

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
237TH SESSION
THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BERGLUND CENTER, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA
JUNE 20-22, 2019

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

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION, BERGLUND PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE
JUNE 20, 2019

Bishop Peter D. Weaver, interim bishop of the Richmond Area, called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 10:01 a.m. He welcomed the members of the clergy session. Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elder; Rev. Michael Davis, Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; and Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Revitalization Coordinator, Lynchburg District, led in worship. Rev. Stanley, Rev. Alley-Grant and Rev. Davis brought the message. They reminded the assembly of their God given call to ministry. We need to listen to God's call to move us forward. The refrain throughout the message was, "God, help us."

After the opening worship Bishop Weaver remarked, "Bishop Lewis is praying for us." He offered a moment of silence for the assembly to pray for Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. Bishop Weaver expressed appreciation to Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, and Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Director of Clergy Excellence, and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and those who had prepared for the session.

Rev. Hall referred to the printed booklet of Minute Questions and the Addendum Sheet, and pointed out the page for submitting corrections. He moved that the bar of the clergy be set as

all seating on the main level. Rev. Hall moved that staff members for the bishop and from the Center for Clergy Excellence, the sign language interpreters, diaconal ministers, lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference chancellor be admitted into the clergy session with voice but without vote. The motion was approved.

Rev. Hall 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 voice vote. Bishop Weaver asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained. 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.

Bishop Weaver presented to each of the newly elected Elders and Deacons a framed version of John Wesley's Covenant Prayer which he had written out in calligraphy. He also prayed over various groups as appropriate.

Bishop Weaver invited the Board of Ordained Ministry to stand so they could be recognized for their hard work.

Bishop Weaver read Colossians 3:12 which concludes, "...And above all clothe yourself in love that binds everything together." He dismissed the clergy session at 11:48 a.m.

LAITY SESSION, BERGLUND COLISEUM

JUNE 20, 2019

Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, opened the session at 10:00 a.m. Music Leader Christal Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina. led the laity in two musical selections.

Conference Lay Leader Warren Harper welcomed everyone and introduced the video: “The Mission Field.” Ms. Terry Bain, Rappahannock River District Co-Lay Leader, led in prayer.

Mr. Harper read Matthew 28: 18-20. Mr. Gary Morris, Roanoke District Lay Leader, led the call to worship. This was followed by Mr. Harper’s meditation, “The Mission Field.”

Ms. Wilma Jennings, Winchester District Lay Leader, led the closing prayer. Ms. Ally Shipe, Wesley Chapel UMC, James River District, spoke about the Youth Service Fund and gave the fund grants report.

Mr. Joe Amend, Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader, described the process for electing delegates to the 2020 General Conference and jurisdictional conference.

A youth presentation titled “Red Letters” was performed by Ms. Lizzy Lawrence, Christ Church UMC, Alexandria District; Mr. Christopher Ganoë, Ivey Memorial UMC, James River District; and Ms. Frances Webber, Great Bridge UMC, Elizabeth River District. It highlighted various words of Jesus printed in red in the Gospels and their meaning for us today.

Mr. Harper introduced a video from Wesley Theological Seminary about the Doctor of Ministry, Military Chaplain Track. He introduced Chaplain, Lt. Col. Marianne Nassef to speak about her experience in the doctorate program. Next year this program will be one of the Conference Mission offerings. If churches or individuals wish to support this endeavor, they should look for information to come out in the next few months. Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Rappahannock River District, has already raised \$7,000 in anticipation of this ministry.

General Conference lay nominees were invited to proceed to the floor of the coliseum in the designated alphabetical corners so voters could meet them.

Mr. John Glass, Charlottesville District Lay Leader; Mr. Gene Cross, Arlington District Lay Leader; and Ms. Sue Mayo, Farmville District Lay Leader, reviewed the responsibilities of lay members of annual conference. The Laity Session closed with prayer at 11:12 a.m.

A time of conversation with the nominees for General Conference began and went until 12 noon.

THURSDAY, AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 20, 2019

Bishop Peter D. Weaver, interim bishop of the Richmond Area, called the first plenary of the 237th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 2:01 p.m. Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina, led the members and guests in singing the Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." This hymn has been sung by persons gathering for holy conferencing since the beginning of the Wesleyan movement. The opening prayer was offered from a remote location by Rev. Raymond Wrenn, retired, Winchester District who would be celebrating his 101st birthday the following week. This is his 79th year as a member of the Virginia Annual Conference. Mr. Quaid Jones, South Roanoke UMC, Roanoke District, also prayed for the assembly. Mr. Jones is in the 10th grade and this was his first annual conference.

Bishop Weaver introduced Roanoke District Superintendent Kathleen Overby Webster, dean of the cabinet, who welcomed guests and members of the Annual Conference. Rev. Overby Webster welcomed Mr. Gary Morris, Roanoke District Lay Leader. Mr. Morris recognized Mrs. Linda Weaver, spouse of Bishop Weaver.

Rev. Overby Webster related how Bishop Sharma D. Lewis had stood at the base of the star on Mill Mountain last fall and prayed for the city, the Roanoke District, and the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Weaver prayed for Bishop Lewis who is currently on a six-month medical leave.

Rev. Overby Webster acknowledged the retired bishops who are former members of the Virginia Conference and their spouses. She welcomed Bishop Ray and Ms. Martha Chamberlain, as well as Bishop Young Jin and Rev. Kiok Cho. She acknowledged Bishop R. Kern Eustler; Bishop C. P. Minnick; Bishop H. Hasbrouck and Ms. Mera Hughes; and Bishop Timothy and Ms. Melba Whitaker, who were unable to attend. Bishop Weaver prayed for the retired bishops and their spouses.

Rev. Larry Jent, Chair, Virginia Conference Native American Ministries Committee, spoke about the ministries that are supported by the offering given on Native American Sunday. He

introduced Chief Kenneth Adams, Chief Emeritus of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe. Chief Adams spoke about the meeting of Native Americans and the first colonists in Virginia. He addressed the challenges that face Native Americans today. Just as Melchizedek offered Abraham the best of bread and wine, Chief Adams offered the best of Virginia to the gathered people.

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 twelve, plus rows up to Row J of the upper concourse areas one through ten and 25 through 34. She also moved that the technical and camera platforms be considered part of the floor.

For the purpose of electing General Conference and jurisdictional conference delegates, Rev. Overby Webster moved that the bar of the conference, as approved, be the bar for voting for lay delegates with the exception of all upper concourse areas. She further moved that seating in the Performing Arts Theatre, including the stage and excluding the balcony be approved as the bar for voting for clergy delegates. The motion was approved.

Mr. Floyd Boone, Thrasher Memorial UMC, Roanoke District, and Ms. Brooke Tolley, Fincastle UMC, Roanoke District, sang, "Prayer" accompanied by Ms. Star Song, St. Mark's UMC, Roanoke District. Bishop Weaver led the conference in spiritual centering. He spoke about the journey we are on as a people and as a denomination. He described the journey he took as he traveled through the Conference listening to the concerns of the people following the 2019 Special Called General Conference. We may feel, "fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!" in the words of the hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." Yet our principle task is to go forward and make disciples.

Ms. Heyward led the assembly in song.

Bishop Weaver expressed appreciation to Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop; Rev. Susan Reaves, Conference Secretary; and Rev. Delano Douglas, Assistant Conference Secretary, for assisting with all sessions. Bishop Weaver also expressed appreciation to Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, and Ms. Judy Craun, member, Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the afternoon

session. The sign language interpreters for the 237th session were Ms. Lindsey Bomba-Holcomb, Ms. Tammy Fortune, Ms. Christina York and Ms. Virginia Bryant.

Rev. Reaves moved for the election of Rev. Delano Douglas, Ms. Julia Meade Gallier 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 moved for the election of the Annual Conference committees found on page 43, *Book of Reports* and on the Green Addendum Sheet found in the official packet. She also moved the election of Ms. Iris Smith as the Assistant Head Laity Teller and Rev. Yun Chol Kim as the Assistant Head Clergy Teller. Staunton District Teller, Rev. Nathan Anderson, is replaced by Rev. Jonathan Greer. Charlottesville District Teller, Ms. Gwen Prather, is replaced by Ms. Linda Stead and Ms. Pat Carter is added as an additional lay teller for the Staunton District. The following names were removed from the list of lay tellers: Mr. Joshua Blakely, Farmville District; Ms. Jeanette McMillion, James River District; and Mr. Carlos Liceaga, York River District. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves made the following announcements:

1. Parlor A, adjacent to Berglund Hall, has been designated as a Prayer Room throughout the Annual Conference.
2. Amendments to the agenda must be submitted before the end of this session at 5:30 p.m. Submissions for consideration must be in writing and placed in the Secretary's inbox at the front of the platform.
3. The Consent Agenda Committee has determined that the deadline for requests of items to be removed from the Consent Agenda is 5:30 p.m. today. 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 secretarial inbox at the corner of the stage by the established deadline.

Bishop Weaver recognized those who have been at work following the May 31 shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Building. Those recognized were Elizabeth River District Superintendent Wayne Snead; Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator; Rev. Saundra Butts, Oak Grove UMC, Elizabeth River District; Rev. Beth Anderson, Courthouse Community UMC, Elizabeth River District; and Ms. Dee Watkins, laity. Not present but also recognized were Rev. Ellen Comstock, retired; Rev. Chuck Rowley, retired; and Ms. Cookie Catchum, Resource Manager, Virginia Beach and a service dog, Aslan. Bishop Weaver prayed for those who have been at work offering healing and those who were affected by the shooting.

Rev. King presented the report of the Rules Committee found on pages 44-46, *Book of Reports*. He divided proposed changes to the rules into two sets. The first set included items listed under the heading "Recommendations" as 1 and 5 through 27. He recommended the adoption of these changes. The motion was approved.

Rev. King presented proposed changes to the rules listed under the heading "Recommendations" numbered 2 through 8. Change 2 would establish a limit on when motions with financial implications could be received. Change 3 in the report would add a paragraph titled "Proposals." Recommendations 4 through 8 would align the nominating procedures with the Constitutional Amendment voted into effect at the 2016 General Conference.

Rev. King moved to suspend the rules so that the second set of changes could take effect immediately. The rules were suspended.

Rev. Denise Honeycutt, on loan to Merritt's Chapel UMC, North Carolina Conference, made a motion "to amend the conference rules on page 20 and 21, III.C.2.b & III.D.5 that the nominations from the floor for General and Jurisdictional Conference be limited to 4 clergy and 4 laity and for this to go into effect this year." Rev. Honeycutt spoke to her proposed motion.

Rev. Keith Boyette, retired, Rappahannock River District, quoted §34 of the Constitution of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*. He indicated he would raise a question of law if the motion passed.

Bishop Weaver ruled the Honeycutt motion out of order.

Rev. King recommended the approval of the second set of recommendations from the rules committee. The motion was approved.

Rev. King asked and was granted a moment of personal privilege. As this is the first year the Annual Conference will not have resolutions, he defined reports, presentations, petitions and proposals. He described the four categories of proposals.

Rev. Erin Geoffrion, member, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), explained the important role of monitoring the race, age and gender of those speaking at conference. Members of COSROW, the Commission on Ethnic and Minority Concerns and the Commission on Disabilities will be monitoring which voices are heard and which are not heard throughout conference.

Bishop Weaver invited nominations from the floor for lay and clergy delegates to the 2020 General Conference and jurisdictional conference. The following people were nominated: Mr. Mark Elder and Rev. H. O. Tom Thomas. A point of order was raised about the process for closing nominations from the floor. The Conference Rules indicate the Bishop closes the nominations. Another point of order questioned whether one person could make multiple nominations. Bishop Weaver indicated it could be done unless there was an objection. The body as a whole objected. Mr. Glen Huff, Rev. Brian Brown, Rev. Patricia Riggs, Rev. Gayle Thornberry, Rev. Matthew Meisenhelter, Ms. Lori Valentine de Segovia, Ms. Michelle Hettmann, Ms. Pam Johnson, Rev. June Carpenter, Rev. Garry Livermon, Rev. Brandon Nichols and Rev. Tom Shepherd were nominated. Ms. Vicky Boger was nominated but not certified. The question was asked, "Why were we taking nominations from the floor?" Bishop Weaver cited the *2016 Book of Discipline* requirement. Rev. Dave Boger, Ms. Ellen Wicker Cummings, Mr. Philip Hannum and Ms. Kay Wright were nominated. Bishop Weaver declared the nomination process closed. He asked that the laity and clergy separate for the voting process. The sessions were recessed until 4:30 p.m. The laity remained in the Berglund Center Coliseum while the clergy were asked to move to the Performing Arts Theatre.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 20, 2019

