



Traditional Plan Advances

By Heather Hahn and Kathy L. Gilbert

Feb. 25, 2019 | ST. LOUIS (UMNS)

After approving the Traditional Plan in the morning, General Conference delegates spent the afternoon debating and ultimately voting against the One Church Plan and the Simple Plan.

Delegates opposed the bishops' recommended One Church Plan by a vote of 436 to 386. The vote was 53 to almost 47 percent.

Delegates also voted against moving forward with the Simple Plan, submitted by the unofficial United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus, by a vote of 494 to 323.

Dorothee Benz, delegate from New York, made a successful amendment to pull the Simple Plan from a motion to reject all remaining petitions.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, a delegate from Great Plains, stood to speak for the motion, saying not at least discussing the plan would inflict harm.

"Yes, it's going to be defeated, that's clear. But this is the one opportunity to say we care enough to listen for a moment."

Fred Sayeh, Liberia, argued that the Simple Plan should not be singled out for "special treatment."

"Every plan had an opportunity. At this point it's clear delegates are finding a way forward," he said.

The Rev. Markus Jung, Germany South, said he had a dream that on Feb. 27, The United Methodist Church will be a church that is "colorful, diverse, full of love."

The votes mean the Traditional Plan is the only plan guaranteed to go to plenary on Feb. 26.

The One Church and Simple plans could still come back. An amended version of the Traditional Plan, which delegates did not fully take up, also could come before the body Feb. on 26.

Also heading to the plenary are two separate petitions that, with certain limitations, would allow churches to depart with their property.

The votes are a good indication of what direction delegates hope to take The United Methodist Church in its longtime debate over homosexuality. The denomination currently bans clergy from officiating at same-sex weddings or being "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." But a number of United Methodists have publicly defied those prohibitions in recent years.

The Traditional Plan aims to strengthen the denomination's prohibitions against clergy officiating at same-sex unions or being "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." The plan also encourages those who will not obey church prohibitions to find another church home.

The One Church Plan would leave questions of such weddings up to individual clergy and

Agenda for Tuesday, February 26

8:00 – 8:20 A.M.

Worship

8:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Morning Session 1

Break

Morning Session 2

12:30 – 1:30 P.M.

Lunch

1:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Afternoon Session 1

Break

Afternoon Session 2

Closing Worship

6:30 P.M.

Final Adjournment

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Daily Christian Advocate Editorial, Sales, and Subscriptions The Dome at America’s Center

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congregations — and questions of gay ordination up to individual conferences. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines — would be able to determine their own policies.

Since the 1972 General Conference, The United Methodist Church has asserted all people are of sacred worth but “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

More restrictions were added by subsequent gatherings of the international denomination’s top lawmaking assembly.

In recent years, as homosexuality gained more public acceptance in the U.S. and other parts of the church, a number of United Methodists — including whole conferences — have publicly defied these rules.

The 2016 General Conference, after rumors of a church split over homosexuality reached a fever pitch, authorized the Council of Bishops to form a commission to find a way forward.

Both the One Church and Traditional plans emerged from that commission’s work.

The One Church Plan, in particular, inspired impassioned debate during the day’s proceedings.

Defenders described the plan as a way to keep together an ethnically and theologically diverse denomination that has a number of LGBTQ members.

The Rev. Patricia Farris of the California Pacific Conference, speaking in favor of the plan, urged delegates: “Let’s not do anything here to diminish our church or its mission.”

Opponents accused the One Church Plan of dramatically changing the denomination’s connectional form of governance and violating Scripture.

Errata

On page 349, Vice Chair Betty Kazadi Musau’s annual conference was omitted from the list of Legislative Committee Officers. She is from the North Katanga Annual Conference.

On page 371, right column, 18th line from the top, the word “contextually” should read “contextuality.”

See the Editor’s Note on page 382 for a correction to the delegate list in the Sunday, February 24th edition.

“It is better to be divided by truth than united in error,” said Rudolph Merab, the lead lay delegate from the Liberia Conference. He added that the plan would not provide salvation

Much of the morning’s debate about the Traditional Plan dealt with not so much advocacy for the plan as much as efforts to address constitutional problems raised by the Judicial Council, the denomination’s top court.

Last year, bishops referred the Commission on a Way Forward’s report to the council. That report contained the One Church, Traditional and Connectional Conference plans.

The court identified problems in three sentences of the One Church Plan and in multiple petitions in the Traditional Plan. It did not take up the Connectional Conference Plan, which also did not gain committee approval on Feb. 25.

The Rev. Maxie Dunnam of the Kentucky Conference brought legislation meant to address the constitutional issues in the Traditional Plan, but the body did not have the detailed legislation in writing.

Efforts to amend the One Church Plan to bring it in line with the Judicial Council ruling also hit a snag. The first motion to delete one of the unconstitutional sentences tied 409 to 409, meaning it failed.

The other two changes passed but only narrowly.

Delegates voted to send the legislation they had approved — the Traditional Plan and the two disaffiliation petitions — to the Judicial Council for review.

The Judicial Council agreed to rule on a request by the GC2019 legislative committee to review the “constitutionality, meaning, application or effect” of the plans approved during its Feb. 24 business sessions.

The court set a deadline of 9:30 p.m. to receive opening briefs and 10:30 p.m. to receive reply briefs.

Two of the Traditional Plan’s 15 petitions were amended to address constitutional problems identified by the Judicial Council, the denomination’s top court. Throughout the morning debate, a number of delegates raised concerns that the Traditional Plan’s constitutional problems were unfixable.

Jill Wondel, a delegate from the Missouri Conference, said too many fixes were needed for the time available. She also said the Traditional Plan does not address the main issues before the body.

“The question we are asking is: ‘Does this plan unite us or not?’” she said. “We are not voting on whether homosexuality is a sin or not. We are not voting yes or no if the Bible is true.”

All the forwarded legislation still faces a vote in the General Conference plenary session on Feb. 26.

The majority of bishops recommend the One Church Plan, which allows more freedom on matters of marriage and ordination.

General Conference delegates, early in the day, defeated by a vote of 488-334 an effort to postpone discussion of the Traditional Plan and potentially bring up the One Church Plan earlier.

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Monitoring Report

We previously noted that it was going to be hard to include women's voices to the extent that they exist in the church (well over 50% if combining clergy and laity), just based on how few women are among the delegates (about one-third), and indeed, it is a challenge.

These monitoring reports cover the period from early afternoon one day to the same on the next day. So, from early Sunday afternoon to about the same time on Monday, 60% of the speakers were men and 40% were women. Indeed, women's voices are a bit more numerous than their percentage of the body, but it also depends on the topic. For example, during the debate on pension issues, very few women spoke.

Also notable was the gendered nature of the committee officer nominations. As is often the case, more women were nominated for the position of secretary and more men for the job of chair. In the end, two women were elected to the three officer spots, but both in supporting rather than leading roles. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women asked that Rev. Dr. Betty Kazadi Musau be given a chance to preside over some portion of our business, to give the seat of leadership not only to a woman, but also to a Central Conference clergywoman from Africa. We hoped to see that later in the day.

In 1888, six women were first elected by their annual conferences as lay delegates to the General Conference, but were refused seats because women were not allowed. Some of the annual conferences were ready to elect women, but some segments of the General Church were

not. A long twelve years later, in 1900, laywomen were finally admitted to the General Conference. Some Methodist women were ordained at the merger of 1939, but full clergy rights for all Methodist women came in 1956. It took another twenty years for the first clergywomen to be elected to the General Conference, in 1976. That's all to say, the road to full inclusion of women in the church has been a long one, and even now, women's voices are the minority at this, our highest legislative body, and for this very important moment in the life of the church.

Frances Willard, from the then Rock River Conference, was one of those women, who in 1888, was refused inclusion. Today, while we continue to work toward not only full gender inclusion, but full equity in the church, it is important to remember her words:

It is my dearest wish to help break down the barriers of prejudice that keep women silent.

(credited to *The Beautiful Life of Frances E. Willard: A Memorial Volume*, by Anna Adams Gordon)

By the way, also pertinent to our work, Willard also said the following:

The world is wide and I would not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum.

(credited to Women's Museum of California)

General Commission on Religion and Race Monitoring Report

Your neighbor is your other self dwelling behind a wall. In understanding, all walls shall fall down.

Who knows but that your neighbor is your better self wearing another body? See that you love him [her/they] as you would love yourself.

He [She/They] too is a manifestation of the Most High, whom you do not know.

Kahlil Gibran, Jesus, *The Son of Man:*
His Words and His deeds as Told
and Recorded by Those Who Knew Him

Individual small incidents, when considered one by one, may not seem significant, and they may appear harmless on their face. However, the collective impact of “little things” loom large when they affect our collective efforts to make normative the full inclusion of all people and to engage in holy conferencing as an open and affirming body of Christ.

We heard during Monday’s legislative session that some of our delegates were denied travel visas in time to be a part of this General Conference. Are we pained by their absence? What responsibility do we take as a body to discover why this happens and how it might be remedied in the future?

Also, unlike other General Conferences, our legislative committee work did not include opportunities for delegates from one conference to be at table and in conversation with delegates from other regions. Thus, we missed the chance for delegates to experience the stories and perspectives from church members 100 miles

away or 1,000 miles away. If we enjoy that interaction in worship and prayer, do we feel the loss of that interaction in our deliberations? How might we remedy this going forward?

We also heard from several delegates that they experienced and/or witnessed incidences of micro-aggressions, which they perceived to be based on several aspects, such as gender, region, sexual orientation, during worship, meeting, and informal times. Those witnessing the incidents were not sure how to respond. How might we collectively expand our capacity to recognize, speak, and act with confidence and intercultural competence?

Further, there were moments on Monday when many struggled with the tension between the Christian love they value and their Christian conscience. As people ponder, it also raises concerns about how one can act with and convey integrity. If we say, “I love those people, BUT ...,” what does that communicate? If we say, “I can be in relationship to them, HOWEVER ...,” what does that mean? It makes one wonder whether we have an expansive or restrictive understanding of unity, across multiple identity lines.



Editor's Note

In the Sunday, February 24 issue of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, the delegations from the Detroit, West Michigan, Rocky Mountain, and Yellowstone annual conferences were inadvertently listed as the Michigan and Mountain Sky annual conferences. The correct listing appears below.

Detroit (6)

Delegates

Euper, Jacqueline K.; 11463 S. State Road, Morrice, MI 48857

*Boayue, Charles S G; 35361 Stratton Hill Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Bank, Wayne Herbert; 6551 Lakeshore Road, Lexington, MI 48450

Barrett, Joy Anna; 10 Sycamore St, Chelsea, MI 48118

Brown, Diane Louise; 4512 Cottonwood Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Carey, Melanie Lee; 25109 Lyncastle Lane, Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Reserves

Plum, Alexander James; 285 Ashland Street, Detroit, MI 48215

Walther, Megan Jo Crumm; 7228 Chapel View Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346

Bowers, Claudia Louise; 2020 Calumet Street, Flint, MI 48503

Hook, Matthew James; 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter, MI 48130

Anderson, Ruby Deloris; 25180 Thorndyke Street, Southfield, MI 48033

Speiran, Laura Crawford; 7801 Hoffman Dr, Waterford, MI 48327

Rocky Mountain (6)

Delegates

Palmer, Douglas William; 7628 Estate Circle, Niwot, CO 80503

*Ingram, Kent P; 420 N Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Taiwo, Kunle; 2313 S. Jamaica Street, Aurora, CO 80014

Laurvick, Bradley David; 3131 Osceola St, Denver, CO 80212

Tukutau, Havea Hikule o; 1335 5th Street, Eaton, CO 80615

Armstrong, Megan Marie; 2290 Akron Court #101, Denver, CO 80238

Reserves

Hotze, Margaret Ellen; 313 Bluebird Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Strickland, Walter Louis; 2280 Watersong Circle, Longmont, CO 80504

Hill, Judith Ann; 3642 County Road D, Joes, CO 80822

Kelsey, Catherine L; 2200 S. University Blvd., Apt 404, Denver, CO 80210

Robledo, Liwliwa T; 1744 Wooten Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Rooks, Jessica Beth; 8817 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Brayton, Glenna Kyker; 511 Swan Lane, Grand Junction, CO 81507

Smith, Eric V T; 6750 Carr St., Arvada, CO 80004

Huerta, Diana Jeanne; 1877 S. Sherman St., Denver, CO 80210

Dent, Michael D;

Day, Laurie Ann; 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Tukutau, Sione Teiapa'a; 917 10th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631

West Michigan (2)

Delegates

*Guy, Beverly Ann; 125 Baynton Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J; 6137 Horizon Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Reserves

Dahlman, Laurie A; 1228 Southern, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Heisler, Benton Roy; 1011 Northcrest Rd., Lansing, MI 48906

Yellowstone (2)

Delegates

McCammom, Donald L.; 2616 Bonnie Court, Missoula, MT 59803

*Amundson, Tyler Flint (; 1810 Shiloh Rd, Billings, MT 59106

Reserves

Plimpton, Lovinia Marguerite; 1929 E. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802

Scott, Jeremy William; 108 King Ave, Johnstown, CO 80534

Calendar Items R01

1-CC6-¶543.17-A-G

Subject: CoWF - One Church Plan #15 - Central Conference Implementation Time - Par. 543.17

Petition: 90015-CC-¶543.17-G
 Membership: 43; Present: 37;
 For: 36; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/24

The Petition is amended as follows:

Add the following at the end of ¶543.17:

Legislation passed at the 2019 called session of General Conference shall not take effect in central conferences until twelve months after the close of the 2020 General Conference in order to afford the necessary time to organize a central conference and “to make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the General Discipline as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference” (¶ 31.5 of the Constitution), without regard to the language used in a central conference.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

2-TC1-¶1504-A

Subject: CoWF - One Church Plan #16 - Pension Liabilities - Par. 1504

Petition: 90016-TC-¶1504
 Membership: 864; Present: 812;
 For: 768; Against: 44; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/24

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

3-TC2-¶1504-A

Subject: CoWF - One Church Plan #17 - CRSP Amendment - Par. 1504

Petition: 90017-TC-¶1504
 Membership: 864; Present: 812;
 For: 768; Against: 44; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/24

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

4-TC3-¶415.6-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #5 - Episcopal Responsibilities - Par. 415.6

Petition: 90036-TC-¶415.6-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

5-TC4-¶408.3-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #2 - Episcopal Accountability - Par. 408.3

Petition: 90033-TC-¶408.3-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition is amended as follows:
 recommended by the council relations committee. Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not vote on this matter. The procedures for fair process . . .

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

6-TC5-¶635.1a-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #6 - Composition of Board of Ordained Ministry - Par. 635.1a

Petition: 90037-TC-¶635.1a-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

7-TC6-¶635.2h-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #7 - Full Examination - Par. 635.2h

Petition: 90038-TC-¶635.2h-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

8-TC7-¶806.9-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #8 - Composition of Board of Ordained Ministry - Par. 806.9

Petition: 90039-TC-¶806.9-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

9-TC8-¶613.19-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #9 - Composition of Board of Ordained Ministry - Par. 613.19

Petition: 90040-TC-¶613.19-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

10-TC9-¶422-A-G

Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #4 - Episcopal Accountability - Par. 422

Petition: 90035-TC-¶422-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

Amend by addition ¶ 422.5 after the following sentence: The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership a council relations committee of at least three persons to hear requests for involuntary leave of absence, involuntary retirement, as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops or any seven active bishops. **Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not have voted on the referral of requests for involuntary leave of absence or involuntary retirement.**

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

11-TC10-¶2711.3-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #11 - Minimum Penalty - Par. 2711.3

Petition: 90042-TC-¶2711.3-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

12-TC11-¶304.5-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #12 - Qualifications for Ministry - Par. 304.5

Petition: 90043-TC-¶304.5-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

13-TC12-¶362.1e-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #13 - Complaint Process - Par. 362.1e

Petition: 90044-TC-¶362.1e-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

14-TC13-¶2701.5-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #14 - Just Resolution - Par. 2701.5

Petition: 90045-TC-¶2701.5-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

15-TC14-¶2701.5-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #15 - Just Resolution - Par. 2701.5

Petition: 90046-TC-¶2701.5-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;

For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

16-TC15-¶410-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #3 - Episcopal Accountability - Par. 410

Petition: 90034-TC-¶410-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

Amend by addition ¶ 410.5:

b) Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved annually by the Council of Bishops after review and recommendation of the council relations committee. **Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not vote on this matter.**

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

17-TC16-¶2715.10-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #16 - Church Appeal - Par. 2715.10

Petition: 90047-TC-¶2715.10-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

18-TC17-¶304.3-A-G
Subject: CoWF - Traditional Plan #1 - Footnote 1 Qualifications for Ministry - Par. 304.3

Petition: 90032-TC-¶304.3-G
 Membership: 864; Present: 820;
 For: 461; Against: 359; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Minority Report

Amend by substitution the following petitions for petitions 90032-90040 and 90042-90047 as amended.

Minority Report of the Legislative Committee

February 25, 2019

One Church Plan – Edited to be Constitutional and consistent with other para-

graphs in the Discipline

Petition Number: 90001-¶105-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward

CoWF – One Church Plan #1 – Our Theological Task – Par. 105

Amend ¶ 105 by adding new sub-paragraph as follows:

We agree that we are not of one mind regarding human sexuality. As we continue to faithfully explore issues of sexuality, we will honor the theological guidelines of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience, acknowledging that God’s revelation of truth and God’s extension of grace as expressed in Jesus Christ (John 1:14) may cause persons of good conscience to interpret and decide issues of sexuality differently. We also acknowledge that the Church is called through Christ to unity even amidst complexity. We affirm those who continue to maintain that the Scriptural witness does not condone the practice of homosexuality. We believe that their conscience should be protected in the church and throughout society under basic principles of religious liberty. We also affirm those who believe the witness of Scripture calls us to reconsider the teaching of the church with respect to monogamous homosexual relationships.

Petition Number: 90002-¶161.C-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF – One Church Plan #2 - Social Principles – Par .161C

Amend ¶ 161.C as follows:

C) Marriage—We affirm the sanctity of the monogamous marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity, traditionally understood as a union of one man and one woman between a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. Where laws in civil society define marriage as union between two adults, no United Methodist clergy shall be required to celebrate or bless a same-sex union. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Petition Number: 90003-¶161.G-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward. 3 Similar Petitions

CoWF - One Church Plan #3 - Social Principles - Par. 161G

Amend ¶ 161.G as follows:

G) *Human Sexuality* —We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage between two adults. We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

Petition Number: 90004-¶304.3-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #4 - Qualifications for Ordination - Par. 304.3 WITH EDIT

Amend ¶ 304.3 as follows:

3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The responsibility for determining how standards, including standards related to human sexuality, may apply to certification or ordination in a given annual conference falls to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference. ~~The practice of homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexual persons are not to be certified as candidates,~~

~~ordained as minister or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church.~~

Petition Number: 90005-¶310.2d-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #5 - Candidacy - Par. 310.2.d footnote

Amend ¶ 310.2.d footnote as follows.

~~The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the Discipline regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards. . . .~~

~~In~~The Social Principles, ~~the General Conference has said that we~~ “do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two adults ~~between a man and a woman.~~”

Petition Number: 90006-¶329-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #6 - Ministry of Deacons - Par. 329

Amend ¶ 329 by adding new sub-paragraph after ¶ 329.3

¶ 329.4 In conferences where civil law permits a pastor to perform a same-sex marriage service, no deacon in full connection shall at any time be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union or blessing of same-sex couples, or of any couples. Each deacon shall have the right to exercise his or her conscience to refuse or agree when requested to perform any marriages, unions, or blessing as a matter of his or her individual religious liberty.

Petition Number: 90007-¶334-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #7 - Ministry of an Elder - Par. 334

Amend ¶ 334 by adding new sub-paragraph after ¶ 334.5

¶ 334.6 In conferences where civil law permits a pastor to perform same-sex marriage services, no elder shall at any time be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union or blessing of same-sex couples, or of any couples. Each elder shall have the right to exercise his or her conscience to refuse or agree when requested to perform such marriages, unions, or blessing as a matter of his or her individual religious liberty.

