

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 7TH, 2023 SPECIAL CALLED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The business of this session and the availability of officiating this business via online made this called session of the Virginia Annual Conference possible. The purpose of the 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 7TH, 2023 AT 9:00 AM

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE CENTER

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

At 9:00 AM, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Richmond Episcopal Area, welcomed the members and guests of the Virginia Annual Conference and called to order this special session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson thanked the leadership of the conference and especially those who just led in the question-and-answer session prior to this session.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called upon Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader, to open us with a word of prayer. Ms. Stokes prayed for our gathering.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared the news of strife in Israel, both Palestinians and Israelis, and asked Rev. Victor Gomez, Shenandoah River District Superintendent, to lift up prayer for the division and conflict. Rev. Gomez prayed for the conflict and for their leadership to lead them to peace.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson thanked the Co-Directors of Connectional Ministries, Rev. Jonathan Page, Director of Connectional Ministries for Creativity and Innovation; Mr. Dwayne Stinson, Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship and Congregational Vitality; and Ms. Madeline Pillow-White, Director of Communications, for organizing this Special Called Annual Conference. She further thanked Rev. Brian Siegle, Technical Director of the Annual Conference

Session; Mr. Chris Malak, Data Manager; and Mr. Hunter Bryn, Conference Videographer for their leadership in technology.

Rev. Siegle led the Annual Conference through a training on how to use the technological platform utilized. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson then led the Annual Conference through a practice vote.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared the disciplinary understanding of how this Special Called Annual Conference came to be. She expressed the singular reason for this Annual Conference was to vote on the ratification of disaffiliation of 120 churches under ¶2553 in *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as amended by the 2019 General Conference. In addition, she shared that any other motions outside of this specific purview will be out of order.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson 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.

Mr. Alan (Jim) Ramsbotham, Dahlgren UMC, At-Large Member of the Missions River District, made the motion to suspend the rules to waive the three-minute requirement for electronic voting. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson stated this motion does not need a second. The motion was approved.

The former Bates motion to approve the bar was approved.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Rev. Joshua King, Conference Secretary.

Rev. King stated that the Minutes Committee plans to review the minutes on Thursday, October 12th, 2023, to review and certify the minutes. He then moved that the minutes for this Special Annual Conference Session be approved in advance.

The motion was approved.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Ms. Kathy Lutman, President, Virginia Conference Board of Trustees.

Ms. Lutman presented the 120 churches that are seeking disaffiliation under ¶12553 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as amended by the 2019 General Conference in the form of a resolution.

Whereas, with respect to each of the churches listed on Attachment A as currently shown on the screen (which attachment will be referred to hereafter as “Attachment A”), namely,

Coastal Virginia District

1. Good Hope United Methodist Church
2. Guilford United Methodist Church
3. Market Street United Methodist Church – Onancock
4. Smith’s Chapel United Methodist Church
5. Snead Memorial United Methodist Church

Living Waters District

6. Antioch United Methodist Church – Lunenburg
7. Asbury United Methodist Church – McKenney
8. Barnes United Methodist Church – Newsoms Charge
9. Bethany United Methodist Church – Brunswick
10. Bethel United Methodist Church – Blackstone, Nottoway
11. Boydton United Methodist Church

12. Capron United Methodist Church
13. Charlotte Court House United Methodist Church
14. Corinth United Methodist Church – West Dinwiddie Charge
15. Courtland United Methodist Church
16. Ebenezer United Methodist Church – Philadelphia Charge
17. Hebron United Methodist Church – Charlotte Charge
18. Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church
19. Jetersville United Methodist Church
20. Joyner United Methodist Church
21. Kingswood United Methodist Church – Lakeland Charge
22. LaCrosse United Methodist Church
23. Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church – Philadelphia Charge
24. Philadelphia United Methodist Church
25. Rehoboth United Methodist Church – Boydton
26. Rehoboth United Methodist Church – Mecklenburg, Lakeland Charge
27. Rocky Hock United Methodist Church
28. Salem United Methodist Church – Buckingham, Dillwyn Charge
29. Salem United Methodist Church – North Amelia Charge
30. Salem United Methodist Church – Petersburg, Prince George Cooperative
31. Somerton United Methodist Church
32. Thomas Chapel United Methodist Church
33. Trinity United Methodist Church – West Dinwiddie Charge
34. White Hall United Methodist Church

35. White Oak United Methodist Church – West Dinwiddie Charge

36. Williams United Methodist Church

37. Zion United Methodist Church – Mecklenburg

Mission Rivers

38. Bethel United Methodist Church – Mathews

39. Beulah United Methodist Church

40. Clarksbury United Methodist Church

41. Epworth United Methodist Church – Aylett

42. McKendree United Methodist Church

43. Melrose United Methodist Church

44. Olivet United Methodist Church

45. Pamunkey United Methodist Church

46. Parkview United Methodist Church

47. Saint Mark's United Methodist Church – Hampton City

48. Saint Paul United Methodist Church – Susan

49. Salem United Methodist Church – Mathews

50. Tabernacle United Methodist Church – New Kent

51. White Stone United Methodist Church

Mountain View

52. Anderson Memorial United Methodist Church – Gretna

53. Bethesda United Methodist Church – Huddleston

54. Calvary United Methodist Church – Campbell

55. Crafts United Methodist Church

56. Ebenezer United Methodist Church – Bedford
57. Epworth United Methodist Church – Thaxton
58. Flint Hill United Methodist Church
59. Indian Hill United Methodist Church
60. Marsh Memorial United Methodist Church
61. Motley United Methodist Church
62. Mount Hermon United Methodist Church
63. New Bethel United Methodist Church – Campbell
64. New Bethel United Methodist Church – Pittsylvania
65. Otterville United Methodist Church
66. Penhook United Methodist Church
67. Providence United Methodist Church – Campbell
68. Salem United Methodist Church – Bedford
69. Salem United Methodist Church – Campbell
70. Tyreeanna United Methodist Church
71. Union United Methodist Church – Bedford
72. Whites United Methodist Church

