

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

233rd Session

The Virginia Annual Conference

Berglund Center, Roanoke, Virginia

June 19-21, 2015

The Virginia Annual Conference opened in the Berglund Center with the Clergy Executive Session in the Berglund Performing Arts Centre and the Laity Session in the Berglund Coliseum.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bishop Young Jin Cho, resident bishop of the Richmond Area, called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed the members of the clergy session. Rev. Jessica Fuller, Chair of the Order of Deacons; Rev. Frances Cooper, Chair of the Order of Elders, and Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Roanoke District led in worship as all reaffirmed their call to ministry. The people affected by the mass shooting on June 17, 2015 at Emanuel African Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina were lifted up in prayer. After worship Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and those who had prepared for the session.

Rev. Edward Walker, Chair of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, referred to the printed booklet of Minute Questions and an addendum sheet, and pointed out the page for submitting corrections. He moved that the bar of the clergy session encompass the entire seating area excluding the balcony, the right rear section and the front right section, row G and back, seat 36 to the outer edge of the seating area and those who are presented to be voted upon in the left front rows, excluding those who were voted into conference membership at this session. The motion was approved.

A motion was made to include Rev. Raymond Wrenn in the bar as his moving to a seat within the bar would be difficult. The motion was approved.

Rev. Walker moved that staff members for the Bishop, the Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, the sign language interpreters, diaconal ministers, and the Conference Chancellor be admitted into the clergy session with voice but without vote. The motion was approved.

Rev. Walker led the members in the presentation of the Minute Questions found in the booklet and addendum related to clergy membership in the Annual Conference. Each question requiring a vote was voted on and passed by a show of hands. Bishop Cho asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained or commissioned. Appropriate recognition was given to all persons being received into a new relationship within the Annual Conference or who were being approved for a retired relationship at the current session of the Annual Conference.

All Minute Questions were passed with the required majorities.

Rev. Walker thanked the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Rev. Meredith McNabb, Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, for their work.

Chief Clergy Teller, Rev. Moonup Paul Song, gave instructions on seating for voting. Clergy should sit on the left side of the coliseum facing the stage during the election process. Bishop Cho thanked his administrative assistant, Ms. Terri Biggins.

Rev. Clyde Nelson, Cokesbury United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, requested that the Annual Conference send a letter of support and sympathy to the episcopal leadership over the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in response to the mass shooting that took place June 17, 2015. He also raised concerns about clergy safety within churches.

Bishop Cho prayed for the ministry of the gathered, led the assembly in singing the doxology and dismissed the clergy session at 11:51 a.m.

LAITY SESSION

Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, opened the session, welcoming the laity to the Berglund Center at 10:02 am. Mr. Gene Mims, James River District Lay Leader, began the worship portion by leading the gathering in centering prayer. He made a special reference to the tragedy at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The

worship service consisted of a host of lay leaders from around the conference sharing in leadership by reading scripture, sharing points of meditation, and offering prayers.

A video entitled “Follow” was presented depicting the story of the gospel in the context of a social media timeline. Characters from the gospel were posting statements coinciding with the events of Jesus’ life leading to his trial, crucifixion, death, and ultimately resurrection. Of particular importance in the video was tracking the numbers of Jesus’ followers as they increased, decreased, and increased again.

A second video, highlighting the work of the United Methodist Women, was shown. The video was filled with pictures of worship and mission moments from around the conference including references to scripture emphasizing the ways in which these images highlighted living out the gospel.

After the videos, a number of other lay leaders appeared, offering encouragement to the laity as well as guidelines and important items for participation in the conference including the Consent Agenda, *Book of Reports*, and voting procedures. Mr. Harper reiterated the voting process, drawing attention to the Rules Committee report on page 45 of the *Book of Reports*. There will be a recommendation regarding the election process as stated in Standing Rule III.F.1. The change that will be proposed is to add the following sentences: “On the first ballot lay and clergy members may cast write-in votes for those eligible for election by using a paper ballot.”

A video was shown with full details on the steps involved in the voting process. Mr. Harper invited the laity to gather in four sections of the arena to greet and have conversations with the Lay Delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The session concluded at 10:50 a.m. with all members present praying the Lord’s Prayer together.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 19, 2015

Bishop Young Jin Cho, resident bishop of the Richmond Area, called the first plenary of the 233rd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 2:01 p.m. Rev. Joanna Dietz, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District, led the conference in singing, “And Are We Yet Alive.” The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. Raymond Wrenn and Ms. Haley Dantzler. This is Rev. Wrenn’s 75th year attending the Virginia Annual Conference and

Ms. Dantzer's first year attending. She is a member of Bonsack United Methodist Church, Roanoke District.

Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to the members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Sung Il Yoo, and the Roanoke District for their preparatory work. He also thanked Rev. Dietz for serving as the Music Leader for Annual Conference. Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to Bishop Charlene Kammerer as the conference preacher. He also thanked her, Rev. Stephen Bray, Chair of the Conference Rules Committee, and Ms. Mary L. Brett Wright, member of the Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the afternoon session. The sign language interpreters for the 233rd session were Ms. Shirley Musik, Ms. Christina York and Ms. Virginia Bryant.

Bishop Cho read a statement from the Southeastern Jurisdictional Bishops stating solidarity with the members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina. The letter called for forgiveness, justice and compassion. Bishop Kammerer then led in prayer beginning with the words of lament, "How long, O Lord?"

Bishop Cho introduced Roanoke District Superintendent Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster who welcomed guests and members of the Annual Conference. She made special reference to the bookmarks in the conference packets, given as a special thank you from the Community Outreach Program, a recipient of last year's Annual Conference offering. Rev. Overby Webster welcomed Ms. Brenda Brooks, Roanoke District Lay Leader, onto the stage. Ms. Brooks recognized Rev. Kiok Chang Cho, wife of Bishop Cho, and Rev. Harold Webster, husband of Rev. Overby Webster.

Rev. Overby Webster acknowledged Bishop Ray Chamberlain, Jr. and his wife, Ms. Martha Chamberlain. She then acknowledged Bishop R. Kern Eutsler; Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr., and his wife, Ms. Mera Hughes; Bishop C. P. Minnick and Bishop Timothy Whitaker and his wife, Ms. Melba Whitaker, who were unable to attend. Bishops Chamberlain, Minnick, Eutsler, Hughes and Whitaker are retired bishops and former members of the Virginia Annual Conference. Annual Conference Secretary Rev. Susan Reaves presented greetings from Bishop Kern Eutsler who was not able to attend due to ill health. Bishop Cho prayed for the retired bishops.

Rev. Overby Webster moved that the bar of the conference be established as consisting of the platform, the floor with the risers on both sides, boxes one through five and eight through 12, plus the first six rows of the upper concourse areas one through ten and 25 through 34. She instructed the clergy to sit to the left facing the platform and the laity to sit to the right facing the platform. The stage, the cabinet and district lay leaders' desks, and the special needs area will be both lay and clergy. It was also moved that the technical and camera platforms be considered part of the floor. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves moved for the election of Rev. Delano Douglas and Ms. Beverly Myers as Assistant Secretaries for the Annual Conference and for the election of Ms. Madeline Pillow as editor of the Journal. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves then moved for the election of the Annual Conference committees found on pages 42-43 of the *Book of Reports* and on the green Addendum sheet to the *Book of Reports*. The motion was approved.

The Rev. Stephen G. Bray, Chair of the Conference Rules Committee, moved to suspend the rules in order to have time to present his report. The motion was approved.

Rev. Bray presented the report found on pages 44-45 of the *Book of Reports*. He made a motion to suspend the standing rule, "The Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies shall be those published in the Journal of the proceeding annual conference" as stated in the preamble. The motion was approved.

Rev. Bray then moved to amend Standing Rules III.F.1. titled "Ballots Shall Be Counted Electronically" by inserting the following sentence at the beginning of the section: "On the first ballot lay and clergy members may cast write-in votes for those eligible for election using a paper ballot." The motion was approved.

Rev. Bray also noted that on the green Addendum sheet included in official packet the rules committee is recommending the words "White with Yellow Sticker" be deleted and replaced with "Yellow."

Rev. James Godwin, retired on the Fredericksburg District, moved for the deletion of (the recommended changes) to II.B.3 on page 45 of the Book of Reports.

An amendment was offered by Mr. Michael Monge, Elizabeth River District, to amend recommendation by striking the line, “Two speeches for concurrence and two speeches for non-concurrence shall be permitted.”

Rev. Andrew Book, Courtland United Methodist Church, James River District, called for the question. The motion to call the question was approved. A point of order was raised. It was ruled not in order. The amendment was not approved.

The Rev. Godwin’s motion to delete II.B.3 on page 45 of the Book of Reports was not approved.

The report of the Rules Committee on page 44-45 of the Book of Reports and the green addendum sheet was approved.

Ms. Rachel Miller, Chief Laity Teller, explained the electronic voting procedure. She also restated the area included in the bar of the conference. Instructions were given to vote for one candidate during each of the 30 second intervals indicated by Bishop Cho. Votes for 11 candidates, in total, were to be cast.

Rev. Moonsup Paul Song, Chief Clergy Teller, explained that clergy who were elected for full membership at the Clergy Session are eligible to be nominated as write-in nominees on the first ballot. Anyone wishing to include a written nomination on the first ballot could receive a paper ballot by raising a hand at the designated time. Anyone choosing to include a written nomination on the first ballot was instructed not to use the electronic voting device for this ballot. A brief video describing the use of the handheld voting devices was shown and practice votes were taken.

Arlington District Superintendent Rev. Catherine Abbott prayed before the first ballot was taken.

Ms. Miller announced that Mr. Robert Lynd and Ms. Kathy Henry had removed their names from the ballot. Paper ballots were distributed to those who wanted them. The laity ballot was taken electronically and by written ballot, then was closed. Ms. Miller announced that there were discrepancies between the lay nominees’ numbers listed on the blue sheets in the official packet and those programmed in the computer system and that these discrepancies would be investigated for correction.

Rev. Reaves announced that the Consent Agenda Committee has determined that the deadline to request items be removed from the 2015 Annual Conference Consent Agenda was 3:30 p.m., June 19. She noted that signatures of 30 conference members were required for such requests to be valid.

Rev. Bray announced that when using the paper ballots, write in candidates with no ballot number should be voted on by name, all others should be voted on with their ballot number. Paper ballots were distributed as needed. The clergy ballot was taken electronically and by paper ballot, then was closed.

Ms. Shan Sixbey, Chair of the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women, discussed monitoring. She presented the report on pages 99-100. She read from Paul's letter to the Galatians 3: 26-29 and led the assembly in a prayer of confession.

Bishop Cho delivered the Episcopal address. The bishop reminded the assembly, "No spiritual vitality, no vital congregations." He stated that growing from members to disciples is the most important change we can make in our churches. Making disciples of Jesus Christ is our mission. In closing, he invited everyone to sing his favorite praise song as a prayer, "Spirit of the Living God."

The first laity ballot was declared invalid. Ms. Miller reiterated to laity not to vote for nominee Ms. Kathy Mae Henry, number 2037. She instructed voters using paper ballots to write in names only on an official ballot form. Nominees without ballot numbers were to be voted on by name. If a nominee had a number, laity were instructed to write the person's number when using the write-in ballots. Mr. Johnnie Morris, Farmville District Lay Leader, led in prayer. The first laity ballot was retaken electronically and by written ballot, then closed.

Richmond District Superintendent Rev. Steven Jones, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the report of the Cabinet on pages 46-48 of the *Book of Reports* and the nominations for District Committees on Ordained Ministry, found on the gold sheet in the official packet. He noted that Rev. Jason Snow and Rev. Edward Merry should be added to the York River District Committee on Ordained Ministry. He presented the nominations for the District Boards of Church Location and Building, found on the violet sheet in the official packet. The nominees were approved.