Petition Number: 90008-¶340-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #8 - Responsibilities of Elders and Licensed Pastors - Par. 340 WITH AMENDMENT

Amend ¶ 340 by adding new sub-paragraph after ¶ 340.2

¶ 340.3 a. Each clergy shall have the right to exercise his or her conscience when requested to perform such marriages, unions or blessing as a matter of his or her individual religious liberty.

b. In conferences where civil law permits a pastor to perform same-sex marriage services, no clergy shall at any time be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples, or of any couples.

c. Clergy who cannot in good conscience continue to serve in a conference based upon that conference's standards for ordination regarding practicing homosexuals, may seek to transfer under ¶ 347, and shall be supported and assisted in that process. Similarly, clergy who cannot in good conscience continue to serve a particular church based on unresolved disagreements over same-sex marriage as communicated by the pastor and Staff-Parish Relations Committee to the district superintendent, may request reassignment. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment by the bishop of the annual conference.

Petition Number: 90009-¶341.6-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #9 - Unauthorized Conduct - Par. 341.6

Amend ¶ 341.6 as follows:

6. Ceremonies that celebrate ~~homosexual unions~~ same-sex marriage shall not be performed ~~conducted~~ by clergy ~~your ministers~~ and shall not be conducted in our churches ~~on~~ church-owned property unless the church decides by a majority vote of a Church Conference to adopt a policy to celebrate same-sex marriage on church property.

Rationale: This provision allows local church members to decide what is best for their congregational and missional context related to ceremonies of same-sex marriage on church property. A called Church Conference requires due notification of the meeting and invites all members to participate.

Petition Number: 90010-¶415.6-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #10 - Ordination by Bishops - Par. 415.6 WITH AMENDMENT

Amend ¶ 415.6 at its conclusion as follows:

No bishop shall be required to ordain an elder or deacon, or license a local pastor who is a self-avowed practicing homosexual. The Jurisdictional College of Bishops shall provide for the ordination, commissioning, and licensing of all persons recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference in the bounds of its jurisdiction. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment by the bishop of the annual conference.

Petition Number: 90011-¶416-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #11 - Responsibilities of Bishops - Par. 416

Amend ¶ 416 by adding new sub-paragraphs after 416.7:

8. The bishop shall neither require any pastor to perform nor prohibit any pastor from performing any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples.

Add: 9. The bishop shall neither require any church to hold nor prohibit any church from holding a same-sex marriage service on church property.

Petition Number: 90012-¶419-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #12 - Responsibilities of District Superintendents - Par. 419

Amend ¶ 419 by adding new sub-paragraphs after 419.12:

13. The superintendent shall neither require any pastor to perform nor prohibit any pastor from performing any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples.

Add: 14. The superintendent shall neither require any church to hold nor prohibit any church from holding a same-sex marriage service on church property or otherwise coerce, threaten, or retaliate against any pastor who exercises his or her conscience to perform or refuse to perform a same-sex marriage.

Petition Number: 90013-¶605-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #13 - Business of the Conference - Par. 605 WITH AMENDMENT

Amend ¶ 605 by adding new sub-paragraph after 605.9 as follows:

10. At any clergy session of an annual conference, the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall, if directed by a vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, present

a motion regarding certification, ordination, and appointment of self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

Petition Number: 90014-¶2702.1-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

CoWF - One Church Plan #14 - Chargeable Offenses - Par. 2702.1

Amend ¶ 2702.1 as follows:

¶ 2702. 1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor, clergy on

honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual a monogamous marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies; (c) crime; (d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (f) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor; (g) child abuse; (h) sexual abuse; (i) sexual misconduct including the use or possession of pornography, (j) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; (k) racial or gender discrimination; or (l) fiscal malfeasance.

The First names of the minority report submitted:

Berlin, Thomas Martin — 14370
Kuch-Stanovsky, Marie Louise — 13688
Brim, Jefferson (Jay) Kearm — 13549
Ingram, Kent P — 13718
Hernandez, Reynaldo Bucacao — 14978
Livingston, David Scott — 13320
Harkrider, John Thomas — 13286
Holland, Mark R — 13314
POWERS, SAMUEL TYLER — 13403
Nuckols, David Branch — 14540

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

19-TC18-¶2500-A-G

Subject: Disaffiliation - Taylor - NEW Par. 2553

Petition: 90066-TC-¶2500-G
Membership: 864; Present: 812;
For: 427; Against: 385; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 2/25

The Petition is amended as follows:

Delete ¶2553.5c

Move amended ¶2553.5 prior to ¶2553.3.
Re-number remainder of paragraph accordingly.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Minority Report

Adopt Petition #90066 (ADCA, p. 205) with the following changes:

1. Delete what is printed as section 2553.5 in its entirety

2. In the section listed as section 2553.5, first sentence, replace "the resident bishop" with "the board of trustees"

3. Delete the first sentence section 2553.5g

4. Change the final sentence section 2553.5g, by replacing it with the following: "Payment shall occur prior to the effective date of departure."

5. Delete the entirety of what is printed as sub-section 2553.5c, and re-number the rest accordingly.

Cook, Beth Ann — 14616
LaSalle, Opal Ann — 14225
Crisler, Timothy Earl — 14221
Sabado, Abundio Magday — 15513
Hoffman, Richard Christian — 13979
Rubenking, Darcy Lynn — 14648
Heeren, Rebecca Lea — 14644
Morrison, Norma — 14642
Morelli, Paul Michael — 13981
Allen, William Arthur — 13904
Adams, Andrew Stephen — 14588
Ritter, Christopher M — 14588
Weber, Larry Earl — 14589
Land, Amy Louise — 14611
Sparks, Stephen Lawrence — 14224
Loeb, Carol K — 13547

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

20-TC19-¶2500-A-G

Subject: Disaffiliation - Boyette - NEW Par. 2549

Petition: 90059-TC-¶2500-G
Membership: 864; Present: 817;
For: 425; Against: 392; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 2/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

Rule 34. Report of Non-Calendar Items

(1) In addition to calendar items to be presented to the plenary, each legislative committee shall report all items not presented in the following categories:

- (a) Petitions not acted upon because another petition dealing with the same subject was acted upon.
- (b) Petitions not supported by the legislative committee. The committee shall report the vote of the committee.

(2) These reports shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate

(3) Any twenty (20) delegates may have an item in (1)(b) or (1)(c) above presented to the plenary by having such a request on file with the Secretary of the General Conference by 3:00 p.m. of the day the item first appears in the Daily Christian Advocate. Reserve delegates may sign requests to present an item in (1)(b) or (1)(c) above only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up in the regular order of business while the chair of the relevant committee is on the platform. Those supporting consideration of said items shall select one of their number to present the item to the plenary.

The form to bring a Non-Calendar Item to the plenary can be picked up in room B119 and returned to room B117.

Non-Calendarred Items - Not Supported

Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters

90018 (CC1-¶101-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #1 - General BOD - Par. 101: ADCA Page #169
Membership: 43; Present: 37; Votes For: 33; Votes Against: 3; Not Voting: 1

90041 (CC2-¶2800-N-G): CoWF - Traditional Plan #10 - Traditional Plan Implementation Process - NEW Par. 2801: ADCA Page #186
Membership: 43; Present: 37; Votes For: 28; Votes Against: 4; Not Voting: 5

90048 (CC3-¶570-N-§-G): CoWF - Traditional Plan #17 - Concordat Churches - Par. 570: ADCA Page #194
Membership: 43; Present: 37; Votes For: 31; Votes Against: 0; Not Voting: 6

90078 (CC4-¶512-N-!-G): Modified Traditional Plan - Dunnam - Global Episcopacy Committee - Par. 512: ADCA Page #211
Membership: 43; Present: 37; Votes For: 32; Votes Against: 0; Not Voting: 5

90079 (CC5-¶2800-N-!-G): Modified Traditional Plan - Dunnam - Implementation Process - NEW Par. 2801: ADCA Page #212
Membership: 43; Present: 36; Votes For: 32; Votes Against: 0; Not Voting: 4

The Committee

90001 (TC20-¶105-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #1 - Our Theological Task - Par. 105: ADCA Page #164
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90002 (TC21-¶161.C-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #2 - Social Principles - Par. 161C: ADCA Page #164
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90003 (TC22-¶161.G-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #3 - Social Principles - Par. 161G: ADCA Page #164
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90004 (TC23-¶304.3-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #4 - Qualifications for Ordination - Par. 304.3: ADCA Page #165
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90005 (TC24-¶310.2d-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #5 - Candidacy - Par. 310.2.d footnote: ADCA Page #165
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90006 (TC25-¶329-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #6 - Ministry of Deacons - Par. 329: ADCA Page #165
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90007 (TC26-¶334-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #7 - Ministry of an Elder - Par. 334: ADCA Page #166
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90008 (TC27-¶340-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #8 - Responsibilities of Elders and Licensed Pastors - Par. 340: ADCA Page #166
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90009 (TC28-¶341.6-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #9 - Unauthorized Conduct - Par. 341.6: ADCA Page #166
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90010 (TC29-¶415.6-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #10 - Ordination by Bishops - Par. 415.6: ADCA Page #166
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90011 (TC30-¶416-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #11 - Responsibilities of Bishops - Par. 416: ADCA Page #167
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

90012 (TC31-¶419-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #12 - Responsibilities of District Superintendents - Par. 419: ADCA Page #167
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0

- 90013 (TC32-¶605-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #13 - Business of the Conference - Par. 605: ADCA Page #167
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0
- 90014 (TC33-¶2702.1-N-G): CoWF - One Church Plan #14 - Chargeable Offenses - Par. 2702.1: ADCA Page #167
Membership: 864; Present: 822; Votes For: 436; Votes Against: 386; Not Voting: 0
- 90019 (TC45-¶2800-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #2 - Implementation of Plan - NEW Par. 2801: ADCA Page #170
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90020 (TC47-¶2800-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #3 - Transition Team - NEW Par. 2802: ADCA Page #173
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90021 (TC49-¶422-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #4 - Council and College of Bishops - Par. 422: ADCA Page #174
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90022 (TC50-¶2602-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #5 - Judicial Council - Par. 2602: ADCA Page #174
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90051 (TC39-¶2501-N-G): A Graceful Exit as a Way Forward: ADCA Page #197
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90052 (TC38-¶362-N-G): A Traditional Way Forward with Enhanced Enforcement: ADCA Page #197
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90055 (TC55-¶161.G-N-G): Replace Par. 161.G: ADCA Page #199
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90056 (TC63-¶2501-N-G): Abeyance of Trust Clause Enforcement: ADCA Page #200
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90057 (TC37-¶161.G-N-G): Definition of Gender: ADCA Page #200
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90058 (TC34-¶2500-N-G): Disaffiliation - Ottjes - NEW Par. 2548: ADCA Page #201
Membership: 864; Present: 806; Votes For: 634; Votes Against: 172; Not Voting: 0
- 90062 (TC35-¶161.G-N-G): Retain Par. 161.G: ADCA Page #202
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90067 (TC64-¶161.C-N-G): Marriage: ADCA Page #206
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90068 (TC66-¶161.C-N-G): A Simple Plan #1 - Souto - Marriage - Par. 161.C: ADCA Page #207
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90069 (TC67-¶161.G-N-G): A Simple Plan #2 - Souto - Human Sexuality - Par. 161.G: ADCA Page #207
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90070 (TC71-¶304.3-N-G): A Simple Plan #3 - Souto - Qualifications for Ordination - Par. 304.3: ADCA Page #207
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90071 (TC72-¶310.2d-N-G): A Simple Plan #4 - Souto - Candidacy - Footnote 3 to Par. 310.2d: ADCA Page #208
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90072 (TC65-¶341.6-N-G): A Simple Plan #5 - Souto - Unauthorized Conduct - Par. 341.6: ADCA Page #209
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90073 (TC68-¶613.19-N-G): A Simple Plan #6 - Souto - Funding - Par. 613.19: ADCA Page #209
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90074 (TC69-¶806.9-N-G): A Simple Plan #7 - Souto - GCFA Fiscal Responsibilities - Par. 806.9: ADCA Page #209
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90075 (TC70-¶2702.1-N-G): A Simple Plan #8 - Souto - Chargeable Offenses - Par. 2702.1: ADCA Page #210
Membership: 864; Present: 817; Votes For: 494; Votes Against: 323; Not Voting: 0
- 90077 (TC40-¶328-N-G): Interpretation of Fidelity in Marriage for Deacons: ADCA Page #210
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90083 (TC42-¶161.G-N-G): Human Sexuality: ADCA Page #223
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90084 (TC57-¶161-N-G): One New Discipline Plan: ADCA Page #223
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90088 (TC36-¶2702.1-N-G): Chargeable Offenses: ADCA Page #231
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90089 (TC59-¶161.C-N-G): Sexual Practices: ADCA Page #232
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90090 (TC44-¶304.3-N-G): Fully Inclusive Way Forward - Qualifications for Ordination - Brooks: ADCA Page #233
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0

- 90091 (TC46-¶310.2d-N-G): Fully Inclusive Way Forward - Candidacy Footnote - Brooks: ADCA Page #233
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90092 (TC48-¶2702.1-N-G): Fully Inclusive Way Forward - Chargeable Offenses - Brooks: ADCA Page #233
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90023 (TC51-¶9-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #6 - Jurisdictional and Central Conferences - Par. 9: ADCA Page #175
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90024 (TC52-¶14-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #7 - General Conference Year - Par. 14: ADCA Page #176
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90025 (TC53-¶16-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #8 - Connectional Conference adaptation - Par. 16: ADCA Page #176
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90026 (TC54-¶19-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #9 - General Superintendency - Par. 19: ADCA Page #177
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90027 (TC56-¶23-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #10 - Standardize Connectional Conferences - Par. 23: ADCA Page #177
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90028 (TC58-¶37-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #11 - Establishes New Connectional Conferences - Par. 37: ADCA Page #178
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90029 (TC60-¶45-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #12 - Episcopacy - Par. 45: ADCA Page #179
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90030 (TC61-¶56.3-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #13 - Connectional Conference Judicial court - Par. 56.3: ADCA Page #181
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90031 (TC62-¶32-N-G): CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #14 - Name Change - Par. 32: ADCA Page #181
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90082 (TC41-¶4-N-G): Inclusiveness: ADCA Page #223
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0
- 90087 (TC43-¶4-N-G): Inclusiveness: ADCA Page #231
Membership: 864; Present: 798; Votes For: 734; Votes Against: 64; Not Voting: 0

Proceedings of the 2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Sunday Morning,
February 24, 2019**

(Continued from page 376)

(music)

CASEY LANGLEY ORR

(COWF): We approached our task with humility and responsibility to represent and to honor the disciple-making work you are doing every day. We recognized the weight of the moment, and we gave ourselves completely over to the challenge before us. We were rooted in love and devotion—a love and devotion that made the work bearable. But I do not mean to suggest that it was uncomplicated. The work could make us feel angry and vulnerable and broken. So, we had to be intentional to overcome that. So, we confessed and we repented. We asked for grace and for forgiveness, and we kept pushing forward together with resolve.

And we were able to grow together, because we chose love over fear. We committed ourselves to understanding one another, rather than trying to change one another. We disagreed with gentle compassion, rather than angry accusation. We learned that we could challenge one another without accusing one another. We came to the commission table together. We shared communion together. We sang hymns to recenter ourselves. We studied scripture. We heard each other's witness and testimonies. We prayed earnestly for our church, and we also prayed earnestly for each other. We came to know one another deeply. We shared our anxiety, and we shared our joy. We grieved and we celebrated, both professionally and personally, highs

and lows big and small. We came to know one another's families, meeting siblings and spouses and children. We became very real to one another.

BRIAN ADKINS (COWF): I am Brian Adkins. I am an openly gay pastor, a clergy person.

(applause)

And as a pastor, I have to offer a message to my people, to the LGBTQ people in this room and who are watching and who are in United Methodist churches around the world: You are beloved of God. No matter what happens in this room or anywhere else, there is a place for you at God's table, and no one can take it from you. Claim it.

(applause)

Our work in the commission was heartbreaking, and it was spiritual. It was heartbreaking that our church had come to the point that the commission was called to do our work. It was heartbreaking as we realized that everyone around the table wasn't going to be completely satisfied. It was heartbreaking being aware of the suspicion and the distrust. It was heartbreaking knowing that while we worked and while you waited, harm continued to be done. It was heartbreaking that a vision of unity wasn't going to have the sweet and pleasant taste of agreement and happy relief. It was heartbreaking.

But it was also deeply spiritual. The Holy Spirit was moving within and between us and sometimes in spite of us. It is spiritual when people can release their expectations and come together for the sake of a shared purpose. It is spiritual when you can connect with someone, a

sibling in Christ with whom you disagree, with whom you seem to have irreconcilable differences. It is spiritual when people can be altogether convicted and altogether humble. It is spiritual when faith and hope and lovingkindness knock you off your feet and into a surrendering prayer. It was heartbreaking and it was spiritual, which was true all the way through our parting at the conclusion of the last meeting in May.

We experienced the holiest of goodbyes. In the Upper Room Chapel in Nashville, we looked into one another's eyes and said, "If there is anything I have done that has caused you harm, if there's anything I've said, if there's anything I've failed to say that could have helped you, if there's anything, I ask your forgiveness. I need you." We would go to each of the individual commission members, we would hug and move on until we had asked forgiveness and named our need for one another with every brother and sister we had grown to love in our time together. There was relief and there was healing and there was joy and there was love in our parting.

And love remains with us today. Heartbreaking and spiritual moments adding up to making the heartbreaking and spiritual work real. I imagine that's a familiar feeling for you. As I stand before you, I remember how credentialed and qualified you are for this work. I remember you have experienced at least one General Conference, that you have poured days of your life into this work, that you have left behind jobs and families, that you have made incredibly personal sacrifices to serve your church. And we thank you. I remember that you are brilliant and impres-

sive and articulate and well-connected, and I also remember that you are just people striving to be just people like me who are trying desperately to follow Jesus Christ. And as you follow Jesus in this time and at this work, I imagine that many of you are losing sleep. You may be worried and anxious. You may be frustrated and angry. You may feel isolated and lonely. You may feel unappreciated and weary. You may feel wounded by the comments on social media or hurled at you when you have least expected it. We are a hurting church in a difficult time.

ALFIADO S. ZUNGUZA (COWF): I'm Alfiado Zunguza. Maybe we have found ourselves broken in this whole thing because we have come to see that our beloved Church is broken. We are here today because we have named the brokenness and pray, "Come, Holy Spirit," to help us find a solution. One of the pieces of Scripture that guided us was 1 Peter 3:15, "Instead, regard Christ as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it." And my hope has grown as we have realized more and more that our brokenness does not define us. The brokenness of our Church and the challenge before us do not define us. The paranoia and anxiety we have brought to this conference do not define us. The uncertainty of who The United Methodist Church becomes do not define us. All of that saddens us and embarrasses us and sometimes even angers us. It can discourage us and distract us, but none of it deserves to have power over us.

So, I want to speak of the hope that I think does define us, and the hope that we can defend here over the next few days. We are defined by a God who is faithful and pursuant and generous. We are defined by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the source of hope. We are defined by

the Holy Spirit's guidance in comforting us. We are defined by the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are defined by the promise that God is making all things new. We have eighteen months to do our work, and that felt like nothing. It felt like we had such complicated questions to answer and so little time to answer them. And so, as we worked, our dear coach Gil would always remind us there isn't much time, so work slowly. There isn't so much time; work slowly. That instruction helped me to remember what defined us. It helped us remember our hope. It helped us to breathe. It helped us to be more thoughtful in discerning. It helped us maintain our sense of urgency while letting go of the anxious chaos.

And now, here we are. We only have three days to accomplish an incredible amount of conferencing and to answer the most complicated question of all, who will the people called United Methodists be? There isn't much time. So, work slowly. Slow down. Breathe and pray. And we are going to practice this now.

