

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

241st Session

The Virginia Annual Conference

Berglund Center

Roanoke, Virginia

June 15-17, 2023

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 11, 2023

LAITY SESSION

The 2023 Laity Session of Annual Conference was held as a Zoom webinar at 3:00 PM. Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed everyone and opened the session with a Scripture reading from Isaiah 43:9, “Watch closely. I’m preparing something new...” Ms. Stokes thanked the Board of Laity for their help and planning for this session. Ms. Stokes explained what a laity session is: an opportunity to connect with other United Methodists in the Virginia Conference. She further explained why we are meeting via Zoom rather than in person: we do not have any topics or votes this year which require us to meet in person, so we thought we would take the opportunity to try something new. Part of the responsibility of the Board of Laity is to prepare the laity for participation in the Annual Conference, often by district orientations, and this year, by videos. These videos can be found under the Annual Conference section of the VAUMC.org website. Ms. Stokes encouraged members to meet and talk with others at the conference. She shared Annual Conference will close with a celebration of the call of the laity as well as the fixing of clergy appointments.

Mr. David Teal, Director, Laity and Spiritual Leadership for Discipleship Ministries, shared passion for helping leaders and learners. He expressed appreciation for our shared ministry and for the conference theme of “United as One in Mission.” He also encouraged

the members to visit the Discipleship Ministries website and download free resources for churches. One new resource is “Disciples in the Marketplace” (How people demonstrate grace in everyday life.) He reminded the members that we are God’s instrument to help others hear and answer God’s call.

Mr. Dwayne Stinson, Associate Director of Influencing, was introduced as the incoming Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship and Congregational Vitality. He will share the position of Director of Connectional Ministries with Rev. Jonathan Page, Herndon UMC, Northern Virginia District whose position will be Director of Connectional Ministries for Creativity and Innovation. Mr. Stinson shared about Next Steps and Bridge Churches. Ms. Stokes shared some further resources and websites to assist local churches in their discernment about Bridge Churches.

Ms. Stokes announced there will be a Laity “Heart to Heart”—Thursday, June 15, at 8:30-9:30 AM. This will be an opportunity for people to share witness and share conversation around tables.

In closing, Ms. Stokes along with former conference lay leaders, Ms. Shirley Cauffman and Mr. Warren Harper, shared a letter written jointly by them, expressing their hopes and dreams for our denomination.

The Laity Session adjourned at 4:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 14, 2023

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING, BERGLUND CENTER, ROANOKE, VA

At 2:00 PM, Rev. Jessie Colwell, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, welcomed the clergy and guests to the Clergy Executive Session of the 2023 Virginia Annual Conference.

Opening worship was led by the chairs of Orders: Rev. Camille Pentsil, Board of Ordained Ministry Member; Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. David Edinger, Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors; and Rev. Darcey Johnson, Chair, Order of Elders. Music was provided by Rev. Drew Willson. The sign language interpreters for the session were Ms. Katherine McMullen and Ms. Virginia Bryant. Marshals were Rev. George Warner, Full Membership; Rev. David Vaughan, Provisional Membership; Rev. Brian Johnson, Licensed Local Pastors; Rev. Michelle Kim, Other Fellowship. Rev. Blakely shared a homily, based from the scripture Acts 1:1-18, about the need to be unified as one in order to rise to the mission and calling God has called us to. Rev. Seungsoo “RJ” Jun, Associate Director of Serving, led the session in a time of prayer.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, resident bishop, Richmond Episcopal Area, shared her blessing and joy to be with Virginia clergy giftedness. She shared her welcome and greetings from the Florida Annual Conference and North Georgia Annual Conference. In her opening remarks, she shared the invitation to have one hand on the cross and when we do so, we will be close to one another and to the Kingdom of God. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson also encouraged clergy to fellowship with one another during the down times this week.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson introduced Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, to lead the members through the Minute Questions.

Rev. Estep moved for the bar of the clergy session be the Performing Arts Theatre within the Berglund Center. The motion was seconded and was approved.

Rev. Estep moved we admit to this session with voice and no vote: all diaconal ministers, the administrative staff in the Bishop's Office, Terri Biggins; the Conference Chancellor, Heather Hays Lockerman; and American Sign Language Interpreters Katherine McMullen and Virginia Bryant. The motion was approved.

Rev. Estep led the members in the presentation of the Minute Questions. The entire printed booklet of Minute Questions, with additions and corrections distributed separately, was presented in an itemized manner. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained. Candidates for commissioning, ordination, associate membership, recognition of orders and transfer into the conference from other denominations were presented and approved. Persons receiving their first appointment as local pastors in all categories and those who have completed course of study were invited to the platform to be recognized by the members.

Appropriate recognition was given to all persons being received into a new relationship with the Annual Conference at the current session. All retirees were asked to stand and be recognized.

Rev. Denise Bates, Dean, Cabinet, was recognized as she stated,

Recognizing that 'all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), and that throughout the year areas of concern have been identified and complaints or charges filed, we the appointive cabinet do believe that the licensed, commissioned, and ordained clergy are earnestly striving after perfection and are blameless in their life and in their official administration.

All other Minute Questions were passed with the required majorities as written in the Clergy Session booklet, addendum, including corrections: Minute Question 18, those who have been discontinued as local pastors, Rev. Kathryn Budzik effective June 12, 2023; and Rev. James O'Quinn removed from the listing under Minute Question 70.

Rev. Stephen Hundley, Retired Elder, Mission Rivers District, requested clergy to be notified when other clergy voluntarily withdraw from membership to the Annual Conference.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson said the conference would take this request under advisement.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson prayed for the clergy who have left the Annual Conference and for those who have joined this Annual Conference, in addition prayed that the fruits of the Spirit fill the clergy during this time.

Rev. Estep lifted and gave thanks for the clergy members who have joined the communion of saints this previous year. A moment of silence was observed, and Bishop Hauptert-Johnson prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for these saints and prayed for comfort for those who grieve these losses.

Rev. Estep asked the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committees on Ordained Ministry to stand and thanked the Board and Committees for their work over the past year.

Rev. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell, Retired Elder, Northern Virginia District, asked to see the giftedness of the extension ministries and how they can be used. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson replied that they are listed in the appointment listing.

Rev. Estep thanked the staff of the Center for Clergy Excellence: Rev. Jessie Colwell, Director, Rev. Crystal Sygeel, Associate Director of Call and Candidacy, and Rev. Lyn Harding, Administrative Coordinator.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson reported that when she arrived in Virginia there were two clergy under complaint. Since her being here, there was counsel on behalf of the conference named and both of these complaints have come to a just resolution.