Rev. Jones presented for Annual Conference approval the remaining sections of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16 on the white sheet in the registration packets. He noted that on page one

section b) the headings of the first two columns were reversed. The first column should read “Parent Church” and the second column should read “Church Name.” In addition, Tabernacle United Methodist Church, York River District, will add an associate minister. He moved for the approval of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16. The motion was approved.

Rev. Jones invited several District Superintendents to offer motions on discontinued churches.

Arlington District Superintendent Rev. Catherine Abbot moved the following:

Be it resolved that Arlington United Methodist Church of the Arlington District United Methodist Church be discontinued effective July 1 , 2015 and all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, of the local church be transferred to the Arlington District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Arlington United Methodist Church be transferred to Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, except for each member who should direct his/her membership to be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Richmond District Superintendent Rev. Steven Jones moved the following:

Be it resolved that Mt. Hope United Methodist Church, be discontinued effective July 1, 2015 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, of the local church shall be transferred to the Richmond District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Mt. Hope UMC be transferred to Mt. Hermon UMC, except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Danville District Superintendent Rev. Janine Howard moved the following:

Be it resolved that Mount Zion United Methodist Church on the Danville District be discontinued effective July 1, 2015 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, of the church be transferred to the

Danville District Board of Missions and that the membership of Mount Zion United Methodist Church on the Danville District be transferred to Ridgeway United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Harrisonburg District Superintendent Rev. Thomas Herndon moved the following:

Be it resolved that Ottobine UMC on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective July 1, 2015 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, of the church be transferred to the Harrisonburg Board of Missions and that the membership of Ottobine United Methodist Church be transferred to Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church, except for each member who directs his/her membership to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Staunton District Superintendent Rev. David Rochford moved the following:

Be it resolved that Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be discontinued effective July 1, 2015 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, of the church be transferred to the Staunton District Board of Missions and that the membership of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be transferred to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Jones offered a prayer recognizing the ministries of these churches that have touched the lives of people in their communities.

A video on Restoration-Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District was shown.

Rev. Mark Ogren, Director of the Center for Congregational Excellence, presented the new faith communities that have been started since the last Annual Conference or will begin on July

1, 2015. Rev. Michael Tolbert is being appointed as the church planter for Highland United Methodist Church, Inferno, James River District. Rev. Justin White and Mr. Sean Devolites will serve as planters for the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, Second Site, Arlington District. Rev. Matthew Meisenhelter and Rev. Matthew Benton will be the church planters for the Spirit and Life United Methodist Church, Second Site, on the Alexandria District. Rev. Victor Gomez will be appointed to the Amor Y Paz United Methodist Church/Mt. Olive United Methodist Church Renewal Partnership, Winchester District. Rev. Melody Tanner is appointed to the Ghent United Methodist Church Re-launch Project, Elizabeth River District. Rev. Jan Prentace Commander has been appointed to the Chesapeake Avenue United Methodist Church Legacy Project, Elizabeth River District. Rev. Delano Douglas has been appointed to an Ettrick United Methodist Church/Virginia State University partnership on the James River District with a worship service to be called FLOW. Bishop Cho prayed for the new faith communities.

Rev. Steve Jones announced Farmville District Superintendent Rev. Robert Parks would become Dean of the Cabinet.

Rev. Reaves reported that no items had been removed from the Consent Agenda. Bishop Cho presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*): page 137, Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses; page 128, Bishops' Foundation; page 138, Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center; page 82, Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations; page 71, Board of Church and Society; page 71, Church Development Team; page 72, Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; page 141, Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, Inc.; page 143, Virginia United Methodist Development Company; page 98, Commission on Disabilities; page 102, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries; page 100, Discipleship Circles; page 106, Episcopacy Committee; page 99, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 128, Ferrum College; page 142, United Methodist Foundation; page 101, GraceInside; page 77, Heart Havens; page 79, Virginia United Methodist Homes; page 79, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; page 82, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; page 101, Imagine No Malaria; page 76, Initiatives of Hope; page 102, Just Neighbors; page 76, Conference Committee on Mission Personnel; page 95, Board of Laity; page 51, Old Stone Church Foundation; page 126, Board of Ordained Ministry; page 140, PAUMCS Virginia Chapter; page 139, Preachers' Relief Society; page 130,

Randolph-Macon Academy; page 131, Randolph-Macon College; page 129, Randolph College; page 139, Retired Clergy Housing Corp; page 133, Shenandoah University; page 103, Society of St. Andrew; page 99, Commission on the Status and Role of Women; page 127, Conference Board of Trustees; page 96, United Methodist Men; page 76, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission; page 96, United Methodist Women; page 104, Virginia Council of Churches; page 144, Wellness Ministries; page 140, Society for Wesleyan Studies and page 51, William Watters Foundation. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Mr. Thomas Nealley, Chair of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found on pages 49-50 of the *Book of Reports*. The Commission recommended that the Equitable Salary Fund apportionment for 2016 be \$500,000. The recommendation was approved. Mr. Nealley presented the minimum compensation schedule for 2016: full connection pastors, \$41,000; probationers and associate members, \$37,500 and local pastors, \$35,000. This represents an increase in minimum compensation by \$1,000. The schedule was approved.

He presented the recommendation for the floor schedule for 2016 as well: full connection pastor, \$28,000; probationer or associate member, \$25,600; local pastor, \$24,000. The recommendation was approved.

Bishop Cho adjourned the regular Conference session momentarily. Rev. John T. Martin, Jr., President of the Historical Society, called the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society to order. The president presented the report found on page 50 of the *Book of Reports* that included the list of trustees to be confirmed by the Annual Conference. The trustees were confirmed. He also thanked Dr. Stephen Mansfield for his 11 years of service as president. The annual meeting of the Historical Society was then adjourned.

