragraphs authorizing the Committee on Faith and Order were inadvertently left out of *The Book of Discipline*. Mandated by the 2008 General Conference, the Committee on Faith and Order has continued its work this quadrennium through funding provided by the Council of Bishops and relying on staff support from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Office on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Relations. This petition simply re-authorizes the committee on Faith and Order. The committee was unanimously in favor of this petition.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar Item 426 is properly before you. I have a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, for your information, mic. 5 from Djoman Yapi. Is that related to the translation or . . . Must have been. I'll call on Jacob Beasley, mic. 2 for point of order or inquiry.

JACOB BEASLEY (North Carolina): Jacob Beasley, North Carolina Conference. There are four hotspots on right now and its really slowing down the Wi-Fi so if y'all could turn them off, please.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you very much. Our daily reminder friends. Let's cool down the hotspots so everyone can be productive. Thank you for that. Calendar Item 426 is properly before you. Re-establishment of the Faith and Order Committee. Are you ready to vote? If you will support that will you press one (1) if not, will you press two (2). Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved that. Thank you. [Yes, 749; No, 32]

Call on Jessica Vargo to bring us some petitions this morning from Financial Administration. Good morning, Jessica.

JESSICA VARGO (East Ohio): Good morning. Finance and Administration has three items to bring before you this morning. The first item can be found on DCA pp. 2210 and 2211.

Standing Committee on Strategy and Growth

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Good morning. Finance and Administration has three items to bring before you this morning. The first item can be found on DCA pp. 2210 and 2211, Calendar Item 421. This relates to GCFA report no. 1, World Service Fund. Keep in mind that the GCFA reports, this one as well as the other numbered reports, will come before you in their entirety on Friday. What is coming before you today is the amendment to be referred to GCFA as it relates to report no. 1. The legislative committee decided to approve establishing a Standing Committee on Strategy and Growth. This committee would be funded by using a carve-out of \$20 million from the World Service Fund. To describe the rationale around that, I would call on legislative committee member, as well as the maker of the motion, Don House.

Membership Losses and a New Model

DONALD REED HOUSE (Texas): Thank you. Within the United States, our denomination is in a crisis of decline. Between 1974 and 2002, our average annual loss in worship attendance was 4,700. By 2013, that annual rate grew to fifty-three thousand. By 2014, the loss reached seventy-six thousand in one year. We're reducing our numbers of annual conferences, bishops,

districts, and churches. At the 2012 General Conference, for the first time in our history, we decreased the budget for our general boards and agencies. We will cut it again this week. Projections for the future without this additional strategy are devastating: even faster decline. We have only fourteen years left to implement a successful strategy. After fourteen years, we will be on a path that cannot be arrested. Our connection'll be gone before 2050. Our existing bureaucratic model works well under normal conditions, but it cannot handle the crisis alone.

What is proposed is a supplement, a group of entrepreneurs and church leaders to develop and implement a strategy in conjunction with the work of the agencies and the commissions. This supplemental model really begin in 2012, and several entrepreneurs of our church began working together to combine and refine programs. It works. But, it needs the assembly and funding to develop and implement a strategy at a national scale to begin programs in at least a thousand churches before 2020. These entrepreneurs are not from Wall Street. They include respected leaders in our denomination: Bob Farr, Lovett Weems, Gil Rendle, Stan Copeland, Olu Brown, George Cooper, Candace Lewis, Bishop John Schol. For spiritual direction, it includes Bishop Gregory Palmer. Ten members are named, ten more to be named. I'm excited that at this conference—you won't be excited but I am—to have met a United Methodist economist from Africa, Henoc Malenge from South-West Katanga, hopefully also a member of this group.

This is not a plan to compete or replace but to supplement the work of the boards and agencies. The proposed decrease in agency budgets is only 6.5 percent, similar to the cut between 2012 and 2016. We can

arrest and reverse decline, but it must start now. It can be done. There is hope. Thank you.

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Calendar Item 421 is properly before you. You will notice on p. 2211 that there is a minority report attached. I would rule that the minority report is out of order. It is, there is not a substitute there. It is simply a speech against, and so I'm gonna rule the minority report out of order. So, 421 is properly before you. I'd call on mic. 3, Charles Moore Jr.

Motion to Refer to the Judicial Council

CHARLES ERIC MOORE (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you Bishop. I'm Charlie Moore, lay delegate from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. I respectfully move that the General Conference request a declaratory ruling and decision from the Judicial Council as to whether any aspect of Petition 61057 is in conflict with constitution of The United Methodist Church. In particular, does the petition conflict with ¶16.8? If I have a second, I'd like to briefly speak to my motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

BISHOP BICKERTON: There is a second. Many.

MOORE: Thank you. I believe that there are numerous constitutional defects in amendments in the legislative committee as it made its petition. I believe two aspects of this proposed standing committee unconstitutionally delegate duties, which constitutional ¶16.8 specifically states are to be reserved for the General Conference. First, the standing committee would be created without any direction as to its membership or even as to who would determine its membership. Paragraph 16.8 states that it is a sole purview of the General Conference to provide boards for the promotion

and administration of those connective enterprises it creates. This amendment does not do that. Instead it would leave that role to some unspecified persons or maybe even to just a single person. Second, the standing committee would, by its own admission, not be able to fulfill its proposed objectives without it being able to deploy, within our existing general agencies, some number of unspecified strategies this group would attempt to develop. The Judicial Council has consistently held that ¶16.8 stands for the principle that only the General Conference may determine the functions, duties, responsibilities and priorities of the general agencies. The proposed amendment to this petition would give the standing committee the apparent authority to deploy strategies within the general agencies, thereby giving it the authority to direct their functions, duties, responsibilities, and priorities. Bishop, for these reasons, I urge us to refer this matter to the Judicial Council for its review and determination. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you. The motion you refer is properly before us. Mic. 6. Frederick Brewington, speech for.

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON (New York): Fred Brewington, New York Annual Conference. Good morning.

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Good morning.

BREWINGTON: Bishop, I stand in support, but actually, before I heard what was actually being spoken, I was not clear as to what was going to be proposed. I actually stand now to amend by addition to the referral.

BISHOP BICKERTON: All right. Motion to amend is in order.