MYUNGRAE KIM LEE (COWF): I am MyungRae Kim Lee. Yesterday we shared an incredible day of prayers, which was a necessary and perfect starting point, but we know there are some of you want never to be here and we also know that many of you are coming into this weary and worried. So, in a few moments I want to invite you to share in another simple prayer experience that the Commission on a Way Forward benefit from. You will find two other people, so group of three; it'll be best if your entire group is not from your own delegation.

The first person, we sharing his or her name and, if you would like, a specific prayer request you have. Then you, we sit down and the other two will stand on each side of you.

If you are comfortable, they can place their hands on your shoulder. If you're not comfortable, they can place their hand just above your shoulder. And for one minute, two people from our connection will silently pray for you, for your heart and your spirit, these next three days.

We'll help you keep time and we'll tell you when to rotate. And at that time, they will say, "Amen." And you will do this until all three of you have been prayed over. So, when you find your group of three, decide who will be prayed for first. That person can sit down and you can begin to pray right away. Let us pray.

(pause for prayer)

If you have not already, then you can rotate one more time.

(pause for prayer)

Amen.

CASEY LANGLEY ORR (COAWF): You can return to your seats at this time. It is a beautiful sight to see United Methodists in prayer together. So now as we engage in this conferencing, if you notice that you have become anxious, that you are angry, that you are lonely, that you are lost, that you are sad, then I challenge you to take a deep breath (breathing) slowly in and slowly out and remember who you are. Remember who you belong to. Remember what really does define you. Remember that just moments ago, two precious children of God prayed over you. They prayed in their native language. They prayed that your heart would know peace, that you would be guided by love, that your spirit would calm down, that your words would be a reflection of Jesus, that your thoughts would be pure and generous. They prayed that you would find the strength and compassion to offer a powerful witness to our world, that you would know that before you are a delegate

to the General Conference or before you're a pastor or a professional or a parent or a leader or even a United Methodist, you are a child of God.

AUDIENCE: Amen! Yes! (clapping) Amen!

ALFIADO S. ZUNGUZA (COWF): There isn't much time, so work slow. Work deliberately. Work compassionately. Work with urgency but not with anxiety. Let love consume you and inspire hope in one another.

BRIAN ADKINS (COAWF): Listen, not one of us knows how things will look in this denomination three days from now. But as Christian people, as Easter people, we know that a lot of good work can happen in three days.

AUDIENCE: (positive responses)

(clapping)

ADKINS: And we remember on that Friday that all was lost and broken. Darkness and anxiety and fear moved in, but not to stay.

AUDIENCE: That's right.

ADKINS: Because on Sunday, life conquered death as Jesus Christ rose up from that grave. And joy and freedom and love were made new and real in the Resurrection of our redeeming Lord.

AUDIENCE: Yes!

ADKINS: Hallelujah, amen!

AUDIENCE: Yes! (clapping)

MYUNGRAE KIM LEE

(COAWF): Three days, we don't know how our church will look different three days from now, but we do know that our only hope is in the risen Christ, and no matter where we land on all of our days, no matter our presence, the truth for us, is that our only hope is in the risen Christ. And we know that Jesus is Lord today, and Jesus will be Lord tomorrow, and Jesus will be Lord, and Jesus will be Lord.

AUDIENCE: Amen! (clapping)

KIM LEE: There isn't much time, so pray.

ADKINS: There ain't much time, so breathe.

ORR: There isn't much time, so remember that Jesus is Lord. Come, Holy Spirit. And now I want to invite the other members of the Commission on a Way Forward to stand, and I invite the commission and the Council of Bishops and every delegate and every observer and every person joining us on the live stream in this moment to repeat after me: God is good.

ALL: God is good.

ORR: Jesus is Lord.

ALL: Jesus is Lord.

ORR: Come, Holy Spirit.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

ORR: Amen.

ALL: Amen.

AUDIENCE: (positive responses).

(clapping)

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: The thirty-two members of the Commission on a Way Forward have done significant and extraordinary work on behalf of the entire worldwide church. You have not only done excellent work, you have modeled to all of us that it is possible in a worldwide denomination as diverse as The United Methodist Church to be in deep, loving community with each other as we engage in God's mission. Would you join me in expressing a deep appreciation for the work of the commission?

(applause)

It has been a long morning, but I promise you that we are closer to a lunch break than we were three hours ago.

(laughter)

I am now going to turn to the secretary of the General Conference

for a report on the ruling from the Judicial Council.

Judicial Council Decision # 1375

GARY GRAVES: Thank you, Bishop. We have received Decision No. 1375—one thousand, three hundred seventy-five—regarding a petition for declaratory decision from the Council of Bishops regarding the constitutionality of legislative petitions 90052 and 90078. The ruling reads: Petition 90052 is unconstitutional, because it infringes upon the right of the Annual Conference to vote on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members under paragraph 33 of the Constitution. Petition 90078 is unconstitutional, because the creation of a global episcopacy committee violates paragraphs 49 and 50 of the Constitution. Procedurally, we do want to make sure that you are aware that these declaratory decisions on matters that are still before the General Conference are advisory to you as you continue to work on the matters that have been reviewed. Please take those items into consideration as you begin to perfect that material.

Report of the Committee on Presiding Officers

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much for this report. And now I turn to the Committee on Presiding Officers. Judy Zabel is the chair and will give us the report.

GRAVES: She's coming from your right.

BISHOP ALSTED: Oh, there she is. Welcome, Judy.

JUDITH ZABEL (member of the Committee on Presiding Officers): Thank you, Bishop. Good morning, church.

ALL: Morning! Morning!

ZABEL: My name is Judy Zabel. I am the chair of the Presiding Officers, and I give thanks for the committee that has done our work and will continue to work throughout the General Conference session. I want to take a moment to give thanks to our Council of Bishops. Our bishops have been working with the committee and all the commission and interpreting these plans to the church, and they have led as they have been called to lead our congregations and our annual conferences throughout the world as they help us to be church together. So will you give thanks with me for our Council of Bishops?

(applause)

ZABEL: It is the work of the Committee on Presiding Officers to choose bishops to preside during the General Conference sessions. It is not easy work, and not all bishops even want to do that, although they are with us in prayer and lead in many ways. But there have been some who have said I am ready to serve in this way, and they have been prepared and trained by our parliamentarian, and we are grateful for the work that they have done in preparing for this General Conference session. The committee came together and we have searched and prayed together for the bishops who will preside during this session.

We have looked for bishops and have considered bishops who we know will be fair, calm, and excellent presiders. The bishops that we will choose throughout this session are bishops who will reflect the diversity of our global connection. We are thankful for their willingness to serve and we are thankful for their work among us. Their work is so important in this session in particular because we have a lot of anxiety in the room today. And yet, we know that we are the people of God chosen for this work for just such a time as this.

Our work can proceed smoothly and effectively if we covenant together to work together prayerfully and carefully. So we ask that you continue to do that work to support our presiding officers so that our work will be indeed fruitful and our work to ensure that our mission as The United Methodist Church across the globe continues with great passion and great effectiveness. We want to continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And to that end, we have chosen for our afternoon session a presider who is able to lead us with great skill. We invite Bishop Hope Morgan Ward from the North Carolina Conference to lead our session this afternoon. I hope that you will pray for her as she leads us forward as a church. This concludes our report.

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED: Thank you very much, Judy, for the report, and we have received it. There is a few announcements from the secretary. Gary, please?

*Announcements by
Secretary Graves*

GARY GRAVES: Yes, Bishop Alsted turned, and he said, "You have no announcements, do you?" And I said, "I always have announcements, I'm sure." The Committee on Reference will be meeting during the lunch break in room 145. Committee on Reference, lunch break, room 145. You can access that best through exiting through the A pre-function to my right, to your left. We ask that those members be allowed to move toward the head of the line. If you can make your way there as quickly as possible, so that you may get your food and get into the meeting room as quickly as possible.

Along the lines of the lunch, we want to remind you that the primary area for those who are seated on the floor, your primary area is to your

left and to the left of the stage in the annex area where the food lines are set up. You may get your food and utilize the tables around the seating section if you prefer. There is also a bit of food available in the B pre-function area. For those of you who are seated in the concourse, there are a multitude of choices out around the perimeter of the building. Please be sure to look around and find whatever is to your liking.

The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will meet tonight following adjournment in rooms 142 and 143.

If you have corrections or errata that you would like to introduce for the *DCA*—you found a mistake perhaps in the last two editions—please be sure to write those down and turn them into the secretarial staff, and we will deliver those to the *DCA* office.

A final word about your voting devices and your smart cards—wherever you go with your name badge, your smart card needs to go with you. Do not take your voting devices from the table—they stay at the table—but the smart card needs to go with you and your nametag. Just tuck it right in. It should fit. Keep your card with you at all times. Thank you, Bishop, those are the announcements.

BISHOP ALSTED: Thank you very much. I would like, at the ending of this session, to thank Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and Bishop Gregory Palmer for working with me during this session. And before we move into our lunch break, we will join in prayer with words of John Wesley. Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, the sovereign Lord of all creatures in heaven and earth, we acknowledge that our being and all the comforts of them depend upon thee, the fountain of all good. We have nothing but what is owing entirely to thy free and boundless

love. O most blessed Creator, enter the riches of thy grace, O most blessed redeemer. Amen. We are in recess, and we will be back at 1 P.M. Please be back in your seats at 1 P.M. to continue our work.

Sunday Afternoon, February 24, 2019

(music)

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: I am Hope Morgan Ward and I am the Bishop of the North Carolina Conference. I am excited to be with you this afternoon, and together we will move forward following the Spirit conferencing together. I am grateful for the collaboration and help of Bishop Gregory Palmer and Bishop Christian Alsted in this session as well as our conference secretary, Gary Graves, and our parliamentarian, Leonard Young.

Let us hold the crosses that have been given to us and in a moment of centering. Let's remember; let's remember some verses from Ephesians, which we heard earlier, which Bishop Carter opened to us earlier in the sermon.

"We were once far off but have been brought near. Christ is our peace. We have been made one. Christ has broken down the wall. We are one new humanity. Peace has come to us through the cross. Christ is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we might dream or imagine. Let us live lives worth of the calling of Christ with humility and patience. Let us make every effort to maintain the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace."

Loving God, this midday time of refreshment and connection and community, which we have enjoyed, has been your welcomed gift. We confess we are honored with the responsibility of being in this place yet humbled by the weight of it. Thank you for

this afternoon of engaging again the opportunity before us to be renewed in hope, the certain hope that you are with us. As we seek to relay with faithfulness and compassion with all the human family, particularly LGBTQI friends and family members, disciples of Christ, neighbors around the world, we offer this prayer in the strong name of Jesus, Amen.

This afternoon we will heed the lesson of our mentor and friend, Gil Rendel, there is not much time so we're going to work slowly. It will be important when any of us speak, including myself, to speak slowly, with pauses, so that the translation may be done well and we may all be included in this good work. It will be important for you to have at hand very soon your headset, your voting device, and your agenda for the afternoon, particularly p. 294. And now I'd like to turn to Chuck Savage for a report from the Committee on Reference.

Report of Committee on Reference

CHUCK SAVAGE (member of the Committee on Reference): Peace and grace to you, my brothers and sisters. The Committee on Reference met over the lunch hour based on a decision that was made by the Judicial Council that came from, I think, the Committee on, the Standing Committee on Central Matters, and we reassigned to them several petitions. I apologize for not having the page numbers, but this is hot off of the press. But the petition numbers are 90015, 90041, 90048, 90078, 90079, and 90018. Bishop, this concludes our report.

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: Thank you. The report is before us; it does not require any action. We will turn now to a technology review, to assure we are all connected and ready to engage well the work of the afternoon.

Time for Voting Device Practice

SIMON BRYAN: Thank you, so we're, another game of Simon Says. So if you've all got your keypads handy, and your smart cards, and then we will just go through the process of putting our smart cards into the top of the keypads with the chip facing you. And then when you insert that, the main thing is that you see your name at the top of the keypads. So if you don't see your name at the top of your keypad, if you can wave your, wave your flag.

I've got two, two here, so we'll send a page to, to you two. If you'll keep waving. It looks like there are pages on the way. So we'll get that rectified for you. I don't see anyone else. So I am gonna look to my colleague and ask the number because we can actually see you putting your card in your keypads, so we'll run a little report to make sure you are all here. I see another. I reckon there is a, another flag waving in the back, so we'll send someone, a page to you. So just make sure you're all present and correct. Yes, if you can keep your, your little flags raised, we will have a page come to you.

OK, I've just received a note actually. If you weren't scanned in before the, when you came into the floor, we'll need to scan you into the system using the scanners. It would be good if you didn't scan in on your way to the floor it would be good if you would do that. And we will get the keypad count just now. So we actually have 780 of you returned from lunch. So that's good news. So what we will do is we will now do another practice so we will do a, a yes, yes no vote, but we will ask you all to vote yes; it's easier for me to do the math that way. So when we're ready, we shall open the poll, and you can all press one (1). And again we will do the countdown to keep you all on task, so press one (1). Make sure

your smart cards are inserted. And we've got some flags just over here. We will come to that table afterwards, no problem. And then we can see the count for all those that voted. Number one for yes. OK. I think we're, we're pretty close. Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP WARD: We now move to the prioritization process. The Commission on the General Conference determined that the conference would use a prioritization process to work through the various proposals before this conference. These proposals have ruled, been ruled to be in harmony by the Committee on Reference. And to facilitate this prioritization the chair recommends this process. We have flags up. Are those technology flags? Are the microphones on? In this section of the room?

BRYAN: I'll ask one of my colleagues to go to the table over there. We can see, yeah, we'll wander over. I think we have a page in the back.

Introduction to Prioritizing Process

WARD: If there is a request to speak, if you would register that with the pool. It is available for you to make a request to speak. Is the problem taken care of? It appears to be. Each plan or individual petition will be listed on the video screen one at a time. Petitions have been grouped together that are part of the same plan, and each grouping will be considered together as one unit. Petitions which have not been grouped into a plan will be considered individually. For example, the One Church Plan has fifteen petitions attached to it. So it will be considered together, all fifteen petitions.

For each of these and petitions delegate will use your electronic voting devices to indicate whether

the plan or petition on the screen is a high priority for consideration by the committee or a low priority for consideration by the committee.

One (1) will be your designation for high priority. A two (2) will be your designation for low priority. Results of each prioritization will not be shown until all plans and petitions have been prioritized. Following the completion of all the rounds, each plan and petition will be shown with priority percentages and vote count.

The officers of the legislative committee will then use this prioritization and will first present to the committee the plan or petition that has received the highest percentage of support. Ultimately, the legislative committee will have to choose one plan to report as a majority report for the conference. So, in the committee, the plan with the highest priority will be considered first and during its consideration other plans may be moved as substitutes, as we work on those pieces together. The plan that ultimately is recommended by the legislative committee will be the plan brought to the floor of the plenary session for further debate and vote according to the plan of organization and rules of order.

If you will hold for just one moment, I would like to finish explaining the process, and then I will be glad to recognize someone to speak.

The reason this procedure is recommended is that without it, rule 36 of the rules of order would prevail. This rule indicates that the officers of the legislative committee on their own would establish priorities for consideration. By doing the prioritization now, it means the conference will determine the prioritization and not just the three officers of the legislative committee. I have outlined the process which you have before you in print. I hope that it is clear.

I would like to recognize to speak Epse Sedji Allouco. Could you come to the mic. no. 2? Mic. no. 2.

(pause)

You have registered to speak, one moment.

(pause)

Mic. 1, Mic. 1, Steve Wende.

STEPHEN PAUL WENDE (Texas Conference): Bishop, I am so sorry. I don't know how to undo anything. We were trying to figure it out and we have been trying to turn it off ever since we did. So, my apologies.

(laughter)

BISHOP WARD: Thank you very much. My memory is that you undo simply, well, I will let our technology people tell you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: To remove yourself from the pool, you just press the little microphone button again, and when you press that button, it will ask you are you sure you want to leave the pool and you just reply "yes."

BISHOP WARD: Don't worry. It takes a little bit for us to get used to using these and to realizing how we can sign on and sign off if we need to.

Jeremy Razon, mic. 1.

Jonathan Razon, mic. 1.

(pause)

JONATHAN PIMENTEL RAZON (Northeast Philippines Conference): My concern is with my fellow delegates from the Philippines that they don't have their gadgets and (*unintelligible*) book. It was came too late before the pads with which to vote, so we ask the pages to provide us the necessary gadgets. Thank you.

BISHOP WARD: Is it a question of interpretation or of the voting devices? Both. I turn to our conference secretary.

GARY GRAVES: The interpretation devices are located in the Pre-Function B lobby and needed to be checked out, was the instruction that I was given from our interpretation team. The voting device should be at the table. If not, a page will be able to take care of that, but we just need to have the flag raised and the pages will be going to check out those flags.

BISHOP WARD: Jisun Kwak, mic. 2. These names may be in the queue erroneously, in the pool.

JISUN KWAK (Greater New Jersey Conference): I apologize. I was testing my device and I thought that I properly did it, but I apologize.

BISHOP WARD: No problem. No problem at all. We are figuring this out together. Jeremy Pridgeon, mic. 2.

Paragraph 304.5 Referred to Judicial Council

JEREMEY KIMBLE PRIDGEON (Alabama-West Florida Conference): Bishop, members of the General Conference, I would like to request a general conference to refer to the Judicial Council a request for a declaratory decision as to the constitutionality of Par. 304.5 in light of Par. 16 and 33 of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. Par. 304.5 reads, "In all votes regarding license, ordination, or conference membership, the requirements set forth herein are minimum requirements."

In Par. 16.2 Sec. 2, Art. 4 of the Constitution, the *Discipline* reads, "The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows: To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries."

Par. 33, Sec. 6, Art. 2, of the Constitution reads as follows: "The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution."

Does the General Conference have the authority to set minimum requirements in all votes regarding license, ordination, or conference membership in 304.5 in light of Par. 16.2, which grants the General Conference only the authority to define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries? And Par. 33, which reserves to the annual conference the right to vote on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy, and on the ordination of clergy, as such other rights have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution?

...have a second I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP WARD: Is there a second? You do not need to use your devices.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

BISHOP WARD: There is a second you may speak.

PRIDGEON: Well its long-established precedent that the General Conference shall have full legislative authority over all matters distinctively connectional. The constitution delineates those matters which are considered distinctively connectional in paragraph 16. Significantly, the stated constitutional powers of General Conference do not include the authority to set minimum requirements for licensing and ordination of clergy. Paragraph

33 establishes that the annual conference is the basic body in the church. The right to vote on all matters regarding the character and conference relations of clergy members and ordination of clergy are reserved to the annual conference. This is enshrined in our constitution and cannot be infringed upon by legislative decree of the General Conference. Powers and duties exist only when status has been granted. Until status is recommended by the Board of Ministry and granted by the clergy session, individuals remain candidates for ministry in their respective conferences. Fixing powers and duties in paragraph 16.2 are distinctively connectional matters to ensure consistency across connection. The process by which status is granted for persons to exercise power and carry out duties is the exclusive property of the annual conference as it has not been delegated to the General Conference as outlined in paragraph 16. Annual conferences have clear authority under the constitution. The General Conference cannot intrude into the authority of an annual conference except in exercising its full legislative power over all matters that are distinctively connectional. In 304.5, the General Conference exceeds its constitutional authority in establishing requirements and standards for clergy. Minimum—

BISHOP WARD: Jeremy, Jeremy, thank you very much. I believe the three-minute limit is upon us.

PRIDGEON: Okay.

BISHOP WARD: The three-minute limit I would remind all of us is from the beginning of the time from which we begin to speak. Your motion is before us, it's been seconded. It will require a one-fifth or 20 percent vote of the body. Is there more debate on the motion? Does anyone wish to speak against it? If you would take out your voting

devices and we will open the pool. We are ready to vote. Vote now.

