

May 20 Wrap-up: Budget Passes, With Increase

By Joey Butler

May 20, 2016 | PORTLAND, Ore. (UMNS)

Budget Passes With Slight Increase

General Conference delegates on May 20 approved a general church budget of \$604 million for 2017–2020, a slight increase over the \$603.1 million approved at the 2012 General Conference. It is also an increase over the \$599 million budget proposed to the 2016 General Conference delegates, which would have been The United Methodist Church's lowest in sixteen years.

Opening Worship

“We will not leave divided because God is not finished with us yet!” Mountain Sky Area Bishop Elaine Stanovsky reminded those attending the last day of the 2016 General Conference.

She concluded that the real work happens once the ten-day event has finished and gave the delegates an assignment to “choose life” as they talk about what has happened here in Portland.

(Continued on page 2724)



The Rev. L. Fitzgerald Reist II (center) is honored for his years of service as secretary of the United Methodist General Conference during the denominational meeting May 20 in Portland, Ore. Presenting him with a blanket are Cynthia Kent (left) and Raggatha Calentine.

Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.



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Worship Leaders May 20 Evening Worship

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& Music Director, 2016 General Conference**

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Debra Tyree (Spanish), Worship & Music Team

**Michael Rafferty (Creole), Worship
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Missy Wise (French), Worship & Music Team

Divisions Hinder Spiritual Freedom

The strength of many people is spent on arguments.
They have no command over anything else.

From *The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions*,
compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792.
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LGBTQ People Gather for Final Demonstration

A large group of LGBTQ people circled the floor of the 2016 General Conference on May 20, singing, “I am not forgotten, you are not forgotten; God knows your name.”

Participants said the respectful demonstration was the final chance for LGBTQ people to surround and support each other before everyone leaves General Conference and returns to their local churches.

“Queer people got no justice from this General Conference. ... This was an attempt to let them know we are still here,” said Jayson Dobney, an advocate for LGBTQ people in The United Methodist Church.

Votes of Note

After prolonged, impassioned debate, delegates chose not to add a fossil fuels investment screen for the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The question came down to divestment vs. engagement as the better way to use church investments in influencing energy companies to address climate change. Ultimately, delegates voted 630-101 against amending church law to call for screening out investments in fossil fuels companies.

An amendment offered during debate on socially responsible investing that sought to divest from illegal settlements on occupied lands failed 559-167. Earlier in the General Conference, the Financial Administration Legislative Committee failed to support any petition calling for divestment from companies doing business in Israel. Delegates also adopted an amended petition on behalf of a Palestinian village, Wadi Foquin, where United Methodists support an Advance project and community development site. The petition calls on General Conference to send letters to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other State Department officials, U.S. President Barack Obama, the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem and the Israeli Civil Authority to express “our concerns over the confiscation of land and destruction of life in the village.”

Delegates approved requiring that bishops in the central conferences who have reached mandatory retirement age must step down three months after General Conference. The change is effective immediately. Before, central conference bishops had up to a year following General Conference to retire.

By a vote of 509-242, delegates just exceeded the two-thirds threshold needed to support amending the

article on “Inclusiveness in the Church in the denomination’s constitution. The amendment adds “gender” and “age” to the list of qualities that will not be discriminated against in the life, worship, and governance of the church. The amendment is structured to preserve United Methodist groups based on gender or age, such as church youth groups. Now, the constitutional amendment heads to annual conferences, where it needs two-thirds of the total vote of members to be ratified.

A petition calling for a mandatory vote on all proposed legislation sent to the next General Conference was approved by a vote of 406 to 361. All petitions submitted to General Conference “shall receive the vote of a legislative committee” and all petitions approved by legislative committees “shall receive a vote by the plenary session at that year’s General Conference.” Considering how many petitions weren’t voted on before this General Conference ended, one wonders if GC2020 will need to last a month.

In Other News

General Conference 2016 said a fond farewell to outgoing General Conference secretary the Rev. Fitzgerald “Gere” Reist II, who has served in that position since his election in 2004. Incoming secretary the Rev. Gary Graves joked that he did not think he could do justice to the tradition of festive shirts Reist has been known to wear on the dais.

If you’re keeping score at home, the last piece of legislation voted on by General Conference 2016 was the passage of a resolution to update and combine several existing resolutions in the section “Caring for Creation: A Call to Stewardship and Justice” from the *Book of Resolutions*.

Butler is a multimedia editor/producer for United Methodist Communications. Contact him at newsdesk@umcom.org or 615-742-5470.

Divisions Grieve God’s Spirit

Divisions are sinful because they grieve the Holy Spirit. “Don’t make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy” (Ephesians 4:30).

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 Passes \$604 Million General Church Budget

By Heather Hahn

PORTLAND, Ore. (UMNS) Goodbye, historically low budget. Hello, slight increase.

General Conference delegates on May 20 approved a general church budget of \$604 million for 2017–2020.

That represents a slight increase over the \$603.1 million approved at the 2012 General Conference.

It's also an increase over the \$599 million budget proposed to the 2016 General Conference delegates, which would have been The United Methodist Church's lowest in sixteen years and meant the lowest apportionments to conferences in just as long.

That budget proposal came from the board of the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table, which coordinates the denomination's agencies.

Delegates voted to add \$5 million to double the denomination's financial backing of the Central Conference Theological Education Fund, which supports United Methodist schools, pastors, and pastors-in-training in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The Rev. Bill Arnold, a delegate from the Kentucky Conference, made the motion to increase that theological education fund to \$10 million.

"We're woefully underfunding theological education for the very part of the church that is growing," he said.

Earlier in the week, a number of African delegates argued for the increase when the budget came up. Among them was the Rev. Jerry Kulah, dean of the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia. Delegates voted for the increase 406 to 379.

"This \$10 million is going to help the more than 26 theological institutions across the central conferences to train more pastors, improve the facilities we have and help the teaching environment," Kulah told United Methodist News Service.

In addition, delegates, for the first time in history, also established a set formula for central conferences (church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe) to support the denomination's global ministries.

General Conference—the denomination's top policymaking body—establishes the total amount of money needed to support churchwide ministries. That amount is then apportioned mainly to U.S. conferences, which in turn ask for apportionments from local churches.

Getting to a Budget

Getting to the budget took some time despite a number of efforts to move the discussion along, including shortening the voting time to ten seconds.

After approving a number of budget reports from the General Council on Finance and Administration, delegates voted to consider the remainder in one bundle.

Nevertheless, delegates then proceeded to debate a motion to remove \$5 million from the General Administration Fund budget to cover the \$5 million they added to the theological education fund. General Administration supports General Conference among administrative entities of the church.

Delegates next debated a motion to refer the whole budget back to the Connectional Table and General Council on Finance and Administration board to come up with a way to get the budget back to \$599 million while keeping the additional \$5 million for theological educations.

Delegates ultimately voted both motions down. Still, that did not stop multiple points of order and parliamentary inquiries from delegates.

At one point after multiple points on parliamentary procedures, including a delegate calling for an end of debate, Chicago Area Bishop Sally Dyck—the presiding officer for the morning session—suggested a "hot tip" to move things along.

"You don't go to the mike," she said to laughter.

Altogether, General Conference delegates spent about two hours deliberating budget proposals. Put another way, at a meeting estimated to cost \$1,388.89 per minute, the money discussion cost \$166,666.

As lunchtime rapidly approached, Dyck chose to throw caution to the wind and call for a vote on the budget package.

"I'm not looking at this thing," she said, pointing to the electronic queue where the bishops see the names of delegates wanting to speak. "You can accost me at lunch."

The final budget won approval by a vote of 751 to 33.

Breaking Down the Budget

So what did delegates actually approve? The proposed budget allocates the following:

- \$310.7 million for the World Service Fund that supports most of the denomination's 13 general

agencies (including United Methodist Communications, which encompasses United Methodist News Service)

- \$104.9 million for the Ministerial Education Fund that supports United Methodist seminaries and provides financial aid for United Methodist seminary students
- \$92 million for the Episcopal Fund, which supports active bishops, their support staff, retired bishops, surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops
- \$41.9 million for the Black College Fund that supports eleven United Methodist-related historically black colleges and universities
- \$36.9 million for the General Administration Fund, which supports General Conference, Judicial Council, the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, and the General Council on Finance and Administration
- Nearly \$9.4 million for Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe
- \$8.2 million for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, which supports the church's ecumenical work
- Funds help with such denomination-wide endeavors as planting new churches, providing resources for evangelism, supporting theological education, advocating for church social teachings, engaging in international development, and cultivating new mission fields.

New Source of Giving

The delegates also approved a new source of giving: apportionments from United Methodists in central conferences.

United Methodists in central conferences have long financially supported the work of bishops. In the past

four years, central conferences have given \$3.8 million to the Episcopal Fund, Kumar told reporters earlier this General Conference.

Under the formula, the requested giving would go up to \$5.1 million and support both bishops and the General Administration Fund (which supports General Conference, the Judicial Council and the finance agency).

The formula actually asks European United Methodists to give less than they currently contribute. However, some European church leaders plan to continue voluntarily to give \$2.9 million.

Impact on Local Church Offering

U.S. United Methodists will still bear the lion's share of general church expenses.

The finance agency requests apportionments from each U.S. conference based on a formula that includes its local church expenditures, local church costs, the economic strength of the conference, and a base percentage approved by General Conference.

Even with the slight budget increase, U.S. local churches are unlikely to feel the effect.

U.S. churches, on average, retain slightly more than 85 cents of every dollar they collect in their offering plates.

Most of the giving outside the local church goes to support jurisdiction, area, annual conference, district and direct-billed pension and health benefits.

The percentage of local church expenditures given to the general church has gone down from about 2.27 percent in 2002 to 2.14 percent in 2014. In other words, about 2 cents of every dollar in the offering plate goes toward the general church budget.

Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

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.

Twenty-nine New Missionaries Commissioned at General Conference

By Elliott Wright

May 19, 2016 | PORTLAND, Ore. (UMNS)

“We commission you to take the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world.” Twenty-nine times the ancient phrase was intoned as The United Methodist Church sent new missionaries from eleven countries to serve in sixteen lands.

The liturgy of commissioning, both solemn and joyful at the Oregon Convention Center, was believed to be the first as part of a United Methodist General Conference, the church’s policy-making assembly that meets every four years.

The new missionaries will serve as church developers, chaplains, teachers, health practitioners or administrators, agricultural specialists and youth workers. Six of the twenty-nine will work in the health field. Four will engage in ministries with migrants.

Twenty-five are “global missionaries;” four are Church and Community Worker missionaries who will work in economically marginalized urban and rural

communities in the United States. They serve through the denomination’s United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, which currently has some 350 missionaries in sixty countries, and projects and partners in sixty more.

The act of commissioning, including the laying on of hands, was conducted by a trio of bishops who serve as officers of Global Ministries. They were Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of North Carolina, president of the agency; Bishop John Yambasu of Sierra Leone, vice president, and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of Wisconsin, president of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a unit of Global Ministries.

Going Beyond Walls

Yambasu preached during the service of commissioning. Reflecting the 2016 General Conference theme, “Therefore, Go ...” he urged United Methodists to “go out” beyond the walls of sanctuaries to serve the poor, the marginalized, and the neglected. “We have become too comfortable,” Yambasu said.



Newly commissioned missionaries pose on May 19 along with staff of the General Board of Global Ministries at the 2016 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Ore. Photo by Paul Jeffrey, UMNS.

As part of his sermon time, Yambasu arranged to show “Beyond Bethlehem,” a short documentary on the plight of 3.5 million Syrian refugees. He called attention to the six million children who die each year from preventable diseases. He also said:

“In Asia, thousands of migrants are enslaved, misused, and sexually abused each year in an effort to find a living and support their families back home.

“In Palestine, it is estimated that about 750,000 people have been forcefully uprooted from their ancestral homes since 1948, not counting the thousands who continue to be decimated by horrific Israeli weapons—bombs, missiles and shells that blow up men, women and children—with a quarter of the fatalities being children.”

Elizabeth and David McCormick from Louisiana will serve in Mozambique, two of the half-dozen new missionaries who will be working in health ministries. Both are assigned to the Chicunque Rural Hospital—Elizabeth as a pharmacist, and David as hospital administrator.

In a brief interview, David McCormick said his greatest expectation as a missionary is to “be a part of God’s mission and to build authentic relationships in grace, love, and peace.” The McCormicks have two small girls.

A. Broncano is going from the Philippines to work with young people in Southeast Asia. She is excited

“about sharing the lives of those with whom I will work in education and community development,” she said after being commissioned.

John Nday from the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of Congo is also going to Mozambique to the historic Cambine Mission, where he will work as agricultural coordinator. He looks forward to helping people increase food “production so they can take care of themselves.” Cambine has land used to grow food for a school and orphanage. Nday will also assist in the training of pastors for community outreach.

Missionaries for Global Mission

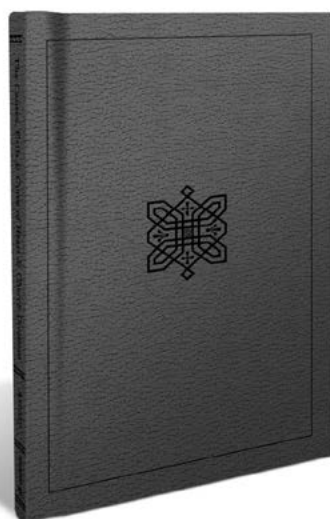
The service of commissioning emphasized the church’s global mission by readings of Scripture in French, English, Kiswahili, and Portuguese. Providing special music were the Cherokee Choir of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and the Choral Bethel dos Coqueiros of Bethel United Methodist Church in Luan-da, Angola.

Editor’s Note: A list of the Global Missionaries and Church and Community Worker Missionaries commissioned on May 19 is printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* Volume 4, Number 9, Thursday, May 19, pages 2493-2494.

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Church Ends Membership in Reproductive Health Coalition

By Kathy L. Gilbert (UMNS)

The 2016 General Conference voted May 19 to withdraw United Methodist membership from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC).

The United Methodist Church was a founding member of the organization in 1973. The United Methodist Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women are currently members.

The 2004, 2008, and 2012 General Conferences have debated staying in the organization, because some church members disagree with the coalition's position on abortion. The argument to stay is to have "a voice at the table."

RCRC is a coalition of national religious organizations. According to the coalition's website, "the views of each denomination or organization are their own and often vary."

The Rev. Beth Ann Cook, Indiana Conference, said, "the time has come to withdraw" because The United Methodist Church's positions on abortion differ from some of the policies of the coalition. She pointed to RCRC supporting gender-selection abortions and late-term abortions.

The Rev. Rebecca Girrell, New England Conference, said the coalition provides a religious voice on the issue of reproductive health care for all women. They provide training for churches to talk to people who may be considering an abortion or have had an abortion, she said.

"The United Methodist Church's position on abortion is carefully nuanced," she said. "RCRC does not speak for The United Methodist Church but we speak to it."

Women Were Dying

Susan Burton, executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, said some United Methodist pastors formed the coalition because women in their congregations were dying trying to give themselves abortions.

"We advocate for The United Methodist Church's position on abortion. This interfaith organization is richer from hearing our voice," Burton said.

But Iowa delegate Darcy Lynn Rubenking disagreed.

"Abortion is murder. I don't want the name of my church or finances associated with RCRC," Rubenking said.

Courtney Fowler, Great Plains, said she works in

maternal health care.

"As a woman of faith, it saddens me that some women die in childbirth because they do not have access to adequate health care," she said. "We cannot do this work alone. We need all the voices of faith to reduce abortions, not reduce women's access to reproductive health care."

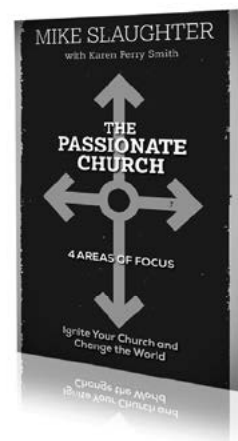
The issue of the church's membership in the coalition has been coming up for 12 years, said Katherine Rohrs, West Ohio. "We have been saying we need to be at the table because our voice matters, but nothing has changed."

Delegates voted in favor of withdrawing from the organization by a vote of 425–268. A second petition deleting language supporting RCRC from the Book of Resolutions also passed.

Gilbert is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

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20th Anniversary of the Order of Deacon

The year 2016 marks the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the deacon as a full-membership clergy order in The United Methodist Church. Deacons in attendance at General Conference are celebrating this anniversary here in Portland. The Oregon-Idaho Order of Deacons hosted a dinner for deacons attending General Conference on Tuesday, May 10th at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in Portland. The dinner was catered by The New City Kitchen, a nonprofit that helps formerly houseless people get job skills. It was sold-out, though many delegates and others were unable to attend due to the extended business of General Conference on its opening night.

In 1996, the General Conference established the deacon as an order of clergy in addition to elders. The ministry of the deacon has a rich history in the Christian church; we can see its roots already in the New Testament. Deacons in The United Methodist Church serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed. They equip and lead the laity in ministries of compassion, justice, and service in the world. Deacons lead the church in relating the gathered community to their ministries in the world, thus connecting the church's

worship with its service beyond the church. In these many ministries, in partnership with laypeople and elders, they nurture and lead Christian disciples to grow closer to God and to love their neighbors.

See how deacons are leading the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYxo-V6Lg4vI.



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY
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Errata in DCA

Page 2133: Right column, first paragraph, the word “Yuamkai” should be printed as “UMK.”

Page 1875: In the list of worship leaders, “Scripture Voice (Kiswahili)” should be identified as David Kabamba Masele, Southwest Katanga, not Angele Kabamba, North Katanga.

Page 2492: In the Commission on the General Conference list, the second South Central Jurisdiction member’s name is correctly spelled “Juliet Spencer.”

Page 2675: In the middle column, eleventh line from the bottom, replace the word “with” with “will.”

Page 2679: In the first column, twenty-second line from the top, replace the word “mine” with “mind.”

Page 2680: In the middle column, twenty-fifth line from the top, the correct spelling of the speaker’s first name is “Jacky.”

Page 2681: In the first column, fifth line from the bottom, replace the word “a” with “at.”

Page 2684: In the first column, twenty-seventh line from the top, replace the word “than” with “then.”

Page 2697: Delete the words from “BISHOP JOHN K. YAMBASU” at the bottom of the first column through “in Europe” at the top of the middle column.

*SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING***JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH****DECISION 1321**

**IN RE: Request from the General Conference for a
Review of Judicial Council Decisions 542 and 544, as
well as ¶¶ 16, 33, 304, and 2702**

Digest

Paragraphs 16 and 33 of the Constitution assign specific authority and responsibility to the General Conference and to the annual conferences in The United Methodist Church. They are not in conflict. Paragraphs 304 and 2702 are legitimate legislative enactments of the General Conference. Decisions 542 and 544 of the Judicial Council are not in conflict.

Statement of Facts

On May 17, 2016, the General Conference approved a motion to request that the Judicial Council resolve an apparent conflict between two Judicial Council Decisions and a perceived or possible conflict between certain provisions in the Constitution, which are linked to matters of church law that apply to clergy. The motion was as follows:

I move that this General Conference petitions the Judicial Council to resolve the apparent conflict between Judicial Council decision number 544 and Judicial Council decision number 542, as well as the conflict between paragraph 16 and paragraph 33 of our constitution [sic], as they relate to the practical legal application of paragraph 304 and paragraph 2702 of our Book of Discipline: specifically in reference to the separation of powers between General Conference and Annual Conferences regarding the setting of the minimum standards for ministry, and the voting on ordination and clergy character.

On May 18, the Judicial Council received the text of the motion, the statement by the delegate who made the motion, and four briefs. While not specifically designated as a request for a declaratory decision, the motion as approved is substantively such a request.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under ¶ 2610 of the 2012 *Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale

On numerous occasions, the Judicial Council has been asked to address perceived or potential conflicts involving provisions in the Constitution, perceived or potential discrepancies involving legislative enactments of the General Conference, and perceived or potential differences of interpretation expressed in Judicial Council decisions. In this case, the General Conference has identified constitutional, legislative, and judicial issues for consideration by the Judicial Council.

Such questions arise, at least in part, because of the connectional nature of United Methodism. Our system of government integrates an interconnected set of authorities that balance and constrain one another. There is neither a hierarchical authority in control of the entire system nor an individual authority that is independent of the system. No single entity has authority for all ecclesial matters. No single entity is isolated from the rest of the connection that balances its authority. *See* Decision 1312.

The constitutional aspects of the instant matter that is before the Judicial Council are perceived or potential conflicts within the Constitution regarding ordained ministry. According to ¶ 16, the General Conference has “full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional.” In a sub-provision (¶ 16.2), the Constitution gives to the General Conference “authority...[t]o define and fix the powers and duties” of ordained, licensed, and certified ministers. At the same time, in ¶ 33, the Annual Conference has “reserved to it the right to vote...on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy...”

The Judicial Council has addressed this concern in multiple decisions through the years. In Decision 7, the Judicial Council cited a “well established rule of constructing an instrument as a whole” and said that if constitutional provisions appear to demonstrate a difference “it must be held that two portions of the Constitution in question are not conflicting, but that each applies to separate and distinct matters.” Decision 7 states,

It is inconceivable that the General Conference should have full legislative powers so that it can enact uniform legislation for the whole Church, and that at the same time each Annual Conference could also have the right to enact diverse and conflicting regulations, on the same subject. The reservation of the right to the ministerial members of an Annual Conference to “vote on all matters relating to the character and Conference relations of its ministerial members,” is not a distinctively legislative function but is rather an administrative function. It can only

mean that the Annual Conference has the right as well as the duty to pass upon and determine the facts and apply the laws in all such cases in accordance with the uniform regulations and provisions which the General Conference may enact in reference to the same. In other words, the right reserved to the ministers of an Annual Conference to pass upon the character and Conference relations of its ministers does not mean that it has the legislative right to set up standards to measure the character and Conference relations of the Ministers except insofar as such standards do not contravene or are not covered by provisions enacted for the whole Church by the General Conference.

In Decision 536, the Judicial Council ruled

There is a fine and sometimes not readily discernible line between the full legislative power of the General Conference under Article 15 [now ¶ 16] of the Constitution over all matters distinctively connectional, and the authority of the Annual Conference under Article 37 [now ¶ 33] of the Constitution, as the basic body of the Church to which is reserved the right to vote on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its ministerial members, and on the ordination of ministers and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution. The requirements for admission into the ministry are a distinctively connectional matter over which the General Conference has authority to legislate, and the Annual Conference may not contravene such legislation.

Judicial Council Decision 823 quoted substantially from Decision 313 and Decision 318 to show consistent interpretation of the Constitution on this matter and to demonstrate relevant precedents:

In Judicial Council Decision 313 the council stated: The power to establish standards, conditions and qualifications for admission to the ministry is a matter of distinct connectional importance and is initially placed by the Constitution in the General Conference. This constitutional authority must be honored. An Annual Conference cannot establish requirements in conflict with the standards, conditions and qualifications established by the General Conference. In cases where the General Conference clearly states that standards, conditions and qualifications are minimal, the Annual Conference may under ¶ 31 [now ¶ 33] of the Constitution expand

these requirements but these requirements cannot conflict or eliminate the standards of the Discipline. Judicial Council Decision 318 stated that: An Annual Conference may not add to or subtract from the basic ministerial obligations established by act of the General Conference.

Decision 823 added

The authority of the Annual Conference, as the basic body of the Church, under Article 31 [now ¶ 33] of the Constitution, includes the right to vote on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its ministerial members, and on the ordination of ministers and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution. Clearly, however, in exercising its rights, an Annual Conference cannot take an action which negates General Conference legislation.

There have been arguments advanced that, because the annual conference alone has authority to vote “on all matters relating to the character and conferences relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy...” and because clergy membership is in an annual conference, the conference membership of clergy is thus not “distinctively connectional.” But that issue was addressed in Judicial Council Decision 544, which also cited multiple precedents.

The Constitution, Par. 15 [now ¶ 16], gives the General Conference the power to fix the basic requirements for ministry, while it becomes the responsibility of the Annual Conference, as set forth in Par. 36 [now ¶ 33], to measure, evaluate, and vote upon candidates, as regards the minimum standards enacted by the General Conference. Ordination in The United Methodist Church is not local, nor provincial, but worldwide. While each Annual Conference is a door through which one may enter the ministry of the entire church, the Annual Conference cannot reduce nor avoid stipulations established by the General Conference which must be met by the church’s ministry everywhere. An Annual Conference might set specific qualifications for its ministerial members, but does not have the authority to legislate in contradiction to a General Conference mandate or requirement. Judicial Council Decisions 313, 318, 325, and 513 speak to the authority of the General Conference, under Par. 15 [now ¶ 16] of the Constitution, to establish standards, conditions, and qualifications for admission to the ministry. In

Decision 536, we held that “An Annual Conference may not subtract from the disciplinary requirements for conference membership, but it may under certain circumstances adopt additional requirements not in conflict with disciplinary provisions or their spirit or intent.” This was again underscored in Decision 542 at the May 1984 General Conference. “Under Paragraph 37 [now ¶ 33] of the Constitution, however, it is the Annual Conference, as the basic body of the church, that decides whether those standards have been met.”

The same issue was also addressed in Judicial Council Decision 542, which again cited multiple precedents.

As we have said in Decisions 313, 318 and 513, the General Conference under Par. 15 [now ¶ 16] of the Constitution has the power to establish standards, conditions and qualifications for admission to the ministry. Under Par. 37 [now ¶ 33] of the Constitution, however, it is the Annual Conference, as the basic body of the church, that decides whether those standards have been met.

... The Annual Conferences have the authority to decide whether candidates for ordination meet the disciplinary requirements.

The matter that was referred to the Judicial Council in this instant case posited a perceived, potential conflict between Decisions 542 and 544. Seen in isolation from the longer history of the Judicial Council jurisprudence, these decisions may appear to be conflicting. But seen in the full history of numerous Judicial Council Decisions on these constitutional matters, it is clear that no conflict exists either within the Constitution (see ¶¶ 16 and 33) or between the two aforementioned Decisions of the Judicial Council.

The legislative enactments of the General Conference in ¶¶ 304 and 2702 of the 2012 Discipline clearly fall within the authority of the General Conference with its “full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional” [¶ 16] and they assign to the annual conferences facets of their constitutional responsibility for the “character and conference relations” as well as the “ordination” of clergy [¶ 33]. The legislation in the Discipline that appears as ¶ 304 assigns to the annual conferences the responsibility for making the determinations that are within its realm regarding admission to the ministry of the clergy. The legislation in the Discipline that appears as ¶ 2702 assigns to the annual conferences the responsibility for handling complaints and charges filed against clergy.

It is important to note that the Constitution establishes a specific limit on the rights of annual conferences in these and other matters. Paragraph 33 grants to the annual conferences “such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution...” Only to the General Conference has the Constitution delegated “legislative” authority.

The annual conferences have clear authority under the Constitution. But that authority does not and constitutionally cannot intrude into the authority of the General Conference.

Decision

Paragraphs 16 and 33 of the Constitution assign specific authority and responsibility to the General Conference and to the annual conferences in The United Methodist Church. They are not in conflict. Paragraphs 304 and 2702 are legitimate legislative enactments of the General Conference. Decisions 542 and 544 of the Judicial Council are not in conflict.

F. Belton Joyner, Jr., Secretary
William B. Lawrence, President
May 20, 2016

Concurring Opinion

I agree that ¶¶ 16 and 33 of the constitution are not in conflict, although my analysis and application to the non-constitutional paragraphs raise other concerns. However, I write this concurrence to emphasize the following portions of Decisions 542 and 544:

“... Neither ordination nor appointment of self-avowed practicing homosexuals is necessarily precluded by the words “fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness” as added to Pars. 404, 414, 420, 423, and 431 of the Discipline. The Annual Conferences have the authority to decide whether candidates for ordination meet the disciplinary requirements.” Decision 542 [Emphasis Added]

In Decision 536, we held that “An Annual Conference may not subtract from the disciplinary requirements for conference membership, but it may under certain circumstances adopt additional requirements not in conflict with disciplinary provisions or their spirit or intent.” This was again underscored in Decision 542 at the May 1984 General Conference. “Under Paragraph 37 of the Constitution, however, **it is the Annual Conference, as the basic body of the church, that decides whether those standards have been met.**” The phrase “or appointed

to serve in The United Methodist Church” is related to the powers and duties of the episcopacy ... **Because the legislation lacks specific definition regarding avowal and practice of homosexuality, and because of Methodism’s long-standing and continuing principle that ministerial members of an Annual Conference shall receive an annual appointment (Par. 422, 1984 Discipline), care must be taken in applying Par. 402.2 to follow due process, protecting the rights of ministerial members. The Annual Conference must make any determination which would effect a change in ministerial standing.** Decision 544 Concurring Opinion [Emphasis Added]

Beth Capen
May 20, 2016

Separate Opinion

With due respect to my colleagues who supported the outcome and outright promulgation of the foregoing Decision, I take a different stand. It is not necessarily on the content and conclusion reached, although I have some reservations; it is more on the **timing** of coming out with such a ruling on the last day of this Holy Conferencing. I see no urgency nor prudence in it.

I am for deferment of Judicial Council determination of the request, which rises to the level of a petition for a declaratory decision, to its next meeting in October, 2016 or a later date for the following considerations:

First: The petition concerns the delicate, contentious matter of clergy appointment/ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals which needs careful, thorough study, given the predictable wide-ranging impact our Decision will make.

Second: Two apparently variant Constitutional provisions, ¶ 16 and ¶ 33, are sought to be clarified dealing with the respective powers of the General Conference, on one hand, and the annual conference, on the other. The pertinent footnotes alone in the 2012 Book of Discipline indicate over a dozen and a half pertinent previous Judicial Council decisions of various implications.

Third: Two allegedly conflicting Judicial Council Decisions, 542 and 544, are asked to be resolved. Both are of 1984 vintage, promulgated 32 years ago. A wider hard look at them, to say the least, is imperative.

Fourth: Of the five, mostly two-page, papers submitted within the short 3-hour notice for filing, only one argues against the petition. The basic tenet of fairness warrants that both sides be given ample opportunity to be fully heard. A matter of this significance further de-

serves an oral hearing, which is not feasible at this time, last day of the General Conference.

Fifth: The Council of Bishops, in response to a request of the General Conference to lead the Church, has just issued a statement titled “AN OFFERING FOR A WAY FORWARD,” recommending that “the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops, to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality.”

While that call is addressed to the legislative body of the Church and the Judiciary is not legally bound by it, the Judicial Council should not be perceived, albeit mistakenly, as working at cross-purposes with its co-equal branches. It will not discredit or detract from its guarded independence if a temporary hold on a non-urgent, highly controversial matter is taken.

As I pointed out in my concurring opinion is JCD 1304 last year: “In line with our Church polity, coordination complements separation of powers.”

Ruben T. Reyes
May 20, 2016

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEMORANDUM 1322

The referral of proposed legislation Petition No. 60069 came to us late in the session. Since we do not have time to deal adequately with the referral, we are returning the proposed legislation to General Conference for its action.

F. Belton Joyner, Jr.
Judicial Council Secretary

William B. Lawrence
Judicial Council President
May 20, 2016

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Agency Council of Bishops Nominations and Appointments

Nominations for General Council on Finance and Administration

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Bishop Michael McKee

Bishop Minerva Carcaño

North Central Jurisdiction:

Valerie Willis

Steven Court

Northeastern Jurisdiction:

Kenneth Ow

Judy Colorado

South Central Jurisdiction:

Reggie Clemons

Dustin Petz

Southeastern Jurisdiction:

Christine Dodson

LaToya Redd Thompson

Steve D. Wood

W. Z. Riddle

Western Jurisdiction:

Karen Oliveto

Central Conference Members:

Africa: **Djoman Mathurin Adjrahe**

Europe: **Per Endre Bjørnevik**

Philippines: **Regan Reyes de Guzman**

Appointment to Connectional Table

Bishop Christian Alsted

Appointment to General Board of Church and Society

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

New North Katanga Bishop

Additional Bishops:

Bishop Sally Dyck

Bishop Peggy Johnson

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

New South Central Jurisdiction Bishop

Bishop Grant Hagiya

Nominations for Central Conference Members:

Africa Central Conference:

Manuel Joao Andre, W. Angola

Central and Southern Europe:

Kristof Hecker

Congo:

Nyande Philomene

Germany:

Tilmann Sticher

Northern Europe and Eurasia:

Kari Hay, Norway

Philippines:

Nancy Caluya Nicolas

West Africa:

To Be Named

Nominations for General Board of Discipleship

Central Conference Members:

Africa:

Hermance Akpes

Europe:

Barry Sloan

Philippines:

John Manalo

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa

Additional Bishop:

Bishop Mark Webb

Division on Ministries with Young People:

New North Central Jurisdiction Bishop

Nominations for General Board of Global Ministries

Central Conference Bishops:

Bishop John Yambasu

Bishop Pedro Torio

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops (Northeastern
Jurisdiction, South Central Jurisdiction, or Western
Jurisdiction):

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Bishop Thomas Bickerton

Newly Elected Bishop - Southeastern Jurisdiction

Appointed to Committee on Deaconess and Home Missioner Service

Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson

Nomination for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Central Conference Members:

Layman:

Louis Roi Aboua

Laywoman:

Prescilla Soriano

Alternate Member:

Forbes Matonga

Alan Mashimba Gurupia

Christof Voigt

Appointed Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

Bishop Eduard Khegay

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Bishop William McAlilly

Appointed Members of University Senate:

CEOs:

Kah-Jin Kuan

Jan Love

Other Relevant Positions:

Rock Jones

Javier Viera

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Bishops Elected by the Council of Bishops:

Bishop Paul Leeland

Bishop Robert Schnase

Nominations for Jurisdictional Members:

Gray Southern

Thomas Parkinson

Teresa Keese

Ed Tomlinson

Cedric Bridgeforth

Feliza Mariano

Appointed to the United Methodist Publishing House

Bishops:

Class of 2020:

Bishop Gregory Palmer

Class of 2024:

Bishop Rodolfo Juan

Class of 2028:

Bishop Jonathan Holston

Central Conference Members:

Eliseo C. Balisi

Klaus Ulrich Ruof

Nominated for the General Commission on Archives and History

Central and Jurisdictional Conference Members:

Central Conference Members:

Imingcio Dalig Plang

Judit Lakotos

Jurisdictional Conference Members:

Ted Campbell

William Bobby McClain

Steven Yale

Linda Schramm

Judi Fergus

Matthew Loyer

Chris Brown

Anne Pollard

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

New African Bishop

Jurisdictional Conference Bishop:

Bishop Jeremiah Park

Appointed to the General Commission on Communication

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

Bishop John Wesley Yohanna

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:

Bishop Cynthia Harvey

Central Conference Members:

Reiner Puno

Pavel Serdiukov

Karl Anders Ellingsen

Pacifico Aniag

3 additional to be named

Appointed to the General Commission on Religion and Race

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

Bishop Gabriel Unda

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:

Bishop Earl Bledsoe

New Southeastern Jurisdiction Bishop

Central Conference Member:

Framer P. Mella

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

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

New Liberian Bishop

Additional Bishop:

Bishop Julius Trimble

Central Conference Members:

Africa:

Langa Bacela

Europe:

Berit Westad

Philippines:

Phebe Crismo

Appointed to the General Commission on United Methodist Men

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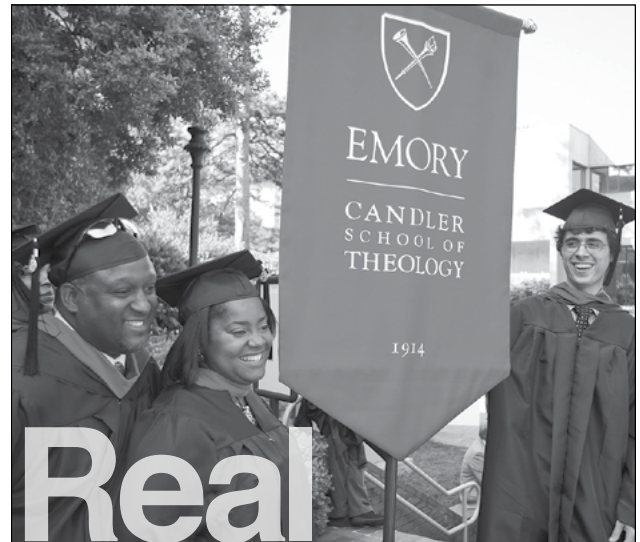


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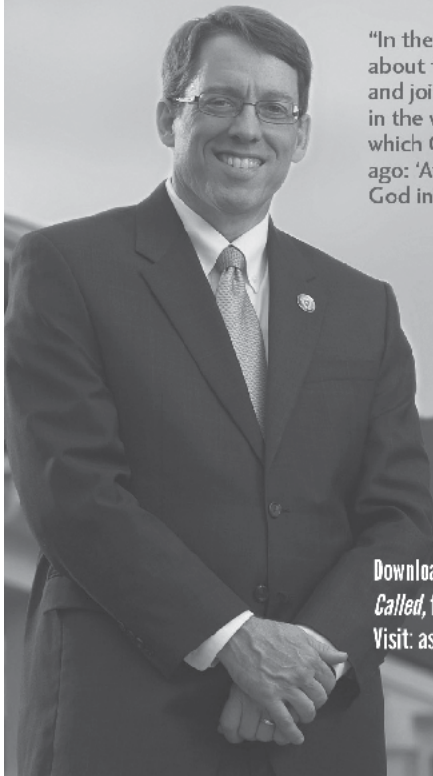
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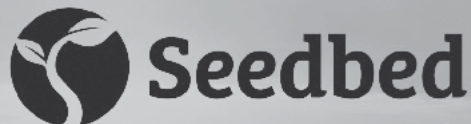


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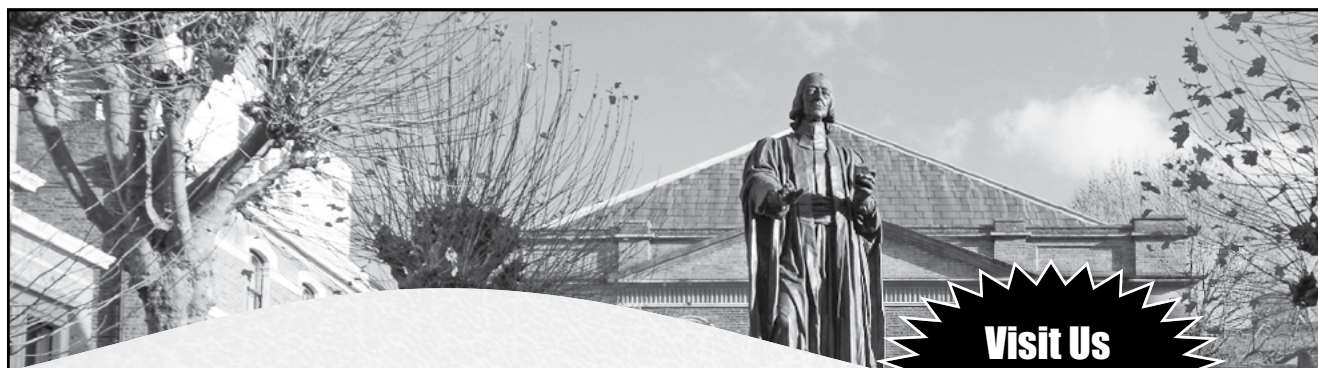
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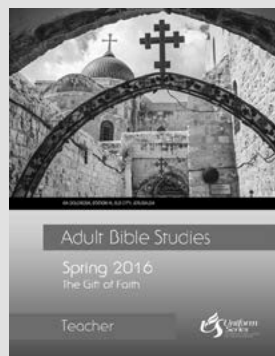
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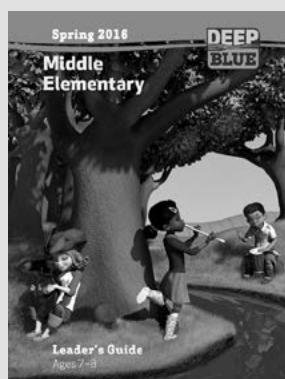
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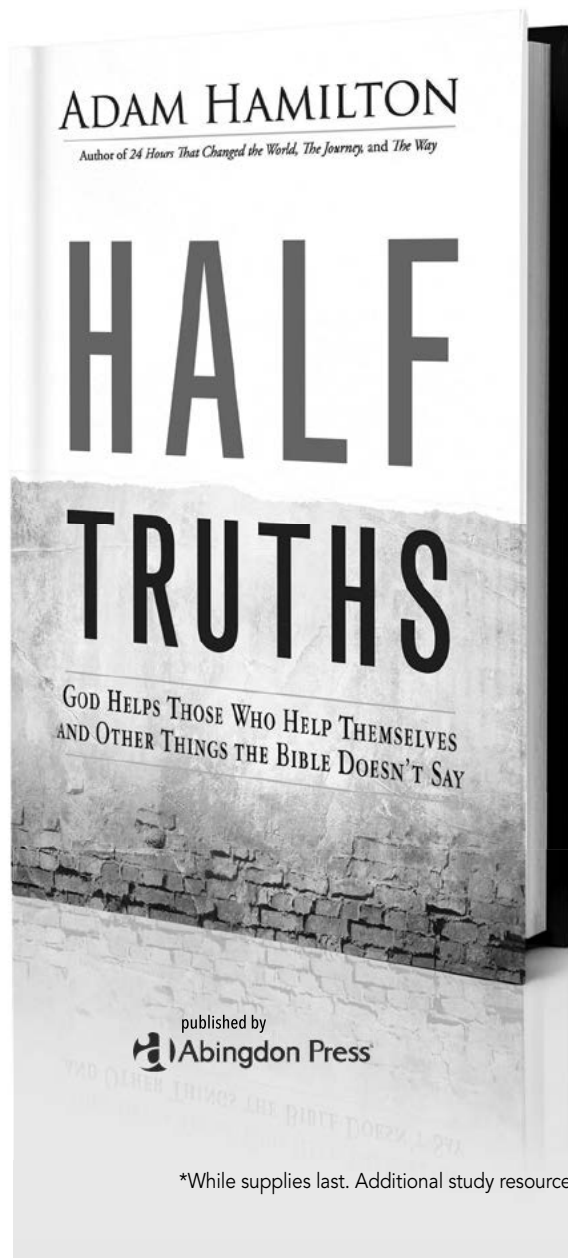
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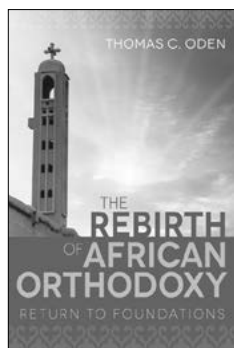
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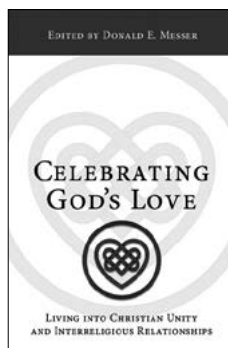
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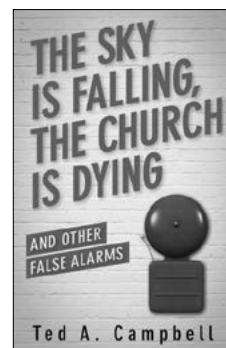
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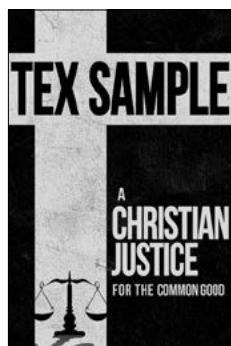
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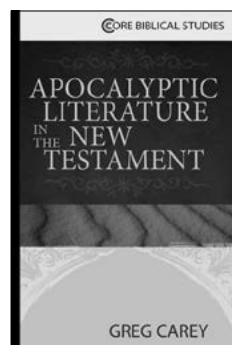
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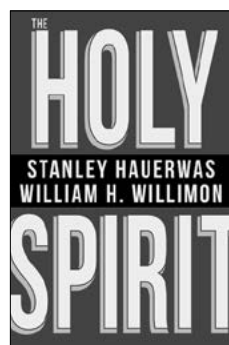
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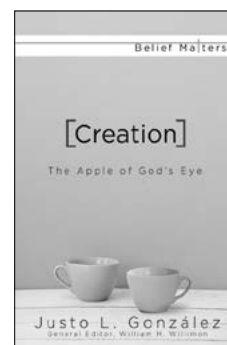
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Proceedings of the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Thursday Morning,
May 19, 2016**

(continued from page 2718)

CHARLES ERIC MOORE (Baltimore-Washington): Yes, Bishop. Charlie Moore, lay person, from Baltimore-Washington. I am standing to vote against the motion to refer. I think we have sufficient information to move forward on voting on the amendment, and then subsequently, to the initial motion, which I support the initial motion by the committee.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Thank you. Microphone, that's a speech against. Mic. no. 4.

MICHAEL B. WATTS (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. Michael Watts, Kentucky Conference. I speak in favor of the referral, because as the maker of the motion read the, his motion, you see that it's very technical in what he's trying to do. And, I believe that our good folks at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits needs to look at this and see what the implications are in doing this. There's, any minor detail in a plan such as this can have a major impact on our annual conferences and ultimately our local churches.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Thank you very much. That, that is a speech in favor. I'm going to ask Rukang Chikomb—I hope I've pronounced that correctly; if I've not, please forgive me—to move to mic. no. 2. And then, I will ask Gary George to also move to mic. no. 5. Rukang, I'm gonna take you first, and Gary, you will then follow him. So, mic. no. 2, please.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Rukang Chikomb,

North-West Katanga. Bishop, I think I was in a speech against. Did I punch a wrong—

BISHOP LOWRY: Yes, sir. You were.

CHIKOMB: Thank you. You said for.

BISHOP LOWRY: Yes. I'm, I'm sorry. Flip those. It is my error. So, yours is against, and Gary's is for.

CHIKOMB: Thank you sir. I'm back. Bishop, we assigned committee to do some work so can save time on the conference. Then when you come up here, sometime there is things that you can go right away to the vote so we can move on, but they start referring, and in that, to me, means we are not giving this committee trust because some of us in the committee were inviting the people to come speak about stuff like this in the committee. So, why I am against on this one, to ask everybody to vote not to refer, the committee has done a job, and they pretty much give us the idea to go ahead and approve, adopt this petition. So, I'm against. I'm asking whoever can, to not to refer.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Thank you very much. I have a point of order. Then, I'm going to move in Gary. If you will stay in place, we will come to you. Cheryl Jefferson Bell, mic. no. 2. for a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. Would you be clear and specific about which it is first and then move from there. Thank you.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Great Plains): Yes sir. Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Great Plains. Is it possible for the maker of the referral, or of the motion, to explain the intent, why he made that motion?

BISHOP LOWRY: That's a great question, and I'm not sure about our rules, so let me check with my colleagues just for a moment, if I may.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP LOWRY: Cheryl, would you go back to, to the mic.? I need to, I need to clarify something, to make, to make sure that the three of us understand properly. Will you, will you ask, you were asking for the speaker of the, of the amendment, right?

JEFFERSON BELL: Yes. Yes. Clarification.

BISHOP LOWRY: Clarification. OK.

JEFFERSON BELL: Yes.

(pause)

BISHOP LOWRY: I'm going to rule that that's in order and ask him to come to a microphone, because he did not have the opportunity to do that. That's, that's, I think you're there. Right? Microphone no. 6, I'm going to ask, please.

Amendment Explained

ROBERT ZILHAVER (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. I've great concerns that the denominational average compensation calculation contained in this petition would fail a judicial review. First, because expenses used for the calculation, particularly for hospitalization expenses, are not actual economic transactions under church provisions or civil professional standards. Second, the plan delegates decisions to the annual conference that the constitution preserves for the General Conference. And three, the plan delegates decisions to undes-

ignated structures within the annual conference. In other words, a board of the annual conference is able to change the value of compensation that is presented and voted on at a charge conference. And this would affect calculations throughout the denomination. After inquiry, the General Board of Pensions staffs informs me that the full board never considered these judicial concerns prior to submitting that, and rushing the denominational average compensation through simply to test and see it may happen runs the risk of millions of dollars in liability.

I serve on the Board of Pensions of my conference, and we made a change in billing structure that we were able to, had some unintended consequences, and we were able to fix that within six months, and the cost was just a little over two hundred thousand dollars.

If this amendment is not adopted and then referred to the General Board of Pensions, it could, might mean that this could go into place, the liability that would be available if these calculations were not done correctly, and, and, and the plan language allow the changing of what the values of compensation are voted on at the charge conference could create a tremendous amount of liability for our surviving spouses, for our orphans, for our pastors whose, the welfare piece of our system that brings up to the denominational average.

It would hurt our rural pastors, our pastors that are in lower economic places in urban areas, and I just feel that this needs to be voted on and then referred to the General Board, to make sure we're doing it in a way that's in good and proper order, with less liability risks for the, for the denomination.

BISHOP LOWRY: Thank you for that explanation. I'm going to go to speech for. That will make it two

speeches for and two against, after Gary's speech, so you're the second one for, for referral. So, Gary, I want to be very careful. We're calling for a referral. I see a couple of points of inquiry coming up. I'd already called on Gary. What I'd like to do is finish his and then go to the points of inquiry or order.

GARY MARK GEORGE (East Ohio): Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP LOWRY: Oh, I'm sorry. I actually have a previous question that would be—yeah, we'll do this. Gary, go ahead and give your speech. I'd already started to call on you. I think it's simply better order to do it that way. We'll get the others in.

GARY MARK GEORGE (East Ohio): Thank you, Bishop. Gary George, East Ohio Conference, clergy delegate, member and Director of the General Board of Pensions Health Benefits.

I had the privilege of chairing the board committee that worked and reviewed all of our plans, both our pension plans and our health and welfare plans. Please know this: I am in support of the motion referral. I think Bill Shillady, as well as Michael Watts, made very good points, and, unfortunately, the impact of Mr. Zilhaver's amendment would indeed do just the opposite of what he intends in many respects. It would create another \$6 million of billable expense to the Annual Conference.

We worked very carefully and well, and you need to know that the amendment that we proposed to the plan document, which is a very technical, detailed plan document, was prompted by the result of the legislation that in the United States is known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The issue is that four of our annual conferences have terminated their healthcare plan, and have instead provided a cash stipend as a way to compensate for those health-

care costs. Many of those participants go to the exchanges. Therefore, I am favor of the motion refer, which basically and literally sustains the original petition that was recommended by the committee as well as with the amendment that is posted in today's DCA. Thank you very much.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright.

Thank you. That's two for and two against. I'm gonna take a series of point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. I want to again be very direct about asking you to be precise about which of those three it is and then stating it precisely. I'm going to take Charles Moore at mic. 3; then I'll go to Cynthia Weems at mic. 2. Darcy Rubenking, if you would be available; I'll try to get your point of order in after the other two if it has not been covered in one of theirs. So, let's hear first from Charles Moore.

CHARLES ERIC MOORE (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you, Bishop. Charlie Moore, lay person, Baltimore-Washington. I have a question of information. I think it would be very helpful to the body at this time if we were to allow the member of the Board of Pensions to speak to this issue. Thank you.

(Bishop confers on stage)

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Simple majority. I'm going to ask the body if you want to grant this request for them to speak to us on it. If you would—would you take out your voting devices, please? Alright. So, let me be very clear now. He is asking that we give permission to the Board of Pensions to speak on this issue. If you vote one (1) or yes—if you vote yes, you are voting to grant them permission to speak, and I'll call them to the mic. If you vote no. two (2), no, you're voting not to grant permission. Are we ready? I think so. Would you vote on the motion now? No. 1 is to grant permis-

sion to speak. No. 2 is not to do so. [517, Yes; 247, No]

Alright. We have granted permission. Could I have a representative from the Board or to give from the board or the General Secretary who would move to a microphone? Mic. 4, please.

ANDREW HENDREN (General Council at the Board of Pension): Thank you. My name is Andy Hendren. I am general council at the Board of Pensions. I'm speaking on behalf of Barbara Boigegrain, our general secretary.

BISHOP LOWRY: Continue.

HENDREN: First, I would say that the delegate Graves is exactly correct that the consequence of this amendment would be to postpone, at best, to postpone until 2020, or ultimately disallow, a carefully considered change to the plan to avoid an unintended consequence of secular law.