Rev. Rob Vaughn, Community of Faith UMC, Northern Virginia District, was recognized. He requested a Bishop Ruling of Law on the following questions:

- 1) Is it permissible for a supervisory process in a complaint proceeding to extend beyond the time limits defined by Paragraph 362.1(e)?
- 2) Does the *Book of Discipline* allow for a substitution in complainants to be made after a complaint has been transferred to the judicial process and awaiting the naming of a counsel for the church?
- 3) May a bishop deny a respondent the right to an advocate in an inquiry relating to an ongoing complaint?
- 4) During the supervisory phase of adjudicating a complaint, may a bishop deny the use of a facilitated just resolution process?

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson stated that she would answer these questions of law within the next thirty days.

Rev. Drew Ensz, Director, Arise Campus Ministry, Northern Virginia District, rose for a moment of personal privilege to speak about his time under complaint and his just resolution.

Rev. Rhonda VanDyke, Retired Elder, Shenandoah River District, also rose for a moment of personal privilege to speak about her just resolution that was resolved two hours prior to Clergy Session.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson closed with the remarks of valuing each of the clergypersons in the room. She mentioned that in the economy of God it is about the “we” and “us.” She further believes that the process outlined in the *Book of Discipline* is clear cut and promises to follow it as such. She further promised a breakdown of legal expenses in the future. She also promised to appoint all clergy members well regardless of their beliefs. She asked clergy to hear again the vows clergy make about being loyal to The United Methodist Church. She further expressed her value of integrity in asking clergy to not lead churches

out of The United Methodist Church as a United Methodist Church pastor. She believes that we are to bear with one another in love and we do our best when we do so.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson adjourned the Clergy Executive Session with a prayer of blessing at 3:55 PM.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 15, 2023

PLENARY SESSION

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, resident bishop, Richmond Episcopal Area, called the first plenary of the 241st Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 10:04 AM.

Rev. Drew Willson and Mr. Jim Bennett and the house band: Rev. Josette Franklin, Ms. Sharon Wolfolk, Mr. Ephriam Wolfolk, Jr., and Mr. Jeff Rothman, 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. Rev. James B. Godwin Sr., Retired Elder, Mission Rivers District, and Mr. Keith Cox, Ebenezer UMC, Valley Ridge District, opened the Annual Conference in prayer. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson prayed also for Mr. Cox as he will be reporting to military service next week. This was Rev. Godwin’s 74th year as a member of the Annual Conference and Mr. Cox’s first Annual Conference.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson introduced Mayor Sherman Lea Sr., Mayor, City of Roanoke, who welcomed the Virginia Conference.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson thanked the members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, and its Chair, Rev. Eric Vaudt, for their preparatory work. She shared words of appreciation for the Valley Ridge District Planning Team and all the volunteers who have worked to ensure we could gather today. She also expressed appreciation to Mr. Scott Diamond, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarian as well as

other Rules Committee members for assisting. The sign language interpreters for this session were Ms. Virginia Bryant and Ms. Katherine McMullen.

Rev. Steve Summers, Director, Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop, welcomed Bishop Hauptert-Johnson as this was her first regularly scheduled Annual Conference. Rev. Summers then requested members from the Committee of Episcopacy, Mr. Warren Harper and Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman who introduced Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson's family, spouse Rev. Allen Johnson, and daughter Samantha.

Rev. David Vaughn, Calvary UMC, Valley Ridge District; Rev. Ileana Rosario, Bennis UMC, Mission Rivers District; Rev. John Obeng, New Life International UMC, Northern Virginia District; and Rev. Jiyeon Kim, Wesley (Vienna) UMC, Northern Virginia District, led the conference into a time of worship. Liturgists for this service were Rev. Laura Stratton, Southern Albemarle UMC, Three Notch'd District; and Rev. Hieu Phan, First Vietnamese-American UMC, Northern Virginia District. The theme of this worship was "Going Beyond the Walls of the City." The service was based on the scripture passage of Hebrews 13:1-16. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared a message with reflections from the movie *The Sound of Music* relating them to the struggle between Church and Empire. She said the letter to the Hebrews was a letter to the people of God who were exhausted and related it to the Church today. This letter reminds us that Jesus is outside the walls and the Church is called to find Him there, as our Methodist heritage has done. Holy Communion was celebrated during this service of worship.

Rev. J. Douglas Forrester, Superintendent, Valley Ridge District, welcomed the assembly to Roanoke and to the Valley Ridge District. Rev. Forrester thanked Mr. Neal Wise, the Conference Events Coordinator, the Valley Ridge District Staff: Ms. Donna Desper, Ms. Cindy Martin, the Rev. Dale E. White, and Mr. David Mawyer, as well as the Annual Conference Planning Team, and the lay and clergy volunteers from this district and across the Conference for bringing us to this time of fellowship, worship, business, and holy

conferencing. He further recognized Ms. Hannah Doty filling in for their District Lay Leader who is out of the country. He recognized the retired Bishops from the Virginia Annual Conference and their spouses: Bishop C. P. Minnick; Bishop H. Hasbrouck and Ms. Mera Hughes; Bishop Ray and Ms. Martha Chamberlain; Bishop Tim and Ms. Melba Whitaker; and Bishop Young Jin and Rev. Kiok Cho. There were no retired bishops present at this gathering. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson prayed for them, especially Bishop Whitaker whose health was not well.

Rev. Forrester moved to establish the bar of the conference as consisting of the platform, the floor with the risers on both sides, boxes one through five and eight through twelve, plus the first six rows of the upper concourse areas one through nine and twenty-six through thirty-four. Be it further resolved that the technical and camera platforms be part of the bar. The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. Forrester moved that the agenda be approved as printed on pages five through seven of the *Book of Reports*. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Rev. Joshua King, Conference Secretary, who moved the election of Rev. Claire Miller, Washington Farm UMC, Northern Virginia District, and Ms. Katie Mueller, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Director of Connectional Ministries, be assistant secretaries for this Annual Conference; Ms. Madeline Pillow White be the editor of the *Journal*; Ms. Heather Hays Lockerman be Conference Chancellor; Mr. Dwayne Stinson be Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship and Congregational Vitality; and Rev. Jonathan Page be Director of Connectional Ministries for Creativity and Innovation. The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. King moved the election of the Annual Conference committees found on pages 80-82, *Book of Reports*, and on the Addendum sheet found in the official packet on page three. The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. King announced that in the Special Events Center where members have registered for the conference, there is a designated Prayer Room open throughout the Annual Conference. This room will also be used as the chapel where the Eucharist will be celebrated on Friday and Saturday mornings at 7:30 AM.

Rev. King announced that part of the conference efforts has been to join hands in mission with the American Red Cross and in so doing has set up a blood donation booth at the Special Events Center, for the next two days. In addition, next to the blood donation booth, we have an UMCOR women's hygiene kit assembly line. The plan is to assemble 3,000 kits during the conference, estimated value of \$50,000.