Bishop Cho reconvened the Annual Conference session and announced that the Annual Conference mission offering would be received as part of the 11:15 a.m. worship service on Saturday morning, June 20, 2015. Bishop Cho gave his list of recommended books. He also announced that the Sacrament of the Eucharist would be celebrated Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room.

Rev. Reaves asked members to bring to the secretary's desk a written copy of all motions and reports made from either the podium or the floor. She also announced the Council on

Finance and Administration would be available to answer questions on the concourse level Saturday after the afternoon session. The plenary session recessed for dinner at 4:58 p.m.

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 19, 2015

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION

A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion began at 7:30 p.m. Worship leader for the service was Bishop Young Jin Cho. During the seating of the families, Genesis Praise Band, Roanoke District played. Handbell players from throughout the Annual Conference also played during the procession. The deacon assisting the Bishop was Rev. Courtney Joyner, New Hope United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District. Dr. Young Bong Kim, Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, Arlington District, preached a message entitled, “To Die to Live” based on Luke 22:14-23. The liturgists were Mr. Sam Hite, Jamieson Memorial United Methodist Church, Farmville District; Rev. Marcela Jarman, Sterling United Methodist Church, Arlington District and Rev. Kathleen Monge, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District. Rev. Susan Reaves, Annual Conference Secretary, also took part in the service.

During the service, memorial candles on the worship table were lit by Rev. Rob Lough, Saint Mark’s United Methodist Church, Roanoke District and Dr. Andy Lough, Saint Mark’s United Methodist Church, Roanoke District. Persons stood as Rev. Reaves, read the names of clergy, diaconal ministers, clergy spouses and the lay members of the Virginia Annual Conference who died during the previous year. The congregation joined in giving thanks to God for each of these faithful people. Bishop Cho presided over Holy Communion. Following the benediction, the evening session was adjourned at 9: 24 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, June 20, 2015

The Genesis Praise Band, Roanoke District, led the conference in “Singing Our Faith” at 8:15 a.m.

Bishop Young Jin Cho greeted the conference at 8:28 a.m. and led the assembly in a time of silent prayer. He introduced Rev. Tim Bias to lead the teaching sessions of Annual Conference. Rev. Bias serves as General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, one of the

program agencies of the United Methodist Church. He previously served as senior pastor of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. His past appointments include rural and urban congregations. He was the General Board of Discipleship's Director of Proclamation Evangelism and instrumental in convening the Large Church Initiative. His teaching session focused on Matthew 28:16-20. He spoke on the subject "Christ Filled Life," embracing the definition of discipleship as "grace filled Christ followers who put faith in action." Bishop Cho thanked Rev. Bias for bringing the message. Bishop Cho called the session to order at 9:01 a.m.

Rev. Stanley Thompson, Chair of the Minutes Committee, moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Clergy Executive Session, the Laity Session, the Friday afternoon plenary, and the evening worship service. The minutes were approved.

Conference Lay Leader Warren Harper presented the Laity Address. He spoke on the "process for carrying out our mission." To carry out the mission of the church we must proclaim, lead, nurture, send and continue. He gave examples of congregations who serve by "crossing the street" and going outside the walls of the church.

Bishop Cho greeted Bishop Ray Chamberlain and his wife, Ms. Martha Chamberlain. Bishop Cho then thanked Ms. Terry Bain and Mr. Carl Stinnett, members of the Rules Committee, along with Bishop Chamberlain for serving as parliamentarians at the morning's session. Bishop Cho also recognized and thanked the youth delegation for their patience.

Mr. Robert G. Sanford, Jr., Chair of the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) moved for a suspension of the Conference Rules in order to present the Pensions Report found on pages 52-68 of the *Book of Reports*. The motion was approved.

Mr. Sanford presented eight recommendations from VUMPI. He noted that this is the second year in a row that there has been no increase in the Clergy Benefit apportionment. The first recommendation decreases the Clergy Benefit Apportionment by 3%. Mr. Sanford pointed out a typographical error on page 60 of the *Book of Reports*. Under "Clergy Retired Under ¶358.2.a (With Twenty Years of Service)" the heading of the chart on the left should read "Medical \$750 deductible" and not \$7500. He then introduced Rev. Harry Kennon, Co-President of the Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (ARMS). He endorsed the proposed retiree health plan and praised the hard work of Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director of

the Pensions and Related Benefits Office, who met with many groups throughout the conference as VUMPI worked with ARMS.

The eight recommendations were approved.

REPORT OF THE LAY BALLOT #1

Number of ballots cast 1199
Number of valid ballots 988
Number of invalid 211
Number of ballots necessary to elect 495
There was no election.

REPORT OF THE CLERGY BALLOT #1

Number of ballots cast 795
Number of ballots valid 677
Number of ballots not valid 118
Number of ballots necessary to elect 340
Rev. Tom Berlin was elected to General Conference with 359 votes.

Prayer for the next ballot was led by Charlottesville District Superintendent Rev. Danny Kesner. Ms. Rachel Miller, Chief Lay Teller, gave instructions for voting. The second laity ballot was taken electronically and closed.

Ms. Miller explained that a ballot could be ruled invalid if less than the required number of votes are received through the handset. The number of votes received must match the number of nominees voted upon. The result of the second ballot was announced.

REPORT OF THE LAY BALLOT #2

Number of ballots cast 1236
Number of ballots valid 897
Number of ballots invalid 339
Number of votes needed to elect 449

The following individuals were elected to General Conference: Ms. Martha Stokes, 575 votes; Mr. Warren Harper, 494 votes and Ms. Shirley Cauffman, 488 votes.

Danville District Lay Leader Mr. Bobby Compton offered a prayer before the third laity ballot was taken. The third laity ballot was taken electronically and closed.