VOTING FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE/SOUTHEAST JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE
DELEGATES

CLERGY SESSION, BERGLUND PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

Bishop Peter D. Weaver reconvened the clergy at 4:33 p.m. at the Berglund Performing Arts Theatre to elect clergy delegates for the 2020 General Conference. Ms. Victoria Myers, Walmsley Blvd UMC, Richmond District, led the assembly in singing "Amazing Grace." Bishop Weaver prayed. He noted that the bar of the session had been set as the main level of the Berglund Performing Arts Theatre. Rev. Melody Tanner, Chief Clergy Teller, went over the numbers assigned to the nominees from the floor of conference. They were also displayed on the screen. She explained the electronic voting procedure. Instructions were given to vote for one candidate during each of the 45 second intervals indicated by Bishop Weaver. Two practice votes were taken.

Votes for 11 candidates, in total, were to be cast. Bishop Weaver prayed before the ballot was taken. He declared the balloting open. When all 11 candidates had been voted on, the balloting was closed. It was noted that two candidates had withdrawn their names: Rev. Jung Pyo Hong and Rev. Lisa McGehee.

Report of Clergy Ballot 1

Number of ballots cast: 779

Number of valid ballots: 713

Number of invalid ballots: 66

Number of votes necessary to elect: 357

The following clergy delegates were elected to General Conference: Thomas Berlin, 464 votes; Lindsey Baynham, 421 votes; Meredith McNabb, 415 votes; Rob Vaughn, 390 votes; Rhonda VanDyke, 387 votes; Mark Ogren, 386 votes; Grace Han, 378 votes; F. Elizabeth Givens, 370 votes; Jason Stanley, 370 votes; and Kirk Nave, 367 votes.

All the nominees receiving votes had their names displayed with the number of votes they received.

Danville District Superintendent Janine Howard prayed before the next vote was taken.

Rev. Tanner gave instructions for voting. Bishop Weaver opened the balloting. One candidate was voted upon. The balloting was closed.

Report of Clergy Ballot 2

Number of ballots cast: 753

Number of valid ballots: 753

Number of invalid ballots: 0

Number of votes necessary to elect: 377

There was no election.

Rev. Lynda Harding, Chaplain, Richmond District, suggested adjournment and return after the dinner break. The body indicated they wanted to continue.

Rev. Tanner gave instructions for voting. Bishop Weaver opened the balloting. One candidate was voted upon. The balloting was closed.

Report of Clergy Ballot 3

Number of ballots cast: 729

Number of valid ballots: 729

Number of invalid ballots: 0

Number of votes necessary to elect: 365

Jonathan Page was elected as a clergy delegate to General Conference with 477 votes.

Bishop Weaver adjourned the session at 6:01 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

LAITY SESSION, BERGLUND CENTER COLISEUM

Bishop Ray Chamberlain presided over the laity assembled at the Berglund Center Coliseum to elect lay delegates for the 2020 General Conference and jurisdictional conference. Ms. Christal

Brown Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina, opened with song. Ms. Terry Bain, Chief Lay Teller, reiterated that the bar of the conference for voting purposes was the platform, the floor, the risers, the technical desk, camera platforms and boxes one through four and seven through 12. She explained the electronic voting procedures and announced the numbers assigned to those who were nominated from the floor. A practice vote was taken. Ms. Heyward led the group in singing and Bishop Chamberlain led in prayer.

Ms. Bain gave instructions for voting. Bishop Chamberlain opened the balloting. Eleven candidates were voted upon. The balloting was closed.

Report of Laity Ballot 1

Number of ballots cast: 1151

Number of valid ballots: 972

Number of invalid ballots: 179

Number of votes necessary to elect: 487 votes

The following lay delegates were elected to General Conference: Warren Harper, 643 votes; Martha Stokes, 605 votes; Shirley Cauffman, 544 votes; Darlene Amon, 530 votes; Beth Christian, 514 votes; and Alison Malloy, 495 votes.

All of the nominees receiving votes had their names displayed with the number of votes they received. The 25 names with the most votes were read aloud along with the number of votes received.

Ms. Bain gave instructions for voting.

Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. Five delegates were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Report of Laity Ballot 2

Number of ballots cast: 1147

Number of valid ballots: 1075

Number of invalid ballots: 72

Number of votes necessary to elect: 539

Marshall Bailey, 548 votes, was elected as a lay delegate to General Conference.

Ms. Heyward led the assembly in song.

Ms. Terry Bain gave instructions.

Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. Six delegates were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Report of Laity Ballot 3

Number of ballots cast: 1135

Number of valid ballots: 1070

Number of invalid ballots: 72

Number of votes necessary to elect: 536

The following lay delegates were elected to General Conference: Jill Gaynor, 628 votes; Joshua Blakely, 627 votes; and Jacob Paysour, 608 votes.

Ms. Heyward led in song.

Ms. Bain gave instructions on voting.

Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. One delegate was voted on and the balloting was closed.

Ms. Heyward led in song.

Report of Laity Ballot 4

Number of ballots cast: 1110

Number of valid ballots: 1110

Number of invalid ballots: 0

Number of votes necessary to elect: 556

Mark Elder, 596 votes, was elected as a lay delegate to General Conference.

Bishop Chamberlain adjourned the session at 5:52 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 2019

VOTING FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE/SOUTHEAST JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE
DELEGATES

CLERGY SESSION, BERGLUND PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

Ms. Victoria Myers, Walmsley Blvd. UMC, Richmond District, sang "Pass It On." Bishop Peter D. Weaver called the evening session to order at 7:38 p.m. Rev. Melody Tanner gave instructions for voting. The fourth ballot was for 11 delegates to jurisdictional conference. Elizabeth River District Superintendent Wayne Snead prayed. Bishop Weaver declared the balloting open. All 11 nominees were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Report of Clergy Ballot 4

Number of ballots cast: 524

Number of valid ballots: 474

Number of invalid ballots: 50

Number of votes necessary to elect: 238

The following clergy delegates were elected to jurisdictional conference: Jeffrey Mickle, 327 votes; Douglas Forrester, 311 votes; Leigh Anne Taylor, 305 votes; Dan Kim, 301 votes; Timothy Ward, 298 votes; Chenda Lee, 297 votes; David Vaughn, 293 votes; Lyndsie Blakely, 289 votes; Lauren Lobenhofer, 283 votes; Brian Johnson, 282 votes; and Jennifer Dickison Coffey, 271 votes. All 11 delegates to jurisdictional conference were elected.

