

V. DAILY PROCEEDINGS
232nd Session
The Virginia Annual Conference
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, Virginia
June 20-22, 2014

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, June 20, 2014

The 232nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference opened in the Hampton Roads Convention Center with the Clergy Executive Session in Ballrooms D, E, F and G and the Laity Session in Halls B and C.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bishop Young Jin Cho, resident bishop of the Richmond Area, called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 1:01 pm. He welcomed the members of the clergy session, and expressed appreciation to the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and those who had prepared for the session. Rev. Herbert Brynildsen, Chair of the Order of Deacons, Rev. Frances T. Cooper, Chair of the Order of Elders, and Rev. Roger Dowdy of Cross-Paths Ministries in Richmond led in worship.

Rev. Edward R. Walker, Chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, referred to the printed booklet of Minute Questions and an addendum sheet, and pointed out the page for submitting corrections. He moved that the bar of the clergy session be the three sections on the left facing the platform, and that the section on the right be for members of the clergy session with voice but without vote. The motion was approved. Rev. Walker moved that staff members for the bishop and the director of ministerial services, the sign language interpreters, diaconal ministers, and the conference chancellor be admitted into the clergy session with voice but without vote. The motion was approved.

Rev. Walker 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. Members of the clergy who were retiring at this session of annual conference were invited to stand for recognition. Persons receiving their first appointment as local pastors in all categories were invited to the platform to be recognized by the members. Bishop Cho asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained. Candidates for commissioning, ordination, recognition of orders and transfer into the conference from other denominations were presented and approved. Appropriate recognition was given to all persons being received into a new relationship with the Annual Conference at the current session.

All Minute Questions were passed with the required majorities. Rev. Walker thanked Rev. B. Failles for his 14 years of service on the Administrative Review Committee. He also thanked Rev. Downs and her assistant Kristen Hart. Bishop Cho introduced future Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, Rev. Meredith McNabb, and Ms. Terri Biggins, who is now serving as the administrative assistant to the Bishop. He also thanked Rev. Walker and Rev. Downs for their work. Bishop Cho dismissed the clergy session at 2:19 p.m.

LAITY SESSION

Cross Purposes, the praise band of Wellspring United Methodist Church, York River District, sang a medley of songs as the lay members gathered on Friday afternoon in the Convention Center. Members of the band were Ms. Peel Hawthorne (guitar, vocals), Mr. Kenny Johnson (keyboard), Mr. Gene Kittell (bass, vocals), Mr. Eric Plato (percussion), Ms. Lori Shahan (vocals), Ms. Diane Shakes (keyboard) Mr. Tom Williams (vocals), Ms. Gail Scullion (vocals), Mr. Tim Scullion (guitar, vocals).

Mr. Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed the lay members of annual conference at 1:04 pm. Mr. Johnnie Morris, Farmville District Lay Leader, guided all in prayer. He asked all present to stand in worship as Cross Purposes sang, "Draw Me Close to You." Mr. Dan Dietze, Fredericksburg District Lay Leader, Ms. Theresa Duke, Richmond Associate District Lay Leader, and Alex Woody, Calling 21 Intern, St. Lukes UMC, York River District led in reading Ephesians 4: 1-16. Ms. Peggy Oakes, Danville District Lay Leader, introduced the Liturgical Dancer, Mistress Gabby Burge, a 12-year old from Wellspring UMC, in Williamsburg. Mr. Harper discussed methods of creative worship.

Cross Purposes again led the gathered in the praise song, "Breathe." Mr. Bob Forrest, Charlottesville District Lay Leader, introduced Mr. Austin Parker, Danville District, Mr. Josh Bowman, Farmville District, Ms. Leigh Wrabley, Lynchburg District and Mr. Brian Mateer, First United Methodist Church, Danville District Director of Youth Ministries, to discuss the Fusion 14 Youth event. His presentation was accompanied by a video. Ms. Janie Nuttall, Richmond District Lay Leader, introduced Rev. Lynn Litchfield, Chaplain Service Prison Ministry, who presented a dramatic monologue about prison ministry followed by a presentation about the Chaplain Services of Virginia. Mr. Harper introduced Rev. Charles Reynolds, from the Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. who spoke of clergy wellness. Mr. Johnnie Draughon, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry and Mr. David Bailey, Conference Associate Director of Lay Servant Ministry, presented a video about Lay Servant Ministry, recognized all Lay Servants present and offered prayer. Mr. Harper thanked the laity for their attention and presence. Ms. Joyce Duncan, Lynchburg District Lay Leader, offered closing prayer for the session. The Laity Session of the 232nd Virginia Annual Conference ended at 2:43 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
 Sandra C. