

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

2022 SPECIAL CALLED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The business of this session and the COVID-19 global pandemic made this called session of the Virginia Annual Conference unique. The purpose of the called Annual Conference session was to address matters related to the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy proceedings. The conference session was held using telecommunications technology for distance participation. Specific accommodations were used, in accordance with CDC safety guidelines, to protect members of the Virginia Annual Conference.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2022

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE CENTER

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the plenary session was held in an online webinar format. Annual Conference began at 9:00 am with music.

At 9:31 am, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, called to order this special session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Lewis acknowledged those who were there in person and assured the conference they were following their COVID-19 guidelines. Bishop Lewis welcomed the members of the Annual Conference and reminded the body of our sacred duty to protect our children. Bishop Lewis thanked the members of the Annual Conference for their work and prayers. Bishop Lewis recognized Ms. Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference Lay Leader, to offer words of welcome and opening prayer.

Ms. Stokes thanked Bishop Lewis and led us in prayer.

Bishop Lewis recognized Rev. Denise Bates, Dean of the Cabinet, for organizing motions.

Rev. Bates made a motion to permit this special session of the Virginia Annual Conference to take place in the virtual format.

Rev. Timothy Barth, Mount Olivet - Floral Hills Cooperative Parish, Danville District, raised a point of order that there were no instructions as to how the votes would be taken and further, a question about proper credentialing for those who were present. Bishop Lewis asked Rev. Steven Summers, Director of Connectional Ministries, to respond to the point of order. Rev. Summers stated that voting will be done using the Zoom polling option. Rev. Summers explained how to use that feature. As to credentialing, the webinar requires a specific link to obtain access. If you have access to that link, you have been invited specifically due to your office as a member of the Annual Conference. These invites were sent out via email addresses derived from input received from the EVC database. In addition, we have access to see who has come in and will be reviewed.

Rev. Andrew Ware, Beech Grove UMC, Elizabeth River District, raised a point of order that there was no password required to gain entry. In addition, he was aware of links that were not sent out and were improperly shared with others to help them gain access. Rev. Summers responded by stating that we trust our clergy and laity to not share their credentials. In addition, the conference will review those who had gained access.

The motion was seconded. The motion was approved.

Rev. Bates moved that the virtual bar of the Conference be set at the specific locations of the sites of members, and members at the host site, who have been provided with the appropriate Zoom log-in. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis recognized Rev. Joshua King, Conference Secretary. Rev. King moved that the minutes for this special Annual Conference Session be approved in advance. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis recognized Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer, to present to the Annual Conference the purpose of the called Annual Conference.

Mr. Dommissé presented a PowerPoint explaining the history and the work to support the survivors of sexual abuse and the work that has been done to settle the Boy Scouts of America lawsuits regarding sexual misconduct. In addition, Mr. Dommissé presented the motion, including two options, that will be before this conference in a few moments.

Bishop Lewis opened the floor to questions for Mr. Dommissé. Questions were answered by Mr. Dommissé.

Bishop Lewis recognized Ms. Kathy Lutman, Vice-chair, Conference Board of Trustees. Ms. Lutman spoke on behalf of the conference trustees in support of the Virginia Annual Conference plans to fund our portion of this settlement after reviewing the agreements. The board voted to authorize Ms. Lutman to sign the Survivor Trust Fund Contribution and Commitments Form.

Bishop Lewis recognized Rev. Denise Bates who spoke on behalf of the cabinet. The cabinet unanimously supports the commitment of the Virginia Annual Conference to participate in The United Methodist Church's proposed settlement agreement with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Such a settlement would provide healing and support to survivors of child sexual abuse.

Bishop Lewis recognized Mr. William Talley IV, President, Council on Finance and Administration (CFA). Mr. Talley spoke on behalf of CFA as to how the Virginia Annual Conference plans to fund our portion of this settlement. CFA also voted unanimously to support this commitment and has signed the Survivor Trust Fund Contribution and Commitments Form.

Mr. Talley made the following motion: *The Council on Finance and Administration moves that the Annual Conference vote to approve either Option 1 or Option 2 as the funding choice for the Conference's commitment to the Survivors Trust as part of the BSA bankruptcy.*

Option 1—the entire \$988,456 will be paid 100% from Conference reserves in 2022; or

Option 2 — \$988,456 will be paid from the Conference reserves in 2022 and the local churches will pay \$494,228 (50% of the \$988,456) as part of a special apportionment over a 2-year period (2023 and 2024) to reimburse the reserve account.

Rev. Jim Ullian, Retired Clergy, Elizabeth River District, raised a point of order: Is there an option to vote no? Mr. David Dommissé responded that there is not an option to not pay this amount.

Carl Perez, Galilee UMC, Rappahannock River District, moved to call the question. The motion was seconded. The motion to close debate was approved.

Ryan Ware, Wesley Chapel - Rock Springs Charge, Danville District, raised a point of order stating that he had a motion on the floor before the question had been called. (The motion was in the Queue and not recognized because it was determined to be out of order.) Mr. Scott Diamond, Conference Rules Chair, stated that this motion to postpone was out of order, as per Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. His rationale was that a motion to postpone a decision more than three months from the time of the current meeting would be out of order.

Rev. Denise Bates, Dean of the Cabinet, prayed for the body prior to the vote.

Rev. Thomas James, Washington Street UMC, Alexandria District, raised a point of clarification: Was this vote to approve the motion for two options or voting on the two options themselves? Bishop Lewis stated that this motion has two options for which you will be choosing one.

Option 1 of the motion was approved after discussion.

Bishop Lewis began to share the non-monetary items suggested by the UMC BSA Leadership Team.

Rev. William Bearden, Collierstown UMC, Staunton District, raised a point of order. The vote should have been to vote on the motion of the two options and then a vote on which option to choose, but we just voted the two options without a vote on the motion.

Bishop Lewis consulted with the parliamentarian. Bishop Lewis then ruled that the recommendation was in order. We were voting on the funding mechanism of these two options.

Bishop Lewis again shared the non-monetary items suggested by the UMC BSA Leadership Team: 1) Train leaders to meet with and hear the experience and hopes of any survivor who participated in Scouting activities connected with a United Methodist congregation. 2) Review all Safe Sanctuaries/Ministry Safe policies and update as necessary. 3) Develop a series of articles about how to ensure safe youth programming. 4) Participate in a survivors' justice and healing working group formed by survivors who filed claims.

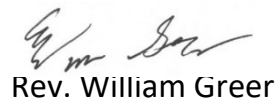
Bishop Lewis prayed for the survivors, thanked the members of the Annual Conference, and closed this 2022 Called Annual Conference at 11:00 a.m.



Rev. Joshua S. King, Annual Conference Secretary

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes Committee, have read, corrected and approve these Daily Proceedings of the 2022 Special Called Annual Conference on March 3, 2022.

Signed:



Rev. William Greer



Rev. Alan Layman



Rev. Andrew Ware



Ms. Leticia Borden



Ms. Sandra Fulcher



Iris Gunter Smith