Rev. Tanner gave instructions for voting. District Superintendent Sylvia Meadows prayed. Ms. Myers sang. Staunton District Superintendent Dave Rochford prayed.

Report of Clergy Ballot 5

The countdown clock malfunctioned. The ballot was ruled invalid after the first 45 second vote.

Rev. Bob Parks prayed. Bishop Weaver opened the balloting. All 10 candidates were voted on. The ballot was closed.

Report of Clergy Ballot 6

Number of ballots cast: 600

Number of valid ballots: 533

Number of invalid ballots: 67

The ten nominees receiving the highest number of votes were elected as alternates to jurisdictional conference as follows: Drew Van Dyke Colby, 333 votes; Esther Agbosu, 329 votes; Gordon Pruitt, 329 votes; Joshua King, 326 votes; Rachel Gilmore, 318 votes; Andrew Willson, 317 votes; Lynne Alley-Grant, 312 votes; Amy Crisp, 311 votes; Sara Locke, 304 votes, and Matthew Benton, 213 votes.

The assembly sang "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Bishop Weaver adjourned the session at 8:41 p.m.

LAITY SESSION, BERGLUND CENTER COLISEUM

Bishop Ray Chamberlain called the evening session to order at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina opened with song. Ms. Terry Bain, Chief Laity Teller, gave instructions for voting.

A prayer was shown on the screen and Bishop Chamberlain invited the laity to pray with him. Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. All 11 delegates for jurisdictional conference were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Laity Ballot 5 was taken and declared invalid. More than 22% of the ballots cast were invalid. A second attempt to cast ballot 5 was also declared invalid. 21% of the ballots cast were invalid. Ms. Heyward led the assembly in singing.

Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. All 11 delegates were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Report of Laity Ballot 5

Number of ballots cast: 1012

Number of valid ballots: 918

Number of invalid ballots: 94

Number of votes necessary to elect: 460

The following lay delegates were elected to jurisdictional conference: Karen McElfish, 553 votes; Andrew Kissell, 523 votes; and Kimberly Johnson, 470 votes.

Ms. Heyward led the assembly in song.

Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. All eight delegates were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Report of Laity Ballot 6

Number of ballots cast: 1011

Number of valid ballots: 901

Number of invalid ballots: 110

Number of votes necessary to elect: 451

The following lay delegates were elected to jurisdictional conference: Debbie Calli, 538 votes; Philipp Mohr, 529 votes; Deborah Angerman, 520 votes; Shawn Kiger, 519 votes; Amanda Lynn Holmes, 513 votes; Kenn Speicher, 508 votes; Neal E. Wise, 507 votes; and Richard Underwood, 503 votes.

Ms. Heyward led in song.

Ms. Bain gave directions for electing alternates to jurisdictional conference.

Bishop Chamberlain declared the balloting open. All 10 delegates were voted on and the balloting was closed.

Report of Laity Ballot 7

Number of ballots cast: 977

Number of valid ballots: 778

Number of invalid ballots: 199

The ten nominees receiving the highest number of votes were elected as the lay alternates to jurisdictional conference as follows: Clifford “Kip” Robinson, 436 votes; Brenda Brooks, 401 votes; Carl Moravitz, 398 votes; Marie Hawks, 382 votes; Jane Wilson, 380 votes; Jerry Taylor, 377 votes; Jaydee Hanson, 369 votes; Maureen McKay, 358 votes; Michelle Hettman, 321 votes; and Carlos Liceaga, 243 votes. Bishop Chamberlain adjourned the session at 9:15 p.m.

FRIDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 21, 2019

Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina, led the conference in "Singing Our Faith" at 8:15 a.m.

Bishop Peter D. Weaver greeted the conference at 8:22 a.m. and introduced Rev. Kevin M. Watson to lead the Bible Study Session. Rev. Watson is the assistant professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology and an ordained elder in the Oklahoma Conference. His research interests focus on Christian formation and discipleship from a Wesleyan perspective. Rev. Watson is the author of three books and numerous articles. His teaching session focused on Matthew 28:16-20, the Great Commission. On Good Friday everything was hopeless. "Then Jesus..." Because of the resurrection we can look reality full in the face and proclaim the hope of God. Bishop Weaver thanked Rev. Watson for teaching the Bible Study.

Bishop Weaver thanked Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, and Mr. Scott Diamond, member, Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the morning session.

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

Rev. Erin Geoffrion, member, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, presented the monitoring report with a breakdown of race, gender and age of speakers at Conference.

Roanoke District Superintendent Kathleen Overby Webster, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the report of the Cabinet on pages 47-50, *Book of Reports*, with one correction. Rev. Catherine Abbott should be added to those listed as retiring at this session of Conference.

Rev. Overby Webster moved that the nominations for District Committees on Ordained Ministry, on the gold sheet found in the official packet and the nominations for the District Boards of

Church Location and Building, on the violet sheet found in the official packet be approved. The nominees were approved.

Rev. Overby Webster presented for Annual Conference approval the remaining sections of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16 on the white sheet found in the official packet. She noted that Claremont United Methodist Church, James River District, should be added under Minute Question 14.f.4. She invited several District Superintendents to offer motions on discontinued churches.

Arlington District Superintendent Catherine Abbott moved the following:

Be it resolved that Epiphany United Methodist Church, be discontinued effective June 30, 2019 and "the title to all real and personal, tangible, and intangible property of the local church shall be transferred" to the Arlington District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Epiphany United Methodist Church be transferred to Wesley United Methodist Church (Vienna) except for each member who should direct their membership to be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Danville District Superintendent Janine Howard moved the following:

Be it resolved that Bassett Memorial United Methodist Church on the Danville District be discontinued effective 30 June 2019 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Board of Missions, Inc., Danville District and that the membership of Bassett Memorial United Methodist Church on the Danville District be transferred to Stanleytown 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. Howard moved the following:

Be it resolved that Moseley Memorial United Methodist Church on the Danville District be discontinued effective 30 June 2019 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Board of Missions, Inc., Danville District and that the membership of Moseley Memorial United Methodist Church on the Danville District be transferred to St. Luke'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.

