

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
234th Session of The Virginia Annual Conference
Berglund Center, Roanoke, Virginia
June 17-19, 2016

The 234th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference opened with the Clergy Executive Session in the Berglund Performing Arts Theatre and the Laity Session in the Berglund Coliseum.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bishop Young Jin Cho called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 12:59 p.m. Bishop Cho led in worship, assisted by Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons and Rev. Frances Cooper, Chair, Order of Elders. Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, served as song leader.

Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to Rev. Edward Walker, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, who is completing his third quadrennium of service to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Rev. Walker moved that the bar of the clergy session be the area from the front of the auditorium back to the aisle demarcated by the metal railing and excluding those who were seated in the lower left section to be voted into conference membership at this session. The motion was approved.

Rev. Walker moved that staff members for the Bishop, the administrative staff 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 nominated Rev. Jason Stanley as Chair, Order of Deacons and Rev. Lynn Alley-Grant as Chair, Order of Elders. They were elected by their respective orders.

Rev. Walker led the members in the presentation of the Minute Questions. The entire printed booklet of Minute Questions, with additions and corrections distributed separately, was presented in an itemized manner. Members of the clergy who were retiring at this session of annual conference were invited to stand for recognition. Persons receiving their first appointment as local pastors in all categories were invited to the platform to be recognized. Bishop Cho asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained. Candidates for commissioning, ordination, recognition of orders and transfer into the conference from other denominations were presented and approved. Those transferring from other United Methodist annual conferences were introduced. Appropriate recognition was given to all persons being received into a new relationship with the Virginia Annual Conference at the current session. A moment of silence was observed for those who were involuntarily discontinued or involuntarily withdrawn. A moment of silence was observed for members of the clergy and the diaconal minister who had died in the previous year. All matters requiring a 2/3 majority were passed accordingly. All matters requiring a 3/4 majority were also passed accordingly.

Bishop Cho thanked Rev. Walker; Rev. Meredith McNabb, Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence; Ms. Terri Biggins, administrative staff for the Bishop; and Ms. Kristen Seibert, administrative staff for the Center for Clergy Excellence; for their work during his term as bishop. He also recognized the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Bishop Cho led the assembly in praying the Lord's Prayer. He concluded the session at 2:26 p.m.

LAITY SESSION

The Tomorrow Has Come Band led the laity in song to begin the Laity Session at 12:50 p.m. Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed the laity and the youth who participated in the opening worship at 1:03 p.m. Ms. Brenda Brooks, Roanoke District Lay Leader, led the laity in centering prayer. Ms. Nicole Kent, a youth from Cunningham United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District, led the call to worship. Mr. Harper led the laity in a meditation entitled "Praying the Lord's Prayer at

Noon” by Terry Teykl followed by a video entitled “The Lord’s Prayer.” Mr. Harper invited all first time conference visitors to stand. First time attendees were welcomed with applause.

Lay Member of Annual Conference responsibilities were reviewed by the following Virginia Conference District Lay Leaders: Mr. Larry Creamer, Staunton District; Mr. Joe Amend, Harrisonburg District; Ms. Debbie Dietrich, Fredericksburg District; Ms. Joyce Duncan, Lynchburg District; Mr. Gene Cross, Arlington District; Mr. John Meeuwissen, Alexandria District and Ms. Sue Mayo, Farmville District.

The District Lay Leaders highlighted the following conference essentials: the accuracy of the agenda found in the *Book of Reports*, the importance of participating in as many session activities as possible and the schedule of worship services including the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion, the Conference Mission Service with the Annual Conference Offering, the Service for the Ordering of Ministry, and Sunday Morning Worship. Also covered were the rules for making motions, the consent agenda deadline, reporting to local churches and districts and voting on resolutions and motions.

Mr. Harper instructed the laity to raise the yellow cards found in their conference packets if they desire to speak during the appropriate times. He announced that buses are available to the hotel loop and downtown for lunches and ushers in orange vests are available for assistance.

Mr. Stephen B. Clark, President, United Methodist Foundation, gave a presentation about the work of the foundation and its support of local churches.

Mr. Harper introduced a time of reflection related to the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon. He invited Ms. Martha Stokes, Ms. Beth Christian, and Ms. Alison Malloy, Delegates to the General Conference, to share personal experiences. Prior to reflections, Mr. Ronald White, Richmond District Lay Leader, read 1 John 2:17, Mr. Bobby Thompson, Danville District Lay Leader, provided a statement about the United Methodist connection and Ms. Kathy Lutman, Interim Winchester District Lay Leader, provided an overview of General Conference. Ms. Stokes shared information about General Conference. Ms. Iris Smith, Eastern Shore District Lay Leader, read 1 John

2:17, followed by the presentation from Ms. Christian. Mr. Bob Forrest, Charlottesville District Lay Leader, read Psalm 40:8, followed by Ms. Malloy's reflection. Mr. Gary Denette, Elizabeth River District Lay Leader, read Luke 22:42, followed by an announcement by Mr. Harper about a full General Conference report to be given on Saturday morning. by Rev. Tom Berlin, head clergy delegate and Ms. Stokes, head lay delegate.

The Laity Session closed at 2:24 p.m. with the "Lord's Prayer" video in Spanish introduced by Mr. Gerry Fuss, James River District Lay Leader.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 17, 2016

Bishop Young Jin Cho, resident bishop of the Richmond Area, called the first plenary of the 234th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Joanna Dietz, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District, led the conference in singing the historic Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." The opening prayer was given by Rev. Raymond Wrenn, retired, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District. This was his 76th year as a member of the Virginia Annual Conference. Ms. Hannah Hale, incoming Co-Chair, Conference Council on Youth Ministries, also offered an opening prayer. Ms. Hale was attending her first annual conference as a lay member.

Bishop Cho thanked retired Bishop Ray Chamberlain, Rev. Stephen Bray, Chair, Conference Rules Committee and Ms. Mary L. Brett Wright, Conference Rules Committee member, for serving as parliamentarians for the afternoon plenary session.

Bishop Cho recognized Roanoke District Superintendent Kathleen Overby Webster who welcomed members and guests to Roanoke and noted the bookmarks given as a gift from the Roanoke District to all members of Conference. She pointed out the ushers in the red sashes who were available to assist Conference members. Rev. Overby Webster introduced Roanoke District Lay Leader Brenda Brooks. Ms. Brooks introduced Rev. Kiok Cho, spouse of Bishop Cho, and Rev. Harold Webster, spouse of Rev. Overby Webster. Rev. Overby Webster welcomed Retired Bishop Ray and Ms. Martha Chamberlain. Bishop Chamberlain is a former member of the Virginia Annual

Conference. She recognized retired episcopal leaders who could not be present: Bishop Kern Eustler, Bishop C. P. Minnick, Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes and his wife, Ms. Mera Hughes, and Bishop Timothy Whitaker and his wife, Ms. Melba Whitaker. Bishop Cho offered prayer for all the retired bishops and their spouses from the Virginia Annual Conferences.

Rev. Overby Webster moved to establish the bar of the conference, 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 10 and 25 through 34, and that the technical and camera platforms be considered part of the floor. The motion was approved.

Rev. Overby Webster moved the election of Rev. Susan Reaves as Annual Conference Secretary for the 2017-20 quadrennium. Rev. Reaves was elected.

Rev. Reaves moved the election of Rev. Delano Douglas and Ms. Beverly Myers as assistant secretaries to the annual conference and the election of Ms. Madeline Pillow as Editor of the *Journal*. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves moved the election of the annual conference committees and tellers, listed on page 42 of the *Book of Reports* and on the green Addendum sheet to the *Book of Reports* that is found in the official packet. They were elected.

Rev. Reaves announced that Parlor A, adjacent to Berglund Hall, has been designated as a Prayer Room throughout the Annual Conference. Also, amendments to the agenda must be submitted before the end of the afternoon session Friday, June 17.

She then explained the Annual Conference may nominate at least 15 and not more than 45 persons to the jurisdictional pool. For the 2016 Annual Conference, nominations should be made in writing using the form found in the *Book of Report's* packet. She further explained that all General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegates are already in the pool. The additional nominations are very important for purposes of racial, ethnic, disability and age inclusivity. All nominees must be professing members of the United Methodist Church and active in local churches.

Any individuals who have not given their consent to have their names put forward or have not agreed to serve if selected should not be nominated. Terms are for four years, with eligibility for a second four year term; require travel to a minimum of two meetings per year with possible meeting locations outside the U.S. and require commitment to the full work of the board/commission.

Rev. Reaves announced that completed nomination forms must be in the secretary's inbox at the front of the stage by the end of the Friday afternoon session of Annual Conference. No nominations will be accepted after that time.

Rev. Reaves then noted that the Consent Agenda Committee determined that the deadline to request items be removed from the Consent Agenda will be 4:30 p.m., June 17. According to Conference Rules, removal of an individual item from the Consent Agenda requires 30 signatures accompanying the request. Motion forms to request removal of items from the Consent Agenda are at the front of the stage and must be returned to the secretary's inbox at the established deadline. She pointed out that the Addendum Sheet includes updates to the Consent Agenda and that the Board of Church and Society report on page 72 of the *Book of Reports* shall be included as part of the Consent Agenda.

Bishop Cho addressed the tragic events that took place in Orlando, Florida, Sunday June 12, when 49 people were massacred. He lifted up the Florida Annual Conference, meeting concurrently with the Virginia Annual Conference. He encouraged the assembly to work to become God's beloved community and to resist violence in all its forms. He then led a time of silent prayer followed by a prayer for the people of the Florida Annual Conference.

Rev. Stephen Bray, Chair, Rules Committee, moved the suspension of the rules to allow time for his report. The rules were suspended. He presented the report of the Rules Committee, found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 43-44. The Rules Committee addressed the length of time needed for voting for the delegates to the General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences. The Rules Committee proposed changing rules regarding the election of delegates. Rev. Teresa Smith, New Hope United Methodist

Church, Fredericksburg District, offered an amendment to the proposed change to paragraph III.F.7, page 23, from “the 25 nominees receiving the highest number of votes” to 50 nominees.. The motion was not approved.

Winchester District Superintendent Larry Thompson proposed an amendment to the color of the name badges listed on page 33 of the rules. He proposed changing yellow, salmon and gray to white. Rev. Bray remarked that the Rules Committee did not recommend the rule change. Mr. Mike Monge, delegate- at large, Elizabeth River District, proposed an amendment to add onto the back of the name badge the voting rights of each classification of badge color. The amendment was not approved. Rev. Thompson’s amendment was approved.

Rev. Bray called upon Mr. Stephen Clark, President, Virginia United Methodist Foundation, who recommended approval of the amended charter and bylaws for the United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference, Inc., which will then require the following change in the Standing Rules, V.B.11 on page 30, thereby, the size of the Board is amended and reduced from 30 to 23, and the allocations revised to be 14 elected by Annual Conference and nine elected by the Board of Directors.

Rev. Ed Walker proposed amending the rules found on page eight of the *Book of Reports* by striking section I.A, and changing the word “mission” in I.B to “purpose” then renumbering. The Rules Committee recommended changes to the standing rules as reported on page 43-44. The recommendations with the amendments passed.

Bishop Cho thanked Rev. Bray for his 11 years of service on the Conference Rules Committee and as committee chair for the past eight years. He noted that Rev. Bray’s father had also been the chair of the rules committee.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Clergy Co-Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, reported on the monitoring process. She noted that the new Lay Co-Chair will be Ms. Amanda Thomas, Clarendon United Methodist Church, Arlington District. She encouraged the body to work for the full inclusion of everyone at God’s table.

Bishop Cho gave the Episcopal Address. He reminded the assembly that “ministry as usual” was no longer an option. He lifted up those moments that were highlights of his

term as Bishop. He included the Imagine No Malaria campaign, All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations and the strengthening of the spiritual foundation of the conference. His hope is that the conference will continue to build on this spiritual foundation and the development of new faith communities.

He expressed his thanks to the Cabinet and to his “boss” Kiok. He also thanked Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop, Ms. Estelle Pruden, former secretary, Ms. Terri Biggins, current secretary, Ms. Shirley Cauffman, Chair Committee on the Episcopacy and all committee members. Finally, he also thanked all who prayed for him throughout his term as bishop. His final words were, “Hallelujah, Amen.”

Farmville District Superintendent Robert Parks gave the Report of the Cabinet found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 45-48. He presented for election the nominees for District Committees on Ordained Ministry, listed on the violet sheet in members’ official packets. He presented nominees for members of the District Boards of Church Location and Building, found on the gold sheet in the official packets. The nominees were elected, as presented.

Rev. Parks presented for annual conference approval the remaining sections of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16, found on the white sheet in members’ official packets, and the additions to the Minute Questions on the green addendum sheet. He also corrected Minute Question 14 j which should read, “Springfield: Discontinue Part Time (75%) Associate Pastor Position.” He placed Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16 before the conference, including proposed changes in the list of churches and district and charge lines. The motion was approved.

Danville District Superintendent Janine Howard moved the following:

Be it resolved that Stokesland United Methodist Church on the Danville District be discontinued effective 30 June 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church, Danville District and that the membership of Stokesland United Methodist Church on the Danville District be

transferred to Moseley Memorial 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. Parks moved the following:

Be it resolved that Centenary United Methodist Church (Cumberland Charge) on the Farmville District be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Farmville District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Centenary United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be transferred to Payne Memorial or Hobson's Chapel United Methodist Churches except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Elizabeth River District Superintendent Wayne Snead moved the following:

Be it resolved that Cottage Place United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River Board of Mission, Inc. and that the membership of Cottage Place United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be transferred to West End 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. Snead presented the following motion:

Be it resolved that McKendree United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River Board of Mission, Inc. and that the membership of McKendree United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District Board of Mission be transferred to St John's 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. Snead presented the following motion:

Be it resolved that Park Place United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River Board of Mission, Inc. and that the membership of Park Place United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be transferred to Ghent 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. Snead made a fourth motion as follows:

Be it resolved that Park View United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River Board of Mission, Inc. and that the membership of Park View United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River Board of Mission, Inc. be transferred to West End 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.

James River District Superintendent Robin Colwell made the following motion:

Be it resolved that Dendron United Methodist Church be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the James River District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Dendron United Methodist Church be transferred to Carsley, Oak Grove, or Surry United Methodist Church, of the Surry Charge except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved. Rev. Colwell noted that Dendron United Methodist Church has been repurposed.

Rev. Colwell made the following motion:

Be it resolved that Sebrell United Methodist Church be discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the James River District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Sebrell United Methodist Church be transferred to Grace Memorial United Methodist Church, Grace Memorial Charge except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Lynchburg District Superintendent Larry Davies made the following motion:

Be it resolved that Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, on 2990 Mount Olivet Road in Bedford on the Lynchburg District be

discontinued effective June 30, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Common Table of the Lynchburg District, Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc., and that the membership of Mount Olivet United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be transferred to Wilson's 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. Parks offered a prayer of recognition for the ministries of those discontinued churches and the ways they blessed the lives of people in their communities.

On behalf of the Cabinet, Rev. Parks nominated Mr. David Dommissse as the Conference Statistician for the 2017-20 quadrennium. Mr. Dommissse was elected.

Rev. Mark Ogren, Director of Congregational Excellence, introduced the new faith communities begun since the previous annual conference or set to begin in July. The faith communities recognized were: Aisle 7- Verona United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District; Korean United Methodist Church of Koinonia, Arlington District; Vine – Graham Road, Arlington District; The Gathering at Scott Memorial, Elizabeth River District and Chesterbrook United Methodist Church – Vision of Peace, Arlington District.

Rev. Reaves reported that no items had been removed from the Consent Agenda. Bishop Cho presented the Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*): Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (ARMS), page 145; Board of Church and Society, page 72; Bishops' Foundation, page 135; Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations, page 87; Church Development Team, page 73; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., page 74; Credit Union, Virginia United Methodist, Inc., page 147; Virginia United Methodist Development Company, page 150; Commission on Disabilities, page 101; Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries, page 103; Discipleship Circles, page 75; Episcopacy Committee, page 113; Commission on Ethnic

Minority Concerns and Advocacy, page 102; United Methodist Foundation, page 148; Goodson Preaching Academy, page 136; GraceInside, page 103; Heart Havens, page 79; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc., page 81; Board of Higher Education Ministries, page 86; Initiatives of Hope, page 77; Board of Laity, page 99; Mission Encounter, page 78; Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, page 79; Missional Connections Team, page 78; Old Brunswick Church Foundation, page 52; Old Stone Church Foundation, page 51; Older Adult Council, page 76; Board of Ordained Ministry, page 133; Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) Virginia Chapter, page 147; Preachers' Relief Society, page 145; Retired Clergy Housing Corp, page 146; Society of St. Andrew, page 105; Commission on the Status and Role of Women, page 102; Conference Board of Trustees, page 134; United Methodist Family Services, page 80; United Methodist Men, page 100; United Methodist-Related Schools, page 137; United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, page 78; United Methodist Women, page 100; Virginia Council of Churches, page 106; Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, page 107; Voices of Youth, page 78; Wesley Foundations/Campus Ministries, page 87; Wesley Housing Development Corporation, page 82; William Watters Foundation, page 51 and Council on Youth Ministries, page 76. The report of the Virginia United Methodist Housing Development, Corp, on the green addendum sheet was also included. The Consent Agenda was approved.

Mr. Thomas Nealley, Chair, Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 49-50. Mr. Nealley recommended that the Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2016 be \$350,000. The recommendation was approved.

Mr. Nealley recommended that the Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2017 be \$41,500 for Full Connection Pastors, \$38,000 for Provisional and Associate Members and \$35,500 for Local Pastors. The recommendation was approved.

Mr. Nealley then recommended that the floor schedule for 2017 be approved as \$28,000 for Full Connection Pastors, \$25,600 for Provisional and Associate Members and \$24,000 for Local Pastors. The recommendation was approved. Bishop Cho asked

all those who worked on the Equitable Compensation Commission to stand. He thanked them for their work.

Bishop Cho suspended the 234th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference, and introduced Rev. Jack Martin, President, Virginia Conference Historical Society. Rev. Martin called the annual meeting of the Society to order. He presented his report found, on page 51, of the *Book of Reports* and a brief video. He presented the Historical Society Trustees for 2016-17 for confirmation. They were confirmed. The meeting of the Historical Society was adjourned. Bishop Cho reconvened the 234th session of the Virginia Annual Conference.