(pause)

[Yes, 453; No, 321]

It is referred and we need a copy of that for the conference secretary. I would next like to call on Joe Kilpatrick at microphone number two.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): I do that at no. four.

BISHOP WARD: Certainly.

KILPATRICK: Thank you. Joe Kilpatrick, North Georgia Conference. In looking at the numbers of people voting, it seems we're short somewhere around 50 to 100 people. Is there any concern about this? Is there any way to do additional test or determine what problems are?

BISHOP WARD: I'll turn to our conference secretary.

GARY GRAVES: They are looking into the signals that they are receiving. They will give us a report in just a moment. I would suggest Raymond if you would like to lead us in a short song now might be a good moment.

(laughter)

(pause)

GRAVES: Thanks. We have received word—thank you very much. We have received word from the technology system that there are 820 devices with cards properly entered that are sending signals to the machines, and the machines are talking back to one another. Eight hundred and twenty is the number of active devices at the moment. Please check your device to make sure that you see your name at the top of the screen. Eight hundred and twenty. Please check your name at the top of the screen. If you do not see your name at the top of the screen, please raise the checkered flag, and pages will be coming around to help you

with the devices. Pages will be coming. We have pages that are headed in this direction.

(music)

BISHOP WARD: I'd like to recognize Chappell Taylor at mic. 1.

CHARLES CHAPPELL TEMPLE (Texas): Chappell Temple, Texas conference. Eight hundred and twenty would still leave forty-four unaccounted for. I just wonder if we're aware if we're having visa difficulties, travel difficulties, if any of our delegations haven't made it.

GRAVES: We can verify the attendance of all the situations. I cannot do it at this moment, but I will have someone look into that. Eight hundred and twenty, that leaves us, as you said forty-four individuals. I will ask that as we are doing the screening in and out, part of our way of checking it out and double-checking of it was to try to do the scanning of the bar codes. During the lunch time, not everyone exited the area and they were not able to clear the queue and clear the system and get you back into the seated area. So we're testing that. We will do the attendance forms, which are not due into our office until this afternoon, to be able to verify all of that. If we are at 820 cards in, if there 40 individuals that are waving flags, we will know that is the difference. If not, people may just be absent from their seats in this moment, and we would have to verify that by hand.

BISHOP WARD: I recognize Lonnie Chafin at mic. 1.

LONNIE ARTHUR CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference. Just wanted to clarify. I heard—when I look at my screen, the first thing that I see in the top left corner is, "Join the pool. You can join the pool." I can see behind that printed my name, so some people may not see their name in the top left

corner and may think their device isn't working because they're looking for it, so I just want to offer that as an observation. Thank you very much.

Priorization Process Affirmed

BISHOP WARD: Thank you. Thank you for your patience and participation as we work through these first attempts to use the voting devices and to conference together. We're about to move in now to the prioritization process, and I explained it to you earlier. You have read it—studied it I'm sure. I'd like to ask the body to affirm that process. Would you take your voting devices, and if you would affirm the prioritization process as published and as described, would you please press "1." Press "1." If not, "2" in a moment, when it goes up on screen. In a moment . . . it's not ready yet. It's now open. Please indicate yes for affirmation; no, if not.

(pause)

BISHOP WARD: Thank you for your affirmation of the process. So, we will move into this at this time.

Prioritization process tally:
[Yes, 705; No, 74]

BISHOP WARD: We will now proceed to consider each plan or petition that is not in a plan in the order they were submitted to the General Conference secretary; that is, in the numerical order. So, we will begin with the first plan, the One Church Plan. We have some technology issues over here and over here; these are all technology issues. This is important. We'll get to you. We won't start until we care for these.

(pause)

Additional Technology Explanation

In order for us to work through some of these technology issues,

I suggest we take a break for ten minutes, a standing break. Greet your neighbors. Don't go too far. We'll (indistinguishable). Don't go away, but be at ease. Take a break for a few moments while we work on these technology issues.

GARY GRAVES: By helping us by getting back into your seats, taking your voting and speaker recognition devices, checking for your name. One word that we have been given that would perhaps be helpful is if you thought that you wanted to speak but you changed your mind, you would be pushing the microphone button for the second time to exit the pool. It actually asks you, "Are you sure?" and you have to press yes. You have to press the button for yes. If you press cancel, that is not the answer that will get you out of the pool. So please be sure to answer the question when it is asked: Yes, you are sure you would like to leave the pool.

Simon Brian from Lumi Technologies is going to lead us through another evaluation of the system and a few reminders that perhaps will be helpful.

SIMON BRIAN (from Lumi Technologies): Thanks, Gary. Just a few clarifications as Gary says. When you are going to exit pools. It's the green. Press the microphone button to leave. You will press the green button "Yes" to confirm that yes, you would like to leave the pool, not the council button. It would be useful if anyone has Wi-Fi hotspots if they're turned off just in case that's affecting your table. So, if you could turn off any Wi-Fi hotspots.

We've just done a report, and we actually have 780 people in the room. We have 780 cards currently inserted into keypads. That's an accurate count. So, what we thought we would do is give a quick yes question again just to make sure that everyone's comfortable. We're

going to give a little bit longer. The way the system works is, when you press your response, a confirmation is sent back to your keypad. Now oftentimes if you responded no, it would confirm that a "no" has been received. So don't be confused with that saying "not received." It's saying "no received." But we'll do a test. If everyone could press one (1) for yes, we'll give you one minute to press your buttons this time just to make sure we count everyone's votes.

GRAVES: One explanation about the additional time. In a room this vast, the signal does move a little bit more than it does in a smaller contained space, and so we are going to leave the timer open for the votes to be recorded for a full minute. Again, one of the pieces that Simon said: If your device is registering "yes received," that is an easily understood piece. Perhaps the confusing portion is if you have cast a no vote it says "no received," which means your no vote has been received. So that perhaps is one of the pieces that has been a bit confusing as people are working through the translation and the interpretation of what the device is telling us. That is one of the suggestions that was given to us during the break.

BRIAN: So you should all see that you can now vote, and we can all vote yes. Press one (1) to vote yes. Yes sir. If a page could come to the front here, we have a flag. And another one.

GRAVES: So everyone at this point should see "yes received" on your handset.

BRIAN: It may well say "sending" as well, as the vote hits the keypads. (pause) Are you ready? OK, there we go. So a few of you wandered back into the room. Thank you for that. I've still got a few nos. I won't tell you off too much.

GRAVES: Thank you to the seventeen people who are trying to keep

us on our toes. That is registering eight hundred and that is the number we will move forward with at this moment.

BISHOP WARD: Before we proceed further, we have a prayer request that we have received. One of the South Congo delegates, Muteba Pasa, has been taken to the hospital. So let us pause and intercede for healing. Let us pray. How precious is your steadfast love, O God. All people may rest in the shadow of your wings, feasting at the abundance of your table and drinking from the wellsprings of your great delight. Pour out the abundance of your blessings upon Muteba Pasa. Be with those who are caring and surrounding this our friend. Grant healing and strength, we pray. And in this moment, on this Sunday afternoon, we remember in our hearts and minds others from our homes far away in silence. And we hold them in our hearts knowing that you, O God, hold them in your hearts. Be with us as we move with confidence into the next steps of our work together. Amen.

First Item of Prioritization

We will now begin with the prioritization process. And we begin with the first plan, the One Church Plan. The information about this plan and its conforming amendments are found in Volume 1 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and includes petitions 1001 through 90014 that are on pages 164 through 168. We will prioritize this plan now, so please pick up your voting devices, and in a moment we will ask you to press one (1) if you believe this plan is a high priority for consideration of the committee. You will press two (2) if you believe this plan is a low priority for consideration of the committee. And we will take a one-minute vote. We will take a one-minute ranking. Please vote now.

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: The poll is now closed, and remember, we will not share the rankings until all have been prioritized. We move now to the second, the Wespath recommendations, petitions 90016 through 90017 on pp. 168 and 169 of the ADCA. Again, you will press one if you favor high priority. You will press two if you believe this should be a low priority for the committee. This will be a one-minute vote. Please indicate now-one or two, high or low.

The poll is closed. We move to the third, Connectional Conference plan, petition numbers 90019 through 90031, pp. 170–182. You will press one high priority or two if you favor low priority.

Petition 90018 Reassigned

GARY GRAVES: The reminder is that 90018 has been reassigned to the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. The remaining portion of the Connectional Conference plan is what is being prioritized at this moment.

BISHOP WARD: Please indicate your vote now.

The poll is now closed, and we move to the next plan, the Traditional Plan, except 90041 and 90048. Petitions 90019 through 90031 pages . . . my apologies. 90032 through 90040, 90042 through 90047 on pp. 182 through 86 and 190 through 94. One if you favor high priority. Low is number two. Please indicate your preference now.

The poll is now closed, and we move to the next, A Graceful Exit as a Way Forward, petition number 90051 on p. 197. If you would rank this as a high priority, number one. A low priority, number two. Please indicate your preference now.

Polls are closed. The next petition, A Traditional Way Forward with Enhanced Reinforcement,

90052, p. 197. Please press one if you believe this should be a high priority. Number two, low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

Poll is closed, and we move to a petition to replace paragraph 161.G, petition number 90055 on p. 199. Number one high priority, number two low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: The poll now closes and we move to The Abeyance of Trust Clause Enforcement, Petition 90056, on page 200. You will press one (1) if you favor high priority; two (2) if you favor low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is closed.

Definition of Gender, Petition No. 90057, page 200. Number one (1) high priority; number two (2) low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is closed.

The next petition is Disaffiliation, New Paragraph 2548, Petition No. 90058, page 201. Press one (1) if you favor high priority; press two (2) low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is closed.

The next petition Disaffiliation, New Paragraph 2549, Petition No. 90059, page 201. Please press one (1) if you consider this a high priority; press two (2) if you consider this a low priority, and please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is closed.

Retain Paragraph 161.G, Petition No. 90062, page 202. Press one (1) for high priority; press two

(2) for low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is closed and we move to Disaffiliation, New Paragraph 2553, Petition No. 90066, page 205. Press one (1) if you favor high priority; press two (2) if you consider this a low priority for the committee. Please indicate your preference now.

BISHOP WARD: The poll is now closed.

We move to the Simple Plan, Petition Nos. 90068–90075, pages 207–210. If you believe this is a high priority for consideration of the committee, press one (1), low priority press two (2). Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is now closed.

The next petition Interpretation of Fidelity in Marriage for Deacons, Petition No. 90077, page 210. Please press one (1) if you indicate a high priority, two (2) for low priority for the committee consideration. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

Marriage Petition No. 90067, page 206. One (1) for high priority, two (2) to favor low priority. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is now closed.

The poll is closed and we move to the next Petition No. 90082, on Inclusiveness on page 223. Press one (1) if you favor high priority, or two (2) if you favor low priority in committee consideration. Please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

The poll is now closed.

Some of you may have thought I skipped the Modified Traditional

Plan, 90078. But that has gone to the committee; that's why we did not—the standing committee. Now before us is the petition on Human Sexuality No. 90083, page 223. Press one (1) if you favor high priority and two (2) if you favor low priority by the committee. And please indicate your preference now.

(pause for voting)

(pause)

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: The poll is closed. And we move to the One New Discipline Plan Petition No. 90084, p. 223. Please press one (1) if you consider this a high priority, two (2) low priority and please indicate your preference now.

(pause)

The poll is closed.

Petition on Inclusiveness No. 90087, p. 231. Please press one (1) if you consider this a high priority, two (2) consider this a low priority for the committee, please indicate your preference now.

(pause)

The poll is closed.

Chargeable Offenses, paragraph, I mean Petition No. 90088, p. 231. If you favor high priority of the committee press one (1), low priority press two (2). Please indicate your preference now.

(pause)

The poll is closed.

Petition No. 90089 Sexual Practices, p. 231. If you consider this petition a high priority you will press one (1), low priority press two (2). Please indicate your preference now.

(pause)

The poll is closed.

(applause)

Petition Nos. 90090 through 90092, Fully Inclusive Way Forward, p. 233. Please press one (1) if you consider this a high priority, low priority two (2). Please indicate your preference now.

(pause)

The poll is now closed. This concludes the prioritization process.

Prioritization Balloting Concluded

(applause)

The results of the prioritization process will be shown to the conference. We are going to sing a moment and then it will be shared with the conference. Let's stand.

(music)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

So, we have been enjoying our time in St. Louis, but we want to take music to a place that's a little warmer. Is that okay? So repeat after me. Say, "Hear my cry, O Lord." So, we're going to put a little western flavor on this. Is that all right? And by the time we're done, it will be much warmer in this place. Amen.

(music)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Oh, I thought that was the cut sign. Sorry.

(music)

(applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Come on, a little

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Father, you look beautiful.

(applause)

(music)

Prioritization Results Presented

BISHOP WARD: The prioritization results; we'll give you a moment to get back to your seats.

The formatting took a while. We're almost ready to project. We turn now to our conference secretary.

GARY GRAVES: Thank you for your patience; there are people who work Excel spreadsheets much better than I do, and I thank God for them. We are ready to give you the results of your prioritization. You will be seeing the name of the plan or the petition. You will see the exact count that was ranked for high priority, the numbers of the delegates who pressed the button one (1), and you will see a percentage that indicates how that number compared to the total number cast on each of the elements. If we are ready, we will put the first slide up and give you the first five.

Wespath recommendations: 518 votes, excuse me, preferences; 63.56%

Traditional plan (except for those that have been reassigned to Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters): 459, 55.57%

Disaffiliation, Taylor: 412, 50.06%

Disaffiliation, Boyette: 406, 49.51%

One Church Plan (except for petition 90015, reassigned to Standing Committee): 403, with a 48.67 percentage.

Disaffiliation: 395, 48.41%
Retain Paragraph 161.G: 214, 26.13%

A Simple Plan: 153, 18.68%
A Traditional Way Forward: 148, 18.03%

A Graceful Exit as a Way Forward: 133, 16.24%

Inclusiveness: 107, 12.94%

Human Sexuality: 104, 12.73%

Inclusiveness, number
eighty-seven: 104, 12.70%

Connectional Conference Plan
(with the exception of 90018, reas-
signed to Standing Committee): 102,
12.44%

Abeyance of the Trust Clause
Enforcement: 99, 12.03%

Marriage: 87, 10.64%

Chargeable Offenses: 87,
10.57%

Definition of Gender: 70, 8.54%

Interpretation of Fidelity in Mar-
riage for Deacons: 69, 8.42%

Fully Inclusive Way Forward:
67, 8.18%

Replace Paragraph 161.G: 64,
7.79%

One New Discipline Plan: 61,
7.42%

Sexual Practices: 45, 5.47%

This is the order in which the
Legislative Committee will begin
their perfection process.

BISHOP WARD: I'll ask Bish-
op Gregory Palmer if he will lead us
in prayer.

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN
PALMER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

BISHOP PALMER: Gracious
and eternal God, we give you thanks
for the constancy of your love, your
grace, your mercy, your presence,
and your power. We are confident
that you are in our midst and through
the power and presence of your Holy
Spirit, you will lead, guide, and di-
rect this, your holy Church, to what
it means to be faithful in this season.
We thank you for these delegates,
for the bishops of the church, for
all who have come to participate
through observation, and for all who
are working both in front of and
behind the scenes to make the work
that we do here possible, accessible,
and meaningful. So we pray that
you would continue to overshadow
us with your presence that we might

have a wisdom in the unfolding
hours that we cannot have without
you. We pray that you would keep
watch at the door of each and all of
our hearts with your matchless gift
of peace, which you have told us in
your word surpasses all knowledge
and understanding. And now we ask,
O God, that you would help us to
move forward deliberately, thought-
fully, tenderly, and carefully. For we
ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prioritization Results Passed to Legislative Committee

BISHOP WARD: Prioritization
will now be sent to the legislative
committee for its use. The commit-
tee is instructed to take up the plan
petition that received the highest
priority in the poll which you just
heard. The legislative process will
unfold and ultimately the committee
is charged to recommend one of the
plans back to the General Confer-
ence its further consideration. With
all of this in mind, this assembly is
adjourned now to meet as a legisla-
tive committee.

Legislative Committee Called to Order with Officer Elections

The legislative committee will
now be in order. And the first item
of business in this committee is the
election of officers for the commit-
tee. The committee needs to elect a
chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary.
The committee on the General
Conference has determined that only
those who have been trained to serve
as an officer for a committee at the
2016 General Conference are eligi-
ble to serve as officers for the one
committee at this special conference.
The plan of organization specifies in
section G, legislative committees, in
paragraph 3A, specifies the follow-
ing about who is eligible to serve as
a committee officer. The secretary
for the general conference shall be

responsible for training our chairper-
sons, vice-chairpersons, secretaries
and subcommittee chairpersons
of the legislative committees. The
training shall consider construction
in their duties, all procedures and the
handling commissions, the times, the
daily deadline for publishing reports,
and other information to expedite the
work of the committees. The Com-
mission on the General Conference
shall arrange for a time and place for
such a training session. No officer
shall serve without completing
this training. No training has been
provided at this General Conference,
therefore only those trained at the
last conference are eligible to be
elected as an officer of this commit-
tee.

Shortly, we will take nomina-
tions for chair of the committee first
followed by an election. Our rules
indicate that after three ballots with
no candidate receiving a majority of
the votes passed, nominations will
once again be opened and the pro-
cess will be repeated. A list of those
individuals who have been trained
will now be projected on the screens
for your information.

So, when we are ready for
nominations, please know you may
only nominate one of the persons on
the list of those who were trained.
Also as nominations proceed if the
person you wish to nominate has
already nominated by someone else
before you have the opportunity to
nominate that person, you should
clear your name from the speaking
pool. There is no need for repeated
nomination of that same person. Re-
member, you can remove your name
by pressing the speaker button again
and your name will be deleted from
the pool if the person you wish to
nominate was nominated before you
were recognized.

If no one is elected after three
ballots the committee starts again
and these names will be projected

and they are still the pool in which you nominate the person to serve. After nominations are closed, we'll repeat the same process until someone is selected with a majority of votes cast. We hope this is clear to the committee. So please take up your voting devices.

Eligible Candidates for Committee Chair

GARY GRAVES (General Conference Secretary): Bishop, we have a correction. There is a correction to the first list, the name of Connie Clark was left off and is being added at this moment. We have five names in the first category: Bill Allen, Connie Clark, Joe Harris, and Kimberly Reisman. So it was four. Bill Allen, Connie Clark, Joe Harris, and Kim Reisman were reported on p. 268 of the *DCA*. Today, in your additional list on p. 283, Charles Boayue was added. There was communication issue and travel issue in getting him to the first meeting, when we gathered for the refresher. So Bill Allen, Connie Clark, Joe Harris, Kim Reisman, and Charles Boayue, all five are eligible, and in the pool.

(pause)

BISHOP WARD: . . . you to enter into the pool in order to be recognized. Dave Nuckols mic. 3, mic. 1. I'm sorry. I was reading.

(pause)

DAVID BRANCH NUCKOLS (Minnesota): OK, I thank you Bishop. Dave Nuckols, lay delegate from Minnesota. I would like to respectfully request the group go on break. At the last group of songs, we were told there would be a slight delay to get the information, and I was thinking one song and it kept on going. So we haven't had the opportunity to go for a bathroom break. I know I'm not the only one who needs it.

BISHOP WARD: I certainly honor that request. Let us now take a ten-minute break. We will start promptly in ten minutes—promptly, not eleven, ten.

BISHOP WARD: Take your seats. And as you return take a moment to look in your *DCA* on p. 268 where you will see information about those who are nominated as a result of their having been trained and their service at the last general conference in Portland and p. 283. We want to give time for people to get back into the room. That's important information and I am sure you have studied it but this would be a good time to refresh yourselves on those who are eligible to be elected. Also please, please press 8, 8 to make a nomination. We will be in that process in just a moment. Press 8. Other numbers are appearing in a pool of for or against and there is nothing pending. So please don't press those buttons because you'll not be recognized. We have cleared the pool so if you entered before the break you need to reenter in a moment when we open the pool for nominations, and you will use 8, only 8, if you want to be recognized to make a nomination.