James River District Superintendent Sylvia Meadows moved the following:

Be it resolved that Claremont United Methodist Church be discontinued effective June 30, 2019 and "the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred" to the James River District Board of Missions Inc. and the membership of Claremont United Methodist Church be transferred to Surry United Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Staunton District Superintendent David Rochford moved the following:

Be it resolved that Stonewall United Methodist Church of the Cherryvale Cooperative Parish on the Staunton District be discontinued effective June 30, 2019 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Staunton District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Stonewall United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be transferred to Cherryvale 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. Rochford noted that the remaining members of Stonewall United Methodist Church transferred to Cherryvale United Methodist Church and established the Stonewall Sunday School class there.

York River District Superintendent Seonyoung Kim moved the following:

Be it resolved that Aldersgate United Methodist Church on the York River District be discontinued effective December 31, 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the York River District Board of Missions, Inc., and that the membership of Aldersgate United Methodist Church on the York River District be transferred to Wesley 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. Overby Webster offered a prayer recognizing the ministries of these churches that have touched the lives of people in their communities. She prayed that the remaining members of these churches would find new fields for learning and service.

Rev. Overby Webster moved for the approval of Minute Questions 14, 15, and 16. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mark Ogren, Director, Center for Congregational Excellence, brought the report of the Church Development Team found on page 99, *Book of Reports*. He presented the new faith communities that will begin on July 1, 2019. Rev. Brian Brown, Woodlawn-Faith UMC, Alexandria District, along with three lay people, will start a multi-site Young Adult ministry. Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, with Senior Pastor Tom Berlin, will start a new site in Reston, Virginia led by Rev. Tim Ward. A video on the work of the 5 Talent Academy was shown.

A Glory Sighting Video, "Lifelong Learners," focusing on campus ministry, was shown.

Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, presented the Laity Address. Mr. Harper, who is known for his colorful socks, began by presenting colorful socks to Bishop Weaver. Mr. Harper

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led the body in praying Wesley's Covenant Prayer. His message focused on Matthew 28:18-20, the theme of the 2019 Conference. He spoke about the events and ministries across the conference and denomination in which he had participated. His travels took him to places as diverse as Lay Leadership training at Smith Mountain Lake, General Conference in St. Louis, the annual meeting of the Southeast Jurisdiction Conference Lay Leaders held in Williamsburg and most powerfully, McCurdy Ministries Community Center in Espanola, New Mexico. Mr. Harper reminded the assembly, "The mission field is calling us." The mission field pulls us out of our comfort zone, but it is also the place where the waters of baptism come alive and can transform us.

Bishop Weaver presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*): page 133, Bishops' Foundation; page 87, Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations; page 71, Board of Church and Society; page 99, Church Development Team; page 73, Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; page 143, Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, Inc.; page 153, Virginia United Methodist Development Company; page 99, Commission on Disabilities; page 74, Board of Discipleship; page 132, Episcopacy Committee; page 100, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 152, United Methodist Foundation; page 102, GraceInside; page 81, Heart Havens; page 87, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; page 98, Board of Laity; page 77, Mission Ministries Board; page 131, Board of Ordained Ministry; page 148, Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure (PAUMCS); page 81, Pinnacle Living; page 143, Preachers' Relief Society; page 103, Society of St. Andrew; page 101, Commission on the Status and Role of Women; page 133, Conference Board of Trustees; page 83, United Methodist Family Services; page 144, United Methodist Men; page 134, United Methodist Related Schools; page 147, United Methodist Women; page 104, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; page 84, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; page 85, Wesley Housing Development Corporation and page 75, Council on Youth Ministries. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Ms. Martha Stokes, head of the 2016 General Conference Delegation, asked for a moment of personal privilege. She shared some of the joys and challenges of the last four years. She invited the body to offer their appreciation to the delegation and to Rev. Tom Berlin, clergy head of the delegation.

Ms. Stokes and Rev. Berlin presented a report on the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

Ms. Betty Forbes, Chair, Council on Finance and Administration, discussed the work of a team assembled by Bishop Sharma Lewis to discover how best to implement financial changes brought about by legislation that came into effect following the 2019 Special Called General Conference. She then described some of the factors that must be considered during disaffiliation.

Bishop Weaver asked the 2020 delegates to General Conference, jurisdictional conference and alternates to stand and he prayed for them. Bishop Weaver also prayed for Chancellor Steve Brown. Mr. Brown had to leave conference to be with his daughter who was undergoing emergency surgery in Harrisonburg, VA. Bishop Weaver also included a time for the assembly to lift up names of others in need of prayer.

Bishop Weaver noted an order of the day. At 10:30 a.m. motions were presented. The order of the motions was determined by the Rules Committee. Rev. King, Chair, Rules Committee, introduced the motions and noted that the motions could be found on the Conference website at <https://www.vaumc.org/AC2019>.

Rev. King moved that this annual conference would limit the speeches for and against to be limited to two speeches for and two against. This would necessitate a suspension of the rules. The rules were suspended. The motion was approved.

Rev. Kirk Nave, Braddock St. UMC, Winchester District, moved that the Virginia Annual Conference supports this "Petition to Amend" and its "Rationale" and directs the Secretary of the Annual Conference to forward this petition (excluding the "Effects on the Virginia Annual Conference") to the 2020 General Conference. The petition to amend references ¶32, Article 1 (and the same sentence in ¶602.4) [2016 *Book of Discipline*]: "If the lay membership should

number less than the clergy members in attendance of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize, as far as possible, lay and clergy membership in attendance of the annual conference.” (Underlined text represents an insertion into the current text of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.)

The maker of the motion spoke to it. The question was called. The motion was approved.

Mr. Josh Blakely, Farmville UMC, Farmville District, moved “that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, encourage Bishop Weaver and Bishop Lewis, and other members of the Conference Leadership team to, as an act of grace, delay any inquiry of the official conduct of clergy members (§1604.4) related to chargeable offenses outlined in the Discipline (§12702.a-b) related to LGBTQIA+ clergy, LGBTQIA+ clergy candidates, and same-gender weddings until after the General Conference 2020.” It was seconded. There was a speech against. The motion was approved.