Rev. King further announced amendments to the agenda must be submitted before the end of today, Thursday, June 15th and that the deadline for requests for items to be removed from the Consent Agenda was set by the Consent Agenda Committee as 10:30 AM, Thursday, June 15th. This has been moved to the end of today's morning session. 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.

Rev. King shared with the conference how to submit a motion, amendment, or point of order using either the paper form or the online submission website/QR Code.

Mr. Scott Diamond, Chair, Rules Committee, presented the report of the Rules Committee located on pages 36-38, *Book of Reports*. These recommendations were adopted.

Rev. Drew Ensz, Director, Arise Campus Ministry, Northern Virginia District, moved that we restore resolutions as a part of our Annual Conference proceedings. The motion was seconded. This motion required a 2/3 vote due to this motion affecting the Standing Rules of Order and Procedure. It was passed.

Rev. Jennifer Day and Rev. Lauren Wright, Co-Chairs, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), presented a report on monitoring and requested the help of the members of the Conference to commit to making spaces for others through using inclusive language.

Rev. Timothy Barth, St. Luke's UMC, Mountain View District, rose for a moment of personal privilege seeking closed captioning for the Annual Conference in future gatherings.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson presented the Consent Agenda for approval. Rev. King reported that no items had been removed from the Consent Agenda.

Rev. Jennifer Vestal-Moore, Bethany UMC, Mountain View District, requested a moment of personal privilege asking why we had not taken up the offering during the morning worship as scheduled in the *Book of Reports*. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson responded that the agenda in the *Book of Reports* had been changed since published, and we approved the agenda as stated on the website.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*):

page 77, Camp Rainbow Connection; pages 72-73, Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations; page 52, Church and Society; page 52, Church Development Team; page 54, Communications; pages 109, Virginia United Methodist Development Company; page 75, Commission on Disabilities; page 57, Board of Discipleship; page 77, Embrace; page 83, Committee on Episcopacy; pages 76, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 109, Virginia United Methodist Foundation; pages 78, GraceInside; page 61, Heart Havens; page 65, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; pages 87, Virginia Conference Historical Society; page 74, Board of Laity; page 51, 57, Missional Ministries Board; page 83,

Board of Ordained Ministry; page 61, Pinnacle Living; page 87, Preacher's Relief Society; page 87, Retired Clergy Housing Corporation; page 79, Society of St. Andrew; page 83, Conference Board of Trustees; page 63, United Methodist Family Services; pages 84-86, United Methodist-related schools; page 75, United Women in Faith; page 63, Wesley Housing.

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Rev. King made the following announcement: there is a shuttle bus that is running from 7:00 AM till 9:00 PM from the Berglund Center to Hotel Roanoke every day. The pick-up is outside plaza entrance.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recessed the conference for lunch at 12:00 PM.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15, 2023

PLENARY SESSION

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson, resident bishop, Richmond Episcopal Area, asked Rev. Harry Neidig, Boyce-Millwood-White Post Charge, Shenandoah River District, to call us to order with a whistle for the afternoon session at 2:04 PM.

Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader, presented the Laity Address. In her address she introduced Mr. Ferdinand Clements, Fox Hill UMC, Mission Rivers District, as a lay member to the youth cohort sitting in her chair on stage during this report. Ms. Stokes shared her tiredness in many ways in this season of ministry. She further shared the common sentiments of trying to lead, clergy and lay alike, in a culture where all decisions are being questioned. During this past year, Ms. Stokes shared that she has done quite a bit of reminiscing about the whirlwinds of the tornados in Virginia she experienced while being a delegate to General Conference in 2008. Upon returning from General Conference, the priority was not the actions of General Conference, but putting into action the love of

Jesus. She reminded the conference that during these times of whirlwind we are all called to be ministers. She brought to attention that the ministry of the laity is being recognized and is needed in today's Church.

Rev. Denise Bates, Dean, Cabinet, presented the Report of the Cabinet, pages 39-40, *Book of Reports*. She then presented for election the nominees for District Committees on Ordained Ministry; the nominees for members of the District Boards of Church Location and Building; and the file labeled Minute Questions 10, 11, and 12 in the official packet. The nominees were elected as presented.

Rev. Bates presented the remaining sections of Minute Questions 10, 11, and 12, for approval with the following additions:

475288 Memorial Living Waters 403 Court St. Appomattox, VA 24522 6/12/23
Disaffiliation

474672 Rocky Mount Living Waters 348 Rocky Mount Rd. Dillwyn, VA 23936
6/12/23 Disaffiliation

477425 Bethany (Hampton) Mission Rivers 1509 Todds Ln. Hampton, VA 23666
6/12/23 Disaffiliation

480354 Olive Branch Mission Rivers 10833 Harcum Rd. Gloucester, VA 23061
6/12/23 Disaffiliation

475335 Bethany (Forest) Mountain View 1720 Bethany Church Cr. Forest, VA
24551 6/12/23 Disaffiliation

473575 Gogginsville Mountain View 111 Gogginsville Rd. Rocky Mount, VA
24151 6/12/23 Disaffiliation

476157 Mount Comfort Mountain View 3189 Lime Plant Rd. Appomattox, VA
24522 6/12/23 Disaffiliation

473336 Oakland (Blairs) Mountain View 184 Snakepath Rd. Blairs, VA 24527
6/12/23 Disaffiliation

476261 Oakland (Goode) Mountain View 2465 Goode Station Rd. Goode, VA
24556 6/12/23 Disaffiliation

476168 Trinity Mountain View 8671 Stonewall Rd. Appomattox, VA 24522 6/12/23
Disaffiliation

476831 Wilsons Mountain View 1986 Wilson Church Rd. Bedford, VA 24523
6/2/23 Disaffiliation

484933 Fairview Shenandoah River 1136 Double Church Rd. Stephens City, VA
22655 6/12/23 Disaffiliation

472753 Poplar Three Notch'd 1583 Richmond Hwy. Amherst, VA 24521 6/12/23
Disaffiliation

477835 New Town Mission Rivers 5209 Monticello Ave. Williamsburg, VA 23188
7/31/23 Exigent Circumstances

MQ 12. What changes have been made in district and charge lines Please list the GCFA Number beside church name.