Northern Virginia District

73. First Korean United Methodist Church
74. Smith Chapel United Methodist Church

Shenandoah River District

75. Annex United Methodist Church
76. Bethel United Methodist Church – Loudoun

77. Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
78. Clover Hill United Methodist Church
79. Crimora United Methodist Church
80. East Point United Methodist Church
81. Evangelical United Methodist Church
82. Fellowship United Methodist Church
83. Gainesboro United Methodist Church
84. Grove Hill United Methodist Church
85. Hawkinstown United Methodist Church
86. Limeton United Methodist Church
87. Linden United Methodist Church
88. Little Mountain United Methodist Church
89. Mount Bethel United Methodist Church
90. Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church
91. Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church – Lovettsville
92. Oak Grove United Methodist Church
93. Otterbein Chapel United Methodist Church
94. Parnassus United Methodist Church
95. Riverside United Methodist Church
96. Riverton United Methodist Church
97. Saint Peter's United Methodist Church
98. St. John's United Methodist Church – Shenandoah
99. Trinity United Methodist Church – Rockingham

100. Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church – Edinburg

101. Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church – Cross Junction

102. Wesley United Methodist Church – Winchester

103. White Hall United Methodist Church

Three Notch'd District

104. Bethlehem United Methodist Church – Nelson

105. Beulah United Methodist Church

106. Calvary United Methodist Church

107. Mount Olivet United Methodist Church – Syria

108. Oak Grove United Methodist Church – Madison

Valley Ridge District

109. Bethlehem United Methodist Church

110. Burnsville United Methodist Church

111. Eden United Methodist Church - Bath County

112. Iron Gate United Methodist Church

113. Lyndhurst United Methodist Church

114. Mount Carmel United Methodist Church

115. Prices Fork United Methodist Church

116. Saint Paul's United Methodist Church – Craigsville

117. Saint Paul's United Methodist Church – Staunton

118. Sherando United Methodist Church

119. Virginia Chapel United Methodist Church

120. Walton Memorial United Methodist Church

- (i) following a meeting between the pastor and/or a group of laity of the Subject Church and the district superintendent of the district of the Virginia Annual Conference (the “Conference”) in which the Subject Church is located, the district superintendent called a congregational information meeting for the members of the Subject Church to discuss the interest of the Subject Church in disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church;
- (ii) the members of the Subject Church engaged in a process of discernment, in the manner prescribed by the cabinet of the Conference, regarding the possibility of the Subject Church’s disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church pursuant to ¶2553 of the Book of 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 Subject Church elected, by a two-thirds or greater vote, to approve the disaffiliation agreement dated October 7, 2023 between the Subject 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; and
- (iv) the Subject Church has delivered to the Conference Board of Trustees the Disaffiliation Agreement signed by the trustees of the Subject Church and the \$5,000 deposit as required under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.

Ms. Lutman then 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 each of the Subject Churches listed on Attachment A and the Conference is hereby ratified; (iii) the treasurer of the Conference is authorized

to execute the Disaffiliation Agreement on behalf of the Conference; (iv) the disaffiliation of each of the Subject Churches listed in Attachment A from the denomination under ¶2553 of the Discipline, and the transfer of certain properties pursuant to the Disaffiliation Agreement to the successor to such Subject Church (free of the trust clause as provided for under ¶2501 of the Discipline) and the other transactions and agreements described in the Disaffiliation Agreement, shall be effective in each case as of the “Closing” (as that term is defined in the Disaffiliation Agreement), subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Disaffiliation Agreement; and (v) any members of the Subject Churches that desire to remain a member of a church within The United Methodist Church shall be invited to become a member of their predesignated churches as previously communicated by their District Superintendent.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson thanked Ms. Lutman. She then stated that the motion to ratify these 120 churches was before the body.

The resolution passed.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson thanked the conference for their attendance. She mentioned the statistics of the aggregate local churches who have disaffiliated and those who have stayed in Virginia. She further reflected on the grief that is being felt in this division and the ministries that took place in these congregations. She further wished them well in their mission and ministry and in the mission for which we started out with from Mr. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, “to save souls.” She further announced the theme of the upcoming Annual Conference as a “Conference in Three Movements”: Movement of the Holy Spirit, Movement of the Methodist Heritage, Movement Outside our Walls. After explaining these three movements, she provided the closing prayer. She then adjourned the Special Called Annual Conference at 9:55 AM with the words of the Apostle Paul, “Finally, dear ones in Christ, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise think about these things. May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the binding and unity of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and forever. Amen. Go in peace.”

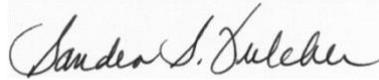
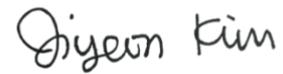
Signed: Rev. Joshua S. King, Annual Conference Secretary,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Joshua S. King in blue ink. The signature consists of the word "Rev." followed by the initials "JSK" in a stylized, cursive font.

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

Handwritten signature of Rev. Claire B. Miller in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Claire B. Miller".

Minutes Committee certified on October 12th, 2023 signed below:

Handwritten signature of Alan Lynn in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Alan Lynn".Handwritten signature of Sandra S. Zulecki in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Sandra S. Zulecki".Handwritten signature of Jiyeon Kim in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Jiyeon Kim".