(pause)

Please don't push 8 yet. I'll tell you when to push 8.

(pause)

Let us all be in order. Let us pray. We come before you, loving God, to continue the work of this afternoon and we ask your guidance as we set apart those who will lead and guide the work of the committee in the hours and days ahead. From the earliest times, you have called forth leaders from your church. We trust that you are doing it again in our midst as we enter into this process. Amen.

(pause)

The first order of business in the organizing of the committee is the election of officers for the committee. It's now time to receive nominations having heard the instructions before the break. If you would like to nominate a person who is eligible to serve as chair, please enter 8, and I will recognize persons who entered the pool. I recognize Ron Enns. Mic 1 or the nearest microphone.

Nominations for Committee Chair

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas Conference): Bishop I would nominate Joe Harris as chairman of the Legislative Committee.

BISHOP WARD: Joe Harris is nominated. Remember, if you plan to make a nomination, Joe Harris is in nomination, so clear your name if that was your intent. Steven Sparks, mic. 1. Oh, okay. Tom Harrison, Oklahoma, mic. 3. Okay. I'm sorry, names are disappearing. Emily Allen, mic. 4. Emily Allen, mic. 4 or the nearest microphone.

EMILY ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you Bishop. I nominate Connie Clark for chair.

BISHOP WARD: Connie Clark has been nominated. Are there other nominations.

(pause)

Mark Holland, oh I'm sorry names are disappearing. One second while names are cleared.

(pause)

Jackie Euper, mic. 3 Or—

BISHOP WARD: Mic.

JAQUELINE EUPER (Michigan Conference): Bishop, I'm Jackie Euper from the Michigan Conference. And I would like to nominate Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue Jr.

BISHOP WARD: Rev. Charles Boayue is nominated. Simon Mafunda, mic. 1, or the closest microphone.

SIMON MAFUNDA (East Zimbabwe): Bishop, I propose to close nomination.

BISHOP WARD: There is no one else in the queue, so we will certainly honor that suggestion. Nominations are now closed. In a moment, the names of those nominated will be projected on the screen, and each one will be assigned a number based on the order in which they were nominated. When we are ready to vote, and that is not yet. When we are ready to vote, delegates will be asked to vote for one candidate by pressing the number assigned to the candidate's name. If one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, she or he will be elected chair of the committee. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, we will conduct a second ballot. If no majority is achieved by any candidate on the second ballot, we will take a third ballot. If, after three ballots, no candidate has received a majority of the votes cast, nominations will again be opened and the committee will repeat the same process we did to get nominations the first time. If this happens, everyone must be nominated again to be on the subsequent ballot. Just because a person is nominated for this ballot does not mean they are automatically nominated for subsequent ballots. We are now ready to begin balloting for chair of the committee. The list of nominees are on the screen with their numbers. Remember, in a moment, to enter the number of your preference.

Number 1: Charles Boayue Jr. They are alphabetical by last name. Number 1: Charles Boayue Jr. Number 2: Connie Clark. Number 3: Joe Harris.

Please take your electronic device and select the nominee of

your choice by entering the number beside that person's name. Please vote now.

(pause for voting)

BISHOP WARD: We see some flags relative to technology and want to make sure that these persons have their votes entered. That's why I'm pausing.

(pause for voting)

Harris Elected Chair of Legislative Committee

BISHOP WARD: The poll is now closed. The poll is closed and the results are projected. Joe Harris, 422, 51%. Joe Harris has been elected chair of the legislative committee. *[Connie Clark, 360; Charles Boayue Jr., 39]*

Now, let's move to the election of vice-chair of the legislative committee. Please remember to enter number 8. We will project the list of those who have been trained and are thereby eligible to serve as vice-chair of the legislative committee. And after that list is projected, and I encourage you again to consult your Advance information so that you may read the qualifications of these persons. When the list is projected we'll follow the same process.

BISHOP WARD: Those eligible to serve, to be nominated, are before you. If you wish to make a nomination please press number eight (8) to be recognized. Jeff Jernigan mic. 2, or the closest microphone.

Nominations for Committee Vice Chair

JEFF JERNIGAN (North Georgia): Jeff Jernigan, North Georgia—I move to nominate the Rev. Dr. Laishi Bwalya from Zambia.

BISHOP WARD: Laishi Bwalya is nominated. Are there other nominations? I recognize Elizabeth

Brick mic. . . . I'm sorry the name was just erased out of the . . . I'm sorry Elizabeth Brick mic. 4.

ELIZABETH BRICK (California-Nevada): Bishop, I nominate Betty Kazadi Musau

BISHOP WARD: Thank you for that nomination. Betty Kazadi Musau is nominated. Recognize Randall Miller at mic. 4 or the closest mic.

RANDALL MILLER (California-Nevada): Good afternoon Bishop. Unfortunately, my speaker list wouldn't clear.

BISHOP WARD: (laughter) Curnell Gram mic. 3.

CURNELL GRAHAM (West Ohio): Bishop I move to close the nomination, if that's in order.

BISHOP WARD: There is no one else in the pool and so the nominations certainly can be closed, as none are desiring to make nominations. We will in a moment project the names of those nominated with a number by each name. They'll be projected alphabetically. These persons are nominated for vice-chair of the committee. Please take your voting device. You will vote number one (1) if you wish to elect Bwalya Laishi, and number two (2) if you wish to elect Betty Kazadi Masiu. Musau, I'm sorry. Vote now.

(pause for voting)

BISHOP WARD: The poll is closed and the results will be projected. Betty Kazadi Musau is elected.

(applause)

Kazadi Musau Elected Vice Chair

[Betty Kazadi Musau, 423; Bwalya Laishi, 394]

BISHOP WARD: We now move to election of the secretary of the committee. We will follow the same process. Please give care

to survey the names of those who are eligible to be elected. And in a moment, we will open the pool. Again use number eight (8), number eight (8) only if you'd like to make a nomination.

(pause)

If you would like to make a nomination. Joy Barret at mic. 3 or the closest mic. Joy Barret.

*Nominations for
Committee Secretary*

JOY BARRET (Michigan): I nominate Carlene Fogle-Miller.

BISHOP WARD: Carlene Fogle-Miller has been nominated. Ian Urriola mic. 1 or the closest mic.

IAN URRIOLA (Upper New York): Bishop I would like to nominate the Rev. Becky Sweet.

BISHOP WARD: Becky Sweet has been nominated. Carolyn Ann Dove mic. 2 or the closest mic.

CAROLYN ANN DOVE (Louisiana): Bishop, I'm confused. They only showed us who could be elected chair, vice-chair, or secretary. We elected a chair and then they went to vice-chair. Can't those people in the pool for chair be elected vice-chair or secretary? Because all of those people were trained.

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: The training was specific around the role and so the decision is to leave the pool specific to the role, be it president, chair, vice-chair, or secretary. That's the reasoning. Thank you for your question.

Larry Bryars, mic. 2, or the closest mic.

PAUL LAWRENCE BRYARS (Alabama-West Florida): Yes, Bishop, I hope I say this correctly, Joe DiPaolo.

BISHOP WARD: Joe DiPaolo has been nominated.

Joe Kilpatrick, mic. 2, or the closet mic. I do not see someone

headed to the mic. I know North Georgia is back in the corner.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Excuse me, Bishop. I was trying to get out of the pool. I thought that the nomination of Joe DiPaolo was appropriate. Thank you.

BISHOP WARD: OK, there are no others waiting to make nominations, so the nominations are closed. Again, these persons who have been nominated will be assigned a number and you will vote for them by the number that will be projected on the screen momentarily.

Please register in with your desire to speak. Nominations were closed, however, if you wish to—Oliver Green—we reopen in order to have the body do its work as completely as possible.

OLIVER D. GREEN (Great Plains): Oliver Green, Great Plains, lay, I would nominate Shayla Jordan.

BISHOP WARD: Shayla Jordan is nominated.

I have two more names, however. Mark Holland, no? Courtney Fowler? OK, all of those eligible have been nominated. Thank you for that reminder. The names will be projected on the screen. If you will take your devices and prepare to enter the number that corresponds to the person who you would support for this role of secretary of the legislative committee. You may vote now.

*Fogle-Miller Elected
Committee Secretary*

(pause for voting)

BISHOP WARD: The poll is closed and the results will be projected.

[*Carlene Fogle-Miller, 365; Becky Sweet, 153; Joe DiPaolo, 242; Shayla Jordan, 61*]

There is no election so prepare to vote a second time. We will keep voting until someone receives a ma-

ajority. The numbers and names are before you. One moment before we clear. You may vote now.

(pause for voting)

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: The poll is closed. The results will be projected in a moment. Carlene Fogle-Miller is elected secretary of the legislative committee.

[*Carlene Fogle-Miller, 478; Joe DiPaolo, 213; Shayla Jordan, 31*]

I'd like to invite Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi to come and lead us in a prayer of blessing upon these who have been elected to serve you as officers of the legislative committee.

BISHOP CYNTHIA MOORE-KOIKOI: Won't you join me in a word of prayer? Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Kind and gracious God Almighty, powerful God, we commend to you Joe, Betty, and Carlene. We commend them to you for the work to which they have now been elected. Pour out your blessing upon these, your servants. Grant them grace to give themselves whole-heartedly in your service. Keep them—keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of himself but gave himself for us all. Let them share in his ministry and his consecration that they may enter into his joy, as they do their work of leading this legislative section. We commend them to you. We bless them to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BISHOP WARD: Thank you for your work together this afternoon. The legislative committee will be in recess for thirty minutes. Then we'll reconvene at quarter till five, 4:45, under the leadership of those you've elected. Have a good break.

*Committee Chair Convenes
Legislative Committee*

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma):
We are about ready to begin.

(pause)

Alright, if we'll gather in our seats, we are about ready to begin.

(pause)

If you would bow with me for a word of prayer. Most gracious God, we are grateful that we're your people for such a time as this. Help us to always reflect the best of your kingdom in conversations with one another, in how we treat strangers, and how we greet all those who we would like to invite to the kingdom. We are grateful, Lord, that you have chosen us. We commit ourselves and recommit ourselves to do the very best we can to reflect the best things of the kingdom. We will be careful when we get to the end of this journey not to pat ourselves on the back but to give you the glory for all the good things that happen according to your will. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen. Move to our General Secretary for a Judicial Council ruling.

*Reading of Judicial Council
Memorandum # 1376*

GRAVES: Thank you. Typically we would not give a ruling in Legislative Committees because you would be in twelve or thirteen portions of the building and we would wait for the plenary session. But since this is not a plenary session, you are the Legislative Committee. We are able to read it here because you are the same set of people and no one would be left out. So we do want to make sure to get these to you as quickly as possible so that they help you in your continued process. The Judicial Council has released Memorandum No. 1376.

Memorandum No. 1376. Petition for Declaratory Decision from the General Conference concerning the constitutionality of Par. 304.5 in light of Pars. 16 and 33 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*. The digest reads, The question raised in this matter was answered in Judicial Council Decision 1321 and the decision cited therein. Again, the question raised in this matter was answered in Judicial Council Decision 1321 and the decision cited therein. Thank you. This is the memorandum from the Judicial Council.

HARRIS: I wanted to introduce myself and hope you will do that at the microphones and we're to do it in this order. My name is Rev. Joseph Harris, I am an elder in the Oklahoma Conference, and I am so honored that you all have chosen me for such a time as this. Someone said, Joe, why would you do this? I said because you make yourself available to serve your church and then God does the rest. So thank you so much for that opportunity to serve you and I also want to thank all of those who submitted their names to be in the pool.

We have had meetings since Thursday and I would be as honored to have any of those who have been with us to have been elected to this position. They are outstanding people. They serve the church and give great leadership. So I am grateful that I have the privilege to be among their company. I'd like for us to remember what Bishop Tracy Smith Malone reminded us of, that we're to be kind to one another in our conversations, to not intentionally do harm, to always strive to do good, and of course always stay in love with God. If we remember those three things, we'll be OK. You know someone said earlier that we can disagree but we ought to disagree with gentle compassion for one another.

I hope that you will forgive me for my faults at this. You know I've chaired two legislative committees, but it's nothing like this, folks. I want you to know that there are some things in parliamentary procedure that we didn't have to do in independent commissions that some of you on other committees have had to do. I will rely a lot on Len Young, our parliamentarian, who has already given us good leadership to help us get through these items and know that I will make mistakes. You know I said at my ordination when I was asked if I was going to be perfected in this life that I expected to but not these next few days. So know that I will do the best I can and I will make mistakes. I'll ask your forgiveness now. I loved the opportunity we had to go around and ask forgiveness for intentional and unintentional things. I ask your forgiveness now for that. But we'll go on even in the midst of mistakes and do the best we can for God, and I promise you I'll will give you my best as we move forward. I want you to forgive me for names pronunciation. It's a challenge for me sometimes for me to get, particularly the international names, clearly as I like and so please correct me at any point if I mispronounce and blame it on my head, not my heart, because you'll know it will be done with the best intentions in mind.

Remind us again as we debate these issues to speak slowly and clearly for interpreters, etc. I have the tendency to go fast sometimes too and I'm going to ask them to remind me to go slow if I am going too fast and certainly I would remind you too.

And I want to also remind you that as you put your name in the pool that it's not when you get into the pool, it's how I look at this pool and try to make sure we're as diverse as possible with those that are speak-

ing. So don't, because you think that you are the first one in the pool that you will be the first one called. It will just be a matter of how we select people from around the room and we will try to do it as fairly as possible. Want us to always to remember to be careful on our substitute motions because those substitute motions constitute an action of the conference. And if a substitute is defeated, then it has been acted upon and it will not return in this legislative session. So remember that particularly if you are trying to substitute things, particularly plans as they might be there.

I want you to remember that point of orders must cite the rule, must be concise in its reasons for raising the violation. As our parliamentarian reminded us the other day, this is not time for additional speeches. It's to say that there was a violation of the rule according to your opinion, I may have a different opinion and may judge differently, or we may throw it to the body. But those would be the reasons and the only reasons for points of order.

Our speeches for and against are under a three-minute clock. I will be as kind as possible to make sure that we stay as close as we can to these three minutes for these speeches, so it's probably good to write a two-minute speech and expect three minutes when you actually talk. So try to adhere to the three-minute speech. Amendments and main motions open a new queue each time, and if we have an amendment, then you want to get into the pool you can, and if you are already in the pool for the main motion, when we return to the main motion then you have to resubmit your name in the pool. We'd like people to remember that so that they don't think that they were in the pool for the main motion and seem to drop out and that nobody ever seemed to call on me. I would ask each delegate to reread p.

274 to 277 on Saturday's *DCA* that continues to remind me each day as to how we are going to proceed in this legislative session. Please, you know we had a day of prayer on Saturday and it wasn't a day so we could get that out of the way and just do the business, but it was time for us to say that our business is a prayer. And we'll approach each other in prayerful consideration. So let us continue praying our way forward and always ask God to be with us, alright?

*Wespath, First
Business Committee*

Well let's go. The first item that we will deal with out of Wespath recommendations, they are the first that appeared in the selection of the percentages of the high priorities. That was the highest. We will deal with those together. They're Petition 90016 and Petition 90017. They're found in your *ADCA* on p. 168 and 169. We will assume that there's a motion to present this before the, because of our prioritization, there's a second. This motion is debatable. So in a moment we will open the pool so that if you wish to speak you may register. If you wish to speak on either of these petitions, and remember we're voting on them together, you may register to speak now.

(pause)

HARRIS: Bill Allen, mic. no. 1.

(pause)

HARRIS: They're coming up now.

(pause)

WILLIAM ARTHUR ALLEN
(Upper New York): Hello, I'd just like to...this is Bill Allen, Upper New York Conference. I'd like to speak in favor.

HARRIS: OK.

ALLEN: I just wanted to say that all my interactions with Wespath have been so, so professional. I know they have done their homework. I know they are thinking not only about the next six months, and the next year, but the next decade and beyond and beyond. I just want to really affirm that I believe that it's wise that we move in these directions. And I just want to affirm this.

HARRIS: Is there a speech against?

(pause)

HARRIS: I don't see any.

(pause)

HARRIS: So.

(pause)

HARRIS: I call upon Lonnie Chafin and go to mic. no. 1. I would ask for what purpose you seek to speak to the assembly.

LONNIE CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Joe. Lonnie Chapin, Northern Illinois Conference. I actually have a question and I didn't know how to, where do you want us to register questions on this device?

HARRIS: You did it correctly.

CHAPIN: Oh. Thank you very much. And my question was actually about the prioritization list. Is it possible to get a physical copy of the order in which we will address these petitions distributed to the body tonight? I did try to write it down as quickly as possible but it would be helpful to kind of have an orderly array of how these things will be addressed.

HARRIS: My understanding is it will be in the *DCA* in the morning. You're looking for something this evening. So I don't know if there's any possibility of getting any copies but it probably won't get printed tonight. So, I think the best we can do is just know that it will be in the *DCA* in the morning.

CHAFIN: May I ask then just what the first five will be so we can have ourselves mentally prepared for what comes?

HARRIS: Sure.

CHAFIN: It makes this a little more...

HARRIS: All right. Of course, Wespath, which we're dealing with now, the Traditional Plan, which will be next.

CHAFIN: And both Wespath petitions.

HARRIS: Both Wespath petitions we're dealing with currently. The Traditional Plan, Disaffiliation Taylor, Disaffiliation Ouellette, One Church Plan, Disaffiliation...

CHAFIN: We won't get all the way to that today. Just wanted to know what we're doing now.

HARRIS: OK. Is that good?

CHAFIN: See how easily I get confused? All right. Wespath, Wespath, and Traditional Plan no. 3, is that what you're saying?

HARRIS: And two disaffiliations.

CHAFIN: And then the Taylor disaffiliation.

HARRIS: And Ouellette.

CHAFIN: Thank you.

HARRIS: Right. OK. And remember the two Wespath that we're dealing with now are bundled. So I'm looking to see if there is any speaker who would speak not in favor of the Wespath. I do not see any in the pool yet.

(pause)

HARRIS: Bonnie Marden? Mic. no. 4. Has an amendment.

BONNIE MARDEN (New England): Bonnie Marden, New England Conference, Lay. I have an amendment I would like to try on Petition no. 90016, line 3. The language "for release from the trust clause" pursuant to Par. 2548 to 2549, I'd like to move to strike that language.

(pause)

HARRIS: So your move is to just strike that language?

MARDEN: Yes. If there's a second, I'll speak to that.

HARRIS: Is there a second? I think I hear a second. You may proceed.

MARTIN: Unless there is an answer from Wespath about the importance of including that option in this legislation, I would move that we consider striking it in recognition of our denominational historical trust clause, and that it not be part of this piece of this legislation.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): And we open this amendment up for debate. I am told that the only way that we can strike the amendment is to strike the words and then they would go—the striking would go back into the main question. *(confering)* So we have no one in the queue at this point. And now they are coming in. Right. Yes. Please, Bonnie Marden, if you would bring a written copy of your amendment up to the table, that would help our records. I call, we had a speech for, so, I call Jim Allen to mic. 1 and he will speak against the motion, the amendment.

JAMES (JIM) R. ALLEN (Tennessee): Hello, I am Jim Allen, a lay delegate from Tennessee. 2548 and 2549 are paragraphs currently in the *Discipline* about when churches leave. 2548 and 2549 include such routine things as just selling a building, a church that's closed because the membership have died off, they can be pretty routine. I think this proposal from Wespath gives the annual conference some real guidance on how to handle the pension funding related to that and so I would speak against deleting those references in the proposal. Thank you.

HARRIS: Thank you. Brian Milford has a motion, another mo-

tion, that he will tell us what it is if he comes to mic. 4.

Motion for Wespath Representative to Clarify Trust Clause

BRIAN KENT MILFORD (Iowa): Yes, Mr. Chair, I am Brian Milford from the Iowa Conference. I have a question. I am wondering how to invite the General Secretary or a representative from Wespath to speak to this amendment.

