

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

### 2022 SPECIAL CALLED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

#### THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*The purpose of this called Annual Conference session was to address churches that are requesting to disaffiliate under ¶2553 of The 2016 Book of Discipline, as amended by the 2019 General Conference. The conference session was held using telecommunications technology for distance participation.*

#### SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2022 AT 9:30 AM

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE CENTER

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

At 10:04 AM, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, called to order this special session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Lewis recognized Ms. Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference Lay Leader, to offer an opening prayer.

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

Bishop Lewis thanked Ms. Madeline Pillow White, Director of Communications, and Rev. Steven Summers, Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop, for organizing this special called Annual Conference. In addition, Bishop Lewis thanked Rev. Brian Siegle, Mr. Chris Malak, and Mr. Hunter Bryn for providing exemplary leadership in the area of technology for this special called Annual Conference.

Rev. Siegle led the Annual Conference through a training on how to use the technological platform we used for the Annual Conference.

Bishop Lewis then led us through some practice voting.

Bishop Lewis expressed the singular reason for this called Annual Conference is to vote on the closure of ten churches under ¶2553 in *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as amended at the 2019 General Conference. In addition, Bishop Lewis shared that any motions outside of this specific purview are considered out of order.

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

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

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 credentials.

The motion was seconded.

In response to a question regarding in-person voting options, Rev. Steven Summers, Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop, stated that there are currently over 1,100 members voting online at this time. At Hampton, VA, there were certainly more than 1,100 members, but in the interest of stewardship and feasibility of the Annual Conference, it is not possible to have an in-person Annual Conference. And as to a hybrid version, Rev. Summers stated it is something we have looked at, but at this time does not seem possible to do.

The motion was approved.

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

The motion was seconded. The motion was approved.

In response to a question raised about the interpretation of ¶2553.1 to allow the Annual Conference to act on any of these disaffiliations, Rev. Bates responded that in 2019 *The 2016 Book of Discipline* was amended to allow disaffiliations to take place. In the Spring of 2022, the Judicial Council interpreted this paragraph to allow congregations to disaffiliate whether they agree or disagree with *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, as amended by the 2019 General Conference.

In response to a question, Bishop Lewis stated that church localities will be included when presenting disaffiliating churches.

Rev. James Thomas, Medical Leave, outside of the Conference boundaries, raised a point of order asking for a Bishop's ruling in regard to if we were in order according to ¶2553.1. Bishop Lewis ruled this out of order as we are in compliance.

In response to a question regarding payments being made in full, Mr. Andrew White, Counsel to the Conference Trustees, replied that the short answer is that the payment must be paid in cash, in full, before the release of the trust clause.

Bishop Lewis recognized Ms. Kathy Lutman, Vice Chair, Virginia Conference Board of Trustees.

Ms. Lutman presented the churches that are seeking closure under ¶2553 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as amended by the 2019 General Conference. She presented the process by which each of these local congregations went through to come to this vote. This process included the following:

- i. following a meeting between the pastor and/or a group of laity of the Local Church and the district superintendent of the district of the Virginia Annual Conference (the "Conference") in which the Local church is located, the district superintendent called a congregational information meeting for the members of the Local Church to discuss the interest of the Local Church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church;

- ii. the members of the Local Church engaged in a process of discernment, in the manner prescribed by the cabinet of the Conference, regarding the possibility of the Local Church's disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church pursuant to ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* (the "*Discipline*"), and following such discernment the members elected, by majority vote, to proceed with the disaffiliation process;
- iii. at a church conference called by the district superintendent and conducted in accordance with ¶ 248 of the *Discipline*, with prior notice having been given in accordance with ¶ 246.8 of the *Discipline*, the members of the Local Church elected, by a two-thirds or greater vote, to approve the disaffiliation agreement dated October 29, 2022 between the Local Church and the Conference, which agreement contains the terms and conditions established by the Conference board of trustees with the advice of the cabinet, treasurer, benefits officer, director of connectional ministries, and chancellor of the Conference (the "Disaffiliation Agreement"); and
- iv. the Local Church has delivered to the Conference board of trustees the Disaffiliation Agreement signed by the trustees of the Local Church and the \$5,000 deposit as required under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.

She then shared that we would handle each of these local churches individually, asking supervising District Superintendents, to identify themselves and she would then present the motions on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Mountain View District Superintendent Rev. Denise Bates, identified herself and Ms. Lutman moved,

Center Point United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Center Point United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) and the Conference (the "Center Point Disaffiliation Agreement") is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Center Point Disaffiliation Agreement on

behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Center Point United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Center Point Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Center Point Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Center Point Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Center Point Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Center Point United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford, Virginia.

Center Point United Methodist Church is located in Bedford, Virginia.

The motion was seconded.

In response to a question about total payment amounts, Rev. Bates shared that these numbers were provided through a conference communication on October 14<sup>th</sup> and that the amount for Center Point United Methodist Church is \$22,543.

The motion was passed.

In response to a question regarding apportionment payments for churches entering the disaffiliation process, Rev. Bates stated that apportionments must be paid before they finish the process, but not to enter the process.

Mountain View District Superintendent Rev. Denise Bates, identified herself and Ms. Lutman moved,

Harmony United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this

resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Harmony United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) and the Conference (the “Harmony Disaffiliation Agreement”) is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Harmony Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Harmony United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Harmony Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Harmony Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Harmony Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Harmony Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Harmony United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Brosville United Methodist Church in Danville, Virginia.

The motion was seconded.

Rev. Bates shared that Harmony UMC is located in Danville, Virginia and the disaffiliation amount is \$66,602.

The motion was passed.

Mountain View District Superintendent Rev. Denise Bates, identified herself and Ms. Lutman moved,

Mountain View United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Mountain View United Methodist Church (Forest, VA) (Mountain View District) and

the Conference (the “Mountain View Disaffiliation Agreement”) is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Mountain View Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Mountain View United Methodist Church (Forest, VA) (Mountain View District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Mountain View Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Mountain View Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Mountain View Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Mountain View Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Mountain View United Methodist Church (Forest, VA) (Mountain View District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Heritage United Methodist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Rev. Bates shared that Mountain View United Methodist Church is in Forest, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$344,694.

The motion was seconded.

Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland, Retired Elder, Mission Rivers District, made a motion requesting, “To make the disaffiliation agreement available to delegates. [sic]”

Bishop Lewis ruled this motion out of order.

Rev. Casey-Rutland asked why the terms are not being shared with the Annual Conference as this would answer a lot of questions as this is the first-time we are going through this.

Mr. Andrew White, Counsel to the Trustees, answered that the terms are 10 pages long and that the Trustees did not feel it was appropriate to share this information.

In response to further questions about disaffiliation amounts, Mr. White shared that ¶2553, *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as amended by the 2019 General Conference, does not go into the value of the property or where that property came from, but rather it states that they will pay two years apportionments and any other debts that they owe to the conference.

In response to a question regarding the disbursement of funds received through disaffiliation payments, Mr. David Dommissie, Conference CFO and Treasurer, shared that the apportionment payments will be applied like any other apportionment payment. Any debt payments go to a fund. Pension and Benefits go to clergy benefits' funds. Legal fees go to offset legal fees. Any unpaid compensation will be collected and paid until a new appointment is found.

The motion was passed.

Mountain View District Superintendent Rev. Denise Bates, identified herself and Ms. Lutman moved,

Payneton United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Payneton United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) and the Conference (the "Payneton Disaffiliation Agreement") is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Payneton Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Payneton United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Payneton Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Payneton Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be



effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Payneton Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Payneton Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Payneton United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Watson Memorial United Methodist Church in Chatham, Virginia.

Rev. Bates shared that Payneton United Methodist Church is in Chatham, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$38,539.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Mountain View District Superintendent Rev. Denise Bates, identified herself and Ms. Lutman moved,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Swansonville United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) and the Conference (the “Swansonville Disaffiliation Agreement”) is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Swansonville Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Swansonville United Methodist Church (Mountain View District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Swansonville Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Swansonville Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Swansonville Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Swansonville Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Swansonville United Methodist Church

(Mountain View District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Floral Hills United Methodist Church in Danville, Virginia.

Rev. Bates shared that Swansonville United Methodist Church is in Dry Fork, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$67,200.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Living Waters District Superintendent Rev. Jay Carey identified himself, and Ms. Lutman moved,

Hobson's Chapel United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Hobson's Chapel United Methodist Church (Living Waters District) and the Conference (the "Hobson's Chapel Disaffiliation Agreement") is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Hobson's Chapel Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Hobson's Chapel United Methodist Church (Living Waters District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Hobson's Chapel Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Hobson's Chapel Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the "Closing" (as that term is defined in the Hobson's Chapel Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Hobson's Chapel Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Hobson's Chapel United Methodist Church (Living Waters District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The

United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Antioch United Methodist Church in Farmville, Virginia.

Rev. Carey shared that Hobson's Chapel United Methodist Church is in Powhatan, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$22,618.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Living Waters District Superintendent Rev. Jay Carey identified himself, and Ms. Lutman moved,

Payne Memorial United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Payne Memorial United Methodist Church (Living Waters District) and the Conference (the "Payne Memorial Disaffiliation Agreement") is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Payne Memorial Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Payne Memorial United Methodist Church (Living Waters District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Payne Memorial Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Payne Memorial Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the "Closing" (as that term is defined in the Payne Memorial Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Payne Memorial Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Payne Memorial United Methodist Church (Living Waters District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Antioch United Methodist Church in Farmville, Virginia.

Rev. Carey shared that Payne Memorial United Methodist Church is in Cumberland, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$37,976.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Coastal Virginia District Superintendent Rev. Cecelia Brooks identified herself, and Ms. Lutman moved,

Painter-Garrison's United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Painter-Garrison's United Methodist Church (Coastal Virginia District) and the Conference (the "Painter-Garrison's Disaffiliation Agreement") is approved; (iii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Painter-Garrison's Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Painter-Garrison's United Methodist Church (Coastal Virginia District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Painter-Garrison's Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Painter-Garrison's Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the "Closing" (as that term is defined in the Painter-Garrison's Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Painter-Garrison's Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Painter-Garrison's United Methodist Church (Coastal Virginia District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Melfa United Methodist Church in Melfa, Virginia.

Rev. Brooks shared that Painter-Garrison's United Methodist Church is in Painter, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$45,763.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Shenandoah River District Superintendent Rev. Victor Gomez was not available, and so Rev. Bates, Dean of the Cabinet, identified herself as available to answer any questions and Ms. Lutman moved,

Crums United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Crums United Methodist Church (Shenandoah River District) and the Conference (the “Crums Disaffiliation Agreement”) is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Crums Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Crums United Methodist Church (Shenandoah River District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Crums Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Crums Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Crums Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Crums Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Crums United Methodist Church (Shenandoah River District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Berryville, Virginia.

Rev. Bates shared that Crums United Methodist Church is in Berryville, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$158,646.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Shenandoah River District Superintendent Rev. Victor Gomez was not available, and so Rev. Bates, Dean of the Cabinet, identified herself as available to answer any questions and Ms. Lutman moved,

Harriston United Methodist Church, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that (i) the recitals contained in the WHEREAS paragraphs above are incorporated into this resolution by this reference; (ii) the Disaffiliation Agreement between Harriston United Methodist Church (Shenandoah River District) and the Conference (the “Harriston Disaffiliation Agreement”) is approved; (ii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized to execute the Harriston Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iii) the disaffiliation of Harriston United Methodist Church (Shenandoah River District) from the denomination under ¶ 2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Harriston Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Local Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶ 2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Harriston Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Harriston Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Harriston Disaffiliation Agreement; and (iv) any member of Harriston United Methodist Church (Shenandoah River District) that desires to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of New Hope United Methodist Church in New Hope, Virginia.

Rev. Bates shared that Harriston United Methodist Church is in Grottoes, Virginia and the amount to disaffiliate is \$24,381.

The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.

Bishop Lewis invited Rev. Crystal Sygeel, Associate Director for Call and Candidacy, Center for Clergy Excellence, to lead us in a litany of blessings and thankfulness for these congregations as they part from the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Bates offered a closing prayer for this called special session of the Annual Conference.

Ms. Madeline Pillow White, Director of Communications, accompanied by Rev. Jessie Colwell, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, via recording sang "Hymn of Promise."

Bishop Lewis adjourned this called special session of the Annual Conference at 12:22 PM.

Signed: Rev. Joshua S. King, Annual Conference Secretary,



Signed: Rev. Claire B. Miller, Assistant Annual Conference Secretary



Minutes Committee certified on November 10, 2022 signed below:

Signed: Rev. Alan Layman, Chair, Conference Minutes Committee



Signed: Ms. Sandra Fulcher, Member



Signed: Rev. Andrew Ware, Member

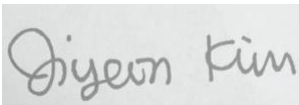


Signed: Rev. William Greer, Member



William A. Greer

Signed: Rev. Jiyeon Kim, Member



Signed: Ms. Leticia Borden, Member