Bishop Cho reminded members and guests that on Saturday, June 18, the conference mission offering would be received as part of the 11 a.m. Conference Mission worship service and the Sacrament of Eucharist celebrated at 7:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room. Bishop Cho offered recommendations for reading and study: *Becoming a Blessed Church* (2nd Edition), N. Graham Standish; *Minding the Good Ground*, Jason E. Vickers; *Christianity After Religion*, Diana Butler Bass; *The Emotional Intelligence of Jesus*, Roy M. Oswald and Ariand Jacobson and *Defying Gravity*, Tom Berlin.

Other announcements were given by the Conference Secretary, including the rules regarding nominations to the Episcopacy. Bishop Cho closed the session with the singing of the praise song “Hallelu, Hallelu.” The plenary session recessed for dinner at 5:01 p.m.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION

A Service of Remembrance began at 7:30 p.m. Bishop Young Jin Cho led in worship. Ms. Minoka Guneskera, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Roanoke District; Mr. Justin Robins, Shady Grove United Methodist Church, Richmond District, and Rev. Judy Hall, Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling of Northern Virginia, were the liturgists. Rev. Susan Reaves, Conference Secretary, assisted in worship. Memorial candles were lit during the reading of the names of the clergy, diaconal minister, clergy spouses and lay members of the Virginia Annual Conference who had died during the previous year.

The congregation joined in giving thanks to God for each of these faithful persons. Rev. Morris Fleischer, Newport-Mount Olivet Charge, Roanoke District, and Ms. Peggy Lootens, Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, served as acolytes.

Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher, Main Street United Methodist Church, James River District, preached the message, "Best Day Ever" based on Romans 12:9-21. Rev. Hatcher spoke of "our dear brothers and sisters in Christ" who have gone on to the church eternal and celebrated the many hours of service they gave as they lived out the Gospel. Bishop Cho presided in the service of Holy Communion assisted by Rev. Charlie Baber, Highland United Methodist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Tomorrow Has Come Band provided music along with the Traditional Choral Ensemble. The communion coordinator was Rev. Robert Lough, Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, Roanoke District. Rev. David Vaughan, Evangelical United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District, and Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer, Gum Spring United Methodist Church, Richmond District, were the worship coordinators. Rev. Joanna Dietz, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District, was the Music Coordinator. Following the benediction, the evening session was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 18, 2016

"Singing Our Faith" was led by the Deacon Choir, the Traditional Choral Ensemble and the Tomorrow Has Come Band at 8:15 a.m. Bishop Young Jin Cho welcomed members and guests of the conference and led in prayer at 8:34 a.m. He welcomed Dr. L. Gregory Jones as the Conference Bible Study leader.

Dr. Jones is transitioning to a new role as Executive Vice President and Provost of Baylor University and continues to serve as Senior Fellow for Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School. From 1997-2010, he was Dean of Duke Divinity School where he led the institution to a significant expansion of resources, networks and impact. Dr. Jones is the author or editor of 17 books, including his most recent, *Christian Social Innovation: Renewing Wesleyan Witness*.

He led a Bible study based on chapters 10-21 in Numbers. He spoke about Moses' intimacy with God and encouraged the assembly to seek that kind of intimate knowledge of God. He encouraged everyone to pray and be drawn toward living out the will of God.

Bishop Cho led the conference in prayer; with the words, "God's will. Nothing less. Nothing more. Nothing else." He called the session to order at 9:18 a.m.

Rev. Stan Thompson, Chair, Minutes Committee, presented the report of the Minutes Committee. He moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Clergy Executive Session, the Laity Session, the Friday afternoon plenary session and the Service of Remembrance. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Robert Forrest, Conference Board of Laity member, nominated Mr. Warren Harper as Conference Lay Leader for the 2017-20 quadrennium. Mr. Harper was elected Conference Lay Leader by affirmation. Mr. Harper then delivered the Laity address. His text was Matthew 8:18-22 and his message was inspired by the meeting of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. Mr. Harper stated that, "Following Jesus is not all mountain tops and church dinners. We must encourage our churches to reach out to their neighbors and invite them to Christ." He noted that we must listen for God's voice before we attend to the work of the church.

The Board of Laity expressed their thanks to Bishop Cho and presented him with a gift.

Bishop Cho called the Conference Board of Laity to the stage and expressed his thanks for their work. The assembly applauded the work of the Board.

Bishop Cho introduced Bishop John Innis, Liberia Annual Conference. He was elected bishop on the first ballot at the West Africa Central Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Monrovia in December 2000, and assigned to the Liberia Area of The United Methodist Church. He was additionally assigned to the Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference from 2003 to 2005.

Mr. Robert Sanford, Jr., Chair, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), presented the report found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 53-69. He moved to suspend the rules to allow the presentation of his report. The rules were suspended.

He noted that because of the action of General Conference, the Denominational Average Compensation has been calculated at a lower number than reported in the *Book of Reports*.

This is the second year that VUMPI has recommended no cost increase in the conferenced-sponsored health plans. New rules governing eligibility will become effective in 2017 by action of General Conference. Part-time elders and deacons in half-time and quarter-time appointments will no longer be eligible for Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) coverage. This will affect approximately 13 people in the Virginia Conference. District superintendents and local churches will work to develop alternative strategies for these persons. It was noted that local pastors appointed at 75% service are not eligible for CPP benefits, a change from previous years.

Mr. Sanford presented Recommendations 1-7. They were approved.

Rev. Marc Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries as well as Chair, Common Table for Church Vitality (Common Table) and Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader and Vice-Chair, Common Table, presented the report found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 77-108. Mr. Harper pointed out that the parts of the Conference budget which Common Table oversees in Line Item 401 (Conference Mission and Ministries) reflect a reduction of \$73,000 in 2017 and a cumulative reduction of over \$800,000 since 2009.