In addition, I would say that the maker of the motion, with all due respect, has relied upon two Judicial Council decisions, one from 1948 and one from 1974, both of which predate this plan, and actually predate the plan that existed before this plan for clergy pension. There are three intervening Judicial Council decisions that have upheld time and again that this body, the General Conference, has authority to set the terms of the pension plans because they are distinctively connectional.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. I think the body appreciates it as well. I'm going to call on Bill Hatcher—oh no, I'm sorry. I have Darcy—I have Darcy Rubenking, mic. 4 for a point of order. Darcy, please.

DARCY LYNN RUBENKING (Iowa): Yes, my question is if we are going to vote on the motion if it would not be good to have it written in the next DCA, so we can at least

re-read it and get a little better understanding of what it's saying.

BISHOP LOWRY: Thank you. We are actually voting on the motion to refer—that's what's before us, not the motion itself. So, we could have a request to do that after we vote on the motion to refer, but that will affect what you do. So, what's before us is the referral. I'm going to call on Bill Hatcher, mic. 6. Move the previous question.

WILLIAM STANLEY HATCHER (South Georgia): Bill Hatcher, South Georgia lay. Bishop, I move the previous question on all that is before us. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Is it improper if I say the chair thanks you? *(laughs)*

(laughter)

This is real technical stuff, and I want to say to every one of the speakers, we have been greatly aided by your patient work on what is a difficult and important matter before us.

The previous question is moved. Would you please take out your voting device? All—Bill, I got it right, that it was all that is before us? Is that correct, sir?

HATCHER: Yes.

BISHOP LOWRY: OK. So, if you are in favor of moving the previous question, please press one (1); if you want to continue debate, please press no or no. two (2). Would you vote now?

[Yes, 714; No, 60]

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, so the previous question has been moved. Now, before we vote, let me just explain it, the process by which we're gonna follow this. Our rules call for us to ask the presenter of the initial motion from the legislative committee the opportunity to speak on the matter. So I'm gonna call on

Jessica in a moment to speak on the matter. Then we're first going to vote on the amendment. Depending on what happens on the amendment, we may or may not then vote on the main motion. I'm, I'm sorry. Oh, I am wrong. We are gonna first, to refer, and, if we don't refer, then we vote on the amendment, and so on. So, so let me add that first step in which was the motion to refer. So Jessica, you're entitled to speak on all that is before us and then we'll move to vote on the motion for referral.

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): As I clarified that the motion that will be voted on next is the referring of the amendment that was brought to the floor. Because of the complexity of this issue that has been alluded by many speakers, it would be an impossible task for this plenary to make any decision on an amendment of that magnitude and do it well. So for that reason I very much would encourage us to refer the amendment to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

CPP Amendment Referred to Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. The matter is before us. Please pick up your voting devices. Again, let me see if I can do my best to be very carefully clear about what we are doing. We are voting on the motion to refer the amendment. So, so, it's really two things. You're voting to refer, and what you're voting to refer is the amendment. So if you would so vote, you vote one (1). If you would vote not to refer the amendment, you vote two (2). By way of clarification, if you don't refer, then we vote on the amendment. Does that help you understand where we are? Alright, so we're going to vote now. Vote number one (1) a vote of yes, is a vote to refer the amendment. Number two (2) is a vote not to refer

the amendment. Would you please vote now?

[Yes, 604; No, 118]

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright and the motion, and the amendment is thus referred. Now let me check with my colleagues to make sure I know where we are at the moment, if you don't mind. Alright, we are on the main motion, the Calendar Item. Jessica, I believe you've already spoken to this. Do you want to say an additional word? Our rules would allow that.

VARGO: I just wanted to stress that this, these planned adjustments, was not something that was just done last week. There's been considerable time and effort placed by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to put this before us. So I would encourage us to vote in support of this Calendar Item.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. The Calendar Item is before us. Would you pick up your voting devices, please? If you are in favor of Calendar Item No., Petition No. 60040, you will vote number one (1) for yes. If you are opposed, you will vote number two (2) for no. I'm sorry, I have a point of order. I'm gonna stop and take it. So lay your devices down for a moment. Let's see, Rudolph, if you would go to Mic. 6, please?

RUDOLPH MERAB (Liberia): Bishop, Rudolph Merab, Liberia Annual Conference. We just acted to refer an amendment to a motion to a petition for consideration. Now we're trying to approve that petition . . .

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, what's, what's the point of order?

MERAB: My point of order, once we have referred, we referred to whom?

BISHOP LOWRY: Actually, by our rules, no, we referred just the amendment and so, and so the Calendar Item is properly before us at this time. Thank you. Would you pick up your voting devices, please?

We are ready to vote. If you would vote in favor of the main motion, you would vote one (1), yes. If you oppose it you would vote number two (2), no. Would you please vote now? [Yes, 731; No, 58]

CPP Main Motion Approved

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, and it is passed. We're going to move to the next Calendar Item which also comes from Financial Administration. Jessica Vargo is again going to present on behalf of that committee. It's Calendar Item 220, on p. 2205 on the DCA, Calendar Item No. 29 and it's Petition No. 60039. You'll find it as no. 705 in the ADCA. Oh, I'm sorry. I apologize. I did say I'd recognize Chap Temple before I moved to that. Chap you have the floor at Mic. 2.

CHARLES CHAPPELL TEMPLE (Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Under rule number 9, I would move to suspend our rules to limit our speeches to two minutes and to limit to two speeches for or against. The children's lesson and the anthem have gone long, we're gonna have to cut the sermon.

(laughter)

BISHOP LOWRY: Thank you very much. When I was a guy who served the local churches for thirty years I never much liked that, but that's another story. So, so I am, I am, that is a 2/3 majority. It's non-debatable. We're going to clear the queue, by the way, because we finished the previous item. I meant to mention that a moment ago and simply forgot to before I called on Chap Temple. So, we're clearing the queue. We're voting on this item only. Which is, which is to move to two, Chap help me again, it was to move to... Oh, we have to suspend the rules first, I'm sorry. So the motion is to suspend the rules, which is a 2/3

vote. If you're in favor of suspending the rules to consider the Temple motion, please vote a one (1) for yes. If you're opposed to it, please vote a two (2) for no. Would you vote now? [Yes, 652; No, 110]

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, you have suspended the rules. Chap, go back to the microphone and just to make sure I have this clear. The motion that is before us is a motion to move to two speeches for and two against, correct?

TEMPLE: Yes, yes. Two speeches for, two against, and it's also two minute limit.

Two-Minute Speeches Approved

BISHOP LOWRY: And a two minute time limit. Alright. Does, I think this is fairly clear. Go to the vote. So, pick up your voting device, and if you're in favor of voting for two minutes limit, time limit, and two for and two against, vote yes. If you're opposed, vote number two (2), no. Let us vote now. [Yes, 668; No, 109]

BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY: Alright. You have voted in favor of the change, so we're now on to two minute speeches, with two in favor and two against when we come to the motion. The next Item up, again, is the item I had started to call for, which comes from Jessica Vargo and the Financial Administration Committee. Jessica.

JESSICA H. VARGO (Virginia): Yes, as the bishop indicated this can be found on DCA, p. 2205 this is Calendar Item 29, entitled, CRSP Amendments. The full text of the petition can be found in your ADCA on p. 705.

Clergy Retirement Security Program

CRSP, which is the Clergy Retirement Security Program, this,

too, was written and sponsored by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits dealing with technical corrections and adjustments to the plan document. The Legislative Committee voted to support this as written.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. It's before us. I have a move to amend on mic. 6, Robert Zilhaber.

(pause)

ROBERT FRANK ZILHAVER (Western Pennsylvania): Robert Zilhaber, Western Pennsylvania. Like to move to amend and refer. This deals with the same language; I don't know how to do that exactly in the quickest way, but if I could, Bishop, I'd like to say if I could submit this to be printed in a DCA without — as an amendment and then have it referred. I don't know if that will be a motion or whether we have to go through that.

BISHOP LOWRY: OK. So, Robert, let me—if we could just talk for a minute to try to perfect what you wanna do here. I'm a little confused, do you wanna amend or do you wanna refer? Maybe, we could clarify, which of those first.

ZILHAVER: I need to make an amendment about the DCA calculations for the same issue that was in the previous petition. My understanding is the body wants that amendment referred to the General Board of Pensions, which I agree with; I just don't know how to submit that—whether, I have to do the actual amendment and turn to Bill to help me with that again.

BISHOP LOWRY: Tell you what, let me check with colleagues, 'cause I'm not sure either. *(laughs)*

(Pause)

BISHOP LOWRY: Tell you what, I think where I'm gonna go, with some courage given to me by my colleagues, is to ask the house if

we wanna go there to do the two as a pair and to see if they don't. And, this seems so similar to what we have just voted on. I wanna give you a chance, Robert, to speak to this. And then Jessica, I would give you—and I'd like to just test the body, if you wanna move forward. My understanding of the rules is it would take a two-step approach, but let me test the house, first. Or, for one step approach, I need to test the house.

So, what's before us is a motion to clear the amendment and refer it, I believe. To hear the amendment, yeah. Let me get this right, what's before us is to hear the amendment and refer it. I believe that's what you want to do; is that right?

ZILHAVER: It's correct.

BISHOP LOWRY: OK. So, pick up your—is there a sign? I need a second to this first. I've got a second. Pick up your voting devices. All those—I'm gonna explain this with some care. All those who wanna refer the amendment to the General Board of Pensions, vote yes. All those who do not want to do so, vote no. No. one (1), yes; no. two (2), no. Would you vote now, please? *[Yes, 627; No, 133]*

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. So, I believe it is referred, and I believe that lets you do what you wanna do, so that we can come up and consider it later.

ZILHAVER: Now, do I read this in or do I just present this to the secretary.

BISHOP LOWRY: I don't know. I think you can give it to the secretary, right? Yes, you can give it to the secretary. We're now on the main motion. I'm gonna ask Jessica to reintroduce it.

VARGO: Again, we're dealing with Calendar Item 29, CRSP Amendments. The Legislative Committee urges you to support this as submitted.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. It is properly before us. I'm not seeing anybody who wants to speak on it, so, I'm gonna ask you to pick up your voting devices. As, I am looking at the body, it seems to me that you are ready to vote on this. So all in favor, would vote no. one (1), yes; those opposed would vote no. two (2), no. Would you vote now, please? *[Yes, 737; No, 34]*

(pause)

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. So we're good. And, the motion is carried. The next item before us — is the —we're not ready to?

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. The next Item before us properly is Bishop Streiff with the Standing Committee on Central Conference matters. So, let me ask him to come forward, if he would, please?

BISHOP JOHN MICHAEL LOWRY: We're going, we're going to go to Calendar Item, DCA 2005, Petition No. 60290, ADCA 911. Bishop Streiff, welcome back.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: Thank you. I would like to ask you that we can invite the General Secretary of GBGM, Thomas Kemper, to speak to this motion.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, would you pick up your voting devices? I'm gonna do this just real straight. All those in favor of granting this request to invite our General Secretary, Thomas Kemper, to help speak to this motion, please—

(Bishop conferring on the stage)

BISHOP LOWRY: Please vote no. one (1), yes. All those opposed, please vote no. two (2), no. Vote now. *[Yes, 706; No, 43]*

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, thank you. We're clarifying the cal-

endar item, but we have overwhelmingly invited General Secretary Kemper to come and speak to the body. So, if you would come up here with Bishop Streiff, I think that will help us move along.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, Bishop Streiff has helped me understand we're, we're dealing with a slightly different calendar item. We are dealing with [pp.] 2005, which is Petition 60290, and it's on p. 911.

BISHOP STREIFF: There are two calendar items, which are linked to each other, on the same matter. We first deal here with the non-disciplinary petition, and if this is approved, then we come to the disciplinary language which is linked to it. And, I invite Thomas Kemper to say a word of explanation to this petition.

BISHOP LOWRY: Thank you.

Kemper Clarifies Provisional Southeast Asia Central Conference

THOMAS KEMPER (General Secretary, General Board of Global Ministries): The petition before you is really helping us to create a provisional central conference in Southeast Asia to give oversight and independence in the long run for the growing United Methodist mission. We have worked on a statement because we had received a letter from the Asia Methodist Council and the World Federation of Methodists Chinese Churches asking us about our intentions, and we had a meeting this week with the leadership, and I want to read the statement to you so you understand that this is not to expand just The United Methodist Church, but to do it in close collaboration with our partners of the Wesleyan family.

"Methodism has deep and strong roots in Asia through mission

initiatives from both Britain and the United States. Many of the resulting churches are today autonomous, while the Philippines remains within The United Methodist framework as a central conference. Some churches autonomous today were once with a central conference system, having in course elected affiliated, autonomous status. In order to encourage and facilitate still more self-determining Methodist churches in Asia, the directors of the General Board of Global Ministries proposed to the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters of the General Conference the creation of a provisional central conference for Southeast Asia and Mongolia, areas where former missions exist and are growing.

A central conference, a provisional central conference, is required in order for a provisional annual conference to be organized in any area, and a provisional annual conference is necessary for a mission to achieve maturity and accountability and to set up its own board of ordained ministry. Without such as a structure, missions are unable to progress, and they cannot remain missions forever under our constitution.

Our objective is to enable ministry and mission. We regret that our intentions for the new provisional central conference were not—"

BISHOP LOWRY: I think that was my mistake in putting him on the timer. This is part of the presentation motion. So, if we just leave the mic. open, and let you finish, and let me make my apology to you, General Secretary, for an error.

KEMPER: Thank you, Bishop, for putting me back in the light. That's great.

(laughter)

KEMPER: "We regret that our intentions for the new provisional central conference were not made

clear prior to this General Conference, notably to our Methodist colleagues and partners in Asia, and we take responsibility for this failure.

The United Methodist Church is not attempting to extend our territorial range in Asia at the expense of others or to initiate mission outreach without consultation with others. There are no immediate plans to organize any provisional annual conference, but we need that structure in case that need arises. We have met with representatives of several partner Asian Methodist Churches while here in Portland, assuring them that we wish to continue the spirit of collaboration that has been creative and productive in the region.

Bishop Patrick Streiff, Chair of the Standing Committee, and Bishop Warner Brown Jr., Immediate Past President of the Council of Bishops, were part of these conversations. We look forward to strong partnerships with the Asian Methodist Council, the World Federation of Chinese Methodist Churches, and others.

Our goal is to provide structural means whereby expanding communities of Methodists can maximize their potential, grow in faith and witness to Jesus Christ, and find their ways into full participation in our global connection, whether that eventually is as a United Methodist Conference or as an autonomous Methodist denomination."

Thank you.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright.

Thank you. So, the matter is before us. I'm not seeing anybody in the queue to speak, so I'm gonna ask you to take your voting devices, if you would, please.

Are we ready? So, a vote of one (1) upholds this calendar item, or passes it, rather. A vote of two (2) does not, is a no vote. Would you vote now, please?

[Yes, 719; No, 56]

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, and it has passed. I'm gonna ask Bishop Streiff if he would to now introduce the next Calendar Item that we have before us.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: So, it's Calendar Item 1, on p. 2005 and you find the petition in the ADCA, p. 909. It is Petition 60289, also entitled, Provisional Central Conferences. This petition now simply puts the previous action into the wording of the *Discipline*.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. I think it's fairly clear or do you want to speak to it? You're OK? Alright, I think, I think it's fairly clear. It's before the body so if you are in favor, you would vote one (1) and if you're opposed, you vote two (2). Would you please take your voting devices? Again, in favor is a one (1) and against is a two (2). Would you vote now, please?

[Yes, 748; No, 24]

Ordination of Women Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, and it is passed. You've done some good work. We're going to clear the queue and move to an order of the day for the sixtieth anniversary of the celebration of the ordination of women.

(cheers)

BISHOP LOWRY: I think that's worth cheering. I think that's very worth cheering. So let me invite us to catch our breath for one second and I believe, alright it will start with a video so I just invite our attention.

(video)

(applause)

DAWN WIGGINS HARE (Alabama West Florida): Yes, we as the United Methodist Church have made great strides in women's leadership.

REV. DR. HIRHO PARK (Director of Clergy Lifelong Learning): We are not there yet. Women's voices are still missing at some tables, especially women of color.

BISHOP MINERVA G. CARCAÑO: Women leaders, delegates, women Bishops, women general secretaries, women leaders in the bleachers, please stand. Stand now that the body may see you. You see how far we've come, but we've got a long ways to go. Let's keep working for the full inclusion of women in church and in society.

(applause)

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright. Wonderful celebration. And we're now ready for lunch and hopefully continuing that kind of appreciation and celebration. I'm gonna ask for some announcements from our secretary.

Announcements

L. FITZGERALD REIST: One announcement to help the body to move more quickly – a point of information is a request for information, it is not an opportunity to offer information.

(laughter and applause)

REIST: There were some people who wanted to speak with me at the last break time and I apologize that I got called away, but I will stay down here for a while at this break, so if you still want to speak to me, you can catch me.

The newly elected members of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will have their organizational meeting starting fifteen minutes after our adjournment for lunch. That's the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will organize fifteen minutes after our adjournment. They will be in the Portland Ballroom, 256-257.

Lunch will be available in the room. Go to the Portland Ballroom, 256-257. Lunch will be available there.

Now friends, this is one that we have to listen to carefully, and I apologize that we have to say it, but, if you're a person who follows social media, you might not want to follow our hashtag today. Some of the material that's there has been very inappropriately posted. It is spam content of the nature which no United Methodist wants to view. If you would like to see our, a continuing hashtag communication, go to hashtag GC2016. Hashtag 2016. If you continue to use, GC2016. If you would like to continue to use the hashtag UMC GC, you can report and block unwanted tweets by clicking the three dots symbol on the tweet, clicking Report, and then click on Block. It's important for you to understand that we do not own or control Twitter. It is a public social media access.

All African clergy women: please meet with the Rev. Dr. Kabamba Kiboko at 6:35 P.M. out at the registration booth. That will be at the closing of the evening or the late afternoon program. All African clergy women, please meet with the Rev. Dr. Kabamba Kiboko at 6:35 at the registration booth. That concludes my announcements.

BISHOP LOWRY: Alright, thank you. In a moment I'm going to offer grace for our meal and a dismissal, but before I do so, I understand, as does everyone who sits in this chair, that you are only able to do so because you have wonderful colleagues backing you up. And I wanna publicly express my deep appreciation to Bishop Janice Huie and Bishop Weaver for their work with me on this effort. Would you join me in telling them our appreciation?

(applause)

BISHOP LOWRY: As have others, I also want to express a phe-

nomenal appreciation for our staff up here. They simply know what they're doing and do it superbly. So could you also let them know our gratitude?

(applause)

BISHOP LOWRY: I've learned this morning watching things that the committee you do not want to be on is the Committee on Agenda. And have great appreciation for that group. And now at this time we're gonna go to lunch. You know the drill. We'll reconvene at 2:00. We ask that you be here promptly and in your seats and ready to move forward. We have something like twenty-one or twenty-two more items we hope to get done today. I'm probably off a bit in my numbers, but I know it's a large amount and so I ask that you help us out. I wanna thank all the speakers, for and against, especially those that brought points of order and helped me perfect my own presiding of this body. So, let's bow now for a word of grace for our lunch, and a word of celebration for what the Holy Spirit and God is doing in our midst.

Gracious Lord, you move among us in ways we only dimly understand. And so we pause this noon to give you thanks. As we go to our meals, we ask your special blessing on those who've grown the food, brought it to market, put it on the table, and served us. Hold them in your grace and us as well, as we partake and share, and then guide us safely back for an afternoon session that honors you. This we pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thursday Afternoon, May 19, 2016

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Friends, we're gonna begin in just a couple of minutes, if you would

move quickly to your seats. One of the great things about coming together to conference is the opportunity to be in fellowship, and you have got that down, but please, please move quickly now.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: Friends, if you would, if you could now begin to finish the sentence you were speaking. I would like to call us to order for our afternoon session.

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to serve you as a presiding officer for these, for these, for these couple of hours this afternoon. I'm assuming you want to go to work. You ready to go to work?

(applause)

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. We have a lot to do, so I'm glad you're ready to work. I'll try to help you do that as best I can.

I'd like to begin with a few words from Philippians. This is one of my favorite passages. I think it's one that, perhaps, has already been shared this week, and it's the introduction to this beautiful hymn we have from the early church, where Paul is writing, "Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy..." Ooo, I love that part. "...complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." Good words for us this afternoon and as we continue our work.

Would you pray with me?

Holy God, we have come from a time of refreshment and, and lunch, and now we are ready to begin to do

your work once again. And, we so desperately want it to be work that would complete your joy, O Lord, complete your joy, and so we pray in these moments that our first impulse, our first thought, as we speak or as we discern, would be what is good for the other person and good for your church. And so, we pray this afternoon that you would work through us, for there is much work to be done, or that you would work through us to fulfill your purposes, your intentions. In the name of the Christ we pray. Amen.

I'm pleased to inform you, as you probably can already see, that Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and Bishop Warner Brown have agreed to assist me as that is needed this afternoon, and I want to thank them now, lest I forget.

And, just a couple of reminders of where we're at as I have observed our work today, the last couple of days. It appears to me that you really want to debate the items and not be consumed with an inordinate number of points of order or inquiries for information. I hope I'm right about that.

(applause)

BISHOP OUGH: Because if I am right about that, then you can help me and you can help one another by being sensitive to trying to stay focused on speeches for and against the items that are before us and not consuming all of our time with inquiries. At the same time, I would say if at any point, I am misleading you or not representing the will of the body, I do hope you will call that to my attention by using our queueing system.

Just a further reminder that we approved a change in our rules this morning, so that as we continue our work this afternoon, we will be under the rule of two speeches for and against, and we would go

automatically at that point to voting on an item, and that we've limited our speeches, as well, to two minutes each.

We do have an announcement about the crosses that are on your table. I'm gonna ask our secretary to share that with you.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): The peace crosses on your table are for this afternoon's presentation by the Korea Peace Committee. Please leave them on the table until after the presentation. Thank you.

Recognition of Retiring Judicial Council Members

BISHOP OUGH: We have two brief Orders of the Day, and then we're gonna turn to our calendar items. First, I would like to call on Bill Lawrence, who is going to lead us in recognizing those Judicial Council members that will be retiring. Bill, if you would come.

(pause)

WILLIAM B. LAWRENCE (President, Judicial Council): Thank you, Bishop. Delegates and friends of the General Conference, I have the honor of serving as president of the Judicial Council for the current quadrennium, and I have the privilege of greeting you on behalf of the newest, the smallest, and the least-noticed constitutional body of our church. At least, the Judicial Council is the least noticed until you or some other entity in United Methodism brings a matter to the Judicial Council, which can then create conversation about why the cause was sent to the Judicial Council, or why indeed the council exists at all. For nearly two centuries of the denominational history that led to what we now call The United Methodist Church, the Judicial Council did not exist. Francis Asbury, who died

exactly two hundred years ago at the 1816 General Conference, would never have imagined there was a need for a constitutional judiciary. He barely understood why there was a need for a constitution when it was established in 1808.

For most of the history of Methodism as we know it, the General Conference wrote church laws, and the Bishops decided whether they approved of the church's laws. Then, early in the twentieth century, as separated parts of Methodism began to talk about reuniting, the idea of having a constitutionally established judiciary became an important element in the discussions. When reunion finally happened in 1939, a judicial council was a cornerstone of the constitution, and so it remains to this day.

The persons on the platform have served in the current quadrennium, or will serve in the coming quadrennium, as the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church. It is not the role of the council to determine whether the legislative actions of the General Conference or the procedural actions of others in the denomination are pleasant procedurally or popular programmatically. It is the role of the Judicial Council simply to determine whether such actions are in accord with the constitution and with the laws of the church in the *Discipline*.

That is who the Judicial Council is. I want to introduce those individuals who, like me, have done that work and are now concluding our terms of service on the Judicial Council. Rev. Kathi Austin Mahle, a clergy member of the Minnesota Annual Conference.

(applause)

LAWRENCE: Dr. Sandra Lutz, a layperson from Ohio.

(applause)

LAWRENCE: And Dr. Belton Joyner, a clergy member of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

(applause)

Recognizing the 2016-2020 Judicial Council

LAWRENCE: Like you, I deeply appreciate their work. And now, I have the honor of introducing to you the person who will be the next president of the Judicial Council. He will then introduce the persons who, in new or continuing terms, will be the officers and members of the Judicial Council for the coming quadrennium. Please welcome President-Elect Oswald Tweh.

(applause)

N. OSWALD TWEH SR. (President-Elect, Judicial Council): Good afternoon. I'm N. Oswald Tweh from the Liberia Annual Conference, who has been elected president of the Judicial Council for this quadrennium. I would now like to introduce the members of the Judicial Council for the 2016-2020 quadrennium.

TWEH: Rev. Dennis Blackwell, from New Jersey.

(applause)

TWEH: Ms. Beth Capen, from New York. Lay from New York.

(applause)

TWEH: Mr. Ruben Reyes, lay from the Philippines.

(applause)

TWEH: Rev. Kabanga Kiboko, Kabamba Kiboko, from *Texas Annual Conference*

(applause)

TWEH: Ms. Lídia Gulele, from Mozambique.

(applause)

TWEH: Rev. Øyvind Helliesen, from Norway.

(applause)

TWEH: Rev. Luan-Vu Tran, from California.

(applause)

TWEH: Unfortunately, one of the members was unable to be here today. We thank you for the confidence you put in us, and with God being our helper, we pledge to do our utmost in this ministry. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: We want to congratulate Oswald Tweh as he assumes the presidency of the Judicial Council, and I would invite you to join with me in just a word of prayer for, for this body. Would you pray with me?

Lord God, we lift up these persons that you have called forth to serve as our Judicial Council in this next quadrennium, and we pray that you would gift them mightily with your wisdom and courage and compassion for your people. May they be an instrument of your grace on behalf of this church, as we seek to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.

All right. We're going to move to some calendar items, but I have a inquiry or point of order on mic. no. 4. Samuel Royappa, I believe. If you would go to mic. no. 4.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: Mic. 4, please.

SAMUEL JOHN ROYAPPA (Wisconsin): Sam Royappa, clergy, Wisconsin Annual Conference. Bishop, I'm seeking information for the following questions: What is the sense of where we are in terms of

completing our work around petitions? How many petitions have been processed by the plenary? How many petitions are yet to be processed by the plenary in the next 1.5 days?

BISHOP OUGH: The question is appropriate, and I'll turn to our secretary and our secretarial staff.

(Bishop conferring on the stage)

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. I've, I've been informed that we'll need just a little bit of time to gather that information so that it's accurate, and I'll interrupt our proceedings as soon as we have it, so that we can answer your question. It's a very important question, and my sense is that that knowledge might, in fact, help guide our work this afternoon and through the remainder of our time, so thank you very much.

I'm going to call next for the next calendar item, and Morris Matthis and Beth Ann Cook are presenters.

MORRIS FRANKLIN MATTHIS (Texas): Good afternoon, saints.

ALL: Good afternoon.

BISHOP OUGH: That was lousy response. Yeah, come on, let's do that again. Try that again.

MATTHIS: Good afternoon, saints.

ALL: Good afternoon.

BISHOP OUGH: There we go, that's better. OK. Go ahead.

MATTHIS: Good afternoon, sinners.

ALL: Good afternoon.

BISHOP OUGH: We are. See, we know who we are, alright.

MATTHIS: Yeah. Yeah. So, I guess we're all here, so let's get started. I'm blessed to have served as the chair of Church and Society 2 and it is a joy to be standing before you today.

BISHOP OUGH: We're glad you're standing before us, as well. Thank you.

MATTHIS: And, if I could take a moment of privilege, I do want to express appreciation to so many of you for your expressions of care and concern since I passed out this past Friday evening, bringing a whole new meaning in our life together to bringing something to the floor.

(laughter)

I am well, and I am grateful to have worked with the faithful followers of Jesus, who served on our committee and to have worked with our incredible leadership team: George Wilson, vice-chair; Salvador Malana, secretary; and the four sub-committee chairs, Mbayu Watete; LaTrelle Easterling, T. R. Chattin, and Brad Laurvick.

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

We have four petitions for you today. The first can be found on p. 2322 of your *DCA* and is Calendar Item 491. In your *ADCA*, it is on p. 325 and Petition No. 60837. The title is, "Withdraw from Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice." It was adopted by the committee by a vote of forty-four to twenty-five.

The rationale for that support will be presented by committee member Beth Ann Cook.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. This is properly before us. And, we will have speeches for and against. However, there's first a

BETH ANN COOK (Indiana): I think, I'm supposed to present the committee's rationale?

BISHOP OUGH: Oh. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

COOK: Thank you, Bishop. I'm grateful for an opportunity to present this petition, which originated in my annual conference, Indiana Annual Conference. Your Church and Society B legislative group, believes the time has come to withdraw from this

D.C.-based political lobbying group called the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Our United Methodist Church has a carefully nuanced, official position on the difficult issue of abortion. It is not as strongly pro-life as some of us would like; nor as clearly pro-choice, as others would like. This group is neither nuanced, nor moderate. They oppose any legal restriction on abortion, at any time in pregnancy.

During our debate, two issues came up, in particular. First, is the issue of gender selection abortions, a practice which has resulted in millions of missing girls around the world. Our committee chair has a daughter from a country that casts off girls and is horrified at the thought of associating ourselves with any organization that will not denounce this practice as The United Methodist Church denounces it. And, as a feminist, I am deeply offended by that as well.

Another committee member, who served on the General Board of Church and Society, attended an RCRC Board meeting at their behest. He came away convinced that our church should not in any way affiliate with RCRC. He first heard RCRC advocate in that meeting that they would hold up abortion when the child can survive outside the mother's womb, not just at seven months or eight months, but right up to the moment that the baby takes its first breath. They do all of this while using the name of The United Methodist Church on their publications. Given this information, I ask you, "Does the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, really speak for you and for our church?"

On behalf of both, the Indiana Annual Conferences and the Church and Society B legislative group, I urge you to support this petition to withdraw from RCRC.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, Beth Ann. I have a point of order or parliamentary inquiry or request for information. Mic. 4, Doug Damron, recognize you, please.

DOUGLAS DAMRON (West Ohio): Doug Damron, West Ohio Conference. I'm just wondering, would this legislation be referred to the commission that's going to be formed after this General Conference?

BISHOP OUGH: My understanding is that if it's coming today, it has already been vetted and is properly before us. Thank you. There is a motion to table, postpone, or refer. Mic. 4, Gayle Shearman.

Motion to Refer

GAYLE ANNE SHEARMAN (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Gayle Shearman, California-Nevada Conference, lay person. I want to make a motion to refer.

BISHOP OUGH: It's in order.

SHEARMAN: OK. Because sections of our Social Principles, such as population, responsible parenthood, rights of children, rights of women, support rights of all persons to have access to a wide-range of reproductive health services. And, because we already have

BISHOP OUGH: I am going to have to interrupt you for just a moment, my mistake. I need to be sure we have a second for it, 'cause you started, there is a second. You can start into your speech, so please continue.

SHEARMAN: So, my motion is that we refer this matter to the General Conference Council on Finance and Administration, in keeping with paragraph 806.10, where they already have the authority to be in dialogue around the church opposing late-term abortion, and that it shall have the right to stop any expenditures.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. This is a motion to refer. It is debatable and we've had a speech for it. Is there,

we're on the motion to refer. So, I'm gonna clear the queue. I know many of you are wanting to speak on this. I can tell that by the screen, but we're gonna clear it so we can stay very focused on what's before us. We're just on the motion to refer. Is there anyone else that would care to speak for or against the motion to refer? I'll give you a moment to enter.

SHEARMAN: At the end, I would like to speak on behalf of the committee, against it.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. I have some speeches against. I'm gonna call first on Vernon Scott, mic. 4.

VERNON CRAIG SCOTT (Iowa): Thank you, Bishop. What this annual conference has done so far, better than ever before, is to refer. As Marquice Hobbs said yesterday, "it's time for us to stand up, show some courage, and make a decision." We need to defeat this motion to refer and let it stand on its merits. That's why we're here. Show some courage folks. Follow what God has told you in your hearts to do. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. I wanna keep our discussion balanced, so I'm looking for a speech in favor of referral. I don't see any right now, so I'll take the next speech against, Rudolph Merab, I believe it is, mic. 6.

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): Thank you, Bishop. Rudolph Merab. I think, I go along with the previous speaker. It's about time we as Christians witness for Jesus Christ. Let's not delay the issue, and therefore, I ask you to vote down the referral.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, there's another speech against. I'm still looking for a speech for. Just a reminder of our rules, we need two and two. I have one speech for and two against. We can continue until I have the balance. Oh, alright. I am trying

to keep it balanced here. I don't see one for, and I think we have had our two speeches against. I think you are ready to deal with this, from what I can tell. If you would get your voting devices. If you would get them handy, I'll remind you what is before us. This is a motion to refer the item. If you would . . .

BETH ANN COOK (Indiana): May I speak?

BISHOP OUGH: Yes, you may speak.

COOK: On behalf of the committee, I would urge you not to refer this. It is my understanding that our support is the use of our name and not really financial support which I believe would mean it would not really need to go to GCF&A. I would also echo what some previous speakers have said about the fact that it has been awhile that we've been talking about this. Over twelve years ago, Indiana first sent the petition to withdraw from RCRC. Eight years ago at General Conference, the body narrowly decided to remain part of this group in the hopes that being at the table, in dialogue, would help moderate RCRC's stance. This has not happened. In Tampa, the committee voted decisively to withdraw from RCRC, but time ran out before the plenary could discuss it. I would urge you not to refer this and to make a decision on it at this time. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: I think we're ready. Alright, if you would, wait. The motion before us is to refer. If you would get your voting devices handy. If you would vote for referral, that would be a yes vote. If you would vote yes. For not referring would be no. You can vote now. [Yes, 155; No, 572]

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: You have voted not to refer, so the item is before us. We're gonna clear the queue once

again. So, the motion, the original motion is before us, and we can have speeches for and against. I have a speech against, Rebecca Garrett, I believe. Oh, no, excuse me. I'm sorry, my glasses, my trifocals got mixed up. Rebecca Girrell, mic. 6 please. This is a speech against.

REBECCA GIRRELL (New England): That's correct, Bishop, thank you. Rebecca Girrell, clergy, New England Annual Conference of the United States. I want to share some information with you about the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice or RCRC because I do not think that everyone has accurate information about this coalition. It is a national, that is to the United States, community of religious and spiritual people, denominations, and organizations from all faith traditions working together for ethical and responsible policies, laws, and resources addressing reproductive health and reproductive health care access.

The UMC was a founding member of this coalition, and this gives us an opportunity to be in conversation with a wide range of people. In her introduction, we heard that the UMC's position on abortion is carefully nuanced and, indeed, it is. That is our official denominational position on abortion. RCRC does not speak for The United Methodist Church, but we speak to it. In doing so, we demonstrate how we can work in coalitions within and beyond the United States for the health of women and children everywhere. We also provide training for clergy and laity to be in ministry with people who have experienced or considered abortion. I urge you to vote no on this resolution. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: I'm gonna call next on Darcy Rubenking. This is a speech for, mic. 4 please.

DARCY LYNN RUBENKING (Iowa): Darcy Rubenking, Iowa Annual Conference, laity. I move

to support this motion to remove us from RCRC. I, for one, am pro-life and really would dislike the fact that my apportionment dollars supports this. I see that abortion, in my opinion, is murder, and that I don't want the name of my church or my finances going to push this agenda. I would ask that you would vote to take us out of RCRC. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, thank you. Ready for a speech against. I'm gonna call on Courtney Fowler at mic. no. 2. Just a moment, I am going to need to interrupt you, because we have a point of order or parliamentary inquiry. Sara Swenson, mic. 5 please.

SARA ANN SWENSON (Minnesota): Hello, this is Sara Swenson from Minnesota. I was just--

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Sara, identify what you want, a point of order, or parliamentary inquiry, or do you need some information?

SWENSON: It's a question for information. I feel like we just had two very different, we heard two different things about whether or not there are financial implications to our involvement in RCRC. The presenter had said that this didn't have any financial implications and the last speaker just said apportionment dollars are going to RC, so this seems like, I would like some more actual statistics from whoever has them.

BISHOP OUGH: I'm going to turn to the committee chair for an answer to that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That would be you.

MORRIS FRANKLIN MATTHIS (Texas): I don't know.

(laughter)

BISHOP OUGH: Very helpful.

(laughter)

I don't think we know right now. I'm going to call next on Alka Lyall, another, I believe, I hope I pronounced that correctly, another

point of order, parliamentary inquiry, information, mic. 3, please.

ALKA LYALL (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Alka Lyall, Northern Illinois Conference, clergy. Bishop,

BISHOP OUGH: Can you identify if it's a question, for information, point of order, or parliamentary inquiry?

LYALL: It's information.

BISHOP OUGH: OK, you're requesting information. Alright.

LYALL: I'm requesting information, it is a sensitive issue, Bishop. We are talking about the health of a woman. We are talking about an organization that we have been a part of, in fact, we are founding members of it, for years, and so I would like to ask if it is possible for us to get somebody from the Board of Church and Society to come and explain to us why we became part of this organization in the, this coalition, in the first place.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. I think, excuse me, I think you are asking if the body would allow a person who is not seated, who is a member of, or could represent Church and Society would speak. I'm going to let the house determine that. If you,

LYALL: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, thank you. I'm going to have you use your voting devices just so we are very, very clear. If you would allow the speaker, it'll be yes. If no, if you would prefer not to, it would be no. Ya ready? Vote now.

[Yes, 450; No, 302]

(pause)

Alright, you've indicated that you would prefer to have some information from Board of Church and Society. Is there somebody prepared to speak? Alka, did you have someone in mind or were you just

hopeful? Alright. Mic. 4, please, and please identify yourself. Thank you very much.

Burton Brings Information from GBCS

SUSAN GREER BURTON (Director of Women's and Children's Advocacy and Organizing, General Board of Church and Society): Hi, Susan Burton, General Board of Church and Society, Director of Women's and Children's Advocacy and Organizing. I'm here speaking on behalf of our General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe. I want to clarify that neither GBCS, nor United Methodist Women, spend any money at all to be part of this coalition.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. Thank you very much. We're back on the motion and I was about to call, I believe, on Courtney Fowler when we had the point of order. We have another point of order, however. I'm going to need to interrupt to take care of that.

Rebecca Girrell, mic. 6, please. And as you come, please be prepared to indicate if it is a point of order or parliamentary inquiry or if you are requesting information.

REBECCA GIRRELL (New England): Bishop, I was going to ask for someone from Church and Society. I withdraw.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. Thank you very much. Then we are ready for Courtney. This would be a speech against. Mic. 2, please.

COURTNEY MERIA FOWLER (Great Plains): Courtney Fowler, Great Plains Conference. I wish to speak against this petition. As a woman of faith, it deeply saddens me that every two minutes some woman, somewhere in the world, dies in childbirth. The consequences from a woman's inability to access reproductive healthcare is literally life threatening. As a maternal health advocate, I, too, want to reduce the number

of abortions, as well. I want healthy babies to be born. As a United Methodist maternal health advocate, I work very hard on this issue, but we cannot do the work alone. It takes all of our faith voices working together. This does not in any way affect our United Methodist position on abortion. It remains the same. But if we really want to reduce abortions, let's be part of faith-based efforts to reduce abortion, not reduce a woman's access to reproductive healthcare. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: I have a couple requests for point of order or parliamentary inquiry or information. First, back to Alka Lyall at mic. 3, please. And again, it is very helpful to the chair, and I think to the body, to know exactly what you're asking for as you come.

LYALL: Bishop, Alka Lyall, clergy, Northern Illinois. It's still a point of information. My original question to Board of Church and Society was, "Why was it important for us to become part of the coalition?" So, if we can invite somebody from Board of Church and Society again to share with us that information and why it was important to be part of that coalition for us as a faith organization.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, I think you're correct that your specific question probably was not answered and the house has indicated they were open to information, so please go ahead. Mic. 4.

Burton Returns

BURTON: Susan Burton, General Board of Church and Society, again. I apologize for not answering specifically. The Coalition for, the Reproductive Coalition (RCRC), Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, was founded because there were local pastors, some of whom were United Methodist, who were dealing with women in their congregations who were dying because

they were trying to give themselves abortions. They were advocates speaking out for women and believing that women needed to have access to reproductive healthcare provided by physicians. The United Methodist Church, specifically, the General Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women, have maintained our membership in this coalition because we believe it's important to give voice to a theologically diverse group. We are the only group who spans a very theological diverse group. There are Jewish groups that believe theologically that life begins at first breath. When we are in conversation with those groups, we talk about, as United Methodists, some of the things that we think as important, like consent for young people, like a 20-week ban. We advocate for the United Methodist position and we, therefore think, that this interfaith position is richer because of our participation.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. Thank you. Let me tell you where we are in our process. We've had one speech for and two speeches against. I can take one more speech for and I'm going to call on Katherine Rohrs at mic. 4 for a speech for, in favor.

KATHERINE SUSAN ROHRS (West Ohio): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Kathy Rohrs. I'm a lay person from West Ohio. In 2012, 2008, and 2004, I have sat as a delegate to General Conference and mourned about this issue. I specifically remember people in the past saying that we need to stay at the table in RCRC because our voice matters, but nothing has changed.

Our Social Principles truly have a moderate voice about abortion. We denounce abortion as a means of birth control and we do not affirm or agree with partial birth abortion. We encourage adoption as an alternative to abortion and affirm the rights of parents to be involved in decisions

of their minors, but RCRC refuses to talk about unborn children as just that. They condemn any attempt to limit abortions, even partial birth abortions. They refuse to condemn abortion as a form of birth control or gender selection. They affirm abortion in any way. Whatever you may hear, RCRC is not a moderate organization. I don't speak for all young women who are United Methodists, but as a mother of two, I speak for those who have not been surrounded by the church's support to cheer them on to life. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you. Just to be very clear where we are at. We have had two speeches for now, and two speeches against, and under our rules that you have affirmed, we will be moving to vote on this matter following a final statement from the committee.

BETH ANN COOK (Indiana): Brothers and sisters in Christ, as you make your decision on this issue, it's important to remember that RCRC is not a healthcare provider. It is a lobbying group and it's not the only lobbying group. It is also an organization that is one means for advocating for women's healthcare.

BISHOP OUGH: Beth, I'm going to interrupt you because there are points of order and I want to be sure we are in order.

COOK: OK. Sure.

BISHOP OUGH: Dorothea Benz, mic. 6, please.

DOROTHEE ELISABETH BENZ (New York): Thank you, Bishop. It's Dorothee Benz, actually.

BISHOP OUGH: Yes, I see that. I'm sorry.

BENZ: That's alright. Point of information. Could we get some information on what RCRC actually advocates?

BISHOP OUGH: Inquiry for information.

COOK: The information I am sharing has come from their own

website, so I would say that's the best location. I know not everyone has the ability to access this immediately.

BISHOP OUGH: Yeah, since there was not a, it was a general inquiry about information, I'm assuming that the information that you're sharing is the information.

Alright, I have another inquiry. Mihail Stefanov, point of order or parliamentary inquiry, information. Mic. 3, please.

MIHAIL VASKOV STEFANOV (Bulgaria-Romania Provisional): Mihail Stefanov, Bulgaria-Romania Provisional Annual Conference. And this is a point of information in order to understand the process.

BISHOP OUGH: Sure.

STEFANOV: I'm asking why does the presenter of the motion has the last speech twice, because according to my understanding, the first/last speech was a, that she gave, was after a motion to refer made by somebody else. So, the first time she wasn't supposed to have the rights for the last speech because we had already two speeches against. I hope you understand what I mean.

BISHOP OUGH: If I wasn't here, I'd come and give you a big hug. You are correct and so I am going to ask that Beth stand down.

COOK: Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you very much. And thank you for helping me and this body.

This is actually something I knew and I forgot, so I appreciate it very much. We are ready to vote. We've had the speeches for and against. If you would pick up your devices, your voting devices. If you are in favor of the petition, you'll vote yes; if not, vote no. You can vote now.

[Yes, 425; No, 265]

Alright, you have voted in favor of the petition.

We're ready to move, I think, to the next item, and if I can find my list here. Well, let's just rely on Morris. He know where we are. OK, Morris? Oh, excuse me, I'm going to interrupt you.

We have a couple of other inquiries. Michael Childs, mic. 3, and as you come, again it's very helpful if you identify if it's a point of order, or a parliamentary inquiry, or information being requested. Mic. 3, please.

Point of Order Concerning Howard Motion

MICHAEL FRANKLIN CHILDS (Mississippi): Bishop, I rise for a point of order. Under section eight of the Plan of Organization, I challenge the action of this General Conference in adopting the Howard motion with respect to the Council of Bishops report delivered on Wednesday, May 18. The establishment of an interim commission has financial implications and under section 8a, and I quote, "Any action proposed to General Conference plenary to establish an interim commission shall be referred to GCFA, the Connectional Table, or their executive committees or their expenditure review group for report and recommendation before final action." Furthermore, under section 8c, and I quote, "Any proposal falling under the provision of this section shall be referred at least seventy-two hours prior to the scheduled adjournment of General Conference."

Now, the Howard motion was not referred as required and was made less than seventy-two hours prior to the scheduled adjournment of General Conference. The Howard motion, and our adoption of it, was a violation of our Standing Rules of section 8 of the Plan of Organization. So, I ask the chair to rule that our adoption of the Howard motion was out of order and the action is null and void. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you. Gonna give me just a minute to consult here. Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Alright. Thank you for your patience. I wanted to be absolutely clear that the information that I thought I knew was, in fact, accurate. I would remind the body that GCFA extended the deadline yesterday so that matter and other matters with financial implications could, in fact, be considered. GCFA and the CT have considered that. They do have this incorporated into the budget recommendation that they will bring. So, sir, I'm going to rule your inquiry out of order.

MICHAEL CHILDS (Mississippi Annual Conference): I appeal your ruling to the body because they did not extend the date of adjournment of annual conference. It violates the rules and I appeal to this body.

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Alright.

(pause)

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: So let me try to sort this out with you. I just, I want to be very clear where we're at and then, if the body feels that they want to give some other direction, they can do that. The deadline for the submission of financial matters to GCFA was, in fact, extended to all matters. If we were to change that it would have impact all matters that were referred for financial if we would rule that that deadline was null and void. And so I believe this is in order.

MICHAEL CHILDS: And it also says "before the adjournment of annual conference, seventy-two hours." That was not changed. It violates the rules, and I appeal to this body.

(pause)

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Sir, I think you've made your point. I'm going to ask you to be seated. Thank you. I have a number of points of order, parliamentary inquiry coming up now. So I'm going to turn to James Cowart, mic. 5, point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. Please identify what you have in mind. Mic. 5.

JAMES ARCH COWART (South Georgia Annual Conference): The former speaker addressed my concerns.

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Alright. Next, Don Underwood, mic. 5, as well. Point of inquiry, or parliamentary inquiry. Point of order, excuse me, or parliamentary inquiry.

DONALD WALLACE UNDERWOOD (North Texas Conference): Don Underwood, North Texas, clergy. Bishop, I'm not absolutely sure about this, but the Howard statement was in response to the request from the Council of Bishops to affirm the statement that they made. And I think I'm right about this, that the Council of Bishops acted autonomously on this. The Council of Bishops has access to its own funding, including funding for an interim General Conference, if it decided to call one. I think I'm right about this, it would not require the action of this conference. Thank you.

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Thank you. That's helpful, Don. Excuse me. Next is Sergey Kim, mic. 2, please.

(pause)

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia) (*simultaneous interpretation*): Sergey Kim, Central Russia. Dear Bishop, I'm not very sure that our voting machines are working correctly . . .

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: I'm sorry. Just a moment. I'm not hearing you, and I need to hear you. So. Alright. If your voting machine

is not working, please, could a page assist? Yes, right there. We'll assist you with . . .

SERGEY KIM: (*simultaneous interpretation*): I'm just not very sure whether they are working correctly because one time before during one of the votes, we did receive the message that our vote was received. However, now we are not seeing the same message with the message received is not showing up. So we're not sure if our votes have reached the system. We're not quite clear. So we really would like to act to get some help on this, to get some assistance.

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Yes, thank you. We're checking here to make sure that we can get you the information you need.

(*pause*)

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: I'm trying to address the inquiry about the voting machines. Your machine should said "send." It should indicate that your vote has been recorded, but then we clear those so, hopefully, if you still think it's not working, please, please consult a page and we'll get you a new device.

Alright, back to those people who are making inquiries about points of order or parliamentary inquiry. Fred Brewington, mic. 6, please.

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON (New York): Bishop, I was in the previous queue. There is no need for me to speak at this time.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, thank you very much. We'll go next to Joe, oops, sorry, getting ahead of myself, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, mic. 6 please.

CYNTHIA MICHELLE MORE-KOIKOI (Baltimore-Washington): Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, clergy, Baltimore-Washington Conference. Bishop, I had cleared myself from the queue because you addressed the issue.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, Joe Kirk, Joe Kilpatrick Sr. please, mic. 6.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Just trying to read what it says, it implies, seems to imply in these, in Rule 8 that the action of the General Council on Finance and Administration is necessary to complete the work. I am not sure it indicates it has occur before we vote which seems to be the issue, but the, they do have considerable authority here, so far as the expenditure, estimated budgets and statement explaining how the creation of the proposed board will effect budgets or budgets for existing boards. It does appear that there's some additional steps necessary. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, Joe. Would the house permit me to bring some additional information to you? I have been a little reluctant to do this because these financial matters are coming to us a bit later, but I think, I think I might be able to help address some of the concerns if you would allow me to call upon the Chair of GCFA to make a brief report. If you would be open to that, would you please raise a hand so I'm confident about that? Alright, thank you very much. If you are opposed, same sign.

(*pause*)

Well the body has just given me permission to ask Bishop Coyner to provide some information but I'll hear you. Go ahead mic. 11, please, oh, mic. 1 excuse me. There are no 11s.

JOHN A. MARTIN (Upper New York): John Martin, Upper New York, clergy. Bishop this, this point of order pertains to Rule No. 3 which talks about a delegate appealing the rule, the ruling of the presiding chair. It says that's not debatable and that the person appealing the ruling, as well as the chair, have the opportunity to speak to it, but then we

must vote on that. I believe we have moved beyond that, but I think we are breakin' our own rules right now.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you very much. The reason we have moved beyond it is I believe we are within the rules. I'm gonna call on Bishop Coyner, please.

Bishop Coyner Clarifies Finances for GCFA

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: I hope this information will be helpful to you. The rules do state that financial implication items which would affect the budget have to be brought in seventy-two hours before we bring, the end of annual, General Conference. GCFA did announce, and perhaps you all should vote on that as a rule change, that we were willing to extend that another day because you were moving so slowly on some of your items.

Nonetheless, the particular item you are referring to, the adoption, you adopted what the bishops brought you. The only financial implication there that would normally apply would be the creation of that commission that was listed, and we have met as GCFA and CTA and found a way to fund that outside the budget. So, I don't believe it matters the timing on that. We're not bringing that to you as a part of the budget proposal tomorrow at all. We will be reporting to you on how we plan to fund that.

A called General Conference is within the purview of the Council of Bishops at any time, and it's not something you add to the budget or deal with in budget discussions. We will bring you tomorrow a report on the ways we see that cost might be covered in the future if there is such an event called. So, I apologize if our extending the time for you to have budget request in has caused difficulty, but I do believe, in this case, the commission that you voted that

could be developed and appointed by the Council of Bishops is not something that will be related to the budget, and we'll be sharing that information with you tomorrow in more detail.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, Bishop Coyner. I have another inquiry, Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, from mic. 1 please.

KENNETHA BIGHAM-TSAI (West Michigan): Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, and thank you, Bishop. I do believe that Bishop Coyner has provided clarity. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you. Lonnie Chafin, Chafin, excuse me, mic. 3.

LONNIE ARTHUR CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference. I remind the body that during the Committee on Agenda presentation, there was a motion, there was a report that the deadline for budget matters was extended and that was approved by this General Conference by some ninety percent. While it wasn't a motion to suspend the rules specifically, it did, in effect, suspend the rules and by action of this body we extended that deadline to a new date. So, I think, I wanted to support the chair in ruling that this is not a point of order or wanting to support the chair in the appeal of the chair.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you very much. I apologize, if I was rude. I was aware of these actions that are taken that's why I thought we were in order, but perhaps I could have been more sensitive and made sure this information was available to you much earlier in this discussion. So, I think we are ready to move on, and so I would clear the queue and call on the chairperson, there we go, of Church and Society. Thank you.