BREWINGTON: I would add a third reason and third paragraph to the portion spoken by my brother. It would read, and I will bring this to

the dais, "Third, with the redistribution of \$20 million of World Service funds, there has been an issue of lack of clarity and potential conflict of interest. The weight of this concern and the redistribution of \$20 million to a group of entrepreneurs to distribute as they see fit is an abdication of our role of General Conference and its authorized agencies, coupled with a serious concern of conflict of interest regarding the general church budget process. Evaluation is necessary. The question of the constitutionality of this piece of legislation bears Judicial Council review." I move that as an amendment by addition.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Is there a second? Alright. That amendment is properly before us. We are now discussing the amendment which is to add a third paragraph to the request for a Judicial Council decision. Anyone wish to speak for or against the amendment?

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: All right. If you would support the amendment to add a third paragraph to the request, would you please press one (1); opposed, please press (2). Please vote now.
[Yes, 579; No, 221]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have supported the amendment. We're back on the main motion. The motion is to refer this to the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision. It's properly before us. Requires a one-fifth vote to send this to the Judicial Council. Mic. 6, point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. Jerry Kulah.

(pause)

JERRY PAYE-MANFLOE
KULAH (Liberia): Thank you, Bishop. Jerry Kulah from the Liberia Annual Conference. As I listen to the

request for the \$20 million and the personalities that have been identified to proceed with this process, I'm concerned about the presence of African leaders on this committee. As we all know—

BISHOP BICKERTON: Jerry, excuse me. I'm sorry to interrupt. What is your point of information?

KULAH: I'm making inquiry—

BISHOP BICKERTON: OK.

KULAH: About the presence of African leaders on this team that will utilize the \$20 million—

BISHOP BICKERTON: That's not what's before us right now. We are on the request to refer this to the Judicial Council. So we're not on the main motion at this point.

KULAH: Alright, thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you.

KULAH: I will wait.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you. We're on the motion to refer this to the Judicial Council. Takes a one-fifth vote. Don, I'll give you a chance to speak before we vote.

(pause)

DONALD REED HOUSE (Texas): I'm not an attorney, so I really can't speak very well about the constitutionality of the issue. However, the time is of the essence. We have to have flexibility. We have to implement another strategy. This would be a directive from the General Conference to be somewhat independent of the agencies but still in communication and coordination with the agencies, but we need new ideas. We need to get the best and brightest to be able to implement a strategy. There is a budget along with this. It's demonstrating how the monies would be spent, and it is part of the motion. So, there are no secrets here, but we're pleading for the authority of the General Conference to be able to implement a strategy in concert with the strategies that come from

the boards and commissions. We cannot turn this around without it.

BISHOP BICKERTON: All right. The request for a Judicial Council decision on this matter is properly before you. If you will support that motion, will you please press one (1)? If not, will you please press two (2)? Please vote now.

[Yes, 614; No, 197]

BISHOP BICKERTON: Motion does pass and it is referred to the Judicial Council. Thank you. Jessica?

(pause)

Central Conference Theological Education Fund

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Next calendar item can be found on DCA p. 2211. It's Calendar Item 423. Again on p. 2211, entitled "Funding for the Central Conference Theological Education Fund." The legislative committee voted to amend this petition, and to share the rationale for said amendment, I'm asking subcommittee chair, Mathew Pinson, to share rationale.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Hi, Mathew.

MATHEW PINSON (North Georgia): Hello. Thank you. The work of the subcommittee and the work of the committee of the whole was to further perfect disciplinary language that was adopted by the 2012 General Conference. This additional language simply perfects further the work of the 2012 General Conference toward providing funding for Central Conference Theological Education. This is before us, Bishop, and that would be the word from the committee.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you, sir. Calendar Item 423 is properly before us. Mic. 2, Owan Tshibang?

(pause)

OWAN KASAP TSHIBANG (North-West Katanga) (simultaneous interpretation from French): I would like to speak against. Why? The petition asks for \$10 million. We received \$5 million for the central conferences. I myself, having been the former president of the association of theological schools in Africa, the \$5 million were not enough for all the central conferences. I remember well, in 2008, we reached \$2 million, and we thanked the General Conferences for these theological institutions. In 2012, it was 5 million for all of the central conferences, and that was not sufficient, and in Africa, as in other central conferences, we have many theological institutions that need financing. I think that 10 million could help our central conferences to operate well. They are working on their libraries. They are finishing work. They are working on scholarships, purchasing books, etc. I am against this petition. I support the 10 million.

BISHOP BICKERTON: That's a speech against. Call on Beth Cook, mic. 1.

(pause)

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BETH ANN COOK (Indiana): Beth Ann Cook, Indiana Annual Conference. Like Dr. Kasap, I believe that this is not enough money, so I arise to amend this petition, and I am asking that we amend the World Service Fund budget found on p. 1676 in the ADCA Report 1. I move that the Central Conference Theological Education Fund for 2017 to 2020 be \$10 million; and if I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: There is a second.

COOK: In 2020, when the General Conference meets again, approximately 50 percent of our church will be from outside of the

United States. We are woefully underfunding theological education for growing areas of our denomination. I have been blessed to visit one of our theological schools in Lubumbashi and I met wonderful people who have a heart for Jesus, and love God's church, and want to work for justice, and to bring the good news, but they are doing so with very limited resources. Our budget shows a proposed investment in the MBF Fund of \$105 million, \$10 million for the Black College Fund, \$10 million for Africa University.

I celebrate these investments and challenge the church to rise and create a theological investment in the Central Conferences that will equip pastors for the future in these areas. We can work together to develop a sustainable model. GBHEM will continue to oversee the process and relationship and have promised, in conjunction with GCFA and UMCOM, to promote endowment as well for this purpose. The amendment works in concert with the legislation approved earlier and I believe that this will make a huge difference in the future of our church together. And I just urge all my brothers and sisters to support this. I believe it is a justice issue. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Beth, I'm going to have to rule that your amendment is out of order, because it is related to a Calendar Item that we're not dealing with at this point, and I would just ask everyone to remember your speech when we are dealing with the budget. Thank you.

Calendar Item 423 is before us. We have one speech against. Would call on João Graca, mic. 1.

JOÃO MANUEL DA GRACA (Western Angola): João da Graca, West Angola Annual Conference. I was actually in favor in my colleague who have just spoken, if I can continue?

BISHOP BICKERTON: We're on Calendar Item 423 now, not on the amendment.

GRACA: Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you. I have one speech against. Is there any for? Mic. 4, Katie Dawson.

KATIE Z. DAWSON (Iowa): Katie Dawson, clergy, Iowa. In light of the speeches against, I would like to make a motion to amend.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright.