Ms. Rachel Miller, Common Table member, presented five recommendations found in the *Book of Reports*, page 71: (1) by the Board of Discipleship regarding the observance of Christian Education Sunday (based upon the action of last year's Annual Conference a special offering will not be received); (2) by the Board of Discipleship, the endorsement of Rev. Gregory West as a general evangelist according to the standards of the General Board of Discipleship; (3) by Missional Ministries, the continuation of Conference Relationship Agreements: between the Virginia Conference and the following: Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation and Wesley Housing Development Corporation. (4) by Missional Ministries

regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, Inc; United Methodist Family Services; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation and Wesley Housing Development Corporation and (5) by Missional Ministries regarding Advance Special offerings found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 84-85 and the corrections found on the addendum. The recommendations were approved.

Ms. Iris Smith, Common Table member, introduced a video on leadership development.

Ms. Martha Reed, Common Table member, reported that the Common Table has approved long term disaster relief for the areas in Virginia affected by tornadoes that struck in February.

Rev. Robert Pihlcrantz, Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, gave an update on the long-term relief work being done for the tornado recovery effort. Work began in Waverly, Virginia, June 6, 2016. The Virginia Conference is the only group working for recovery there. Recovery has also begun in Evergreen, VA. FEMA denied funding requests to those affected by the tornadoes. He noted that the most important part of recovery is the people.

Rev. Brown recognized Ms. Linda Rhodes, Conference Director of Communications, for her nine years of service. She is retiring on September 1, 2016. Ms. Rhodes could not come to the stage, as she was overseeing the Annual Conference production process. She waved from her place at the tech table. He also recognized Ms. Madeline Pillow, News Associate and Editor of the *Advocate*, who will serve as the interim Director of Communications beginning September 1, 2016. Rev. Brown thanked all of the Connectional Ministry Staff for their devotion to the work of God's kingdom.

Bishop Cho stated that morning worship will be at 11 a.m. and the Conference Offering will be received during the service.

Rev. Brown asked everyone who had served as a chair or member of a conference board or agency over the past quadrennium to stand. He thanked them. Mr. Harper presented the report of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 109-112, and on the green addendum sheet. The

nominees to committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the annual conference were elected.

Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop, nominated Mr. Steven Brown for election as Conference Chancellor for the 2017-20 quadrennium. Mr. Brown has over twenty-five years of experience in trying labor and employment cases in state and federal courts all over the United States. He provides legal and strategic advice related to all labor and employment issues. He was elected.

Bishop Cho asked all newly elected persons to stand as they were able. He thanked all those who serve, consecrated them to their service and prayed over them.

Rev. Rob Vaughn, proposed a motion regarding the June 12, 2016, Pulse shooting in Orlando, Florida. He moved the following:

1. that the 2016 Virginia Annual Conference encourages United Methodists to continue to pray for persons touched by the Orlando shootings and for persons whose place of safety from anti-gay hostility has been violated; to continue to preach love and welcome, especially for persons who have felt estranged from the church; to welcome the stranger, to open our hearts to the marginalized, vulnerable and oppressed and especially the LGBTQI community even in the midst of our continuing discernment about the role of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer persons in the life of the church.

2. that the Virginia Annual Conference encourages the sharing of the United Methodist Council of Bishop's statement about the June 12 mass shooting which expresses grief, encourages prayer, and seeks solidarity with our Muslim community which also condemns this violent act, lifts up our Florida family of faith and call us to redouble our commitment to fulfill God's vision of the Beloved Community.

3. that the Virginia Annual Conference encourages United Methodists, both individually and as local churches, to work to destroy the systemic fear, hatred and discrimination that leads to violence against LGBTQ persons and communities proclaiming that God's LGBTQI children are all of sacred worth; and as one beginning step, to follow the suggestion of Rev. Jennifer Stiles Williams of St. Luke's UMC, Orlando to "Find ways to sit at the table with people who are different and hold holy conversations that speak grace (and) start speaking up against violence and bullying toward people who are different."

The motion was approved.

Ms. Martha Stokes, head of the delegation to General Conference and Rev. Tom Berlin, Secretary of the delegation to General Conference presented a report on the 2016 General Conference held in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Stokes asked the delegates to General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences to stand and be recognized. She referred to videos available to give insight into General Conference that can be used by the local church.

Rev. Berlin discussed the passing of a resolution that would create a commission on human sexuality, to be appointed by the Council of Bishops in November 2016. He said this may lead to a called General Conference before 2020, depending on when the commission finishes its work. He urged everyone to pray for the bishops as they form the commission.

The General Conference approved a budget of \$604,000,000. Ms. Stokes presented some of the legislation that passed and did not pass. She pointed out that there will be a new high tech hymnal created that will be internet Cloud based and can be printed on demand. She noted that we have been given an opportunity to create a church of which God would be proud. She encouraged the body to continue to pray for the delegation through jurisdictional conference. Rev. Berlin presented Ms. Stokes with a glass apple in

appreciation for the way she has demonstrated the fruit of the spirit through her leadership.

Ms. Stokes reported on the nominations to the Southeastern Jurisdictional pool. She noted that there were 53 persons nominated from the floor of Annual Conference. She then presented a list of persons nominated to the Southeastern Jurisdictional pool for consideration as nominees to general boards and agencies. These persons, whose names were projected on the overhead screen, were nominated by members of the General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegation and Bishop Cho. The following were nominated: Ms. Katherine Akers, Rev. Regina Anderson-Cloud, Rev. Veronica Barrell, Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Rev. Paulo da Silva, Rev. Sherry Daniels, Mr. Andrew Dietz, Mr. Johnnie Draughon, Rev. Rachel Gilmore, Rev. Victor Gomez, Ms. Rebekah Greer, Ms. Michelle Hettmann, Rev. Marcela Jarman, Rev. Mikang Kim, Ms. Ann Klotz, Rev. Ryan LaRock, Rev. Hyo Joong Lee, Rev. Virginia Lee, Rev. Won Gyu Lee, Mr. Carlos Liceaga, Rev. Rachel May, Mr. Joshua McCauley, Ms. Rachel Miller, Mr. Wyley Neal, Rev. Emmanuel Nkrumah, Rev. Jinwook Oh, Rev. Derrick Parson, Rev. Clayton Payne, Rev. David Rash, Mr. Kip Robinson, Rev. Lydia Rodriguez, Mr. Nick Ruxton, Rev. Ryan Schaeffer, Rev. Bryson Smith, Rev. Jae Yong Song, Rev. Debra Straughter, Ms. Lori Valentine de Segovia, Rev. Elizabeth Walker, Ms. Nina Cortada Winkler, Mr. Neal Wise and Rev. Luz Zuleta. The General and Jurisdiction delegates are also part of the jurisdictional pool of nominees.

Rev. John Peters, Executive Director, Association of Educational Institutions, introduced a video and recognized, Dr. Jennifer Braaten, President of Ferrum College who is retiring after 14 years. She introduced Mr. Robert Lindgren, President of Randolph-Macon College, and Dr. Scott Miller, President of Virginia Wesleyan College and spoke on behalf of the United Methodist College Presidents.

Bishop Innis brought greetings from the Liberia Annual Conference and West Africa Central Conference. He noted that he and Bishop Cho are both retiring this year. He thanked the Conference for its support. He said, "Let's keep up the gift of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Cho called an order of the day so that worship could begin.

Holy Rollers biked 150 miles from New Market to Roanoke, VA, to bring awareness to the conference mission offering, promote fitness and have fellowship.

The Conference Mission Service began at 11:05 a.m. Bishop Cho presided over the morning worship service. Rev. Eun Pa Hong, pastor of Bupyeong Methodist Church, Incheon, Korea, brought the message based on Isaiah 60:1-3. Rev. Won Gyu Lee, Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District, served as translator. Bishop Cho noted that Rev. Hong and Bupyeong Methodist Church have invited people from all over the world to stay at the church and learn about Korean spirituality. As part of his message Rev. Hong showed several short videos. They depicted: the devastation of the Korean War, a brief history of American missionaries in Korea and the congregational life of several Korean churches. He concluded by encouraging the body to “Awake from sleep. Arise and shine the light of Christ in the world.” Ms. Sarah Hundley, Global Missions Fellow, General Board of Global Ministries, and Mr. Kip Robinson, retired Global Ministries Missionary to Sierra Leone, were the liturgists. Anthems were provided by the Asian American Ministers Choir and the Korea Pilgrim’s Choir coordinated by Rev. Won Un and accompanied by Rev. Milton Rogers. Additional music was provided by the Tomorrow Has Come Band and the Traditional Choral Ensemble. During the service, the conference offering was received. The worship service concluded at 12:04 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 18, 2016

“Singing Our Faith” was led by the Tomorrow Has Come Band at 1:45 p.m.

Bishop Cho called the session to order at 2:00 p.m. and said, “We need to shut up before God, and let God be God.” A time of silent prayer followed.

The Annual Conference Retirement Service celebrated the ministry of those clergy and their spouses who were retiring at the 234th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Cho presided. Rev. Jim Tongue, Bridgewater United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District, preached on Genesis 12:1-4. He spoke about the assembled retirees and all the people they have loved through their ministries and all the communities they have served. He reminded us that Jesus Christ is the good shepherd

who leads us through every circumstance. Serving as liturgists were Rev. Jennifer Fletcher, Rev. Chenda Lee, Rev. J. Robert Schoeman, from the ordination class of 2016; Rev. Jean Hankins, retirement class of 2016; Ms. Michelle Hettman, Grace United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, and Ms. Autumn Surran, Franktown United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District. Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., recognized the retirees. Rev. Frances Cooper, Chair, Virginia Conference Order of Elder; Rev. John Hall, Sr., President, Virginia Conference Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; Ms. Sue Mayo, Farmville District Lay Leader; Rev. Mac McKenney, Licensing Class of 2016; Ms. Leila Soulen, Calling 21 Intern and Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Virginia Conference Order of Deacon, read the ministry statements of the retirees. Each retiree was greeted by Bishop Cho. The music was provided by the Traditional Choral Ensemble.

Ms. Shirley Cauffman, Chair, Committee on Episcopacy, offered words of appreciation for Bishop Cho's ministry with the Virginia Conference. She praised Bishop Cho, "for putting the Conference on the right track." Rev. Tom Berlin, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, praised Bishop Cho for changing the culture of the Virginia Annual Conference and guiding it with a gentle hand. Bishop Cho was presented with a check for \$14,310 for the Bishops' Foundation endowment to fund training and leadership development for clergy and laity in the area of "Spiritual Leadership." A video was shown, followed by the song "Happy." Youth came on stage and danced with the Bishop then gave him a group hug. Bishop Cho said he does not know what he will do in retirement but he knows who will lead him.

Rev. Clarence Brown, Annandale United Methodist Church, Arlington District, initiated bidding to buy the cut-out of Bishop Cho used during the Imagine No Malaria Campaign. Bishop Ray Chamberlain acted as auctioneer. The cabinet gave the final bid of \$3,200 and received the cut-out.

Rev. Don Jamison, Chair, Conference Board of Discipleship, presented the Clergy Denman Award for Evangelism to Rev. Emmanuel Nkrumah, Ghana Wesley United Methodist Church, Alexandria District. Receiving the Laity Denman Award was Mary

Ella Fuquay, Saint Matthias United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District. The Youth Denman Award for Evangelism was presented to Ms. Heather Galway, Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, Staunton District.

Rev. Susan Reaves, Secretary of the Annual Conference, announced that there was one nominee for the Episcopacy, Rev. Ted Smith. Eastern Shore District Superintendent Alex Joyner made a motion to suspend the rules in order to vote an endorsement of Rev. Smith by acclamation. The rules were suspended. The motion to endorse Rev. Smith was approved. Dr. Smith addressed the Annual Conference.

Rev. Doug Geeting, Chair, Conference Site Selection Committee, presented his report, found in the *Book of Reports*, page 135. The committee recommended that Hampton be the site for Annual Conference in 2021 and 2022. There was no action taken.

Mr. James Eads, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, reported on the work of the Credit Union. A video was shown describing some of the ways that the Credit Union helps churches and individuals.

Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons, acknowledged the 20-year anniversary of the Order of Deacons. He presented a video on the order. The Order of Deacons bridges the space between the world and the church. Finally, a quilt was presented to Bishop Cho that had been prayed over by the diaconate.

Harrisonburg District Superintendent Tommy Herndon recounted some of the recent history of the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. There is a possibility that the Assembly Center could be leased by the Oxford Group for use as a hotel in the future.