Rev. King made a motion regarding the three Keeling motions, “that we have only one round of two speeches for and two against and then we would take three separate votes on the three motions being made by Sara Keeling.” This would require a suspension of the rules. The rules were suspended. The King motion was approved.

At 10:53 a.m. Bishop Weaver recognized an order of the day, for worship at 11:00 a.m. The Keeling motions are to be considered on Saturday morning, time permitting.

Bishop Weaver presided over the Mission Worship service. Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Resident Bishop, Ohio East Area, North Central Jurisdiction, was the guest preacher. Her text was Matthew 28:16-20 and she preached that our God is a missionary God. We are sent on God’s mission. It is not the church’s, not ours, but God’s mission.

Liturgists for the service were Ms. Talina Beck, Basic UMC, Staunton District; Rev. Hung Su Lim, Nelson UMC, Charlottesville District; and Ms. Lisa Nichols, Director, Henry Fork Service Center, Danville District. The conference offering was received during the service. Bishop Weaver blessed the offering and sent the body forth.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 21, 2019

Bishop Peter D. Weaver called the Conference to order at 2:02 p.m. A service celebrating the ministry of clergy who were retiring at the 237th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was held. They were recognized along with their spouses. The preacher was Rev. Alexander Duncan, Jr., Arlington Forest UMC, Arlington District. The sermon, "Time's Up," was based on 2 Kings 2:8-14, Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha. He spoke of God as the "Master Timekeeper" who tells each of us when time is up. God controls the time and the season of everything including the season of service for clergy serving their call. When dark times come upon us even those have a season and the clock keeps ticking. Liturgists for the service were Rev. Brett Isernhagen, Epiphany UMC, Arlington District; Ms. Meleah Mayton, Macedonia UMC, Winchester District; and Rev. Robert Sharp, retired, Staunton District. Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, Virginia Pensions and Related Benefits, read the names of the retirees. Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Epicenter Group, Roanoke District; Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, Farmville UMC, Farmville District, and Rev. Norma Aguilar, Ramsey Memorial UMC, Richmond District, took turns reading the statements of the retirees. Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina, provided the music for the service. Retirees were recognized and greeted by Bishop Weaver. He offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the retirees and their 1,288.5 years of combined service. Bishop Weaver thanked Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Rules Committee, and Mr. Thomas Hassler, member, Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians.

Rev. Joe Carson, Chair, Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found on pages 52-53, *Book of Reports*. Rev. Carson recommended the Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2020 remain the same as 2019. The motion was approved.

He also recommended the Floor Schedule for 2020 remain the same. The motion was approved.

Rev. John T. Martin, Jr., President, Historical Society, brought the report found on page 151-152, *Book of Reports*. He drew attention to the report of the Archives Committee. He presented a motion "from the Trustees of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, who move that 10% of the funds received by the Virginia Annual Conference and/or District Boards of Missions from

the sale and/or closing of churches be directed to the Conference Treasurer and reserved for the salary and operation costs of the Conference Archives.”

Ms. Betty Forbes, Chair, Commission on Finance and Administration, did not recommend the motion. There were two speeches for and two speeches against. The motion was not approved.

Mr. Neal Wise, Chair, Site Selection Committee, presented the report found on page 51, *Book of Reports*. By previous action of the Annual Conference, locations for Conference are currently set through 2023. The Site Selection Committee recommends that the 2024 Virginia Annual Conference be held in Roanoke, June 20-22. The recommendation was approved.

A Glory Sighting video, “Influence Others,” showed a worship community centered on skateboarding at Phoebus United Methodist Church, York River District.

Mr. Ken Peterson, President, Virginia United Methodist Board of Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), presented the report, pages 54-69, *Book of Reports*. VUMPI presented six recommendations for Conference approval, pages 60-69, *Book of Reports*. Recommendation 1 reflects no increase over the 2019 apportionments, and this is the sixth consecutive year in which the total of VUMPI’s apportionments is either unchanged or less than the prior year’s apportionments. Recommendation 2 is the 2020 Participant Contribution Recommendations, pages 61-64, *Book of Reports*. Recommendation 3 sets the 2020 Pre-82 Pension Past Service Rate at \$575. Recommendation 4 gives the 2020 CRSP/CPP/Supplemental Plan Funding Recommendations, page 65, *Book of Reports*. Recommendation 5 is the 2020 Comprehensive Funding Plan required by Wespeth Benefits. Recommendation 6 is the Housing Allowance/Exclusion related to the IRS, pages 68-69, *Book of Reports*. The recommendations were presented for approval. The recommendations were approved.

Rev. Ashley Isernhagen, Mr. Carlos Liceaga and Rev. Lyle Morton, members, Common Table for Church Vitality, presented the report, pages 70-101, *Book of Reports*. They introduced Ms. Jill Gaynor, President, Virginia United Methodist Communications Board. She discussed the process utilized to assess the effectiveness of conference communications, the decision to discontinue

the publication of the Virginia Advocate at the end of the year and the survey that the Board of Communications would like Virginia United Methodists to fill out.

Rev. Charles Swadley, retired, York River District, moved “that the Common Table conduct a study on how to improve the relationship of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church with the Virginia Council of Churches regarding the aspirations to strengthen the ties with the larger Body of Christ in Virginia, the extending of holy conversations, worship, and ministries that effect the ministry of love and grace of our Lord, and the encouraging of a positive witness of Christian unity and hope to our neighbors in Virginia. I ask that this study involve a diverse team to include the grants committee, the Common Table, and others appointed who have interests and familiarity with ecumenical matters. This study with recommendations should report to the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference.” The motion was approved.

Rev. Marc Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries, was called to the podium so his work with the Common Table for Church Vitality could be acknowledged.

Rev. Mary Ann Glover, Interim General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches, was acknowledged.

The Common Table recommendations were approved.

Rev. Seung Hae Yoo-Hess, member, Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, moved the election of the nominees to committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the annual conference, pages 107-110, *Book of Reports*, and on the Green Addendum Sheet found in the official packet with the addition of Rev. Lynda Moore to the Board of Ordained Ministry. The motion was approved.