Rev. Moonsup Paul Song, Chief Clergy Teller, reported four corrections to the clergy ballot: Rev. Robert Friend's number should be changed to 4041, Rev. Douglas Forrester's to 4040, Rev. Lindsey Baynham's number to 4119 and Rev. Larry Thompson's number to 4125. The clergy ballot was taken electronically and was closed.

Rev. Marc Brown, Chair of the Common Table for Church Vitality, presented the report of the Common Table found on pages 69-105 of the *Book of Reports*.

He asked for the approval of the recommendations from the following boards: by the Board of Discipleship regarding a) the observance and special offering for Christian Education Sunday; b) for the endorsement of Rev. Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship page 77; by the Board of Global Ministries regarding c) continuation of Conference Relationship Agreements; d) regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. and e) regarding Advance Specials. The recommendations were approved. Following the vote, Rev. Brown recognized the members of the Common Table.

Ms. Maria Maxwell, Virginia Conference Imagine No Malaria Field Coordinator, and Rev. Glenn Rowley, Conference Director of Justice and Missional Excellence, gave an update on the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Ms. Maxwell gave thanks to those who assisted in raising funds for Imagine No Malaria and described the positive way many lives had been impacted. A corresponding video was shown. Ms. Isabella Landon, Floyd Parrish United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, spoke of her efforts to raise funds by taking a collection at her elementary school. She also contributed money she received for her birthday. Ms. Maxwell revealed that \$86,454 had been raised to date. Bishop Cho announced that he and his wife, Rev. Kiok Cho would save 200 more lives.

Richmond District Superintendent Rev. Steve Jones shared that today is his 65th birthday and he will contribute to Imagine No Malaria. Winchester District Lay Leader Mr. Larry Scheuble and Winchester District Superintendent Rev. Larry Thompson will raise 5,000 by September 1. Rev. Francis Cooper pledged \$1000. Elizabeth River District Superintendent Rev. Wayne Snead pledged \$1,000 and will give another \$1,000 before Sept 1. Mr. Jeffery Smith and his wife will save 200 lives. An anonymous pledge of \$10,000 was made. Many members of the conference came forward and laid money on the altar. Rev. Tom Berlin, Floris

United Methodist Church, will give \$3,000 in honor of Maria Maxwell and her husband who are former members at Floris United Methodist Church.

Rev. Brown introduced the members of the Conference Program Staff who have or will join the staff since last Annual Conference: Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence, Ms. Cheryl Edley-Worford; Director of Ministries with Young People Mr. Paulo Lopes; Advocate Editor and News Associate, Ms. Madeline Pillow and Conference Videographer, Mr. Nick Ruxton. They are the members of the Connectional Ministries staff who have begun or will begin their ministries since the last Annual Conference.

Mr. Harper presented the report of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The committee recommended the nominations to the committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the Annual Conference found on page 42 in the *Book of Reports*, on the green sheet in the official packet and by the addition of Ms. Faye Godbey to the Commission on Disabilities. They were elected. Bishop Cho asked all persons serving in leadership throughout the conference boards and agencies to stand as they were able. The bishop then consecrated them for service and prayed for all who serve God's kingdom on earth.

Bishop Cho recognized Rev. Eun Pa Hong, Pastor of Bupyeong Korean Methodist Church, Incheon, Korea along with his wife and those traveling with them. Rev. Hong's church has generously hosted several groups of Virginia Conference United Methodist Clergy led by Bishop Cho.

Ms. Beth Christian, Chair of the Conference Board of Discipleship, presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. Rev. Paul Beighley, III, Bethany United Methodist Church, Farmville District, received the clergy award for the many people he has brought to Christ as prison chaplain. Ms. Patricia Ann Hobbs, Outreach Ministry team leader, Franconia United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, received the laity award and Ms. Anna Lopynski, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, received the youth award.

Rev. John Peters, Executive Director of the Association of Educational Institutions, introduced Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, President of Shenandoah University; Dr. Jennifer Bratton, President of Ferrum College; Dr. Bradley Bateman, President of Randolph College and Mr. Robert Lindgren, President of Randolph-Macon College. Brigadier General David C. Wesley, President of Randolph-Macon Academy, could not be present. Dr. William T. Greer, President

of Virginia Wesleyan College retired at this Conference. He noted that the money given by the Annual Conference is paid back through the work and devotion of the students.

The Conference Mission Service began at 11:30 a.m. Rev. Denise Honeycutt, Deputy General Secretary for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), presented a celebration of UMCOR. They are in their 75th year. Rev. Honeycutt noted that the Virginia Annual Conference has given \$17,795,968.31 in the course of those 75 years. Bishop Charlene Kammerer, the first woman to be elected bishop from the Southeastern Jurisdiction and former Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference and of the Virginia Conference, delivered the message. She preached on the theme “Blessed are the Merciful” based on scripture from Matthew 5:1-12. Rev. Livingstone Dore, Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, Arlington District, and Mr. Ben Rochford, St. John’s United Methodist Church, Staunton District, served as liturgists. The 2015 Conference Offering was received. The worship service concluded at 12:26 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 20, 2015

“Singing Our Faith” was led by Genesis Praise Band, Roanoke District, at 1:41 p.m. Bishop Young Jin Cho called the session to order at 2:01 p.m.

A service celebrating the ministry of clergy who were retiring at the 233rd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was held. Ms. Iris Gunter-Smith, Eastern Shore District Lay Leader; Ms. Emma Johnston, Brosville United Methodist Church, Danville District; Rev. Patricia Money, Haygood United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District; Rev. Stephen Hall, Macedonia United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District; Richmond District Superintendent Rev. Steven Jones and Rev. Rodney Hunter, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Richmond District were liturgists. Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director of Pensions and Related Benefits read the names of retirees while Rev. Frances Cooper, Virginia Conference Order of Elders Chair; Rev. John Hall, Sr., Virginia Conference Fellowship for Local Pastors and Associate Members President, and Rev. Jason Stanley, Virginia Conference Order of Deacons Incoming Chair, read the ministry statements of the retirees. Bishop Cho offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the retirees and their years of service.