MORRIS FRANKLIN MATTHIS (Texas): Our next petition can

be found on p. 2322 of your DCA, two-three-two-two. It is Item No. 492, four-nine-two. In your ADCAs it's on p. 356, three-fifty-six. It's Petition No. 60838, six-zero-eight-three-eight, and the title simply is, "Deletion." This petition relates to the one on which we acted a few moments ago. It simply calls for deleting Resolution 3204, Support for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. It was adopted by the committee by a vote of forty-seven to twenty.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, Item 492, Calendar Item 492 is properly before us, and I want to give you an opportunity to indicate on the queue if you would like to speak for or against. I do not see anyone queuing up. But, I will give you just another few seconds. Alright, it appears you may be ready to act on this. If you would take your voting devices in hand, if you are supportive of this item, you'll vote yes. If you, if not, no. You can vote now.

[Yes, 561; No, 197]

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Alright. You have voted in favor of that item. We'll continue.

Opposition to White Privilege in U.S.

MATTHIS: Petition, I'm sorry, on your DCAs p. 2207, 2207, Item No. 388. In your ADCAs, p. 365, Petition No. 60122. The title, "Opposition to White Privilege in the U.S." It was adopted by a vote of forty-seven to sixteen and will be presented by T. R. Chattin, sub-committee chair.

TERRI RAE CHATTIN (Baltimore-Washington): At General Conference, 2000, we first adopted a resolution opposing white privilege. Sadly, in recent years, we've been reminded ever more powerfully, of the systemic nature of white privilege and racism. The legislation before us today is an updated reso-

lution on opposing white privilege. The committee has been said, approved with one amendment, adding the word "predominately" in line 6, approved forty-seven to sixteen.

The remainder of the changes of the resolution, consists in updating the statistics around racial disparities in the United States. For example, one, in 2008 one in four African-American men were likely to be imprisoned in their lifetime. This updated resolution with current statistics, now point out one in three African-American men are likely to be imprisoned in their lifetime. Other statistics are added that certainly show that we are going not in the direction that we would hope to be going. Thus, it is ever more imperative for the church to wrestle with this reality and our ongoing commitment to dismantle racism, both in our church and in our community. Our legislative committee moves adoption of this petition.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. It's properly before us. I wanna see if there are any speeches for or against. I give you a moment to enter your requests in the queue. Alright. I don't see anybody seeking the floor. So, I think maybe we're ready, and I don't think it's necessary to go back to the chair since we've just heard the speech. I think you're ready. If you would get your voting devices handy. If you are in favor, you'll vote, yes; if not, vote no. You can vote now.

[Yes, 686; No, 81]

BISHOP OUGH: And, you have approved Calendar Item 388.

I'm going to interrupt for just a moment, because we had a request for information at the beginning of this session at two o'clock about where we are in the number of petitions. That information has been gathered. I think it's current. I'll ask the secretary to share this with you and then we'll continue.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: The information provided to me from the Coordinator of the Calendar indicates that the plenary has acted on just over 400 calendar items to date, approximately 350 of which were on consent calendars. Some items are not being scheduled by the committee on the calendar because they have financial implications and were not voted on prior to the GCFA deadline or they are items related to human sexuality, which the Committee on Agenda and Calendar has deferred, according to the plenary action yesterday in response to the Council of Bishops' report. We have eighty-five calendar items to consider, plus eleven items that will be presented as part of the GCFA report tomorrow.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. Thank you. Please proceed.

Healthcare in the U.S. for All

LATRELL EASTERLING (New England): Thank you. The final report from Church and Society B, can be found on p. 2207, 2207, Calendar Item 390, Calendar Item 390, ADCA p. 351, ADCA p. 351, Petition No. 60469, Petition No. 60469. The title is, "Healthcare in the United States for All."

This petition addresses our Wesleyan commitment to care for the whole person, as called for throughout Scripture. It advocates for access to healthcare for all within the United States, maintenance of the quality of care provided, effective administration of care, and the costs attendant thereto. A movement toward a single payer system, but with incremental steps and state-level initiatives that will guide our work toward that end and coordinated advocacy efforts throughout The United Methodist agencies, boards, and commissions, again, with the emphasis of those within the United States.

The petition amends and updates the content of the current resolution to reflect changes in the healthcare delivery system in the United States during the last quadrennium. The committee moved to adopt forty-two to thirty. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. This item is properly before us. I wanna give you just a moment to indicate if you would like to speak for or against it.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: I don't see anybody entering the queue, so I think, you are ready. If you would get your voting devices, we'll move. Oh, sorry. Is this an inquiry? OK. Alright. You wanted to get my attention, so I gave you a little time, it sounds like. Just a minute. I have a speech against, now. So, I'm going to move to that. Cara Nicklas, mic. 6, please.

CARA SUE NICKLAS (Oklahoma): Yes, Cara Nicklas, Oklahoma Conference. I rise to speak against this petition. I do believe it is important for our church to speak on social issues. We as the church should provide a biblically-based voice on important social issues, but what concerns me about this resolution is that we as a body pass a lot of resolutions without fully understanding and studying these resolutions and understanding the implications of what we're doing.

I urge you not to vote in favor of this resolution based solely on the title or a cursory view of this resolution. Sure, we all agree and desire healthcare for all in the United States, but this body should hesitate to pass a resolution that takes a side on a political solution for a societal need. Two deeply committed Christians can differ on how best to address the need to provide healthcare for all in the United States. Perhaps you believe the government

should provide healthcare for all and be in, and is in the best position to provide that care; and I might believe that while government has a role, the free market system is in the better solution to solve that problem.

I don't believe the Bible speaks on whether the Democrats or the Republicans have the best solution for this issue and so I suggest this body should not speak on this matter. My concern is that this resolution authorizes the general agency staff members to act as lobbyists on this issue.

We spend a lot of time talking about the need for more resources and we should not spend resources on this issue. We need to spend our resources on evangelism and new episcopal areas and not on lobbying our U.S. Congress. Please vote no.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you very much. Ready for a speech for. Deanna Stickley-Miner, mic. 4, please.

DEANNA E. STICKLEY-MINER (West Ohio): Thank you, Bishop. I am, my name is Deanna Stickley-Miner, clergy, West Ohio, and I would urge us to support this resolution. In the United States, there are many people who live near poverty, at poverty, who struggle to provide housing, meals, healthcare, and other basic necessities. The General Board of Church and Society is not a lobbying organization. They are an advocacy organization and as such will help equip us to know how we can best advocate to provide access to quality healthcare for all people so that there are not some in our midst who have to file for bankruptcy because of healthcare bills or choose between purchasing medication and payin' rent and utility bills. I believe that Jesus calls us to provide that healing spirit in our midst and provide access to healthcare for all people. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you. We've had a speech for and a speech

against. I'm looking now for a speech, another speech against. Alright, Paul Morelli. Mic. 6, please.

PAUL MICHAEL MORELLI (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Paul Morelli from Western Pennsylvania Conference, lay delegate. I agree with the speaker that spoke earlier against it. My wife worked for an organization that hired people to do work and with the cost of the, what the universal health-care has put on the organization she worked for, already, their first move was to cut people from full-time back below the minimum hours that required them to provide healthcare so that they could stay in business, and then other regulations had an effect like that, too, that ended up causing people to lose their jobs. And so, there's a spider web effect that we may not understand when we want to do one thing, it can affect us in a way we didn't intend to. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you. I have a number of items related to point of orders, or parliamentary inquiry, or information. Actually, that queue is going down, so thank you for helping me out. I'm going to call on Charlotte—is it Thorpe or Thaarup? Mic. 5, please, for a point of order or an inquiry.

CHARLOTTE THAARUP (Sweden): Thank you, Bishop. Charlotte Thaarup.

BISHOP OUGH: Oh, yeah, wow, I really blew that.

THAARUP: It's a—

BISHOP OUGH: Maybe you can give me a little tutorial after this session?

THAARUP: Uniting Church of Sweden.

BISHOP OUGH: We're glad you're here.

THAARUP: It's a point of information.

BISHOP OUGH: Sure.

THAARUP: Am I right in assuming that this debate over this

petition, and many others regarding the United States, would not be on the table if the UMC in the states could organize in their own central conferences?

BISHOP OUGH: I'm going to—

(applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
Let me step away from the mic.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: You know, I'm usually pretty good about watching for when things are going to drift into statements and I missed that one, so--

(laughter)

We'll let it go. Thank you very much.

I do have either a motion to table, or postpone, or refer and I'm going to call on Jay Brim. Mic. 6, please.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Bishop, lay delegate, Jay Brim, from Rio Texas. I rise to move to refer. If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP OUGH: Is there a second? Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
There was a second.

BISHOP OUGH: Yeah, OK.

(laughter)

BRIM: Bishop, I move to refer this back to the board, General Board of Church and Society. My sister from Sweden, and others of us among here, are very uncomfortable with the fact that is only about the U.S. when health concerns are global, and it would probably be helpful to the body if we had a resolution back that spoke to the whole world and not to the United States only.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
There are resolutions that address healthcare beyond the United States.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. This is properly before us and we have had a speech for referral. Is there someone that would, will speak against? Now, we're gonna to clear the queue because we are on a different motion. I wanna be sure that I'm directing the house appropriately and we're focusing on the correct item. So this is the motion to refer 390 and we've had a speech for from the maker of the motion. I'm going to call on Ande Emmanuel, mic. 2, please. This would be a speech against referral.

ANDE IKIMAN EMMANUEL (Southern Nigeria): Bishop, my name is Ande Emmanuel, clergy delegate from the Southern Nigeria Annual Conference. I look at this issue as something that this body needs to take a position on it now, not to refer it. And my reason is, looking at the rate of immigration in the United States and how people are coming over the world to come to this place, health care is something that is very important for them to access. So, if we can look at this petition as something that can affect a lot of immigrants that are coming to the United States and take position on it now, it would be fine. Thank you.

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH:
Thank you very much. I'm looking now for a speech in favor of referral and so I'm going to go—whoops, just a moment. Yes, I'm gonna go to Marilyn Bridges, mic. 4, please.

MARILYN ELIZABETH BRIDGES (West Ohio): My name is Marilyn Bridges. I'm a lay delegate from West Ohio. This is my first General Conference, and I appreciate everything that's happening here. I would like to—to recommend voting against—or, I'm sorry, for referral because this work needs to be trimmed down. It is 2 ½ pages. It needs to be a paragraph or two.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. I can take one more speech against refer-

ral, so I'll call on We Chang from, mic. 6, please.

WE HYUN CHANG (New England): We Chang, clergy, New England. I speak against referral because we cannot refer providing and standing for health care for all people. We heard from one of the speakers that we should not pay attention to the title of this petition. I think that is very opposite of it. We need to stand for this for the title's sake, because millions of people in this country still don't have health insurance or safety net for health care, which that God has given as a gift and the basic human rights for all people.

Yes, it's a U.S.-only issue, but U.S. is a part of global United Methodist Church, too. We cannot delay standing up for what is right and just, and bring healing to millions of people, because it is only U.S. issues. I think it serves the Methodist Church as a whole. So, I invite you to vote against the referral and stand together, at least, as a people of God and follower of Jesus Christ, who offers healing to all of us, that we stood for the health care for the all people. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you. Under our rules, we need to move to vote. We've had two speeches for referral and two speeches against referral. And so the question automatically comes to us. If you would get your voting devices. If you are for the referral, you'll vote yes. If you are against referral, you'll vote no. And you can vote now.
[Yes, 261; No, 505]

Alright. You have not referred Item 390, so let me remind you where we are with 390. We're gonna clear the queue just because everything in the queue would have been related to the referral. So, we've had one speech for Item 390 and two against. I'm looking for a speech for,

and I'll wait a moment here since I know you have to re-queue. Alright, looks like you're ready. Katie Dawson, mic. 4, this would be a speech for.

KATIE Z. DAWSON (Iowa): Hello. I'm Katie Dawson, I'm clergy from the Iowa Annual Conference. I just wanted to point our attention to the advocacy steps that are listed on p. 354. If you carefully read the petition, which I hope we have, because that's our job as we prepare to come to this conference, you'll notice that although it is updated to reflect the realities of the Affordable Care Act, this petition does not speak completely in support of the Affordable Care Act. In fact, it encourages us to challenge the places where there are deficiencies; where we still do not have health care for all. And so I want to encourage us to support this work as we continue to perfect health care in the United States. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. There has been a request to offer an amendment. I'll honor that. Opal LeSalle, mic. 3, please.

OPAL ANN LESALLE (Mississippi): Bishop, Ann LaSalle, Mississippi Annual Conference. I move that we strike the last paragraph on p. 354. And the first paragraph on p. 355, and if I can get a second I would speak to it.

BISHOP OUGH: Is there a second? There is. You may speak to it.

LESALLE: Friends, I have Multiple Sclerosis. Under a single-payer health system, I might be denied health coverage; I might be denied the medications that I take every day; I might be denied the three days of IVs that I take every month to heal my immune system because it's incredibly expensive. During the time that we were passing the Affordable Care Act, our President was on television and he actually listed my condition as a reason not

to offer end-of-life life support. So if you want to guarantee that everyone in America has health coverage, you do not want a single-payer health care system.

I was an employee of the State of Mississippi, and the State of Mississippi denied my request for coverage. I was forced to quit my job and go onto my husband's health plan in order to gain coverage. If we go to a single-payer health system, who will advocate for people like me? Who will stop the government in a single-payer health system from denying people like me health coverage? So, I respectfully request that if we intend to adopt this, that we delete the language that asks us to adopt a single-payer health system. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. Thank you very much. We have the LaSalle amendment. There's been a speech for it from the maker of the amendment. I'm looking for speeches against it. I need to clear the queue, 'cause we're on a new item, yes. Let's make sure that we're all working with the same information. So, again I'm looking for a speech against the amendment. Give you a moment to indicate if you'd like to speak. Alright. Lonnie Chafin, from mic. 3, please.

LONNIE ARTHUR CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference. I rise to speak against the amendment, because single-payer is the absolute best way to assure coverage is extended to our sister from Mississippi. Single-payer says no one gets denied from health care for having a pre-existing condition.

All conditions are covered. All people are covered. There's no way, I understand her experience from the government of Mississippi, but that's because we're not in a single payer environment. In a single payer environment there is health care

for all persons by being, by being, by virtue of being a citizen of that country. Single payer is the health care system that nearly every other country in the world uses to make sure there's coverage for all people. The way to be sure there's health coverage for our sister in Mississippi, for all God's children, is single payer because no one can be denied coverage. And it's priced at a price they can afford, and it goes with you when you change employers, and it is suitable for your needs. I urge you to vote against the amendment and retain the single payer language in this document because it is the best hope we have to get health insurance for all people.

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH:

Thank you. I can take a speech for, or in favor of the amendment. I do not see anybody else queueing up so I think we are ready to vote on the amendment. If you would get your voting devices. If you are in favor of the amendment, you will vote yes; if you're opposed, you'll vote no. You can vote now.

(pause)

Oh, I'm sorry. Mic. 3.

OPAL ANN LASALLE (Mississippi): Do I get to speak to the motion, as the author of the motion before we vote?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's the only person who spoke.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: I know you'd like to do this, but you had your speech at the beginning. Thank you.

LASALLE: Yes, OK.

BISHOP OUGH: So we're in the process. I interrupted the voting, so I'm going to ask you, I'll ask them to clear everything that might have been recorded in that vote. I think we're still ready to vote on the amendment. I do see someone that would like to speak for it now. Tom

Wussow. This is in order. Mic. 3, please.

THOMAS (TOM) RODERICK WUSSOW (Texas Annual Conference): Yes, thank you Bishop. Tom Wussow, Texas Annual Conference. I'd like to speak for the amendment. Two basic reasons. One, we don't need to be embroiled in the political aspects of how healthcare eventually gets provided, and the single payer issue is a political issue. Secondly, I would take issue with the speaker that says everything's covered under single payer. Medicare is a single payer system that we already have and I can give you a whole list of things that have been denied that I've personally had experience with. So, having said all of that I would speak for the amendment. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. I can take another speech against and it appears we have such a speech. Rukang Chikomb, mic. 2 please.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Rukang Chikomb, Northwest Katanga. Bishop, thank you. Folks, somebody stood up to say this was for only for the U.S. folks. If this was only for the U.S. folks, the content of the message is what comes in the Bible about caring for the poor. All of us know that. That's one.

Number two: if my sister from Mississippi and my brother who stood up for this motion knows more about Mississippi (if I get it right) the state system, and if you know more about political issues about this healthcare, how does our brothers outside of America if they don't know anything. But you're asking them to vote for something. Folks, please. Vote for this amendment down. And go to the motion. Think about the poor. And the question you may ask yourself— who's poor. Maybe your neighbors is poor. Maybe me, your neighbors from Congo

is poor. Please let's be real. Forget about the politics out. See the Bible. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. We've had two speeches for and two speeches against the amendment. I'm gonna have the amendment re-read by our Secretary, so that you understand where we're at, and then we'll move immediately to votes. So have your voting device handy. Just don't, we won't put it up on the screen until we read the amendment so you're clear.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): Remove last paragraph, on p. 354, and first paragraph, on p. 355. Remove single payer language.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. We're ready to vote. If you would vote in favor of the amendment, would you please press one (1) and if you're against, press two (2), press no, number two, excuse me.
[Yes, 302; No, 465]

BISHOP OUGH: You have defeated the amendment, so we're back to the main motion, Item 390, and let me tell you where we're at. We're kinda at an interesting place because we've already had the two speeches for and two against, and it has not been amended. And so we are ready to vote on it. I'm going to give the chair an opportunity to speak and then we'll precede to vote.

LATRELLE ELAINE EASTERLING (New England Conference): Thank you, Bishop. Yesterday we saw a powerful presentation called "Imagining Abundant Health." Abundant health includes the ability to access healthcare services but also to be able to afford those services without overwhelming burden. This resolution represents the epitome of the Good Samaritan. May we align ourselves with this pericope and support the legislative committee's recommendation to adopt.

BISHOP OUGH: All right. It's before us. If you would get your voting devices handy. If you are in favor of 390 you'll vote yes, no. one (1); no, no. two (2). We can vote now. [*Yes, 581; No, 195*]

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: And you have supported item 390. So folks, I just want to tell you where we are; we have about ten minutes or so before we end order of the day, a very brief order of the day prior to closing this session, and well, I think we have time perhaps for another item, maybe two, and we'll move to that at this point. There is however, a point of . . . we're gonna, I just wanna check, a point of order just came up. I wanted . . . I'll take that point of order, parliamentary inquiry or information mic. 3 please. Merle Idom.

MERLE IDOM: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP OUGH: Yes.

MERLE IDOM (Texas): A question? Of these eighty-five pieces of legislation that we will be looking over the next day and a half, are they prioritized to where we can attend to disciplinary pieces before we tend to resolutions?

BISHOP OUGH: I'll need to turn to the secretary.

(*pause*)

L. FITZGERALD REIST: The report I have from the coordinator of the calendar is that it's generally sorted that way but there are exceptions. It's not a pure sort because of the work and sometimes distracted way we get things through.

IDOM: Bishop, would it be in order for me to make a motion that it made be that a way?

BISHOP OUGH: Well, I think what would be more appropriate is if I clear the queue and you re-entered if you wanted to make a motion. That will allow us to begin to pro-

ceed. Thank you very much, we'll move to our next item of business.

(*pause*)

Supplemental Ministries

JAMES OTTJES (Indiana): I'm James Ottjes from Indiana. And I was privileged to be the chair of the Local Church committee and we met and did our work and we finally got to the floor. We haven't got to the floor yet. And I wanna give thanks to those that helped me as we did it. My vice-chair for our group was Abraham Arpellet, Sarah Johnson was our secretary, we had two subchairs, Isaac Chukpue-Padmore and the other subcommittee chair was Dixie Brewster, we bring two but I'm gonna only introduce one right now, one we introduce now is they are found on p. DCA 2215, catalogue, category or catalogue no. 454. It's Petition No. 60614, following on the ADCA at 1038. I brought Dixie with me, who was the sub-chair that handled that and she would bring the rest of the petition before you.

DIXIE BREWSTER (Great Plains): Bishop, I'm Dixie Brewster from the Great Plains Conference, lay. And we had awesome subcommittee. And we are looking to present this on supplemental ministries and the petition encourages supplemental ministry programs for women and men in addition to United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. And we have . . . It's been brought to our attention that there's a minority report and so I believe we may need to listen to that first.

BISHOP OUGH: Yes, our minority reports are treated as amendments, and so we will receive that and then determine if we want to or we will deal with it; it cannot be amended.

BREWSTER: Mic. 5

BISHOP OUGH: Mic. Is this minority report? Mic. 6 please. Yes. Thank you.

KARON MANN (Arkansas): I'm Karon Mann, delegate and lay leader from the Arkansas Conference. Throughout this conference, we have been hearing about the need to do things differently, to expand our outreach, and to better serve the needs of our communities. This petition presents an opportunity to add this sort of encouragement to ¶256, which deals with the program ministries of the local church.

The original petition focused on men's and women's ministries, but I ask that we encourage our congregations to think outside the box with respect to ministries for children and youth as well and to consider church school, small groups, and scouting ministries as opposed to only focusing on women's and men's ministries. In reality, these programs would be supplemental to the program life of the local church and not merely supplemental to the work of United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men. There's currently no barrier to forming supplemental ministries but if this sort of encouragement is needed, the minority report would extend this encouragement to the entire church.

The minority report is printed on p. 2215 ends the petition after the word "program," this provides clarity where actually less is better. It refrains from defining supplemental ministry as only being for women or for men. I asked that you support the minority report so that we can provide and encourage supplemental ministries for all persons in the entire church. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank You, the minority report is before us, and that is a speech for. I'm gonna clear the queue because we're now on another item and I'm not sure just when these items came in. If they might, they might have been for the original motion. I do want to acknowledge that there are two or three items in

the queue looking at suspending the rules or new item that might be related to the inquiry earlier about where we are in our process we certainly want to get to that at some point if the house wants to govern itself and how it proceeds with the remaining time we have today and tomorrow, but currently we're on the minority report which is being treated like an amendment, we had one speech for. Is there anyone that would care to speak against it?

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, I'm going to call on another speech for. Yvette Richards, mic.6, please.

YVETTE RICHARDS (Missouri): Thank You, Bishop. Yvette Richards, Missouri Conference. I appreciate the minority report emphasizes on clarity. The original language could also be interpreted to mean that all supplemental ministries are not only supplement to United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, but in a reporting relationship to those organizations. Said another way, the UMW, UMM would oversee any ministries related to women and men respectively. Thank You, Bishop.

BISHOP OUGH: I'm looking for a speech against the minority report.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: I do not see any coming into the queue, and we've had the requisite number of speeches for. So I think you're probably ready to move on this because minority report comes out of committee, committee chair does have an opportunity to speak.

BREWSTER: I would like to encourage you to oppose the minority report, because in this are supplemental ministries that do truly expand our ability to witness to others, it is an additional number and many of the ministries, if you'll look

in your *Book of Discipline*, along the lines of this paragraph, many different items are listed, this would just be an additional number, and there are many cases in local churches that pastors do not encourage ministries outside of United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men.

I am a United Methodist Women president, and I love that ministry. And I know that there are clergy who only support United Methodist Women and Men's ministries, when there are awesome supplemental ministries out there that our young adults can go with and be witnesses for. My daughter for instance, isn't that much in favor of our United Methodist Women's group, because of some of the structure however, their young women's ministry is very vital, and our pastor is very much in favor of, so this is not to speak against our United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men. It is to allow an avenue to further our witness for Christ, to be transforming, and to allow our churches to be very vital and have the ability to share the passions that we have to be in ministry to women and children in need, in addition to our other ministries that are approved. Thank You.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, Thank You. So we're on the minority report, and I think we're ready to vote. If you would get your voting devices in hand. If you would support . . . Let me just tell where we at before we vote. I just want to be very clear. If you support the minority report it becomes the main motion, if you oppose the minority report, we are back to the main motion. So if you would vote yes in favor, if you would vote yes in favor of the minority report no. One (1), if you are against the minority report no. two (2). You may vote now.

[Yes, 344; No, 417]

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: You have opposed the Minority Report and so we're back to the main motion for 70, and once again I'm gonna clear the, clear the queue. Merle, you're really persistent out there. Merle, I know I think I know what you wanna do, so please enter once again. I'm sorry to prompt you, but the only way we can do this if you clear the queue. We're gonna get to you, Merle. Alright. We're back on 470 and we have a speech against. Donna, is it Bogue-Trost, yeah, Trost, I believe? Mic. 1 please.

MICHELLE BOGUE-TROST (Upper New York): Good afternoon Bishop, Michelle Bogue-Trost.

BISHOP OUGH: OK.

BOGUE-TROST: And now the entire General Conference knows the name I do not use.

BISHOP OUGH: Yes, well that's the name, I've got.

BOGUE-TROST: Yep. Michelle Bogue-Trost, Upper New York Annual Conference, clergy. Unless I've heard our church messaging wrong and our bishops wrong, I believe that we are always encouraged to develop new ministries, supplemental to those listed in *The Book of Discipline*. I've also heard many times on this floor, here and in previous quadrennia, that we keep adding stuff to the book. We spend too much time on the floor discussing things, we add too many things to the book. I fail to see why we need to add this to *The Book of Discipline*.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, friends, I probably should not have started that. We are up against an order of the day and our break time, so we're going to put a pin in this and when we reconvene after the break, we'll pick this up and the new presiding officer will be aware we're on 470, that we have one speech against. I do wanna call on Merle.

Mic. 3, please. Merle Idom. Mic. 3. I think, or Idom.

MERLE MATTHEWS IDOM (Texas): Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP OUGH: Pronounce your name, so I get it right next time.

IDOM: Part of my motion, is that y'all call me Matt Idom, and not Merle. They call daddy Merle.

BISHOP OUGH: OK. Alright. Go ahead.

Call to Reprioritize Remaining Legislation

IDOM: I move that we prioritize the remaining of this General Conference to attend first, to legislation that addresses *The Book of Discipline*, with resolutions to follow. If I can get a second, I don't think I need to speak to that.

BISHOP OUGH: Is there a second? Alright. It's a new item. I entertained it just because I want to be sure the body can direct how it wants to do its work. We've, where we are is, we have this new item. Is there anyone that would speech for or against it? Let me clear the queue because I'm not sure what the queue is about any longer. OK. If you would speak for or against this item, would you please queue in. Alright, I'm gonna call on David Bard. Point of order, Mic. 5 please.

DAVID ALAN BARD (Minnesota): Good afternoon, Bishop. David Bard, Minnesota Conference. It's not a point of order but a point of information. Would the general secretary be able to tell us what this might require from his office if we passed it?

BISHOP: Go ahead. Yes.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: The information that I have at this stage is that there are fifty-four disciplinary, twenty-five resolutions, and four non-disciplinary items that need to be addressed, and it would require, not my office, but the Committee on Calendar Agenda

and Calendar, to work through the sequencing of that.

BARD: Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Alright. Sara Swenson. Mic. 5, I believe this may be a motion to table, or postpone, or refer? Go ahead, Mic 5.

SARA ANN SWENSON (Minnesota): Sara Swenson, lay delegate from Minnesota. This is a move to refer the motion to the calendar, the Committee on Calendar and Agenda. I know that it's a very representative group and includes the chairs of many of the committees, and I'm sure that they would take this under advisement and our friend, Merle, could also join them at their 6:30 meeting to help further guide that. Thank you.

(laughter)

BISHOP OUGH: I think he wants to go by Matt.

Alright, so motion to refer this matter back to Agenda and Calendar. Anyone care to speak against that? Anyone else want to speak for it? OK, I'm not sure I, yep. It looks like you're policing yourselves very well to clear the queue. Let's clear the queue 'cause we're under referral. We had a motion to refer this matter.

(pause)

I don't see anybody else queuing up. Thank you very much. I'm your, you're doing great job.

(pause)

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, I think we're ready. If you would vote to refer this matter to Calendar and Agenda, would you please take your devices and vote no. 1 for referral, no. 2 no, against referral.
[Yes, 581; No, 167]

BISHOP OUGH: Alright, you have referred this matter. Friends, we are past our order of the day, so I'm going to move to that. And then I have just a couple of closing remarks

before you leave. Thank you for your attention. We're moving to a recognition of Neil Alexander.

Recognition of Neil Alexander, Retiring UMPH President and Publisher

CARL FRAZIER (North Carolina): Thank you, Bishop. I'm Carl Frazier, I am a clergy member of the North Carolina Annual Conference, and I am the Chair of the Board of Directors of The United Methodist Publishing House.

At the 1996, General Conference, The United Methodist Church was formally introduced to its new President and Publisher. Neil Alexander came to this role after serving the church in children's related services, urban ministries, the then General Board of Discipleship, and as Editor and Chief of Abingdon Press. He has served the church well in all of these capacities over these years.

For the past twenty years, the church has been blessed to have Neil's steady hand at the helm of the Publishing House. He has guided us through a sea change in the publishing industry. From print to e-books, from Sunday School periodicals to video and digital curriculum, from brick and mortar stores to an online presence. The rapidity of change in the industry and in the church has required dexterity, vision, and a business acumen wed to a deep and abiding love for the church and its people. And all of these have characterized Neil Alexander's stewardship of the book concern of The United Methodist Church.

As Neil enters into retirement, he will conclude the longest tenure as President and Publisher since the two roles were combined into one in 1956. And it is my honor, on behalf of The United Methodist Publishing House Board of Directors, to invite this General Conference to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to

Neil for his devotion to and service to our church.

(applause)

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Many of you know Neil, and I've been privileged to be a close colleague and friend for many years. And we truly have been blessed by his ministry, and I expect we'll continue to be blessed by his ministry. We have an announcement, I believe.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: It's a request from the Korean Peace Ministry: please return the crosses that some of you have taken from the tables. And there should be two on each table to be available as part of their celebration. Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: I also want to share with you a prayer request that came to us during this session. Bob Bergland, who is a clergy delegate from the North Carolina Conference, went to the hospital from our morning plenary with chest pressure and pain and is currently in cardiac ICU for evaluation. So, we will want to remember Bob in our prayers. And I wanna thank this body for your able work this afternoon, and for the discipline you are showing and trying to show as you try to guide the work here in these hours that remain. I appreciate all of your efforts.

I want to personally take a moment and apologize to Michael Childs. I was heavy-handed with Michael. I think my impatience was, which those who know me most intimately know is still one of those parts of my life to be transformed, and I did not intend to disrespect him or you as a body, but to try to help you move along.

Thanks to Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and Bishop Brown for backing me up. As you can see, I needed it, and I'm very appreciative.

Will you pray with me? Lord God, we are grateful for your presence among us, because without

that presence we'd be a mess. And so we pray that we might continue to lean heavily into your love and grace and open ourselves ever more fully to your leading. Be with us now as we move into this brief break that we might take a deep breath. And even as we breathe in, we pray that your Spirit will be breathed out upon Bob Bergland. Surround him with those who are offering your healing care and healing touch that he might know that you are accompanying him in each moment as he moves toward recovery. We pray all of this in the name and the Spirit of the one who came among us to offer us life, to save us, the Christ. Amen.

Thursday Evening, May 19, 2016

BISHOP MINERVA CARCAÑO: Please return to your seats that we might proceed.

(pause)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright, friends. We hope that you'll take your seats as we begin this session. I want to invite you to thank Bishop Bruce Ough for the excellent way that he just conducted leadership among you. So please, thank Bishop Ough.

(applause)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: I am Minerva Carvaño. I'm blessed to be the bishop of the Los Angeles area, the California-Pacific Conference. It is a pleasure to be among you and here presiding on this afternoon. As we began this time, I want to share some gifts that I received this week. I received them on Sunday, on Pentecost Sunday. Two of the gifts that I received, the persons who gifted me with them, asked me to find a way to share them with you; and so, that's what I am going to do this afternoon.

The third gift is a way for me to say "thank you" to all of you.

And so, if UMCOM would help us to put up the first gift, which is a picture of the children at Camarillo United Methodist Church in Southern California. They sent this picture our way. They're celebrating the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday and they wanted you to know they are praying for all of you.

The second gift came from Claremont United Methodist Church. This was their confirmation class stepping forth and becoming members of the church. They wanted me to tell you that they've stepped up, they are disciples of Jesus Christ, passionate disciples of Jesus Christ ready to invite others to follow Christ to transform this world of ours through the grace and the mercy of our Lord, Christ Jesus.

The third picture is a picture of my daughter, Sophia. If you know Sophia, you know that she is now 24 years old. This picture was taken in May of 1992 when she was eight-months old, and with the great help of her grandmother, Becky, she came to General Conference. On Sunday, she sent me this picture and she said in her text where this picture came, she said, "Mama, I'm so happy, because the people at General Conference loved me so much."

And so, I want to thank you. And through my thank you, and through these gifts of pictures of children, I want to remind us of what Jesus said. He said, "And you know, let the children come to me. Don't be an obstacle to them, for theirs is the Kingdom of God." And so, I pray that we would remember that the work that we do on this day and every day, should give witness to the children of the great love of Christ Jesus for all God's children without exception. And so, I pray that in that spirit, we will do our work this afternoon and always.

I want to invite you into a time of prayer, and let me share a prayer concern that has come forth just in the last few minutes. We've received word that one of our volunteers, Jonathan Rodriguez Cintrón, a volunteer from Florida, has had to return home, because his father has died. And so he's going to be returning home in the next few hours, so we will hold him in prayer.

Let us pray: Dear God, we thank you for having brought us thus far. And now we pray that the work that we do may continue to honor you. And that, as we do this work, we might give a witness to the children of the world of your great love. We pray for Amina in Nigeria, who just in the last few hours came home after having been in the grasp of the Boko Haram; she came home with a baby. Be merciful, O God. We pray in the memory of Ivan, a little boy from Syria, trying to escape war in his country, who died in the deep waters of chaos and disregard, landing on the shores of Turkey; his life gone, but life abundant surely his, because of your mercy. We pray for LaGrace and other children like her who worries that the color of her skin will get her killed. And, we pray for Jimmy; the poverty in his life is so drastic that years are taken away from him day by day. We pray for Consuelo, who right now, is suffering abuse and no longer believes that anyone cares. And we pray, O God, for Jonathan, in the death of his father. We pray also for children who are loved and who are happy, who know Christ Jesus, who know that they belong to you, O God. Help us, so that the day may come when all children are thusly loved. It is then that your world will truly be transformed. And so, we pray, come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

We find that we immediately have an order of the day, and so I'm going to turn to our secretary as we remember that this is the anniversa-

ry of the death of our great leader, Francis Asbury.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: I believe this is going to be a video.

(video)

BISHOP MINERVA G. CARCAÑO: I hope we know much about him. We turn now to our Secretary, because we have a ruling from the Judicial Council that you requested earlier.

Judicial Council Decision 1319, Sessions of Central Conferences

REIST: Judicial Council Decision 1319, I am simply going to read the decision. "A newly constituted Central Conference shall hold its first conference at such time and place as determined by the bishops in charge. However, all regular sessions of the Central Conference that occur after the first meeting, shall have their place and time determined by the Central Conference membership or determined by its Executive Committee when permitted by *Discipline*. If the 2016 session of the Congo Central Conference was scheduled by the conference itself pursuant to Paragraph 542.1 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, Paragraph 409 of the *1990 Congo Central Conference Book of Discipline*, then the date and time cannot be changed by the College of Bishops nor the Central Conference Executive Committee.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you for that report. Friends, it is 4:39. We will work until six o'clock when there will be an order of the day, at which time we will hear a report from the Committee on Peace and Korea, and then we'll move directly to the closing devotion.

Where we are in our business, at this point, is that we are considering Calendar Item 454. We have had one speech against the motion that is before us on this Calendar Item.

Let me recognize Jill Jackson-Sears at Mic. no. 5, who wishes to speak in favor of the motion before us.

Return to Supplemental Ministries Debate

JILL ANN JACKSON-SEARS (North Texas): Jill Jackson-Sears, North Texas, clergy. The addition of this legislation to *The Book of Discipline* is important for one reason. Some clergy and laity in our churches do not allow additional ministries for women and men. This legislation empowers and encourages our clergy and laity to be more expansive and imaginative in our ministries with women and men. In addition, this legislation supports one of our four areas of focus, mainly to create new places for new people.

The new places that we need may very well be new ministries within our existing churches that will meet the needs of new people. A limited, territorial mindset will not help The United Methodist Church make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This legislation supports an expansive approach to ministry that is needed in order for us to reach the women and men in our mission fields in effective ways. I encourage you to support this legislation.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you, we have a number of people who want to speak either in favor or against the motion that is before us, but there are two points of order. Let me all on the first one, Sidney Strebeck at Mic. no. 3. Please explain the point that you'd like to make whether it's a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or a request for information.

Call to Disallow Any Further Amendments

SIDNEY G. STREBECK (New Mexico): Thank you, Bishop. Sidney Strebeck, New Mexico Annual

Conference, lay person, and I have a request for suspension of the rules to disallow amendments to petitions for the remainder of the conference so that we might get to the items at hand.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Is there a second? I hear a second. We will clear the queue then and deal with this request for a suspension of the rules. Please prepare to speak to it.

STREBECK: The, with the idea that we have fifty disciplinary actions still to vote on, and only roughly approved fifty and almost, just a little over a day left, there's been a tremendous amount of work put in by the committees, the subcommittees, and they have fully vetted all of these petitions. And while we have had two good amendments today, they were both voted down, as had been ninety-eight percent historically of amendments get voted down on the plenary floor. And in the interest of time so that we might cover as much of the legislation that we were sent here by our local conferences to be voting on and acting on, I think it's imperative that we get to as many of these items that we can. So, I support this suspension of the rules.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright let me call on Bradley Laurvick, Mic. no. 3, who wishes to speak against the motion for suspension of the rules.

BRADLEY DAVID LAURVICK (Rocky Mountain): Bradley Laurvick, clergy, Rocky Mountain Conference. I believe in working efficiently and there are times we're getting it done and there are times we're not. But I believe we are here to do the work of the church, and that involves discernment and conversation not just voting. There's a reason we didn't get a ballot in the mail to just punch yes or no on these things. Amendments, they do fail sometimes, but even today my opinion around legislation was changed by the conversations we

had, including conversations on the amendments themselves. This is how we work together. This is a gift. It's an opportunity, and I think it makes us all better when we have our process in its entirety. Please do not suspend these rules.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Friends, I made an error and that was to allow debate for the suspension of the rules, motion for suspension of the rules. We've allowed one person to speak against the motion that is before us. By grace, would you allow me to enable someone who wants to speak in favor of this motion so that we at least hear two voices? Would you raise your card if you would allow that? Alright, if you would put your cards down. If you are opposed. Thank you. If you are abstaining, would you raise a card? Let me go ahead and allow someone who wants to speak in favor of the motion to suspend the rules, an action of grace. No one is wanting to do that, so I believe we will move to voting. If you would take your voting machines out. Be ready to vote. Let me ask the maker of that motion to restate the motion, just restate the motion.

STREBECK: Thank you, Bishop. The motion is to disallow amendments to the petitions for the remainder of this conference.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: So to suspend the rules in order to disallow amendments made to the motions that are before us.

STREBECK: Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: This would require a two-thirds majority. If you would prepare to vote. If we could have the screen up for the voting. If you support this motion for this suspension of the rules, you will vote one (1) yes. If you are in disagreement and do not support it, you would vote two (2) no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 231; No, 486]

(pause)

BISHOP MINERVA G. CARCAÑO: We were consulting about our math. I do not believe that it has gained the two-thirds vote required.

(laughter)

So, we return now to Item 454 on the calendar. We've had one statement in support and one against. We can take one on each side, but I see that I have some more points of order. Let me take one of those. Kevin Goodwin at Mic. 6.

KEVIN G. GOODWIN (Peninsula-Delaware): Bishop, you need to clear the queue. I was on for the previous thing.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let me—let me turn to our secretary for a comment.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (General Conference Secretary): I would urge all of you, if you have entered the queue, and your issue is addressed, to clear the queue, because when it's a parliamentary point of order, the presiding officer doesn't wanna clear the queue because it may still be valid. So, if your issue is done, please remove yourself from the queue.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: So let me give you just a minute to do that. I see that there is still one person who has a point of order, or parliamentary inquiry, or a request for information. Karen Oliveto, Mic. 4.

KARENT PHYLLIS OLIVETO (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Karen Oliveto, clergy, Cal-Nevada. I have a request for information. I appreciate the understanding that different social locations may require different programs. I was wondering, though, if there are parameters as to what this—if we supported it, what this petition would allow. I live in San Francisco, so I could use some guidance. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let me turn to the committee.

DIXIE K. BREWSTER (Great Plains): There are various ministries out there that go along with the United Methodist theology, doctrine and morals and it is those kind of ministries that we are referring to.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: We have a statement in support of the main motion and one against. Let me turn to a statement in support. Steven McIver, at Mic. 4.

STEVEN MARK MCIVER (Central Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Steve McIver, Central Texas Conference, laity. The reason I am supporting this, I was in the committee and supported it then, was four years ago in Tampa, we had a similar petition. And during the debate on that petition, we heard from a clergyman and a laywoman that due to the cultural differences between the United States and they—they were both from the Philippines, was that it was hindering ministry to women and men in the Philippines. The young women did not want to be a part of the older women's group, and therefore, were not involved in ministry in the church. In fact, some of them would leave the church because they did not want to be a part of these ministries. So, that's why I support this, is because it's not just here in the United States that we're dealing with these ministry, it's in other places in the world.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. There is an opportunity for one to speak against. I'm going to turn to Megan Walther at Mic. 1.

MEGAN WALTHER (Detroit): Megan Walther, Detroit Conference, clergy. My point is rather similar to my sister, Michelle, here who spoke before the break. I know we love our legislation, but I think there are some things that do not need to be legislated. And perhaps we do not

need to add further to our *Book of Discipline*.

As a pastor, I encourage creative and innovative ministry, and I don't think that there's a reason to necessarily add this to our *Book of Discipline*. There's nothing to prevent a church from having an additional group for women, or—the fellow over there who mentioned the old women and the young women—well, my church has a United Methodist Women that has both young and old together, functioning as one group; and, in short, I see no reason to add further to *The Book of Discipline* with this, this petition.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. We have received two statements in support and two against. We are ready to take our vote. If you would prepare, however we'll give time to the committee to have a final word.

BREWSTER: In our committee, we did vote forty-four in favor and twenty-two against, and lots of things have been said, and I believe the body is ready to vote. So we encourage you to support this petition.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: We do have a point of order and that is at Mic. 4., Tshimbu Muyombi.

(pause)

Please state what point you'd like to make.

TSHIMBU JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo): [INTERPRETER: The comment is not heard by the interpreter.] (*simultaneous interpretation*) This is a point of inquiry. This is a point of inquiry. But please, the microphones are not working properly.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: If you could speak right into the microphone, please.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Please proceed.

TSHIMBU JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous*

interpretation) Thank you, Bishop. I would like to ask for a question, point of inquiry. I am a—I am confused. Is there a motion that is not in conformity with our *Book of Discipline*? It's not in conformity with the Bible? Are we allowed to vote on it? If I look at the Chapters 19, 20, I think there is a bit of confusion. That is why I would like to receive more information about it.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: I think that you are making a statement against the main motion that is before us, so I'm going to rule it as a statement rather than as a point of order. Thank you.

We will move towards voting. The main motion on Calendar Item 454. If you would prepare to vote. If we could have the sheet up on the monitor there. Calendar Item 454. If you would support the committee, you would vote one (1), yes. If you stand against the committee's recommendation, two (2), no. Please proceed to vote.

[Yes, 409; No, 334]

BISHOP MINERVA CARCAÑO: All right, you do sustain the committee. Thank you very much. We move on to the next item.

Women's Ministry

DIXIE K. BREWSTER (Great Plains): The next item is p. 2215 in your *DCA*, p., it's Calendar Item 456. It is *Advanced DCA* p. 1050, Petition No. 60844. The committee voted thirty-four for, and twenty-eight against. There is a minority report and I believe at mic. 4.

BISHOP MINERVA CARCAÑO: I believe the person is ready. This is a minority report. It's treated as an amendment. We'll hear from the leader of the minority report.

Minority Report

MARY LYNNE GILBERT (Western North Carolina): Thank

you, Bishop. My name is Lynne Gilbert, lay delegate from Western North Carolina. The minority report is printed on p. 2215 of the *DCA*, and replaces the entire petition text of the majority report. The minority report appreciates the importance of women's ministry programs that meet the needs of women in their context and in the world. The addition of the words "justice, advocacy, to the purposes for which ministry should be encouraged" is in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist Church, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

These programs should not be viewed as supplemental by the local church, but as integral to its life and ministry. Both the makers of the original motion and United Methodist Women leadership agreed in their presentations to the committee that the statistics that local churches submit through their charge conference reports do not reliably reflect the actual membership of United Methodist Women.

The language in the minority report includes the Wesleyan emphasis on piety and action, without relying on dated statistics that were prepared for the 2012 General Conference.

Therefore, I ask you to support the more concise language of the minority report that includes advocacy for justice, about which we've heard so much from our bishops during the morning worship services of this General Conference. I urge you to vote for the minority report.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: The minority report is before you and open for discussion. We're able to receive up to two statements in support and two against. Let me call upon Yvette Richards at mic. no. 3, standing to speak in support.

YVETTE KIM RICHARDS (Missouri): Thank you, Bishop. I am Yvette Richards from the Missouri Conference. I am in support of the minority report. As you know, the function of the preamble, or whereas statement, are to provide background information, statistical description, data, key arguments, critical needs that compels us to take action. Be it resolved, or "therefore" statements during committee deliberations concerns were raised regarding the data, and in some cases, outdated and inaccurate information. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Is there anyone who would like to speak against this minority report? Then let me turn to Sandra Johnson? Also at mic. no. 3, standing to speak in support.

(pause)

SANDRA JAMES JOHNSON (Holston): Sandra Johnson, clergy, Holston Annual Conference. I, too, was a member of this legislative committee, serving as secretary. I strongly support the minority report's inclusion of "justice, advocacy in women's ministry" because this is, as has already been stated, fundamental to our Wesleyan understanding of Christian discipleship. So I urge us to vote for the minority report. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. I don't see anyone who would like to speak against. And we've come to the limit of two in support. So I believe that we may be ready to vote. If you would prepare to vote. It is the minority report that is before you. If you support the minority report, vote one (1), yes. If you do not, two (2) no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 522; No, 239]

BISHOP MINERVA G. CARCAÑO: You have supported the minority report.

There is a requested for the floor to come before you. Alright, I was going to recognize someone that I thought had priority, but apparently not. Thank you for the help there.

The minority report is now before you. It becomes the main motion and it's open for further discussion, and also amendments of perfection. So, it is before you as the main motion at this point. Further discussion? Any further discussion? Alright, there is someone at mic. 6, name, Lydia Muñoz, who would like to stand and move an amendment and so we would welcome her to mic. 6.

LYDIA ESTHER MUNOZ (Eastern Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Lydia Muñoz, Eastern Penn. Conference. I am short.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Tall in faith.

(Laughter)

Amendment to New Main Motion

MUÑOZ: Thank you. I would like to amend a part of the minority report.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Please proceed. Make your amendment and we will seek a second.

MUÑOZ: OK. In the paragraph that says, "therefore, be it resolved that the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages the local church to provide women's ministry programs that fit the unique needs of the women in the church and are consistent with our values, theology, and social principles of The United Methodist Church."

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Is there a second to this amendment? You may speak to it.

MUÑOZ: As a pastor, I am constantly challenged and encouraged by the participation of the laity

in bringing material that can be used to used in Sunday school classes, in women's ministries, in youth ministries, and it is my responsibility as the shepherd of the church to make sure that this material is consistent with our theology, is consistent with our social principles, is constituent with our DNA, if you will. So, I want assistance with that. So, that's why I put forth this amendment.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. We are considering the amendment for some discussion in just a moment, but let me turn to, oh, it disappeared. They must have removed it. Alright. Thank you. It was a point of order. Thank you for helping us move ahead here.

So the amendment is now before you. We are open for discussion. Two statements for, two against can be made up to two on each side. There is one person who wishes to speak against at mic. 3, Mande Muyombo. Please go to mic. 3.

MANDE MUYOMBO (North Katanga): Bishop, my name is Mande Muyombo, delegate from North Katanga. I think we, I speak against the amendment. We cannot set up a program based on some principles that, which sometimes we are not sure. It is in program that we discover new way of doing things. That's why I would speak against the amendment, and I know that our United Methodist Women has significant expertise in their programmatic work, which has strong theological foundation. And I will argue, which is based on our *Book of Discipline* so, and, the UMW gives significant assistance, they do Bible study, they do some mission and all the programs just to give guidance. Thank you. I speak against.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. That's one speech against. Would anyone like to speak in support of the amendment? I believe

we are ready to vote. Let me ask the maker of that amendment to reread the amendment ever so briefly. And, please prepare to vote. And, don't forget to bring it to the secretary's table.

MUÑOZ: Would be, the last line would be, "provide women's ministry and programs that fit the unique needs of the women in the church and are consistent with the values, theology, and social principles of The United Methodist Church."

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let's have the voting sheet up. If you support the amendment, you would vote one (1) yes. If you are opposed, two (2) no. Please proceed to vote now. *[Yes, 491, No, 265]*

BISHOP CARCAÑO: You do support the amendment, and so now we have a main motion that has been amended. Just to help us along, you received the minority report a few minutes ago you took action and approved it, making it the main motion. You've now amended it so this is what is before us. Discussion? Any further discussion? I believe that you are ready to vote. And so if we could put, place the sheet up on the screen. If you support the main motion as amended you would vote one (1) yes, if you oppose it two (2) no. Please proceed to vote now. *[Yes, 641; No, 119]*

BISHOP CARCAÑO: You have supported this main motion which was the minority report. You amended it, and now you have supported it as the main motion. Let us proceed to the next item.

(pause)

L. FITZGERALD REIST: Dick Hooten, please meet me at the end of the stage. Tracy, I'm sorry, no.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright, Let us turn, I believe, to Faith and Order. Thank you.

Faith and Order Appreciation for Jerry Kulah and Carlene Fogle-Miller

BILL ARNOLD (Kentucky): Thank You, Bishop. My name is Bill Arnold, the elder from Kentucky Annual Conference, it's been my distinct pleasure to chair the Faith and Order legislative committee. Please turn in your *DCA* p. 2211. Two thousand two hundred eleven. To Calendar Item 427, Calendar Item 427. The Petition is no. 60660, and the original petition can be found on, in your *ADCA* p. 764.

It is been my distinct privilege and honor to serve with outstanding leadership in the Faith and Order legislative committee, and while you're turning to that petition, I would like to thank Rev. Dr. Jerry Kulah, the Dean of Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia, who was a great inspiration at my side all the way through our work, and also Miss Carlene Fogle-Miller from the Florida delegation who graduated on Saturday from University of Mississippi Law School with her Doctor of Jurisprudence *in absentia* because she would rather be here with us volunteering her time to the United Methodist Church.

(applause)

ARNOLD: So we we're honored by Carlene's presence with us. Also two outstanding leaders in our subcommittee chairs who ably led us. And I would like to turn now to Scott Johnson of the Upper New York Annual Conference, who chaired our doctrine subcommittee to present this petition.

UMC Mission Statement

SCOTT JOHNSON (Upper New York): Thank You Bill, good afternoon. As you can see, Petition 60660, sought to amend the mission statement of the church by making two additions. The subcommittee

deleted the original amendment so that the mission statement of the church would remain in its current form. The second addition in the petition added “extension ministries” as one of the significant areas in which disciple making occur, the subcommittee, and subsequently, the full committee agreed to affirm the disciple making that occurs in the extension ministries, and brings to you and recommends that you adopt this petition as amended by a vote of thirty-one to thirty.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: The recommendation from this committee is before you from Faith and Order to pass on this petition as it’s been amended, so we open it up for discussion. There is a person who would like to amend it, Paul Morelli, mic. 6.

PAUL MORELLI (Western Pennsylvania): Thank You, Bishop, it’s Paul Morelli, Western Pennsylvania Conference, lay. I understand this was modified some time back to include “for the transformation of the world,” I would like to amend it, to remove that phrase so that it says, the mission of the church is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ,” and if there’s a second I’ll speak to it.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Is there a second? There is a second. You may speak to it.

MORELLI: The theology as I understand it, says that as we become disciples, we become a part of Christ’s kingdom, and we live out kingdom life on this world, which changes the world, but that’s not our goal. Our goal is to live in Christ’s kingdom, and changing the world is a secondary or a side effect of that change. Thank You.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright, this amendment is before you, it’s open for discussion. Let me turn to Barbara Dick, at mic. 4, who wishes to speak against this recommended amendment.

BARBARA DICK (Wisconsin): Barbara Dick, Wisconsin, laity. I rise to speak against the amendment, our mission statement, “to make disciples of Jesus Christ” invites us into piety and change of life; our additional statement of, “transforming the world” invites us into action. So I rise to speak against the amendment.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Is there anyone who wants to speak in support of it? I’m not getting anyone on the queue here. Joergen Thaarup at mic. 1, who stands to speak for the amendment. Mic. 1.

JOERGEN THAARUP (Denmark): Joergen Thaarup, Denmark Annual Conference. I want to speak in favor of the motion. The understanding of what mission is, is very, very clear and simple, and it’s stated in the last chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, and the statements ended with, “making disciples of Jesus Christ” so the motion states what is right theology. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you, speaking against the motion let me turn to Douglas Damron at mic. 4.

DOUGLAS DAMRON (West Ohio): Thank You Bishop, I rise to echo first, what my sister said about the mission statement tying together both personal holiness and social holiness. That reflects the very best of our Wesleyan understanding of Christian discipleship. And then secondly, many of us were excited with the addition of “the transformation of the world” because it gives us a sense of the outcome of discipleship.

Discipleship is not only about joining God and the saints one day when we are called home; discipleship is about God’s people helping this world to become the world that God always intended from creation, a world where swords are beaten into plowshares, a world where our children learn war no more, a world where every person is loved, cared

for, and included. So I rise against the motion. Thanks.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. Finally, Richard Hoffman at mic. 6 speaking for the proposed amendment, and that would give us two on each side.

RICHARD CHRISTIAN HOFFMAN (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you Bishop. Dr. Rich Hoffman, Western Pennsylvania, lay delegate. I speak in favor of the amendment and I would just wanna go back to 2008 when transformation of the world was added to the statement. I remember banners being on the side, even before this was approved promoting the statement and it’s a fine statement and the statements made by the other people who just spoke, I agree with.

However, in a good mission statement it should be clear and to the point, and I believe that when we say making disciples is our mission statement, it honors Jesus, it’s more to the point of what he said, and we also, we’re gonna transform the world, that is the result, and we can remember that, but I vote, yes. I encourage you to come with me in this because it strengthens the mission statement and it brings us back to 2008. The mission statement that we had up to that point, which I believe was better. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright, we’ve had two in favor and two against. The amendment, in essence, would change the mission statement of the church to read “the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.” It would remove the words “for the transformation of the world.” That is the amendment that is before you. We are ready to vote. Would you take out your voting equipment to prepare to vote. If you support the amendment, you would vote one (1), yes; if you oppose the amendment, you would vote two (2), no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 193; No, 577]

BISHOP CARCAÑO: You have voted against the amendment, and so we come back to the original recommendation from the legislative committee on Calendar Item 427. Discussion, any further discussion? Let us clear the queue from the amendment please. Anyone who would like to speak to the recommendation of the committee on Calendar Item 427? I see no one in the queue. I believe you're ready to vote. If you would take your voting equipment, prepare to vote. Let's have the screen up. So we're voting on Calendar Item 427. Let me ask if the committee would like to say a final word.

SCOTT LAMONT JOHNSON (Upper New York): The committee made this recommendation, knowing that disciple-making occurs in a variety of venues and sought to affirm those on extension ministries. It was not intended to de-emphasize the importance of the local church ministries in making disciples. And so the recommendation comes before you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright, the recommendation is before you. Do you support the legislative committee? You would vote 1, yes; if you do not, 2, no. Please proceed to vote. *[Yes, 603; No, 175]*

BISHOP CARCAÑO: You have supported the Committee on Calendar Item 427 and their recommendation. Friends, let me say that once I've moved us to prepare to vote, I'm not able to come back and recognize you as you asked to speak for or against. And remember that we have two speeches for, two speeches against, and that would also limit my opportunity to ask any more of you to speak. So let us clear the queue at this point, so we can move to the next matter.

JOHNSON: Before we move, Bishop, just a note that Bob Ber-

gland from North Carolina was a member of this subcommittee and we heard of his hospitalization and we wanted to share with, on behalf of our committee, with our brothers and sisters in the North Carolina delegation and to all those who love Bob, our concern and prayers for him as well.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let us all continue to pray for our brother Bob and for his family.

BILL T. ARNOLD (Kentucky): Thank you Bishop. I'd like now to introduce the chair of our Ordination and Praxis sub-committee, Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell of the Great Plains Annual Conference. Cheryl.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Cheryl, before you begin to speak, there is a point of order. Stefan Shroeckenfuchs at mic No. 3, point of order. Please tell us what your point is.

STEFAN SHROECKENFUCHS (Austria Provisional): May I have a short point of personal privilege?

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Well, you've requested a point of order. Would anyone oppose a moment of personal privilege at this hour? If you would, would you raise your card.

(pause)

Please proceed.

SHROECKENFUCHS: I just realized that we have been spending six, seven days where we were talking about our rules, where we were talking on many, many things. Now we felt five minutes, or maybe three, speaking about the mission of our church. What is the mission of our church? For what are we United Methodist? I just wonder why this seems to be so less important compared with other things. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Stephan, would you stay right there at the mic., and would you lead us in a word of prayer for the mission of this church, please?

SHROECKENFUCHS: I will.

Gracious God, you have called us to be your church. You have called us to be together with you, and you have sent Jesus Christ to us, who is not only our Lord and Savior, but who has showed us what it means to be human beings, children of God, beloved by yourself, and I thank you for this love you have shown us, and I ask you that in every moment, you will help us to give this love to others. And when Jesus preached from the mountain, he spoke about his vision, about the kingdom to come, where the poor, and the mourning and those who do not know how to deal with important question will be happy and residents in your heavenly kingdom. Help us being focused on the center. Help us being focused on what it means to be your followers. Help us to stay together. Amen.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you for the Holy Spirit speaking through your spirit to all of us. Thank you. Let us return to Faith and Order and its presentation.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Great Plains): Again, my name is Cheryl Jefferson Bell from the Great Plains Conference and I wanna say that I chaired an amazing subcommittee and so we would like to recommend to you, I call your attention to p. 2106.

Qualification for Ordination

I call your attention to p. 2106, DCA p. 2106; Calendar Item 117, Calendar Item 117; Petition No. 60624, 60624 and originally found on ADCA p. 768, 768. Our committee recommends adoption of this petition. We believe by striking out the words, "where practical," the paragraph encourages local churches that are recommending candidates for ministry to support those recommendations more tangibly with financial support. The committee

recommends adoption by a vote of 50 to adopt and 12 not.

BISHOP MINERVA CARCAÑO: Calendar Item 117 is before you. Any discussion? Any discussion? I see no request to speak. I'm assuming you are ready to vote, but let me allow the committee to make any last statement.

JEFFERSON BELL: We believe, when local churches are recommending candidates for ministry that it's important that they show tangible support through financial means, and this wording of taking out, "where practical" will help emphasize the importance of doing that support for them.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let us prepare to vote. If you would support the Faith and Order legislative committee in their recommendation on Calendar Item 117, you would vote one (1) for yes and two (2) for no. Yes, mic. 5, I believe, in the back, please or 22 would be fine, as well, that would be fine. Point of order?

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Bishop, Rukang Chikomb, North-West Katanga. I'm waiting for my voting machine, so. I don't have a voting machine, yet.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Ask that again, please.

CHIKOMB: I do not have a voting machine. So, I am waiting for it.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Oh, I see. Let's take a minute, so our brother can have a voting machine. A page is bringing him one. So, let's just take one minute, for that.

(pause)

Would you please stand so that the page can see you and we might facilitate their getting your voting machine to you?

(pause)

It is coming. Everyone's vote is important.

(pause)

We thought he was about to receive his voting machine and something has happened, so, we're trying to find out.

(pause)

I believe that he has now received his voting machine. Let us put the sheet up, so that we can vote. Yes? I see another card in the back. Is that correct? We're getting one other voting machine. You've tried out those machines.

(laughter)

Thank you very much. Let's put the screen up for our voting. This is for Calendar Item No. 117. We're ready to vote. I hear that we're having some technical difficulties up here, as well. So, just give us a moment.

(pause)

JEFFERSON BELL: (Singing)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: We do have placards. So, I'm going to invite us to use our placards, at this moment. So, if you would support the committee on its recommendation on Calendar Item 117, would you raise your placard? Thank you very much; you can put your hands down. If you are opposed, would you raise your placard? Thank you. If you are abstaining, would you raise your placard? You have supported the recommendation of the committee. Thank you.

[Voted by placard]

JEFFERSON BELL: Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: We thank Faith and Order and we move now to Independent Commissions.

JOSEPH L. HARRIS (Oklahoma): Joseph Harris, clergy delegate, Oklahoma Conference, speaking for Independent Commissions. We have two more petitions that we'll be dealing with this afternoon, and then we will be finished with the petitions that we will present before the conference.

I do want to take just a minute to thank those who were on Independent Commissions. What a village we had, how many voices we had from around the world, and what a Pentecost day we had before Pentecost Sunday, as we prayed and worshipped together.

Appreciation for Independent Commissions Leaders

I do wanna thank: our vice chair, Lilian Gallo Seagren from the Iowa Conference; our secretary, LaNella Smith from the North Carolina Conference; our subcommittee chairs, Andreas Elfving from Finland-Swedish Provisional Conference and our subcommittee chair, Diane Miller from the Western Pennsylvania Conference. With a leadership team like that, I'll take 'em home with me and use them in my annual conference, if they are willing to come.

We do—we're asking Andreas Elfving to come and present the petition that was lifted from the consent calendar for your consideration.

Lay Order

ANDREAS ELFVING (Finland-Swedish Provisional): Thank you. My name is Andreas Elfving from the Finland-Swedish Provisional Annual Conference. I have the privilege of serving as one of the sub-committee chairs in the Independent Commissions legislative committee. The petition before us can be found on p. 2205 in the DCA, 2205. It is Calendar Item 77. P. 2205 in the DCA, Calendar Item 77. The original petition is found on p. 977 in the ADCA, Petition No. 6024, titled "Lay Order." The petition was unanimously passed in our legislative committee, forty-five to zero. It seeks to add a new paragraph after paragraph 1314 in our *Book of Discipline*, establishing a lay order in our church, for our deaconesses and

home missionaries. In our committee, we heard about the ministries of our deaconesses and home missionaries from different places within our global denomination. And on Monday, we all witnessed the consecration of several deaconesses and home missionaries which added to our understanding of the importance of this ministry. The legislative committee felt that establishing this order, in accordance with the petition, enhances the ministry of our church through our deaconesses and home missionaries, and thus we urge you to vote yes on Calendar Item 77.

BISHOP MINERVA CARCAÑO: Calendar Item 77 is before you. Let me call upon Tonya Murphy who wishes to speak for it at Mic. no. 6.

TONYA MURPHY (North Georgia): Tonya Murphy, North Georgia, lay person. Bishop, if I would be in order, may I invite Mollie Vickery, who is a deaconess, to speak to the body?

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. There is a request to invite someone from outside of the body to speak. Let me see how you feel about that. If you would support that, would you raise your placard? Alright. You may put your hand down. If you oppose it, would you raise your placard? Thank you. If you are abstaining, the same sign. You've approved having this person come onto the floor of the plenary. If she would come.

MURPHY: Thank you.

(pause)

*Mollie Vickery (UMW)
Speaks to Issues*

I believe it's the person going to Mic. no. 4. Welcome, and thank you.

MOLLIE VICKERY (Executive Secretary for Children, Youth, and Family Advocacy, UMW): Thank you, Bishop. I am Mollie Vickery, and I'm a deaconess. And I'm part of a community of men and women

who've been called to serve in ministries of love, justice, and service, as are a lot of laity. But our particular commitment is to do this in a vocation and in a community of accountability with one another. As we have for over one 125 years.

When women were not allowed to serve in other ways, this was a way for women to connect. And we continue that service. This is not a substitute for being clergy. This is a different calling. I was a school teacher when I was first called to this. I worked with children who lived on the margins of society. Special needs children, children who live in low income communities, and lots of my brothers and sisters in my community work in similar situations. We were part of the birth of social work in this country. We have doctors, nurses, lots of parish nurses, that are committed to not only this vocation, their vocations, but also a permanent connection with the church, which a lot of lay people miss when they are in secular professions.

We are called to be the church in the world. And that's what we've done for 125 years. And we look forward to many more years, living together in community which will meet, and if you look at the definition of order, we more than qualify. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. Let me interrupt our discussion because there is a request for a point of order, Mary Gilbert at Mic. no. 4. Please tell us what your point is.

MARY LYNNE GILBERT: Bishop, Lynne Gilbert, I removed myself from the queue, or I believed I did.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. Thank you very much. Then we turn to Carol Toney, I believe is the pronunciation, at Mic. no. 3. It will be the second voice in support of the recommendation on Calendar Item 77, and I go there because there are no speakers yet to speak against.

But there has now come one, so if that person Mwanabute Nday, would go to Mic. no. 3, and stand behind Emma Cantor whom I've already recognized, we'll take you next. I'm sorry, Carol Toney. Carol Toney.

CAROL Y. TONEY (North Alabama): Carol Toney, North Alabama Conference, laity. Deaconesses and home missionaries are professionally trained for the vocation in which they serve as teacher, nurse, doctor, social worker and many others. Additionally, they must interview with community members, undergo psychiatric evaluation, complete a minimum of five seminary classes, including theology of mission, Old Testament, New Testament, and the United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity. Courses are organized by the Office of Deaconesses and Home Missioner through the New York Theological Seminary or through St. Paul's School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. Candidates may also complete some of the course work at University Senate approved universities or seminaries. Deaconesses and home missionaries meet the definition of lay order. I urge you to approve this petition.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. Now we hear from Mwanabute Nday.

MWANABUTE BONDO NDAY (North Katanga): Thanks, Bishop. Mwanabute Bondo Nday, North Katanga clergy. I want to speak against the petition because to my knowledge the deacon is an order by itself. Now there is a confusion. They are talking of lay order and then deacons are talking and they are talking of order. I am now confused. So I am against because they are already an order of deacons and there is no reasons for another order that these behind the lay people.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. Let me turn to Tomas Lank, who also wants to speak against.

Remember we receive two speeches for. There were no speeches in line in the queue against, but now there are. So Thomas Lank would be the second speaker against at Mic. 4, and we would have completed those two for and two against. Please.

THOMAS ALBERT LANK (Greater New Jersey): Bishop, I pushed the wrong button. I apologize. I meant to speak for.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you. Thank you for respecting the rules. Alright. I believe that we are ready to vote on Calendar Item 77. Let me give the last word to the legislative committee.

ELFVING: Thank you, Bishop. As I stated earlier, the legislative committee voted unanimously to support this petition, so we urge you to do the same. Thank you.

(Bishop confers on stage)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: It is working now. So if you support the committee on Calendar Item No. 77, you would vote one (1), yes; if you oppose their recommendation, two (2) no. Please proceed to vote now. *[Yes, 618; No, 133]*

BISHOP CARCAÑO: You have supported the committee. Thank you so much.

Confronting Twenty-First-Century Anti-Semitism

Let us clear the queue as we move to Calendar Item No. 519. I understand that this matter is going to be addressed from the floor by John Lomperis, mic. no. 1.

JOHN SCOTT ANDERS LOMPERIS (Indiana): Thank you, Bishop. I stand before you today as one of the young adult delegates here at this General Conference. Let me be clear that I don't speak for all young adults. No one person, no one issue, position on hot button issues, speaks for all young adults, but a

great many of us young adults want our church to stand on a strong biblical foundation in advancing justice and compassion for our friends and neighbors.

A recent major conference in Europe found that anti-Semitism, that ancient evil, is on the rise in many parts of the world with hatred, violence, and discrimination against our Jewish friends and neighbors. Many of us young adults and others would really love to be able to go back from this General Conference and tell our Jewish friends that our church has passed this resolution to stand in solidarity with them against hatred, bigotry, and violence. Let me clear up some misunderstandings about this resolution. This is not—

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let me interrupt you and ask you what is that which you want to bring to the body? You have gotten into a speech.

LOMPERIS: Oh, I'm, I apologize, Bishop.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Yes, please.

LOMPERIS: OK. I. I'm sorry. My understanding was that I was just supposed to start speaking. I would like to move the adoption of this Calendar Item which has been brought to the floor.

(Background noise)

It has been. I signed the signatures and...

(Background noise)

I would like to bring to the floor this pet..could you help me out here bishop? I thought I signed the form and did what I was supposed to do. Petition No. 60926, on p. 1183 of the ADCA, and I do not have the Calendar Item in front of me. Could you help me out?

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Oh.

LOMPERIS: 51, Petition No. 519. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. Brother Lomperis had sufficient number of persons to work with him to pull this off of the Consent Calendar, and so please make your motion first, and then speak to it.

LOMPERIS: I move the adoption of Petition No. 60926.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. There are persons who have stood with him so it's appropriately seconded. Let me ask for comment from the Independent Commissions' legislative committee as well.

JOSEPH L. HARRIS (Oklahoma): The committee considered this petition and by a vote of 32 to 9 voted not to support it for several reasons. One, it was felt like the language between Jews and Israel were unclear. Secondly, we received Petition 60242, found on p. 1174 of the ADCA which the committee supported and felt better expressed what relationships between neighbors of interreligious concerns could be. So it supported that one and it voted not to support this one.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. The motion that is before you is to support Calendar Item 519. You have heard that the legislative committee did not support this particular Calendar Item. We will open it up for discussion at this point. Carol Loeb at mic. no. 5.

CAROL K. LOEB (Rio Texas): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Carol Loeb from the Rio Grande Conference, lay person. I rise to speak in favor of this partition. Discrimination against our Jewish brothers and sisters is very much still alive in this country and in this world. We see it every day in the newspaper. We hear about it and it is increasing. It is very personal in my life, because I am married to a man who was born Jewish. I have seen it in my community in the last five years at our Jewish Community Center. I have experienced it in my life because I

am married to a Jew, and I have seen him go through it. This discrimination and anti-Semitism is wrong. I encourage you to support this.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let me now turn to Sandra Olewine who wishes to speak against it, at mic. no. 2.

SANDRA KAY OLEWINE (California-Pacific): Thank you, Bishop. Sandra Olewine, California-Pacific Annual Conference. I am a former GBGM missionary to Israel/Palestine serving there for over 11 years. I am actively working against issues of anti-Semitism, and would not be against that except that, in this petition, it has tied together anti-Semitism with any sort of critique of Israeli State policies or actions in Palestine and the Occupied Territories. Critiquing national policies of a state is not in and of itself anti-Semitism, and while one has to take care when one is speaking against the state policies, to blanketly limit that is a way in which of trying to stifle conversation, stifle appropriate critique of violence that is carried out by a state, and it goes against the very justice commitments that we have as a church, and working with our Jewish-Israeli partners, our Jewish-American partners, our Palestinian partners both Christian and Muslim who are very clear about the distinction between anti-Semitism and their critique of the state of Israel. Because of the interwovenness of this, these two topics throughout this petition, I think it's much better for us to reject it. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. By my count we have had one speech supporting the recommendation and one against. Let me turn to Werner Philipp at mic. no. 2 who wishes to speak in favor of the motion that is before us.

WERNER EBERHARD PHILIPP (Germany East): Werner Philipp, East Germany Conference,

pastor. I am a German and on the background of our special history I experienced a lot of anti-Semitism in our history and know that it live on. And, during the Second World War we killed six million Jews, and I ask you to vote for this petition because anti-Semitism is really a big problem in Europe, both in our country and in the whole world. So, I ask you to vote for this petition.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright we have heard two statements against and two in support. We have a point of order. Cheryl Jefferson Bell at mic. no. 2.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Great Plains): A point of information please. Could the chair share again which petition that you voted in support of, in light of not supporting this particular petition?

HARRIS: Sure. It's Petition 60242 found on p. 1174 of the *ADCA*.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright friends, we have met our, the requirements that allow for two for and two against. We reread the rules yesterday after the afternoon plenary and found that our rules do not allow for a final statement when the motion is made from the floor, so we are ready to vote at this point. So if you would take out your voting machines, Calendar Item 519, the motion is to support Petition 60926. This is a motion that has come from the floor. You've heard that the legislative committee does not support this petition or this Calendar Item.

SARAH MALLOY NICHOLS (Oklahoma): Bishop

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Yes?

NICHOLS: Bishop, I'm sorry, but I believe right before our brother from Germany spoke for, you stated that we had heard one speech for and one speech against. We still have not heard a second speech against.

BISHOP CARCANO: I believe that we have two and two. Thank you though. Thank you. And the

notes of the secretarial staff agree as well.

NICHOLS: I'm sorry, bishop.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Oh, I'm sorry, they are agreeing with you. So, we do have space for one more against. Thank you.

NICHOLS: Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Thank you so much. I must have jotted it down on the wrong side. So, there is an opportunity for one more and Sarah Nichols, let me call Sarah Nichols to mic. no. 6. Thank you for that correction.

NICHOLS: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Oh, that was you.

NICHOLS: Yeah, it was me. Hey!!!

(laughter)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. Thank you. (laughter)

NICHOLS: I am Sarah Nichols from the awesome Oklahoma Annual Conference. I'm rising as—to speak against this petition, mostly because I believe The United Methodist Church has, does, and continual to have very strong language against religious discrimination. And I am a Methodist partly because of that. I believe that disagreeing with Israel does not mean disagreeing with Judaism. Trust me, I've dated plenty of Jews and still find room in my heart to criticize the actions of Israel. I appreciate my brother, John, for speaking out against anti-Semitism, but I really have to disagree that we need this much language in our already very large *Book of Discipline* to speak against something we already speak against. Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. We have a point of order, but it comes from the maker of the motion, and I believe that that prejudices our process, so I'm going to move us to the decision-making stage at this point. And so, if we could have the

screen up for voting, I will restate what we're voting on. The motion before us is that we approve Calendar Item 519, which would support Petition 60926. If you would support this recommendation, this motion from the floor, would you vote one (1), yes. If you oppose it, two (2), no. Vote now.

[Yes, 336; No, 446]

BISHOP CARCAÑO: You have not supported the motion from the floor. So we have cared for this item because of previous work that the committee had done. So, let us continue forth. There is a point of order, Felicísimo Cao, mic. 4. Please state your point, whether it's a point of order, a parliamentary inquiry, or a request for information.

FELICISIMO SANTOS CAO (California-Nevada): Bishop, Felicísimo Cao, California-Nevada Annual Conference, U.S.A. I rise for a point of privilege, Bishop, if it's in order. This is regarding a previous petition we have just approved regarding the lay order.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: We've granted one. Is there anyone opposed to a moment of privilege at this point? I hear none. Please proceed.

CAO: I rejoice and I'm so grateful for the General Conference in approving the petition submitted to recognize the deaconesses as an order in the Annual Con—in the General Conference and in the connection of our church. I am married to a deaconess. My mother-in-law is a deaconess, and I'm pretty sure that The United Methodist Church in the Philippines in which being served by deaconesses are serving right now and they—we have had a long history that they have been denied of the right to be part of the church in the connection. And I just wanted to uphold our decision in supporting their work in advocacy and work of justice.

The deaconesses are very active in the human rights work in the Philippines in addressing dictatorship. And many deaconesses in my home country, in the Philippines, have laid down their lives to fight against dictatorship and human rights violations. And I am offering a recognition to the lives of the deaconesses, home missionaries. And they are a very important, integral part of the life of our church. And if we may offer a prayer for the deaconesses in the southern part of Mindanao who are offering their lives and fighting against multinational corporation in the land—gold mining work that multi-corporations are doing in taking the ancestral lands of the indigenous people. Can we do that, Bishop?

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Yes, and would you please lead us in that prayer?

CAO: Friends, allow me to pray in my first language, and let us pray. (*Prayer in Tagalog.*)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Amen. Thank you very much. We're up to the order of the day, but we do have a report pertaining to a Judicial Council ruling that you had requested, so we'll hear that first.

Judicial Council Decision #1320, Petition 61057 Unconstitutional

GARY GRAVES (General Conference Petitions Secretary): Judicial Council Decision 1320 has been received. I will share with you the decision. Petition 61057, 61057, as amended by the Financial Administration legislative committee, is in violation of ¶16.8 and ¶16.9 and is therefore, unconstitutional.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Alright. We turn now to the report from the Committee on Peace which has to do with the Korean Peninsula. We welcome our leaders who will be presenting this report.

Peace Committee of the Korean Association of The United Methodist Church.

WE HYUNG CHANG (New England): Good almost evening. I'm We Chang with Rev. Kay Woo, Rev. Kun Sam Cho, and Rev. James Chongho Kim from the Peace Committee of the Korean Association of The United Methodist Church.

Here is a story about divided Koreans.

(*video presentation*)

CHANG: The devastation and tragedy of Korean War did not end with over four million lives lost, most of whom were civilians. And the whole peninsula in the complete rubbles and ashes. The thick clouds of cold war have never been cleared from the skies and lives of two Koreas, because the Korean War has never ended officially and peacefully with a peace treaty. Rather it has been paused, with the Korean War Armistice leaving the Korean peninsula in a state of escalating tension and conflicts during the last sixty-three years.

The Korean War has separated wives from their husbands; sons and daughters from their mothers and fathers; brothers from their sisters. Millions of families was separated, including my own father, who had to leave his parents and his sister in the north, believing they would be reunited soon. Sixty-three years later, my father is now waiting for that reunion in his heavenly home.

Like many separated ones, who passed away without ever seeing their loved ones again in the earthly side of life. No families are created by God to be separated forcefully, even for a day, not to mention sixty-three years. God has created the people of Korea as one people, thousands of years ago. The people of Korea are not created to live in a

constant tension and hostility. We are created to embrace and love one another. The ideals of idols of power and divided—have divided what God has created as one, into two. And the politics of ideology has hardened the land and the hearts of the Korean peninsula.

KUN SAM CHO (New York): This is why we are working for reconciliation and peace in the Korean peninsula. It is not a political endeavor, but a gospel calling. United Methodist Church along with many ecumenical partners has long been calling to establish a lasting peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula. Korean United Methodist Church were one of the first groups who responded to a humanitarian crisis in North Korea in the 1990s. With a heart of a boy with five loaves and two fish from the Gospels, they have been feeding the hungry, including the naked in North Korea, preaching the divided countries and people for over two decades.

2012 General Conference has called all United Methodists to join together, to march together, to replace the Korean War Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty paving a path toward reconciliation and lasting peace. Heeding this call in 2014, over 300 United Methodists from toddlers to grandparents, gathered together, marched together and prayed together for reconciliation and peace in Korean peninsula at the heart of Washington, DC. We visited the White House to urge the President to work toward a peace treaty.

KAY WOO (Northern Illinois): In 2015, the officers of the peace committee have visited North Korea. For all but one of us, this was the first time in forty, fifty years of our entire lives to walk on a land where our fathers and mothers once lived and our grandparents and aunts and uncles whom we have never met, lived and died. A land which is only

forty miles of us grew up in the South. We visited on our orphanage that we have supported and met the children. They seem to be growing healthy and very happy. We met children and youth who are at a summer camp, who greeted us with a warm greeting. We met young minds in national library and college, some of them were busy learning English. We travelled through a country road where we saw and trees that we provided were growing on once bare mountains. One Sunday, we worshipped at Pungswe Church, one of the two churches in Kanyang. We sang “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” prayed together, joined to prayer for peace written by churches in the north and the south and heard our choir singing the hymn “Amazing Grace.” We met with the representatives of Korean Federation of Christian Churches of North Korea to discuss how to work together to bring reconciliation and peace.

JAMES KIM (New York): This committee of Korean Methodist Church has worked along with the General Board of Global Ministry, General Board of Church and Society, and United Methodist Women during the last four years to carry out the call of General Conference. As God has called Ezekiel to hold together two sticks representing the divided kingdoms of Israel in his hand, we have tried to hold two Koreas in our humble, yet faithful hands, trusting the promise of God who said, “I will make them one nation in the land. Never again shall they be two nations. Never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.” Twenty-one years ago, I, along with the other members of the Peace Committee visiting North Korea, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, we made a peace cross using the wood from tallest mountain peak to mountain in the Korean peninsula is a sign of Christ’s call for peace

and reconciliation, not only for the people of divided Korea, but also for God’s people. They are made from two sticks. They only become a cross when we hold and connect them together. Peace and reconciliation with Christ will come upon the Korean peninsula when the people of God never give up holding two Koreas in their hands and hearts.

We thank you and all United Methodists who have been praying and working in Korean peninsula. Please hold the peace cross which you have received today. Please hold two Koreas in your hearts and prayers. As you hold this peace cross enjoin us in this prayer song for peace and unity, not only in the Korean peninsula, but also in all gospel world. Rev. Woo will lead us first. Then we will join together. Let us stand to pray and sing.

(music)

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Amen. You may be seated. Thank you friends. Let us continue to pray for our brothers and our sisters on the beautiful peninsula of Korea, with special prayers for the Methodist Church of Korea that labors diligently for that reconciliation and that peace. It’s come to my attention that the word from these crosses that we have been gifted with, come from the town of our own Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. He says his town is only a few miles from the demilitarized zone that start line that divides that amazing peninsula. So we give God thanks for these leaders, among them, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung.

There is a prayer concern. The father of Rev. Rudy Bongolan, clergy delegate from Northwest Philippines, died last May 18th and he has decided to complete, or she, it’s Ruby, I’m sorry, Ruby Bongolan, she has decided to complete her attendance here in this General Conference in spite of the death of her

father. It speaks of her great faith in the resurrected Lord that also gives us life eternal. We shall continue to pray for Ruby. Let me thank Bishop Hee-Soo Jung from the Wisconsin area and Bishop Marcus Matthews from the Baltimore-Washington area who have been assisting us this afternoon. We thank the secretarial staff that has been abundantly helpful as well. Most of all we thank all of you for being so grace-filled. Above all, we thank God our Creator, Jesus our Lord, the Holy Spirit that has surely been with us. We now move to our worship time.

(pause)

TONYA HARRIS (California-Pacific): When you see these words on the screen "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." Speak them in your first language, the language of your heart.

Proclaim this good news to all people.

ALL: "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." *(spoken in different languages)*

HARRIS: To the hopeless, and the hopeless of our communities, proclaim this news.

ALL: "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." *(spoken in different languages)*

HARRIS: To the weary United Methodists in this room, proclaim this news.

ALL: "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." *(spoken in different languages)*

HARRIS: To anyone who is alienated and separated from the flock, proclaim this news.

ALL: "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." *(spoken in different languages)*

HARRIS: To all those who are lost sheep, proclaim this news.

ALL: "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." *(spoken in different languages)*

HARRIS: Let your lives proclaim good news to all people.

ALL: "Jesus Christ is the hope of the world." *(spoken in different languages)*

(music)

SUSAN LEONARD-RAY (South Carolina): These Twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions. "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, as you go, proclaim the good news 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'" Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, you received without payment, give without payment. Take no gold or silver or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house greet it. If the house is worthy let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you. It will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of Judgement than for that town.

(music)

NATHANIEL BISHOP (Virginia): Hear these words from our daily prayer guide written by Bishop John Yambasu:

Jesus forbids his disciples to preach to Gentiles and Samaritans and directs them to the Jews. Why would he give such a racist instruction?

Being a Jew himself, Jesus may have desired that the Jews first receive the message of God's reign. Or perhaps Jesus realizes that

the strength and weaknesses of his young disciple team would preclude their venturing into risky territory. Preaching to Gentiles and Samaritans required particular qualities and skills with which the disciples were not fully equipped.

Like all good teachers, Jesus knows that effective ministry requires appropriate planning for maximum impact. So maybe he decides to start from the known, the Jews, and later venture into the unknown and more challenging territory of the Gentiles and Samaritans.

And as a strategist, Jesus knows that effective ministry demands that he prioritize his priorities. Biting off too much can be disastrous. Starting small with limited objectives can offer an ideal solution. So he decides to focus on Galilee, a well-known territory.

Notice that just as Jesus is specific in the choice of place, so also he mentions specific objectives: Heal the sick; raise the dead; cleanse the lepers; and cast out demons. The disciples are to focus on the helpless and hopeless in society. In Jesus' realm, these people top the list of Jesus' priorities. Jesus' priorities and focus for ministry have not changed. Nor has his charged to us. Anything less is unacceptable.

(music)

BISHOP BRUCE OUGH: Hope of the world, we thank you for sending your disciples long ago, and still today, to proclaim the good news, cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons.

ALL: Thank you, O God, for disciples called and sent. In them, we see your reign draw near.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, especially for the life and witness of these disciples we are about to name before you: bishops, their spouses, Judicial Council members; delegates-elect, known and loved by many of us.

ALL: Thank you, O God, for disciples called and sent. In them, we have seen your reign draw near.

*Deceased Delegates-Elect
of the 2016 General Conference
Since 2012*

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT: Hear now, these names of Delegates-Elect of the 2016 General Conference who have died since the 2012 General Conference.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Boniface Ilunga Kabongo.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Leanne M. Nakanishi.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Charles M. Pearre.

BARTLETT: Hear now, these names of members of the Judicial Council who have died since the 2012 General Conference.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Hoover Rupert.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Sally Brown Geis.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Jane Tews.

*Deceased Bishops and Bishops'
Spouses Since 2012*

BARTLETT: Hear now, these names of these bishops and bishops' spouses who have died since the 2012 General Conference.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Artha Blair Carlton.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Paul Duffey.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Violet Kulah.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Leone Kelly.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Billie Jo Sanders.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Mariam Hancock.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Marjorie Duecker.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Mack Stokes.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Jane Colaw.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Mary Ann Minnick.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Frederick Wertz.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Wayne K. Clymer.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Frances Fitzgerald.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Jack Tuell.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Lois Yeakel.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Robert Morgan.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Lloyd Knox.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Eva Eutsler.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Roy Clark.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Martin McLee.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Twila Bryan.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Hermann Sticher.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Rueben Job.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Charles Hancock.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Benja Lee Crutchfield.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Jan Ott.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Ernestine Dixon.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Edith B. Gamboa.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Mildred "Tuck" Jones.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Mary Lavelle Owen.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Martha Lawson.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop Jesse DeWitt.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Bishop William Morris.

BARTLETT: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Julia Wilke.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you, O God, for your disciple, Mrs. Eunice Mathews.

BISHOP OUGH: In faith, in love, in hope, we lift up these disciples to you, O God. Empower us to honor their witness through our own discipleship, in Christ's name.

(Music)

BARTLETT: Let us pray together as Jesus taught his disciples, each of us praying aloud in our own first language.

ALL: Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this

day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Music)

BARTLETT: Look at your hands. See the touch and the tenderness.

ALL: God's own for the world.

BISHOP OUGH: Look at your feet. See the path and the direction.

ALL: God's own for the world.

BARTLETT: Look at your heart. See the fire and the love.

ALL: God's own for the world.

BISHOP OUGH: Look at the cross. See God's Son and our Savior.

ALL: God's own for the world.

BARTLETT: This is God's world.

ALL: And we will serve God in it.

BISHOP OUGH: May God bless you. May God keep you ever with great care and lead your lives with love.

ALL: May Christ's warm welcome shine in our lives, and peace in heart and home prevail through every day till greater life shall call. Amen.

(Music)

Friday Morning, May 20, 2016

(music)

CEDRICK D. BRIDGEFORTH (California Pacific): Jesus has been raised from the dead. Go, tell his disciples. He's going on ahead of you. You'll see him there.

(music)

KAREN NELSON (Iowa): Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Go and tell his disciples. He's going on ahead of you. You'll see him there.

(music)

JOSEPH NDALA MULONGO (North Katanga): *(speaking in Kiswahili)*

(music)

JEAN-MARIE NKONGE (South Congo): *(speaking in French)*

(music)

JEREMY KIRK HEARN (Florida): Living God, you shatter our darkness with the light of your power and love.

ALL: Open our eyes to your light.

HEARN: Risen Christ, you burst out of the tomb to show the world that death cannot claim the final victory.

ALL: Open our hearts to your love.

HEARN: Holy Spirit, you are still here among us, blowing through your church with an ancient message of new life.

ALL: Open our ears to your word. Amen.

BRIDGEFORTH: The next day, that is after the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

MULONGO *(simultaneous translation)*: We remember what you have said when you were, when he was still alive, "In three days, I will come back to life." And then, they gave them permission, and then the disciples, they took care of his body, and then, they, after he rose, they went and told everybody that he is risen.

BRIDGEFORTH: Pilate said to them,

NKONGE: You have a guard of soldiers. Go!

CHOIR: *(echoes "go" at random)*

NKONGE: Go, and make it secure!

CHOIR: *(echoes "secure" at random)*

NKONGE: As much secure as you can.

BRIDGEFORTH: So they went with the guard.

CHOIR: *(echoes "guard" at random)*

BRIDGEFORTH: And made the tomb secure.

CHOIR: *(echoes "secure" at random)*

BRIDGEFORTH: By sealing.

CHOIR: *(echoes "sealing" at random)*

BRIDGEFORTH: The stone.

LISA NAA-SHORMEY

YEBUAH (North Carolina): God of the Resurrection, we keep you sealed inside the safety of the grave. You offer us the exhilarating redemption of unconditional love, but we want to box up your mercy in a tomb of judgement.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

YEBUAH: You offer us the freedom to dance with you along the path of grace, but we trudge along in the same predictable way.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

YEBUAH: You offer us the liberating power of new life, new vision, new possibilities, but we are too afraid to leave the security of our familiar routines and stereotypes.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

(pause)

(music)

YEBUAH: God, we pray that you would give us the courage to embrace your freedom.

ALL: Freedom is coming.

YEBUAH: Lift us from our fear with the knowledge that the risen Christ goes ahead of us.

ALL: Jesus is coming.

YEBUAH: Help us to break out of our own tombs into the liberating way of your grace.

ALL: Freedom is coming.

(music)

YEBUAH: Yes, we know that freedom is coming because the One who comes has already broken out of the tomb. The One who comes has already set us free from the chains of death and sin. The One who comes has already liberated us from everything that entombs us. And the one who comes is calling us to come along. Let us go with Jesus.

(music)

(applause)

KAREN NELSON (Iowa): After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb and suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descending from heaven came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him, the guards shook and became like dead men, but the angels said to the women,

*(video recording of
Scripture reading)*

NELSON: So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: Do you remember when we arrived here? It was a while ago. Bishop Brown reminded us in opening worship, or had us remember ourselves, to tell God that, “Jesus, we are here”, te—Jesu, tawa panu. Jesus we are here, and we’re still here.

(laughter)

And then toward the beginning of the conference, I was so struck in the episcopal address when Bishop Palmer told us that that he had a picture in his mind. Do you remember it? A picture in his mind of us in this room as each one is able, lying prostrate before the Lord, our Maker; divesting ourselves, if only for a moment, or a season, of our pride of place, position, and power. I was struck by that image, because from the day that I was invited to preach this message, and read the texts assigned, I had had an image of lying prostrate. And I had researched it and I had understood what it meant in a variety of religious traditions, and I had decided that it—it didn’t—it informed how I come to you today, but that it didn’t have a place in the message. But when Bishop Palmer brought us that image, I thought, well, maybe there is a place in the message.

So, I woke this morning, humble and desiring humility; yearning to become a humble community in which we each greet one another as we would greet Christ, if we met him on the road. We would, and we do, meet Christ on the road. We meet Christ in the halls, and in the restroom, and at lunch, and around the tables. Don’t the ancients teach us that to look for Christ in every stranger is fundamental to being a Christian disciple?

Here we are, gathered as strangers to one another, as Bishop Yambasu reminded us of yesterday; unable to speak the same language, coming from many different lands, a community of strangers. How do we find Christ in one another?

I awoke this morning drawn to humble myself before God, and before you. To bow and to bend, to say with my body what I feel in my heart. God, I don’t know if your chil-

dren can live together in the church. I don’t know how when one speaks, all can hear in their own language. I don’t know how we can understand each other deeply enough to recognize Christ in all the difference and the strangeness. I don’t know. I can’t see the way. I am brought low.

I don’t know if the bishops can lead the church the way the church needs us to. I don’t know if the delegates can hear the truth of one another’s lives in a way that leads us closer to God and deeper in faithfulness. So, as we begin today, and I see this as a turning day, from being here to going home, will you join me, as you are able, to humble yourself before God?

First, if you would stand, or sit where you are, with your back as straight as you can make it.

(pause)

And present yourself before God, not proudly, but with presence. And then bow your head ever so slightly, while keeping your back straight. And now bend at the hips, forward, head down. And then bend deeper down ‘til you’re looking at the floor. And hear the ancient prayer of the church. “Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Say it with me.

ALL: Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And as you come back up,

ALL: Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: You may be seated.

May we seek Christ in one another today and in every day.

We’ve been given a Scripture to enlighten this day. It’s a gospel invitation to cross over from death to life. I wanna ask you a simple question to begin. It’s a true or false question, and I don’t want you to answer it right now out loud, though

you'll have a mo—an opportunity in a minute.

So here's the question: True or false. Jesus is dead.

Now, let me put it to you another way. This time you can answer: True or false. Christ is risen!

ALL: True!

BISHOP STANOVSKY: We just heard Matthew's version of what happened after Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried. We don't know who wrote the Gospel of Matthew, but for a—for a game today, for a little exercise, we're going to imagine, today, that she was a woman, a storyteller. Crowds of people had followed Jesus. They didn't know after the crucifixion if all the power that they had experience with him on the hillside, at the seashore, in the towns, and the villages had survived his death. But our storyteller, oh my goodness, she was convinced that Jesus was the living presence of God on earth and could not be killed by any earthly power. People's lives had been changed. She had seen it. And she was absolutely dedicated to keeping the great good news story alive.

So, salvaging fragments from other stories, ancient stories, she wove a story, intended to assure the Jewish Christians, who were living in doubt, that the hopes and fears of all the years were fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus. She included references and resonances from two ancient and beloved stories, the exodus from slavery and then the crossing over the Jordan River into the Promised Land so that her readers would know that the God who resurrected Jesus from the dead was the very same God who saved and delivered the children of Israel throughout the ages.

Just listen to a few of the echoes. First, there's the Passover, the crossover, when the storyteller tells us earlier in Matthew's gospel

that his disciples gathered for a Passover feast. Her listeners remembered the first Passover. The Hebrew root is 'abar, which means to cross over, to pass over, and refers to a wide variety of threshold crossings. You remember that before God led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness, before the exodus, God sent how many plagues? Ten plagues, and the last of these plagues was death of the firstborn, whether it was the firstborn of the pharaoh or the firstborn of a slave girl or the firstborn of the livestock.

But, God passed over the Hebrew homes, saving their children, and so every year, Jewish people remember the Passover and celebrate how God saved their people. Then, as they ran from Pharaoh's army, God parted the Red Sea, and they crossed over on dry land, miraculously. Forty years later, they crossed over the Jordan River with Joshua, into the promised land.

So, when Jesus crosses over from death to life in the resurrection, it's like escaping death. It's like freedom from slavery. It's like entering into promise.

Then, there's the echo of the three days. Three days. When we hear that Jesus was three days in the tomb, it's like the three days that the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness before God provided life-giving water, or three days that they prepared before they crossed over Jordan. You hear the echo.

Then, there's Golgotha. When our storyteller tells us earlier in Matthew that Jesus was crucified at Golgotha, she says it is the place of the round skull, "*gulgoleth*." When a round stone rolls away to reveal an empty tomb, there's a whisper of "Gilgal," the place where the Israelites camped after crossing over the Jordan, where they built a memorial of round stones, "*galgal*," carried

from the river, and where God said, "I have rolled away *galal*, the disgrace of Egypt."

Do you hear the echoes? Gilgal. *Galgal*. *Galal*. *Gulgoleth*. Golgotha. Wheel. Round. Roll. Skull.

We don't hear it, but the people she wrote the stories for heard it.

Then, there's the theme of fear and collapse. The guards who shook and became as dead men in Matthew are like the Egyptians, who trembled and feared that they would all be dead, or the Canaanites, who are overcome with dread and melt in fear.

The storyteller in this passage in Matthew tells us a story of life and death. She tells us a new story, rooted in ancient stories, to assure us that the good news of Jesus did not die on the cross. She's an evangelist, a good news teller. In the uncertainty of faith that the people faced, she offered a choice as old as life itself: life or death.

She set the choice before us again and anew in this little morality play that we're given this morning. So, let's hear it again.

Scene one. Scene one. No, scene one. The bad guys. It's the morning after the crucifixion. We're back in Pilate's court. Religious leaders are worried that Jesus isn't dead enough yet. Jesus said he would rise from the dead, so the priests come and say to Pilate, "Pilate, sir, would it be a good idea to seal that tomb, so nobody can sneak in, steal his body, and claim that he's alive? It could really cause a lot of trouble. We need him good and dead."

Imagine the scene then: the soldiers, marching, heavy footsteps, clanging metal. They arrive at the tomb. The stone is in place. They seal the stone. They strike a pose. They stand guard. "Nobody's leaving this tomb on our watch."

And then, you shift to scene two, the good guys. Oh, it's evening and

morning, a third day. It's sunrise, the beginning of the week. There's quiet and serenity. Two women come to see the tomb. They hope that somehow, the great promises of Jesus have not died on the cross.

When they get there, oh, my goodness! An angel falls out of heaven, with earthquake and lightning. The guards tremble and fall. The angel rolls aside the mighty stone and sits on the stone. I love this! The angel sits on the stone to preside over the threshold of life and death!

"I will decide," says the angel, "who comes and goes from this tomb, who lives and who dies."

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: The tomb is empty. Tomb is empty. They run away, afraid but joyful.

The angel, our storyteller tells us, crosses over from heaven to Earth to set before them life and death, blessing and curse. It's a simple true or false question.

The chief priests and Pharisees say, "True. Jesus is dead. We got him covered. We set the guard. Go about your business. Move along."

But, the Marys answer, "False. He's not dead! Christ is risen."

ALL: He is risen indeed.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I know you know this.

Our storyteller makes us choose, but it's not really a fair choice, 'cause she's an evangelist, after all. She loves Jesus! She does not love the religious establishment, and she does not put them on the right side of life in her story.

She's saying, "You, you can choose to be on the side of the lying, scheming chief priest and Pharisees who can't recognize love when they see it and don't celebrate life when it escapes the tomb right in front of them."

(applause)

BISHOP ELAINE J. W. STANOVSKY: Or, you can be like the women who joined Jesus on the life side of the tomb. The church is of God, but the church is not God. We have to keep the church in its proper perspective. It's easy to become disoriented at a General Conference; we're here a really long time. It kinda becomes a universe. After so many days of dazzling, global community, spectacular worship, giant projection screens, it's easy to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

(laughter and applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And to imagine that what we do hear is gospel. But it's not. We're doing the best we can, but we inevitably err and stray like lost sheep. We follow, too much, the desires and devices of our own hearts. Having worked with the descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre for six years, I live with a constant and sobering awareness of the capacity of the church to choose death over life, and to convince ourselves that death is life and that we are doing God's will. At this General Conference, what looks like life to some of us, has the stench of death to others. Our life experiences, the cultures we come from, are so very different, that what is blessed by some among us is cursed by others.

We have blessings and curses flying all around this room. We do not yet know each other's lives well enough to recognize the fruits of the spirit in one another. So we curse what we don't understand. And as long as we are thinking the worst of one another, or protecting ourselves against the curses of others, there is no blessing. And we will not be a church that follows Jesus. We will be stuck, all of us, every one of us, in an empty tomb that Jesus has left

to be in ministry. Or we may wander aimlessly.

Now, I've been to several General Conferences and when I was invited to preach the last morning of General Conference, I thought to myself, you know, if you charted my spiritual well-being over many years, the last day of General Conference . . .

(laughter and applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: . . . would not be a high spot, I'm telling you. Mike McKee, Bishop; McKee, can attest to this. If you are a wandering soul this morning, unable to recognize this as your church, as the church you thought you loved, and if you find yourself wondering if there is any life left in the church, the Matthew storyteller knows your pain, your disorientation, your despair. Remember that our storyteller recognized that powers and principalities, even in the church, will sacrifice life for order. The gatekeepers of the church will wring the life right out of Jesus if they have to. They will put the grace and mercy of Jesus where the sun don't shine, if they have to. They will send guards and pass bans and keep us from learning to love one another as Christ has loved us, to keep heaven from invading the church with life in forms they are not prepared to receive.

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And they will punish people who follow Jesus out of the tomb and into ministry. If only we were certain who they were.

(laughter and applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: They might be us. We might be them. We, the bishops, the general agency staff, the delegates; we are all subject to the same failings. The good news is that God is better than the church.

ALL: Amen!

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Can I get an Alleluia on that? Alleluia!

(cheering)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Our storyteller wrote a story to give discouraged people hope. Anybody discouraged, uncertain about the future? There's a wideness in God's mercy with the power to subvert the errors we have committed and to redeem the harm we have done. God's love and grace, God's judgement and forgiveness, God's welcome and blessing, are not controlled by the General Conference.

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So when General Conference gets bogged down, as it does, we fly higher as Bishop Yambasu said yesterday. We turn again to God in Jesus Christ who lives, despite all odds, and who is better than the church. To confuse the wisdom and power of the church with the wisdom and power of God is to fall victim to what Karl Barth called the criminal arrogance of religion.

As we turn toward home, I offer you a gospel good word and an assignment. Adam Hamilton says we have to make an assignment every time we preach. Hear a good word: God really does love you and continues to sustain us all by grace. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is gospel, but it is not necessarily church. It is this great good news that frees slaves and fulfills promises and leads women to run from death for dear life. Your assignment, simple:

First, choose life. The way is open to us. Jesus has left the tomb. Let us leave the tomb quickly to cross over to life. This is the day of reckoning of sorts for us, as every day is. So as you live your

day today, call to mind a moment, since we have been together, when you may have favored death over life. We all choose death now and again. We call it "sin." It's a heavy burden, a stone upon your heart. I'm not asking you to come to the altar this morning, but I am inviting you, as you sit in the presence of your Savior, to lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely. I'm inviting each one of us to find a person today that you may have wronged and to make it right, before we return to the communion table. Find a person during the break, maybe take their hand and or even bow your head humbly. Say what you need to say to recognize and honor the Christ in the other.

No one, none of us needs to leave this place bearing the burden of a sin that has harmed someone. No one needs to leave, no one needs to live constrained by wounds from the past. No one needs to live with the fear that you—of what you do not know. If you believe that the Bible condemns homosexuality, but you have never asked a gay Christian how they understand the Bible, you gotta get out of that tomb.

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: If you believe that all African delegates are voting from somebody else's game plan and are puppets to a puppeteer, you gotta get out of that tomb.

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: If you've never talked to a delegate who has lived under oppressive rule, under a state of war, in the midst of devastating health epidemics, you gotta get out of that tomb. If you think you might be stuck in a confining, life-denying place, during the break find a prayer partner and bear

your soul to Jesus and then leave quickly. Get out of there.

(laughter)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: There is no life there. Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home." Only, home in the great household of God is not the home we're familiar with. Home with God is always strange and wonderful and full of people we don't know anything about yet. So, whatever dark and confined tomb we try and seal Jesus in, he moves on. This is the core of our faith, and yet, we are stunned each time we discover that he is not here, that he's gone ahead, and he says again, "Come follow me."

Jesus has opened the tomb. Jesus, through the church, introduced me to people who find love in different sexual identities and relationships than I do. We try and catch up to them.

You know what, I'm just gonna skip some of this. I'm going to walk over here, where I actually have a text, and we're gonna go to the end. Thank you for your patience.

Finally, your assignment: Tell the story of life, good and true. As we return to our homes we become the storytellers. The story isn't over once the church has decided. After our discernment, our conferencing, and our prayers, each of us is still responsible to weigh the decisions of the church against the will of God and the resurrected Christ as we know them. Each one of us. No disciple of Jesus Christ is free to surrender conscience to the church. If we do so, we cut ourselves off from the Holy Spirit and we deny the Holy Spirit's presence with our spirits to the church. That's how we become lukewarm. Speak the truth of the gospel of life as the spirit bears

witness with your spirit. Your story must be true to your experience.

But, a true story isn't good enough. It must also be a good story. Tell a good, true story. No matter how you may be burdened by the bad news, like the gospel story, our job is to find the story of life.

I'm sorry, I'm, we're, we're jumping around here.

Our job is to find the story. No matter how you may be burdened by the bad news, like the gospel storyteller, our job is to find the story of life in the midst of death. Where have you seen God at work? Where is life triumphing over death? Where are wounds healed, captives freed, promises fulfilled? We have heard so much good news here! Amen?

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: We've had so many good conversations. We've met so many amazing people who are living lives of courage and faithfulness. Take time to ask yourself, "What do people need to hear? What do the people in my home church need to hear? What do my friends who would never darken the doorsteps of the church need to hear? What about people who live on the brink of death from poverty or hunger or disease or persecution or terrorism? What do they need to hear from the church? What good news is there from The United Methodist Church?"

The other day when we were in the midst of strife, I rode the MAX across town, and it was one of those cars that has the billboard, has the United Methodist message on it. Here it is, yes. "United, We Help Millions. What's Next?" And in my mind, I thought, "Well, maybe schism."

(laughter)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: What would it mean if we came to Portland with "United, We Help Mil-

lions" and left a divided church? What witness would we be bearing? But, we're not going to leave divided, because God is not finished with us yet.

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So, as you go home as a storyteller, do not deal death. Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: *(looking for the next page)* You never do this, I know.

(laughter)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: When the time comes, leave the tomb quickly with fear but great joy. Follow Jesus to Galilee, where he is back at work, walking, noticing, reading, preaching, touching, rebuking, healing, praying, explaining, eating, calling, reaching, fishing, holding, thanking, breaking, giving, sharing, feeding, shining, forgiving, entering, singing, crying, washing, breathing, blessing, dying, rising, going, sending—ALIVE!

(applause)

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen!

BARTLETT: Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

BARTLETT: We have a choice to make in our going. *(speaking French)*. Therefore, go! But where are we going, and with whom are we going? Are we going with the guards to seal up the tomb, to make sure the status quo never, ever changes; to sit on our hands? Or are we going to use our hands? Are we standing? Are we going? Are we moving forward? Use your hands. Make the sign with me.

Moving forward. Moving forward. If we choose life, we are going with Christ. We're moving forward. Our band is going to lead

us in singing, in moving, in signing, in listening, in watching, in acting, in discipling. We will be moving forward singing and praising God together.

(music)

(applause)

DEANNA E. STICKLEY-MINER (West Ohio): God, indeed you make all things new. When the powers of politics and religion try to keep Jesus in a tomb, you gave the world a new reality, where love is stronger than evil. When we feel boxed in by rules, divisions, and sheer exhaustion, here you are, calling us to run with excitement, to follow Jesus Christ. Thank you for liberating us from our own self-imposed limits. Thank you for showing us a new way. Thank you for opening your arms to include each one of us in your good news. Thank you for sending us to go and tell all folks the joyful gospel.

(music)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: For this reason, I bow before God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray according to the riches of his glory, that God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Holy Spirit. And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and the length, the height and the depth. And to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to the One who by the power at work within us, by the power at

work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. May you leave the tomb quickly. And as you go, may you go forth with courage and be led in peace, for ours is a God of peace. May the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all this day and throughout your days. Amen.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE:

Let us take our seats as quickly as possible so that we may begin our morning work together.

(pause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: God is good.

ALL: All the time.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: And all the time.

ALL: God is good.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright, can we come to our seats? There's a lot of motion at the doorways, so we'd invite those who are outside who are coming in, those who need to come to their tables. I'm Bishop Julius Trimble from the Iowa area, and I wanna begin with a word of scripture, a time of prayer, and then, we will begin with some reports from our committees.

Hear these words from Hebrews, the 12th chapter. "Let us also run the race."

(pause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Waiting for a little more order before we read the word of God.

Hebrews the 12th chapter: "So then let us also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witness-

es surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us off, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith and pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right hand of God's throne."

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, some whose names were called out yesterday, thousands from all of the places where we have come from who are praying for the witness of The United Methodist Church and this General Conference, praying for vital congregations and that souls would be saved and that abundant health would go forth to all the children of the world.

On this last day of General Conference, I hope you have been watching out for glory sightings, for signs of God throughout our time in Portland, and we have been welcomed and received well here. Have we not been cared for very well here in Portland? Let's give everybody who has hosted us a hand as we give God the glory.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: So friends, as we begin our work today, let us not be stingy in our praise or hesitant in our forgiveness, or let us not be shy about our love but generous with our grace and disciplined in our contributions. My 93-year old mother is praying for this Conference. She's a life-long Methodist, and like me, she was Methodist-born, and I often say I was Methodist-born, United-Methodist-bred, and when I'll die, I'll be a United-Methodist-dead.

(laughter)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: So, I give God praise for our church and for our work. We have the responsibility

of leaving this day to bring good news in often what seems like a bad news world. So friends, I want us to begin with a word of prayer.

Loving God, for the gift of this day, a day we have never seen before and will never see again, we ask that your Holy Spirit would fall fresh upon this conference. Though we may be weary, let us not be weary in doing good. Though we may be tired, let us not get tired of telling the story of Jesus Christ and his saving love. Though we may have to journey, some leaving this afternoon and some this evening and some in the next few days, as we leave, let us leave knowing that we have been in the presence of God, seeking to do the work of God, with the power of God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we give thanks and praise for the gift of this day, and all of God's children said, "Amen."

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: I have a lay member who used to remind me that we are children of the most high God. So, whenever you speak to someone or whenever you come to speak, remember that we are standing next to, sitting next to, in the presence of all who are children of the most high God. Amen?

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: I'm thankful for Bishop Deb Kiesey and Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who are seated behind me and will be assisting me, and certainly our Conference Secretary Gere Reist and all of those persons. The bishops get to sit and then get up and leave, but all these other folks have to stay here throughout the day. Let's give them a hand, please.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Now, friends as we begin our work today, many of you may have some courtesies and privileges. You may have

some prayer concerns. I would ask that you would write those down if possible. Get them to the secretary's table, or to those from the Courtesies and Privileges Committee, that we might in appropriate time, in the times we have for the remainder of this day, to acknowledge any particular privileges or prayer concerns that we have before us. And, this is what we wanna look for. If today we see people speaking from this podium, and we're having two speeches for and two against, that's a good sign that we're getting on with our business. Amen? If I'm speaking too much, and we're speaking too much on points of order and all kinds of privileges, then that means that we may not be getting to all the legislation that we possibly could get to. I'm not saying we shouldn't come to the microphone, but once you've had an opportunity to get in the queue, if we pass something you wanted to do, please remove yourself from the queue.

Alright, friends, let us begin now with committee reports. The Committee on Courtesies and Privileges, is there a report?

CATHERINE SUE SULLIVAN (Texas): Sue Sullivan, Texas Annual Conference, Chair, Courtesies and Privileges. Greetings, this morning the Committee on Courtesy and Privileges would like to recognize bishops, delegates, reserve delegates, conference staff, volunteers, and visitors who during our time at General Conference celebrated their birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions. Would you please stand for just a moment if you've had a birthday or anniversary, special occasion; and we want you to know that we appreciate your commitment to The United Methodist Church.

(applause)

SULLIVAN: That completes our report.

(applause)

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Thank you. Committee on Correlations and Editorial Revision, no report. Committee on the Journal.

(laughter)

Committee on the Journal Appreciates DCA Staff

RANDY LEE BIGGERSTAFF (Missouri): Alright, Call to order. I woke up this morning with point of order in my mind. So it's been two weeks of long days. But now, Goooooooooooooooood morning General Conference!

ALL: Goooooooood Morning!

BIGGERSTAFF: Amen. I like to start my report this morning to recognize some of those people that we never see at General Conference. They're back in the catacombs of this side of the building, but they're the ones that write and produce the *DCA* that I read every morning with my committee. They tirelessly make sure there's corrections, they tirelessly make sure that your words are right, and they work very, very hard to make sure that this is all done in a timely manner. I'd like to recognize that group that put together the *DCA*. Please give them a round of applause.

(applause)

BIGGERSTAFF: If you'll please turn to p. 2587, you will find the errata for the day. Excuse me. You'll also find the Judicial Council's decision 1319 and Judicial Council decision 1320 on pp. 2584 and 2585. On p. 25, 2651, that's two-six-five-one, the first page of the Agency Council of Bishops Nominations and Appointments was printed incorrectly. Delegates will be receiving a corrected version of this page today.

I just received a message that we are re-printing the full agency report that I just mentioned, so the full agen, the Agency Council of Bishops

Nominations and Appointments will all be reprinted in the supplement today. That is the end of my final report. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Let's give him a, a hand, please, for his fine work. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: The Committee on Agenda and Calendar.

TRACY SMITH MALONE (Northern Illinois): Good morning, Bishop, and

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Good morning.

MALONE: good morning friends. You will find today's schedule on pp. 2580 and 2581 in today's *DCA*. Again 2580 and 2581 in today's *DCA*. In addition to the orders of the day that you find printed, and were previously approved, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar agree to schedule time for orders of the day that were previously postponed following the administrative committee reports, we will move to calendar items.

The elections for general agencies will take place today, but the time has not yet been determined. The Committee approve for the first afternoon plenary, a request to receive a welcome from Minneapolis, which is the site for the 2020 General Conference. This will happen following the recognition of the outgoing secretary of General Conference. I would also offer a reminder that we will hear a report from GCFA as the first order of business during the second morning plenary at 10:20, and those reports must be approved before we continue our work on other calendar items. I want to report back on the motion that was referred to us from the floor to schedule all disciplinary items first, then items related to resolutions, and then any remaining non-disciplinary items.

The Committee on Agenda and Calendar collaborated with legislative committee chairs to discuss this motion. We want you to know that we have heard your concerns and kept those in mind as we develop the order of the remaining calendar items. Let me remind the body, that calendar items were scheduled according to the priorities stated in the rules. In addition, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar agreed in its first meeting to prioritize items related to *The Book of Discipline* first, then resolutions, and then other non-disciplinary items, but this is only one of several considerations for the order of priority. The committee kept this prioritization of disciplinary items in mind even as we did our work this morning.

Committee on Agenda and Calendar Responds to Request to Reprioritize

Both the committee members and legislative chairs have decided that in order to honor the work of all of the delegates and to ensure that each remaining legislative committee has the opportunity to present items today, the order of legislative committee reports will be rotated among the committees with priority given where possible to disciplinary items, items related to resolutions, and then remaining non-disciplinary items. We believe that this allows the full body to affirm the good work that has already been done in committees. We want you to know that all calendar items are scheduled for today, let me say that again, all calendar items are scheduled for today, and we will hear as many of these as time allows.

So friends, as I have been reminding us all week, it will be up to this body how we manage our time together. Bishop, this concludes our report.

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Alright. If you are ready to approve

the report, would you take out your voting pads and make sure they're on. Alright, I think you're ready to vote. Press one (1) for yes; press two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 733; No, 12]

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. Thank you. Let's give them a hand.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you Dr. Tracy. I see, I don't know if these are old or new, but point of order, or parliamentary inquiry for information, mic. 4. Brian Milford. If . . . OK, that's been removed, OK. Maybe that's old. Jerry Kulah, point of order, parliamentary information. OK.

JERRY PAYE-MANFLOE KULAH (Liberia): Thank you, Bishop. Jerry Kulah. I was asking for a moment of personal privilege. Where we could . . .

BISHOP TRIMBLE: We requested personal privileges to be brought to the secretary. Is this relatively brief? I'll let you go ahead, go ahead.

KULAH: Ok, thank you, Bishop. I'll try to be brief. Jerry Kulah from Liberia. We want to thank the Bishop Stanovsky who just preached, and we want to thank her for the message, but we want to emphasize that we don't want anyone leaving here thinking that African delegates are being manipulated to vote. Everybody in this hall should have a game plan and the African delegates have game plan that are based upon the scripture that is our primary authority for faith and practice. Our game plan is focus on ensuring that The United Methodist Church is a vibrant church that is biblically committed, Christ-centered, evangelistically functional, Holy Spirit empowered, and vision-driven. Thank you very much.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you. Thank you and I, I think I heard Bishop Stanovsky asking us to question all of ourselves, and I don't think she was, at all, suggesting that that was the case. In fact, there has been great preaching and worship all week. Wouldn't you say, friends? Let's give, for our worship team and our preachers, thank you very much for that clarity. In fact, when I grow up, I want to preach like some of these bishops, too, myself. Alright friends, we're gonna go to the committee, we have a report from the Committee on Ethics.

General Conference Ethics Committee Receives Complaint

SAMUEL DUNCAN MCMILLAN (Rules Chair, Commission on General Conference): Good morning, Bishop and body. I come to you with a heavy heart today. A complaint has been received by the Secretary of the General Conference that a delegate was using multiple voting devices. Upon investigation by the Secretary of the General Conference, who having found credible evidence that such had occurred, and pursuant with Section 7, letter C of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, reported this to the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee met and considered the complaint. The head of the delegate's Episcopal area delegation was informed and clarified that the rules of order would be followed in this regard. The Ethics Committee recommends no further action. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you. Let us pause for prayer. Prayer is always in order. Lord God, we have come as children of the most high God, and we come in a spirit of trust. We come in a spirit of accountability. We come asking that your Holy Spirit would guide us through this final day of General Conference, that indeed, the church would

be magnified and God would be glorified and that our witness would be multiplied. And so Lord, we ask that you bless us to be accountable and conscientious as we carry forth our work according to your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

I think we have a monitoring report.

ERIN M. HAWKINS (General Secretary, Commission on Religion and Race): Good morning!

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Good morning.

Commission on Religion and Race Monitoring Report

HAWKINS: My name is Erin Hawkins, and I'm the General Secretary of the Commission on Religion and Race. And this morning, I rise to stand before you and to offer a word of very deep gratitude. Thanks to Gere Reist and Sara Hotchkiss in the Commission on General Conference that have helped to coordinate the delegates self-monitoring moments that you've experienced in legislative committee and in plenary sessions. Thanks to our interpreters who have helped us to communicate more effectively. Thanks to the monitors representing the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. And thanks to our partners in the Ombuds office who have helped us to be more thoughtful and responsive to your concerns. And most importantly, thanks to you, as delegates, for being willing to try a new thing as it relates to the monitoring and accountability ministry of General Conference.

The General Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women introduced self-monitoring as a way to encourage you to greater reflection and self-management. You have embraced these opportunities with transparency and vulnerability

receiving the numbers and even, at times, asking how these responses might look differently based on where you live or the languages that you speak. You have demonstrated a willingness to work in partnership with us as we seek to live in the complexity of being a worldwide church and for that, we are grateful.

There's no arguing that there have been significant highs and lows during this last ten days, but as you complete your work at this General Conference, we would like to offer you this word of hope and encouragement as leaders who are responsible for supporting the church in living faithfully in the midst of its diversity.

As Bishop Stanovsky reminded us, "God is not finished with us yet." So, please, as you continue to do this work, know that we stand with you. Don't get weary in well-doing because you have been called to be leaders in the church for such a time as this. We appreciate you and your willingness to serve, and we give God all the glory, honor, and praise for who we are as a church together. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you. Let's give her thanks for the monitoring report.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you, General Secretary Hawkins. I think we're ready to go to calendar items, so I will call on Financial Administration, Jessica Vargo and others.

Sustainable and Responsible Investments

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Good morning. Unfortunately, for this body, you will get to see me several times today. I have one petition item to bring before you at this time. It is found on DCA p.

2209. Again, that is 2209, Calendar Item 409. The full petition can be found in your *Advance DCA* on p. 800. It is entitled, "Sustainable and Responsible Investments." The legislative committee made some slight modifications, or amendments, to this petition. The first was simply adding "socially" in the title and then the other was to add, "privately-owned correctional facilities," as one of the exclusions. With these amendments, the legislative committee adopted the petition as amended. We do have a minority report.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright, I understand there is a minority report, and who will be presenting the minority report?

MARIE LOUISE KUCH-STANOVSKY (Pacific Northwest): Thank you. Marie Kuch-Stanovsky, Pacific-Northwest Annual Conference. I respectfully present the minority report which adds petroleum, coal, and natural gas, along with private correctional facilities, to our church's socially responsible investment guidelines. The majority report before you weakens our denominational commitment to socially responsible investing and even removes shareholder advocacy language. Our report retains our strong advocacy through investing, maintains the majority's addition of private prisons, and adds the industries driving climate change to the list of practices we, as a church, choose not to profit from.

Climate change is affecting every single one of our ministries around the world and all of God's creation. Just two days ago, we commemorated the Imagine No Malaria campaign and celebrated that deaths due to malaria were reduced by half in 2015. However, climate change is causing temperatures to rise, and the Center for Disease Control reports that malaria is being transmitted in places it has never been seen before.

As The United Methodist Church, we cannot celebrate the milestones of Imagine No Malaria while also profiting from the companies that are creating the conditions for the spread of the disease. We can't continue to say that we are against climate change and the devastating effects to our world while also saying we're for fossil fuel profits. But though you've heard me speak with great concern for God's creation, I want you to now hear my great hope that we as a church will follow our Wesleyan call to join our personal piety with social piety—that we will decided to go beyond alleviating the effects of climate change and choose to stop profiting from the fossil fuels that are causing the devastation. I urge you to protect creation and support the minority report. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright, friends. We first have to determine if you will support the minority report and, if you chose to support the minority report, we have speeches for and against already, then that will be the main motion before us. If you choose not to, then we will go back to the committee report, and then you'll have opportunity to speak for or against that and then act on that vote.

So, I wanna go first to mic. 6, a speech against. Kevin Goodwin. And then mic. 6, right after that, Jane Honeycutt, speech for. Mic. 6.

KEVIN G. GOODWIN (Peninsula-Delaware): Kevin Goodwin, lay member, Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. I rise in opposition to adding fossil fuels screen. I support the screens we have and believe the people we elect to serve on the board of directors are concerned about climate change. I do not believe we need a fossil fuel screen at this time, due to the actions already taken by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The pension board

already has adopted and implemented exclusions related to most carbon-intensive coal companies. These exclusions include power companies still heavily dependent on coal, companies that would not be covered by the proposed fossil fuels screen. The pension board recently invested \$250 million with a new manager dedicated to investing in renewable energy, in energy efficiency companies.

The pension board has an entire committee, the UMC principles, that reviews investment policy at every board of directors meeting. They are the ones that recommended to the whole board the adoption of the board's coal policy and recently added the human rights exclusion policy. I've had the advantage of seeing firsthand how our investment guidelines have evolved as related to climate change as these issues grew in importance. We invited Fossil Fuel UMC to present to the whole board on this topic. I ask you not to adopt a screen on fossil fuels at this time. Let's all work to address climate change by supporting the general board's work and pledging to reduce our own carbon footprints. So, I stand in opposition to the minority report.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: OK. That's one speech against the minority report. Under our rules, we can have two speeches for, two against—and I think we have a point of order at mic. no. 5.

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: OK. That's one speech against the minority report. According to our rules, we can have two speeches for, two against. And I think we have a point of order at Mic. no. 5. Teresa Keese, and I apologize if I'm not pronouncing your name correctly. Please correct me.

TERESA L. KEESE (Rio Texas): Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Good morning.

KEESE: Teresa Keese.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Teresa Keese.

KEESE: Lay delegate, Rio Texas Conference. I have a point of information. I would like to ask if we could have a staff member from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to provide us information on how divesting from the fossil fuels would impact the investments, and also on what types of shareholder engagement they have already enacted, and what the results of that have been. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: So, is that a request for a response?

KEESE: It is a request for a speaker from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits staff.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Is there someone here prepared to speak to that?

KEESE: I believe we have to take a vote for that.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. If you would approve, you'd have to approve having someone from the General Board of Pensions speak to that. If you would approve that would you raise your cards, your green cards? If you'd approve having someone speak for information purposes. Alright. Cards down. If you'd put your cards down. If you would not approve. Alright. It is—it is approved. Do we have someone prepared to speak?

Barbara Boigegrain at mic. 4, please.

Boigegrain Provides Board Requested Clarification

BARBARA BOIGEGRAIN (General Secretary, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits): Barbara Boigegrain, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. We have a vision in which all voices are able to come speak to the intractable and urgent issue of climate change. Therefore, we set a vision in this paragraph to be able to work with

other coalitions, other voices around the world, because we think transformation will happen more quickly if everyone works on the issue.

If we divest from companies, The United Methodist Church loses a voice at that table. We simply walk away, and the church is not ever in those shareholder rooms or in the meeting with management to talk about how to transform to a lower carbon future. Currently, we have screened out six areas, based on what you have approved, within *The Book of Discipline*. We have screened out gambling, alcohol, munitions, tobacco, pornography, and private prisons. Altogether, that is three to five percent of the investable universe.

If we were to also be told to screen out fossil fuels, here, or strongly encouraged to do so in resolutions, told that it was immoral or wrong, then that would be an additional nine to fifteen percent of the investable universe, depending on which fund, which would bring us fifteen to nineteen percent of all investable stocks excluded. That would impact our ability to diversify; to try to insure that we have pensions available long-term, and it would greatly reduce our flexibility on trying to identify good actors, supporting companies that are making a change, and exclude the bad actors.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Mic. no. 4, Emily Allen. Is it a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information?

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Emily Allen, California-Nevada Annual Conference. I have a point of information. I would like . . .

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. Go ahead.

ALLEN: Thank you. I would like to request that the Rev. Jennie Phillips from Fossil Free UMC give

us information on why Fossil Free UMC believes divestment is right at this time.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. The body—is this a—is this a delegate, or this is a resource person outside of the . . .

ALLEN: She is a resource person, yes.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. The body will have to give permission for another person to speak on this matter. If you are willing to let this person speak on the floor on this matter for information purposes, please raise your green card. I'm gonna ask, OK. Put your card down. If you will not permit permission for—let's go to our voting pads. Can we use our voting pads, please? That was kinda close. You ready? OK.

Now this is to give permission for the resource person to come and speak on this matter. A member requested that, and you have to give permission. If you so desire to give this person permission to speak on the floor for information purposes, press one (1) for yes. If you would not like this person to speak at this time, this matter, press two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Alright. She's permitted to speak. Please come to Mic. 5.

JENNY PHILIPS (Pacific Northwest). Good morning, my name is Rev. Jenny Phillips, and I'm a pastor in the Pacific Northwest Conference, and I coordinate Fossil Free UMC. This vote is urgent right now because the climate crisis is impacting our ministries around the world right now. United Nations Climate Chief Christiana Figueres says that where capital goes in the next five years will determine the course of climate change on our planet. The impact of The United Methodist Church divesting from

fossil fuels will reverberate worldwide. World leaders signed the historic Paris Agreement, and now at least fifty-five countries must ratify that agreement in the coming year. Their leaders need clear signals from their constituents that people support a rapid transition to a clean energy future.

A major global denomination's commitment to divestment would provide such a signal. This legislation asks you to make a decision about how the church uses its moral voice. Using our moral voice with corporations that have funneled millions into obstructing climate regulation isn't working. It's time instead to use our voice to stand with those who are suffering the greatest impacts of climate change and say that we are no longer willing to profit from the source of their suffering. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright we have another point of order on mic. 6, Dorothee Benz. Has that been removed? OK, thank you. OK alright, mic. 6, thank you.

DOROTHEE BENZ (New York): Dorothee Benz, New York, lay delegate. I'd like a point of information if could find out how many coal companies we are currently invested in?

BISHOP TRIMBLE: OK, that's a request for additional information again. If you'd give permission for a representative from the General Board of Pensions to speak to that, let's go to your voting pads.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: That's a request for more information. OK, here we go. If you would give permission for additional information on this matter, please one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now. *[Yes, 417; No, 376]*

BISHOP TRIMBLE: OK, yes. Representative from the General Board of Pensions, Mic. 4 please. I see someone at the microphone. It looks like to move the previous question. That would be out of order. We've already had only one speech for, or one speech for the minority report, so we haven't had our pre-requisite speeches. Go ahead, Mic. 4, please identify yourself.

Pensions Report on Current Coal Investments

CRISTY JENKINSON: Thank you and hello. My name is Cristy Jenkinson. I lead the Sustainable Investment Strategists Team at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. In response to that specific question, I do not have a portfolio in front of me today, but I can confirm that as we have stated, we have implemented a guideline relating to climate change that specifically excludes companies working in the thermal coal area, which is the most intensive for carbon emissions. A guideline has excluded companies, which gain fifty percent for their revenues from thermal coal and from utility companies that derive the majority of their fuel supply from thermal coal. The information of this has been disclosed on our website since we implemented this at the start of last year. I hope that provides the clarity about the guideline and how we are addressing this important sector in our guidelines. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright, thank you. I'll go now to a speech in favor of the minority report. I think we had one speech against and let's go to Mic. 1, Donna Pritchard. Oh, I'm sorry, Jane Honeycutt, where is she? Mic. 6, you were in the queue.

JANE DENISE HONEYCUTT (Virginia): Thank you. Denise Honeycutt, clergy, Virginia Conference. Worldwide, the effects of climate

change are being felt by ordinary people, people who struggle to feed their family when the rains don't come, when the river beds dry up. Many of our brothers and sisters in Africa, in the Philippines, in Latin America who are here with us can attest to that reality. In other parts of the world, whole communities are being displaced because of the rising sea levels. This is not a future problem. It is a current reality.

John Wesley said, we ought not to gain money at the expense of life. United Methodists are generous to respond to the crisis wherever they see them. Globally, through UMCOR alone over the last four years, we have tripled the number of disaster response grants. In the U.S., this past quadrennium, UMCOR has provided over \$22 million in disaster response, and now we have an opportunity to be pro-active by ensuring that our investment does not add to the crisis, which affects all of us, but none more directly than the world's most vulnerable, those least responsible for causing the problem. I encourage you to vote 'yes' to support this Minority Report.

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Thank you. Let me go to mic. no. 2. Amy Lippoldt.

AMY E. LIPPOLDT (Great Plains): Thank you, Bishop. Amy Lippoldt, clergy, Great Plains Annual Conference. I'm deeply concerned about climate change as the pressing, long-term, social, and justice issue of our day. I myself attempt to live in a way that reduces, reuses, and recycles as much as possible, and I'm interested in supporting efforts in adjusting my life toward using alternate, alternative forms of energy.

However, I rise to speak in opposition of the Minority Report, to force the Board of Pensions to screen all companies that produce fossil fuels. I believe generally that engagement

is more effective than divestment. Engaging with people with whom I disagree is a principle I try to live out in my daily life, to persuade and debate in respectful dialogue.

Responsible engagement is what the Board of Pensions is asking us to let them do; to let them stay at the conversation table until there is no other option. I would like to trust them to discern when engagement or divestment is the best option. This petition would target only a small corner of the issue related to climate change. It's aimed at a tiny percentage of fossil fuel producers, as currently 90% of fossil fuels are produced by state-owned companies around the world. Additionally, it does nothing to address consumption issues. To tie the hands of our Board of Pensions with an additional screen, to force them from the table of all fossil fuel companies, is not the most effective way to address the important and complex issue of climate change. I urge you to vote no to the Minority Report.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright, we've had two speeches against the Minority Report and we have several points of order or information. Sergey Kim, mic. 2. Is this a point of information, or inquiry?

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): (*simultaneous interpretation*) I have a question. Dear Bishop, thank you for letting me speak. I have a question to the whole conference, to the delegates. As I understand it, we elected the leadership and the members to the committee for the pension and investments. So now we have discussed and heard speeches for and against and this is a complex question. It's very difficult to discern and make decisions right away. I think it demands and deserves further determination. I do agree that on one side we are, we are not for the climate change. On the other side, there are cases

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Sergey, Sergey, I need to . . .

KIM: I do have a question, this is my question...

BISHOP TRIMBLE: This is your question. Alright, alright.

KIM: Didn't we elect the leaders and the members of the committee on pensions and the investments? Do we not trust that committee? Shouldn't the committee be allowed to decide where to invest the funds?

BISHOP TRIMBLE: OK, thank you, thank you, thank you. That sounds like a speech, but yes, we do have a committee, we do have the committee report. Thank you very much. Point of order or information, mic. 3. I think we're close enough where we can maybe address this before we come to an order of the day, before we have to take a break. Let's see what mic. 3 is. Alka Layatt? Alka Lyall, mic 3.

ALKA LYALL (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Alka Lyall, Northern Illinois, clergy. Bishop, I have a question. I'm a little confused. The representative from pensions said she did not know how many coal companies we're invested in. The website clearly shows that at this point we are invested in twenty-eight coal companies. So if we can get more information from the Board of Pensions representative that would be good. And also how are we doing or maybe if she has a report from 2015, how did we do as far as our profits from those companies?

BISHOP TRIMBLE: We've had several opportunities to have information from the Board of Pensions and you've granted them permission. I don't want us to get into a day-long discussion with them, but this, if this a request for additional information then you'll have, the body will have to decide again.

LYALL: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. Let's go to your voting pads, please.

(pause)

Alright, if you would permit additional information from General Board of Pensions, press one (1) for yes, press two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 239; No, 552]

BISHOP TRIMBLE: OK, you've not, you've not given permission. So we have the move, the move for previous question not in order. I see several people. We need one more speech for, at least to give permission for one more speech for the Minority Report. If no one desires to speak for it we can go to a vote. We can go to final speeches and then a vote on the Minority Report. So, speaking for would be Mic. 4, Kah-Jin Kuan. Is this speaking for the Minority Report?

KAH-JIN JEFFREY KUAN (California-Nevada): Yes sir. Bishop, Jeffrey Kuan from California Nevada Conference. I rise to speak in favor of the Minority Report. Major fossil fuel companies have demonstrated entrenched resistance to change through intentionally deceptive public relations campaigns and extensive lobbying against climate legislation. In the meantime, climate change is impacting every one of our ministries.

One of our great United Methodist theologians, John Cobb, have long been concerned about our ecological sustainability and our dependence on fossil fuel. Last summer he organized an international conference seizing the alternative toward an ecological civilization to address these deep concerns. Now is the time to align our environmental stewardship with our financial stewardship and let go of our deep seated financial interest in the fossil fuel industry. I urge you to vote for the Minority Report. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Thank you. We've had two speeches for

and two against the Minority Report. I'm going to invite, as I read, at least according to our rule seven, Jessica Vargo, and then the maker of the Minority Report to have the final word before we vote on it.

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): The legislative committee would strongly encourage you to vote against the Minority Report. As has been shared by several speakers this morning, to exclude petroleum, natural gas, coal, and add that to the exclusion list, this is a significant industry sector. It would greatly limit and make it challenging to have a diversified portfolio. Although, I hear the argument that we would be voicing our moral voice by excluding it, I would argue that we would be losing our voice if we are not able to be at the significant shareholder advocate table to help change the behavior of this industry, to try to lower the climate industry. The third point would be just because of the magnitude of the sector, the financial implications of withdrawing at this time. So the legislative committee would urge you to vote no on the Minority Report.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright.

MARIE LOUISE KUCH-STANOVSKY (Pacific Northwest): I have been a Methodist for my entire life and I've grown up with the teaching that we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love to take a stand and that each of us is called to a response no matter how controversial or complex. Some have said that we must stay at the table with the fossil fuel industry, but the reality is that we are only engaged with a handful of fossil fuel companies, while we remain invested in more than a hundred. Shareholder advocacy cannot work on this issue, because for fossil fuel companies to remain profitable, or even viable, they want to burn fossil fuel reserves that scientists around

the world and the United Nations say must stay in the ground if we are to save this planet.

The fiduciary duty of the Board of Pensions is a serious matter, and I thank them for their commitment to our resources. But it has been shown time and again that portfolios without fossil fuels can be just as profitable. In some cases, even more. Also the establishment clause of the constitution with the separation of church and state allows us as a people of God to answer our commitment to Christ and creation and chose not to use our resources to support the destruction of our planet. Twice this week, Bishops have preached that we must divest ourselves from power and offer ourselves to Christ. This is exactly the opportunity we have before us now, to set our moral compass in the direction of justice by adding fossil fuels to our socially responsible investment screens. The time to act is now. We can't wait another quadrennium. I urge you now to support the Minority Report to protect God's creation, to protect God's children. Thank you.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: OK. We have a motion to table. Mic. 3, Mande Muyombo. Please go to Mic. 3.

MANDE MUYOMBO (North Katanga): Bishop, I have a motion to refer, and if I have a second, I'll explain.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright. Is there a second? A motion to refer. Alright, I hear a second. Please explain.

MUYOMBO: My only concern when it comes to issues like this, it seems to me that political issues are somehow entangled in terms of how, where people are in this country. But, I wanted to appeal the body to have a more global view, and I wanna give an example. My own country is the richest country in mineral

resources. If you have issues, if you have investment in mining, that's the only alternative that people have. If a mining company is, has some human rights violations, I'm gonna give an example, if you divest without any engagement and dialogue, then people are left without any option.

If I heard correctly, I heard that we are investing in about, we have investment in twenty companies from the previous speaker. Now by making this decision, let's think about the impact, which means we have to divest right away. What are the impact? So, while I do agree with the Minority Report in terms of fundamental principles, some technicalities require that we allow the committee or the Board of Pensions to have more dialogue and engagement.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: So this motion to refer back to the Board of Pensions?

MUYOMBO: That is right. So that their expertise from what they have learned from this body, they now understand the sense of urgency and therefore, there is need for more engagement and maybe give the last warning. Thank you.

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Let me go to Mic. no. 3, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, point of order. We have a motion to refer that has, is before us, but we have a point of order or parliamentary inquiry.

CYNTHIA MICHELLE MOORE-KOIKOI (Baltimore-Washington): Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Baltimore-Washington Conference, clergy. I just wanted to have clarification on what a motion to refer is versus a speech against.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Alright.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Friends, we gonna have to put a pin in this, because we've come to an order of the day, and actually, we passed that

order of the day. So, what's before us, we had two speeches for, two against, minority report. We did not get to the point of voting on the minority report. And last, the last item we had before us was a motion to refer this back to the General Board of Pensions. So, that's where we are on this, Financial Administration matters.

I think now we have a order of the day with Vital Congregations.

Vital Congregations Presentation

PEDRO ANTONIO PILLOT SOTO: The video following this introduction will have content in English and Spanish, so prepare your translation devices.

My name is Pedro, and I am a rare individual in The United Methodist Church. I am a young Hispanic who is a candidate for ordained ministry.

(applause)

SOTO: Though—thank you. Though we are small in numbers, many of my Hispanic and/or Latino and Latina peers and I credit our interest in leadership and service to the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy, known as HYL A, and its college component, *Raíces Latinas*. Administered through Boston University School of Theology, HYL A is a network of dedicated mentors and students who lend their passion to developing a new generation of United Methodist leadership that is reflective of our changing demographics. With very little resources, no official staff, countless volunteer hours, and a passion for the church, HYL A is graduating some of the most valued young leaders in our churches and communities today.

(video is shown)

(applause)

BISHOP JULIUS C. TRIMBLE: Friends we're at the past our time for break so here's where we are, there's a motion to refer the minority report. It was properly seconded, there are persons in the queue who want to speak for and against it, there are so some persons who wanna move the previous question, so when we come back you have an opportunity to determine how to deal with the motion to refer, that will be the first item on business. Now, I'm gonna turn to the conference secretary for announcements.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: As an announcement, we thank all of the sponsors and exhibitors of the 2016 General Conference, your support and participation has been a blessing to our conference and we look forward to seeing you in 2020. The Exhibit hall will be officially closing for business at 2:00 P.M. today. Please make your final visits to the exhibit hall during the lunch break.

Access to Debit Card Balances

Five one-day Max passes were placed at each table yesterday in an envelope. If you did not receive one go by B116, B116 to get your one-day Max pass for your travel day. Many of you have been asking what is the zip code you need to access the balance on your credit card. Please write it some place where you will not lose it, the zip code is 37203, 37203. And now my friends I have a, some prayer concerns that I would like to share with you. Mr. Sean Roche of Atlanta, Georgia, is suffering kidney failure; and Mary Catherine Dean, who's a designated convener of the Committee on Correlation Editorial Review and Editor-in-Chief at the publishing house, has had her father, John Dean, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, pass away last night. Please keep the family in your prayers as they celebrate his ninety-three years. Thank You for

your attention.

BISHOP TRIMBLE: Friends it's been good to start the morning of with you today and thanks to Bishop Kiesey and Bishop Goodpaster. And we're gonna be on break for about twenty minutes, so let's be prepared to comeback in order. You're on break.

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: If you would begin to move to your seats. We have a little bit of work to do. We wanna do it. Oh, lights, camera, action. Please move to your seats.

(pause)

Please move to your seat. We're just about to begin.

(pause)

Alright, we are going to begin. And I am Sally Dyck, the bishop in the Northern Illinois Conference, Chicago area. And I will do my best to help us move through the work that we need to do this morning. I am backed by Bishops Palmer and Huie, so we are here to serve you in helping us to move forward and to do it in as good a order as we can.

Before we begin. I wanna read just a few verses of Scripture from one of my favorite passages, which is Romans 12. And I particularly like it from *The Message*.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you. Take your every day, ordinary life, your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life, at General Conference, and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God.

Then towards the end of the passage, it says this, "Love from the center of who you are. Don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil. Hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply. Practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out. Keep yourselves fueled and aflame." And

I'm pretty sure it means, with the Holy Spirit. "Be alert, Servants of the Master; cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times. Pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. Bless your enemies. No cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when you're happy. Share tears when you're down. Get along with each other. Don't be stuck up. Make friends with nobodies. Don't be the great somebody. Don't hit back, but discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everyone."

Let us pray.

Dear God, we do pray that you will help us to be fueled and aflame in your Spirit. Now once again, help us to be clear in thought, gracious with one another, alert to the ways in which you would have us move, and guide us in all of our speaking and action and that which occurs within this gathering. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OK. This is where we are. We are going to continue to keep—we're—keep the pin in the legislation we were just working on, and it will come back as the first calendared item after the GCF&A report, which is on our agenda for this time period. So, we are now gonna go to the GCFA time—GCFA report, and if we have time within this section, we will return to that item and then continue on with our long list of calendared items for the day.

So, I want to introduce Bishop Mike Coyner, who is the President of GCF&A, and I am also, just so you know, I am clearing the queue.

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: Thank you, Bishop Dyck.

In my role as president of GCFA, I want to introduce two people to you. One is Moses Kumar, who is our General Secretary, and the other is Jessica Vargo, who is our Vice President, and also a delegate,

and who led the legislative committee, so she's the one who'll be bringing the actual motions.

We at GCFA want you to know that the budget that is a part of our report was something done very collaboratively over the last several years with the Connectional Table, all the general agencies, and really many areas of the church. So, though it is up to us as GCFA to bring it to you, we bring to you a result of a very collaborative effort.

MIKE COYNER (GCFA): Thank you, Bishop Dyck. In my role as president of GCFA, I want to introduce two people to you. One is Moses Kumar, who's our General Secretary, and the other is Jessica Vargo, who is our vice-president and also a delegate and who led the legislative committee. So she is the one who'll be bringing the actual motions.

We of GCFA want you to know that the budget that is a part of our report was something done very collaboratively over the last several years with the Connectional Table, all the general agencies, and really many areas of the church. Though it is up to us as GCFA to bring it to you, we bring to you a result of a very collaborative effort. Now, I'd like to invite our General Secretary of GCFA, Moses Kumar, who's led us so beautifully, to come and share with us the GCFA report.

GCFA Budget Presentation

MOSES KUMAR (GCFA): Thank you, Bishop Dyck. Thank you, Bishop Coyner. I bring you greetings on behalf of the General Council on Finance and Administration. Early this week, Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council, delivered a powerful sermon. A portion of Bishop Abrahams' sermon particularly resonated with me. And I would like to share those words with

you again today. Bishop Abrahams said, and I quote: "Jesus was deeply concerned about economic activities. It saturated the scriptures. Every sixteenth word in the New Testament; every tenth word in the gospel; every seventh word in Luke, and every fifth word in James speaks about money. Yet John Huie writes, "We read the gospel as if we had no money. We spend our money as if we know nothing about the gospel."

Brothers and sisters, let me, let us be mindful today of the finances entrusted to us and let us be aware of our responsibility and privilege to be good stewards of denominational resources. General Council of Finance and Administration would like to present a quadrennial budget for 2017 to 2020. I want to thank the Board of GCFA, the Connectional Table, the budget leadership team, the Council of Bishops, and the leaderships of general boards and agencies who collaborate to develop a budget over a three-year period that funds our mission and ministry in some new and creative ways together.

We are also took into consideration input from annual conferences and local churches. We present you a budget of \$599 million for the quadrennium. This amount is \$4 million less than the budget of the current quadrennium, and \$42 million less than the budget of 2008 to 2012. It has been developed to provide a prudent, coordinated connectional ministries. Thank you for this opportunity to present the budget to you. We will present reports one through twenty.

Bishop, we are ready to present to you report number thirteen. References from Previous General Conferences, it is petition no. 61055, and can be found on p. 2633 of today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. The Petition No. 61055, and the page number is 2633 of today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. This reports

gives the information on two items referred to the General Council of Finance and Administration by the 2012 General Conference. The first relates to the development of stewardship program, which was worked on in collaboration with Discipleship Ministries. A stewardship summit was brought together in 2013 to address the question of where we should concentrate the resources of the denomination to grow the culture of generosity in The United Methodist Church. The group identified a number of addressable areas including increasing the capacity of local leadership to meet the challenge of giving in the twenty-first century, and boldly embracing financial giving as an essential mark of the United Methodist Discipleship.

The second asks GCFA to study the implication of using an apportionment formula for the supported general church funds based on, based upon current income received by local churches, and reports it's finding in the recommendation to the 2016 General Conference. GCFA formed a special committee of leaders in the connection including annual conference treasurers to study this topic.

To assist this committee, GCFA prepared information and analysis around two potential income base formulas. Ultimately, the committee concluded additional analysis and information would be needed before any implementation could be recommended. During the coming quadrennium, the committee asked GCFA to develop and provide more in-depth analysis and questions of equity and are conscious of apportionment impact, apportionment collection, base percentage and implementation. This additional time for analysis will allow for sufficient conversation and input from annual conferences as well as with Connectional Table, with no potential change until 2021-2014 quadrennium.

JESSICA VARGO (Vice-President of General Council of Finance and Administration): Bishop, on behalf of the Finance and Administrative Legislative Committee, I recommend acceptance of Report 13, References from Previous General Conferences.

Report 13, References from Previous General Conferences

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: Report 13 is properly before us. I do see move for new business. Mic. 5. Yeah, no. Sorry about that. Is this related? OK. We'll continue. We have this before us. Report 13. Any discussion? Are you ready to vote? I guess so. All right. If they would put up the screen for voting, and if you would vote now.

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: And it passes.
[Yes, 603; No, 26]

I have a point of order at Mic. 4. Brian Milford.

BRIAN KENT MILFORD (Iowa): Bishop, Brian Milford, Iowa Conference. I have a question that may turn into a motion. Would that be in order?

BISHOP DYCK: Why don't you ask your question?

MILFORD: Thank you. The question is whether a motion would be possible that would enable the body to move constitutional amendments to the top of the calendar. Particularly since they cannot be added to a Consent Calendar, and must be acted on individually.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. So, that's the question. Hold on.

(Bishop conferring on stage).

Would it be the sense of the body that constitutional legislation be raised so that we can get to them more likely today. And we would refer it on to Agenda and Calendar to be able to work that out? So, those

who would, I'm going to put this to a vote. So, if they can pop up the screen. Those who would refer this to constitutional matters to Agenda and Calendar, come back to us with a different ordering; you can vote now, one (1) for yes; two (2) for no.
[Yes, 415; No, 227]

And it prevails, so the Committee on Agenda and Calendaring will work on that. Alright? Now.

MOSES KUMAR: Report No.—Can I go?

BISHOP DYCK: Yes.

Report 20, Response to Referrals from 2016 General Conference

KUMAR: Report No. 20 is found on pp. 2644 to 2649; repeat 2644 to 2649, of the *Daily Christian Advocate* for today. This is the report of the referrals that have been made to the General Council on Finance and Administration during our proceedings at this General Conference. This list of Calendar Items found in the *DCA* in Report No. 20, do not change the bottom line of \$599 million amount. Bishop, if you wish, I can forgo—and if the body wishes—I can forgo repeating the details which are listed in the printed report.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. Would you like for him to read all of them; they are quite long, but there also before you. If it would be your wish that he not read all of those, please raise your placard.

You don't want-- OK. Alright, if you would put them down. And those who would like to hear all of them.

[Vote by placard, approved]

(laughter)

Alright. *(laughs)*

(laughter)

I think that was a fairly clear message. Alright, thank you.

JESSICA H. VARGO: On behalf of the legislative committee, I then recommend acceptance of Report No. 20, referrals from this General Conference.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, Report 20 is before you. Open for discussion. Are you ready to vote? Alright. Then, they will put up the screen for voting. If you will agree to Report 20, please vote yes; no, vote two (2).
[Yes, 650; No, 27]

Thank you, and Report 20 is approved.

KUMAR: Thank you, Bishop. The following reports numbered one through eight will be presented for your adoption. All of the reports will be found in today's edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. All the information presented to you in this report is contained in the budget of \$599 million.

Report No. 1 relates to World Service Fund. It is Petition No. 61057 and is found on p. 2590, in today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. Again, Petition No. 61057, p. 2590. The World Service Fund is the heart of our collective church ministry. It funds the work of church reaching out into the world. The World Service Fund provides the financial support for global ministries of our denomination through the ministries of our general church. The proposed budget is \$305.7 million and that represents a decrease of \$2.1 million. This is a reduction of point seven (0.7) percent compared to the current quadrennium.

VARGO: As committee chair, I move the adoption of Report No. 1, the World Service Fund.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, it's properly before you. I see some motions to amend. Bill Arnold, mic. 4.

BILL T. ARNOLD (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. My motion to amend deals with the line for the

Central Conference Theological Education Fund on p. 2594. In the column for the 2017-2020 quadrennium, changing the figure from \$4,966,009 to \$10 million, and if I have a second, I'd like to speak to it.

(second heard from floor)

BISHOP DYCK: Alright.

ARNOLD: The other day we heard passionate speeches from several delegates across wide theological spectrums about the need for funding theological education in Africa. Bishop Bickerton, at the time encouraged us to remember that when we come back to the budget for approval, that is the time to make this amendment.

In 2020, at the General Conference when it meets again, assuming we don't meet again before 2020, our church will be fifty percent coming from outside the United States. We are woefully underfunding theological education for the very portion of our church which is growing the fastest. And I was moved by Bishop Stanovsky this morning saying that we should choose life. And I've been impressed and encouraged by the forms of life that I see in our church coming from the Central Conferences, so I urge you to support this amendment, and I'm giving you a minute so we can save some time here.

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: OK. I have a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, information from William Shillady, mic. 6. Mic. 6, there.

WILLIAM S. SHILLADY (New York): Thank you, Bishop. Bill Shillady, New York, United States. Point of information, inquiry to the chair of the legislative section that we adopted the resolution that I think was on the Consent Calendar that added money to this, from the apportionment payment of the continent of Africa.

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): We did approve, it was an ex-

cess of \$750,000 an amount over that would be added to this. At this point in time, we you don't know what that amount is going to be though, so it's not reflected here.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. Alright, I've had a speech for on the amendment. Now a speech against, Fredrick Brewington at mic. 6. And if Thomas Shinkle would go to mic. 4 to speak for it. But, yes.

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON (New York): Bishop, Fred Brewington, New York Annual Conference. I stand to speak against this because this appears to be a dollar amount which is a cutting in half of the \$20 million that was raised in an earlier question about which there was a Judicial Council referral. I'm not quite sure if the movement of the amendment is placing that in the right place for us, but I'm not sure. So I speak against it because I'm quite, I don't quite understand how we go from one dollar amount up to \$10 million without having it clearly identified what that money is relating to.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. And now a speech for at mic. 4. Thomas Shinkle.

THOMAS CRAIG SHINKLE (Iowa): Thank you Bishop. Tom Shinkle, Iowa, clergy. I wanna encourage this General Conference to vote "yes." This is such a monumental big decision we can make, something we can walk, we can go back home and say we, we did this and we're making an investment, an investment in this theological, the theological education in Africa – the central conferences, so please let's get a chance to vote on this, and let's vote "yes." It's the right thing to do. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. I have a couple of points of parliamentary inquiry, or information. Katie Dawson at mic. 4.

KATIE Z. DAWSON (Iowa): Katie Dawson, clergy, from Iowa.

My – I have a request for information. And my question is, if this will raise the budget or if we will take this money from other places? I would love to invest in this, and I'm willing to give an extra dollar. As we think about it—

BISHOP DYCK: It's a question

DAWSON: Thank you.

KUMAR: I'm sorry, Bishop, what's the question, Bishop?

BISHOP DYCK: Are we— where's the money? Where would the money come from?

KUMAR: The money, there are, can I give some facts first, Bishop, before I answer the whole question?

BISHOP DYCK: Yes, there was a request for information.

KUMAR: OK. The fact is this. We already have \$5 million in the budget. You all know that. Then what the Finance and Administration Committee did was, they tied up this to the Central Conference apportionment formula. The reason behind doing that is that there is an ownership from the Central Conference folks and that's where they wanted it. They wanted to be part of the ministry that they can contribute to this apportionment formula of the Central Conference at the same time that could help them in their ministry. So that's another fact that I wanna say. The third fact I wanna say is that, under the great leadership of Bishop Streiff, they are working on a, which is also endorsed—

BISHOP DYCK: Excuse me.

KUMAR: Sure.

BISHOP DYCK: Can I ask, since you didn't hear the question, I think I need to go back to Katie Dawson, and if you would just ask your question again to make sure that he is answering exactly what you want.

DAWSON: My question is, will it keep our budget the same at \$305 million in this section, or will it raise it to \$310?

KUMAR: This will raise above the \$599 million.

BISHOP DYCK: OK now I have another point of order. Gregory Forrester at mic. 1.

GREGORY ALLAN FORRESTER (Upper New York): Bishop, Greg Forrester, Upper New York Conference, laity. I have a question as to whether this funding could come from the Ministerial Education Fund listed on p. 2596 and 2597 instead of coming through the World Service.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you.

KUMAR: Bishop, I would defer that to Dr. Kim Cape to Higher Education because that fund comes under them. It would be better if they answer that if it's OK with you, Bishop.

(pause)

BISHOP DYCK: Yeah, the motion was to add it right there. So I think we'll stick with that. That's your choice as we look at it. That's what the motion was. OK. I have another point of order, parliamentary inquiry. Joe Kilpatrick at mic. 6. Then I'm gonna ask Curnell Graham to go to mic. 4 to speak against.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): This is just a point of information or inquiry. Is—we have \$5 million in the budget and we're moving to go to \$10 million. Is it true that we're spending much larger sums of money on other educational things that we do? For instance, isn't it true that the thirteen official schools of theology here in the United States get about \$15 million per year directly to them from the MEF Fund and don't we spend—didn't we approve earlier \$10 million for Africa University alone? And don't we also have . . .

BISHOP DYCK: Walking a fine edge.

(laughter)

KILPATRICK: *(Laughs.)* Don't we also have about \$42 million for Black College Funds?

BISHOP: I think you've made your point or question as the case may be. Was that rhetorical?

KUMAR: Yes, that's right.

BISHOP DYCK: Do you wanna answer?

KUMAR: Yeah, but I'm a little bit confused for all you've been asking there, but we have Africa University Fund which is coming. The report is coming that you will be voting on. We have funding for other sources, but, you know, we have plans to fund this in many ways so that it can be sustainable in the long run instead of completely depending upon an apportionment that, you know, a grant at this point of time.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. Curnell Graham at mic. 4.

CURNELL GRAHAM (West Ohio): Thank you, Bishop. Curnell Graham from West Ohio Conference. I rise to speak against the motion. I'm in favor of increasing additional funding for the Central Conference's theological education, but I trust the General Conference on Financial Administration, which is representative of our global church, have carefully considered the resources available and the places needed, and I see this as an opportunity to continue to identify additional funds to provide additional funding for the request. But at this point in the General Conference, I think it's difficult to ask for additional resources without identifying where those resources would come from, and so I simply say I believe that we are at a point where we should support the recommendation of the budget as stated. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, I have two speeches for, two against, and I have a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information, and that would be Jerry Kulah at mic. 6.

JERRY PAYE-MANFLOE KULAH (Liberia): I wanted to provide . . . Jerry Kulah from the Liberia Annual Conference. I want the General Conference to know as the Dean of the . . .

BISHOP DYCK: I think, are you asking a question?

KULAH: I'm giving information.

BISHOP DYCK: No, no I think it's, I think you're supposed to ask a question.

KULAH: Oh.

BISHOP DYCK: So I think you're out of order.

KULAH: Point of information.

BISHOP DYCK: That's asking a question. OK? Do you have a question? OK, I'm going on. Jay Brim, point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information at mic. 5. Mic. 5. Where's five? There you are.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Madame Chairman?

BISHOP DYCK: Yes?

BRIM: Jay Brim, Rio Texas, lay delegate. I have a question for General Secretary Kumar if he is open to that. Moses, isn't it true that we're about to raise \$25 million for a theological fund for the Central Conferences, and if so, could you tell us how everybody could contribute to that?