DAWSON: I would like to amend the amendment that the committee proposed and return the petition to its original language.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright, you would amend by deletion then. Is there a second? There is a second. Would you like to speak to it?

DAWSON: I think my friends who have already spoken about the need for this education have done so.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright, there is a motion to amend by deletion of what is found on Calendar Item 423, p. 2211. Joseph Harris, mic. 6. Speech against.

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright, I think we're good. Mic. 6, Jay Brim, point of order, parliamentary inquiry.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Bishop, Jay Brim from Rio Texas. My point of parliamentary inquiry is that if the replacement is struck, but the text that it replaced is not also offered in its place, is there anything left to consider?

BISHOP BICKERTON: I'll turn to the presenters.

MATHEW PINSON (North Georgia): There would be material left to present, although in my concluding remarks, I would say a word about why it would be problematic, if that's helpful; but there would be actual content to consider if the mak-

er of the motion that we just heard was to move forward.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Okay.

BRIM: Bishop (*unintelligible*)

BISHOP BICKERTON: Jay.

BRIM: I think we need to know what the text is we are voting on, what it is replacing.

BISHOP BICKERTON: I think that's a good request.

PINSON: It is found in the ADCA on p. 703. It's Petition No. in its original form, Petition No. 60928, found in volume 2, section 1, on p. 703 of the *Advance DCA*.

BISHOP BICKERTON: And if this motion to delete were to pass, that is what would be before us then?

PINSON: That's what I understand.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright. Thank you. Alright, there is a speech for. Mic. 6, Joe Kilpatrick.

We're under the amendment to delete what is found as an addition to Calendar Item 423.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Joe Kilpatrick, North Georgia, laity. As I understand what is before us, there is an amendment that says that funds raised above \$750,000 will be added to the Central Conference Theological Education Fund. That sounds good to me. I think that if we will adopt the petition that has been submitted by Mathew Pinson and the Financial Administration folks, we can then come back and consider the budget and add the \$5 million additional back at that point, since I believe that that's what this body would like to do to help theological education. But the motion before us, when you read the amendment from the committee, says to increase the amounts received above \$750,000 to the Theological Education Fund; that will give us more money from this source plus what we can get from adding \$5 million the World Service request. So I speak in favor of the committee's

report; when that's before us for a vote, I will vote "Yes."

BISHOP BICKERTON: That is a speech against the amendment that is before us, though.

KILPATRICK: Whoa.

BISHOP BICKERTON: The motion before us is to delete what you see in—

KILPATRICK: Yes, yes.

BISHOP BICKERTON: —Calendar Item 423.

KILPATRICK: Thank you. I want to vote "No" against the deletion of the amendment and in favor of.

BISHOP BICKERTON: It's good to know where you stand Joe; that's great. Thank you very much. That's a speech against the amendment. Is there a speech for? This is the amendment to delete what is printed under Calendar Item 423, on p. 2211. Charles Boayue, mic. 1.

CHARLES S.G. BOAYUE (Detroit): Charles Boayue, Detroit Conference. I rise to speak in favor of the amendment that has been brought to us. The bottom line is Africa needs help with the training of United Methodist leaders for ministry, laity and clergy. And, they need that help yesterday. The previous speaker wants to postpone this action and, then, to bring it back to do what we can do right now. I am in full support of the amendment and encourage every member of the General Conference to do so for the advancement of United Methodist witness in the world and for shoring up and strengthening the African church. Thank you.

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Thank you. Now, let's be clear where we are. P. 2211, Calendar Item 423. We are under the amendment. The amendment is to delete what you see as the committee's recommendation to add to the original petition. This is the motion that we're under for amendment. I

call on Emily Allen, mic. 4, for a point of order or inquiry.

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Emily Allen, lay person, California-Nevada Annual Conference. I believe Mr. Kilpatrick misspoke, and I believe, Bishop, you also misspoke just now. We are not adding to the original petition. We are replacing the original petition, so that not \$5 million, not \$10 million, but only what is in excess of the central conference apportionments above \$750,000 would be given to the Central Conference Theological Fund. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Mathew, can you give us clarity on where we are, please?

MATHEW PINSON (North Georgia): I can. Funding for the Central Conference Theological Education Fund is provided for in GCFA Report No. 1, World Service, which this body will have an opportunity to consider and adopt as a part of the budget process. So, at this time, report 1 includes \$5 million for the Central Conference Theological Education Fund, renewing what the General Conference acted on in 2012. The work of this committee that we brought to the plenary today is to add to that fund in a creative way by making a provision for yet additional funding beyond the \$5 million provided in Report No. 1.

BISHOP BICKERTON: And the current motion before us is to delete what you see in front of us. That's the amendment. It's properly before us. Mic. 2, Ande Emmanuel, speaking for.

e-Reader Project

ANDE IKIMUN EMMANUEL (Southern Nigeria): My name is Ande Emmanuel, clergy delegate from Southern Nigeria. I am speaking in favor of this deletion, bringing a live testimony of how the theological initiative fund has helped a

lot of pastors in Africa. One of the ways that it has done that is through the production of the e-reader. The e-reader project that came out of the Theological Initiative Fund has helped a lot of pastors in Africa to do their ministry in the way they want to do it. If the General Conference can keep thinking about how to bring more of these projects, and the way that we can bring more of these projects is by allowing the \$10 million to go towards theological initiative in Africa, and that can help a lot of pastors in Africa, so I am standing in favor of this deletion. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you. That's a speech in favor. We've had two in favor and one against. Call on Scott Johnson, mic. 1, point of order inquiry.

SCOTT LAMONT JOHNSON (Upper New York): Thank you, Bishop. Scott Johnson, Upper New York, laity. I have a question for the subcommittee. So as I understand where we are, the subcommittee's logic is to take \$5 million plus the seven, what is over and above the \$750,000, to add to the fund. So, the question, my question is then, does the subcommittee have an estimate of how much money that might be?

PINSON: I do not, but I'm certain that GCFA has thought about this and can give us an exact estimate.

JOHNSON: Thank you.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP BICKERTON: Mic. 3, Robin Scott, point of order or inquiry.

ROBIN BRADLEY SCOTT (North Alabama): I just have a question for Mathew. We're confused. Would your amendment that you have offered give the Central Conference delegates more money?