Mr. Greg Peters, Executive Director of UMFS (formerly known as United Methodist Family Services), spoke about the 115th anniversary of UMFS.

Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to retired Bishop Ray Chamberlain, as well as members of the Rules Committee, Rev. James Smith and Rev. Joshua King, for serving as parliamentarians for the afternoon session.

Danville District Superintendent Rev. Janine Howard led the prayer for the next round of balloting.

REPORT OF THE CLERGY BALLOT #2

Number of ballots cast 771
Number of valid ballots 673
Number of invalid ballots 98
Number of votes needed to elect 337

There was no election.

Rev. Moonsup Paul Song, Chief Clergy Teller, gave brief instructions. The third clergy ballot was taken electronically and closed.

REPORT OF LAITY BALLOT #3

Number of ballots cast 1216
Number of valid ballots 949
Number of invalid ballots 267
Number of votes needed to elect 475

Mr. Nathaniel Bishop was elected to General Conference with 482 votes.

Ms. Rachel Miller, Chief Lay Teller, gave brief instructions for voting. The fourth Laity ballot was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #3

Number of ballots cast 709
Number of valid ballots 601
Number of invalid ballots 108
Number of votes necessary to elect 301

The following were elected to General Conference: Rev. Meredith McNabb with 341 votes, Rev. Denise Honeycutt with 314 votes.

James River District Superintendent Rev. Robin Colwell offered a prayer before the fourth clergy ballot. The fourth clergy ballot was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT #4

Number of ballots cast 1194

Number of valid ballots 946

Number of invalid ballots 248

Number of votes needed to elect 474.

The following were elected to General Conference: Ms. Virginia Greer with 529 votes, Ms. Darlene Amon with 528 votes, Mr. Gene Mims with 476 votes and Ms. Joyce Winston with 476 votes.

Mr. Ronald White Richmond District Lay Leader, offered a prayer before the next round of balloting.

The fifth round of laity ballots was taken electronically and closed. The fifth round of clergy ballots was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #5

Number of ballots cast 738

Number of valid ballots 648

Number of invalid ballots 90

Number of votes needed to elect 325

Rev. Clarence Brown was elected to General Conference with 337 votes.

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT #5

Number of ballots cast 1221

Number of valid ballots 1101

Number of invalid ballots 120

Number of votes needed to elect 551

There was no election.

Mr. John Meeuwissen, Alexandria District Lay Leader, offered a prayer for the balloting. The sixth laity ballot was taken electronically and closed.

A video on the 50 years of ministry at the Wesley Foundation of the University of Virginia was shown. The facility has remained largely unchanged and a capital campaign is underway.

The Conference offering taken at the morning worship totaled \$128,890. This does not include the more than \$20,000 raised from spontaneous pledges and donations laid on the altar during the Imagine No Malaria report.

A video featuring Warsaw United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District was shown. It featured the program “How to Reach New People” and the ways the church had benefited from going outside the walls of the church.

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT #6

Number of ballots cast 1220
Number of valid ballots 1142
Number of invalid ballots 78
Number of votes needed to elect 572

The following were elected to General Conference: Ms. Beth Christian with 685 votes and Ms. Alison Malloy with 622 votes.

The seventh laity ballot was taken electronically and closed.

A video on Conference supported United Methodist schools was shown.

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT # 7

Number of ballots cast 1162
Number of valid ballots 1162
Number of invalid ballots 0
Number of votes needed to elect 582

There was no election.

Staunton District Superintendent Rev. Dave Rochford prayed for the next round of balloting. The eighth laity ballot was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT #8

Number of ballots cast 1157
Number of valid ballots 1157
Number of invalid ballots 0
Number of votes needed to elect 579.

Mr. Marshall Bailey was elected to General Conference with 726 votes.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #5

Number of ballots cast 751
Number of valid ballots 653
Number of invalid ballots 98
Number of votes needed to elect 327

There was no election.

Richmond District Superintendent Rev. Steve Jones prayed for the balloting process. The sixth clergy ballot was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #6

Number of ballots cast 714
Number of valid ballots 638
Number of invalid ballots 76
Number of votes needed to elect 320

The following were elected to General Conference: Rev. Tammy Estep with 364 votes and Rev. Theodore Smith with 330 votes.

The seventh clergy ballot was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #7

Number of ballots cast 709
Number of valid ballots 641
Number of invalid ballots 68
Number of votes needed to elect 321

Rev. Ileana Rosario was elected to General Conference with 345 votes.

York River District Lay Leader Mr. Booker Brown prayed for the eighth clergy ballot. The eighth ballot was taken electronically and closed.

Rev. Marc Brown addressed the quickly approaching end of the afternoon session as the clergy had four more members of General Conference to elect. He proposed suspending the rules related to three times [the number to be elected] to show all receiving votes. He explained that this would drastically shorten the reporting time for each ballot. The motion was approved.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT # 8

Number of ballots cast 705
Number of valid ballots 661
Number of invalid ballots 44
Number of votes needed to elect 331

Rev. Peter Moon was elected to General Conference with 342 votes.

A motion was made to suspend the rules so that voting could extend into the dinner hour.

The motion was approved.

The ninth Clergy ballot was taken electronically and the election was closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT # 9

Number of ballots cast 664

Number of valid ballots 628

Number of invalid ballots 36

Number of votes needed to elect 315

The following were elected to General Conference: Rev. Kendall Soulen with 364 votes and Rev. Mark Ogren with 316 votes.

The 10th Clergy ballot was taken and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #10

Number of ballots cast 642

Number of valid ballots 642

Number of invalid ballots 0

Number of votes needed to elect 322

There was no election.

The 11th Clergy ballot was taken and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT # 11

Number of ballots cast 634

Number of valid ballots 634

Number of invalid ballots 0

Number of votes needed to elect 318

There was no election.