BISHOP DYCK: Oh, slick.

(laughter)

MOSES KUMAR (General Secretary and Treasurer of The United Methodist Church): You can all take your smart phone . . . No, I'm just kidding. But, Bishop Streiff and a group of people about, and they are faithfully trying to raise \$25 million. And they are working so hard that this minor contribution would be helpful for the future, and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund could be sustainable. That's their goal. I'm so proud of what Bishop Streiff and this group

are doing. And I think if you go to our website, our development office website, you have some information about that, or you can talk with Bishop Streiff, or any one of our staff. We'll be guiding you to how you can fund it. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. We have two speeches . . . Let's see, Robin Dease, mic. 1. Actually, I mean we have two speeches for, two speeches against. We, here's some points of order. We're ready to vote on this amendment, so let's, point of order. I'll start with Robin Scott at mic. 3.

ROBIN BRADLEY SCOTT (North Alabama): I entered a question.

BISHOP DYCK: Or a question.

SCOTT: How much do we have in reserves?

KUMAR: Which fund are you talking about?

SCOTT: All of them.

KUMAR: I can give you a full report. I don't have a Power Point for you, but in an average, every agency has got a reserves, which is the truth. I can say that. But every agency has called for and assigned for some designated amounts that would be used in the future, and it's all been designated. On an average, we are having for each of the agencies, anywhere between 750,000, like 750, \$750,000 to \$5 million. So each one of them, we have about thirteen agencies, so I don't know the exact total amount, but we do have reserves on that.

SCOTT: Can I follow up? Isn't it true that we have literally hundreds of millions of dollars in reserves?

KUMAR: That is not true.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. We're gonna go on to the next point of order. Rudolph Merab at mic. 6, parliamentary inquiry, or information.

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): Rudolph Merab, Liberia Annual Conference. Does this General

Conference know that there are more than twenty-six seminary across the Central Conferences that's only been given \$5 million just as...

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you for your speech. Next point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information, Jeff Jernigan. Please, make sure this is a question, parliamentary procedure, or a point of information.

JEFF JERNIGAN (North Georgia): Jeff Jernigan, North Georgia, lay. This is a point of information. We have heard only from Americans about this Central Conference. I would very much like for us to grant the privilege for someone from the Central Conference to tell us about the need. I think that's only fair.

BISHOP DYCK: Well, we have heard other voices as they have entered into this process. I have one more point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information, Rukang Chikomb. And then, I'm going to go to the question because we do have two speeches for and against.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Rukang Chikomb, North-West Katanga. Bishop, thank you so much. Is a question that may turn in speech for.

BISHOP DYCK: Oh no.

CHICOMB: How many speech for is spoken. In my country if one speech for and two speech against.

BISHOP DYCK: The maker and another made speeches. Yeah. Alright, so now we are going to vote on what I have written here as the Arnold amendment, which goes from \$4.9 million something to \$10 million. So if they will put up the amendment, there you go. You would vote one (1) for, if you agree with the amendment to change that amount; two (2) if you would not. Vote now.

[Yes, 406; No, 379]

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: And, the amendment passes. So, Report

1, World Service Fund, is amended and it is before us. I'm going to clear the queue of everything, because it's hard to know the whole report. World Service Fund Report is before us. Are you ready to vote? Alright. Then, if you would put up the screen to vote. Yes, for the full World Service Fund; two (2) for no, on that report. Vote now.

[Yes, 633; No, 123]

And, it passes. I see a flag back there. Is there a problem with the device? No problem?

CHARLES CHAPPELL TEMPLE (Texas): Bishop, I put my request in to amend as quickly as you cleared the queue, and you got to vote—I guess before it registered on your screen. I don't know how to do it any faster.

BISHOP DYCK: Yeah, I called for the vote, and we have voted. I'm terribly sorry, I didn't see it. Alright. So, we've approved, Report 1, on the World Service.

MOSES KUMAR: Bishop, may I have some clarity here, Bishop.

BISHOP DYCK: Yes.

KUMAR: So, this \$5 million increased the bottom-line from \$599 plus \$5 million. Is that the wish of this body?

BISHOP DYCK: That's what I understood the amendment to do.

KUMAR: OK. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information? Johannes Martin?

JOANES MARTIN (Florida): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, Bishop. My name is Jonas Martin, Florida Annual Conference, originally from Haiti. My point is to ask you and to present a question of parliamentary procedure, if I may?

BISHOP DYCK: Yes. Oui.

MARTIN: Alright. I would like to ask the assembly to consider, instead of twenty seconds, ten sec-

onds for voting; that would help us go more quickly. There is an author who says, "Time is going fast — of the essence. Time is going quickly." Could we take ten seconds to vote, rather than twenty seconds, please?

BISHOP DYCK: OK. You asked a question? But, I'm kind of wondering —maybe I'll —you know, you didn't make the motion, you know that thing. But, I'm kind of wondering if the conference is ready to go from twenty seconds to ten seconds.

ALL: Yes.

BISHOP DYCK: So, can we put up the screen? Alright, now technically, I should be suspending the rules. So, we'll go the full route. If we'll put up the screen to suspend the rules.

(pause)

BISHOP DYCK: OK. If they would —there we go. This is to suspend the rules. He didn't —he merely —he asked a question, he didn't make the motion; but I kinda get the sense from you that you would be will to a least consider this. So, If you would suspend the rules, in order to consider this twenty to ten seconds on voting, please vote yes; if not, no. And, it take two-thirds. *[Yes, 534; No, 232]*

BISHOP DYCK: OK. I'm glad they did the math. You voted to suspend the rules. So, now, I would then ask them to put up for the motion to go from twenty to ten seconds in the voting.

(pause)

Alright, if you would go from twenty seconds to ten seconds, please vote, yes; if not, please vote, no.

(vote in progress)

And, that's simple majority. We have agreed to go to ten seconds. I

do have some points of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. Marquice Hobbs at mic. 3. *[Yes, 554; No, 214]*

MARQUICE TREMAYNE HOBBS (Texas): Marquice Hobbs, Texas Annual Conference. Bishop, I was wondering if I could have a point of privilege.

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: I'm taking points of privilege. I forgot to tell you this. I'm taking points of privilege later. We'll stop about five minutes early, but you need to write it, and bring it to the desk. We need to continue to work with the legislation at hand. So, if you would bring it during the time period to the desk, then we will do points of privilege in the last five minutes of our session this morning. Thank you.

HOBBS: Wonderful. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information from Gary Henderson, mic. 5.

GARY RAY HENDERSON (East Ohio): Gary Henderson, clergy, representative from the East Ohio Conference. Just a question of parliamentary inquiry, Bishop. I think we needed a two-thirds majority for that, the previous motion that we just made, but I also think that it wasn't appropriately before the body. It was not from a delegate, a motion to refer.

BISHOP DYCK: Right. I was trying to help the body do what it felt like they needed to do.

HENDERSON: Right, but I also think in terms of the vote count—it went up pretty quickly, but I don't think it was two-thirds.

BISHOP DYCK: We did two-thirds to suspend, and then because it was divided, the vote on going from twenty to ten was a majority.

HENDERSON: Right, and my question was the two-thirds in terms of the numbers.

BISHOP DYCK: Two-thirds on suspending.

HENDERSON: Right.

BISHOP DYCK: It doesn't have to be two-thirds on the actual what you're going to do.

HENDERSON: Right. Did we get the two-thirds on the suspension?

BISHOP DYCK: On suspending, yes—70 percent.

HENDERSON: We did? Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: And you've been waving some green cards here, and I'm not sure—is there a translation problem? OK. Are we OK? Go on? Alright. I don't see them anymore, so I'm going to go on. James Allen, point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information mic. 1.

JAMES (JIM) R. ALLEN (Tennessee): Bishop, Jim Allen, lay person from Tennessee and chair of the Budget Subcommittee in Financial Administration. Just a point of clarity on what we are acting on. We've been directed to p. 2590 in the *DCA* for Report No. 1, but when I look in *CALMS*, it reflects what I recall happening in financial administration, which is the committee supported an amendment, and then someone else supported a minority report, so, I'm trying to understand—do we deal with the minority report? Are we dealing with the majority report from the Financial Administration Committee? Which of these are we dealing with? Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: I'll have the chair of the Legislative Committee respond to that.

JESSICA H. VARGO: If you recall from yesterday, the minority report was referred to Judicial Council and they deemed it unconstitutional, so that brings us back to the main motion or the main petition that is printed before you.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. So, we have Report No. 1, World Service Fund, before us and I see a speech

against that has been there for a little bit, so I'm going to ask Maurice Ngongo to go to mic. 2 and see if that addresses World Service Fund. It is a speech against the—

MAURICE KIKOMBA NGONGO (Central Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Yes, Maurice Ngongo from Central Congo. I wanted to speak, but you didn't call on me, so it has no more pertinence to what we're talking about. I did not get called on right away.

BISHOP DYCK: Could you repeat it, please?

NGONGO: (*simultaneous interpretation*) What I had to say is no longer relevant because I was not called on at the right time.

BISHOP DYCK: We have the report in front of us, Report No. 1, and

VARGO: We're on report No. 2.

Report 2, Ministerial Education Fund

BISHOP DYCK: Now we're now on Report No. 2. How quickly time flies here.

(*laughter*)

KUMAR: We now move to Report No. 2, relating to the Ministerial Education Fund. It can be found on p. 2596 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and is Petition No. 61048. During the life of the Ministerial Education Fund, we have faithfully given over more than \$758 million to support the work of clergy leadership in our church. Twenty-five percent of this fund is retained by annual conferences. The Ministerial Education Fund proposed budget is \$105 million and reflects a point seven (0.7) percent decrease from the current quadrennium.

VARGO: Bishop, as legislative chair, I move the adoption of Report No. 2, the Ministerial Education Fund.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, so Report No. 2 is properly before us,

and I see a speech for, mic 3. Merle Edom, Idom.

VARGO: Matt.

BISHOP DYCK: Matt.

(*laughter*)

MERLE MATTHEWS IDOM (Texas): That'll do. My apologies to Dr. Billy Abraham if I butcher how he explained his observation to me about our General Conference. This is my ninth General Conference to participate in some leadership level, and to me, it has been the most effective and successful General Conference I've ever been a part of. I say that because after visiting with Dr. Abraham, he shared about how, as he was looking as a theologian at our body, he saw a movement at this General Conference where we moved from being a North American church, to a global evangelical movement church--activity of the Holy Spirit. And then, in his wry humor, he said we just haven't realized it yet, and that we are going to begin living into that reality, that we have truly stepped over a threshold where we as a church truly are making disciples for the transformation of the world across this globe. The budgets that we have received in some cases are a step back, smaller, but we've positioned ourselves to leap ahead in great ways, and it is an honor and a privilege to have been part of this transforming experience, and I support their proposal.

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: Thank you. That's a speech for. Anybody wish to speak against? Are you ready to vote? Then they'll put up the voting, and remember it's gonna go a little bit faster this time. Vote yes for Report 2 if you want to approve it; vote no if you don't. Vote now. [*Yes, 752; No, 35*]

BISHOP DYCK: And it's approved.

Report 3, Black College Fund

MOSES KUMAR: Report 3 relates to the Black College Fund. It can be found on p. 2597 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's petition 61049. The Black College Fund supports eleven historical Black colleges in the United States. The proposed budget for this fund is \$41 point million. Through your support together we continue to change lives and develop excellent leaders. We want to thank the leadership of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the administration of the Black College Fund for their faithful witness and support.

JESSICA VARGO: I would like to move adoption of Report 3, Black College Fund.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. Report 3 is before us. Are there any speeches for or against? It kind of looks like you're ready to vote. Oops. I have a speech for, Mande Muyombo at mic. 3.

MANDE MUYOMBO (North Katanga): Bishop, for some few years, I've had the chance to experience the Black College Fund banquet where we receive testimonies from young African American people of color who have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. And I do understand that there are even some schools that are having difficulties, so I stand here in support of this fund because it allows minority students and people of color to pursue their dreams. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. I have another speech for, Matonga, mic. 3, but I just gonna remind you that we are on number three of nineteen reports.

FORBES MATONGA (West Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. Forbes Matonga, Zimbabwe West Annual Conference. It was just to support that it is even expanding to embrace some students who are from

Africa who are standing in these colleges. I've been serving on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and I can testify there are several Africans who benefitted also from these that are based here in the states. So we think this is a good move. Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Seeing no other speeches in the queue, I will ask them to put up the voting on this Report 3. Alright. Vote one (1) for yes, two (2) for no, now.

[Yes, 745; No, 29]

BISHOP DYCK: And it is approved.

Report 4, Africa University Fund

MOSES KUMAR: We are now ready to present Report 4, relating to the African University Fund. The report can be found on p. 2599 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's Petition No. 61050. Africa University is one of the great success stories of the United Methodist Church. In consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the leadership of Africa University, we present this budget of \$9.4 million, which is in line with the zero point seven (0.7) percent reduction for all general church apportionment funds. This amount has been agreed to by the leadership by both the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Africa University.

JESSICA VARGO: I move on behalf of the legislative committee adoption of Report 4, the Africa University Fund.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. It's properly before us, but I have a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information, Ron Enns, mic. 3.

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas): Bishop, I would just like to inquire of the chair is you'd be willing to ask the body if we would be willing to consider all of the balance of these reports with one vote.

BISHOP DYCK: A motion would be best on that.

ENNS (Northwest Texas): Ron Enns, Northwest Texas. I would move that we will consider the balance of the reports from GCFA in one vote.

BISHOP DYCK: So, we need to suspend the rules first. Alright. And if you would put up the screen for voting. I'm just trying to give you a little bit of time. We'll first decide whether we want to suspend the rules and then we'll decide after that, if it prevails, whether you want to move forward on all the reports at once as a bundle. OK? That's what we're doing. Alright. If you're willing to suspend the rules, you'd vote one (1) for yes; two (2) for no. And it takes two-thirds. Vote now.

[Yes, 649; No, 32]

BISHOP DYCK: All right. My math sees that that's two-thirds. Alright. OK. So you have voted to suspend the rules, and then would you come back and make the motion about the bundling?

ENNS (Northwest Texas): Bishop, I would move that we bundle the balance of the GCFA proposals before the body and consider them in one vote.

BISHOP DYCK: So that would be reports four through nineteen?

ENNS: That is correct.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. Then this takes a simple majority. If they can reset. Alright. If you would vote on the balance of the reports, reports four through nineteen, you'd vote yes; if not, vote two (2). Vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: And you have just approved them.

[Yes, 698; No, 67]

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): So, did we approve them, or we approved bundling?

(Bishop conferring on the stage)

BISHOP DYCK: You approved the bundling.

VARGO: OK, so now I can make a motion?

BISHOP DYCK: Uh-huh.

Motion to Bundle Reports 4 Through 19

VARGO: OK. As the legislative chair, I would move the adoption of Reports, GCFA Reports 4 through 19.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, those are properly before you, Reports 4 through 19.

(Bishop conferring on the stage)

BISHOP DYCK: OK. It's, I'm being told that it's four through nine, thirteen through nineteen. Is that—thirteen and nineteen . . . Are there other reports in there?

MOSES KUMAR (General Secretary, General Council on Finance and Administration): We already approved thirteen, twenty, Bishop.

BISHOP DYCK: Ah, right.

KUMAR: Now, we stopped at four—

BISHOP DYCK: Right.

KUMAR: So, they just have to say four to eight, and the rest of this would be nine—

VARGO: Ten, eleven, fourteen, seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. 'Cause we did approve some others. Yes, Jay Brim, mic. 5, point of order.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Bishop, Jay Brim, Rio Texas, lay delegate. A question to Moses. Will it be necessary to change the formula, since we have an increase of \$5 million in the budget?

KUMAR: Yeah. The base, base rate will change. I just wanted to—what's the base rate?

(Conferring on stage)

BRIM: I'm just checking to make sure it doesn't need to be in these reports before we vote.

KUMAR: The, now the budget is \$604,033,991. Six-zero-four-zero-three-three-nine-nine-one, is the budget. \$604 million dollars, and the base percentage is from, the original one was 3.266 percent. This would be 3.293 percent. It's a slight increase.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. So, this motion is before us, for the whole bundle.

KUMAR: Whole report. Yes, Bishop.

BISHOP DYCK: The whole bundle, and I see a speech against. Sara Swenson, mic. 5.

SARA ANN SWENSON (Minnesota): Sara Swenson, from Minnesota. We were just talking at our table that, in fact, even though I don't do numbers very well either, passing the budget and hearing all of what we're funding and supporting for the next four years is part of some of the most important work that we're doing here and that, I think, it is worth the time to hear and to walk through this entire process to fully report back to our own conferences.

BISHOP DYCK: So, what we have before us is the motion to approve the bundle or not to approve the bundle. So, I guess you're, you've made a speech against approving the bundle, but I don't think that was your intent. Yeah, could you, would you allow just a sentence or two about each one? Would that be helpful?

KUMAR: Yeah, I can do that.

BISHOP DYCK: Yeah, why don't you do that, because it is helpful for us to know just what is in each report and the scope and scale of it.

KUMAR: OK, I can do that quickly, Bishop.

BISHOP DYCK: Sure. Go ahead.

Identification of Reports 4 Through 19

KUMAR: Report No. 5, that deals with the Episcopal Fund. Episcopal Fund raised in accordance *The Book of Discipline* provides for salary, expenses, and support of the United Methodist episcopal leadership. As an example of the types of support provided to our episcopal leaders, the insurance provided by the Episcopal Fund will fly Bishop Carter home, so he can receive the care he needs.

Then, if we move on to Report No. 6, involves the General Administration Fund, and the General Administration Fund finances general church activities that are specifically administrative in nature, as concentrated with those activities which are programmatic, missional, or ecumenical.

Report No. 7 deals with Inter-denomination Cooperation Fund. Our relationship with ecumenical partners is supported through this fund.

Report No. 8 is the—

BISHOP DYCK: Why don't you get the page numbers, just as people are flipping through.

KUMAR: I'm sorry.

BISHOP DYCK: I think that might be helpful.

KUMAR: I'm sorry. Alright, let me go back. Report 7 is under p. no. 2617, 2615 of today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. That's Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.

Then, if you go to p. 2620, that's really Report No. 8. That is the report that I just read. The base rate will change to 3.293%, from 3.266%.

Then, Report No. 12 is, through this report, we ask you to reconfirm our church's commitment to pay equity—sorry, Report No. 12 is p. 2632. I'm sorry about it. Just to reconfirm our church's commitment

to pay equity directly to general agencies receiving general church funds, to continue to gather and report on pay equity issues, and to ask GCFA to work with the Committee on Personnel Policies, Personnel Policies and Practices, to maintain a structure that will strive to meet pay equity goals.

Then, Report No. 15, which is p. no. 2638. This report is of income from Board of Trustees and the Permanent Fund. GCFA recommends that the permanent fund income that can be distributed be made part of the World Service Fund receipts annually for distribution during 2017-2020.

Report No. 16, p. 2639, two-six-three-nine. It's General Agencies Headquarters Location. This one important matter to note. That is, this report treats the General Board of Global Ministries relocation to Atlanta and recommends that the location of General Agencies' headquarters remain unchanged.

Let's go to the rest of the reports: nine, ten, eleven, fourteen, seventeen, and eighteen, and nineteen, beginning from p. 2624. All of those reports are just for information, so actually, we just have to adopt it, so—

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. That was helpful. That was my point of inquiry.

Alright. So, we have this bundle, basically four through nineteen. You've heard that some of them are just information. One speech against. It looks like you're ready to vote. Wait a second, here. Alright. I'm gonna go with mic. 2, Sergey Kim, move the previous question.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): (*simultaneous translation*) Will, dear Bishop. Dear Bishops, I propose that we stop the debate and move to vote, voting on all of these petitions, all of these reports together.

BISHOP DYCK: So you're, you're, you're asking to suspend the rules on how many speeches we have?

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP DYCK: Yeah, so it's not in order.

KIM: *(simultaneous translation)* No, that's not what I wanted.

BISHOP DYCK: It's not in order for us to go right to voting. OK, point of—

KIM: *(simultaneous translation)* Dear, dear Bishop, I, that's what I proposed. I'm moving to stop the debates and move, call the question on the voting.

BISHOP DYCK: I understand.

KIM: *(simultaneous translation)* This is not regarding, this, this is the previous one that I had. I wanted to go back to reconsidering the previous question and then that's the one. I cancelled that, I recalled that request, and now I'm just asking to stop the debates and move directly to voting.

BISHOP DYCK: Well, we only have, I only have one speech against the bundling of those reports. And so it's out of order, and we agreed to bundle the reports. So, point of order, parliamentary inquiry or information. Martha Banks, mic. 5.

MARTHA E. BANKS (East Ohio): Thank you, Bishop. Martha Banks, lay, East Ohio. My question is, what happens if we vote this down? What are the implications?

KUMAR: Bishop, I, if we vote down the bundle, we have to go one by one and vote one report after one report. That's all I meant.

BISHOP DYCK: Actually, we already voted to bundle.

KUMAR: Yeah, already . . .

BISHOP DYCK: We have that. So if you vote it down, I think we have no budget.

BANKS: Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. Alright. I have amendment here, Lonnie Chafin, mic. 3.

LONNIE CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference. I would like to make an amendment to Report 8, which is on p. 2621. You'll see at the top of 2621 a list of base percentages, and I'd like to, I guess, insert in C, Section C there, I'm sorry, in Section B that comes right before that chart, that the base percentages be adjusted at an amount calculated by GCFA that is necessary to accomplish the total budget given the action of General Conference to amend the World Service Fund. If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright.

CHAFIN: I heard the question about whether the base percentage is needed to change in order to accommodate the \$5 million increase we just added to the total. I heard the General Secretary of GCFA say that amendment was necessary, so although those, I don't think those percentages could be calculated on the fly, so I would like to offer this amendment, thinking that conversation suggested it was necessary, but assigning to GCFA the responsibilities for calculating that number in the time that it takes to do so. So this amendment is just to give General Conference imprimatur for changing the apportionment formula so we can meet the budget we've already set.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright.

There is an amendment before us to change. It's on p. 2620 into 21, to give the responsibility of changing the base percentage to GCFA. Does anyone wish to speak for or against it? Well, actually against, because he spoke for. Alright, then we will vote on the Chafin amendment. You put up the screen. If you would give this responsibility to GCFA as the amendment says, please vote one

(1) for yes, and if not, vote two (2) for no.

[Yes, 625; No, 98]

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: And you have approved that amendment. The bundle is before you. Are you ready to vote? Alright, if you would put the screen up, please. The whole bundle. You heard some are information, others are more action, but basically you are voting on four through nineteen because you voted for some . . .

Motion to Amend Report 6 by \$5 Million

SAMUEL TYLER POWERS (Oklahoma): Bishop, Sam Powers, Oklahoma. I believe I have an amendment in the queue. I move to amend.

BISHOP DYCK: OK.

POWERS: I would move to amend Report 6, The General Administration Report, that we would decrease it by \$5 million, and this would offset the increase we added so that we would retain an overall budget of \$599 million.

BISHOP DYCK: Is there a second? Alright. Do you wish to speak to it?

POWERS: Yes, I think it's irresponsible, fiscally, for us to continue to add to the budget that is already set before us. I will leave it at that.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. To speak against, William Brownson, Mic. 4.

WILLIAM H. BROWNSON (West Ohio): Bill Brownson, West Ohio. I was on the committee that heard this piece of legislation. This body voted clearly to add, in favor of the Theological Fund, earlier today. To remove the five million dollars which, by the way, as a Conference Treasurer, I am not pleased that we are leaving with 604 instead of 599, but to go from a fund in World Service that approaches \$300 million to a much, much, much smaller fund,

and to take the \$5 million from there will have a disproportionate effect on our capacity to carry out what it is we need to do with that particular fund, and I think on that basis I would strongly oppose this amendment.

BISHOP DYCK: OK, then Mic. 2, Cynthia Weems, speaking for. Did I get that right? Yeah, 2.

CYNTHIA DEE WEEMS (Florida): Cynthia Weems, Florida. I was also in the subcommittee, and I speak in favor because one thing that was lifted up while we were there is that although we are approving a \$599 million budget, it's really an increase, if we consider worship attendance decreasing. So sixty more dollars per person in your pew will have to contribute for the \$599 million budget. There may be other alternatives for where to take that \$5 million from, but I think this is one possibility.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, thank you. I have a point of order parliamentary inquiry, or information, Jay Brim, as I recall, Mic. 5.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Jay Brim, Rio Texas, a parliamentary inquiry to the chair. Is not this motion in the nature of a move to reconsider the previous vote, rather than a motion to amend?

BISHOP DYCK: Yeah, I mean the whole thing is before us. So I'm gonna rule it in order. Thank you.

Mic. 5, Gary Henderson, speaking against, and we have two speeches for. This will be our second speech against.

GARY RAY HENDERSON (East Ohio): Gary Henderson from East Ohio. I hope I am following the conversation. I rise to stand against this motion to reduce the budget by \$5 million based on our prior action. One of the things I've learned in the last few years in the fundraising around Imagine No Malaria is that we are an incredibly wealthy

denomination. And when we believe in something, we have money to support that. Five million dollars against a total budget is a very small amount of money. We are able to do this, my brothers and sisters, because we believe in the theological education as proposed on the African Continent, and I would urge your defeat of this amendment.

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. I have two speeches for and two against. So, we are ready to vote, except there are some points of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. John Lomperis, Mic. 1.

JOHN SCOTT ANDERS LOMPERIS (Indiana): Thank you, Bishop. Do I understand correctly that what we are being asked to cut \$5 million from the fund that funds General Conference so that this would potentially mean there could be \$5 million less available for bringing delegates here, and for providing adequate translation? That that's what the budget would come out of?

BISHOP DYCK: Would you speak to that?

MOSES KUMAR: Yeah, the previous motion didn't specifically tell us that exactly the money coming from. It just said General Administration, and if you look into p. 2614 there are several items there. One of the largest items that you have, this is the General Conference, then GCFA, and the Commission, and all of those things about \$11 million. That would come out of that, but nobody has specifically said where it would come from proportionally. So, there is no specificity on the amendment, bishop.

BISHOP DYCK: Rudolph Merab, Mic. 6, point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or more information.

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): Bishop, I already got the information through John. So, I am OK.

BISHOP DYCK: Remember to

take yourself out of the queue. Emily Allen, point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information, Mic. 4

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, bishop. Emily Allen, California-Nevada Annual Conference. I have a point of information. I'm not sure who to direct it to. My question is could the agencies listed in the General Administration Fund fulfill their required mandates with a \$5 million decrease spread among them.

BISHOP DYCK: Can you answer that?

KUMAR: Yeah, if I understand your question whether the \$5 million would be able to fund it by all of the agencies listed in the World Service Fund. Am I right?

(Conferring)

KUMAR: We are talking just the General Administration.

ALLEN: If the \$5 million

KKUMAR: If you are talking General Administration, it will come out of the line items listed in that area.

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Clarification, I think she's asking if those couple of agencies could still fulfill all of their duties with \$5 million less.

KUMAR: Yeah, thank you. It is difficult to fulfill because as you will know the global nature of our denomination, some of the budget is already being cut as I told you, and from 2008 it is cut over closer to \$42 million, and from last quadrennium to this quadrennium it's been cut \$4 million. It is difficult for us to adjust the budget so that's when you voted \$5 million you wanted to go with an increase of \$604 million.

BISHOP DYCK: OK, some of you are wanting to move the previous question, but we are ready to vote except for the points of order, parliamentary inquiry or information. And so Rudolph Merab, you

have already spoken, so has Sergey Kim, for that matter. Alright, if you two would go to Mic. 6 and 2, respectively. Those are our points of order before we can vote. Rudy, mic. 6. Did you take yourself out again? Or you meant to take yourself out?

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): Yes, I took myself out.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. I just—OK, alright. We are ready to vote. We have two speeches for, two speeches against. They would—OK, we have the amendment—I think it was the Shanks' amendment. Did I get the name right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Powers.

BISHOP DYCK: Oh, Powers, OK. Sorry. Sorry. The Powers' amendment, which is to decrease Report 6 by \$5 million. OK? If you would approve this amendment to decrease Report 6 by \$5 million, vote one (1) yes, two (2) no. Vote now.

[Yes, 187; No, 576]

And you do not approve the amendment.

Now we have the whole bundling of these reports in front of us. I just had them clear the queue. The whole report is before us (4 through 19, essentially). Are you ready to vote?

ALL: Yes.

BISHOP DYCK: I have a speech for. Jim Allen, at mic. 1.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

KUMAR: You want to cancel it?

BISHOP DYCK: Did he cancel?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. Alright, then—

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, I will

hear Alex Shanks at mic. 1 to move to table, postpone, or refer.

ALEX ARTHUR SHANKS (Florida): Bishop, I would like to make a motion to refer the bundling of all of these reports back to GCFA, and if I have a second, I will speak to it.

BISHOP DYCK: I heard a second. So, do you want to speak to that?

SHANKS: Yeah. We have empowered GCFA and our legislative committee on Finance and Administration to do the hard work at looking at the whole budget together and then by act of the floor, we have raised the budget \$5 million, and it seems prudent to me for GCFA and the leaders of our Connectional Table and others who have been involved in the budgeting process to have a chance to look at the whole bundled report and decide if there is any way to get back to the original total of \$599 which is what you originally presented. So, by referring this to GCFA and Connectional Table who could meet over lunch, my sense is they could come back after lunch with the opportunity for us to possibly approve a total budget of \$599, which was the original recommendation.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. I have a speech against referral, Mike Jen, at mic. 1, also.

MIKE DIO JEN (Central Nigeria): Bishop, I'm Mike Dio Jen, Central Nigeria Annual Conference. I'm getting confused. I think we are closing the discussion on this issue. Referring it again, we are being drawn back. I'm of the view that we finish the voting on this because the issue is clear. If you want to refer this issue now, then it means we have not approved the budget of the General Conference. So, we have to take decision. I'm of the view that, let us, you know, as amended, because the \$5 million has been added by

the committee already, so it is for us to adopt their report as we bundled them together, so I'm against refer. Thank you very much.

BISHOP DYCK: Alright. Thank you. João Graca has a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information at mic. 1.

JOÃO MANUEL DA GRACA (Western Angola): *(Speaking in Portuguese)* —

BISHOP DYCK: I personally am having trouble with the trans—I'm not getting anything.

GRACA: *(speaking in Portuguese)*

[INTERPRETER: I'm not hearing.]

BISHOP DYCK: And the translator is not hearing, so just take a second. Make sure everything is working.

(translator speaking in Portuguese)

BISHOP DYCK: And now it's—

[INTERPRETER: English, yeah? Hello?]

BISHOP DYCK: Yes.

[INTERPRETER: Can you hear me now?]

BISHOP DYCK: I can hear you now.

[INTERPRETER: Can you hear the interpreter? OK.]

GRACA: Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: If you—I'm sorry. Would you please start over?

GRACA: Thank you. *(simultaneous interpretation)* Even though we are taking a lot of time discussing this subject, even though there is a saying that says, "When we talk about money, everybody is in the same church."

BISHOP DYCK: Is this a point of order?

GRACA: I want to make this discussion shorter so that we can go, because this is the last day of conference, OK?

BISHOP DYCK: OK. But, I think you're, I'm sorry, but I think you're—it's not a parliamentary point, inquiry, or information.

GRACA: (*speaking in Portuguese*)

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. Alright. OK. Michael Akre has an appeal to the chair's decision. Mic. 5. Mic. 5.

(*pause*)

BISHOP DYCK: Are you coming?

MICHAEL A. AKRE (Cote d'Ivoire): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you very much, Bishop. I think that you've made an error. Michael Akre from the Annual Conference of Cote d'Ivoire. So, I would like to thank you first for the great work that you have done until now. But right now, we are talking about finances for a church, for a church—the global church, and then we have referred this to the agency that we trust to have a budget, so someone has asked for to reduce the budget and some people have given us reason to reduce the budget and then we accepted that. So what is the concern of your reducing?

BISHOP DYCK: I'm not sure that I'm aware of what your appeal is. It sounds like you're appealing to move on, but I may have that wrong.

MICHAEL A. AKRE (Cote d'Ivoire): (*Simultaneous Interpretation*) So, excuse me, please.

BISHOP SALLY DYCK: Do you want me to say that again? I'm not sure what your appeal is. It sounds like you're appealing for us to move on, but that's not an appeal of the chair.

AKRE: (*Simultaneous Interpretation*) So, I don't understand why the budget that was proposed must be modified without giving us the reasons. So we tell us to amend it for the six percent and why it must be. Oh, so we tell us that it is modified for such a percentage, but we are

never explained why it is reduced or what the percentage is. So, that is our concern, bishop. We are not being explained why it is being reduced a certain percentage.

BISHOP DYCK: Yes. Did you—I mean, their still looking—he was still looking for information, I think, in terms of what's being—

MOSES KUMAR: OK. The reason that we are changing the budget is rather that we all voted on to increase the budget by \$5 million, because you voted to increase the Central Conference Theological Education from \$5 million to \$10 million, so that increase took place. Since that increase is done, it has increased from \$599 to \$604 million. That's the reason it has increased.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. Thank you. Carl Childs, point of order, parliamentary inquiry at mic. 5, please.

CARL ESPY CHILDS (South Georgia): Carl Childs, South Georgia Conference. I'd like to offer a suggestion to the conference. The \$5 million is roughly eight-tenths of one percent (0.8%) increase in the approve budget. I would suggest that each report take that eight-tenths of one percent (0.8%) reduction and return to the \$599 million that we've approved.

BISHOP DYCK: Do you wanna respond to that? I think, it's out of order.

CHILDS: I will make that a motion.

BISHOP DYCK: We have another motion. I'm sorry, you're out of order at this point. Point of order, parliamentary inquiry, or information. Bob Moon, mic. 5.

BOB MARK MOON (South Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. Bob Moon, South Georgia, United States. I move that we suspend the rules and call the question on all that is before us.

BISHOP DYCK: I don't have enough speeches, but there is a way

to do this. This is a hot tip, if you should go with it.

(*laughter*)

BISHOP DYCK: You don't go to the mic.

(*laughter and applause*)

BISHOP DYCK: Alright, with that, I will test the house. I have a whole bunch of—you know—I've speech for and speech against. I am obligated to take each one because we haven't fulfilled it, but I just want you to keep in mind the—you know, kinda what you just heard there.

I will call on William Shill, Shilla, Shil-lady. I'm sorry, Bill, I can never get that right. Shillady. You just have to get a run at it. Alright, and you're at mic. 6. That'd be my last speech against to refer.

WILLIAM S. SHILLADY (New York): Do not refer!

(*laughter*)

BISHOP DYCK: That's the other way to do it. Now, a speech for. Unless you—and that would be Adilson Almeida. And mic. 1.

ADILSON LEITÃO ALMEIDA (Western Angola): Bishop. I'm Adilson Almeida from Western Angola. I would like to speak in Portuguese, if I am allowed.

BISHOP DYCK: OK.

ALMEIDA: (*Simultaneous Interpretation*) Looking to the budget of the General Administration, boards amend; I believe that the only fights that we have, or the only question we have, is that finance committee. The way it is now, if we approve the budget, that should be the same that was brought by GCFA, and we're not sure if the monies going to go out of the \$17 million or of the \$10 million, we risk leaving it to the council, the financial council, to determine where these funds come from. Let's say, for example, that it

goes out of the General Conference. If it goes out of the General Conference, we'll have disadvantages because we are going to reduce even more. We had 1,000 delegates for the conference, now we 864. If the monies go out of the General Conference, we're going to have less delegates in the year 2020. If it goes out of the funds, or the commission funds, maybe there would be an impact for our work—the management of our work. So, I agree that the value should remain the same. And, I understand that they are going to reflect and bring an idea. Where is the money coming from so that we can vote more responsibly? Thank you.

BISHOP DYCK: OK. We have two speeches for, two against referral. So, I'm going to move forward and vote on the referral to GCFA. Screen, please. If you would refer to GCFA, vote one (1); if not, vote two (2).

[Yes, 158; No, 582]

BISHOP DYCK: OK. We did not vote to refer. I have the main bundle before us. I'm sorry (*unintelligible*)

(*laughter and chanting*)

BISHOP DYCK: All right, are you ready? Let's just do it!

ALL: Yes!

BISHOP DYCK: All right, put that screen up! I'm not looking at this thing. You can accost me at lunch.

(*laughter and applause*)

Budget Passed

BISHOP DYCK: All right. We have the full bundle. If you would vote for it, vote one (1); if not, vote two (2). Clear the queue, yeah.

[Yes, 751; No, 33]

(*Bishop conferring on stage*)

BISHOP DYCK: All right.

(*applause*)

BISHOP DYCK: All right. My friends, we have passed a budget and only thirty-three people are gonna accost me in the hallway.

(*laughter*)

All right. I promised, thank you. Yes?

MOSES KUMAR: I just wanted to say a few words, if you don't mind.

BISHOP DYCK: OK, we'll give you that.

MOSES KUMAR: Bishop, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for their excellent work toward General Conference. The work they have done is remarkable, and I am thankful to God for such a dedicated group of people. It has been a particularly difficult time for us. We experienced the loss of our friend and board member, Delmar Robinson, as well as the loss of one of the staff member's parent and another's aunt. In spite of this difficulty circumstances, God has provided great strength and comfort to our staff and board members so that we can move forward faithfully to do the work you have assigned to us. Thank you for this opportunity. Have a safe trip home.

(*applause*)

BISHOP DYCK: Thank you. If you just hold fast, I promised a few personal privileges as they came to the desk. We're just going to read them. And then I will keep them in my prayers as we close for lunch. OK?

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): From Josephine Deere, recognition of 40 years as a missionary conference. I'm believing that's Oklahoma, isn't it? All right. We have a request

to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Order of Deacons.

(*applause*)

REIST: And celebration of East Africa Annual Conference. Those are the points of privilege. Let me, oops, I'm sorry, one more under the stack of pages. This is actually a request for prayer for the San Francisco Police Department. The police chief resigned yesterday because of police killings of persons of color in his jurisdiction. I believe the prayer request says, "I believe we should pray for police officers, police departments, city officials, black families who are victims.

(*pause*)

REIST: Pray for the lives that have been taken. May you pray for peace to be among blacks and the interactions between them and civil authorities. Also, may you pray for mass incarceration the youth; justice to all of God's people." And the police chief resigned because of the killing of an unarmed black officer, or black civilian.

Offering for Pages and Marshals

There is a special offering that going to be taken today. It's the offering for pages and marshals. There will be people at the doors to collect those, those offerings. I want to say a word about this. The pages and marshals come here at their own expense. They stay at their own expense. They volunteer, and they don't even get to vote. So, I would encourage you to be generous with your offering for pages and marshals. Some of them are coming, some of them have come from all around the world. It's an expensive proposition for them to serve the church in this way.

The Committee on Agenda and Calendar will meet in room C120 immediately after we adjourn for lunch. Committee on Agenda and Calendar will meet in room C120 immediately after lunch. I'm sorry, after we break for lunch. Sorry. After we adjourn for lunch. I'm trying to read these quickly and I need to slow down.

Request for prayers for Deborah Gwatney of Knoxville, Tennessee, sister of Ralph Thompson, a Rio-Texas lay delegate. She was recently diagnosed with brain and lung cancer.

And there's a request for prayer for people who were on the Egyptian plane that apparently crashed. Pray for the families waiting for news of what has happened and that the plane is located.

Net Proceeds from Sale of "Massacre at Sand Creek"

There has been some concern about what is going to happen with income from sale of the Sand Creek Massacre report. And I have this report: the United Methodist Publishing House nor any United Methodist church entity will profit from the publication or sale of the Sand Creek report, or the Abingdon publication of *Massacre at Sand Creek: How Methodists Were Involved In An American Tragedy*. All net proceeds from the sale of this publication will go to the work of the Sand Creek resolution leading the United Methodist Church to live into ongoing relationships with tribal descendants and healing relationships between these brothers and sisters and our church. We are grateful to Marsha Brooks for this question. It's signed by Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, Rev. Fred Day from General Commission of Archives and History, and Neil Alexander and Brian Milford, from the United Methodist Publishing House. Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP DYCK: And I would just add that one day, day before yesterday, there were twenty people shot in the city of Chicago. So many people are shot that we have an app for that, to find out the numbers. So, in addition to our brothers and sisters in San Francisco, and all across the country, we keep all of those who suffer from gun violence, one way or another, in our prayers.

Let us be in a spirit of prayer. Oh, but before we do that, I just want to thank my A-team behind me, Bishops Palmer and Huie, they've been great. And you've been really great, too. I really appreciate it. That you have, especially on that last act, you allowed me a little room. So thank you.

Let us be in a spirit of prayer.

Oh God, yes indeed, our lives continue to go on even as we are in this, as Bishop Stanovsky said, this universe of General Conference. We know that back home there are many things going on in our lives, and our communities, and our churches. We know that throughout the world there is brokenness and hurt. We know that in addition to Deborah Gwatney, whose sister's ill, we know that there's lots of family back home, suffering, while we continue to do this work.

And Lord, we again pray for peace in our cities, and suburbs, and rural areas of this country and around the world and for the ways in which we continue to cry for justice for those who do not always receive justice, particularly people of color. And we ask that you will be with all of the families who are waiting news about their loved ones involved in the plane crash, and we, our hearts just grieve. And so, please comfort them. And may they have some sense of the world praying for them in whatever ways, with whatever words we pray.

We thank you for all the work of the Sand Creek project, for the excellent reports and we pray that as we continue to learn more we will recognize its relevancy for us as a church even today. O Lord, we ask that you will be with us as we break for lunch. Strengthen us, renew us, don't let us burn out. Keep us fueled and aflamed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

Friday Afternoon, May 20, 2016

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: —please, find your seats and be in order. If you would please find your seats and be in order.

(pause)

BISHOP ALSTED: If you would, please find your seats and be in order.

(pause)

BISHOP ALSTED: Welcome back after the lunch break. I hope you have had a good lunch and that you are refreshed and ready to do some work. We have quite a bit of work ahead of us. On the agenda up here, I have seventy-six calendar items that we will need to deal with, and there are a few presentations, as well, so we are going to be busy until we adjourn in approximately four hours. I want to point to a piece of Scripture where Paul writes to the Ephesians, and I believe he writes to us as well: "God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world."

We are here to lead the church. We are here to grow in holiness as we share in the means of grace that Christian conferencing is. Throughout this conference, we have aimed to balance polity, unity, and revival, which has been in the tradition of conferencing in our church. And, at

this time, in worshipful manner, we will work on polity. We will do this work together. I will do my best to help you get the work done, but we need to be mindful of the time this afternoon. Before we move into business, let us pray together.

(pause)

Holy Spirit, help us to come closer to one another. As we walk together in repentance and in praise, give us the joy and peace that come with following Jesus. Guide us in our deliberations and in our discernment of your will for us. Bless us, Lord, as we seek to be peace-builders in our community and in our world. Amen.

First of all, I would like to turn to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar.

(pause)

I call on Easmon Ngakui, the vice-chair of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, if you would please come and present your report.

(pause)

Committee on Agenda Responds to Request to Prioritize According to Discipline

EASMON NGAKUI (Sierra Leone): Good afternoon, Bishop and conference. The Committee—I'm Easmon Ngakui, Sierra Leone Annual Conference. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar met during lunch that (*unintelligible*) us was referred to it to consider prioritizing all items related to paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline*. The committee members discussed this, and we are recommending that the order of items, as we are present this morning, be continued with. This is so because some items involve constitutional amendments we have not supported, and some were even referred. And, the committee met this morn-

ing, together with all chairpersons of various legislative committees, and we are very much intentional to set the agenda that was presented this morning. So, we are therefore asking the conference that the proceedings go as was voted on this morning. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. So, we have this recommendation from the committee, and if you would just indicate with your cards that you would receive this recommendation, please raise your cards.

(pause)

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. Those opposed. Those abstaining. We have received the report. Thank you very much, and we will proceed accordingly. This afternoon, I have the, behind me, Bishop Max Whitfield and Larry Goodpaster as parliamentarians and advisors, and I am very pleased with the help that I know that they are going to give to me and to us during this afternoon.

I want to give a few, a few guidelines for our proceedings this afternoon. If you raise a point of order, if you have a request for information or a parliamentary inquiry, I ask you to immediately state what your business is when I recognize you. If you have a request for information, I ask you not to try to take the opportunity to speak either in favor or against the matter we have before you. I will ask you to sit down if you do.

(laughter)

BISHOP ALSTED: If you have a point of order, I ask you to cite the rule your point of order pertains to and to state your point as briefly and as concisely as possible. If you request a point of personal privilege, I ask you to bring that request to the secretary, and that would be dealt

with as time allows at the end of this session.

People across our denomination have worked hard to bring petitions to this General Conference. In our legislative committees, we have worked hard on dealing with those petitions, and there were several petitions that time did not allow us to deal with. But we do have seventy-six petitions before us this afternoon, and I hope you agree with me that we should honor those who have done hard work to bring those petitions before us and try to make a decision on as many, preferably all of them, during this afternoon. And, I think we can, if we really help each other.

Conference Manager Leads Salute to Conference Staff

I will turn to Sara Hotchkiss from the Office of the General Conference.

SARA HOTCHKISS: I am here to celebrate the teams that have not only worked tirelessly over the time of General Conference, but also put in countless hours of planning and preparation. As you see the names before you on the screens in a moment, give thanks not only for their work and dedication to the church, but also give thanks for the families who have shared their time without us. Thank you.

(*Video celebrating the volunteers for General Conference*)

(Applause)

HOTCHKISS: I think one more round of applause for these wonderful people. Over there.

(Applause)

HOTCHKISS: So, we have one more recognition. Let me call on Judy Kenaston, the outgoing chair of the Commission on the General Conference to lead us.

*Tribute to Retiring Secretary L.
Fitzgerald Reist (Gere)*

JUDITH MODLIN KENASTON (West Virginia): L. Fitzgerald Reist, better known to us as Gere, has served faithfully as the secretary of the General Conference before the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. During that time, Gere has championed the orientation, training, and participation from all of our elected delegates, especially the delegates from our Central Conferences around the world. Please enjoy this brief review of his term in office.

(Video)

(Applause)

GARY GRAVES: As you can tell, the special gifts that Gere has received throughout his travels have become part of his colorful wardrobe. In fact, the question that I have received most often since my election has been, "Do you think you can keep up with Gere's fashions?"

(Laughter)

RANDALL PARTIN: To fit with Gere's vibrant wardrobe, some of our Native American sisters are bringing a gift today to celebrate the end of Gere's time with us as the secretary of General Conference. Cynthia? Gere?

(Presentation of Native American blanket to Gere Reist)

(Applause)

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH: Administratively, we also bring gifts, Gere, to remind you that before you leave office there is a little more work to be done. Enjoy!

[Presentation of dozens of cardboard boxes]

(Laughter)

(Applause)

L. FITZGERALD REIST: Can I ask you all to take these back to the back?

(Laughter)

(Applause)

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Eight years. I wonder how many extra years that is added. Thank you, thank you, Gere, for remarkable work that you have done.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

BISHOP ALSTED: I now turn to Bishop Bruce Ough.

*Gratitude to Bishop Hagiya and
Greater Northwest Area*

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: I am Bishop Ough, and I am blessed to serve as Resident Bishop of the Dakotas Minnesota Area. I wanted to join all of you in expressing my deepest gratitude to Bishop Grant Hagiya in the Greater Northwest Area for the extravagant hospitality that has been extended to us in Portland.

(Applause)

Convening Next in Minneapolis

BISHOP OUGH: In 2020, we will gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from across the globe to discover once again the power and mystery of being baptized into one body of Christ.

Minneapolis is known as the City of Lakes. It is situated on both banks of the Mississippi River and adjoins St. Paul, the state capital. These two twin cities form the sixteenth largest metro area in the United States with about 3.2 million residents. The city is abundantly rich in water, with lakes and wetlands, the Mississippi riverfront, creeks,

and waterfalls. Minneapolis was once the world's flour milling capital, and a hub for timber, and today is a primary business center between Chicago and Seattle. It is a diverse city, with a wide variety of ethnic groups, and one of the largest Mung populations in the country. America's most literate city, Minneapolis also has a vibrant art scene.

The words of Jeremiah Chapter 17, verse 8 capture the essence of my earnest prayer for our gathering in Minneapolis. "They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes. Its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and never fails, never fails to bear fruit." I hope that the water and trees that surround us may guide us to bear fruit and witness the Holy Spirit breaking through, and I encourage you to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to boldly use you and us, and our 2020 General Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world.

We invite you to join us in 2020 and to watch this brief video which showcases some of the activities that Minneapolis offers. You may want to ignore the images of snow.

(Laughter)

(Video)

(applause)

JAMES HAUN (Minnesota): My names is Jim Haun. I am a clergy member of the Minnesota Annual Conference, and I chair the Minneapolis Host Committee for the 2020 General Conference. With our bishop, I want to express our gratitude to the Portland Host Committee, which has invited us to observe and to learn with them over the past ten days, and has offered considerable wisdom and advice that will help guide us as

we prepare for General Conference 2020.

Our plans are well under way and we look forward to showing you the best of what our city, our state, and our region has to offer. It is the hope of the Dakotas-Minnesota area to provide sanctuary, an environment where you can feel safe and cared for as you meet with one another at the Minneapolis Convention Center and discern where God is calling us as a church. On behalf of all Minnesota and Dakotas United Methodists, we hope you will join us in Minneapolis in 2020 as a delegate, a volunteer, or a visitor, and we look forward to welcoming you and to witnessing the power of the Holy Spirit as one body of Christ. May the peace of God be with you until we meet again in Minneapolis.

(applause)

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: I think we can do better than that, can't we?

(applause)

I know at this point you may not be as excited about going to General Conference, but I'm sure that the excitement is going to pick up when we get a little closer.

We have some elections that we need to take care of for some of the general agencies and these are elections on nominations from the Council of Bishops, and appointments from the Council of Bishops. And I will call on Janice Huie to present this election.

Agency Council of Bishops Nominations and Appointments

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE

HUIE: Good afternoon, friends. On your tables you will find two pieces of paper, actually three pages, but on two sheets, titled Agency Council of Bishops Nominations and

Appointments. It's a substitute for DCA p. 2651. You'll see that in the upper right hand corner on the top sheet and if you turn to the inside, you'll see p. 2652 and 2653. These pages simply contain a couple of corrections to what was printed in your DCA and distributed to you this morning

It is the responsibility of the Council of Bishops to make certain nominations and appointments. These are those provided for in *The Book of Discipline* and you will see—you will remember that there are many other nominations that are made to the agencies through other avenues within our church. These particular ones come through the Council of Bishops.

"Appointments" mean that they literally are appointed by the Council of Bishops. The rest of these are nominations and you, the General Conference must approve them. This is not open for substitution. You may vote this up or down, but the nominations come from the Council; and if you reject the slate, it would go back to the Council.

You will note in several places there are still some slots to be filled—that's because there are positions—and there are not many of them, either they were opened up and created during this General Conference so the Council of Bishops has not yet had time to consider those and you will see "to be named . . . to be named." Those positions will come to the Council of Bishops, and in the interim, they will be named. But in the meantime, you have virtually all of the remaining nominations or appointments completed. They are in front of you and Bishop Alsted, I move their approval.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much, Bishop Huie. We have the nominations before us, and please take out your voting devices and you may vote yes, one (1) for

yes, or two (2) for no. One (1) for yes and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 668; No, 19]

Thank you very much. We have made the selections.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you and thanks to all the members of the Leadership Discernment Committee and the Council who have worked on these for almost two years now. Thank you.

(pause)

Motion to Refer Divestment to Board of Pensions

BISHOP ALSTED: We are going back on our Calendar Items, and I ask you to wind back a little bit to about 10 o'clock this morning, when we put a pin in Calendar Item 409, and a minority report which was a substitute motion. There was a motion to refer this to the Board of Pension and Health Benefits and that is the motion we now have before us. This motion is debatable, and I recognize Ginger Gaines-Cirelli as a speech against on Mic. 3.

GINGER GAINES-CIRELLI (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you, Bishop. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Baltimore-Washington Conference, clergy. I just wanna point out that this motion to refer is asking the, the general board to do work that is really the work of this General Conference. It is not the role of the pension board to do the moral discernment of the church, and that is what this issue is really about. It's the role of the board to implement the moral directives of General Conference in their investment work and decisions. So this referral would be pushing off to the board what is rightfully a decision for this body to make, and I think we need to follow up with the good work and the information that we spent a good deal of time already

on earlier today and take a vote on this matter and not refer. Thank you.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank you for very much. I have a point of order, H. Southern at mic. 1. Please go ahead.