PINSON: I'm conflicted somewhat, because we're debating a motion to substitute at this point. We're not really technically on the main

motion if I understand it correctly, so, I wouldn't want to start speaking to that question unless I was in order.

BISHOP BICKERTON: I think it's a fair question in order to clarify for the voting on the amendment. So I'd go right ahead.

PINSON: OK. Yes, yes, so to clarify what I expressed earlier, Report No. 1, GCFA Report No. 1, World Service, provides for \$5 million for the Central Conference Theological Education Fund. Our hope, through the work that came out of committee to this body, would be that we would add to that \$5 million the amount of money beyond what was needed in that \$750,000 as outlined in the amended petition. So, to answer your question, yes, the intent was to give more money to this fund and to do it with funds that were already provided in the budget in a creative way.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Was that helpful?

JOHNSON: Can I ask one more question?

BISHOP BICKERTON: Sure.

JOHNSON: So, did you take the \$5 million out and replace it with this formula?

PINSON: No. The \$5 million is provided for in Report No. 1, and this paragraph in the *Discipline* affirms the language of Report One in the *Discipline* itself and then adds to it additional funding from the source described.

JOHNSON: Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright, very good. Mic. 1, John Lomperis, point of order or inquiry.

JOHN SCOTT ANDERS LOMPERIS (Indiana): John Lomperis, Indiana Conference, lay. I'm sorry to do this, but I am hearing a whole bunch of confusion about what exactly we are voting on. It sounds like most people here are in favor of funding Central Conference Theological Education, but could you please read

out one more time what exactly we are voting on with this amendment.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Sure, absolutely. We are under an amendment that was made a few minutes ago. The amendment was to delete what you see printed under Calendar Item 423, the amendment from the committee. The motion is to delete that, and that's what we're talking about right now. That's the amendment before us is to delete what you see printed there.

LOMPERIS: So, if we vote yes, then the main motion will become the original petition—

BISHOP BICKERTON: That is correct.

LOMPERIS: As written on p. 703 of the *ADCA*?

BISHOP BICKERTON: That is absolutely right.

LOMPERIS: OK. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you very much. Alright, let me just test the body. You ready to vote on the amendment? Let's, let's vote on the amendment. The amendment is to delete what you see on Calendar Item 423 and go back to the original petition. If you would approve the amendment to delete, please press one (1); opposed, please press two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 359; No, 436]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have not approved the deletion.

BISHOP BICKERTON: We are back to Calendar Item 423, as printed, it's properly before you. We've had one speech, against; none for, for Calendar Item 423. Are you ready to vote? If you would support Calendar Item 423 as presented, would you press one (1); if you would not support it, please press two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 613; No, 186]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you've approved Calendar Item 423. Now let's clear the queue. And, Jessica.

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Well, the first two Calendar Items have gone so smoothly, let's see how this one goes.

(laughter)

BICKERTON: We're doing just fine.

VARGO: If you turn to *DCA*, p. 2105. Again, that's 2105. We're dealing with Calendar Item 113, entitled, Financial Support for Africa Universities. Again, we're looking at Calendar Item 113.

The Legislative Committee voted to refer this to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Motion to refer is properly before us on Calendar Item 113. Anyone wish to speak for or against the motion to refer? If you would refer this item, will you please press one (1); if not, please press two (2). Please, vote now.

[Yes, 719; Yes; No, 64]

And, you have referred. Thank you very much, Jessica. That one was easy.

JESSICA: Yes.

BICKERTON: Call on Bill Allen for a few petitions from Conferences. Morning, Bill.

WILLIAM ARTHUR ALLEN (Upper New York): Good morning, Bishop. Thanks for welcoming me to the hot-seat. (Laughs.)

BICKERTON: It's not so hot.

ALLEN: That was a joke.

(laughter)

BICKERTON: Yes.

ALLEN: Alright.

BICKERTON: Someone's laughing, Bill.

(Laughter)

Free Discipline in Quadrennium Third Year Referred

ALLEN: The first item before us is found on p. 2209 of the *DCA*,

listed as Calendar Item No. 399. That is also found on p. 450 of the *ADCA*, and is listed as Petition No. 60721.

The committee voted to recommend referral of this petition to the General Commission on Finance and Administration and The United Methodist Publishing House, 58 votes for; 12 votes against. Our rationale was this: allowing access to *The Book of Discipline* free of charge at the beginning of the third year of each quadrennium, is a generous attempt to facilitate the access of vital church information to all people; especially, as people all across the globe are more and more capable of accessing information electronically. However, the Conferences Committee felt it was wise to allow GCFA and The United Methodist Publishing House to comment on the real costs of this generous proposal before General Conference voted whether or not to adopt this action. The committee recommends referral of the petition.

BICKERTON: Calendar Item 399 is properly before you. The motion, the recommendation from the committee is for referral. I call on Tyler Amundson, mic. 3, speech against.

TYLER FLINT AMUNDSON (Yellowstone): Tyler Amundson, Yellowstone Annual Conference. My subcommittee was the committee that reviewed this petition originally and we did work to look at referral, but after learning from others that I've worked with, this has been a delay tactic in our ability to get this available for our international delegates; and so, I would move that you not support this referral.

BICKERTON: That's a speech against. Is there a speech for? It appears you are ready then to vote. There is no speeches for. This is a motion to refer. Calendar Item 399 is properly before you. If you would refer this matter would you please

press one (1); if not, please press two (2). Please, vote now.
[Yes, 505; No, 283]

BICKERTON: And, you have referred this matter. Bill?

ALLEN: Thank you, Bishop. Our next Item is found on p. 2208 of the *DCA*. It's listed as Calendar Item No. 398, and that is also found on p. 451 of the *ADCA*, Petition No. 60722.

The committee voted to recommend referral of this petition to the General Commission on Finance and Administration and The United Methodist Publishing House, 57 votes for, 12 votes against.

Our rationale: allowing access to the *Book of Resolutions* free of charge is a generous attempt to facilitate the access of vital church information to all people, especially, as people all across the globe are more and more capable of accessing information electronically. However, the Conferences Committee felt it was wise to allow GCFA and the UM Publishing House to comment on the real costs of this generous proposal before General Conference voted whether or not to adopt this action. The committee recommends referral of the petition.

BICKERTON: Calendar Item 398 is properly before you for referral. Mic. 1, Janice Nelson, speech against.