HARRIS: I know the General Secretary is here. And here comes—you will need to give us permission to do this, and so, if you will take your voting device and if you would give us permission to allow a representative from Wespath or the General Secretary to speak to the assembly, you would vote yes. If you are against that, you would vote no. It is not up yet, so hold on, but get your voting device ready. OK, they are ready. If you would invite a speaker to come to address this, you would vote one (1), would be yes. If you would not, then you would vote no. Please vote now.

(pause for voting)

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): We have some technology flags that are being waved, so I pray that our, those who take care of that are responding.

(pause)

HARRIS: We are trying to fix some of the issues that some of the flags are going up about, so hold steady for a little bit and we'll get to this vote.

(pause)

HARRIS: We've handled most of them. There's a flag or two still waving. We are going to go ahead and call it even if your vote might not have registered, I think you'll see the reason why. So let's show the

vote. You have allowed for a speaker either from Wespath or the General Secretary to come and address the assembly on the issue before us.
[Yes, 691; No, 107]

HARRIS: Is the Wespath representative, OK, the Wespath representative is at mic. no. 2 and please feel free to begin speaking when you are ready.

ANDY HENDREN (General Counsel, Wespath): Thank you. My name is Andy Hendren. I'm General Counsel at Wespath. In answer to the question, the delegate Jim Allen is exactly right. The language that we are proposing to strike accommodates current situations. Paragraph 2548 actually allows church property to be deeded to a federated church or another evangelical denomination. Paragraph 2549 deals with closing churches. The text as it's written says release from the trust clause in those circumstances, it could also be thought of as non-enforcement, it's really if the annual conference lets the church property go in those situations that a pension payment should be made.

HARRIS: OK. Thank you for that information. We turn back to the amendment now. We've had a speech for and a speech against. We do have another, Bill Brownson, mic. no. 3, and please state the reason for your inquiry.

WILLIAM BROWNSON (West Ohio): Bill Brownson, West Ohio. Mr. Chairman, the request was for a point of information. Not related to the amendment but to the petition in total. I will offer it if you are interested in hearing it.

HARRIS: Can you wait until we finish the amendment?

BROWNSON: I can. I was in the queue before the amendment came.

HARRIS: OK. Right. Thank you. We have another inquiry. Ian Urriola. Please forgive my pronunciation. Mic no. 1.

IAN CARLOS URRIOLA (Upper New York): Thank you, Chair. It's Urriola, you're forgiven.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Thank you.

URRIOLA: My question—I rise for a point of inquiry—my question is if this amendment were to be approved by the body, do we have figures for what the average cost would be to the average United Methodist local church if this were to go through?

HARRIS: Alright. I will ask the representative from Wespath to return to mic. 2 if he can answer that question.

ANDY HENDREN (General Counsel, Wespath): Again, Andy Hendren. This question, I think, is about the underlying petition, not about the amendment to strike certain language, but to speak to it, the answer is that it varies. It varies from church to church. It varies from annual conference to annual conference. It depends upon how well funded the annual conference is in its defined benefit—in its pension promises, really. And, then it depends on the size of the church relative to the other churches in the conference, and the financial strength of that church relative to the other local churches in the conference. So, we don't have an exact number, because every single church is going to be a little bit different.

HARRIS: Thank you for that explanation. Return again to the amendment. We had a speaker for and a speaker against. Are there any more speakers? Seeing none, I sense that you are ready to vote on the amendment. The amendment is to strike the language and incorporate that strike into the main motion. And so, if you will take your voting device, if you are in favor of the amendment you would press one (1). If you do not support the amend-

ment, you would press two (2). Please vote now.

(pause)

HARRIS: I think we responded to all the flags that were up, so we should see a result shortly.

(pause)

HARRIS: Alright. So the amendment is defeated.
[Yes, 135; No, 672]

HARRIS: Now we return to the main motion which is before us. The queue is empty, and as you recall I said earlier, you have to re-register if you want to speak either for or against the main motion, and remember, the main motion is the coupling together of the two Wespath petitions that we have in front of you. So, the queue is open.

(pause)

Question about Defined Contributions

HARRIS: We have several people who are asking questions, it seems, and so we'll start with Mark Holland, mic. no. 1.

MARK HOLLAND (Great Plains): Mark Holland, clergy from Great Plains. I am personally, financially, and emotionally invested in this question. I have a question about p. 161. It's letter A. It's the *DC Plan for the Future and Freeze Legacy Plans*, and this says that "the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is directed to bring to the 2020 General Conference amendments to the mandatory clergy benefits to support the decision of this General Conference," and they "shall consider ways that the benefit plans can support 'greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church,'" and it includes two things that I would ask Wespath to speak to, because this a

\$4.7 billion dollar investment in the church, our greatest financial asset by far, and I just want to be clear as a pastor (and my father's a retired pastor) about how these benefits are going to work. It says "freezing the defined benefit components and ceasing account balance annuitization," and it says "securing accurate financial records implementing new funding and liability allocation," but this is the one that "creating a new mandatory retirement plan that is a defined contribution plan." So, I have a number of questions about that, and I defer to you on how to best proceed.

HARRIS: Mark, let me just say that your question is an important one, but it does not have anything to do with the motions that are before us, with the two petitions that are before us. So, this would not be the proper time for us to have a conversation with Wespath about this. My suggestion is, if you can find a Wespath representative and ask those questions personally.

HOLLAND: So, if I wanted to ask that, would I need to make a motion?

HARRIS: No motion would be in order currently, because it does not pertain to the current petitions that we're dealing with.

HOLLAND: That's not what we're voting on?

HARRIS: No. We're voting—

HOLLAND: But this is the rationale of what the petitions do, and if we're doing away with the defined benefit, I would like an explanation about why we're doing away with defined benefit, and why we're recommending that come back in 2020.

HARRIS: But, it's not what the petitions that we're currently dealing with are saying. They're not relating to that. That's another question for Wespath, but it does not deal with the petitions on 168 and 169, 90016 and 90017, which are the petitions

before us, so I would rule you out of order at this time, and encourage you to find Wespath representatives to answer some of the questions that you have. OK? Thank you.

HOLLAND: So, if I asked a question off of 168, paragraph 1504, would that be in order? Because that's directly in the petition.

HARRIS: That would be in order.

HOLLAND: Thank you. Again, this talks about terminated, vested participants under the clergy retirement plan. Can you talk about terminated participants accrued pensions, because that's my concern, is that someone, their pension's being terminated, and I want to understand, and they're moving that to a defined contribution rather than defined benefit, I would just like an explanation from Wespath about what they mean by terminated vestment participation.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Alright.

(pause)

If we could have the representative for Wespath come back and perhaps stay at mic. no. 2, for questions that we might have related to the petition that is in front of us. You've given us a question related to that petition and let's see if there's a response to that. I see the General Secretary at mic. no. 2 and I turn to her for an explanation.

*Secretary Boigegrain
Addresses Issues*

BARBARA BOIGEGRAIN (General Secretary, Wespath): Thank you. I'm Barbara Boigegrain, General Secretary of Wespath Benefits and Investments, and your question refers to if an individual terminates their annual conference relationship, then what would be the plan regarding their benefit going

forward. Currently the benefits are paid in the form of annuity and that means that the conference has ongoing liability in order to make sure that those pen—that pension, that benefit is payable for life. Basically if the clergy person terminate their relationship we do not think it makes sense for the conference then to have ongoing liability and therefore would consider that person terminated as they would in other corporate types of plans and they would simply then convert that to a defined contribution plan. It wouldn't be an annuity and that would also stop the conference's liability.

HARRIS: OK.

MARK HOLLAND (Great Plains): I have one last question.

HARRIS: Thank you, thank you.

HOLLAND: Does that include someone that's been terminated?

HARRIS: That's really the extent of the question and we'll need to move on to others who have questions. We move to Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, mic. no. 1, and please state the nature of your inquiry.

(pause)

HARRIS: Those of you who are waving, you've got to sign into the system if you want to have an opportunity to speak.

GINGER GAINES-CIRELLI (Baltimore Washington): Thank you. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, clergy from Baltimore Washington, and I have a question.

HARRIS: Alright.

Question About Defined Benefits

GAINES-CIRELLI: I'm curious about if someone could explain the—It's related possibly to the question we were just hearing about, and I'm hoping that we can get further clarity. Why the defined benefit plan—If you could explain it

and why we haven't been able to pay it off yet.

HARRIS: Alright. So the question is—

GAINES-CIRELLI: An explanation of the defined benefit plan and why we haven't been able to pay it off yet.

HARRIS: OK. I'll ask Barbara if she'll respond to that question, mic. no. 2.

BOIGEGRAIN: This is Barbara Boigegrain, and the goal has not been to pay off the defined benefit plan yet. The defined benefit plan that's currently ongoing as a part of the clergy retirement security program is an ongoing benefit that's contended to continue to serve active clergy as long as they are in the plan and so there is not been calculated a termination liability if you will as if the plan were terminated. We fund the plan anticipating there will be future contributions plus earnings on those contributions and that in fact the earnings will help make up the total liability, so it's intended to be ongoing as long as that makes sense for the denomination.

HARRIS: Alright. Thank you, explanation. I move now to Joe Kilpatrick, mic. no 2. Here he comes.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Thank you. I would like to move that we suspend the rules and proceed immediately to a vote on all that is before the house. Thank you.

HARRIS: The rules do not have to be suspended; you just have to move the previous question.

KILPATRICK: I would move the previous question.

HARRIS: Thank you. The previous question has been moved; it would take (*conferring on platform*), it takes a 2/3 vote. Not debatable and so if you would, get your voting device ready. This is to move to the question. And if you would support

the move to the question, you would say yes, press one (1); if you—I see cards and you have to register (*conferring*) and we do have a point of order. (*conferring*) Fred Brewington, if you'll go to mic. no. 3 for your point of order. Please state the rule and why you think it's being violated.

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON (New York): Fred Brewington, New York Annual Conference, I am addressing the rule that particularly deals with our need to have a minimum before the actual question is put to a vote and my question is whether or not that motion was in order and whether or not we did, indeed, have two speeches in favor and two against as is required by our rules.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): You are referring to Rule 7 which is required in the plenary, but in the committee that rule is exempt and so we can proceed as we have and we would be in order for us to proceed as we currently are.

BREWINGTON: Thank you for your ruling.

HARRIS: Thank you. Alright and so now we are in the midst of a vote. Are you ready to vote? It would take two thirds. Have your little voting device. If you would support the move to the question, you vote yes and if you do not support it you vote no. Hold a minute until it appears. OK, you may vote now.

(*pause*)

HARRIS: I see another point of order which we will get to after this vote has been received. Alright, we are ready to receive the vote. Poll is now closed and you have adopted the move to the motion for the vote.

[*Yes, 654; No, 152*]

So the motion before us is to adopt the two Wespeth petitions and I sense we are ready to vote. If you

would press one (1) you are in favor of the motion, if you press two (2) you are opposed. Please vote now.

(*pause*)

Wespeth Petitions Approved

HARRIS: Alright the vote is ready to show. You have passed both petitions.

[*Yes, 768; No, 44*]

HARRIS: I will test the body on this. We have The Traditional Plan that comes before us now if we are to take it. My concern about bringing this now is that it would make us very close to our adjournment time. It would be my suggestion that we adjourn now and take this first thing in the morning when we return so that we can deal with it in its entirety at that time. I am suggesting that to the body but I will let the body make the decision. So if you will take your voting device. If you have a technical problem you need to wait, wave your flag there, because I cannot see it but I cannot recognize folks who are and so there is a technical problem here and so please, we will have someone come over to help you with that. OK, yes, you asked if the pool is open and there is nothing before us so, so there is no reason, we don't have a reason to have the pool open now. Alright. I see a couple of people waving so we will open the pool and then we will take the names as they appear in the pool so please don't wave the cards just know that you can get our attention through the pool. Alright I have Emily Allen mic. no. 1.

EMILY ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, I have a point of information.

HARRIS: Alright.

ALLEN: I have a question about tonight's meeting of the Standing Committee on Central Conference matters. I understand

it is planned to be held in a room where only credentialed delegates have access. Under Section G of our plan of order, committee meetings should be open to all. Is there a way for observers to be given access to that meeting? Thank you.

HARRIS: OK we will turn to the secretary of the General Conference. Is he here? Or, you can take that up with the Secretary of the General Conference because he would have the information on that and would be able to respond to you. Alright? Jen Ihlo, mic. no. 3. Please state the reason for your inquiry.

JENNIFER IHLO (Baltimore-Washington): Jen Ihlo, Baltimore-Washington, I have a point of information, my question is what time do we plan to start in the morning?

JOSEPH HARRIS: Alright.

HARRIS: My understanding is our starting time is at 8:30 in the morning.

(pause)

Lilian Gallo, mic. 4, please state the reason for your question.

LILIAN GALLO SEAGREN (Iowa): Lilian Gallo Seagren, Iowa Conference. I would like to make a motion to adjourn the Legislative Committee.

HARRIS: Is there a second? The motion to adjourn is not debatable. If you would go to your voting device. If you would support the motion to adjourn, press one (1); if you do not support the motion, press two (2). Please vote now.

(pause)

Hold steady after the vote for announcements.

(pause)

[Yes, 612; No, 197]

We have a vote for adjournment and I cannot recognize anyone else

and you would have to go into the pool in order for that to happen. I have asked our general secretary to come to explain the question that was asked about the meeting of the Central Conference Commission.

Secretary Graves Makes Announcements

GRAVES: The Standing Committee on Central Conference matters will be meeting in Rooms 142 and 143 tonight. It will be following adjournment. There will be limited seating for observers and if perhaps we can work out some details. We are working on possibility of overflow and we cannot tell you right now; we're working with the building staff but there is an amount of limited seating for observers.

HARRIS: We turn to the secretary for additional announcements.

CARLENE FOGLE-MILLER (Florida): OK, we've got a number of announcements. First we have a mistake, sorry. 8 A.M. tomorrow is when worship begins and 8:20 is when session will begin. Again, 8 A.M. be here for worship and we will begin our legislative session promptly at 8:20. Let's see. Next, delegates and reserve, please bring your flight information with you tomorrow. The local hospitality team wants to finalize transportation arrangements to the airport for us. Next. Everyone is invited to visit the prayer area located across from 134 and 135 on the concourse level. This space has prayer stations, a quiet area, and a labyrinth. Spiritual directors are available to meet with you anytime today, tomorrow, and Tuesday. The Committee on Credentials will meet following adjournment tonight in Room 152 and, as Gary already told you, the Standing Committee on Central Conference matters will be meeting following adjournment in Room 142 and 143. And that's it for announcements.

HARRIS: I want to thank you

for your patience with me. I didn't think I would get elected and be up right here this quickly. But we got through some items and we'll get through everything tomorrow. Thank you so much for your kindness to one another. I pray that you leave, have a great meal tonight and that you will know that God is with you as you leave and he'll be here when you return. God bless you. I'm sorry. We do have a 6:10 worship that we've been asked to, that we're gonna participate in. Why don't we take a standing break and the worship team will come, oh, they're in place now, but 6:10 P.M. is when it is starting, so if you need to take a bathroom breaks and other things, so do that now.

(music)

EMMA ALAMIN CANTOR (North Central Philippines): The Lord be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

CANTOR: The Lord be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

CANTOR: Blessed are you, Holy One, our God, creator of the universe. You form light and create darkness, make peace, and give life to all things. Isaiah 45:7.

(music)

ALFRED KUNDASAI NJAU (Tanzania): For the darkness of waiting, of not knowing what is to come, of staying ready and quiet and attentive, we praise you, O God.

ALL: For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

CANTOR: For the darkness of staying silent, for the terror of having nothing to say, and for the greater terror of needing to say nothing, we praise you, O God.

ALL: For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

NJAU: For the darkness of loving, in which it is safe to surrender, to let go of our self-protection, and

to stop holding back our desire. We praise you, O God.

CANTOR: For the darkness of choosing when you give us the moment to speak and act and change. And we cannot know what we have set in motion, but we still have to take the risk. We praise you, O God.

ALL: For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

NJAU: For the darkness of hoping in a world which longs for you, for the wrestling and laboring of all creation, for wholeness and justice and freedom, we praise you, O God.

ALL: For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

CANTOR: Please stand or in spirit, and join me in the 23rd Psalm, each speaking in your own heart language.

ALL: "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil. My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow, listen to what the spirit is saying through, through the valley. As light passes tonight, we will pass through. The shepherd is waiting in the luminous darkness. In the realm of night, God is our shelter, our judge and our mast."

NJAU: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow . . . "Listen to what the Spirit is saying: "Through . . . through the valley."

ALL: As light passes to night; we will pass through.

NJAU: The shepherd is waiting in the luminous darkness.

ALL: In the realm of night, God is our shelter, our judge and our rest.

(music)

EMMA ALAMIN CANTOR (North Central Philippines): Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

Monday Morning, February 25, 2019

(music)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Beautiful people, we ask you to join us and stand as you are able in our opening song this morning, "Come Holy Spirit We Need Thee."

(Music)

PERCY GREGORIO (Ouezon City Philippines): (speaking in Tagalog)

GREGORIO: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning

GREGORIO and ALL: I greet you in the name of Jesus, and I welcome you to morning worship as we begin this important time of conferencing. Will you join me as we combine our voices in prayer. God, Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you both transcend time and occupied it, who is intimately present with us in both our solitude and our conferencing, who has built the church on the rock of a gray shape faith and who will preserve church so that even the power of that will prevail against it. We have prayed and pondered so many months and now we come together, many faces, many

perspectives and temperaments, many different hopes, fears, and longings but with a heart joined in common love for Jesus and the ministry of his beautiful church. We come with a spirit of repentance desperate for a fresh encounter with your cleansing grace that is greater than our sinful rhythms and our disordered priorities. We come in the spirit of vulnerable availability, eager to hear and to be heard, to see and to be seen, to love and be loved. Come, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Come, be the center of our discernment and our deliberation. Come, be the thoughts that we think, the words that we speak, the air that we breathe.

LENKA PROCHÁKOVÁ (Czech and Slovak Republic) (speaking in German) and ALL: Come, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Come, be the window through which we see one another differently; through which we recognize one another's sacred worth; through which we glimpse what your Church can be at its most vibrant. Come, Lord Jesus.

PROCHÁKOVÁ: (speaking in Russian)

ALL: Come, be the window, the word, and the way forward. Come, Lord Jesus.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (speaking in Korean)

ALL: Amen.

(music)

LENKA PROCHÁKOVÁ (Czech and Slovak Republic): Our Scripture this morning is from 2 Corinthians 3, verses 12–18. Since then we have such a hope we act with great boldness. Not like Moses who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened, indeed to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is

still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed to this very day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds, but when one turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, and all of us with unveiled faces seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

JIM NIBBELINK (Desert Southwest): Faith can be nothing but a means to an end, a ticket to heaven, a creed to defend. Faith can be curtains behind which we hide, a withering tree with no forest beside. Faith can be shallow when depth is required, a bed to crawl into when souls become tired. Faith can be awkward, an out of tune hymn, lifeless equation that leads to no sum. But when faith is a window instead of a wall, a lens to look through not a speech to recall, if faith is the forest instead of the tree then nothing's outside but the faithful can see.

JAN NELSON (Oregon-Idaho): Faith can be cloistered an in house debate, an object to study, a reason to hate.

ALL: Faith can be closets, things put away, a good bit of talking with nothing to say.

NELSON: But when faith is a lifetime instead of a day, a constant rebirth not a token to pay.

ALL: If faith is the world view beyond the decree, then nothing's outside what the faith will concede.

NELSON: Faith is assurance of things we hope for. Faith is conviction of things we can't see.

ALL: Faith can be striving when love is desired. A license for judgement that's long since expired.

(pause)

REGGIE CLEMONS (Texas): Faith can be nothing but a weapon to wield, a rope that is fraying, a very thin shield.

ALL: Faith can be strident when love is desired, a license for judgement that's long since expired.