Rev. Douglas Gestwick, York River, District made a motion to suspend the rules following the election of General Conference delegates so that “the top 11 vote would become jurisdictional delegates and the next 10 alternates.” The motion passed.

Rev. Stephen Bray, Roanoke District, made a motion to suspend the rules so that the candidate with the highest number of votes at the end of the next ballot would be elected. The motion did not pass.

The 12th Clergy ballot was taken and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #12

Number of ballots cast 645
Number of valid ballots 645
Number of invalid ballots 0
Number of votes needed to elect 323

There was no election

Rev. Timothy Tate, Roanoke District, made a motion to suspend the rules so that on the upcoming vote we only vote on the top two names to decide the final person elected to General Conference. The motion passed.

The 13th Clergy ballot was taken and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #13

Number of ballots cast: 644
Number of valid ballots: 644
Number of invalid ballots: 0
Number of votes needed to elect: 323

Rev. Rob Vaughn was elected to General Conference with 347 votes.

Bishop Chamberlain prayed for the delegates elected to General Conference.

The 14th clergy ballot was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF CLERGY BALLOT #14

Number of ballots cast: 609
Number of valid ballots: 411
Number of invalid ballots: 198
Number of votes needed for election: 11 highest vote recipients become delegates to Jurisdictional Conference and the next ten highest, alternates.

The following were elected to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference: Rev. Seonyoung Kim, Rev. Keith Boyette, Rev. Robert Cooper, Rev. Alex Joyner, Rev. Beth Givens, Rev. Thomas Herndon, Rev. Marc Brown, Rev. Jason Stanley, Rev. Jeffrey Mickle, Rev. Greg West and Rev. David Ford. Elected alternates were Rev. R. Bruce Johnson, Rev. Brenda Biler, Rev. Alan Combs, Rev. Thomas Barnard, Rev. Won Un, Rev. David McAllister-Wilson, Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster, Rev. Edward Walker, Rev. David Rash, Rev. John Copenhaver and Rev. Paulo da Silva. There are 11 alternates because Rev. Copenhaver and Rev. da Silva tied for tenth alternate.

Laity ballot nine was taken electronically and closed.

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT #9

Number of ballots cast: 909

Number of valid ballots: 651

Number of invalid ballots: 258

Number of votes needed to elect: 11 highest vote recipients become delegates to Jurisdictional Conference and the next ten highest, alternates.

The following were elected to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference: Mr. Larry Burian, Mr. Neill Caldwell, Ms. Janet Ayers, Mr. Willard Douglas, Mr. Jacob Paysour, Ms. Olivia Hinton, Mr. Michael Monge, Ms. Vicki Boger, Ms. Virginia Turner, Mr. Raymond Nations and Ms. Brenda Brooks. Elected alternates were Ms. Aimee Hong, Ms. Rachel Wright, Mr. Zachary Ferguson, Mr. Leon Newbanks, Ms. Lori Valentine de Segovia, Ms. Nancy Yarborough, Ms. Nina Winkler, Mr. Carlos Liceaga, Mr. Joel Joyner and Mr. Charles Pearre.

Bishop Cho announced that Conference would reconvene at 7:30 with the Service For the Ordering of Ministry. The plenary session recessed for dinner at 5:53 p.m.

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 2014

A SERVICE FOR THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY

Bishop Young Jin Cho presided at the Service for the Ordering of Ministry, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Bishop James F. Mauney, Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

represented the ecumenical community. Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Retired Bishop, formerly serving the Richmond Episcopal Area, delivered the sermon, “My Grace is Sufficient,” based on 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Bishop Kammerer spoke about weakness as it relates to vulnerability and total reliance on God. Through the words of Paul we are reminded that God’s grace is sufficient. Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service included Conference Lay Leader Mr. Warren Harper; Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry Rev. Edward Walker; Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence Rev. Meredith McNabb and the following members of the Board of Ordained Ministry: Rev. Jessica Fuller, Rev. Frances Cooper, Rev. Brenda Laws, Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Rev. Bradley Dulaney, Rev. Susan Hannah, Rev. Won Gyu Lee, Rev. James Daniely, Rev. Timothy Beck, Rev. Kenneth Stephen Waclo, Rev. Mitzi Manning, Rev. William Montgomery, Rev. John R. Hall, Sr., Rev. Christian White, Jr., Rev. Darcey Johnson, Rev. Robert Cooper, Rev. Lorenzo D. Hill, Rev. Joan Rudisell, and Rev. Brandon Robbins. Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, directed the music. The Blacksburg United Methodist Church Brass and Vocal Ensemble played for the service.

Bishop Cho licensed, commissioned and ordained the candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service. Following the prayer of thanksgiving, Bishop Cho invited those feeling led by the Holy Spirit to inquire into Christian ministry to come forward and greet him during the singing of the final hymn. Newly-ordained deacons and elders counseled with those inquiring into representative ministries and gathered contact information. The service concluded at 9:33 p.m. with the dismissal and blessing.

SUNDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION - JUNE 21, 2014

The Youth Service Fund Offering was taken up at the doors of the Berglund Coliseum. “Singing Our Faith” was led at 8:15 a.m. by the Genesis Praise Band, Roanoke District.

Rev. Tim Bias, General Secretary of the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministry, led the Bible Study. He discussed the two main themes in Luke’s Gospel, prayer and the Holy Spirit. He said our prayers assist God’s Spirit to work through us, and added that prayer in alignment with the will of God can change the world. He concluded by saying that he would pray for the Virginia Annual Conference every day until Christmas. At the conclusion of the study, Bishop Cho thanked Rev. Bias.

Bishop Cho called the session to order at 9:13 a.m.

Rev. Stan Thompson, Chair of the Minutes Committee, presented the committee's report. The minutes of the Saturday morning plenary session, afternoon plenary session and Ordering of Ministry Service were reviewed and corrected. The minutes were approved. Rev. Thompson announced that the Minutes Committee would meet on July 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to complete the review and certification of the minutes and moved that the minutes be approved as certified. The motion was approved.