H. GRAY SOUTHERN (North Carolina): Thank you, Bishop. The point of order is the question about is the motion to refer only for the Minority Report or for the whole matter before us?

BISHOP ALSTED: The motion to refer would be for the whole matter before us. I also have a point of order on mic. 2, Cedrick Bridgeforth. Please go ahead.

(pause)

That was not a point of order. Thank you. Then I would like to have a speech in favor of the referral. Stephen Wende on mic. 3, and if Donna Pritchard would move towards mic. 1 for a speech against. Stephen Wende, please.

STEPHEN WENDE (Texas): Yes sir. Steve Wende from the Texas Conference and more specifically Houston, Texas. I speak for two reasons, one, for all my friends against carbon, I thought you'd want to see somebody living in the heart of the enemy. That was supposed to be a joke, never mind. Secondly, I wanna, I wanna say, we all get it about climate change. Houston is a home to many petrochemical companies, and it's also the home to NASA. And NASA is leading the information wave about what is happening with temperatures around the globe.

I wanna encourage us to vote to refer this for two reasons. One, it shows the seriousness with which the General Conference takes this issue and communicates that to our board, our board, but at the other side it does not pull the church out of shaping petrochemical policy. I cannot speak to the coal companies, but I do know that much, if not a

majority, of the research money being poured into alternative energy right now that does not come from the government is from the petrochemical companies. And Texas, along with several other states, is in the forefront of developing wind and solar and so many other things. It needs to be done, but the idea that by simply pulling back and pulling the plug and maybe walking home from this place is gonna fix it, I reject. I also wanna say for all of those—let's be clear, if we take a hit on this thing and if carbon stumbles, the middle, upper middle, and the upper class will survive. The people who will suffer in our country and especially in our friends elsewhere, they will be the ones that will be hurt.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. Donna Pritchard on mic. 1, and I ask Bonnie Marden to move towards mic. 6 for a speech in favor of the motion to refer.

DONNA MARIE LOWMAN PRITCHARD (Oregon-Idaho): Thank you, Bishop. This is Donna Pritchard, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. I rise to speak against the motion to refer this matter back to the Board of Pensions. We have been repeatedly asking the Board of Pensions to take more seriously our desire to take a moral stand on the care of our creation. I do not believe we have time when we are looking at devastating climate change around the world to continue to pretend that the fossil fuel corporations are really going to make changes. And I am not convinced that staying at the table has as much effect as taking a moral stand and making a witness in the global political system for what we believe as United Methodists to be the importance of the stewardship of creation. So I would vote, I ask you to vote against referring this matter.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. I apologize to Bonnie Marden. I was not attentive. We

have actually now had two speeches in favor and two speeches against, as the maker of the motion to refer has already spoken in favor of the referral this morning. We are ready to vote on the referral. And that requires a two-third majority, please. No? I'm sorry, just majority. If you would take out your voting devices and press one (1) in favor of the referral and two (2) opposed to the referral. Please vote now.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: We have not referred the motion.

[Yes, 276; No, 453]

Divestment in Israel

BISHOP ALSTED: Then, we are—we're back on the minority report. This morning there'd already been two speeches in favor of dealing with the minority report, and two speeches in favor of staying on the recommendation from the committee. And I'm now putting this vote to you. If you vote one (1) for yes, that means that you wish to make the minority report the main motion. If you vote two (2) for no, that means that you want to go back to the recommendation from the committee, and that will be the main motion. Vote now.

[Yes, 258; No, 461]

Alright. It is the motion or recommendation from the committee that is our main motion. That motion is amendable, and I already see the first person who wishes to amend. Martha Banks on mic. 5, please.

MARTHA E. BANKS (East Ohio): Thank you, Bishop. Martha Banks, lay, East Ohio. I would like to offer an amendment that after the words, "companies that are involved in" that we insert the words "illegal settlements on occupied land," right before the word "gambling."

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Is there a second for this amend-

ment? Is there a second? There is a second. We now have the motion before us. I ask you to clear the queue, please. And you can speak to your motion. Please go ahead.

BANKS: Thank you. We are really trying to find ways to make sure that all of our investments are consistent with our stated Social Principles, among which are that we will not support anything that oppresses people including production on occupied lands.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. I recognize Bonnie Marden for a speech against on mic. 6. And if Jannie Nelson would move to mic. 1, and be ready to speak in favor of the amendment. Please go ahead Bonnie Marden.

BONNIE L. MARDEN (New England): Bonnie Marden, New England Conference, laity. This is a matter that was discussed extensively in the legislative committee and the subcommittee and attempts to insert the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into investment strategies was soundly defeated. We do not believe this is an effective way to be peacebuilders in our world, and we challenge those who keep trying to insert punitive measures and divestment into our investment strategies to slow down, to take a step of faith in engagement as the Board of Pensions and other peace advocates have suggested over and over again. Separating ourselves is not a pathway to peace. We, as General Conference delegates, have remained in this room and have already taken steps to reach toward each other to build a peaceful world and a just economy for all which requires us to stay at the table and to not slip punitive measures like divestment into our denominational documents.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. I have a point of order, Philip Moots on mic. 4, please.

PHILIP R. MOOTS (West Ohio): Thank you. Phil Moots, West Ohio. I believe we adopted a two-minute limit for speakers and it's not showing on the screen, which makes it very difficult for speakers to comply with the rule.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you for pointing that out to us. We are working on this. I should have said that and we are aware of this and we'll get it fixed as soon as we can. Thank you very much.

I am moved to Janice Nelson on mic. 1.

JANICE E. NELSON (Oregon-Idaho): Thank you, Bishop. Jan Nelson, Oregon-Idaho. I'm speaking in favor of this amendment. I have been to Palestine and Israel as many of you have. I've seen the separation wall that keeps farmers from their own fields. I've seen the settlements that continue to encroach on Palestinian villages. The Board of Pensions and the previous speaker ask us to stay at the table. There are companies that are invested in profiting from the occupation of Palestine that we have been talking to for many, many years. I would not ask us to divest from anybody until we had done the shareholder advocacy, but when that has gone on and on, and on, with no results, it is time to say, "We do not choose to profit from the occupation of another people's lands," which is exactly what's going on. This is not anti-Israel. It is not anti-Jewish. It's anti-occupation, and I urge us to adopt this amendment.

BISHOP ALSTED: I have Alexander Joyner at mic. 6 for a speech against.

ALEXANDER JOYNER (Virginia): Thank you, Bishop. Alex Joyner, Virginia Conference. I'm standing to oppose this amendment. Divestment in this conflict is an ineffective and divisive act and it unfairly marks one party in a conflict as a bad actor. Even when it's aimed at United

States companies doing business in Israel or illegal settlements, divestment is built on the notion that Israel alone is responsible for the situation of the occupation, and that Israel alone can end it. This is a simplistic and unfair narrative and it contributes to an agenda of isolating and stigmatizing Israel in the international community. The occupation is a deeply troubling reality and it must end. It distorts and deforms both Palestinian and Israeli society, but targeting settlements for divestment doesn't address all of the issues that will lead to peace including security concerns, the right of return, the status of Jerusalem, and the question of borders for a free and independent Palestine. We need to support efforts that will bring together two traumatized peoples who don't trust each other, both with legitimate claims to the same land. We need a new approach that doesn't target one party, but it seeks to bring people together.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank you very much. We are now ready to vote on the amendment. Yes, you can. Please go ahead.

JESSICA VARGO: The Finance and Administration committee had several petitions that were related to the occupation and deal with that. It was widely the consensus of that committee that divestment was not the way or the means to handle this particular issue, so I would strongly encourage to vote no against this amendment. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. We have the amendment before us. Please take out your voting devices. If you want to vote in favor of the amendment, vote one (1) for yes or two (2) for no. One (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now. *[Yes, 167; No, 559]*

BISHOP ALSTED: The amendment did not get support, so we are back on the recommendation of the

committee. I do have a request to make a motion to suspend the rules. I call on William Hatcher at mic. 6. And we'll clear the queue.

WILLIAM HATCHER (South Georgia Annual Conference): Bishop, South Georgia, lay. Bishop, I move to suspend the rules, and if they are suspended, I would move to call the previous question on all that's before us.

BISHOP ALSTED: This is not debatable. So if you wish to suspend the rules it will require a two-third majority. Please take out your voting devices. Press one (1) to suspend the rules, and two (2) for no. [*Yes, 538; No, 164*]

BISHOP ALSTED: We have decided to suspend the rules. Please move on.

WILLIAM HATCHER: Bishop, I move to call the question on all that's before us.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. This is going to require a two-thirds majority. If you would vote in favor of that motion, to vote on all that is before us, you press one (1); if you vote against, you press two (2). Please vote now.
[*Yes, 648; No, 87*]

BISHOP ALSTED: And the motion prevails. So we are ready on to vote on everything that is before us. That is Calendar Item 409. As recommended by the committee, if you would vote in favor of Petition 60036, you press one (1), if you would vote against, you press two (2) for no. Please vote now.
[*Yes, 630; No, 101*]

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. The petition has passed. Thank you to Jessica Vargo. And we now turn to Church and Society A, Bethany Amey. And there is a minority report on this petition as well, and that is Bill Junk. If you would come to the microphone. Bill Junk will be on mic. 2.

Church and Society A Leadership Appreciation

BETHANY AMEY (Greater New Jersey Annual Conference): Thank you, Bishop. I wanted to thank our leadership committee for their hard work and commitment to this church, vice-chair, Bill Junk, secretary, Janice Gilbert, subcommittee chairs We Chang, Denise Smartt Sears, and also Rudolph Merrab.

Global Climate Stewardship

We are now on Calendar Item no. 373, found on *DCA* p. 2205. Also found on your *ADCA*, p. 190. Petition no. 60710, Global Climate Stewardship. The committee recommends you adopt this petition with the amendments that can be found printed on p. 2205 in the *DCA*. The committee had a healthy discussion about this petition. This petition would amend the Social Principles to add a prophetic call for United Methodists entities to exclude coal, petroleum, and natural gas companies from the financial investments and instead, reinvest in sustainable energy.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. We turn to Bill Junk for presentation of the minority report.

Motion to Amend by Substitution

WILLIAM JUNK (Oklahoma Annual Conference): Thank you, Bishop. The minority report is a motion to amend by substitution. Let me make that clear. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present this minority report. And this is like *deja-vu* all over again. We just talked about this topic. We had some ironic discussion in our legislative committee last week. We examined a number of petitions regarding the General Conference's ultimate responsibility of setting the priorities of the General Board of Church

and Society. Over and over again, we heard the argument of how the General Conference should not get into the business of micromanagement of our church agencies. And by narrow margin, these petitions were not recommended for adoption.

But a funny thing happened on the way to General Conference. Suddenly, when the discussion regarding petition 60710 began, it was all the sudden appropriate for the General Conference to micromanage how the General Board of Pensions, the General Board of Global Ministries, and foundations like the one I am president of, should carry out our fiduciary responsibilities about how to invest money. Some of the voices had even had a tone that using coal, oil, and natural gas was immoral. I do not believe this to be true. Today's reality is that we rely on some forms of these products from the electricity we use to the cars we drive, to the clothes that we wear. In fact, ninety percent of all global manmade carbon emissions are linked to the consumption of fossil fuels. Only ten percent of emissions are the result of oil and gas extraction. Think about how you got here. Think about how the lights are running today. We still need fossil fuels. So I encourage you to adopt this.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. We do have a point of order. Ande Emmanuel, mic. 2

ANDE IKIMUN EMMANUEL (Southern Nigeria): Bishop, I am Ande Emmanuel, clergy delegate from Southern Nigeria Annual Conference. We are a little bit confused where we are going on the *DCA* because the pages are not projected on the screen, and that makes it very difficult for some delegates to make decision.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank you very much. And let me, let me tell you where we are. We are on p. 2205. 2205 is where we

are. And we have, we have heard a presentation of the recommendation from the committee and a presentation of the minority report. I do have a motion to table, postpone, or refer. Joe Kilpatrick on mic. 6, please.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. I do make a motion that we table this matter. It sounds exactly like the things we've dealt with already. Thank you.

Motion to Table Global Climate Stewardship

BISHOP ALSTED: We have a motion before us to table this matter. This is not debatable, so please take out your voting devices. And if you agree to table this you vote one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 455; No, 269]

We have decided to table this, and we move on to the next Calendar Item. Amey?

Environmental Health

BETHANY LIN AMEY (Greater New Jersey): It's Bethany, but that's OK. If you'll turn to DCA p. 2206, Calendar Item 376 on ADCA p. 271, and we are on Petition No. 60261, Environmental Health. This petition was supported in committee with a vote of fifty-seven that supported the petition, and twelve that did not. This resolution replaces the current Resolution 1022, A Dioxin Free Future, that is about to expire. This resolution is a more comprehensive plan to help us understand the need for regulation of toxins in our environment. The committee realizes that this quite a lengthy resolution, however, it brings forth an important background, and can then be used as a teaching tool for the church. Therefore, the committee recommends you adopt this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. We have the petition before us. And

I'm looking for speakers in favor or against. I have one speaker, against, Jane Honeycutt, on mic. 6. Please move to the mic. And then I'm looking for a speaker in favor of the motion.

JANE DENISE HONEYCUTT (Virginia): I'm sorry, Bishop, I just removed my name. That was for the previous.

BISHOP ALSTED: Alright. Then we don't have any speaker in favor or against. I believe we are ready to vote on this petition. If you would take out your voting devices and vote one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 596; No, 118]

(pause)

Thank you and the motion prevailed. Thank you very much and thank you, Amey.

AMEY: Bethany, but that's OK.

BISHOP ALSTED: Oh, I'm sorry. Bethany.

(laughter)

AMEY: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. We have been made aware of... that there is someone outside of the bar voting. So, I ask you, if you are seated outside of the bar and you are a delegate. If you are seated out there with your voting device, please step into the bar of the conference, find your seat, and do your work from there. That would help all of us.

I do have a person who wishes to move new business. Joseph DiPaolo on mic. 5.

Motion to Direct Bishops to Hold Special Called General Conference

JOSEPH FRANK DIPAOLO (Eastern Pennsylvania): Bishop, Joe DiPaolo, Eastern Penn, USA. I'd like to make a motion as follows: "We the delegates of the 2016 General

Conference resolve that a special session of General Conference, for the purposes outlined in the bishops' statement of May 18th shall be held no later than December 1, 2018, it's specific timing to be determined by the Council of Bishops." If there's a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Is there a second to this motion? There is a second. Please go ahead and speak.

DIPAOLO: Bishop, I am very grateful for the leadership of our bishops and their desire to lend their godly wisdom to our church in trying to help us figure a way forward through these issues that divide us. And I pray and hope that the process that we have authorized as a result of the bishops' statement will prove a means of grace through which God may do something new and surprising which will maintain our global unity and also our integrity as a covenant community accountable to each other.

I am concerned, however, that the statement merely suggests that, as a possibility, and it may not occur. And I am concerned that there will be a temptation, that if God does do something through this, or seeks to do it, but there is a delay in the commission's ability to reach consensus, there may be a putting off of things until it's too late, and then we'll be back here in 2020, in the same situation we found ourselves in ten days ago. I think it's important that we delegates, who authorized this process, see this through to its completion; that we make sure that it occurs. This gives it two and a half years for that commission to do its work and come back.

I hope and pray that we will see something wonderful occur through this. We serve a God, as our bishop preaching this morning reminded us, reading from Paul, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, far above

anything we can ask or imagine. God's been known to part some seas on occasion, but when God does do that, the people of God are called to make a commitment to step down into that muddy clay and walk through the walls of water to the other side. So this is an invitation for this body to make that commitment. Thank you.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank You very much, could you please read the motion to us again and then hand it in in writing to secretary?

JOSEPH DIPAOLO (Eastern Pennsylvania): We, the delegates of the 2016 General Conference resolved that a special session of General Conference for the purposes outlined in the Bishop's statement of May 18th, shall be held no later than December 1, 2018, its specific timing to be determined by the Council of Bishops.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank You. We have that motion before us, and there is Douglas Damron I recognize at Mic. 4 for a speech against. And Alice Williams, on Mic. 1, for a speech in favor of the motion.

DOUGLAS ALAN DAMRON (West Ohio): Douglas Damron, Clergy, West Ohio Conference. I share Joe's hope that over the next two, three or up to four years that God does lead our church to find a way around the issues that divide us. But I remember Bishop Ough's statement earlier this week, in his report in his report from the Council of Bishops. He talked about space. Space for the Holy Spirit to work, and that includes time. So, I think by putting this, setting the clock at two and a half years, that's limiting the Holy Spirit. If it's three years, or if it is 2020, let's trust our episcopal leadership as they have outlined this framework for a process to keep us united in mission and ministry together. I urge your non-adoption of my friend's motion.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank You. I do have a couple of points of order, I do hope it's point of order, and if you, if I call you to the microphone, please state which rules, which rule this concerns. Bonnie Marden at mic. 6.

BONNIE MARDEN (New England): Bonnie Marden, New England Conference. It is a point of information, and I do not know the *Book of Discipline* reference. I would like clarification about who has the authority to call a special session of the General Conference. I was under the impression that right was reserved to the Council of Bishops, so seeking clarification.

BISHOP ALSTED: The General Conference has the power to call a General Conference, and the Council of Bishops does. Alright, I do have a motion to table postpone or refer, that would Mihail Stefanov at Mic. 3. Please go ahead.

MIHAIL VASKOV STEFANOV (Bulgaria- Romania): Bishop, Mihail Stefanov, Bulgaria-Romania Provisional Annual Conference. And I move to table that motion.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank You. This is in order. Please take out your voting devices. This is not debatable. If you are in favor of tabling this motion you press one (1) for yes and two (2) for no.
[Yes, 405; No, 333]

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. We have moved to table this motion, and I ask that we clear the queue. Then we moved to our next Calendar Item. And I call on Kim Reisman, the Chair of the Judicial Administration Committee.

(pause)

BISHOP ALSTED: Yeah, it's 445.

Church Right to Appeal

AMY LIPPOLDT (Great Plains): Thank You Bishop. My

name is Amy Lippoldt, and I am standing in for Kim Reisman who had to leave. I was privileged to be the chairperson, the sub-committee chairperson, of sub-committee B that dealt with this petition item. We are in the DCA on p. 2213, 2213, Calendar Item 445. You'll find it in the ADCA on p.1032. Petition No. 60069.

The committee rejected this petition by a vote of thirty against and twenty voted in favor. We have a minority report that Steven Sparks is going to present. Do I speak to the committee's rationale first, or Steven first, Bishop?

BISHOP ALSTED: This is not a minority report, this is pulled off the Consent Calendar I believe.

LIPPOLDT: Does he speak first, or do I?

BISHOP ALSTED: You speak first, please go ahead—

LIPPOLDT: OK.

BISHOP ALSTED: I'm sorry. The person who brings it, who supposed to speak on the floor, please go ahead.

STEPHEN LAWRENCE SPARKS (Mississippi): Bishop, Stephen Sparks, Mississippi Annual Conference. I rise to move this session of the General Conference to approve Petition 60069, found on p. 1032 of your *Advance Daily Christian Advocate*. It is a petition originating in The Mississippi Annual Conference, surrounding the right of the church to appeal. The additional language to ¶2715 of the *Discipline* would provide that only on questions of law, but not on questions of fact, the church shall have a right to appeal to the Committee on Appeals and the Judicial Council. There are provisions within this paragraph that allow the church to have equal footing with the respondent. As it stands now, if there are egregious errors of law, or interpretation of the *Discipline*, there is no mechanism in existence,

by which the church can appeal that ruling and have justice done.

One of the concerns in our committee was, would this violate the right against double jeopardy? If, I could, I would direct the body to ¶2701.2.d on p.774 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, and it reads, “. . . no bill or charges shall be certified by any Committee on Investigation after an earlier bill of charges has been certified by the Committee on Investigation based on the same alleged occurrences.” If it was an appeal that was referred back to the original court, or the original annual conference for review, that would not be a re-certification.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. I turn to the chair of the committee.

BISHOP L. JONATHAN HOLSTON: . . . attention to the Chair of the Committee.

AMY E. LIPPOLDT (Great Plains): After a lengthy discussion on both sub-committee and our committee, we felt that, in fact, this was not a necessary protection for the church. In talking about parallels with secular law, that once an institution or the state loses a case, and the findings of fact remain, which this petition says when, is about, that the findings of facts are still in place, that there is no right to appeal, that the case is lost. In the *Discipline*, there are already provision up and to the point of a trial that that the church can register and appeal but once the trial is finished, then the church loses its right to appeal. The committee felt like, in whole, that this did, adopting as Steven said, a right to appeal after trial would, in fact, constitute double jeopardy and, therefore, we voted against it and urge you to do the same.

BISHOP HOLSTON: Thank you, I do have a point of order. Sergey Kim on mic. 2. Please state which rule this concerns.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, dear Bishop. Since this chief speaker was speaking too fast, our interpreters could not translate it to us.

BISHOP HOLSTON: Which speaker was speaking too fast?

KIM: (*simultaneous interpretation*) The previous speaker.

BISHOP HOLSTON: OK. Could you please restate your arguments, and do it a little slower?

(*pause*)

BISHOP HOLSTON: Could you please let me know? Is it the speaker on the microphone here on the stage, or is it the other speaker you did not get the translation of?

(*pause*)

SPARKS: I think it was me, Bishop.

BISHOP HOLSTON: If you could just give a brief summary of what you said, I think that would be helpful?

SPARKS: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HOLSTON: Thank you.

SPARKS: This petition would seek to give the church the right to appeal a decision of law only to the Committee on Appeals or the Judicial Council. One of the arguments as well-stated by my learned colleague on stage, was that some in the committee felt that this would invoke double jeopardy. However, double jeopardy as defined by ¶2701, subparagraph 2.d, on p. 774 of the 2012 *Discipline*, defines double jeopardy this way, “No bill of charges shall be certified by any committee on investigation after an earlier bill of charges has been certified by Committee on Investigation based on the same alleged occurrences.” A referral back to the court of question would not be a recertification, and double jeopardy would not be implied by our own definition.

BISHOP HOLSTON: Thank you very much. Now this is where it gets a little tricky. We have the recommendation from the committee to vote ‘no’ to this petition and we have a group of twenty people who has taken it off the Consent Calendar. And when we speak on this petition, we speak on the petition, we do not speak on the recommendation of the legislative committee. We speak on the petition. So, I ask a person to speak first in favor of the petition, William Stikes, on Mic. 6, and then I have, William Campbell, as a speech opposed, on Mic. 6, as well.

WILLIAM HENRY STIKES (North Georgia): Bill Stikes, North Georgia. To me this is a question of fairness. This does not grant a right of appeal to the church. If the trial court determines no violation occurred, only if the church process has been misapplied. For that reason, I urge you to vote “yes.”

BISHOP HOLSTON: Thank you and the speech against, William Campbell, on mic. 6.

SCOTT CAMPBELL (New England): Scott Campbell from New England, clergy member. This opens up a can of worms that we may not want to open. It is always possible in any legal case to find some kind of legal challenge. This puts respondents in perpetual jeopardy of being tried again for something that they have already been declared innocent of i.e. a trial court. If we move in this direction, we are going to undo one of the basic protections that has existed from the beginning of our judicial system in The United Methodist Church. I urge you to vote “no” to this amendment, or this petition.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank you. I do have a motion either to table, postpone, or refer. Sara Swenson, on mic. 5.

SARA ANN SWENSON (Minnesota): Sara Swenson, lay delegate,

from Minnesota. I move to refer this to the Judicial Council. It seems like they should have some input as sort of the experts in this matter, and it would be good to get their opinion on it. Thanks.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much, Sara. Referral to the Judicial Council is not debatable. It requires one fifth of the votes, twenty percent, of the votes. So, if you would take out your voting devices, and if you wish to refer this petition for consideration by the Judicial Council, you one (1) for yes, or two (2) for no. Please vote now.
[Yes, 404; No, 341]

Church Right of Appeal Referred to Judicial Council

BISHOP ALSTED: You have voted to refer this to the Judicial Council. Thank you. I think we can clear the queue now. And, then I turn to the legislative committee on Conferences, Bill Allen. Bill Allen, if you would come to the mic..

Mandatory Vote

WILLIAM ARTHUR ALLEN (Upper New York): Alright, the first item before us is found on p. 2208 of the *DCA*. It's listed as Calendar Item No. 394, p. 449 of the *ADCA*, and Petition No. 60226.

The committee voted to recommend acceptance of this petition as amended. And the vote was forty-six votes for, twenty-one votes against. The rationale is this: the specific words of the amendment occur on p. 2208, that's in your *DCA*. According to the rules of our system, certain concerns can only be dealt with by General Conference. The committee felt that it is appropriate for all petitions that have been submitted to receive a vote in legislative committee. And for all petitions that have been approved by a legislative committee to receive a vote by the plenary

session at General Conference. And therefore, the committee recommends acceptance of the petition as amended.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. We have the amended petition before us. And I am looking for speeches in favor or against. There is a person who requiring to move the previous question, but that is not in order at this point, before we've had two speeches in favor and two speeches against. I call on Jeff Jernigan, on mic. 6, as a speech in favor, and Emily Allen, on mic. 4, with a speech against.

JEFF S. JERNIGAN (North Georgia): Jeff Jernigan, North Georgia, lay. Friends, if we want to try to provide some function back in our meetings, this is the petition that can help do that. For those of you who are veterans and have been here prior to 2012, if you remember, we always had to vote on every petition. The subcommittee had to deal with every petition, and every one that passed subcommittee had to be dealt with on plenary. It provides discipline. It provides incentive for us to do our work. Many people work hard to send in these petitions. It is not fair for us to ignore them and to provide incentive for people to delay, and delay, and delay, and delay. You have seen the dysfunction this last week. This will help put an end to that. Please vote yes, and support the committee.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. I call on Emily Allen, on mic. 4, and then I'm going to call Simon Mafunda, on mic. 2.

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Emily Allen, California-Nevada Annual Conference, where I serve as the agenda chair of our annual conference session. It is my repeat experience over several years there as well as a couple of years as a General Conference delegate

that we as delegates will happily take as much time as given to continue discussing legislation. We could take three weeks for General Conference, and still fill all of our plenary time. The only thing that would control that is control of how many amendments, referrals, tables, points of order, etcetera. Putting a rule that we must consider all legislation would put us in a bind at the end of General Conference, when our convention center contract runs out, when our staff are in overtime, and none of us have time to carefully consider the work before us. I urge you to vote against this motion. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: I have Simon Mafunda on mic. 2. And if Tyler Amundsen would make his way to mic. 3, please.

SIMON MAFUNDA (East Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. Simon Mafunda, Zimbabwe East. I also rise to support voting for this petition. It is very important that we support this because a lot of very important petitions will have been worked in the legislative committees. And they never see the rise of the sun because of the programs that we have. So for us to be able to make sure that all the important petitions go through, it is correct and it is noble to support this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. We've now had two speeches in favor, one against. I call on the second speaker against, Tyler Amundson on mic. 3, and then we will move into voting.

TYLER FLINT AMUNDSON (Yellowstone): Tyler Amundson, Yellowstone Annual Conference. I rise against this petition. This petition puts out an unreasonable reality for us at General Conference in whereby we would be restricted and actually spend way more money, which has been the argument against wasting time throughout this General

Conference. For many people who seem to continue to come to the mic. to bring points of order and that kind of thing, I think we need to show some self-discipline as Christians and learn how to go through a legislation and not play political games on the floor of General Conference. I would vote no on this petition.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Yes, you do, but I do have a couple of points of order. Sara Swenson on mic. 5.

SARA ANN SWENSON (Minnesota): Apologies after the last things that we've heard. Sara...

BISHOP ALSTED: What is your point of order?

SWENSON: Question—just—it's a, for information on point eleven, it says that all petitions that have been submitted to General Conference shall receive a vote. Does that include some of the work that gets done in grouping them together, or even work that gets done by reference committees, and kind of ruling them out? What is the emphasis on that's which has been submitted?

BISHOP ALSTED: I think that would be a matter of interpretation. Please si—George Howard, point of order on mic. 4.

GEORGE GLENN HOWARD (West Ohio): George Howard, laity, West Ohio. Bishop, I would appreciate if you could clarify a statement that was made earlier. The statement was made that "it has been our practice to deal with all petitions that have come before us and have been dealt with in legislative session." And I'm not sure that's a true statement, but I don't know, so I would like some clarity.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you.

(*conferring*)

Thank you very much for that question. I will ask Gere Reist to answer.

Secretary Reist Describes Unfinished Work at Past Conferences

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): In the past, at various times, we've used different techniques to deal with petitions that were unfinished. And in fact, in many instances, we just did a blanket referral, that way we finished it. We sent them all off to a general agency to look at. And we did not necessarily act on every petition in the sense of adopting it or rejecting it. You can have a peti—you can deal with it by saying, "Well, we're gonna take fifty petitions and send them to the Connectional Table." That's the kind of thing we did in the past.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Anthony Tang on mic. 2. And I would really like this to be a point of order. Otherwise, we're going to move on. (*Speaker declined.*) Thank you very much.

We move to the chair of the committee for a final speech.

WILLIAM ARTHUR ALLEN (Upper New York): The committee is simply trying to be faithful to all the folks who submitted petitions to General Conference. We know that literally hundreds, if not thousands of people, have worked thousands of hours to do their best to submit petitions to General Conference. And it's very disheartening if those petitions are simply not dealt with and never see the light of plenary. So the committee was working towards the idea here of, of being faithful to the people who submitted them, and also understanding that giving people an incentive to move forward can sometimes help people to move quicker in plenary and maybe not ask so many questions, that type of thing.

We also wanted to just be honoring of the fact that it is possible to use delay tactics, knowing

that petitions will just disappear if we just kind of drag time out. If you take away that ability to make petitions disappear, then you will, you will, we believe, be incentivized to actually deal with them in an appropriate way. So, really in order that we might truly honor the people that have brought the petitions, and that we would use our time wisely, we recommend strongly that you accept this petition as we have amended it. Thank you very much.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Alright. We have the petition, as amended, before us. We are ready to vote. If you would take out your voting devices. If you vote in favor of the petition as amended, you vote one (1) and two (2) for no. [*Yes, 406; No, 361*]

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank you. And the petition was approved. I would like to say to you that since we started this afternoon, we have been able to deal with four and a half Calendar Items. We had half of a Calendar Item from this morning, so four and a half; and this means we still have seventy-one to go. So, we need to pick up the speed, and you need to help me to do this. So, please, help all of us. We clear the queue and we move on to Financial Administration. I call on Jessica Vargo.

Native American Ministries Sunday

JESSICA H. VARGO (East Ohio): Good afternoon, again. The next petition item I bring is a quickie, so I feel comfortable that we will be moving this along. You can find this in your DCA p. 2101. Again, that is 2101. Calendar Item 52. Petition No. 60299. It's entitled Native American Ministries Sunday. Again, Calendar 52. This petition purely just extends the language of this paragraph, instead of just being

urban, it expands it to include rural. The legislative committee strongly urges you to adopt this petition.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. We have the petition before us. I don't see any speakers in favor or against, so I believe we are ready to vote. If you would take out your voting devices. And if you would vote in favor of the petition you vote one (1), and two (2) if you want to vote against.

[Yes, 700; No, 37]

Thank you, and the petition is adopted. We move on to General Administration, Connie Clark. And if we could clear the queue.

*Praise for General
Administration Committee
Leadership Team*

CORNELIA ANNE CLARK (Tennessee): Thank you, Bishop. Good afternoon. I am Connie Clark, privileged to be a lay delegate from the Tennessee Annual Conference and Chair of General Administration. I join my other committee chairs in thanking the leadership team of our committee who worked very hard over all the petitions and they are: Betty Kazadi, who was our vice-chair, Eddie Erwin, who was our secretary, three wonderful sub-committee chairs, Bondo Nday, Joergen Thaarup, and Rebekah Miles.

I come with the first petition, one that is related to the one you just heard. It is Calendar Item 68, found on p. 2102 of the DCA, p. 788 of the ADCA, Petition No. 60298. This petition would amend another paragraph of the *Discipline*, 263.6.c.2, to provide that in the Native American Ministries Sunday offering that we already have, that the proceeds of that be divided between both urban and rural congregations. So, again, we are not adding a special Sunday, we already have one. We are not

changing where the moneys go. But we, too, are adding in this petition the words "rural congregations" to the words already there, "urban congregations" so that the moneys may be spent in both. The committee vote was fifty-five for, ten against, and the committee strongly recommends the adoption of this petition.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. I recognize Cynthia Kent on mic. 4, for a motion to amend.

CYNTHIA KENT (Greater New Jersey): Cynthia Kent, laity, Greater New Jersey. I would like to amend to add "reservation." "Urban, rural, and reservations..."

BISHOP ALSTED: Is there a second? There's a second. You are allowed to speak to it.

KENT: In our Native American communities, rural and reservation is different, being that reservations are sovereign lands, so in order for us to do ministry in those areas, sometimes we have to go to the Tribal Councils to have ministry there, so that's why we'd like to use "reservations" in this.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. We have the amendment before us. Is there any debate? I don't see any. If you would vote in favor of the amendment, you vote one (1); if you want to vote against, you vote two (2). Please vote now. [Yes, 679; No, 50]

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. And the amendment passed. Thank you very much. Richard Shaffer on mic. 4, that is also for an amendment.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Oh, it's already addressed. Thank you very much. Then we have the motion, the petition as amended before us, and I don't see anyone who wishes to speak. I believe we are ready to vote. Take out your voting devices. If you vote in favor of the petition as amended, you will

vote one (1), and two (2) against. Please vote now.

[Yes, 726; No, 12]

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you, and the petition as amended passes.

CORNELIA ANNE CLARK (Tennessee): Thank you, Bishop. The second item coming from General Administration concerns a proposed amendment to paragraph four of the constitution and to present that amendment is the subcommittee of the chair, subcommittee chair of the subcommittee that considered it, Rebekah Miles.

*Inclusiveness of Gender
and Age*

REBEKAH L. MILES (Arkansas): Rebekah Miles, Arkansas Conference. We are presenting Calendar Item 429, found on p. 2212 of Monday's DCA. The petition entitled, "Inclusiveness of Gender and Age," is a revision of Constitutional Paragraph 4, Article 4. The original Petition 60163 is found on p. 785 of the ADCA. The committee recommended approval of this amended petition by a vote of fifty-eight to eleven. As a constitutional paragraph it will require a two-thirds vote. It had the support of eighty-four percent of the committee.

The original petition was developed by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, in conversation with United Methodist Women, and then was also approved by the General Board of Discipleship, and the young, United Methodist Young People's Assembly. Their aim was to add gender and age to the paragraph in a way that would allow the church to continue to have groups that are all female, all male, or all of one age. The General Administration committee amended the petition in conversation with senior representatives of the United Methodist Women, and the Commission on the Status

and Role of Women by adding to the fourth and final sentence of this paragraph, the categories not only gender and age, but also ability, and marital status. We followed the lead of the original petition and added gender and age only to the last part of the fourth sentence so that we could continue to have groups made up of the same gender and the same age which is such an important part of the Wesleyan tradition.

There are many other things I could say about this petition, actually I have four pages, but in the interest of time, I will stop here and say I am delighted to join with eighty-four percent of the General Administration committee and move the approval—

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Thank you very much. We have the petition before us and I call on Maurice Ngongo for a speech against. Mic. 3, no mic. 2, I'm sorry.

MAURICE KIKOMBA NGONGO (Central Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you very much. Yes, I am a delegate, a lay delegate from Central Congo. I am asking the conference to not vote yes for this petition because it includes a trap. It is fluid and unclear as long as we do not find a solution in terms of the marriage of homosexuals. If we support this petition, this will be a trap for the General Conference. So, as a delegate, I believe that until we find a better answer to this whole question of marriage, we should do nothing with this petition. We should come back to it later. I ask you to vote no on this petition.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. I recognize Leigh Goodrich, on mic. 6. And then I am going to call on a David Livingston on mic. 2.

LEIGH ELIZABETH GOODRICH (New England): I am Lee Goodrich. I am from the New England Annual Conference, and I speak in support of this petition.

Women and people of all ages require our support in all areas of The United Methodist Church. "Status" does not refer to sexual orientation. "Status" refers to our roles within the church and I urge you to vote for this petition. In the words of Justin Trudeau, "It is 2016."

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. I do have a point of order. Milton Loyer, on mic. 5.

MILTON W. LOYER (Susquehanna): Bishop, this is a question. Milton Loyer, Susquehanna Conference of Pennsylvania. The speaker kept saying gender and age, but the printed material I have says gender and sex. I think there might be a misprint some place. Could you clarify that?

BISHOP ALSTED: Could you clarify that?

MILES: You bet. So we are dealing with Calendar Item 429. There are a number of other petitions that were in the DCA, ADCA rather, and they added nine to ten more categories, and one of the petitions was sex and age, I believe, but we rejected that petition in favor of this one.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. David Livingston, please go ahead.

DAVID SCOTT LIVINGSTON (Great Plains): Thank you, Bishop. I speak in favor of this petition. I was this subcommittee and actually offered an amendment in the subcommittee to add sexual orientation. I was prepared to add that, again, from the floor today, but I'm not doing that, and a big part of the reason for that is because of the action that we've already taken. I think wisely to try to defer all of those matters for the next couple of years until a commission and so on can take place. As—I say that because I want to be clear that we've had in subcommittee and committee the conversations around those issues and came to a place that I think we have wide sup-

port for, that would help us to move forward on a change that really helps the UMW and so on, and so I hope that we can move forward with this as it's currently written. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: We've now had two speeches in favor and one against. I'm looking for a speech against, but there is nothing on my screen. So, I think we are ready to vote. This does require a two-third majority. It is a constitutional amendment. If you vote in favor of the petition, you'll vote one (1) for yes, and against two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It—it just exactly passed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Halleluia. Halleluia.
[Yes, 509; No, 242]

(applause)

BISHOP ALSTED: Then we move on to the Legislative Committee on Ministry, Higher Education and Superintendency. Kim Ingram.

Mandatory Retirement of CC Bishops

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): It's been a few days. I'm glad to be back with you. I'm Kim Ingram, a deacon from Western North Carolina. The next petition that we will consider is in the DCA on p. 2193, 2193. It is Calendar Item 218. It can be found in the ADCA on p. 1150. And it is Petition No. 60974.

Many petitions were submitted to this General Conference to address episcopal accountability. This petition clears up an inconsistency by clarifying the existing policy for mandatory retirement of Central Conference bishops. Requiring Central Conference bishops to retire no later than three months after the

close of General Conference ensures a consistent timeline for mandatory retirement for all United Methodist bishops. The committee recommends to adopt. The vote was seventy-three for, and one against.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. We have the petition before us. And I call on Owen Tshibang, mic. 2. I'm sorry if I don't pronounce your—your name correctly.

OWAN KASAP TSHIBANG (Northwest Katanga): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Kasap Owan, North Katanga, Northwest. I would ask that those who are going to be translate to be very careful about what I am saying. And to translate textual—word-for-word what I say. This petition, I wrote it. In the commission I asked that we clear it up, because they had taken things out of what I had written. It was not the entire petition. There were certain sentences that were changed. So what I wanted to say, that I wanted there be harmony between the *Discipline* of 2012, and the *North African Book of Discipline*.

In ¶408 of that book, it says that I as a professor of *The Book of Discipline*, I see that there is a contradiction. The *2012 Book of Discipline* in ¶408, and what we find in the *North African Book of Discipline*. ¶408 says that a bishop who is retiring from the Central Conferences cannot go more than one year beyond his retirement. That means that a bishop can stay in his office for a year. And so that means that our bishops, they would still be there in March of 2017. ¶408 of *The Book of Discipline* of 2012—*The Book of Discipline* in North Africa will be applied. So, I want there to be harmony between these two things, and there is no harmony in this petition as it is presented here. I would like to withdraw it.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you.

So, you're not able—you're not able to withdraw it. This petition now belongs to the conference, and it is rightfully before us. I call on Tshimbu Muyombi for a point of order. And then I'm going to call on Forbes Matonga for a speech in favor of the motion on mic. 3. Mr. Muyombi, mic. 4.

TSHIMBU JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, Bishop, for giving me the floor. Bishop, I would like to ask to the committee that handled this petition. I—I am not able to understand that the bishop who worked and completed his term, I think that we need to have him depart with success. We would like to know what are the reasons why he wanted to review this petition, and why he wanted to submit it to this body.

BISHOP ALSTED: Are you able to respond to the question?

INGRAM: I don't think I understand the question, but this came out of subcommittee without conversation in committee, so I'm not able to really address any questions about conversations we had in the committee about this particular petition.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. I turn to Timothy Riss also for a point of order, mic. 6. There appears to be a translation issue.

(pause)

TIMOTHY J RISS (New York): Bishop, may I speak?

BISHOP ALSTED: We just want to make sure that we have solved the translation issue. Is it okay now? No, it does not seem to be.

(pause)

Is it OK now? It's OK? Excellent. Thank you. Timothy Riss on mic. 6 for point of order.

RISS: Actually, It's perhaps a question because the...

BISHOP ALSTED: Let's try.

RISS: The Calendar Item seems to me to be making no sense. If I go to the *Discipline*, and ¶408.1.b, it reads, "A bishop in a Central Conference shall be retired at a date no later than one year following the adjournment of General Conference." And then in the Calendar Item it says, "General Conference 2016." So, this is a place in the *Discipline* that is not intended to be date specific, and it makes no sense to say bishops will retire at the end of this annual, General Conference. Unless I'm completely misreading this.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Can we ask for clarification on that from the committee?

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): So, I can only give you what I think it's saying. So, in the U.S., bishops retire within three months after General Conference is adjourned. And this petition would bring into alignment, around the world, the time frame in which bishops would retire at the point that they are retiring within that same sort of time frame for all bishops.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. I've a speech again – Yes, you can.

RISS: The only problem is the addition of the number 2016. I think the Calendar Item would say what the committee wants it to say, if that were not in place.

BISHOP ALSTED: And I think you are right. I think you are right, but to deal with that we need a motion to amend the petition. Right now, I do have a few who wish to amend the petition. I will go to Sergei Nikolaev, on mic. 2.

SERGEI NIKOLAEV (Central Russia): Sergei Nikolaev, Central Russia. Bishop, I was actually trying to press the button to refer. Should I re-enter?

BISHOP ALSTED: But that would be out of order at this point.

NIKOLAEV: Oh, OK. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. And I recognize Benjamin Trammell on mic. 3, with a motion to amend.

BENJAMIN DAVID TRAMMELL (Texas): Ben Trammell, Texas Annual Conference, clergy. Move to amend to delete the reference to the specific year in the currently proposed petition.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. Is there a second to that? It's seconded. Do you wish to speak to this?

TRAMMELL: I think it will fix it.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much.

(laughter)

Thank you very much. And I believe we need to clear the queue at this point. So now we have the amendment before us. Anyone who wishes to speak to the amendment? If you would vote in favor of the amendment, please take out your voting devices. If you vote in favor, press one (1); against, press two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 652; No, 68]

Alright, the amendment is approved. We now have the petition, as amended, before us. Anyone who wishes to speak to the petition as amended? I do have Joy Barrett for a motion to amend on mic. 1. Joy Barrett, please move to mic. 1.

JOY ANNA BARRETT (Detroit): Joy Barrett, Detroit Annual Conference. I do believe, Bishop, this would be a motion to amend, but I might need your help.

BISHOP ALSTED: Try it.

BARRETT: Let me try this: I move that this action become effective with the adjournment of General Conference.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you, that is in order. Is there a second

to this motion? There is a second. Please speak to it.

BARRETT: As I understand the conversation we had in the legislative committee, there was a desire that this be effective immediately. If we do not add this language, this provision does not go into effect until January of 2017. I urge your support. Thank you.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. We need to clear the queue. Again, let's see if anyone wishes to speak in favor or against this amendment. I don't see any. Then, we're ready to vote. If you wish to vote in favor of the amendment, of the motion, of the amendment, you vote one, press one (1); if you wish to vote against, you press two (2).

[Yes, 632; No, 81]

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you, the amendment has passed. And we have the motion as amended before us. I don't see anyone who wishes to speak to the motion. We are ready to vote. If you vote in favor of the motion as amended, you press one (1); and opposed, you press two (2).

[Yes, 683; No, 47]

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you. And the petition is adopted. Then we are at a point where we have our afternoon break. And we will be back in, we'll be back at 4:27. And we will resume our business and Kim Ingram will continue to lead us. Thank you. You are in recess.

Friday Evening, May 20, 2016

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: Friends, we're ready to begin. We are ready to begin. I invite you to please be seated. There is a motion before us. Please take your seats. Alright, we're now gonna begin. Good afternoon, General Conference.

ALL: Good afternoon.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, let's try that again. I think you can do that better. Good afternoon, General Conference.

ALL: Good afternoon.

BISHOP SCHOL: Good afternoon, my name is John Schol, I am a bishop in The United Methodist Church, serving the New Jersey area, and I'm grateful for the way that you've been working together and just the way that we've been able to move through the petitions this afternoon, and we wanna continue that process. Working with me today are two of my colleagues, to my left, is Bishop Bob Hoshibata and he is from the Phoenix area and then also to my right, is Bishop Sally Dyck from the Chicago area. I've invited Sally to come back and join us, just in case the body needs any other hot tips.

(applause)

She told me she has a full bag of hot tips for the body this afternoon. This is our last session together this General Conference. Amen? Amen. You know I thought about some biblical passages to read as we get started, and my mind went right to the last days, or the last day. And as I started to read some of those passages about the end times, I thought maybe that's not quite the way to go. But, I do wanna just share a portion of John 14, one of the final times Jesus was with his disciples. And Jesus said to this to them, "Peace I leave with you. Not as the world gives, but as I give. Let not your hearts be troubled."

Let us join together in prayer. Come angel of God and preside over this session, as we prepare to move from discussing the church, to being the church, from deliberation to Gospel action, from wondering what will change to being the change we want to see. Come Holy Spirit, bless our

deliberation and set us free to be the church. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

So let me just remind you where we are. We have sixty-six petitions yet before us. We'll do the best that we can. We will be discussing petitions until 5:45 when we have an order of the day, and then at 6:00 we will move to closing worship. That is our time together this afternoon, and so as we begin, I wanna turn to Kim Ingram, the chair of Ministry in Higher Education/Superintendency. Kim, welcome.

Election of Central Conference Bishops

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Our next petition is on *DCA* page 2217, 2217. It is Calendar Item No. 468. It can be found in the *ADCA* on p. 1080, and it is Petition No. 60525. Item No. 468 also addresses episcopal accountability as it relates to the timing of episcopal elections. This petition ensures that Central Conference episcopal elections are held during the regular annual meeting of the Central Conference. This prevents the delay of episcopal elections beyond the scheduled Central Conference session. This item standardizes the timing for episcopal elections across the United Methodist connection. The Committee recommends to adopt. The vote was seventy for and two against.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Thank you very much. We're on Petition No. 60525, p. 2217 in the *DCA*, and in the *ADCA* page 1080. Are you ready to vote? Seeing that we're ready to vote, I invite you to take out your keypad. Vote one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 621; No, 15]

(pause)

BISHOP SCHOLL: Alright, that was a constitutional matter. It required two-thirds vote and it is sustained. Thank you very much. We'll turn now back to Kim for the next item.

Changes to Board of Ordained Ministry

INGRAM: The next item is on page *DCA* no. 2217. It is Calendar Item No. 472. It can be found in the *ADCA* on page 1162, and it is Petition No. 60183. The committee recommends the petition with the amendments which are printed on p. 2217, but better identified by looking at the *ADCA* on p. 1162 and *The Book of Discipline* on p. 458. I'll walk us through them one at a time.

First, and this is a different order than what is printed in the *DCA*. We'll look at the *ADCA*, p. 1162 where the original petition is printed. Looking at this page, strike through the first six lines, which is two short paragraphs, starting with "through-out" and ending with "leadership," and then keep the rest of the petition as printed in the *DCA*.

The next two amendments are additions at different places in the paragraph that aren't included in the portion printed in the *DCA* or the *ADCA*. So you'll need to look at your *Book of Discipline* to follow along. Turn to p. 458 in the *Book of Discipline* which is paragraph 635. The second amendment removes the words "full-time." If you look at the beginning of paragraph 635, and count down five lines in the English version, "the membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry includes at least two associate members or full-time local pastors." Strike the words "full-time."

The third amendment is an insert at the bottom of the same p. 458. At the very bottom of the p. on the last line in the English version, you'll see a period after the word "cabinet" and

before the word "two." After that period, you'll insert the sentence, "No district superintendent or extended cabinet member shall be the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry."

The original petition expands the description of the role of the Board of Ordained Ministry to match the actual duties that Boards of Ordained Ministry are expected to fulfill. The amendments to the petition address three important changes needed for the organization and membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The first change that I noted deletes the portion of the petition that would require changing the names of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The second change which I listed brings the membership requirements for local pastors into consistency with the decision made on Calendar Item 227 *DCA* p. 2193, that allows for full-time or part-time local pastors to chair the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, thus allowing part-time local pastors who have finished the Course of Study, to serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the third change to the petition clarifies that no District Superintendent or extended cabinet member shall chair the Board of Ordained Ministry. This maintains the separation of powers between the Board of Ordained Ministry's responsibility to credential clergy and the cabinet's responsibility to supervise and deploy clergy. This brings paragraph 635 into consistency with the adopted Calendar Item 221 that clarifies that District Superintendent shall not chair the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. The Committee recommends to adopt. The vote was forty-eight for adoption and twenty-eight against adoption.

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: Alright, This is properly before us, we're on p. 2217, Calendar Item 472. Petition No. 60183. *ADCA* 1162. Are you ready to vote? I see that you are ready to vote. Please take out your voting device. Alright, there are . . . We have a point of order, Jeremy Pridgeon and we're gonna invite you to go to mic. 4. Mic. no. 4.

JEREMY KIMBLE PRIDGEON (Alabama-West Florida):

Thank you Bishop—

BISHOP SCHOL: Yes

PRIDGEON: Jeremy Pridgeon, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference. I'm just curious as to whether or not there's a corresponding constitutional amendment to address the places in ¶33, where they explicitly list the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committee on Ordained Ministry?

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Will turn to the Chair.

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North California): Jeremy, I'm not sure what you're asking.

BISHOP SCHOL: Could you please ask that again?

PRIDGEON: It appears to be a name change in the petition, where they strikethrough to The Committee on Ministerial Leadership? Deletion? OK, thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, we're glad you're able to answer that for yourself, that's wonderful. OK. Are you ready to vote? Please take out your voting devices. All who would support signify by selecting one (1), yes and number two (2), no. Please vote now.
[Yes, 674; No, 31]

Clergy Transfers

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, it is approved. Thank you. And now we'll turn to the next item and Kim, we again turn to you.

INGRAM: The next item is on *DCA* p. 2216, 2216. It is Calendar Item 463. It can be found in the *ADCA* on p. 1134, and it is Petition No. 60193. For an ordained clergy or provisional member to transfer from one annual conference to another, it will require a recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee and approval by the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference. The Committee recommends to adopt; the vote was sixty for adoption, and fifteen against adoption.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, that is properly before us. Let me, I wanna let you know that we have cleared the queue; we have cleared the queue. We are now on Item p. 2217. Calendar Item No. 463. Petition No. 60193. *ADCA* 1134. Are you ready to vote? I see that you are ready to vote. Please take out your voting devices. Press one (1) for yes and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 653; No, 61]

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, that is approved. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Kim, for you and your committee's work. You've done a great job. Thank you. Let's give her a hand and the committee as well.

(*applause*)

BISHOP SCHOL: We'll now turn to Krystl Johnson from Global Ministries. Well, Charles you're not Krystl. She's somewhere in the room. Krystl if you're in the room. Please come up—

Praise for Global Ministries Committee Leadership

CHARLES S. G. BOAYUE (Detroit): Please come up. And while she's coming, bishop, I think I would do a quick gratitude to the leadership of Global Ministries Committee. This would be our last item present-

ed to this General Conference. We are grateful for the leadership of our elected team. David Wilson, and will you stand where you are and hold your applause for them, David Wilson, was the vice-chair from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. Our Secretary was Martha Thompson, from the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We have two Sub-committees, sub-committee A, was Krystl Johnson, who will come and join me because she will present this item, she was the chair from the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. Becky Hall, vice-chair, from the Holston Conference. Riley O'Flynn, secretary from the Upper New York Conference. The leadership of sub-committee B, Chair was Mande Muyombo from North Katanga; Vice-chair, Bunny Wolfe from Illinois, Great Rivers; and secretary, Molly McEntire from the Florida Conference. We are grateful to this leaders and especially our two youngest leaders who give great leadership to our committee. At this time I would turn to Krystl Johnson for our last item. Thank you very much.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Thank you, Charles. Krystl, welcome.

