

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

MAY 6, 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, MAY 6TH, 2023 AT 9:00 AM

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE CENTER

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

At 9:00 AM, Bishop Peter Weaver, Retired Bishop, filled in for Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, as he welcomed the members and guests of the Virginia Annual Conference and called to order this special session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop Weaver reminded the conference of the Maundy Thursday service we participated in a month ago to share the message that we are called to love one another as Christ loves us. Bishop Weaver recognized Ms. Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference Lay Leader, to offer an opening prayer.

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

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

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

Bishop Weaver then led us through some practice voting.

Bishop Weaver shared the disciplinary understanding of how this Special Called Annual Conference came to be. He expressed the singular reason for this Annual Conference was to vote on the ratification of disaffiliation of 64 churches under ¶12553 in *The 2016 Book of Discipline* as amended by the 2019 General Conference. In addition, Bishop Weaver shared that any other motions outside of this specific purview will be considered out of order.

Bishop Weaver 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. The motion was approved.

Bishop Weaver recognized Rev. Joshua King, Conference Secretary.

Rev. King moved that the minutes for this Special Annual Conference Session be approved in advance.

The motion was approved.

Bishop Weaver recognized Ms. Kathy Lutman, President, 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 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,

Living Waters District

1. Arvonias UMC
2. Beulah UMC – Keysville
3. Centenary UMC – Scottsville
4. Jamieson Memorial UMC
5. Magnolia UMC
6. Memorial UMC – Appomattox
7. Mount Cana UMC
8. Mount Harmony UMC – Charlotte
9. Mount Pleasant UMC – Meherrin
10. New Hope UMC – Randolph
11. Rocky Mount UMC – Dillwyn
12. Southall Memorial UMC
13. Whaleyville UMC

Mission Rivers District

14. Afton UMC
15. Bethany UMC – Hampton

16. Bethel UMC – Hanover
17. Fairfields UMC
18. Mount Horeb UMC – Mattaponi
19. Old Church UMC
20. Olive Branch UMC
21. Salem UMC – Gloucester

Mountain View District

22. Anderson Chapel UMC
23. Bethany UMC – Forest
24. Bethany UMC – Franklin
25. Chatham Heights UMC
26. Ephesus UMC – Bedford
27. Evington UMC
28. Gogginsville UMC
29. Granbery UMC
30. Hickory Grove UMC
31. Hopewell UMC – Dry Fork
32. Lambs UMC
33. Maple Grove UMC
34. Mead Memorial UMC
35. Mount Comfort UMC
36. Mount Pleasant UMC

37. Nicopolis UMC
38. Oakland UMC – Blairs
39. Oakland UMC – Goode
40. Ridgeway UMC
41. Saint John’s UMC – Danville
42. Salem UMC – Patrick Springs
43. Trinity UMC – Appomattox
44. Wilsons UMC
45. Zion UMC – Gretna

Northern Virginia District

46. Nokesville UMC

Shenandoah River District

47. Fairview UMC – Frederick
48. Furnace UMC
49. Hensley UMC
50. Mount Pleasant UMC – Elkton
51. Oak Level UMC – Fort Valley
52. Port Republic UMC
53. Round Hill UMC – Frederick

Three Notch’d District

54. Corinth UMC – Goochland
55. Lebanon UMC – Hanover

56. Macedonia UMC – Louisa

57. Mount Moriah UMC

58. Poplar UMC

59. Walkers UMC

60. Wesleyan UMC – Amherst

Valley Ridge District

61. Belview UMC

62. Fletcher Chapel UMC

63. Mount Lebanon UMC – Pembroke

64. Mount Zion UMC – Glasgow

Bishop Weaver spoke to the memories from each of these congregations that shared in the common ministry of sharing the love of Jesus.

Ms. Lutman then stated, “which churches, collectively, will be referred to hereafter as the ‘Subject Churches’ and each, a ‘Subject Church.’”

Ms. Lutman then presented the process through which each of these local congregations had gone 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 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 (hereafter, 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 Subject Church elected, by a two-thirds or greater vote, to approve the disaffiliation agreement dated May 6, 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 (hereafter, the "Disaffiliation Agreement"); 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 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 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 each 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 Weaver thanked Ms. Lutman. He then stated that the resolution to ratify these 64 churches was before the body. He then invited the conference into a moment of prayer before entering parliamentary procedures of discussion.

Following a couple of questions, and no further discussion, Bishop Weaver called for the vote.

The resolution passed.

Bishop Weaver concluded this Special Called Annual Conference. He thanked those who have continued in the ministry. He then led the conference into a time of silent prayer for those congregations and pastors who are beginning new paths, and then called for prayer for the congregations and pastors who are remaining United Methodist. He then adjourned the conference at 9:48 AM.

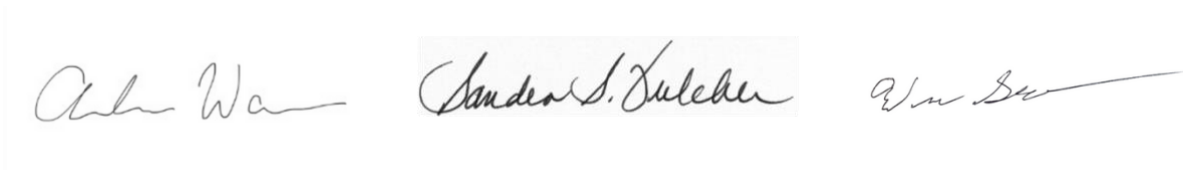
Signed: Rev. Joshua S. King, Annual Conference Secretary,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Joshua S. King, consisting of the word "Rev." followed by stylized initials "JK".

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

Handwritten signature of Rev. Claire B. Miller, written in cursive.

Minutes Committee certified on May 9th, 2023 signed below:

Three handwritten signatures in cursive, appearing to be "Alan Wan", "Landon S. Zulecker", and "Van B...".

Leticia D. Borden