JANICE E. NELSON (Oregon-Idaho): Jan Nelson, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. I speak against this. For one thing, to agree with my brother from Yellowstone Conference on what he said about the previous referral. It's just a way to delay it again. And, we've been talking about this every time we meet. The other thing I would like to point out is one of the translators in our committee brought up the point that all of the resolutions are already translated for the *ADCA*

when they're voted on. So, any resolution that has been voted on in the last eight years that's in the *Book of Resolutions*, somewhere that translation already exists. It doesn't seem to me it would be unreasonable, too unreasonable an expense, to gather those, edit them, and publish them. I speak against referring.

BICKERTON: Alright, that's a speech against. Is there a speech for? I don't see any. I think we are ready to vote. Calendar Item 398, there is a move to amend. Mic. 6, Samuel Powers.

SAMUEL TYLER POWERS (Oklahoma): Sam— (taps mic.)

BISHOP BICKERTON: You're good, Sam.

POWERS: Sam Powers, Oklahoma. It seems like we go through this every four years and we never hear anything back. So, when we refer it, we never do hear any report.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Let's hear your motion.

POWERS: I'd like to amend that we hear a report back in 2020.

BISHOP BICKERTON: You'd like to amend the report for referral . . .

POWERS: to state that . . .

BISHOP BICKERTON: The motion to refer. That there...to amend the motion to refer that the report be brought back to the 2020 General Conference.

POWERS: Yes, Bishop.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright, is there a second? Like to speak to it?

POWERS: Yes, I think we've heard this plenty of times. It is something we need to do. It seems as if the Publishing House is the tail wagging the dog a lot of the time, and this information needs to be out free of charge in the 21st century. Thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Motion to amend is before us. Mic. 3, a point of order or inquiry, Charlie Parker.

(pause)

CHARLES ARTHUR PARKER (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, Charlie Parker, Baltimore-Washington Conference, clergy. One of my delegate colleagues was just talking about the costs of translation. If I'm not mistaken this motion isn't about translation at all. It's simply about making the *Book of Resolutions* available free electronically. Is that not correct?

BISHOP BICKERTON: Yep. Yeah.

PARKER: So basically, the costs that we are talking about are what costs the publishing house might lose from sales of the *Book of Resolutions* in English after the third year. Is that correct?

ALLEN: That is my understanding.

PARKER: OK, thank you.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you. We a motion to amend before us. There is a speech against, mic. 4, Brian Milford.

BRIAN KENT MILFORD (Iowa): Brian Milford, Iowa Conference. Bishop, I rise to speak against. I'm not sure that I indicated properly on the queue.

BISHOP BICKERTON: You did.

MILFORD: This—I am rising to speak against the motion to refer. *The Book of Discipline* is already available—

BISHOP BICKERTON: Brian, hold on just a sec.

MILFORD: Yes.

BISHOP BICKERTON: We are on an amendment to that. I'll call on you

MILFORD: OK.

BISHOP BICKERTON: just as soon as we do the amendment. So, you just stay there and I'll catch you.

MILFORD: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP BICKERTON: OK. We have a motion to amend that a full report would come back to the

2020 General Conference. That's what's before us. If you would support that amendment, would you please vote one (1). If you would not support it, please vote two (2).
[Yes, 485; No, 298]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have supported that. Now we are back to the main motion. Brian, mic. 4.

MILFORD: Thank you, Bishop. Brian Milford, Iowa Annual Conference. *The Book of Discipline* already exists online in the first year, and the *Book of Resolutions* will be available online when published in 2017. I rise to speak against this motion.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Alright, that's a speech against. Is there a speech for? Alright. It appears that you are ready to vote. Calendar Item 398 is properly before you as amended. If you would support Calendar Item No. 398, please press one (1). If not, please press two (2). Please vote now.
[Yes, 453; No, 322]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And, you have approved that for referral. Bill?

Amendment to Translate Only Vital Daily Information in DCA

ALLEN: Our final item today is found on p. 2207 of the *DCA*, listed as Calendar Item No. 393. That is on p. 453 of the *ADCA*, and it's Petition No. 60723. The committee voted to recommend adoption of this petition as amended, 45 votes for, 25 votes against. Our rationale was the specific wording of the amendment is found on p. 2207 of the *DCA*. It clarifies that in the KiSwahili translation, standard KiSwahili will be used. It also strikes a compromise, in which all vital daily information—for example, schedules, petition lists, nomination lists, etcetera—is provided in the languages listed. While at the same time, the entire *DCA* is not re-

quired to be translated. The committee felt this compromise was in the best interest of the balance between financial and personal costs, versus accessibility to vital information in multiple languages. The committee recommends adoption of the petition as amended.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar Item 393 is properly before you as amended. Are you ready to vote? If you would support Calendar Item 393 as amended, please press one (1). If not, please press two (2). Please vote now.
[Yes, 727; No, 53]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved that as amended. Thank you very much. We call on Robin Wilson from Discipleship to bring a petition to us.

Use of Disciple in the Baptismal Covenant

ROBIN CREWS WILSON (Alabama-West Florida): Thank you, Bishop. Thank you, delegates to General Conference, and brothers and sisters in Christ. I'm Robin Wilson. I was the chair of the Discipleship Legislative Committee, and I wanted to offer a word of thanks for the opportunity to serve with such wonderful people to further the cause of Christ for the world. I wanted to give a special thank you to Laishi Bwalya, who served as the vice-chair, and Shayla Jordan who served as the secretary, as well as, to all the sub-committee officers who did such diligent work. Our only piece of legislation before you today is found in the *DCA* on p. 2209. It is Calendar Item No. 406, Petition No. 60939. You can also find it in your *ADCA* on p. 582. The title of this petition is, "Use of Disciple in the Baptismal Covenant," and this petition proposed a change to the Baptismal Liturgy of Baptismal Covenants I, II, and III, to

add questions to be answered in the Baptismal Liturgies about the call and practice of discipleship. While the committee agrees with the intent of the petition—to affirm the call upon each person to understand the Christian call to discipleship—we wish for significant language for change to the Baptismal Liturgies to receive more careful consideration. Therefore, the recommendation of the committee is to refer this petition to the General Board of Discipleship.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar Item 406 is properly before you with a motion to refer. If you would support that, will you please press one (1). If not, please press two (2). Please vote now.
[Yes, 722; No, 60]

(pause)

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: And you have referred it. Thank you very much. Thank you, Robin. Call on Emma Cantor, mic. 3.