Calvary UMC (47504): Add student pastor appointment (75%) Mountain View District:

Huddleston (475585)-Mount Horeb (476534)-discontinue charge; (Huddleston 475575)-disaffiliation

Mount Horeb (476534)- part-time 25%

Rev. Jay Carey, Superintendent, Living Waters District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Ettrick United Methodist Church on the Living Waters District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Living Waters District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Watson Memorial United Methodist Church be transferred to Matoaca United Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Jay Carey, Superintendent, Living Waters District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church (Emporia) on the Living Waters District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Living Waters District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church be transferred to Main Street United Methodist Church (Emporia) except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Jay Carey, Superintendent, Living Waters District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Vincent's Grove United Methodist Church on the Living Waters District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Living Waters District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Vincent's Grove United Methodist Church be transferred to Drewryville United Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Charles Ledlum-Bates, Superintendent, Mission Rivers District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Grace Oak Grove United Methodist Church on the Mission Rivers District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023 and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Mission Rivers District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Grace Oak Grove United Methodist Church be transferred to

Colonial Beach United Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Charles Ledlum-Bates, Superintendent, Mission Rivers District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Mount Vernon United Methodist Church on the Mission Rivers District be discontinued effective June 30,2023 and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Mission Rivers District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church be transferred to Saint Paul United Methodist Church (Caroline) except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Charles Ledlum-Bates, Superintendent, Mission Rivers District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that New Town United Methodist Church on the Mission Rivers District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023 and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Virginia Annual Conference Board of Trustees, and that the membership of New Town United Methodist Church be transferred to the General Roll of the Virginia Annual Conference, except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Denise Bates, Superintendent, Mountain View District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Bethel United Methodist Church (Concord) on the Mountain View District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Mountain View District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Bethel United Methodist Church (Concord) be transferred to Tyreeanna United Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Denise Bates, Superintendent, Mountain View District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Concord (Stuart) United Methodist Church on the Mountain View District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Mountain View District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Watson Memorial United Methodist Church be transferred to Providence United Methodist Church (Patrick Springs) except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Denise Bates, Superintendent, Mountain View District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Leesville United Methodist Church on the Mountain View District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Mountain View District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Leesville United Methodist Church be transferred to Lane Memorial United

Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Denise Bates, Superintendent, Mountain View District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Watson Memorial United Methodist Church on the Mountain View District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Mountain View District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Watson Memorial United Methodist Church be transferred to Concord United Methodist Church (Blairs) except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Sarah Calvert, Superintendent, Northern Virginia District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Ashburn Korean United Methodist Church on the Northern Virginia District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023, and the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Northern Virginia District Incorporated, a non-stock corporation and that the membership of Ashburn Korean United Methodist Church be transferred to Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Victor Gomez, Superintendent, Shenandoah River District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Saint Mark's United Methodist Church on the Shenandoah River District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023 and that all property, real and

personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to The Shenandoah River District, Incorporated, a non-stock corporation, and that the membership of Saint Mark's United Methodist Church be transferred to Marshall 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. Victor Gomez, Superintendent, Shenandoah River District, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Cedar Grove United Methodist Church on the Shenandoah River District be discontinued effective June 30, 2023 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to The Shenandoah River District, Incorporated, a non-stock corporation, and that the membership of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church be transferred to Mountain Valley 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.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized those who have been affected by the ministry of these congregations and then offered a prayer.

Rev. Bates moved the approval of Minutes Questions 10, 11, and 12. The motion was approved.

Rev. Rob Vaughn, Community of Faith UMC, Northern Virginia District, requested a moment of personal privilege offering thanksgiving for the work of the Cabinet during these difficult times.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called on Mr. Dwayne Stinson, newly elected Director, Connectional Ministries for Discipleship and Congregational Vitality, who shared a report recognizing new faith communities. As of July 1, the Virginia Annual Conference will

have planted 59 new faith communities since 2008, when the Annual Conference voted to support All Things New, an initiative to plant new faith communities and to support existing churches as they become more fruitful for the Kingdom. He further recognized Provision Church, Northern Virginia District, launched on January 1, 2023. Provision Church and its missional arm, Provision Kitchen, are a food-truck based faith community and training program, offering mobile, table-centered worship, and discipleship opportunities. Rev. Alyssa Densham is the planter.

Mr. Stinson also recognized that St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, Three Notch'd District, will launch a Korean-language faith community which will meet in their building as a sister congregation, beginning July 1, 2023. Rev. Philip Hong, St. Andrew's current pastor, is the planter. Mr. Stinson gave thanks for all these new faith communities and asked to keep the planters and their congregations in our prayers and then led us into a time of prayer.

Bishop Haupt-Johnson recognized Rev. Steven Summers, Assistant to the Bishop, to deliver the report from the Common Table. Rev. Summers shared that the written report can be found on page 51, *Book of Reports*. He encouraged the Annual Conference to read the reports found on pages 52-76 as they all fall under the umbrella of the Common Table. Rev. Summers reported that the Common Table has been working diligently to align the ministry resources of the Annual Conference with God's vision for us as a unified and vibrant Conference. He stated their focus is to resource the local churches, extension ministries, and boards and agencies. In addition, he reported the Common Table has been envisioning what this Conference would look like if it operated as permission-giving collaborative clouds of leadership rather than operational silos. It has been with this purpose the conference office has been undergoing major reorganization.

Rev. Summers moved to approve the following recommendation by the Board of Missional Ministries, that the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Missional Connections

Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; UMFS; Pinnacle Living; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

The motion was approved.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called upon Rev. Steven Summers and Ms. Martha Stokes, Co-Chairs, Conference Nominations, who presented their report, pages 80-82, *Book of Reports*, and in the Addendum found in the official packet.

Together, they offered for election the nominations to committees, commissions, boards, and agencies of the Annual Conference found on pages 80-82, *Book of Reports*, and those listed in the addendum and in addition the names of the Virginia United Methodist Historical Society Trustees which will be added to the official packet. The motion was approved without discussion.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson invited all who had just been elected to a conference board or agency to stand as they are able for this prayer of consecration.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson introduced Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, to introduce those who are being licensed for the first time, provisional deacon, provisional elders, associate member, recognition of orders, and ordained elders.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson asked the full members approved for ordination the historic questions from John Wesley again, this time before the full body of the Annual Conference.

Rev. Dee Sticklely-Minor, Representative, General Board of Global Missions, presented Ms. Kaylyn Duda and Mr. Daniel Mohr for mission service. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson offered a blessing for our Global Mission Fellows – International. Rev. Sticklely-Minor shared the advance special to be able to help financially support these missionaries.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson introduced a ministry moments video celebrating the formation of a new church, Common Table, Three Notch'd District.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Rev. Andrew Ware, President, Board of Communications, for the Communications Report. Rev. Ware shared that the Communications Board wishes to be a place to help local churches communicate among and with one another. He encouraged clergy to check their VAUMC email addresses. Further he encouraged leaders of the church to take digital communications and make them available to their local churches. He reported the Communications Board have been working with T-Mobile to offer 5G internet to local churches, especially the rural congregations.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Mr. Warren Harper and Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Co-chairs, General Conference Delegation, and Mr. Mark Elder, Lay Delegate to General Conference, for a report from the Virginia Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Together they reported the events that this delegation has worked with over the past few years since their election in 2019. Mr. Elder presented a plan that will be before the 2024 General Conference called The Christmas Covenant Regionalization Plan. This plan has been unanimously supported by the Virginia Delegation.