CLEMONS: But when faith is a window instead of a wall, a lens to look through, not a speech to recall.

ALL: If faith is the forest instead of a tree, then nothing's outside what the faithful can see.

CLEMONS: And when faith is a lifetime instead of a day, a constant rebirth not a token to pay.

ALL: If faith is a world view beyond the decree, then nothing's outside what the faithful can see.

(music)

(pause)

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Thank you so much for opening us up in worship. That makes a difference. As they prepare to take their seats, I want you all to know how grateful I am for all the expressions of those who are praying for me. I've never been so prayed for in my life.

(laughter)

HARRIS: So please don't stop when we leave here. I need that prayer each and every day. And I wanted you to know that one of my practices when I chaired legislative committees would be to go and greet everyone, both those who are observers and those who are in the bar. That may prove impossible this time. So I asked God last night to give you a spiritual greeting. Each and every one of you because your presence here is very important. And we're grateful that we have the opportunity to be together. So we're going to begin and I'm going to ask our General Secretary, Erin Hawkins, to come for a monitoring report. Following that,

our general secretary will have an announcement.

GCCR/COSROW Monitoring Question of the Day

ERIN HAWKINS (General Commission on Religion and Race): Good morning. My name is Erin Hawkins. I serve as the General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race and as part of the monitoring ministry of the Commission of Religion and Race and the General Commission of the Status and Role of Women, I am pausing at this moment to reflect, to encourage you to join with me in reflecting on the process of Christian conferencing that took place yesterday, and how we're living together as a diverse worldwide church. The General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is offering this question for you to consider.

(pause)

Please get your voting pads ready now to respond to the monitoring question of the day.

(pause)

HAWKINS: In our deliberations yesterday, have we demonstrated the spirit of Christian conferencing in our deliberations? Mr. Chair, do you need to—

HARRIS: All I need is to see why my machine isn't working.

HAWKINS: Press one (1) for yes and two (2) for no.

HARRIS: Please vote now.

HAWKINS: Yes, please vote now.

(pause)

HARRIS: The results are ready. Please show the results.

[Yes, 583; No, 139]

HAWKINS: As you reflect on these results, will you please know

that the Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women are praying for you and encourage you to continue to embrace the Wesleyan general rules. Do no harm. Do good. And stay in love with God. Thank you.

(pause)

Final Delegate Registration Report

GARY GRAVES (General Conference Secretary): Good morning, everyone. Yesterday we were asked to double-check the attendance and to make sure that we are able to report to you our registration process. I have heard from the credentials secretary and have the following report. There are 864 delegates, 862 of those are voting and voice. In addition to that number, we have seven members of our affiliated autonomous and affiliated united churches who also have voice but no vote. Of the 862 voting delegates, thirty-one absences within fourteen delegations exist, primarily due to the fact that visas were denied for one or two, in one case, four, and in another case, eight members of delegations. There is only one delegation that is not represented due to the fact that their primary delegates and their reserve delegates were unable to secure visas. That is the report.

JOSEPH HARRIS: Thank you. We say again good morning to everyone. And I pray that each of us has had a good night's rest, ready for our tasks today. And just to remind us what our task is today, we have only one enemy and that's the clock. And so we will need to work expeditiously while at the same time being slow enough to make sure our translators are able to translate everything in a different languages that we're translating into. And to be

patient with one another, and so let's remember that.

I also would like to remind you that we're to lead today with a vote on each petition. That's our task to bring over tomorrow to the plenary. So, I would ask that we keep extraneous things out and be as concise as possible in our conversations. Again, reminding you if you could write what you're going to say; that's always helpful. Write it out for a two-minute speech. I understand that you have three.

Also, wanted to remind you that waving cards will not get my attention, because half of you, from up here, you can't see half the room, at least in my vision. But the pool will be open, you get the attention that way. So, please remember that. Also wanted to say a word about yesterday and some of the technical problems we've had. One of the reasons why some of our votes have been delayed in reporting is so that our pages can go to those of you who are waving the flags. And I want to, yesterday what happened was, in most of the cases, they were low batteries. And so I want to remind you today that if there's a red light that comes in on your voting device it's an indication of a low battery. So please put your flag up there so that the page can come and replace the battery. But most of those have should be functioning well today. But I wanted to let you know why some of the delays involve the devices are working, we should not have many delays at all today.

(pause)

General Conference and Robert's Rules of Order

Now I'd like for you, everyone, to pay close attention to what I'm going to relay to you about some

things that happened yesterday and some things that could happen today.

The chair would like to offer some guidance for the committee that may help you with your deliberations as a committee. First, it's important to understand that we are a committee—a big one—that's for sure, but we're still a committee. Under our rules, and under the provisions of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, there are some rules that are different in the committee than those used in the plenary. First, rule 35 states that and this is what the first two lines of rule 35, "the rules of order of the general conference, except for rule 7, shall be observed in meeting of standing legislative committees insofar as they apply." Rule 7 of the rules of order specifies that there must be at least two speeches pro and con before a motion to close debate is allowed. It also specifies that after three speeches for and three against, if no secondary motions are pending that the motion to close debate is automatically put to a vote. There are, these are the provisions contained in rule 7, that rule 35 specifically says rule 7 does not apply to the work of the committee. This is the reason yesterday that the chair entertained the motion to close debate before there had been two speeches for and against. The chair felt that this was justified since, at the time, there were no persons in the pool who were seeking to speak against the motion pending. Second, there are a number of other subsidiary and incidental motions that are not in order in a committee, which would be in order in the plenary, or tomorrow. Let me list them for you.

(pause)

The committee may not move to refer any of the matters before us to any other body. The committee may not postpone anything beyond the

end of today's committee meeting. The committee may not lay any of the pending matters on the table unless it is just temporary, because something urgent has come up. The committee may not object to the consideration of anything referred to it by the plenary. All these things are true because the plenary instructed the committee to deal with each of these petitions. While we are considering these plans and petitions, you can move to amend a petition, substitute something for it, provide the, providing the substitute is on the paragraph of the *Discipline* and is not simply a rejection of the petition under consideration. Read that one more time. While we are considering these plans and petitions, you can move to amend a petition, substitute something for it, providing the substitute is on the same paragraph of the *Discipline* and is not simply a rejection of the petition under consideration. The chair has been asked if it would be in order, at some point, to move to reject one or more petitions. This would not be in order until the first of the petitions that the delegate wants to have rejected. The chair hopes this information will be helpful to all delegates as we progress through today's proceedings.

HARRIS: We turn to our secretary for some housekeeping announcements.

CARLENE FOGLE-MILLER: Good morning everyone. First I'd like to remind all of you that everyone is invited to visit the prayer area located across from 134 and 135 on the concourse level. This space has prayer stations, a quiet area, and a labyrinth, as well as spiritual directors available to meet with you at anytime today or tomorrow. Next I'd like to remind all of you that if you have any amendments on anything that we're going to be working on today to bring them to me in writing, legibly please. We do not have the

opportunity to make corrections so whatever you give me is what we vote on. And if it is incorrect that is what we live with. So please make sure that I can read your amendments so that we vote on the correct things. That's all.

HARRIS: Thank you. I do want to say a word of appreciation and thankfulness for the service of the officers here, Betty Kazadi Musau is our vice chair and is serving well in that position, and of course Carlene Fogle-Miller, who you just heard from is our secretary. And I pray that the prayers that you have expressed on my behalf you've also expressed on theirs too, as we've attempted to do the best work we can for you.

Now we turn to our first item of business today, and that is the Traditional Plan. I want to call David Livingston, mic no. 1, and I ask David for what purpose does he rise.

(pause)

DAVID LIVINGSTONE (Great Plains): Thank you Chair. David Livingstone, clergy, Great Plains, if the motion is before us then I would like to move that we postpone the current motion of the Traditional Plan until the end of the day.

(pause)

Motion to Postpone Traditional Plan Debate

HARRIS: This motion to postpone, is there a second. I've heard a second. This is a motion to postpone until the end of the day.

(pause)

Yes. Please speak to it.

LIVINGSTONE: Thank you. I'm moving to postpone until the end of the day so that we can take up some other pieces first, particularly since the recommendation of two-thirds of our bishops and

since the recommendation from the Commission on the Way Council, the majority of those folks, and since we know that two-thirds of U.S. delegates have flatly refused, according to the numbers of every caucus, both progressive and traditional, have refused the Traditional Plan.

My wife and my kids, we serve at a church right now that's more progressive, we served previously at a church that's very traditional. I'm going to receive a new appointment in July that the church is more of a One Church kind of church, so I've served all of those variety with my wife and my kids. And my kids' friends, they don't have a church. Because when they hear John 3:16 and 17 for instance God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life and 3:17 for Jesus came not to judge but to save, they don't hear the save part. They don't hear the love part. They hear the judge part.

And all I want to do as a pastor is bring people to Jesus. But they're not going to come in, my kids' friends, they're not going to come into the church to hear about Jesus. I can't tell them what's right and wrong, I can't help them know what's good and what's bad. I can't do any of that unless I can help them to hear the love part, to hear the save part, and I'm afraid that if we can't at least even talk about that here, the only message that's going to come out is that the church doesn't like the friends of my kids and their friends, and the generation that we've already lost some of here in the United States, we're going to lose forever. And we can't let that happen because of a legislative process that doesn't allow us talk about the piece that we need to be talking about right now. Thank you.

(applause)

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Thank you. This is the opportunity to go into the pool if you want to speak for or against this motion. I will now take a speech against the motion and recognize Fred Sayeh from Liberia, mic. two.

FREDERICK S. SAYEH (Liberia): Hello, Frederick Sayeh from Liberia. I talk to do a point of order but I am not sure that would be right but the plenary made a decision on prioritization on discussion for this legislative committee. So, the question is not about what the plan is that comes before us, but the question is what discussion should we have now. So it now according to a decision of plenary yesterday that we discuss The Traditional Plan. So I encourage all delegates to vote against this motion and it is time now that we discuss The Traditional Plan if ever this motion would make it to a vote.

(applause)

HARRIS: OK, thank you. May I ask us not to applaud our speeches. It will not only delay our time it will not be an accurate reading of support or nonsupport. We move to someone now who would like to speak in support of the motion and we move to Rebekah Miles, mic. two.

REBEKAH MILES (Arkansas): I need to adjust this microphone down. Rebekah Miles, clergy, Arkansas. There's a wonderful saying from Zambia, "when the baby pees in your lap, you don't cut off your legs." Friends, what we need to do is clean some things up. We don't need to cut off our legs. What this Traditional Plan does, by eviscerating the authority of the annual conference and the pastoral authority of our bishops, and our district superintendents, is it cuts off our legs. Now this is called The Traditional Plan, but it's one of the most radical pieces of legislation that has come

through by this kind of majority and this . . . and that's because we think it's traditional but it's actually radical. So radical that more than half of it was ruled unconstitutional.

Now part of what's going on is that the U.S. is caught up in this moment of conflict and tension and we bring that, we export it to this body. Our young people were asked, "What do you think of when you think of Christians?" and eighty-six percent said, "judgmental and hypocritical." What a poor witness to the love of Christ. My eighteen and twenty-year-old daughters have been coming to these conferences since they were little babies. Indeed, they even peed on my lap. But you can see that my legs are still here. Friends we have a problem. We have lots of problems, but we don't need a solution that cuts off our legs, that eviscerates the authority of the annual conference and pastoral authority of our bishops and our district superintendents, that helps us to be known not as a church of love and mercy but of judgment. Our kids used to call these conferences Jesus Conferences, JCON, but as of this General Conference they will be called judgmental conference and hypocritical conference.

HARRIS: Well, thank you. Friends lets be careful in our speeches. The speech should just be to the motion and which was to postpone indefinitely, I mean to the end of the day, I am sorry. So remember when we are giving our speeches we should be addressing that. We have some points of orders here that we will recognize. Let's go to Gideon Salatan, mic. no. one. Please cite the rule and be concise in what rule you think is being violated.

GIDEON CAMANGEG SALATAN (Northeast Philippines): Good morning, Mr. Chair. Let us be aware that we are in the process of legisla-

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): I'm sorry, Gideon—

SALATAN: I rise on a point of order, because the Chair, a while ago, just stated that we cannot postpone or we cannot table anything because we are not in the plenary; we are in the legislative body.

HARRIS: Gideon, you have to cite a violation of the rule that we have done, not anything I have said, etc. It has to be a rule that's being violated, and not a speech.

SALATAN: The motion itself, Mr. Chair—

HARRIS: I'm going to ask you if you come back with a rule then I can deal with it. I cannot deal with just statements, and so I thank you

SALATAN: Mr. Chair, with all due respect, you stated a while ago, that we cannot make any motion to postpone matters that the plenary session—

HARRIS: No, what I was referring to is that you could not make a motion to postpone indefinitely. And so, the motion is in order that is before us about postponing until the end of the day, and so we're on that. We move to another point of order.

Tim McClendon, mic. 1.

WILLIAM TIMOTHY MC-CLENDON (South Carolina): Mr. Chair, Tim McClendon, South Carolina, clergy.

HARRIS: Site the rule that you feel is being violated and your reason.

MC-CLENDON: Rule 36, Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees.

HARRIS: Yes.

MC-CLENDON: It would be my understanding that with our actions yesterday and the rules that we have adopted, that the motion to postpone, after prioritizing yesterday under our rules, that this motion to postpone would violate what we agreed to yesterday in prioritization, and therefore, would take a two-thirds vote.

HARRIS: Alright. Hold. (*conferring*) What we did yesterday was that we agreed that we would prioritize how we would deal with each of these. This has come up in the prioritization; therefore, it belongs to the committee. The committee has the privilege to be able to postpone items until later in the day, so this would be in order, and I will then rule against the point of order.

Philippi Ruiz Laura, mic. 1. Point of order. Please state the rule that is being violated and your reason.

BISHOP FELIPE RUIZ AQUILIR (The Methodist Church of Mexico): (*simultaneous interpretation from Spanish*) Bishop Felipe Ruiz Aquilir. I greet you. I understand that wounds must be healed as quickly as possible and this church is grievously injured, and we must not postpone the critical decisions that must be taken. I invite us to not postpone this discussion. It will not help us—

HARRIS: Sir, sir, I need your point of order about the rule violation and not a speech. I appreciate your passion, but it has to be on a violation of one of our rules. Thank you.

We return now to our speeches for and against. And so, we're now ready to hear a speech against postponement. Steve Wende, please go to mic. 1. This is a speech against.

STEPHEN PAUL WENDE (Texas): Thank you, sir. Friends, I know there a lot of feelings in the room. We have a lot of different opinions, but you know what, most of us thought the last two days the spirit shared between the delegates was awfully positive. Eighty percent of us thought even yesterday with the voting went pretty well. Let's not start by trying to torpedo Christian conferencing. We said we were going to do things a certain way, and we all know this is a way

of trying to torpedo what over 55% percent thought was the top priority or the second top priority. I've gotta be honest, as a white American, I grieve, I grieve when I hear my sisters and my brothers in America talking about Africans using the word they're like children and some day they need to grow up and that was said at the last General Conference. My friends, I have so much respect for our friends overseas with their integrity, their faithfulness, and their fortitude, and I think we in America need some of their spirit.

Wherever something like the one church plan has been instituted, it's been instituted in four major American denominations, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Evangelical Lutheran, and United Church of Christ, they have seen a membership drop of between thirty-five and forty-five percent within just a few years, they have seen more than that lost in money, most of them reduced simply to doing institutional maintenance with nothing left over for ministry. They have lost members disproportionately among the young—

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): (*Interrupting*) Steve, let's...

WENDE: The poor—

HARRIS: Remember with doing our speeches and limiting to the motion.

WENDE: Thank you, bishop, I appreciate the direction.

HARRIS: Not quite a bishop yet.

WENDE: Alright.

(*laughter*)

WENDE: But you're doing a great job. Friends, they had all kinds of losses and I won't go there because that's not before us. But when the number one loss was exploding their relationships with people in other countries—

HARRIS: Alright.

WENDE: Please don't start by exploding our relationship with people in other countries.

HARRIS: We're on the motion to postpone.

WENDE: Please vote to honor the process and let everybody's voice and vote in this room count. Please do not start by saying some delegates in this room are more important than other delegates.

HARRIS: Our time has expired.

WENDE: Thank you.

HARRIS: Thank you. I move now to Curnell Graham for a motion, mic. 3.

CURNELL GRAHAM (West Ohio): Brother chair, I would like to call for the question on the motion for postponement.

HARRIS: Alright, so there's a call of the question and (*pause*) is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

HARRIS: It's moved and seconded that debate be closed and we proceed immediately onto the vote on the previous question. This motion is not debatable and we're required two-thirds vote in order to complete it. So are you ready to vote? (*conferring on platform*) This is—on the motion to postpone. No, it's actually—(*conferring*) OK, alright. Just getting some clarity. This is a vote to end debate on the motion to postpone, alright? Are we clear? Are we ready to vote? (*pause*) If you're ready to vote, you'll press one (1); if you're not ready to vote you'll press two (2). You may now vote.

(*pause*)

Motion to Postpone Fails

HARRIS: Alright, the vote is ready, and it prevails that the end of debate will occur 678 to 143. [*Yes, 678; No, 143*]

HARRIS: We're ready now to take the vote on the motion to postpone. *(pause)* If you're in favor of postponing the main motion, which means—*(conferring)* If you're in favor of postponing until a later time, which was the motion, you'll press yes; if you're not in favor of postponing, you will press no. This takes a majority vote. Please vote.

(pause)

HARRIS: OK, the poll is closed and we're ready to show the results. So the matter is not postponed. *[Yes, 334; No, 488]*

HARRIS: Now we're back to the main plan. It's the traditional plan and we're—and the pool is cleared, so you'll have to reregister if you want to speak to one of the plans or one of the petitions attached to the plan. This is the Traditional Plan which we're considering.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, I thought that I was cleared from the earlier pool.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Yes, sir. OK. So let's move to the vote. The question is to amend, and if the amendment is adopted, then it will be included in the main motion. This amendment requires a majority vote for approval. So vote one (1) for yes, and two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

HARRIS: The poll is complete and the vote is ready to show. The amendment passes, 449 to 374. *[Yes, 449; No, 374]*

Now we return to the Traditional Plan, and the pool is open for those who would like to speak either to one of the petitions by way of petition or amendment.

(pause)

HARRIS: So we'll hear a speech against, this will be the plan

and I will turn to Cheryl Jefferson Bell, mic. 1. And to remind everyone please speak clearly, slowly for our translators, and as concisely as possible. This is a speech against.

Speeches For/Against Traditional Plan

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Great Plains): As I was reading through the plans for the Traditional, my heart broke. I felt pain and sadness. The title of a song came to my mind, "Where Is the Love?" Where is the love? When I think about Jesus, who came to fulfill the law and the commandments. And Jesus gave us the instructions to love. He said that the world would know that he has been here and is here because of the way that the church loves one another, and loves others. Where is the love? I vote, I recommend, I pray, that we will not affirm this plan. It is not of God. It is not of Jesus. And it is not about the Holy Spirit.

We are to be the body of Christ. We are to be the hands, the feet, the arms, the words, the actions, the spirit of Jesus Christ. This plan does not reflect that. And I will be very sad if I cannot be able to claim the cross and the flame anymore, because I'm being kicked out of my church. I've been part of this church for, well, my family has, not me, five generations. We love this church. And the direction that this plan takes us is not, I believe, where Jesus wants to go. So I recommend, on every level, on every plane, in every situation, that we say no to this plan that I believe is not of God. Amen, and amen.

HARRIS: Thank you. *(applause)* Please hold applause. We move to an amendment that several have listed here. We move to Maxie Dunnam, mic. 3, for the purpose of amending.