An order of the day was recognized for the memorial service.

A Service of Remembrance began at 4:10 p.m. Worship leader for the service was Bishop Peter D. Weaver. Rev. Seungsoo “RJ” Jun, Raleigh Court UMC, Roanoke District, preached on the theme, “Remember” based on 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. He shared the Korean words “Sun Bae” to describe deceased loved ones who “have gone on ahead.” He stated “the best way to celebrate those who have gone on before us is to remember their stories. Remembering their stories will

help us navigate the chaos of our lives.” Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. Johns Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina provided the music. The liturgists were: Rev. Lisa McGehee, Good Shepherd UMC, Richmond District; Rev. Joanna Dietz, Braddock Street UMC, Winchester District; Mr. Joshua Foster, Greenwood-Market Street UMC, Winchester District; Ms. Iris Smith, Metropolitan UMC, Eastern Shore District; Mr. Ed Gorski, Red Valley UMC, Danville District; and Rev. Doug Mitchell, Buchanan Charge, Roanoke District. Acolytes for the service were Rev. Richard Robertson, Blue Ridge Charge, Harrisonburg District and Rev. Amy Pannell, Callaway Cooperative Parish, Danville District. Also assisting in the service was Rev. Susan Reaves, Annual Conference Secretary.

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 21, 2019

A SERVICE FOR THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY

Bishop Peter D. Weaver presided at the Service for the Ordering of Ministry, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Robert F. Humphrey, Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, represented the ecumenical community. Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, Ohio East Episcopal Area, delivered the sermon, “From Start to Finish” based on Hebrews 11:29-12:3. Her message reflected on our ancestors’ endurance during extreme hardships and difficulties aided by their Christian faith. “We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses that share a bond in Christ that shall never be broken.” She encouraged the congregation to remain faithful to the mission of Jesus with the three convictions of “keeping alive the gift, being bold in your witness, and keeping at our work.”

Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service included Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence; Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elder; and Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, Order of Deacon. The following members of the Board of Ordained Ministry served as banner carriers, marshals, and symbol carriers: Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman, Rev. Matthew Smith, Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Rev. Susan Hannah, Rev. Christian White, Rev. Alan Combs, Rev. Beth Givens, Rev. Brandon Robbins, Rev. Won Lee, Rev. Brenda Laws and

Rev. Darcey Johnson. Serving as acolyte and crucifer, respectively, were Ms. Kelsey Wilson, Fredericksburg UMC, Rappahannock River District and Mr. Chaz Nickens, Fairview UMC, Danville District. Music for the service was led by Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. Johns Chapel (Anglican) Charleston, South Carolina.

Bishop Weaver licensed, commissioned and ordained the candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service. Following the prayer of thanksgiving, Bishop Weaver 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. The service concluded at 9:40 p.m. with the dismissal and blessing.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 22, 2019

Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina, led the conference in "Singing Our Faith" at 8:15 a.m.

Bishop Peter D. Weaver greeted the conference at 8:25 a.m. and introduced Rev. Kevin Watson, assistant professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology. Rev. Watson led the morning bible study. He described the specificity of Wesley's General Rules and the importance of practicing accountability. He stressed the importance of "not going alone" but having a community of faith that knows you and loves you. Bishop Weaver thanked Rev. Watson for bringing the study. He thanked Rev. Joshua King and Rev. Rosemary Welch for serving as parliamentarians for the morning session.

Rev. Stanley Thompson, Chair, Minutes Committee, moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Friday morning plenary and the afternoon plenary sessions. The motion was approved. Rev. Thompson announced that the Minutes Committee would meet on July 9, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. to complete the review and certification of the minutes and moved that the minutes be approved as certified at that time. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and Rev. Erin Geoffrion, member, COSROW, gave a statistical breakdown of the race, gender and age of everyone who spoke the previous day. Rev. Dadisman stressed intentional noticing. She thanked the laity for turning in demographic information at this annual conference and she thanked Danville District Superintendent Janine Howard for her work with COSROW.

Rev. Lyle Morton and Ms. Lori Valentine de Segovia, Co-Chairs, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) requested a moment of privilege. They reported being approached by individuals about “the very exclusive composition of the delegation to General Conference.” Rev. Morton and Ms. Valentine de Segovia will facilitate a dialogue between members of the Ethnic Caucuses, COSROW and those who designed and organized the “List” or voting block used by many to elect delegates. CEMCA has been collecting Race & Reconciliation surveys at the CEMCA display, and will be providing the survey electronically.

Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Statistician and Treasurer, presented the Statistician’s report, page 111, *Book of Reports*. He followed this with the treasurer’s report, pages 112-118, *Book of Reports*. Mr. Dommissie recognized Ms. Janet Davis, staff member, Business Office, who recently retired at the age of 80 after 35 years of service.

Ms. Betty Forbes, President, Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), presented the 2020 budget overview, pages 119-121, *Book of Reports*. The overall budget for 2020 is \$31,450,000 which is a \$165,000 reduction over the 2019 budget. She thanked Rev. Marc Brown for his 11 years of service as Director of Connectional Ministries as he worked to decrease the 401 apportionment while maintaining conference ministries. She highlighted several aspects of the budget.

Rev. Steve Hundley, retired, Rappahannock River District brought a motion, “On page 129 of the *Book of Reports*, add the following as letter ‘L’: L. Any other policy of the Conference notwithstanding, no Conference funds shall be expended in the pursuit of charges brought against clergy members for alleged violations provided in ¶2702.1.(b).”

There was a second. He spoke to the motion.

Bishop Weaver ruled the motion out of order. The initial response to an offense is a supervisory response which has a minimal financial obligation attached to it. If a just resolution is not reached, then judicial proceedings may ensue at some cost. But according to the *Book of Discipline* the annual conference incurs the expense.

Ms. Forbes then moved that the Budget for 2020 be adopted. The motion was approved.

Ms. Forbes presented the rest of the CFA report, pages 122-130, *Book of Reports*. She pointed out that Conference Reserve Funds are above the recommended target, complimented the dedication of the staff in the Business Office and shared that the mission of CFA is to keep apportionments to a minimum to maximize local church ministry. She moved the adoption of the entire report. The motion approved.