Rev. Freeman moved that we, the Virginia Conference affirm that the General Conference should support legislation to create regionalization for the future of The United Methodist Church.

Following discussion, the motion was tabled by Bishop Hauptert-Johnson for a vote at the Friday Morning Plenary Session.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Rev. Seungsoo “RJ” Jun, Associate Director of Serving, to speak about the Missions Social.

Rev. David Hindman, Retired Elder, Mission Rivers District, requested a moment of personal privilege in which he told two puns. Through other's pledges, he has raised over \$1,150 for the Conference Offering.

Rev. King made the following announcements:

The Conference Offering will be taken on Saturday morning following the Bible Study. In addition, there is still more help needed as we are only half-way through creating the 3,000 hygiene kits in the Special Events Center, the same place you went for registration.

The sign language interpreters for this session were Ms. Virginia Bryant and Ms. Katherine McMullen.

The plenary session recessed for the day at 3:47 PM.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 16, 2023

PLENARY SESSION

Rev. Drew Willson led the conference in "Singing our Faith" at 8:15 AM. Bible Study was led by Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, Associate Director of Serving. Rev. Jun shared ways to be involved in mission throughout the rest of this week at Annual Conference. The theme of the Bible Study was focused on the "Why" of mission. The definition he shared of what it means to be in mission is to "be a blessing to the Lord" and a blessing to all the world.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, resident bishop, Richmond Episcopal Area, called the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 8:58 AM.

Rev. Joshua King, Conference Secretary, announced that members can share their communication questions with the Board of Communication members from 12:00 till 2:00 PM in the Special Events Center at their display table.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Rev. Alan Layman, Chair, Minutes Committee, for the Minutes Committee Report. Rev. Layman moved the acceptance of the minutes for Sunday's virtual Laity Session, Wednesday's Clergy Executive Session, and yesterday's Plenary Sessions. The minutes were approved.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called upon Dr. Mirta Martin, President, Ferrum College, representing all Virginia United Methodist College Presidents. Dr. Martin recognized college presidents and our relationships with them. She invited the members to consider that we may all be here for "such a time as this." Dr. Martin shared the story of Queen Esther who through courage and great prayer found the strength to save her people. Now is the critical time to support Methodist colleges and Higher Education. She shared that it is imperative that we educate critical thinkers more than ever before. She thanked the foremothers and fathers to make education possible at Ferrum College.

Rev. Tim Hazlett, Chair, Board of Discipleship, and Rev. Matt Sergent, Member, Board of Discipleship, presented the One Matters Award. The One Matters Award recognizes a church who has seen growth in professions of faith from at least zero to one through discipleship. This award went to Glen Walton United Methodist Church of Eagle Rock, VA in the Valley Ridge District.

They also presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. The Denman Awards are given to persons who are recognized by the Annual Conference for the impact their lives and personal ministry have on those around them. The laity award recipient was Mr. Gerry Fuss, Bethia UMC, Living Waters District. The clergy recipient was the Rev. Robert "Bruce" Johnson, Urbanna UMC, Mission Rivers District. There were no youth recipients because there were no youth nominations.

Rev. ReNe'e Teague, Mount Laurel UMC, Living Waters District, rose for a moment of personal privilege. She was moved by the awards and wondered what the impact would be

if each person present (~1,600 people) would help just one person in their community this year.

Mr. Brian Christoffersen, Chair, Creation Justice Ministries Team, Board of Church and Society; and Mr. Jaydee Hanson, Member, Creation Justice Ministries Team, recognized Mr. Carl Wrenn, deceased member of River Road UMC, Three Notch'd District, for his many years of service and leadership. Mr. Christoffersen then presented the Green Church award to Burke United Methodist Church, Northern Virginia District. The Second Green Church award was given to St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Northern Virginia District. The sustaining Green Church Awards were presented to Bethlehem (Moneta) United Methodist Church, Mountain View District; Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church, Living Waters District; and Warsaw United Methodist Church, Mission Rivers District.

Rev. Ryan LaRock, Chair, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, recognized the campus ministers of the Virginia Conference. Rev. LaRock presented the Francis Asbury Award. This award goes to someone who is passionate about collegiate ministry with young persons. The award this year was given to Mr. John Dunning, former chair of Higher Education and Campus Ministries.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Ms. Jennifer Boyden, CEO; and Ms. Rebecca Huff, COO, Heart Havens. They thanked Bishop Hauptert-Johnson and the conference for their support and showed a video report. Following the video, they invited the members to visit them at their booth in the Special Events Center.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Mr. Christopher Henderson, President and CEO, Pinnacle Living. He recognized with him Ms. Martha Stokes, Rev. Charles Wickham, and the entire board. Mr. Henderson presented a video report to share with the Annual Conference what they have been doing at Pinnacle Living. Following the video, he invited members to contact Pinnacle Living for ways to engage their residents.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Ms. Nancy Toscano, President and CEO, UMFS. She introduced her mother who was present at Annual Conference. Ms. Toscano shared how her mother cared for her and her many siblings, her cousins, and her friends who were lost and troubled. Ms. Toscano also shared that her mother still actively parents her 55-year-old brother with schizophrenia. Because of her mother's example, Ms. Toscano stated she knows unconditional love. She recalled the 4,800 children in foster care in Virginia waiting to be loved unconditionally. She asked the congregations to make foster care a priority in their local church. She then shared a video report.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson requested Mr. Warren Harper and Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Co-chairs, General Conference Delegation, to re-read the motion from yesterday's Annual Conference session that had been tabled to this morning.

Rev. Freeman moved that we, the Virginia Conference affirm that the General Conference should support legislation to create regionalization for the future of The United Methodist Church. Discussion ensued.

Rev. Brian Johnson, Haymarket UMC, Northern Virginia District, moved to call the question. The motion passed.

The delegation motion passed.

Rev. King announced that the membership is invited to join in mission with the Rise Against Hunger packet making in the Special Events Center.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recessed the conference at 10:34 AM until 10:55 AM.

A Service of Remembrance began at 11:04 AM. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson offered a prayer for the families of those who are being remembered during this service.