Rev. Clayton Childers, Director of Annual Conference Relations for the General Board of Church and Society, addressed the Imagine No Malaria campaign. There was a goal to raise \$75,000,000. Altogether, \$68,000,000 was raised for Imagine No Malaria. The United Methodist Church has been a leading voice in the effort to fight malaria.

Rev. Mochel Morris, Chair, Committee on Resolutions, presented Resolution 1: "Ban the Box" found on pages 152-153 in the *Book of Reports*. She noted that Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed an executive order banning the state from asking about

prospective employees' criminal histories at the first level of applications. However, this did not extend to the private sector. Ms. Dorothy Ivey, General Board of Church and Society, spoke to the resolution. The Resolution Committee recommended concurrence. The resolution was approved.

Rev. Morris presented Resolution 2: "Establish a Mentoring Ministry for Adolescents in the Community that it Serves," found on page 154 in the *Book of Reports*. Mr. Dave Stegmaier, John Mann United Methodist Church, Winchester District, spoke to the motion on behalf of the Board of Church and Society. The Resolutions Committee recommended concurrence.

Mr. Joel Joyner, Franktown United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District, asked to amend the resolution, such that the first sentence in the second to the last paragraph, beginning with, "Now, therefore, be it resolved," reads as follows: "Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on each congregation to establish or support a ministry to adolescents who are not reaching" etc. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The resolution was approved.

Rev. Morris explained that Resolution 3, "Responding to Requests from Christians in the Holy Land," pages 155-156, has been withdrawn because a nearly identical resolution was approved at the 2016 General Conference. This supersedes action by the Annual Conference.

Bishop Cho surveyed the body to ascertain if everyone had copies of the addendum containing the nominees to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. They were elected.

Bishop Cho then thanked Bishop Chamberlain and Rev. Joshua King, Rules Committee member, for serving as parliamentarians during this session of Annual Conference.

At 5:05 p.m., Bishop Cho announced the recess for dinner.

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 18, 2016

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. Rev. Jonathan Barton, General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches, represented the ecumenical community. Bishop Mark Webb, Upper New York Annual Conference preached the sermon, “Called and Connected,” based on John 15:1-11 and Ephesians 3:14-21. He placed emphasis on the reality that ministry is not about “ability” but “availability.” In order to remain called and connected, he encouraged all to “seek the reality of who God is, confess who we are, and to trust what God promises.”

Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service included: Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. Frances T. Cooper, Chair, Order of Elders; and Rev. Edward R. Walker, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry. Serving as Marshals were Rev. Brenda Laws, Deacon, Eastern Shore Community Services Board, Eastern Shore District; Rev. Meredith McNabb, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence; Rev. Bradley Dulaney, Redwood United Methodist Church, Danville District; Rev. Lynn Alley-Grant, Timberlake United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District; Rev. Ileana Rosario, Lower United Methodist Church, York River District; Rev. Won Gyu Lee, Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District and Rev. Lydia Rodriguez, Wesley United Methodist Church, Alexandria District. Serving as acolyte was Mr. A. Shawn Kiger, Director of Youth and Missions, Wrights Chapel United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District. Serving as crucifer was Rev. Bradley McMullen, Bethany United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District. Banner carriers were: Rev. Joseph Cailles, Monumental United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District (Local Pastors); Rev. Michele Manning, Retired Deacon, Alexandria District (Diaconal); Rev. William B. Montgomery, Heritage United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District (Commissioned); Rev. John R. Hall, Sr., Bethel United Methodist Church, Richmond District (Associate Member); Rev. Christian White, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria District (Deacon); Rev. Clarence Brown, Annandale United Methodist Church, Alexandria District (Elder); and Rev.

Robert Cooper, Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, Richmond District (Bishop). Symbol carriers were Rev. Lorenzo D. Hill, Cranford United Methodist Church, Alexandria District (Bible); Rev. Joan Rudisill, Winchester District (Pitcher, Towel, and Basin); and Rev. Susan Hannah, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Danville District (Paten and Chalice). Members of Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church and Blacksburg United Methodist Church Orchestras, directed by Mr. Josh O'Dell, provided music. The Wesley Singers from Virginia Tech also performed. Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, was the music leader for the service.

Bishop Cho licensed, commissioned and ordained the candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service. During the service 31 local pastors were licensed, 16 provisional members were commissioned, two deacons were ordained and 21 elders were ordained.

Following the prayer of thanksgiving, Bishop Cho addressed the newly licensed, commissioned and ordained clergy. He 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. Clergy members of the conference counseled with those inquiring into ministry. The session concluded with the dismissal and blessing at 9:36 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION - JUNE 19, 2016

"Singing our Faith" was led at 8:15 a.m. by the Tomorrow Has Come Band. Bishop Young Jin Cho greeted the Conference and led in prayer at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed Dr. L. Gregory Jones who then presented the morning Bible Study.

Dr. Jones began by mentioning that a number of people had asked him about the prayer he had mentioned at the previous day's Bible Study. Maggy Barankitse's prayer can be found at www.faithleadership.org.

Dr. Jones focused on Philippians 2:5. He noted that in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible the verse is translated as "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Dr. Jones noted that, "We are called to align our thoughts with God." He

encouraged the assembly to rely on holy friends who can help us connect our dreams to the will of God.

Bishop Cho remarked that the Annual Conference needs to be encouraged and inspired. He said, “Dr. Jones has done that very thing.”

Bishop Cho called the session to order at 9:25 a.m. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Judy Craun, and Rev. James Smith, Rules Committee members, and Bishop Ray Chamberlain for serving as parliamentarians for the morning’s session.

Rev. Stan Thompson, Chair, Minutes Committee, presented the committee’s report. Rev. Thompson moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Friday evening worship service, the Saturday morning plenary session and worship service, the Saturday afternoon plenary session and the evening service as reviewed and corrected. Rev. Thompson announced that the Minutes Committee would meet on June 28, 2016, to complete the review and certification of the minutes. He moved that the minutes for those sessions be approved in advance. The motions were approved.