Wadi Foquin

KRYSTL DAWN JOHNSON (Eastern Pennsylvania): Hi, Hello Everyone. My name is Krystl Johnson Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The item I bring before you today is entitled "Wadi Foquin," it can be found on p. 2213 of Monday's *DCA*, that's 2213. It is Calendar Item 437. You can also find it on p. 892 of the *ADCA*; It is Petition No. 60843. The General Board of Global Ministry supports this Palestinian Village as a designated advance project community development site. Through a letter penned by the General Conference, this petition seeks to inform U.S. officials, the U.S. Consulate

in Jerusalem, and the Israeli Civil Authority of our relationship with the villagers of Wadi Foquin. The letter will urge U.S. officials to call for the Israeli government to cease any further expansion of settlements, confiscation of . . . confiscation of land, and destruction of life in the village occupied by the Palestinians. The petition supports the withholding of foreign aid until accountability is in place and human rights are restored. With a vote of forty-six in favor, eighteen against, and three abstaining members, our committee recommends adoption and approval of this petition.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Thank you Krystl. That is properly before us, we are on page no. 2213 of the *DCA*, Calendar Item 437. Petition No. 60843. *ADCA* page no. 892.

CHARLES S. G. BOAYUE (Detroit): Bishop, there is a minority report.

BISHOP SCHOL: Oh, there is a minority report. Alright. Then, we will receive the minority report. Who will be giving that? Jill Wondel, mic. 6. Thank you.

JILL ALISON WONDEL (Missouri): Hi, Jill Wondel, from the Missouri Annual Conference. As you can see on the minority report on *DCA*, p. 2213, we're concerned about a call for withholding foreign aid. In that regard, I would like to make an amendment the original petition, if that would be in order.

BISHOP SCHOL: Yes, that is in order.

WONDEL: I would like to make an amendment that at the end of paragraph C, we delete the sentence that says, "withholding foreign aid until accountability is in place and human rights are restored." So, that sentence would end after, land and life.

BISHOP SCHOL: Excuse me? I'm sorry. You are amending the minority report?

WONDEL: No, I'm amending the original petition.

BISHOP SCHOL: So, this is not a minority report, but it is an amendment to the original petition? Is that correct?

WONDEL: Yes.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. Then that is not a minority report; that is an amendment. Is that coming from the committee? How did that happen? Tell me a little bit about that.

WONDEL: Earlier in our conference together, we misunderstood what a minority report was and several minority reports were ruled out of order because they were just an argument against. And so, we gathered together and understood that we needed to do something different.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. Then we will take this as an amendment. Is there a second? Alright. There is a second. It is properly before us. Before we go to that, we do have a point of order. And, let's see, Sandra Olewine, if you would go to mic. 2. Please state your purpose.

SANDRA KAY OLEWINE (California-Pacific): Sandy Olewine, California-Pacific Conference, clergy. I was just going to call the minority report out of order 'cause it violates our rules. And so, now, she's getting to make an amendment, so.

BISHOP SCHOL: Well, yes, I'm sorry that it happened the way it did. We thought it was a minority report, so we'll move forward with the amendment. Would you like to speak for it? The maker of the amendment?

WONDEL: Yes.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. Great. Thank you.

WONDEL: Our main concern with this petition was not that it was, we believe this is a great ministry that is happening in the Palestinian area, but we were concerned about withholding foreign aid. The last part of the sentence is not clear about when that aid would be restored.

And so, we felt like it wasn't clear or fair.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. So, that is a speech for. We're on the amendment. We have one speech for. We have someone in the queue that would like to speak against it. Armando, I have a little trouble seeing here, Armando Arellano, we're going to invite you to go to mic. 5.

ARMANDO CONTRERAS ARELLANO (East Ohio): Armando Arellano, East Ohio Cavaliers, I mean Conference. Well, when I signed up, Bishop, it was, I want to speak against the minority report, so I think it was no longer . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: Well, we have an amendment before us. There is no minority report. OK. Is there anyone else that would like to speak against the amendment? Not seeing any, oh, there's one there. Sandra Olewine, please go to mic. 2.

OLEWINE: OK. Thank you, Bishop. Sandra Olewine, California-Pacific Annual Conference, clergy. I would speak against the amendment. The petition calls us to communicate to our government and to the Israeli Civil Authorities. The destruction and confiscation of land that continues to go on in Wadi Foquin that is destroying the agricultural life, the potential for the families and the people to continue to live in that village, to work, to be able to feed their families. The call for the cessation of financial aid to Israel is a way of saying that we're serious about this. It's a call for it, it's not demanding it, but it's suggesting that that's the way in which we can begin to hold Israel accountable for the violations of human rights that continue to go on in the occupied territories. It's an important way of leverage.

This is not about punishing Israel, somehow, against the Palestinian Authority or holding them in different places, but the reality is we

give money to support Israel, which continues to support the confiscation of the land, the destruction of the way of life of this village, in which we have invested time and energy and commitment to, and it's a way for us to begin to say that there are human rights standards that we value and that we do not want our tax dollars to continue to go to those things which destroy life and actually defeat the call that we have to build peace and trust between these two peoples. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, thank you very much. We've had one speech for and one speech against. I'm gonna invite the person who made the amendment to please bring that up in writing, so that we have that here at the desk. If you'd bring that to the secretary.

Alright. We have Edwin Momoh that would like to speak, for, mic. 6.

EDWIN JULIUS JEBLAR B. MOMOH (Sierra Leone): Bishop, Edwin Momoh, from the Sierra Leone Annual Conference. I would like to speak in favor of the amendment.

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: That is in order.

MOMOH: And, Bishop, I have been to Israel twice, and I have listened passionately to presentations made from both sides of the divide. But given the complexity of the situation in those lands, I have an idea that any biased mind that goes in will come out even more confused. I would love to see the end of illegal occupation, sure. I also would love to see an end to oppression of Christian... Palestinian Christians. I would love to see both sides living side by side without fear. But I believe in legislation of this nature demanding the U.S. government's action to withhold foreign aids from people needing aid will not only be in the best interests of bringing these two sides together, and even bringing a needed change. The language in

that petition is overly broad and it is seemingly very general. Using one situation for a generality can, unfortunately, be very misleading, and therefore, I would want to uphold the amendment.

BISHOP SCHOL: That is a speech against the amendment. That sounded like it was for did you indicate that it was against the amendment.

MOMOH: I am upholding the amendment, Bishop.

BISHOP SCHOL: Excuse me?

MOMOH: I am upholding the amendment.

BISHOP SCHOL: You are in favor.

MOMOH: I'm in favor.

BISHOP SCHOL: You are in favor, OK, thank you very much. So we have had two speeches for, one speech against. And the chair, the vice-chair of the committee would like to speak last, who is going to speak against. We will come to that in just one, no we will actually be able to go to that now. So, you may have the last word.

KRYSTL DAWN JOHNSON (Holston): We are not in support of the amendment. It's not just about land and the confiscation of land. The petition expresses our concerns regarding the poor quality of life inflicted on the villagers of Wadi Foquin. As an advance project community development site, this project equips women with entrepreneurial skills, trains up locals in first aide, and teaches young men Hebrew, so that they can acquire employment in Israeli companies. These efforts and initiatives that we do as United Methodists are in jeopardy, because no one is holding the Israeli government accountable for the actions that destructs and disrupts the lives of the villagers. Therefore, we recommend that you support this petition as it stands. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright I see that you are ready to vote. Please take your keypad. All those who would vote in favor please select one (1) for yes, and those who oppose, two (2) for no. Please vote now. *[Yes, 384; No, 342]*

BISHOP SCHOL: The amendment is supported. It is now part of the main motion. We are now back on the main motion, DCA 2213. Calendar Item 437. ADCA 892. We have not had any speeches for or against. OK, we do not have the amendment, yet. That needs to be brought forward. Please bring that now. Alright, I have someone who would like to speak for the petition. Shayla Jordan, and if you would go to mic. 2.

SHAYLA ALLYSSA RAE-ANNE JORDAN (Great Plains): Shayla Jordan, Great Plains Annual Conference. I would just like to speak in for this petition and tell the conference a little bit about this village. This village currently, it lies right on the border of where the West Bank is, and where Israel is. And Israel is constantly moving in that border. So, this village right now is in potential to be taken over. This village is constantly under occupation right next to it and oppression. This is also a village that GBGM has built a soccer field on, and has been threatened to be taken down because they didn't have a building permit for it, because we weren't allowed to get a building permit on the Palestinian side.

And so this village needs the support of us. They need the petition to go to the government, so that we are saying that we are in favor of them. This isn't an issue of whether it's, you're for or against Israel. This isn't a political agenda. This is simply human rights. These people are under oppression. They are constantly being threatened with demolition orders. There's people that live on

this land that their houses have been torn down multiple times. Their trees have been uprooted. This is terrible. And, so I think that you guys should vote in favor of this petition that we support Wadi Foquin. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you very much. We've had one speech for, no speeches against. I see there is no one that wants to speak against the motion. Are you ready to vote? All of those, please take out your keypads. It has been amended, which deletes C in the petition. All those who would vote in favor, please select one (1). All of those opposed, please select two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 587; No, 166]

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: Alright you have supported the petition. Thank you very much.

CHARLES S. G. BOAYUE (Detroit Annual Conference): Bishop, we just wanted to let the house know. They have four other petitions we're not able to consider. We ran out of time on Saturday. They may come up depending on how much time is left. But I guess the work of the God in this world is never completely done. Thank you very much.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you. Let's share our appreciation for the Board of Global Ministries.

(applause)

We do have a Judicial Council ruling. And I'm going to turn to our Secretary to read the decision.

Judicial Council Review of Decisions 542 and 544

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): The digest of the decision in the request from the General Conference for review of Judicial Council decisions 542 and 544, as well as paragraphs 16, 33, 304, and 2702.

Paragraphs sixteen and thirty-three of the constitution assign specific authority and responsibility to the General Conference and to the annual conferences in The United Methodist Church. They are not in conflict. Paragraphs 304 and 2702 are legitimate legislative enactments of the General Conference. Decisions 542 and 544 of the Judicial Council are not in conflict. There are dissenting opinions.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, thank you very much. And, again, we're grateful for the work of the Judicial Council that's been working pretty hard. We've had them working pretty hard since we've been here. We're grateful for their work and their continued ministry. I'm now going to turn to a point of order. Oliver Green, mic. no. 2. Could you please go to the mic., and state your purpose.

OLIVER D. GREEN (Great Plains Annual Conference): Oliver Green, Great Plains Conference. Bishop, I just wanna make sure I understood what you just said before you went to the judicial issue. On the Wadi Foquin petition,

BISHOP SCHOL: Yes?

GREEN: I understood that the amendment did pass. Is that correct?

BISHOP SCHOL: That's correct.

GREEN: And the amendment was not to delete "C," but to delete a portion of "C". Help me if I'm incorrect.

BISHOP SCHOL: I think you're correct. Unfortunately we did not have the amendment here and I relied on the chair and so I'm sorry we didn't quite get that exact. But thank you for helping us with that. Thank you very much. Alright. We're now going to move to the next petition. And LaTrelle Easterling, from Church and Society B.

Culture and Identity

LATRELLE ELAINE EASTERLING (New England): Thank you, Bishop. The petition that is before us can be found in your DCA on p. 2207, DCA p. 2207. Calendar Item 386, Calendar Item 386. In your ADCA it is p. 299, ADCA, p. 299, and the Petition No. is 60114, 60114, "Culture and Identity." There is an amendment. The amendment would change the location of the petition, should this body move to adopt. Instead of becoming part of a subparagraph of 161, it would now be 161a, and all of the other subparagraphs would move beneath it.

Human diversity is a reflection of God. It is not the antithesis of who we are in God. It is the very reflection of who we are in God. Through relationships and engagements with different cultures, we learn from one another. We have talked a lot in these past eleven days about how we are a global church. Within that global church, there's a cacophony of different languages, and different dialects. That is part of the beauty of who we are.

Yet, as we grasp our identity as a global church, we must take care to be sure that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than another. There should not be one culture that's deemed "normative" and all other cultures beneath that. None should be privileged over another. And where we find such, the church is called to challenge all such hierarchies. And so, Bishop, with that amendment, the petition is before the body.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. And you're amending the *Discipline*. Is that correct?

EASTERLING: Yes, it's placement in the *Discipline*.

BISHOP SCHOL: It's placement. So you're actually moving from one paragraph to another place in the *Discipline*.

EASTERLING: It would become 161a, so it would become the first part of that paragraph.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Very good. So p. 2207, Calendar Item 386, Petition No. 60114, ADCA 299 is properly before us. I see we have a point of order, or parliamentary inquiry. I going to ask Betty Katiyo to go to mic. 3.

BETTY SPIWE KATIYO (West Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. It's actually taken care of. I wanted to ask about the Judicial Council ruling.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK.

KATIYO: I didn't understand it. But then you'd already passed.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. Thank you. Alright, the petition is now before us. I do see there is someone who would like to speak for. Let's see. James Nibbelink, and go to mic. no. 2.

JAMES CHARLES NIBBELINK (Desert Southwest): Thank you, Bishop. Jim Nibbelink, Desert Southwest, lay. I was part of this discussion which was rich and extended. And my wife and I have been privileged to have been to many parts of the world, most of the continents, and we have been so enriched by becoming familiar, as best we could, with the local people, wherever they lived. My culture, I have learned, is the same overall in our values of human life, healthy children, and those kinds of things. I find no reason to differentiate, to lift one culture above another. I may have left thinking I was pretty good, but I learned that everyone else is good, as well. So I support the intent, I support the legislation, and how it's been amended. I recommend that we all support it so that we can all affirm as children of God, there is one culture under God and we are those children.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you. That is a speech for. Now looking for a speech against. I see that Holly

Grant would like to speak against the petition. If you would go to mic. no. 5.

HOLLY JEAN GRANT (East Ohio): Thank you very much, Bishop. I would speak against this because of the word "cultural identity." Here at annual conference I have seen words that I have identified, or defined all my life in one way, twisted to mean something else. And so I am leery of what and how this change will be, moved, used.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, thank you very much. That's a speech against. We've had one speech for and one speech against. We'll now turn to a speech for. Tshimbu Muyombi, mic. 4.

TSHIMBU JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, Bishop, for granting me the opportunity to speak. It's Jethro Tshimbu Muyombi. So, I would like to speak for.

BISHOP SCHOL: That is in order. You may speak.

MUYOMBI: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. I would like to speak for and perhaps, I might even ask to go to Ezekiel 20:18, but I would have liked to have added that to this. I am basing myself on that text from Scripture, because the word of God says that we have been called by Jesus Christ and that we are children of God, and we have a culture which is the culture of Jesus Christ. I am one of those who has had the opportunity to travel here and there. And I have been really frustrated when I arrive in a church that is said to be United Methodist and that I find that their way of adoring God is truly connected to their tradition, and that is not a part of the universal church or the Methodist Church. So that identity of Jesus Christ is... and to reduce these cultures, I think that will give us a better chance to be an inclusive church and will give us a real feeling

of being a United Methodist Church. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you very much. That was a speech for. We've had two speeches for and one speech against. I do see there is a motion to move, to table, or postpone, or refer. Sergey Kim, mic. 2.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Dear, dear Bishop. I would like to offer to postpone the petition, and not to waste our time.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, that's a move to table. Is there a second? There was a second. Alright, to table is not debatable. There is now a motion before us to table this petition. Please take out your keypads. Are you ready to vote? All who would table the petition, please select one (1). Those who do not want to table, please select two (2). Please vote now.

[Yes, 333; No, 421]

Alright, you have voted not to table. We're back on the main petition. We've had two speeches for, one speech against. I do see Paul Morelli would like to speak against, mic. 6, please.

PAUL MICHAEL MORELLI (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Paul Morelli, Western Pennsylvania Conference, lay delegate. I just keep this short. I don't like the wording in this, and the thought that comes to mind is something that apologist, Dr. Ravi Zaccarius said one time. He said, "Some cultures love their neighbors, some cultures eat their neighbors. Do you have a personal preference?"

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: Alright. That's a speech against. We've had two speeches for, two against. We now will turn to the chair for any other comments.

LATRELLE ELAINE EASTERLING (New England): I'd just like to close with this, "After this, I

looked and behold a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands." In God, we are unified, but it does not nullify our diversity, it makes it all the more beautiful. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you very much. Please take out your keypads. We're now ready to vote on DCA 2207. Calendar Item 386. Petition No. 60114. ADCA 290. If you would support the petition, please push one, select one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now. *[Yes, 559; No, 213]*

And the petition is supported. Thank you very much for your work. We appreciate that greatly. Let's share our appreciation.

(applause)

Alright. We're gonna turn to the next item and we have with us, Brad, is that right?

BRADLEY DAVID LAURVICK (Rocky Mountain): Yes, Sir.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Brad.

LAURVICK: My name is Bradley Laurvick, clergy from the Rocky Mountain Conference, and Chair of the Church and Society B subcommittee, too. I cannot adequately express what a joy of ministry it was serving in that subcommittee. It was easily the pinnacle of holy conferencing, and I will long remember my work with its members.

I bring for your consideration from that subcommittee and then committee, a petition related to the church's ministry with those going through divorce. It amends language in the paragraph to speak of nurturing healthy relationships. Oh, I forgot all those important numbers. My apologies.

Divorce

We'll be on the DCA p. 2207, 2207. You'll find it there as Calendar Item 385. In your ADCA, you'll find it on p. 301. It's Petition No. 60680, on p. 301, 60680. Speaking of Divorce.

Now that we're literally on the same page, I bring for your consideration this petition related to the church's ministry with those going through divorce. It amends language in the paragraph to speak of nurturing healthy relationships, expanding the timeline of marriage ministry to include premarital and post-marital. With this new language, the church is seen helping at every stage of relationships during marriage. For example, good pre-marriage work can help minimize divorce. And good post-divorce care must be offered like we do at other times of loss. The committee supported this petition forty-eight to twenty-three. I close with language that already exists in the paragraph. God's plan is for lifelong, faithful marriage. This petition lets us support that further.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Thank you very much. The petition is now before you. Are you ready to vote? I do see a point of order. Froydis Grinna, mic. 1, please?

FROYDIS GRINNA (Norway): Thank you, Bishop. Froydis Grinna, Norway Annual Conference. I tried to slip in with a point of order in between the two. So, I'm sorry that this is not related to this commission's work. Do you want me to proceed or to wait?

BISHOP SCHOL: Is it something that is—are we out of order on something. Is it a question?

GRINNA: I rise to request—to request a decision by the Judicial—Judicial Council.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK, that is—you've asked to come before us.

That's not a proper—you did not use the proper mechanism for that.

GRINNA: OK. I tried that earlier, but didn't get in, either.

BISHOP SCHOL: Is that right?

GRINNA: Yes.

BISHOP SCHOL: We're gonna have to do something about that. So, I'll look for you when you go back and—and work and get you in the right slot there.

GRINNA: Thank you very much, Bishop.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you. Alright. We're back on the petition. Alright? Are you ready to vote? There's no one that's—that wants to speak for or against, so I trust you're ready to vote. Please take out your keypad. If you would select number one (1) to support the petition, number two (2) to vote no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 655; No, 102]

The petition is supported. Thank you very much. We appreciate your work.

LAURVICK: Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you, Fred.

Alright, we'll now move to the next item. And Beverly—no, Morris Matthis.

MORRIS FRANKLIN MATTHIS (Texas): This is—Bishop, this is being brought from the floor by Beverly Guy.

BISHOP SCHOL: Ah, very good.

MATTHIS: So, you're on—you got it.

BISHOP SCHOL: I got it right. OK. Beverly, what microphone? Mic. 1? I have that right? Here she comes.

Responsible Parenthood

BEVERLY ANN GUY (West Michigan): Beverly Nichea Guy, West Michigan Conference, lay. I stand before you bringing the

Responsible Parenthood petition. This is a revision and re-adoption. This petition upholds our church's carefully nuanced position on abortion. The petition does not change *The Book of Discipline's* position on abortion. Parenthood is sacred. It allows for, time for education, medical care, responsible choices, and this needs to be done fairly for all.

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL:

Excuse me, one second. I think we need to help the body understand where we are.

GUY: Sure.

MORRIS FRANKLIN MATTHIS (Texas): Do you want me to do it?

BISHOP SCHOL: Yes, please.

MATTHIS: So, the petition that we're working on is in your *DCA* p. 2323. 2323. Calendar No. 497. 497. And in your *ADCAs* p. 327. 327. Petition No. 60249.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, thank you very much. This is brought up, has been brought to us off the Consent Calendar, so that's why it's coming.

MATTHIS: It's not Consent Calendar. It's not Consent Calendar. It's not supported.

BISHOP SCHOL: Oh, I see.

MATTHIS: It was not supported.

BISHOP SCHOL: It was not supported, so it's coming from the floor. We'll go back now to mic. 1.

GUY: Thank you, Bishop. This petition, we felt, did not get adequate debate. It was toward the end of Saturday evening, and it did not get the equal number of debating. I will return to say that parenthood is sacred. And this petition would allow us to provide more education, better medical care, and responsible choices in contraception that enables women to respond to the challenges that are put before them. It stresses family planning, access to good maternal healthcare.

The World Health Organization uses the following definition, "Family planning allows individuals and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births. It is achieved through the use of contraceptive methods and treatment in maternal healthcare." I am asking us to look beyond our middle-class lenses—most of us in this room fall in that category—to look at how this would affect women and families around the world that would help to safeguard their maternal health rights and provide for safe, responsible, productive healthcare for women and girls, and thus helping us to broaden our global nature of maternal health. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. That is a speech for. Is there a speech against? I see there's a speech against. I'm gonna turn to Vicki Steinheim, Steinamin, mic. 6.

VICKI JEAN STAHLMAN (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Vicki Stahlman, Western Pennsylvania.

BISHOP SCHOL: Sorry.

STAHLMAN: I come before this body as a grandmother who will become a grandmother again in just one month. My grandson already has a name, Hunter James. We began to anticipate his arrival as soon as we heard that my daughter-in-law was pregnant. I implore you to hear my words. This petition does not recognize that his little life began at conception. Abortion stops a beating heart. Even if you consider yourself pro-choice, this resolution does not recognize the humanity and value of my grandson. Please vote against this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, that's a speech against the petition. We've had one speech for and one speech against. I'm gonna turn to Emma Cantor, mic. 3 to speak for. Mic. 3.

EMMA ALAMIN CANTOR (North Central Philippines): Bishop, Emma Cantor, from the Philippines Central Conference. I work around Asia, especially the under-developed countries. And I'm with a lot of mothers and parents who are poor. Majority of them are poor. And mothers are multi-burdened. They think of where living is needed to be responded to, and they work hard, and they still bear a lot of problems around families. And thus, there is a need to educate mothers, especially, on responsible parenthood because many mothers in these third-world countries have no access at all in terms of the provisions by government and in terms even of provisions by private.

We talk about medical provisions, we talk about access of centers that has to be given to them, but they are not available. So, I plead this conference to ease the burdens of mothers and parents, as well, to give them immediate response to what they need as mothers of the lands. This responsible parenthood has been already discussed among the United Nations levels about sustainable development goals, and I plead that this conference would approve responsible parenthood. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you very much. That is a speech for. We have two speeches for, one speech against. I see that there is a point of order or parliamentary inquiry. I'm gonna turn to James Eychaner? Eychaner, at mic. 4.

JAMES EYCHANER (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. James Eychaner from Sacramento, California, California-Nevada Annual Conference. I see that this resolution was originally adopted in 1976, readopted in 1996, 2004, and...

BISHOP SCHOL: What is your point of order?

EYCHANER: ...2008. My question for information, sir . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: OK.

EYCHANER: . . . is, if we defeat this petition, does that mean that the entire several pages of this resolution will disappear from *The Book of Resolutions*? Thank you.

MORRIS FRANKLIN MATTHIS (Texas): (*off microphone*) The answer's yes.

BISHOP SCHOL: Yes. I'll turn to the chair.

MATTHIS: I believe the answer to that is yes.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright.

Thank you very much. Now, we're back on speeches. We have two for, and one against. I see that Beverly Maddox would like to speak against, mic. no. 4, please, mic. no. 4.

BEVERLY BAGGETT MADDOX (Alabama-West Florida): Good afternoon, Bishop. I'm Beverly Maddox from the Alabama-West Florida Conference. I speak against this petition, because the language in it does support abortion. It supports it as a means of birth control. It plainly says any safe, effective means of birth control for parents who have decided that their family is enough and they don't want any more children, for families who have decided that their daughters do not need to have a baby.

I reject this petition on the grounds that it says that life does not begin at the moment of conception. Please explain that to me as a mother who has had multiple miscarriages. My babies' lives began the minute that those two cells joined together and began to multiply, immediately. God created me this way and I stand to vote—ask you to not support this. Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright.

Thank you very much. That's a speech against. We've had two speeches for and two against. We're ready to go to vote, but I do see there's a point of order or parliamen-

tary inquiry. Michel Akre, mic. no. 5. Is it a Michael? Ah, there he is.

MICHEL A. AKRE (Cote d'Ivoire): Merci, Bishop. (*simultaneous interpretation*) Michel Akre from the Annual Conference of Ivory Coast, Cote d'Ivoire. If you allow me, I would like to remind everyone that we are a United Methodist Church, so we are a big church, a large church that constitutes the body of Christ.

BISHOP SCHOL: Excuse me.

AKRE: (*simultaneous interpretation*) And that is the reason of our presence here.

BISHOP SCHOL: Can you just hold one second? Please, state the purpose for coming to the mic. Is this a point of order or a question?

AKRE: (*simultaneous interpretation*) The—I am against abortion and I would like to justify—I would like to justify my opposition towards abortion.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you.

AKRE: (*simultaneous interpretation*) I would like to remind everyone . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you. We've already had two speeches for and two speeches against. We cannot take any more speeches against. We're now gonna go to the vote. Please take out your keypads. If you would vote in favor, please press one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[*Yes, 310; No, 445*]

Thank you. You did not support. I do see there are cards. When we're in the middle of a vote we cannot turn to any mic. I do see, I'll recognize you at mic. no. 6. Name and purpose, please.

CHARLES WALTER SAVAGE (North Georgia): Chuck Savage, clergy, North Georgia. And when we decided to take this vote, the question that I was trying to raise is, since the *DCA* says that the commit-

tee voted not to support, was the vote to support the committee, or was the vote to support the petition?

BISHOP SCHOL: Yes, it was, it was on the petition. The petition was brought from the person from the floor. She brought the petition. It was a straight up vote for the petition or against the petition. That's by our rules.

SAVAGE: Thank you.

BISHOP SCHOL: I'm gonna turn now to our Secretary who has an announcement.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary, General Conference): Actually, it's a request. Would Dr. Rhoda Monzo, Dr. Rhoda Monzo, from Nigeria, please come to the, to the table here.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (*off microphone*) Go ahead.

MATTHIS: As a previous Committee Chair said, we also have more petitions on the schedule, but I'm gonna go out on a limb and guess that this is the last report for Church and Society two. And just want to express appreciation to the, to the members of that committee who engaged one another in authentic ways in dealing with some of the most difficult issues that we face in our church and really in our culture. And they did so with love and grace throughout, so it was a true blessing to work with each of them. Thanks, so much.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright.

Thank you. Let us share our appreciation for the committee and the chairs.

(*applause*)

Now, let me just say that there are, you can stay here, Bethany. Let me just say that there are people in the queue that would like to bring new motions to the floor. I'm not calling on those persons because we already have calendared items before us. So, people wanna bring new busi-

ness before us, and so that's why I'm staying with what is calendared. If we have time, or if, you know, I feel we need to, we'll turn to those, but we're gonna stay with our calendared items.

So, now we're gonna turn to Bethany Amey.

Caring for Creation: A Call to Stewardship and Justice

BETHANY LIN AMEY (Greater New Jersey): Thank you, Bishop. Bethany Amey, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. Church and Society A. We are now on *DCA*, p. 2206, Calendar Item No. 377; *ADCA*, p. no. 279, Petition No. 60448, "Caring for Creation: A Call to Stewardship and Justice." This petition was supported in committee with a vote of forty-seven in favor, twelve did not support. This petition combines and clearly streamlines five existing resolutions to provide one foundational statement for study and action to care for God's good creation. This committee made one amendment that can be found on *DCA*, p. 2206. This amendment was to include language that is currently in *The Book of Resolutions* that supports the clergy letter project. This is a project that is focused on education on matters of science and religion. No other changes were made to the petition as submitted. Furthermore, the committee recommends that you adopt this petition as printed. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Thank you, Bethany. So we're on *DCA*, p. 2206. We're on Calendar Item 378, Petition No. 60448, *ADCA* 279. That is properly before us. I see there is no one who wants to speak for or against. Are you ready to vote? All of those, please take out your keypads. Excuse me? We'll go to mic. no. 2. I see somebody waving a card. Maybe their iPad is not working, their keypad. Mic. no. 2.

DIXIE K. BREWSTER (Great Plains): Dixie Brewster, Great Plains Conference. And I want to speak against this because . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: You didn't queue in. Was there a problem with the queue machine?

BREWSTER: Yes. You were going to vote and I didn't get queued in because I . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. Well we'll queue you in now. And your name again?

BREWSTER: Thank you. Dixie Brewster, Great Plains Conference. And, I am against, I looked it up online and it says the purpose of this clergy letter project is to support the teaching of evolution. And I believe that is a very dangerous territory to go into, and so I strongly speak against this.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. That is a speech against. Is there a speech for? Alright. Bethany, you have the last word. Would you like to say anything?

AMEY: Like I said in my earlier statement, the committee voted to support this petition with a vote of forty-seven to twelve. It is a streamlining of petitions that are currently there, and we did make the small amendment. But it was still passed in committee with a vote of forty-seven to twelve. So I recommend that you support this petition.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, please take out your keypads. All of those who would vote in support, please select one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.
[Yes, 476; No, 276]

BISHOP SCHOL: And you have supported the petition. Thank you, Amey. I see that you have one more. Amey, before we go to that . . .

AMEY: Bethany

(laughter)

BISHOP SCHOL: Bethany. Bethany. Bethany. Now what you need to know is Bethany's from Greater New Jersey Conference and every time she comes to the floor in the Greater New Jersey Conference, I do the same thing. So I told her just a few minutes ago I was going to start to call her Merle.

(laughter)

AMEY: And I said you could call me Matt, Bishop.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK. Matt. Matt. We're going to call you Matt. Bethany, I'm so sorry. I apologize.

AMEY: It's no worries.

BISHOP SCHOL: We're now going to turn Audun Westad, who has an appeal to the chair, decision of the chair, mic. no. 1.

AUDUN WESTAD (Norway): Audun Westad, Norway Annual Conference, lay delegate. I want to appeal your decision that you just made because a couple minutes ago . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: Excuse me. Could you tell what decision you're referring to?

WESTAD: You said you would not recognize any new motion, and that's a contradiction to what you said a few minutes before.

BISHOP SCHOL: I think what I said was I would not recognize any new business. And so what I thought was happening before was somebody was making a motion, that it was actually a secondary motion and they're not making a secondary motion. So that what I was referring to.

WESTAD: OK.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK.

(laughter)

BISHOP SCHOL: You see, you see, you don't have the benefit of seeing what I have here. It's all color-coded for me. It makes it so easy and so there are different colors and if a motion is in a particular color,

it moves below the other motions. And so, the motion that two people wanted to make actually were lower motions than what is on our agenda already. So . . .

AMEY: Bethany . . .

BISHOP SCHOL: Bethany . . .

AMEY: Let me help you.

(laughter)

BISHOP SCHOL: Bethany, yeah. That's right. Bethany, would you please help me? Alright. Bethany will turn now to the petition.

*Principles for a Just
and Sustainable Extraction
and Production*

AMEY: OK, great. We are now on *DCA* p. 2206, Calendar Item 377, *ADCA*, p. no. 275, Petition No. 60262, "Principles for a Just and Sustainable Extraction and Production." The committee recommends you to adopt this petition with the amendments that are printed on p. 2206 in the *DCA*. This resolution will replace existing Resolution 1024, "The Precautionary Principle," with a more thorough tool for the evaluation of industrial processes of extraction and production, based on the four principles listed in the *ADCA*. This resolution would give an ethical framework with which to hold industries accountable to the community they operate within. The committee recommends that you adopt this resolution.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. It is properly before us. Are you ready to vote? I see no one wants to speak to it. Please take out your keypad. Please select one (1) to support, yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

[Yes, 611; No, 144]

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: And it is supported. Thank you very much, Bethany. We appreciate you

and your team's work. You have done a great job. Let's share our appreciation.

(Applause)

BETHANY LIN AMEY (Greater New Jersey): Thank you so much, Bishop, and thanks to our legislative committee.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Let's try one more. The Judicial Administration, Tim? No, not Tim.

AMY LIPPOLDT (Great Plains): Thank you, bishop. My name is Amy.

BISHOP SCHOL: Amy.

(Laughter)

BISHOP SCHOL: Amy. OK, everybody that gets to speak now, I'm just gonna call you Merle. So just, just be patient. Alright. Gosh.

*AACLL Authority to Request
Decision*

LIPPOLDT: Amy Lippoldt, Great Plains, Subcommittee Chair for Judicial Administration Committee B. We are on *DCA* p. 2103, 2103. Calendar Item 82, to be found in the *ADCA* p. 1009, dealing with Petition 60521.

This petition deals with the ability of certain groups to request a declaratory decision of the Judicial Council about whether or not a particular piece of legislation is . . . passes the constitutional test. Currently, our Council of Bishops or this body, the General Conference, can make referrals to the Judicial Council to ask for that declaratory decision before an item is acted upon. The petition allows the Association of Lay Leaders to also ask for a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council.

Our committee discussed the petition, decided it was appropriate to give the Association of Lay Leaders this authority, and we voted forty-five for, four against.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright, it is properly before us. I see that there are persons who want to speak against. I'm gonna first go to Jeffrey Ozanne, mic. 5. Jeffrey, mic. 5.

JEFFREY OZANNE (Minnesota): Thank you, Bishop. Jeffrey Ozanne, clergy delegate, Minnesota Annual Conference. I'd like to speak against this motion. I think that while it is important for people to be able to make a declaratory statement. As we saw with Plan UMC, there was a lot of concern that such premature assessments by Judicial Council would become prejudicial in how we felt about different petitions.

I also think that it's worrisome to give it to the Association of Conference Lay Leaders, because while they are elected by annual conferences, most of us vote simply on whoever's put before us in an up or down manner, very quickly without a lot of thought to all the duties and decisions they may make. When we talk about who has this sort of power, the bishops are elected both by clergy and laity in a very serious way and so I feel much more comfortable leaving them with the power along with General Conference to make these petitions for a declaratory judgment to Judicial Council.

BISHOP SCHOL: Alright. Thank you very much. That is a speech against. Before we go to a speech for, I do have someone who wants to raise a point of order, parliamentary inquiry, Andres Elfving, mic. no. 1.

ADREAS JAN MARTIN ELFVING (Finland-Swedish Provisional): Thank you, bishop. I am Andreas Elfving, Finland-Swedish Provisional Annual Conference. And I do apologize this is not regarding the matter at hand, but we are trying to figure out how to help, or follow the instructions that you gave our sister from Norway when she tried to ask for something to be referred

to the Judicial Council. As you stated earlier, it was not, she should remove herself, and do it the right way which we thought we saw her do, and then you said that you will not take up any new matters any more, which my brother from Norway then tried to correct. So, just please help us.

BISHOP SCHOL: Sure and I can appreciate what you are saying, and I should have asked what she wanted to propose and that was my fault. What originally happened was she put in for a point of order. And she wanted to make a motion and so that's out of order. I thought it was a secondary motion that she wanted to make, when really it was what we might call a third motion that she wanted to make, which really then comes after our other business that's before us. So, I apologize for misleading the body and for misleading her. It was not my intent to mislead, but she did not have the floor properly by asking for a point of order, and then when she went back in what I then did see was that she wanted to bring new business to the floor, rather than acting on the business that is already been calendared.

ELFVING: Bishop, that is, that is how we were instructed in the first session. I just looked it up in the script what was said that if we want to ask for a decision, something to be referred to the Judicial Council, that's how it should be entered into the system. So, if that is not correct, please help out.

BISHOP SCHOL: What I've just explained to you is correct.

ELFVING: So what is the thing on the iPad that one should click?

BISHOP SCHOL: That one should click.

(Bishops conferring)

BISHOP SCHOL: That is a motion to refer. It should could come under a motion to refer.

ELFVING: That seems to be the motion at hand. OK

BISHOP SCHOL: So it would come under a motion to refer.

ELFVING: We will try that.

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you. We are back on now on the, on the Item that is before us. We have had one speech against. We are gonna take one speech for, and then I'm gonna see if you are ready to vote because we are at an order of the day.

I am gonna ask Kenton Fulton to go to mic. 6.

KENTON WADE FULTON (Oklahoma): Making a statement. Kent Fulton, Oklahoma Annual Conference. Making a statement in favor of the petition. One of the beauties of The United Methodist Church is the balance and representation between clergy and laity. We have an equal number of delegates here who're clergy and laity. The conference, of annual conference, the annual conference lay leaders, essentially represent the equivalent in our system to the bishops on the lay side. The opportunity for the laity to have the Judicial Council speak on these matters seems to me only fair and in keeping with the traditions of this church.

BISHOP JOHN R. SCHOL: Thank you very much. That is a speech for. We've had a speech against, and a speech for. Let me tell you where we are. We are at an order of the day. It's a hard stop. We must stop now. I do not see anyone. I do see someone that wants to suspend the rules. Let me just see if it is in reference to what is before us. I'm gonna turn to Benjamin Trummell and to mic. no. 3. Benjamin Trummell, mic. no. 3.

BENJAMIN DAVID TRUMMELL (Texas): So I move to suspend the rules to allow us to endorse petitions that received a certain level of support in committees since we're running out of time.

BISHOP SCHOL: OK, the request is to suspend the rules so that we can endorse petitions that received a particular percentage in the committee. Is there a second? Alright, it is not debatable. It requires a two-thirds vote.

So let me tell you where we are, if you suspend the rules, there's really two things that are gonna have to be suspended, that you're gonna have to deal with here, because we're at a hard stop, so you're gonna have to extend the time, and then also you're going to have to make the additional motions. So I just want the body to be aware of where we are.

So if you vote to suspend the rules, you are not only opening the possibility to extending our time, but you are then also opening the possibility to look at petitions that received a particular percentage. It's, there's not debatable. It's been properly seconded. Please take out your keypad. It requires a two-thirds vote. Vote one (1) for "yes" and two (2) for "no." Please vote now.
[Yes, 245; No, 525]

BISHOP SCHOL: You did not suspend the rules. We are at a hard stop, so that we have completed all of the petitions that we'll be looking at this General Conference session.

(applause)

I wanna thank you. You've done a great job. We got through quite a number of petitions this afternoon. Grateful for your working together and all the good work that you've done. Invite you to hold steady. There are a couple of important things that we'll be doing. First, I'm gonna turn to our Secretary for some announcements.

Announcement

L. FITZGERALD REIST: Judicial Council memorandum 1322. The referral of proposed legislation

Petition No. 60069 came to us late in the session. Since we do not have time to deal adequately with the referral, we are returning the proposed legislation to General Conference for its action. You just needed to know that that's what happened to it.

Please return the interpretation equipment as you leave. Delegates please go to the back wall of the, what's that word? Well, where you had your snacks during the breaks, the function area. I believe, you mean out there. And the visitor who gave their documents, please go to the same location, that is, someone who used their documents to get a headset.

A delegate from Nigeria is in hospital, Amos Davidson. Took ill early this morning and is in hospital. Amos Davidson of Nigeria. Let's keep him in prayer.

This might be important for Bernadine Johnson. Bernadine Johnson, your wallet and two set of keys have been found and can be claimed at the Hospitality Desk.

Ask for prayers for Nadine Gokenhauer and family, a fourth-grader from Parsons, West Virginia. Grandparents are active in the local church and he's been diagnosed with inoperable, malignant brain stem tumor, starting radiation treatments on Monday.

Secretary Reist Says, "Thanks."

And I'm going to exceed my authority for just a moment, to say, thank you, friends. I've had a wonderful twelve years and I very much appreciate your support.

BISHOP SCHOL: We thank you, Gere. Thank you very much.

(applause)

BISHOP SCHOL: Thank you very much. We're now gonna turn to our order of the day. God bless you.

(pause)

Closing Worship

IN-YONG LEE (Western North Carolina): Hello, friends. We have reached the finish line of our United Methodist marathon known as General Conference, and like any good race, our course was difficult and complex. It challenged us mentally and physically. It pushed us to our limits. At times, we stumbled, but praise be to God, our worth is not in how many times we stumble or fall, but it is in our ability, as a church, to rise up, again, together. Let us not forget the journey that has led us to today.

(video)

(applause)

DAVID WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Now, brothers and sisters, it's time as a united church that we look towards our future. We will be in prayerful anticipation of a possible commission to help guide Christian conferencing around human sexuality. As our young people reminded us this week, that there is always room at the table for a wide variety of theological diversity within our connectional church, our family. We hear you. We will seek solution to promote our global unity.

Here are some of our God-size goals that unite us all. We will develop principled Christian leaders through a commitment to recruit, train, and engage three million-plus difference makers to transform the world as they put their faith into action. Together, we'll follow John Wesley's charge to take the church to the people. In the area of new places for new people, we will form one million new disciples who profess their faith in Jesus Christ. We'll follow Christ's command to be in ministry with the poor as we commit ourselves to growing partnerships

across the church. We'll build four hundred vibrant, faith-filled communities where we address issues of poverty. Together as a people of The United Methodist Church, we will reach one million children around the world with lifesaving health interventions. And through the work of these four areas of focus, we also plan to double the number of vital congregations across our denomination that are transforming lives and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

ANNE MARIE DETJEN (Germany North): We have renewed our commitment to strengthening theological education in the Central Conferences through innovative projects funded by the Central Conference Theological Education Fund. We are steadfast in our commitment to address the possible clergy shortage we face as a denomination by funding the Young Clergy Initiative. We will also continue our work for clergy financial sustainability. We will follow our laity as they have pledged to go into the world and make disciples through hospitality and to model and explain the meaning and method of discipleship as hope. And we will continue to challenge ourselves to define and understand what it means to be a worldwide denomination. We will also stand up with our brothers and sisters whether the issue is mascots, immigration, or gender equality. We will continue with our acts of repentance and support indigenous peoples globally, to help the healing process related to Sand Creek and other atrocities to indigenous peoples. We will continue to raise our voice in support of communities such as the Lumad's on climate change issues, which impact their very existence.

JOHN CHIKUTA (Zambia): While we were been gathering here in Portland, faithful United Methodists have been continuing around the world to do the work of God,

and these efforts to go as we journey homeward. On Sunday morning, thousands of United Methodists pastors will be preaching the gospel from our pulpits. As the new week begins, millions of lay members will carry forth that witness, fulfilling their own calling in various ways. Our church will be engaged in leading people to Christ. Our doors will be open, our arms will be extended to those in need. As we go back to our home churches, we go with a renewed commitment to lead, to proclaim, to nurture, to send, to model what it means to be the disciples of Jesus Christ. We will let our lights so shine before others that they may see our good works and give glory to God. Amen!

(applause)

(pause)

(music)

DEANDRE JOHNSON: Let us stand together as we close our time together in God's keeping.

(music)

DEANDRE JOHNSON: I invite you in this space to breathe in and to simply hum this melody with us as we sing together. Let us hum together.

(music)

Let us sing.

(music)

SCORT CHRISTY: *(speaking in Hindi)*

CHRISTY: And Jesus came and said to them, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciple of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

CHRISTY: *(speaking in Gujarati)*

JOHNSON: Sing together.

(music)

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH:

Jesus the risen Christ stood on the mountain in Galilee with the eleven disciples. He was about to ascend to the Father. The disciples worshipped him, but some doubted. A few had a point of order.

(laughter)

BISHOP OUGH: Jesus spoke. He spoke with authority and about authority. Authority that accrued to those being sent. "Go, therefore," Jesus says. "Go, therefore."

We have been here in Portland with Jesus and one another for eleven days. We have worshipped the risen Christ; we have discussed, discerned, and decided much. We have rejoiced at times and wept at times. We have experienced moments of joyful unity, and we have experienced the pain of our disunity. And some have doubted. And many have had points of order.

And now Jesus speaks to us: "Go, therefore." After eleven grueling days and at this hour, I cannot imagine there are any other more welcomed words from Jesus than "Go, therefore."

(laughter)

BISHOP OUGH: We know the task. We know the command. Make disciples everywhere with every ethnic group; baptize, teach, take my authority, and go. Remember my spirit will guide and equip and comfort and correct and empower you always to the end of the age. Go, therefore.

But where are we to go?

Where are we to go as we leave Portland? Where are we to go as we return to our home communities all across this globe?

When I find myself confronted with a question like this, I often think maybe the best thing to do is go back and see what Jesus did.

If we're to obey Jesus' command, if we are to accept Jesus' great commission, if we are to follow Jesus' pattern for making disciples, then we need to go where Jesus went. We need to go where the wounds are and proclaim there is healing for every wound, every wound, every sin, every brokenness.

So, my charge to you as we prepare to leave is this: Go, therefore. Go to where the wounds are because that is where Jesus went and that is what Jesus did. When the Roman centurion, an enemy, pleaded for his servant to be healed, what did Jesus do? You can help me here.

He went to where the wounds were.

And when the disciples were paralyzed by fear on the raging sea, Jesus awoke, and what did he do? He went to where the wounds were.

And when the Samaritan woman yearned for the living water, Jesus went to where the wounds were.

And when Lazarus lay dead in the tomb, Jesus went to where? Where the wounds were.

And when the Sanhedrin and the empire colluded to kill him, Jesus walked right into the center of the woundedness and sin of all humankind, and he gave up his life to save us.

And where did Jesus go? The risen Christ when he came out of the tomb and crossed over into life? Where did he go? He went to his disciples in an upper room, cowering in fear. He went to those walking on the road to Emmaus that were consumed with grief. That's where the risen Christ went right away. He went to where the wounds were.

Now, dear friends, we are being sent as Jesus' witnesses to follow him to where the wounds are and to

do as he did. This will not be easy, yet we know it is the faithful way. We do not go alone. That's the good news. We have each other in our great connection. And best of all, God is with us.

So, go, therefore. Go to those in our churches and beyond our churches that have been damaged or disenfranchised by the actions or inactions of this General Conference. Go to where the wounds of exclusion are.

Go, therefore. Go to those who live in poverty or are imperiled by the killer diseases of poverty. Go to where the wounds of being left behind are and enter into life with. With.

Go, therefore. Go to those who are sin-sick or filled with despair, doubt, depression, and guilt. Go to where the wounds of darkness and hopelessness are.

Go, therefore. Go to those who are despised or hated or feared because of their race, tribe, language, or faith. Go to where the wounds of bigotry and prejudice are.

Go, therefore. Go to those who cry out to be free from oppression and yearn to be invited to the banquet table. Go to where the wounds of injustice are.

Friends, it's time to come off the mountain top, if it feels like a mountain top. It's time to leave Portland. It is time to go back to where we live and work. It is time to go to where the grind and the joy of everyday life and ministry, the day-to-day routines take hold of us again.

But we do not go alone. We do not go ill-equipped. We do not go unprepared. We have one another. And here is the incredible good news. We are being sent to where Jesus himself intends to show up. We are clear about our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The vision of the beloved community is

before us. Jesus has given us all we need to succeed. We have been given the keys to the kingdom. Is that incredible, or what? We have been given the keys to the kingdom. We have been given authority—authority to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach. We have been promised Jesus' abiding, empowering, guiding, indwelling presence to the end of the age. To the end of the age.

So, dear friends, do not doubt. Do not be paralyzed with fear. Do not allow cynicism to claim your soul. Hold fast to the faith. Keep courage, and take courage from one another's faithfulness. Maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. Remember, we are one body through the cross. Pray unceasingly for the Holy Spirit to break through and revive our great United Methodist movement. Live in Jesus' presence, flooded by his grace. And take authority to go, therefore.

For the sake of Christ, and all of God's children, and the creation itself, go home. Go to all the nations. Go, therefore, in the power and name of Christ. Go to where the wounds are. Go to where Jesus went. Go to where Jesus went. Go to where Jesus went. Go, therefore, and go to where Jesus went.

May it be so. Amen. Amen.

(applause)

LAURA JACQUITH BARTLETT: In case we had forgotten it, Bishop Ough has powerfully reminded us that we are called to go, to go into the world in the name of Jesus Christ. We have worshipped together, and through that experience we have been equipped to go, therefore, and make disciples. Countless people have been gracious enough to witness to me that it is through worship that we here have been shaped by God and formed once more into the body of Christ. As we have come to gather each day

for worship, it has been my prayer that we would be able through the strength and the passion of the Holy Spirit, to imagine ourselves as a truly global body, united in the limitless, the unlimited love of Jesus Christ, who does indeed go with us every step of the way.

We know we are called to go. And as The United Methodist Church, we have spent the last ten days making decisions about how it is that we will be going with Jesus for the next four years.

We commissioned twenty-nine missionaries from eleven countries to serve the people of God, to serve with the people of God in sixteen different lands.

ALL: Thank you, God, for this good work done. Continue to guide the work that remains.

BARTLETT: We approved a petition to create a new provisional conference in Southeast Asia and Mongolia.

ALL: Into your hands we commend our spirits and the spirits of those who come after us.

BARTLETT: We celebrated the success of our Imagine No Malaria campaign. And we received the gift of a new song to take to our congregations. God is able.

ALL: Thank you, God, for this good work done. Continue to guide the work that remains.

BARTLETT: We approved the creation of a new hymnal so that the people called Methodists might sing praises to God in all our diversity and in our blessed unity.

ALL: Into your hands we commend our spirits and the spirits of those who come after us.

BARTLETT: We forged new relationships with the Moravian Church and the United Church in Sweden, recognizing each other ministries and encouraging witness and mission work together as one flock.

ALL: Thank you, God, for this

good work done. Continue to guide the work that remains.

BARTLETT: We approved the addition of five more bishops in Africa beginning in 2020, celebrating the vital ministry that is taking place on the African continent.

ALL: Into your hands we commend our spirits and the spirits of those who come after us.

BARTLETT: We asked our current Council of Bishops to lead us through our painful divide over human sexuality. And the council responded with an affirmation of their deep commitment to the unity of the church in Christ our Lord. The bishops offered a proposal to gather us at the table, to keep us talking and praying as together we seek to find a way to move forward.

ALL: Thank you, God, for this good work done. Continue to guide the work that remains.

BARTLETT: Praying together was perhaps what we did most often at General Conference, and it is what we will continue to do. I remind you that the sixty days of prayer devotional book provided to us by the General Conference prayer team is not finished yet. These daily reflections will last for another ten days as we travel back to our homes and continue on our way going with Jesus.

ALL: Into your hands we com-

mend our spirits and the spirits of those who come after us.

(music)

BARTLETT: And so we offer thanksgiving to God for the work that has been done as we prepare therefore to go.

I invite you to stand and go now as one flock. Go to do God's justice and mercy. Go to show all the world how to live like Jesus.

(music)

THOMAS ROSE: Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to where the wounds are.

DEBRA TYREE: *(speaking in Spanish)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going together as one flock.

MICHAEL RAFFERTY: *(speaking in Creole)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going together in peace.

SYLVIE NDJUNGU: *(speaking in Swahili)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to show God's mercy.

BRIELLE OCOT: *(speaking in Tagalog)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to all peoples.

TAYLOR BURTON-EDWARDS: *(speaking in German)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to live the faith.

DEANDRE JOHNSON: *(speaking in Portuguese)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to give our everything.

SCORT CHRISTY: *(speaking in Hindi)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to share abundant life.

MISSY WISE: *(speaking in French)* Therefore, go.

ALL: We are going to be the church.

(music)

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Keep going. Keep going. Keep going, going to everyplace that Jesus went. Everyplace that Jesus went. Keep going. Keep going. Go, therefore, to everyplace that Jesus went in the grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Keep going!

(music)

(applause)

(music)

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