The preacher for the service was Rev. Gary Miller, Retired Associate Member, Coastal Virginia District. Rev. Miller preached on the theme, "Can These Bones Live?" based on Ezekiel 37:1-14. His message centered on feeling broken and thanking God for grace and

mercy and the prophets around us who do not allow us to linger with those feelings. Sometimes our church, community, and nation feel as “dry” as we can feel. Ezekiel looks at the problem, and asks “what’s going on?” and asks the question, “Can these bones live?” Rev. Miller encouraged the members to preach the Word from the Lord when God gives it to us. “Has God given you a promise? Then preach it, speak to the dry bones! God has given us a mighty word to give to the church.”

Rev. Drew Willson and the house band led the music. The liturgists were: Rev. Luis “Ned” Alderman, High Street UMC, Living Waters District; Rev. Audrey Smith, The Gathering at Washington Street, Living Waters District; Rev. Eugene Kim, Pleasant Valley UMC, Northern Virginia District; Rev. Jo Ann Batteiger, Provisional Member, Northern Virginia District. The acolytes were: Mr. Samuel McCown, Warwick Memorial UMC, Mission Rivers District; Ms. Sarah-Grace Singleton, Cherrydale UMC, Northern Virginia District; Mr. Tony Clements, First - Fox Hill – Hampton, Mission Rivers District; Mr. Micah "Shea" Porter-Miller, Franconia (Fairfax) UMC, Northern Virginia District.

Also assisting in the service was Rev. Joshua King, Annual Conference Secretary.

During the service, memorial candles on the worship table were lit and persons stood as Rev. King read the names of clergy, clergy spouses, and the lay members of the Virginia Annual Conference who died during the previous year. The congregation joined in giving thanks to God for each of these faithful people.

The sign language interpreters for this session were Ms. Virginia Bryant, Ms. Nancy Martin, and Ms. Katherine McMullen.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson closed the morning session at 12:05 PM.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 16, 2023

PLENARY SESSION

Mr. Jim Bennett led the conference in “Singing our Faith” at 1:45 PM.

Rev. Seungsoo “RJ” Jun, Associate Director of Serving, announced that we have packaged almost 16,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson rang the gong for the first 10,000 meals.

Ms. Kamilah McAfee, President, Wesley Housing Development Corporation, gave a report on the Virginia Conference Relationship Partners, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation and Wesley Housing Development Corporation.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson presented a video from Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation. This video presentation shared the updates about their larger properties from around the Virginia Conference. In addition, it was announced that they will be renovating eight of their ten smaller properties.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson announced a ministry moment video about how games are being used as Fresh Expressions for ministry.

Mr. Neal Wise, Chair, Site Selection Committee, presented the committee’s report located on page 40, *Book of Reports*. The Site Selection Committee recommended that the 2026 Virginia Annual Conference be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia. The recommendation was approved.

Rev. Don Jamison, Sydenstricker UMC, Northern Virginia District, rose for a moment of personal privilege seeking prayer for those affected by the tornadoes in Oklahoma and Texas. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson offered a prayer.

Rev. Thomas Durrance, Chair, Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found on page 42, *Book of Reports*. The Commission, in consultation with the Cabinet, recommended the 2024 Minimum Compensation Schedule remain at the same levels as 2023. The Commission also reviewed the Floor Schedule, which is the amount a church must contribute to be eligible for an Equitable Compensation salary

support grant. For 2024, the Commission recommended the 2024 Floor Schedule remain at the same levels as 2023. Rev. Durrance moved for the recommendations' approval.

Ms. Terrie Chaplin, Wesley Chapel UMC, Mountain View District, moved to amend the report from the Equitable Compensation Committee to increase the minimum salary for all clergy by \$1,000 for 2024.

Motion was discussed.

Rev. Victor Gomez, Superintendent, Shenandoah River District, raised a point of order that this amendment needed a second before it can be discussed.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ruled this was in order. The amendment was then seconded.

Rev. J. Douglas Forrester, Superintendent, Valley Ridge District, raised a point of order, that this amendment should be in reference to the minimum salary, not an increase for all clergy.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ruled that this point of order was in order, and so the motion was re-formed to state, "the report from the Equitable Compensation Committee to increase the minimum salary by \$1,000 for full-time clergy in each category for 2024."

The amendment was discussed. The amendment passed.

The motion as amended was approved.

The report in whole as amended was approved.

Rev. Janine Howard, Fairlington UMC, Northern Virginia District, moved that a work group be created by the Annual Conference to study housing allowances for clergy and make recommendations to create consistent and equitable practices for setting the allowances, further suggest that conference commissions related to advocacy, Clergy Excellence/Board of Ordained Ministry, Equitable Compensation, CFA (and other as deemed necessary) be included in the study.

The motion was seconded and discussed. The motion was approved.

Ms. Stacey Anthony, President, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. “VUMPI,” presented the Board’s report found on pages 42-50, *Book of Reports*. Ms. Anthony presented five recommendations that began on page 46, *Book of Reports*. The preceding recommendations were presented for approval. The recommendations were approved.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized the youth cohort who asked for a moment of personal privilege. They gave welcome and recognition gifts to Bishop Hauptert-Johnson. During their report, Rev. Seungsoo “RJ” Jun, Associate Director of Serving, announced that the Conference had packed 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger, and the youngest member of the youth cohort rang the final gong. The youth cohort announced that they would be collecting for the Youth Service Fund at every exit at the end of this afternoon’s session.

Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Statistician and Treasurer, presented the 2022 Report of the Statistician, page 92, *Book of Reports*. Mr. Dommissie reported that these statistics were based upon the eight new districts, even though there were 16 districts for the first six months. He reported that the operating income had declined by 5.7% from 2021. He expects the reason for this is two-fold: 1) the poor performance in the financial markets and 2) ongoing uncertainty over whether a church would disaffiliate or not. During 2021, the local church expenses increased by 2.5%. He further reported the following statistics for 2022: average worship attendance was 95,239; 1,950 new professions of faith; 1,157 baptisms; 44,000 small group participants. In addition, 40,000 members served in missions reaching over 1.2 million people and that 6.1% of church revenues were used in mission. He highlighted that clergy salaries and benefits declined 4% as the number of full-time clergy decreased. Church staffing levels also declined. Missional giving though had increased 7.4% to \$12.8 million.

He further projected that because of the approximately 200 disaffiliations, there will be the following declines: 6.4% of Local Church Revenues, 10.7% of apportionments, 9.3% of membership, 13.2% of average worship attendance, 13.1% of professions of faith.

At the end of 2023, he projected that there will still be 900 churches with over a quarter of a million members in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Dommissie shared the report of the Treasurer, page 93, *Book of Reports*. He reported that 84.36% of church apportionments were collected with over 750 churches that paid 100% of conference apportionments. And in Second Mile Giving, there was a total of \$1,689,088 given. This was a \$550,000 increase over 2021.