Sympathy was expressed for Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer, who was with family following the loss of his sister-in-law. Rev. Steven Summers, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ms. Carol Draper, staff account, to present the reports although she is not a member of the Annual Conference. The motion was approved. Ms. Draper presented the reports of the statistician and the treasurer found in the *Book of Reports* on page 106 and pages 107-113 respectively.

Rev. Summers, moved for a suspension of the Conference Rules in order to present the report of the Council on Finance and Administration found on pages 114-125 in the *Book of Reports*. The motion was approved.

He briefly reviewed the seven sections presented by the Council on Finance and Administration. Rev. Summers moved the acceptance of the entire report. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mochel Morris, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions, called upon Mr. Jaydee Hanson, Co-Chair of the Board of Church and Society, to address Resolution Two, "Caring for God's Creation through Improved Investment Policies," found on page 148 in the *Book of Reports*. The resolution was presented in response to the referral of a 2014 resolution entitled "Investment in Fossil Fuel Companies" to the Boards of Church of Society and Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. for a response at the 2015 Annual Conference. Mr. Hanson commented on the complicated nature of the climate change issue as it relates to energy resources. He moved for approval. There were two speeches in favor of the resolution and two speeches against the resolution. The question was called and the body voted to call the question. The resolution was approved.

Rev. Morris moved to suspend the rules to allow a time for holy conferencing on the three petitions dealing with human sexuality: Petitions 2, 11, and 14 in the *Book of Reports*. The time for conferencing in small groups would be followed by a written ballot on those three petitions.

Rev. James Noland, Richmond District, spoke against suspending the rules. Rev. James Smith, Staunton District, raised a point of order. A motion to suspend the rules is not debatable. Rev. Morris' motion to suspend was not approved.

Rev. Morris called upon Rev. Mark Ogren, Richmond District, to speak to Petition 14, "Remove the Incompatibility Phrase," page 173-176 of the *Book of Reports*. Bishop Cho reminded the body that this is a petition to General Conference and we would be voting to send or not send the petition to General Conference. The petition would then come before that body for a decision. There were four speeches against the petition and two for the petition. A point of order was raised but deemed moot. Rev. Ray Sandifer, Roanoke, called for the question. The motion was not approved.

Rev. Francis Cooper, Richmond District, moved that speeches for and against Petitions 2, 11, and 14 be limited to two minutes and be followed by a written ballot. Alexandria District Superintendent Rev. Jeff Mickle called for the question. The motion was approved. The Conference voted on Rev. Cooper's motion. The motion was approved.

There was then one more speech for the petition.

Rev. Morris outlined Petitions 2 and 11, the two petitions that had not been discussed. Rachel Miller, Chief Lay Teller, gave instructions for voting. Rev. Morris re-read the descriptions of Petitions 2 and 11. Ballots were distributed and marked. Bishop Cho declared the voting closed.

Bishop Cho then recognized an order of the day; worship would begin at 11:00 a.m. At 10:49 a.m. he invited the assembly to recess until the worship service. In celebration of the 15th Anniversary of Fieldstone United Methodist Church a video was shown, during the recess

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

Bishop Young Jin Cho led the closing worship service. He thanked God for being with us through the Conference and thanked the participants for patiently sitting for three days. He also thanked Bishops Kammerer and Chamberlain, the Annual Conference Planning Committee and all those who worked to make Annual Conference happen.

Bishop Cho preached on 1 Kings 17:8-16. His message, “Two Challenges - First and All,” was based on the obedience of the Widow of Zarephath. As he spoke about discipleship he noted that disciples always put God first. Liturgists for the service were Rev. Charles Bates, Galilee United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District and Ms. Judi Delpiero, Magnolia United Methodist Church, James River District. Rev. Brenda Laws, Deacon in Full Connection, Eastern Shore District assisted the Bishop. Rev. Raciell Quintana, Iglesia Metodista Trinity, Farmville District and Rev. Melody Tanner, West Point United Methodist Church, York River District were the baptismal font attendants for the reaffirmation of baptism.

During a musical offering, the ushers distributed the “Appointments” edition of *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate*. Staunton District Superintendent Rev. David Rochford in his role as secretary for the cabinet, presented the appointments for the districts. The clergy were stationed and the appointments were fixed as printed in the July 2015 edition of *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate* with the following additions: on the Arlington District, Community United Methodist Church adds an associate position, Rev. Elizabeth LaBella-Foster; on the Farmville District the Glenwood United Methodist

Charge replaces “To be Supplied” with Lay Supply Pastor Mr. Ohhwan “Freedman” Kim and on the Richmond District, Prospect United Methodist Church will be served by part time Local Pastor Rev. Mark A. Roscoe. *The following appointment was not included in the Advocate or in the additions to the appointments: Rev. Michael Lee Nelson, Pace Student Center United Methodist Campus Ministry, Virginia Commonwealth University.* Following the fixing of appointments Bishop Cho announced that the results of the written ballot for Petitions 2, 11 and 14 would be posted to the Conference website *[results: Petition 2, 1895 votes-- 838 yes, 961 no and 96 abstentions; Petition 11, 1901 votes -- 811 yes; 994 no; 96 abstentions and Petition 14, 1897 votes -- 989 yes; 868 no; 40 abstentions. Four ballots were ruled to be invalid. Only Petition 14 will be sent to General Conference].*

Bishop Cho declared the adjournment of the 233rd session of the Virginia Annual Conference at 12:08 p.m.

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes Committee, have read, corrected, and approve these Daily Proceedings of the 233rd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on July 7, 2015.

<u>Rev. L. Raymond McLean</u>	<u>Dale M. Chidrup</u>
<u>Rev. S. Supak</u>	<u>Robert B. Fisher IV</u>
<u>Stacy L. Thompson</u>	<u>Walter S. Deigan</u>
<u>Jeanne Day</u>	