Maxie Dunnam Offers Information Packet

MAXIE D. DUNNAM (Kentucky Conference): Mr. Chair, the only way I could get to the phone was to make an amendment. I really want to offer to the body a packet of material that will help us move through these. There are going to be numerous petitions made to this, and I have a packet of material that will help people see the amendments that are being made and understand them. We saw the way to get them to the delegates earlier but have not been able to do so and were told that the matter had to be before the Conference before we could share this material. The matter is before the conference and we have these available, if it will help, and with the confusion that's obviously going on, these amendments will be stated clearly in this packet of material and I am asking that we be allowed to share this with the delegates sometime, hopefully soon.

HARRIS: I am going to ask our general secretary, who is walking up here, to say a few words for us. I know that he and Maxie have been in conversation and he can help, further help us, as we try to move forward on this.

GARY GRAVES (Secretary of the General Conference): Thank you. It's a long way from Locker Room B. Maxie and I have been in conversation. At least about two weeks ago, I believe it was, Maxie, I made the request for the digital copy of whatever file it is that I think we are perhaps being able to consider at the moment. I have not received that digital file even to this moment. I reissued that request last night during the meeting of the standing committee. I have not yet received that digital file. I cannot verify the accuracy of anything that would be distributed that we have not yet been provided the digital file. We cannot

provide interpretation. It would have to be translated: English, French, Kiswahili, and Portuguese. It would have to be copied and distributed, unless you would override your own rules that require distribution in the four languages. Those matters are very large and need to be under consideration by this body.

HARRIS: So, we are going on to proceed onto our motions and see where the, not at, it has been received, where the document might be and report back to you as to what the status of that might be as soon as we get that information. All right? We move to another amendment. Holly Grant, mic. 2.

HOLLY JEAN GRANT (East Ohio): I would make a motion to amend.

HARRIS: Please restate your name and the conference.

GRANT: Holly Grant, East Ohio. I would make a motion to amend 90034 on p. 183.

Add to it under, right at the end of subsection B, the phrase that we just added to 90033, "members of the Council Relations Committee and Administrative Review Committee shall not vote on this matter."

HARRIS: All right, is there a second? All right. Second. Please speak.

GRANT: This amendment is simply to bring it in line with the amendment we just made to 90033 and also to bring it in conformance with what the Judicial Council reviews. I know that there's been the statement that this does not do that, but that is a decision for the Judicial Council.

HARRIS: We have a point of order. Fred Brewington, mic. 3. Please state the rule that is being violated and your rationale.

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON (New York): With your permission, I will say good morning.

HARRIS: Good morning.

BREWINGTON: I stand for a point of order pursuant to the rules that we have identified as our plan of organization. Roman numeral nine, found on p. 39, of our *Advanced DCA* and I want to go slow so that we can try and all be with this. That rule indicates that after the first day, only the *DCA* materials related to general conference presentations and produced by official bodies of The United Methodist Church approved by the Secretary of the General Conference shall be distributed by the pages. What was suggested in terms of the revised petitions offered by my brother, Maxie Dunnam, I believe is out of order and contrary to our own rules. Not only has our secretary told us that this is not an official document but, if indeed it has been interpreted, it cannot be verified as to accuracy nor efficacy with regard to that which must come to everyone that needs to be on this floor. Further, it is a thirty page document that involves numerous attempts to revise . . .

HARRIS: All right, OK, I am going to ask, we cannot have a speech. You made the point about the point of order and I will rule on that. I will say that your point of order is well founded as you have noted in the rules here that something that is to be distributed has to be in by a certain time as you have been. Now, we have taken no action on the Dunnam document, so there is really nothing to do at this point other than to note that the rules are pretty specific as to what can be distributed and what cannot be.

BREWINGTON: OK, Thank you. The only point . . .

HARRIS: And so we thank you for your pointing that out to us.

BREWINGTON: Just one. On the point of order, the only reason that it is brought now so that we do not miss that step as we go forward in the process. Thank you.

HARRIS: You are welcome.

HARRIS: All right, we'll return to the amendment. First, we have a, our secretary would like to say a few words.

CARLENE REBECCA FOGLE-MILLER (Florida): I have a feeling we're going to be dealing with a number of amendments this morning. As a reminder if you are making an amendment, we must have the plenary motion form. I need that in writing. It's part of our official legal documents, part of the archives of this conference. We must have this form. I thank you for getting me the printed materials; that helps me read your handwriting, but we still need the handwritten form. Also the pages would like me to announce or ask, beg really, that if you, yourself have a device that is working you not wave your flag for your neighbor. We are looking for flags when there are problems with the devices, but when a whole table waves their flags, that indicates a bigger problem than one person having a device that doesn't work. So please, only wave your flag if your personal device is not working. We will come to you. Thank you.

HARRIS: We'll return to the amendment. That is to add similar words as noted. Do we have anyone in the pool speaking? No one speaking for, all right. Call on Charlie Moore, mic. 3. Rises and please tell us the purpose of your rising.

CHARLES ERIC MOORE (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Charlie Moore, Baltimore-Washington Conference. I have a little confusion on seeking a question of clarification on our rules if I may.

HARRIS: All right.

MOORE: And I don't think I'm alone. Is it possible under the rules of the legislative committee for more than one plan to be moved forward

to the plenary, and if so, would that not potentially be ruled as two plans in conflict? So I'm really trying to understand what the legislative committee is able to do relative to two possible plans.

HARRIS: All right, this is located, by the way, on p. 54, and we'll look at Rule 33b, in your *ADCA*.

And it states this. A says, 1a says, Petitions not acted on because another petition dealing with the same subject was acted upon. OK, I'm sorry I was reading the wrong one. It's Rule 33.2 that's on p. 54 and that states, "Whenever possible, a legislative committee shall recommend for adoption only one calendar item for each paragraph or sub-paragraph in *the Book of Discipline*.

All other related petitions shall be combined for rejection or referral."

Now, what I'm reminded of, just because we might reject a plan doesn't mean that you cannot vote on that plan at a later time, because remember, we have to have a vote on all the petitions.

What that means is that if you adopt this plan, you could turn around and adopt a conflicting plan, and then tomorrow, the plenary would have to figure out which plan, if any, would go forward. One would be best, but it's not required. All right, so we move back to our considerations of our motion and we have a speech against. Emily Allen, mic. 4.

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, chair. Emily Allen, California-Nevada. I speak against this motion because I believe the amendment still does not make the legislative item constitutional. I reviewed Judicial Council Decision 1366 on p. 33 in reference to this item where it says: "We also note the conspicuous lack of any provision granting a bishop the right to appeal the findings of the Council of Bishops." So I recommend that we vote

against this amendment which does not bring the petition into constitutional alignment. Thank you.

HARRIS: We turn now to those who have asked, requested to address the floor. To Jen Ihlo to mic. 2. Please state the purpose of your rising.

HARRIS: Mic. 3.

JENNIFER ELLON IHLO (Baltimore-Washington): Jen Ihlo, Baltimore-Washington. Mr. Chair, I'm a bit confused. I understood when Maxie made the referral, or tried to make the referral, the secretary said he didn't have it. It wasn't translated. You said you'd get back to us. Then, Mr. Brewington made a point of order asking the chair to rule it out of order based on our rules, and you never responded to that, so I'm not sure where we are with this thirty-page document that nobody's seen. The secretary didn't get despite repeated requests, has not been translated, and it's in limbo. It needs to be ruled out of order.

HARRIS: One of the things that wasn't clear to me, was that Maxie was making any motion, he was giving information, and so therefore when the point of order came up, there wasn't anything to rule on because there wasn't any motion to do anything with the document other than an offering of information and then we had the questions that went back and forth. So, this is where it stands at this point. We talked about the rule that was earlier looked at, so we'll need to move on now.

OK. We are on the amendment and that is to add similar language to augment the 9001. We have a motion. You have a point of order. Donnie Hammond. Please state the rule and where the violation would be, mic. 1.

DIONNE CHANDLER HAMMOND (Florida): Dionne Hammond, clergy, Florida Conference,

just to call for a vote. Close the conversation.

HARRIS: OK. Well, you didn't register for that, so we can't take that at this time. Please do not register for points of order unless they are points of order. Thank you. Let's see. We move to John Seth, mic.4.

JOHN WILLIAM SETH (Western Pennsylvania): John Seth, Western Pennsylvania. I move to call the question on the amendment.

HARRIS: Is there a second? The second has taken place. Are you ready to vote on the amendment? Questions? If you would then support the close of debate on the amendment, you would press one (1) for yes; if you are not ready to close debate, you would press two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause for voting)

All right, we are ready to show the vote. You have voted to close debate. Now, we move to the vote on the amendment.

[Yes, 702; No, 115]

If you would support the amendment, you would vote one (1). If you do not support the amendment, you would vote two (2). One (1) is yes; two (2) is no. Please vote.

(pause for voting)

AMENDMENT TO 90034 APPROVED

HARRIS: OK. The votes have been completed and we're ready to show it. The amendment passes and will become now part of the main motion.

[Yes, 463; No, 358]

And we return to the main motion, Tradition Plan. The pool is cleared, so if you want to register to speak, you will need to do that now.

(pause)

We don't have anyone who wishes to speak in favor, so we will turn to Jill Wondel, speech against, mic. no. 4.

*RETURN TO SPEECHES
FOR/AGAINST
TRADITIONAL PLAN*

JILL ALISON WONDEL

(Missouri): I'm going to take a moment to take a breath. I would like to speak against the Traditional Plan. First, is a matter of practicality. This plan was recommended that it was unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. The modified petitions that we received also look like they would be ruled unconstitutional and the amount of amendments that need to be made in order to make it constitutional, I think are too large for the amount of time that we have. I would prefer not to work on something that will eventually be ruled unconstitutional.

I also would say that this is an emotional conversation and when we have emotional conversations, it's hard to separate what we believe from what our task is. This is not a vote about what we believe about human sexuality. We are here because we asked our bishops to help us move forward in spite of what we believe. The vision of the Commission on the Way Forward was to design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a UM witness in as many places as possible and that balances an approach to different understandings with the desire for as much unity as possible. So the question we're asking today is, Does this plan unite us or not? We're not voting "Yes, homosexuality is a sin" or "No, it is not." We are not voting "Yes, I believe the Bible is true" or "No, it is not." We are voting "Yes, I believe this plan unites us" or "No, I do not." This plan does not unite us because it only allows for one perspective

and does not balance an approach to different understandings. So, I encourage you to vote "no."

(applause)

HARRIS: Please. We turn to a speech for. Iuliia Stukalova, mic. 1, speech for.

IULIJA FLARITOVNA STUKALOVA (Easter Russia-Central Asia Provisional): I am at mic. 3.

HARRIS: Mic. 3.

STUKALOVA: I'm Iuliia Stukalova, Eastern Russia-Central Asia Provisional. I wanted to speak in English, but I'm too emotional, so I'll speak in Russian. Please use your headsets. *(simultaneous interpretation from Russian)* I was born in a traditional church learning what is best of God's will. God created a man and a woman. There is a traditional marriage. It gives me trust that my children in the future generations, they would know God's truth. Created. Gathered here today to work. Show conference to work because *(unintelligible)* and we will discuss. I believe *(unintelligible)* plan unites us because matters of this church, of traditions, we're united in this. God loves everyone, but he wants to live according to his word. Let's live according to his word. Support each other in prayer, but do not forget that it's important to keep the words. God's world. This is the Traditional Plan.

HARRIS: Thank you. Move now to an amendment. John Lomperis, mic. 1.

(pause)

MOTIUON TO AMEND 90035

JOHN SCOTT ANDERS

LOMPERIS (Indiana): Thank you, Bishop. John Lomperis, lay delegate, Indiana Conference. I rise to make an amendment to Petition No. 90035, Traditional Plan No. 4, on

amending Par. 422. May I read the amendment?

HARRIS: Do you have the page number?

LOMPERIS: 183.

HARRIS: Okay. Thank you.

LOMPERIS: All right. In the upper part of amending Par. 422.5, immediately before section A, says, "Add the sentence, 'Members of the Council Relations Committee and Administrative Review Committees shall not have voted on the referral of request for involuntary leave of absence or involuntary retirement.'" And then, in subsection A, to add two sentences. Immediately after the sentence that says, "The Council of Bishops may affirm or reverse the decision of the committee," add this sentence: "Members of the Council Relations Committee and Administrative Committee shall not vote on the matter of affirming or reversing the . . ."

HARRIS: Let me interrupt you. The motion has to be on just one amendment at a time, instead of two. You have two separate amendments, so choose the one that you want the body to act on at this time.

LOMPERIS: Even if it's the same paragraph—

HARRIS: Even if it's the same—

LOMPERIS: —and only one sentence at a time?

HARRIS: Yes.

LOMPERIS: Okay. I move the first, and if there's a second, I'll speak to it.

HARRIS: Please read the first again, so that we're clear.

LOMPERIS: Okay. After the top section of Petition No. 90035, immediately before subsection A, add the sentence, "Members of the Council Relations Committee and Administrative Review Committee shall not have voted on the referral of request for involuntary leave of absence or involuntary retirement."

And if there's a second, and if it's in order, I would like to speak to it, Mr. Chair.

HARRIS: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

HARRIS: All right. Please speak.

LOMPERIS: Thank you.

(pause)

Brothers and sisters, this amendment respects and listens to the advisory ruling we received earlier in the fall from the Judicial Council that identified some concerns about parts of the Traditional Plan having constitutional issues. It address the concern of the Judicial Council, and I didn't realize I couldn't add other parts, but if I could add other parts, there are some other amendments that will even go further by being explicit about affirming a right to appeal. At this point, this is not about whether we support or oppose the Traditional Plan. This is about do we want to do our work in a good, fair, and efficient and clear way or not? Remember, everyone, even though traditionally, bishops have only been accountable within their region, we recently amended the Constitution, so now it is constitutional for there to be some global accountability for bishops, as supported by ninety percent of these same delegates in Portland and eighty percent of annual conferences voting. And some of these amendments deal with some implementation of that constitutional amendment that was—some of which was not printed in the *Discipline*, but has been printed on errata sheets by The United Methodist Publishing House.

Friends, we don't want to talk about our Wesleyan heritage. Loving accountability for the sake of holiness, scriptural holiness, is the most Wesleyan thing possible we can do. This amendment is about

helping ensuring that—not are we going to adopt the Traditional Plan or not, but if we are going to adopt the Traditional Plan, do we want to ensure that there is—we are doing accountability in a legal way, in a fair way, in a constitutional way, and that treats everyone with due process as we would like to be treated?

Please vote one (1) for the amendment. Please vote yes. Thank you.

HARRIS: And the pool is open, so if you would like to speak for or against this amendment, you can enter the pool now. I will take a speech against now. Bradley Laurvick, mic. 1.

BRADLEY DAVID LAURVICK (Mountain Sky): Brad Laurvick, clergy, Mountain Sky Conference, legacy Rocky Mountain. I rise to speak against this amendment, because I have spent some time playing with blocks. I've got a six-year-old and a two-year-old at home, and sometimes, a little tower will get built out of these blocks. And then, one of my children will look at me and say, "Daddy, put this on top." And I have to look at them and say, "I can't put this on top, because there is no way this tower is going to support this." And they say, "No, do it." And I do, and the whole thing falls apart. What we have here are amendments that people are asking us to put on top of something that is not stable, that is not constitutional, that does not work. This wasn't concerns in an advisory capacity the Judicial Council offered us. They said it was broken. They said it does not work. So why are we going to go—now we're going line-by-line, trying to fix these things that are unfixable. I don't want to go home and look at my congregation, and when they say, "What did you do?" I say, "I spent my time working on something that was unworkable." We can do better than this. Why try

to fix the unfixable? It is complicated. It is confusing to try to do this work in a group this size, when we have other options before us that are clear and ready. I don't want to keep jamming bricks on top of something that is going to implode upon our denomination when it gets sent to the Judicial Council again, and they say, "Yeah. Your third try didn't fix it, either." We can do better than this amendment and better than this plan. Thank you.

HARRIS: All right.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): We move. Please hold the applause. We move to a speech for Sergey Kim, mic. 1.

(pause)

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): Sergey Kim, Central Russia General Conference.

(pause)

(speaker inaudible)

HARRIS: I'm sorry, excuse me, sir. We're trying to get the translation to catch up, so let me ask (*unintelligible*) start again. We'll start the clock again so that our translators can begin, and please speak as slowly as possible.

(speaker inaudible)

HARRIS: Thank you.

(speaker inaudible)

HARRIS: OK. I'm sorry again, but the translators tell us that they are still trying to catch up here, so let's just pause for a minute. OK. There seems to be a mic. issue with the translators, so if you'll just pause for a minute and we'll get that straightened out and then I'll instruct you when to continue.

(pause)

HARRIS: Let me suggest this for the translators. If we're unable to correct the lack of communication, we're wondering if the translators might be able to come and stand next to our speaker and then translate from there.

(pause)

Let's do this so that we can get this straightened out and not have to have any pauses in the future. Why don't we pause as a group, take our break for fifteen minutes, and then return to where we are in this position and we'll have all this straightened out. Alright? So we're on a fifteen-minute break. So come back at 10:15. Return at 10:15.

(music)

HARRIS: I would ask Sergey Kim to go back to mic. 1. Let's gather in our seats.

(pause)

So we left our time with Sergey Kim giving a speech for the amendment. Sergey, before you begin, let's have a word of prayer together. Gracious God, we are grateful that you have visited us so far. We expect your visitation on us all the way, and we are thankful that we are your children and that our expectations don't go beyond your expectations for us. We have this prayer request also to submit to you. It's a prayer request for Bishop Shamara Lewis from the Virginia Annual Conference for healing from her recent surgery. We ask, Lord, that you continue to touch her and her family and bring her peace. Thank you, Lord, that as one may be absent from us, we remember her and miss her from being here, but we know she is in your presence and so we have confidence that she will receive the healing from the crown of her head to the souls of her feet and we will give you the

glory for I, in Christ Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Alright, Sergey, I think we're OK with the translation; if the devices are not working for the translation, then I will ask someone who speaks the language to come and stand next to you and that person will be the translator. But let's try the machines first and then we will see what that produces.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): Sergey Kim, Central Russia. Dear brothers and sisters.

KIM: (*simultaneous interpretation from Russian*) Dear brothers and sisters, I was sitting here and observed everything that was happening here. And I had a—I'm very worried and concerned. I have a feeling that rules that we have in order to move forward with the General Conference are not used as they are supposed to. By using different paragraphs of the rules they want to redirect us from the main point, why the old rules are here. I want to read 1 Corinthians 3. You all are from the flesh because you have argument and you have conflicts among you. Does that mean that you are from the flesh and you behave as people of the world, of this world when one said I belong to Paul and another said I am from Apollos. Who are you. The people of this world. I am for Traditional Plan. I want to vote for this amendment for different reasons. Be postponed. Be postponed that amendments to the Traditional Plan. Traditional Plan is based on biblical truth and I think this is the first priority. Nobody wants to belong to apostles. There is only God. Jesus said, "Sabbath was not created for man but man was created for Sabbath." It said in the Bible do not add anything to my words, do not take away from my words.

HARRIS: OK, Sergey, you will need to wrap it up.

SERGEY KIM: (*simultaneous interpretation from Russian*) Do as your God commands. I am for it.

HARRIS: Thank you.

JOSEPH HARRIS: We'll have a speech against in a minute, but I'm going to ask our parliamentarian if he will come forward to explain. I had ruled that the amendments that were being made to this had to stop at a certain point, and he is going to further explain what that has means.

LEONARD YOUNG (Parliamentarian): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The basic rule about amendments is that they must be to contiguous words, words that touch each other. So, if you have a word up here you want to change, and a word in the middle of the paragraph, and a word at the end, my advice would be to move to strike out the entire paragraph and insert a rewritten one. Then, you're dealing with contiguous words. But amendments just to deal with a few words up here and a few words down here in the same amendment are not in order.

I hope that's clear. You can read more about this if you have your Robert's there, on p. 146 of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. I just want to point that out to you, because that will save you a lot of time in making improper amendments and getting corrected by the chair. So all of the words you propose to insert or strike out must be in one spot, not in multiple spots. I hope that's helpful to the assembly as we continue moving forward.

(to be continued in next issue)

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