The conference ended 2022 in a strong, liquid position with an approximate 4.3:1 asset to liability ratio with \$13.1 million in restricted and unrestricted net assets.

Unrestricted reserves decreased significantly by more than \$2.1 million which was the result of several factors. He further reported that we have a \$1 million budget shortfall, 85% of which can be attributed to three areas: 1) additional annual conference sessions, 2) technical infrastructure and security to the conference and district buildings, and 3) legal expenses.

He further reported, as was requested by previous Annual Conference action, that the legal expenses from 2022 were:

General Counsel: \$151,143

Disaffiliation - General: \$166,867

Disaffiliation - Local Church: \$77,746

Local Church Matters: \$52,009

Declaratory Decision: \$44,261

Incorporation of Districts: \$41,885

Boy Scouts: \$34,949

Formal Clergy Complaints: \$3,962

Total: \$572,823

He concluded his report as he announced that the audit should be completed by June 23rd, 2023.

Mr. William “Bill” Talley, IV, Chair, Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), recognized his team and then presented the Council’s report found on pages 100-108, *Book of Reports*. He reported that last year the Annual Conference donated over \$36,000 to our youth. He reported CF&A are recommending a 4% reduction to our local church apportionments. He shared a video to look further into the details led by Mr. David Dommissie, CFO.

Discussion ensued. The report was approved.

Ms. Kathy Lutman, Chair, Conference Board of Trustees, presented the Trustees report found on pages 83-84, *Book of Reports*. Ms. Lutman reported what had transpired thus far regarding ¶2553, 2016 *Book of Discipline as Amended in 2019*. The total disaffiliations at this time that have been approved is 107 local churches. Thus far, 70 of these local churches have closed. She reported that the projected churches to disaffiliate would be over 100 local churches at our October 7th Special Called Annual Conference. In order to be considered for this Special Called Annual Conference, local churches will need to have met with their District Superintendent by July 7th, 2023. She concluded by thanking the Board of Trustees, the Bishop, Center for Clergy Excellence, the Cabinet, the Treasurer’s Office, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and Mr. Andrew White, Trustees Attorney.

Bishop Haupt-Johnson called on Mr. Dwayne Stinson, Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship and Congregational Vitality, who shared about the Spirit-led spontaneous offering for youth and children from 2022 Annual Conference clarifying that

the money collected from last year is in a designated fund for children and youth, and is not the same as the Youth Service Fund. The Youth Service Fund is a fund that supports mission for youth, by youth, and to youth. This fund supports local projects for youth.

Rev. King, Conference Secretary, made the following announcements:

1. The youth will be collecting donations for the Youth Service Fund at the adjournment of this afternoon's session. Youth will be at every door as you leave to receive the collection.
2. The 5K Walk/Run will begin tomorrow at 6:30 AM. The meeting place for that event will be at Wasena Park on the Roanoke River, 1001 Winchester Ave, SW. Roanoke, VA.
3. Morning Eucharist will be celebrated tomorrow morning at 7:30 AM in the Special Events Center.
4. Those who will be participating in the processional, rehearsal will begin directly following the session.
5. The advocacy groups will be meeting at 7:30 PM in the Special Events Center.
6. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson's book recommendations are the following:

Leading Congregational Change:

Bolsinger, Tod. *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. IVP, 2018.

Harnish, James A. *You Only Have to Die: Leading Your Congregation to New Life*. Abingdon Press, 2010.

Navigating These Times:

The Arbinger Institute. *Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2022.

Carter, Kenneth H. *Unrelenting Grace: A United Methodist Way of Life*. Abingdon Press, 2023.

Ripley, Amanda. *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out*. Simon & Schuster, 2022.

Wheatley, Margaret. *Who Do We Choose to Be?: Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2017.

Living Into God's Call:

Colwell, Jessie Squires. *Blessed Wrestling: Reflections on Discerning God's Call*. New Room Books: 2021.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Eerdmans, 1994.

Two Essential Books for Ministry and Life:

Cloud, Henry. *Necessary Endings: The Employees, Businesses, and Relationships that All of Us Have to Give Up in Order to Move Forward*. Harper Business, 2011.

Grenny, J., Patterson, K., et al. *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes are High*. McGraw Hill, 2021. (*Crucial Accountability* and *Crucial Confrontations: Tools for Talking About Broken Promises, Violated Expectations, and Bad Behavior* are also good.)

Biblical Study:

Jennings, Willie James. *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.

Preaching:

Wagner, Kimberly R. *Fractured Ground: Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2023.

Great Novels I Read Recently:

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Demon Copperhead*. Harper, First Edition, 2022.

Doerr, Anthony. *All the Light We Cannot See*. Scribner, 2017.

Great Books to Listen to:

Honeyman, Gail. *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*.

Noah, Trevor. *Born a Crime*.

Patchett, Ann. *The Dutch House*. (read by Tom Hanks)

The sign language interpreters for this session were Ms. Virginia Bryant and Ms. Nancy Martin.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recessed the conference for the day at 3:51 PM.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 17, 2023

PLENARY SESSION

“Singing our Faith” was led at 8:15 AM by Rev. Drew Willson. Bible Study was led by Rev. Seungsoo “RJ” Jun, Associate Director of Serving. Today’s study was based on Acts 1:8. This scripture speaks of a Spirit coming and a Spirit sending. When doing the mission work we are called to, it is important that we remember we are doing the *Missio Dei*, the Mission of God and not our mission. This is to be a prayerful discernment process. Rev. Jun reminded the body that the mission we do is meant to be a “grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world.” (§121, 2016 *The Book of Discipline*). Rev. Jun announced that we were the number one giver in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference to Second Mile Giving with a total of \$1,993,126.32 given. Rev. Jun introduced Global Board of Missions Missionaries from Cambodia who gave thanks to the Virginia Conference for their support in transforming lives in Cambodia. Rev. Jun summarized that God sends us

to our communities, to be in mission together, and to be in mission to the ends of the world. Rev. Jun shared the importance of supporting our missionaries who are doing this work of bringing the gospel to the ends of the world.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, resident bishop, Richmond Episcopal Area, called the morning plenary session to order at 9:02 AM.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called on Rev. David Magruder, Chair, Kit Collection. Rev. Magruder reported that we have collected 14,745 kits and over 1,000 pounds of food. During the Annual Conference the members assembled 3,170 Women Hygiene Kits; 20,000 Rise Against Hunger packets; and 77 blood products saving 231 lives.

Mr. John Meeuwissen, Chair, Missional Ministries Team, announced the Annual Conference Offering. The goal of the offering for 2023 is \$150,000. Through this offering, the Virginia Conference will support refugee resettlement, food insecurity in the Commonwealth, and Partnerships of Hope's leadership programs in Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia, Haiti, Vietnam, and with Native Americans.