(pause)

EMMA CANTOR (North Central Philippines Annual Conference): Bishop, I would like to, please, Petition 60245, which is on p. 2205.

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: What is it that you would like to do?

EMMA CANTOR: This is the petition I would like to lift up on the table, Bishop, and I would like to speak when this is being seconded.

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: Which one, which one is it, please?

EMMA CANTOR: I'm sorry, Bishop, it's 60245, on p. 2205. On lay order.

BISHOP BICKERTON: That's not before us right now.

EMMA CANTOR: I'm sorry, Bishop.

BISHOP BICKERTON: That's OK. That's all right.

(pause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: Call on Charles Boayue. Bring us petitions from Global Ministries.

CHARLES BOAYUE (Detroit Annual Conference, Global Ministries): Bishop, the Global Ministries Committee is beginning a series of petitions before lunch. We have the chair of our subcommittee, Krystl Johnson, a first-time delegate to the General Conference, who chairs that committee, will present our first petition, introducing us to the ethnic plans.

(pause)

Holistic Strategy on Latin America and the Caribbean

KRYSTL JOHNSON (Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference): Hello, everyone. My name is Krystl Johnson, I'm from Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Riley and I will be bringing six of the general, I mean, the Global Ministries petitions before you. The first one will be regarding the holistic strategy on Latin America and the Caribbean. This item can be found on p. 2213 in the *DCA*. 2213 in the *DCA*, listed as Calendar Item no. 444. It can also be found on p. 857 of the *ADCA*. Petition no. 60874. The committee voted to adopt the petition with a total of fifty-three votes for, one vote against, and one abstaining member. We are in support of this petition because this plan will strengthen the relationship between the United Methodist Church and other churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes funding and training and travel to training gatherings. Since this is a request to continue the holistic strategy, we recommend the approval and the adoption of this petition.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Calendar item no. 444 is properly before you. Are you ready to vote? If you will support it, please press one (1); if not, please press two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 742; No, 40]

BISHOP BICKERTON: And you have approved it. Thank you very much. Friends, we are moving toward our lunch break. I'll turn to our secretary for announcements.

Offering for Pages and Marshalls

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): I would ask that you please note the announcement on p. 2278 of today's *DCA*. We need fifteen to twenty volunteers to help collect the offering for Pages and Marshalls. I would just point out to you that Pages and Marshalls are some of the volunteers who come at their own expense, stay at their own expense, and work for us to enable us to do this work. We take a voluntary offering for them to help defray the costs of their experience. Instructions for volunteering are in the announcements on p. 2278 of today's *DCA*. Request for Diane Wilkinson to go to the Cokesbury Courtesy Desk. Request for Diane Wilkinson to go to the Cokesbury Courtesy Desk. I believe those are all of the announcements I have at this point.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Thank you, Gere. Well, I just need to say, my goodness what a pleasure it was to serve with you today. You were helpful and cooperative, and I am very, very grateful to you. Thank you so very much.

(applause)

BISHOP BICKERTON: Now as we close today, you know, I feel like I've been here for about a month. And when you're away from

home for so long you just kinda lose perspective, and maybe you are starting to lose a little perspective. I'm thinking right now of a couple people who would like to be here with us, who aren't. And I'm thinking of a group of people—and it's a much larger group of people—who are back in the place that I call home, doing transformative ministry while we are here. There are hungry that are being fed. There are churches that are having Bible studies and faith development classes. There are lives that are being changed in and through the United Methodist Church all over the world while we're sitting here in Portland. Lest we forget, the work of the church goes on even as the work of the General Conference goes on. And so as we close our time together today, we started with prayer, I invite you to bow your heads and join with me as we end in prayer. We're gonna transform our prayers from ourselves to those beyond us. Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you that through the church and through your great grace and love, we are able to accomplish exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ever dream of or imagine. Sometimes, God, we give ourselves too much credit. It's you; it's you, that's enabling this church to change lives. Today as we break for lunch, we put into our minds people that are doing the work of the church on our behalf all over the world. We think about people who'd like to be here, but who can't. We name them by name. And we recall in our minds, God, the name of a church, a pastor, a layperson, a servant of yours, who right now is in ministry, visiting the sick, caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, sharing a word of hope to someone who is discouraged. Bless them today. O God, make us so aware of the world around us that we begin to transfer our prayers from this place and our self-centered concerns to

the broader concerns of your world, and to the people who are working on your behalf. We pray once again for Bishop Wilke. We pray that you might attend to his needs. We've heard during this session, just a few moments ago, that Bishop Dick Wilke has fractured his shoulder. Pray for Dick. Pray for Bishop Yemba. Pray for Ken Carter. Pray for a whole host of others who desperately need our prayers. Thank you, God, for giving us the privilege of serving you. Thank you for the opportunity to do that in these last few hours. Bless this General Conference with grace. Bless each of these delegates with peace. And guide us for work that we might accomplish your will in all things. And for that we'll give you thanks and praise in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. And all God's people said—

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP BICKERTON: Amen. God bless you all. Have a blessed day.

Tuesday Afternoon, May 17, 2016

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE

HUIE: Good afternoon. It's 2:00, actually a couple of minutes after, so if everyone will come on in and be seated, we'll be starting here in about ninety seconds. So, please come on in. Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, if you'll come on in and be seated. I think we'll be blessed by singing for some time, so please come on in and be seated. We're going to begin the session. We're at about thirty seconds now. Please find your place.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, we're going to begin here. I don't have the wonderful singing voice that

some of our colleagues do who are outside the door, but their singing did remind me of one of my favorite hymns, which I share with you, and then we'll invite you in. It's actually was the processional hymn at our wedding, when Bob and I married. I won't even tell you how many years ago, but it's practically 50. So, 46 years ago. "Now thank we all our God with heart and hand and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mother's arms has led us on our way, with countless gifts of love that still is ours this very day." Would you turn to one another, just quickly, somebody sitting next to you at the table, and say one thing that you are grateful to God for that's happened in the last two hours. One thing you are grateful to God for that's happened to you in the last two hours. Ready, set, go.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. Thank you. Let us pray. Dear friends, our hearts, our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving to God for so many gifts: the gifts of people sitting around the table, some of whom once were strangers but now are friends. We give thanks for the gifts of those singing, singing a witness, singing songs of faith, singing of God's love to us. We give thanks for ministry that we are called to do in this hour, this time and this place, a ministry which is in the form of ministering to the church so that the church can lead the world. And now we ask you, gracious God, that you would be with us in this next time together, that the work that we do, the thoughts that we have, the songs we sing, and the conversation that we hold together might be for your glory and on behalf of your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Alright, friends, if you'll notice on your DCA, there is an order of