Ms. Mary Jane Rawley, President, United Methodist Women (UMW), reported that this year marks the 150 Year Anniversary of United Methodist Women and its precedent organizations. A video was shown briefly outlining the history of the UMW, and its mission to empower children, women and youth while standing at the forefront of justice issues.

Rev. John Peters, President, Association of Educational Institutions, presented the following presidents of United Methodist institutions in Virginia: Scott Miller, Virginia Wesleyan University; Robert Lindgren, Randolph-Macon College; and David Johns, Ferrum College. Mr. Johns brought greetings from the presidents who could not be present. He spoke about the importance of the six member organizations in providing education in the Wesleyan spirit.

Rev. Don Jamison, Chair, Conference Board of Discipleship, presented the 2019 Denman Awards: Rev. Robert Talbott, Asbury UMC, Harrisonburg District, clergy; Ms. Artie Frederick, McGayheysville UMC, Harrisonburg District, laity; and Mr. Christopher Ganoe, Ivey Memorial UMC, James River District, youth.

Mr. Mighty Rasing, Discipleship Ministries Director of Program Development for Central Conferences, offered greetings on behalf of Rev. Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary, Board of Discipleship. He presented the One Matters Discipleship Award to the leaders of Waverly United Methodist Church, James River District, represented by Rev. Steven Snodgrass. Rev. Jamison

announced that he is stepping down as Chair of Discipleship Ministries after four years and Rev. Kathy Gochenour, Melrose UMC, Rappahannock River District, will take over the position.

Rev. Anita Mays, member, Board of Church and Society, presented the Green Church Award to Oaklette United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District and Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District. The Green Church Award is awarded to churches dedicated to caring for and healing God's creation.

Mr. Byron Kelly, Asbury UMC, York River District, offered congratulations to Mr. Scott Miller, President, Virginia Wesleyan University, for his generosity in offering the services of himself and his institution to the people affected by the shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center on May 31, 2019.

A Glory Sightings video "To Serve," describing Circles Ashland and how it helps people out of poverty and also helps them thrive, was shown.

Bishop Weaver announced that the youth would be taking up the Youth Service Fund offering.

Rev. T. Bryson Smith, Good Shepherd UMC, Richmond District, offered a Glory Sighting regarding All God's Children Camp. Ms. Beth Christian, On-site Coordinator for Camp Chanco on the James reported that they had just completed a week of camp with 26 children. She offered a thank you to everyone who had supported the camp and its campers.

The Keeling motions were again before the body. There was a second. Rev. Keeling spoke to the three motions. She moved "that the Virginia AC call upon the 2020 General Conference to delete the following language from paragraph 161. G 'The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.'"

She moved "that the Virginia AC call upon the 2020 General Conference to delete the following language from paragraph 304.3 'The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.'"

She moved “that the Virginia AC call upon the 2020 General Conference to delete the following language from paragraph 2702.b ‘practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.’”

There were two speeches against and two speeches for the motion.

The Keeling motion regarding ¶ 161. G, *2016 Book of Discipline*, was voted on. The motion was approved.

The Keeling motion regarding ¶ 304.3, *2016 Book of Discipline* was voted on. The motion was approved.

The Keeling motion regarding ¶ 2702.b, *2016 Book of Discipline*, was voted on. The motion was approved.

Rev. H. O. “Tom” Thomas moved the following: “Be it resolved the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church requests the General Conference 2020 to accept a plan for amicable separation and multiplication of ministries that is acceptable and fair to progressive, centrist, and traditional perspectives. The plan should allow for the pursuit of ministry and mission according to the different biblical views, moral beliefs and practices. Let us cease from fighting and stop wounding the people for whom we care. Let us love one another and wish each other well.

We instruct the Conference Secretary to send this resolution electronically to the Secretary of the General Conference and to the heads of delegations for all the annual conferences worldwide. This resolution is meant to inform the work of the 2020 General Conference.”

Rev. Susan Reaves, Trinity UMC, Rappahannock River District, “proposed an amendment to the motion, to add the line ‘as the contact information is supplied.’” Rev. Thomas accepted this amendment. There were no objections.

Rev. Don Jamison, Sydenstricker UMC, Alexandria District, raised a point of order. He asked that the order of the day be recognized. Bishop Weaver declared there were still several minutes available to conduct business before the order of the day would need to be recognized.

Alexandria District Superintendent Jeff Mickle moved the question. The motion to move the question was approved.

The Thomas motion was not approved. At 11 a.m. Bishop Weaver recognized an order of the day. Closing Worship would begin at 11:15 a.m.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE, JUNE 22, 2019

Bishop Peter D. Weaver led the closing worship service. He preached the sermon "Go, Glow, and Grow!!" based on Matthew 28:16-20. He spoke about Jesse Lee, a lay person, enlisted for gospel ministry by Francis Asbury and ultimately sent to Connecticut where he started the first Methodist Circle. Bishop Weaver charged United Methodists to similarly accept Christ's invitation to go, glow, and grow by stepping out in new ways to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rev. Tim Craft, Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke District, assisted with communion. The liturgists were Rev. Barbara Cousar, John-Mann Wesley Cooperative Parish, Winchester District and Ms. Sarah Grace Singleton, Oakton UMC, Alexandria District. Ms. Christal Brown Heyward, St. Johns Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina provided musical accompaniment.

The youth delegation distributed *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate*. Bishop Weaver invited the district superintendents to present the appointments for their districts. Bishop Weaver presented the new district superintendents and their lay leaders. Superintendents completing their terms placed a stole on the shoulders of the newly-appointed superintendents. The appointments were fixed as printed in the Advocate with the following corrections. On the Danville District, Calvary-Kerns Memorial Charge, Pittsylvania County, will be served by Margaret Kathy Roach under the umbrella of the Danville Teaching Parish. On the Farmville District, Sardis United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, will be served by Robert E. Dowling and under

Extension and Other Appointments, Michael T. Davis will serve Journey Community Center. On the Roanoke District, Mount Elbert United Methodist Church, Floyd County and Belview United Methodist Church, Montgomery County, should be listed as "To Be Supplied."

With the "Sending Forth" by Bishop Weaver, the 237th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE MINUTES COMMITTEE, HAVE READ, CORRECTED,
AND APPROVE THESE DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 237TH SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON JULY 9, 2019.