Rev. Alan Layman, Chair, Minutes Committee, presented his report. The minutes of the Friday morning plenary session and Friday afternoon plenary session were reviewed and corrected. The minutes were approved.

Rev. Layman then stated, "In addition, the Minutes Committee will meet on Wednesday June 28th, 2023, to complete the review and certification of the minutes including this morning's session." He moved the minutes for this session to be approved in advance. The motion was approved.

Rev. Jennifer Day and Rev. Lauren Wright, Co-Chairs, Commission on Status and Role of Women (COSROW), gave their monitoring report. Rev. Day shared that though we see more women clergy in leadership and more ethnicities represented in local churches, we still have work to do in the acceptance of women in leadership. Rev. Wright shared the gift

it had been to speak with women of all ages and how they have been celebrated, but also painfully excluded. Rev. Wright invited the women who had experienced sexism in ministry to stand. Rev. Day shared a part of the work of the monitoring committee is to hold up a mirror to the Annual Conference to see where and who has been speaking and has power in the Annual Conference. She further encouraged the members to reflect on these upcoming reports in how we strive to have more inclusivity in the Church.

Mr. Bill Davidson, Retired Elder, Three Notch'd District, rose for a moment of personal privilege giving thanks to Rev. Rob Vaughn for his and his colleagues' generous service on the behalf of the Annual Conference throughout the process involved in the declaratory decisions this Annual Conference requested last year.

Rev. Hung Su Lim, Trinity United Methodist Church (Richmond), Three Notch'd District, requested Annual Conference Planning Committee to offer childcare at the next Annual Conference. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared that we will have this offered next year.

Rev. Tizzy Walker, Marquis Memorial UMC, Valley Ridge District, rose for a moment of personal privilege updating the Conference that closed captioning will be made available, but asked that we continue using American Sign Language Interpreters.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recessed the Annual Conference for a 10-minute break to prepare for the Celebration of Retirement Service at 9:35 AM.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson recognized Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, Pensions and Related Benefits, at 9:47 AM to begin the Celebration of Retirement Service for the retirees of 2023. The scripture passage Ecclesiastes 3 was read. Mr. Fuller recognized the retirees along with their spouses. Presiding over this service was Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson. Liturgists were: Rev. Judy Oguich, Trinity United Methodist Church (Richmond), Three Notch'd District; Rev. Carl Perez, Galilee UMC, Mission Rivers District; Rev. Stan

Hargraves, Retired Elder, Living Waters District; Rev. Seong Jae Jo, Thrasher Memorial UMC, Valley Ridge District.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson led the membership in a blessing over the retirees.

Following the blessing, she transferred the mantle from the retirees, represented by Rev. Hargraves, to the incoming ordinands, represented by Rev. Jo.

During this transfer, the story from 1 Kings was remembered where the mantle was passed from Elijah to Elisha.

Following the recognition of retirees, Rev. Joshua King, Conference Secretary, made an announcement regarding the upcoming Service for the Ordering of Ministry.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson presided at the Service for the Ordering of Ministry at 11:11 AM. Assisting in this service were: Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. Darcey Johnson, Chair, Order of Elders; Rev. David Edinger, Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Licensed Local Pastors.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson reminded the body of all Christians of their baptism and their common call to ministry. She recognized and named the Lay Supply and Certified Lay Ministers for the coming appointment year. They were questioned and charged. She commissioned and consecrated a deaconess. She, along with Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader, on behalf of all laity, with Rev. Estep, Rev. Blakely, Rev. Johnson, and Rev. Edinger, presented the candidates for licensing, commissioning, recognition of orders, and ordination. The Annual Conference confirmed their assent and promised to uphold them in their ministry.

Rev. Johnson read Luke 10:1-12, during which members of the youth cohort dramatized the scripture passage. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson preached the theme, “Jesus Sends Out the 72.” Bishop Hauptert-Johnson reminded the body of the theme of the sermon she

delivered on the first day of the Conference of getting out beyond the walls and how this passage from Luke is sending the disciples out beyond the walls to the alien territories of Samaria. The symbology of the 72 being sent represents the 72 nations known at this time, that this news is for all people of every nation. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared that when you go to places unknown, God is already there to meet you. She further encouraged simplicity as Jesus tells them to bring nothing with them. She shared the symbolic nature of the clothing the priestly people wear. Relating to the passage about eating the food that is placed before you, she taught the lesson that clergy are not to seek the better appointment but love the people you are appointed to. She encouraged and sent the clergy to go and build joy in the local church in sharing the Gospel that the Kingdom of God has come near.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson examined and licensed, commissioned, recognized orders, and ordained the 2023 candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service and in the Business of the Annual Conference. Following the licensing, commissioning, recognition of orders, and ordination of Elders, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson invited those feeling led by the Holy Spirit to inquire into Christian ministry to come forward, be greeted, and prayed with during the special music.

Music for the service was led by Rev. Drew Willson and house band. Additional members assisting in this service included Rev. Jessie Colwell, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence and Rev. Crystal Sygeel, Associate Director for Call and Candidacy, Center for Clergy Excellence.

Following the service, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson invited Rev. Denise Bates, Dean, Cabinet, to present the appointments for the Conference. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson fixed the appointments as they were distributed digitally (www.vaumc.org/2023appointments), listing the appointments made for clergy in the coming year. The appointments were fixed as presented on the website. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson invited the District Superintendents

one by one with their lay representative to be prayed over, with clergy/laity from respective districts being invited to stand. Additionally, names of clergy moving to those districts were displayed on the screen.

Bishop Haupt-Johnson thanked the cabinet for their work.

With the “Sending Forth” by Bishop Sue Haupt-Johnson, the 241st Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was adjourned at 12:45 PM with a prayer of blessing and the singing of “Make Us One Lord” led by Rev. Drew Willson and house band.

American Sign Language Interpreters were Ms. Katherine McMullen, Ms. Nancy Martin, and Ms. Virginia Bryant.

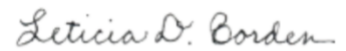
Signed: Rev. Joshua S. King, Annual Conference Secretary,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Joshua S. King in blue ink, featuring the initials 'Rev.' and 'AK'.

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

Handwritten signature of Rev. Claire B. Miller in blue ink.

Minutes Committee certified on June 28th, 2023 signed below:

Handwritten signature of Alan Lynn in blue ink.Handwritten signature of Alan Wan in blue ink.Handwritten signature of Jiyeon Kim in blue ink.Handwritten signature of Sandra S. Kuleba in blue ink.Handwritten signature of Alan Borden in blue ink.Handwritten signature of Leticia D. Borden in blue ink.