the day. We're going to postpone that and move directly to calendar items. By my count, we have twenty-eight calendar items that are ready to go that we can do this afternoon, the Lord willing, and we just kind of move on through the agenda that is in front of us. I do think, if the singing and the music, which is such joy, if you're having difficulty with that and keeping up, let me just invite you to put your headphones on and what you will hear on in your headphones will be only that which is coming through the voice of the translator or the speaker, depending on what language that you are in. So, I don't, I think we can continue with the work of the conference and, in doing that, if you will join me we're gonna, I, let me call on Charles Boayue. We're going to move quickly here. There are a number of calendar items coming from Global Ministries, and I'd like to call on him, Charles Boayue, if he'll come forward and lead us in these items with Global Ministry.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Oh, they're ready. Here they are. What about, David Wilson, could you also come up here as well? Thank you.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, we're going to move forward right now. Riley, if you'll introduce yourself and tell us which calendar items and here comes our whole team, so thank you all.

Korean Ministry Plan

RILEY REBA O'FLYNN (Upper New York): Hi, my name is Riley O'Flynn. I'm from the Upper New York Annual Conference, and I was the subcommittee secretary of the Global Ministries Committee. So, our first item before us is found

on p. 2213 of the *DCA*, listed as Calendar Item No. 443. It can also be found on p. 856 of the *ADCA*. Petition No. 60331. The committee voted to approve and adopt this petition, with twenty-nine votes in favor and zero votes against. Our rationale for this petition is that it asks for approval and re-adoption of the Korean Ministry Plan. This plan has been an integral part of the revitalization efforts of the United States part—of the U.S. part—of United Methodism. It upholds a disproportional active segment of the church's membership with unique needs in reaching out to immigrant and subsequent generations. The committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. So, Calendar Item No. 443 is before you. Are there people who wish to speak for or against the calendar, the motion? Are you ready to vote? If you would approve Calendar Item 443, would you please vote "yes" for approving, "no" if you do not approve. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, we've got a parliamentary question. We having a challenge here? Hang on just a moment here with the voting. Mic 2.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Bishop. It's about the device.

BISHOP HUIE: OK.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's still showing yes, and yet, I have not voted.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, we need to clear the voting devices. Let's, so, if everybody'll stay with me here, we're, let's clear the devices. Somebody back here. Are we good? Alright, so now we're gonna start over again on Calendar Item 443. We'll be voting. No? Alright, hold with me. OK, we're clearing everything. Alright, apparently those

devices out there are not clearing. Let me ask a page to come and help. OK, I'm being told that you can turn your voting devices off, count to three, and then turn them back on and that should clear.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you for your patience. You're doing great. I'm waiting for a signal up here. So, thank you for your patience. I think we're getting this handled. Hold steady, thank you. As soon as I get a signal, I'll let you know. And I do see that we've got a couple of things on the screen, but I'm gonna try to finish this vote, and then, I will come to the queue. Alright, thank you for your patience.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you again for your patience.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, we're having some technical difficulties, but they're working on it. That's, alright, here we go. Alright, thank you. Alright, so if you are voting, would vote in favor to approve Calendar Item 443, please press one (1). If you oppose it, press two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

[Yes, 669; No, 12]

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE HUIE: Alright. Calendar Item 443 is approved. Now, I've got Christopher Ritter who has, is asking to speak. I'm gonna call on him. Then, I'll go to Oliver Green. So, Christopher Ritter at mic. 2. Mr. Green at mic. 2 as well. Thank you.

CHRISTOPHER M. RITTER (Illinois Great Rivers): Thank you, Bishop. Christopher Ritter, Illinois Great Rivers Conference. I have a piece of legislation that I'd like to

offer as a substitute at some point in the conference, and I'd like to request that the body ask this be printed in the *DCA* tomorrow so they can consider it.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. So, this is asking for printing. This is, motion is in order. Is there a second? Alright, thank you. This is simply to print in the *DCA* for tomorrow for discussion. I'm gonna do this, if you will, with placards. If you would approve this motion to print this matter, will you lift your green placard? Thank you very much. If you are opposed, will you lift your placard? The motion passes. Thank you. And, then, the next speaker in the queue was Oliver Green. So, mic. 2. Yes, sir.

[vote taken with placards]

OLIVER D. GREEN (Great Plains): I think Riley, when she spoke, gave the subcommittee vote and not the full committee vote. I just wanted to correct that.

BISHOP HUIE: I'm sorry. I didn't catch everything you said.

GREEN: I believe when she gave her report, Riley did, the numbers she quoted were the numbers from our subcommittee and not from the full committee—

BISHOP HUIE: I've got it now—

GREEN: And I just wanted to get that corrected—

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you—

GREEN: That's all.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. We'll ask her to clarify. Thank you. And, I have one other person in the queue, Mark Holland, mic. 2. And, then, we'll clear the queue, and we'll go directly to the next calendar item.

Resolution for Bishops to Lead with Plan to Resolve Issues of Human Sexuality

MARK R. HOLLAND (Great Plains): Bishop, I would like to offer

a nonbinding resolution for the 2016 General Conference to respectfully ask the bishops of our church to convene today in order to offer a nonbinding recommendation back to this body tomorrow morning as to how the church might move forward around the issue of human sexuality, and, if I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, there's a second. I hear a second. I think it's in order. You're welcome to speak to it.

HOLLAND: Bishop, I appreciated the heart that Bishop Ough shared with us today and the dilemma that the bishops face of being divided around these issues. I think now, more than ever, we need the leadership of our temporal and spiritual leaders to move into Holy Conferencing and model for this body how a divided body moves forward for the good. There's a lot of talk about church splitting. There's a lot of talk about what that's gonna look like. There's a lot of energy around petitions that are coming in the next few days that could be potentially explosive, and I think if we would offer our invitation to the bishops—they are not bound by us, the bishops could say no, and we are not bound by the work of the bishops, we could ignore what they say—but it would be beneficial, I believe, if we could hear from those who have been consecrated for leadership in our church about what a way forward might look like and empower their leadership to come back in the morning. I would suggest they could convene today. Except for the presiding officers, the bishops do not have a role in the legislative process and could use this good time to prayerfully and thoughtfully model Holy Conferencing for the rest of us. I think it's time to do something new that's gonna allow us to move forward hopefully and respectfully

with one another. I hear their call for unity, and a call for unity without a path towards unity is not gonna get us there. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you very much. That's a speech for. Is there anyone who wishes to speak against? There's, there's then, I will call on Tom Berlin. This is a speech for. Is that correct? That's mic. 6, and then, I'm gonna ask if there's a speech against. No.