Bishop Cho set the time of morning worship and noted the Conference would recess at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. David Dommissé, Conference Statistician, presented the report found on page 113, *Book of Reports*. Professions of faiths declined as did Hispanic and African American membership. Asian membership rose 7%. He noted that the percentage decrease in total members from 2014 to 2015 was .46%. The average weekly worship attendance for that period was 98,253.

Mr. Dommissé, Conference Treasurer, presented the treasurer’s report, found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 114-120. He noted a decrease in apportioned funds receipts of almost 3.12 % in 2015. The total apportioned and non-apportioned funds received in 2015 were \$29,938,645 a drop of 2.64% from 2014. These funds have been audited, with no corrections. Mr. Benham Black, attorney for the Conference Trustees, was thanked for his service. He has held this position since 1960.

Rev. Steve Summers, President, Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), called for a suspension of the rules to present the CFA report on the Green

Addendum sheets found in members' official packets, as the actions of the 2016 General Conference changed previous figures printed in the *Book of Reports*. The rules were suspended.

Rev. Summers presented Sections I-VII of the report. The report was approved.

Rev. George Riggins III, Monroe United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District made a motion:

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church request that an amount of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$20,000 be added to the Conference proposed budget for 2017 for funding for the provision in ¶ 354.6 for persons "on voluntary leave of absence "in exceptional circumstances"

Rev. Summers pointed out that there is a fund in the CFA budget, "Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Circumstances", containing \$25,000, available for exceptional circumstances where applicable

The motion was not approved.

Rev. Stephen Hundley, Extension Ministry, presented a motion to delete "\$88,000" in the *Book of Reports* on page 128, second paragraph of "A. District Superintendent's Fund" and place the amount "\$90,500" and make the necessary calculations in the budget to complete this action.

The motion was not approved.

Rev. James Godwin, Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District, moved that the figure of \$100.00 as listed on page 129, paragraph two in the *Book of Reports*, be changed to \$170.00.

The motion was approved.

All of the recommendations of the CFA were adopted as presented.

Mr. Domnisse announced that there will be a youth offering taken up during the break before the worship service.

Rev. Douglas Geeting, Chair, Site Selection Committee, explained that there needs to be a vote on the site selection for June 18, 2021 in Hampton, VA, as required in the

Conference rules. The Annual Conference will take place in Hampton in 2022 at a date to be determined. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Rev. Joshua King, “that the 234th Virginia Annual Conference in accordance with our 2012 United Methodist Discipline ¶603.2 and ¶603.3 charge the site selection committee to set the location in consult with the bishop as the Bishop sets the date.”

The motion was not approved.

Ms. Martha Stokes and Rev. Tom Berlin, delegates to General Conference, expanded upon their original report on the 2016 General Conference. Rev. Berlin asked the Conference members to pray for three things: 1) the episcopal candidacy of Rev. Ted Smith, that God’s will be done in his life, 2) the Committee on the Episcopacy who will recommend to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference who the next bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference will be and 3) the formation of the commission on human sexuality by the Council of Bishops.

Rev. Berlin also discussed the issues around human sexuality as defined by two issues within the church, “How do you feel about same sex marriage?” and “How do you feel about the ordination of homosexuals?” He laid out four categories based on the way individuals would answer these questions. He then laid out possible future events based on different actions in regard to these four groupings.

Bishop Cho wished everyone a happy Fathers’ Day. Bishop Cho recognized an order of the day and recessed the conference at 10:39 a.m. to prepare for worship.

At 10:58 Bishop Cho reconvened the Annual Conference and moved for the election of Mr. David Dommissé as Conference Treasurer for the 2017-20 quadrennium. He was elected.

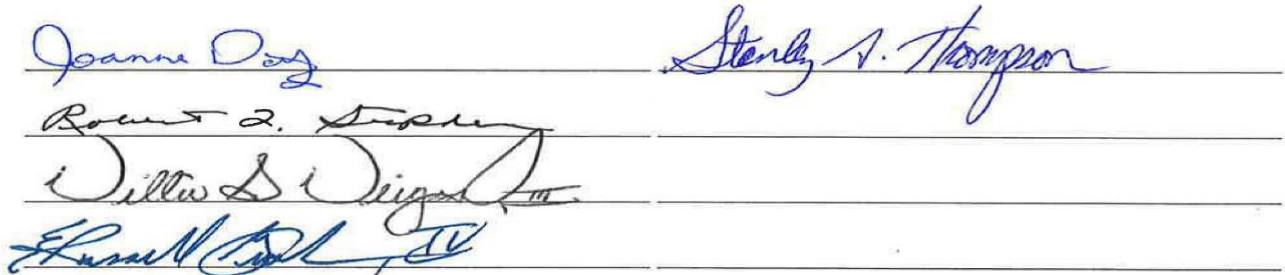
Bishop Cho then thanked all who worked to make conference happen, in other words, “Everyone.”

Bishop Cho was the leader of the closing worship service. Liturgists were Mr. Paulo Lopes, Director of Ministries with Young People and Rev. Judy Worthington, Franktown United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District. Ms. Joy Chappell, Shenandoah

University, class of 2016, performed a liturgical dance. The Henry Fork Mission Children's Choir, directed by Lisa Nichols, supplied the music along with the Tomorrow Has Come Band and the Traditional Choral Ensemble. The Bishop's text was Matthew 26: 36-46, his message was titled, "Thy Will Be Done." He encouraged the body to pray a dangerous prayer, "Not what I want but what you [God] want." He explained that seeking God's will is dangerous and risky but God's way is always best for us. Finally, he invited the assembly to pray together in the style of Tongsung Kido for renewal and revitalization of the local churches.

Ushers distributed copies of the appointment list. The July, 2016 *Advocate* was not available as storms in Richmond, VA, knocked out electricity and delayed its printing. Bishop Cho invited each District Superintendent to come forward and confirm the appointments. The preachers were stationed and the appointments were fixed as printed in the copies of the appointment lists.

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes Committee, have read, corrected, and approve these Daily Proceedings of the 234th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on June 28, 2016.

The image shows four handwritten signatures in blue ink, each written over a horizontal line. From top to bottom, the signatures are: Joanne Day, Robert A. Simpson, William D. Weigand, and Russell D. IV. To the right of these signatures, there is another signature, Stanley S. Thompson, also in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.