THOMAS MARTIN BERLIN (Virginia): Tom Berlin, I'm a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop, this morning Bishop Ough said that at General Conference, the role of the bishop was to preside. Quite frankly, Bishop, we think it's your role to lead. We would like—

(applause)

BERLIN: The council to lead. We have—

BISHOP HUIE: Please hold your applause.

BERLIN: A very difficult, we have a very difficult and painful situation, and in various ways many people are experiencing great pain around, especially, the issues of human sexuality. We would like you all to lead us, which is why you've been elected. We are asking for your leadership, and if you could bring us some concrete proposal, which might include a called General Conference, which is within your authority, I think it would be a blessing to the body and to the church. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you, now I've heard two speeches for. I have not heard any against. I don't see anyone on my, in the queue who wishes to speak against this. Well, now, we just did. Alright, so would Sergey Kim, mic. 2, please come forwards. This is to be a speech against the motion to refer. The nonbinding motion to refer to the Council of Bishops. Yes, sir.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): *(simultaneous translation)*: I am Sergey Kim. I am from Central Russia. I want to ask, before the vote, everybody to think about the responsibility that everyone carries. I vote for we do our work following the rules. I hear that we want to make some changes, but all of these changes that we, that are not thoughtful. They could cause some consequences. So, before we do anything, make any decisions, I think we need to weight all the cons and pros.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. So, we have had, that's a speech against the motion to refer. We've had two for and one against. So, I will take one more against. There are several people in the queue, so I'm going to Jerry Kulah. That's the name I saw come up next in the queue. So, he's, that would be mic. 6.

JERRY PAYE-MANFLOE KULAH (Liberia): Thank you, Bishop. I think we have rules that are governing our gathering here, and, so, I would like for us to follow the rules and not compromise the integrity of our General Conference. So, I vote against.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. We've had two speeches for, two speeches—

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP HUIE: Yeah, two speeches for, two speeches against. There are people in the queue. Are you ready to vote or do we, I'll go to the ones in the queue. Adam Hamilton, mic. 4. Mic. 2, sorry.

Request for Special Called General Conference

ADAM JOSEPH HAMILTON (Great Plains): Thank you, Bishop. We are in a stuck place at this General Conference. We, in theory, could find ourselves leaving on

Friday, still stuck and wounded. You are our leaders. You are our spiritual leaders. I concur with Mark Holland, with Tom Berlin. We need you. It would be so helpful for us for you to come together prayerfully to consider what might be a way for us to move forward as a church, and, again, that's nonbinding. You are making recommendations as our spiritual leaders across the world to help us in moving forward as a denomination, and I concur with Tom's suggestion that could include, you have the right to call, a special General Conference to focus on this particular issue of how do we find, how do we reorder our lives so that we have a chance to move forward, whatever that looks like. We need you. We need your help. We need you to spend time contemplating this, praying about this as I know you already have, and then coming back to us with a suggestion for how we move forward so we don't leave Friday, like we did four years ago, having accomplished very little and finding ourselves still stuck as a denomination. I'm pleading with you. Please help us.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE HUIE: Speech in favor. Please hold you applause. Alright. Now we can have one more against. Mr. Richard Hoffman, mic. 6, and then we'll move to the vote. Richard Hoffman, mic. 6.

RICHARD CHRISTIAN HOFFMAN (Western Pennsylvania): Dr. Rich Hoffman, Western PA Annual Conference, Lay Delegate. I respectfully and simply ask you to vote "No" to this proposal. We stand at a crossroads as a church; and at this point, we need to call the question. Vote "No."

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. So, we're ready to call the question; we're really ready to vote. You've had three speeches for, three speeches against, so we're going to move to the vote. This is a vote to refer to the Council of Bishops; that's the motion, is to refer. Would you take out your voting devices? If you would approve the motion to refer to the Council of Bishops, please vote "Yes." If you would not refer, please vote "No." Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

Alright, you have moved. You have approved the motion. Thank you.
[Yes, 428; No, 364]

Now we are going to clear the queue, please. We're going to clear the queue, and we are going to go back now to the Calendar Items coming from Global Ministries. If you'll give us the Calendar Items.

Asian American Language Ministry Program

KRYSTL DAWN JOHNSON: The next item before you is the Asian American Language Ministry plan. This can be found on p. 2213 of the *DCA*, 2213 of the *DCA*, listed as a Calendar Item 439. It also can be found on p. 856, of the *ADCA*. Petition No. 60330.

The committee voted to adopt this petition with a total of fifty-one votes in favor and no votes against. We had one abstaining member. We are in support because this petition outlines important outreach initiatives for a fast-growing segment of our U.S. population. We recommend adoption of this petition.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Calendar Item 439 is in front of you. Is there any discussion? Would you take out your voting devices? Think you're ready to vote. If you would approve Calendar Item 439,

please vote now: one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Thank you. You've approved Calendar Item 439.
[Yes, 709; No, 34]

BISHOP HUIE: Let's move to the next Calendar Item, please—440, Calendar Item 440.

Funding for Deaf Ministry

RILEY REBA O'FLYNN (Upper New York): The next item before us is found on p. 2213 of the *DCA*, listed as Calendar Item no. 440. It can be found on p. 856 of the *ADCA*. Petition No. 60329. The committee voted to approve and adopt this petition unanimously with fifty votes in favor and zero votes against. Our rationale is because The United Methodist Church is devoted to continue to provide funding, resources, and prayers to help churches connect with those who are deaf and those who are hard of hearing. The committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. Calendar Item 440 is in front of you. Is there any discussion? Are you ready to vote? If you would approve Calendar Item 440, please vote now. One (1) for yes. Two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

We should have a vote.

(Pause)

Alright, I think we're having technical difficulties again, yes? We're going to use the placards. If you . . . let's go to Calendar—we're still on Calendar Item 440. If you would approve Calendar Item 440, would you raise your green placard, please? Thank you. If you're opposed, would you raise your placard? Thank you. It is approved.
[Vote by placard]

(to be continued in next issue)

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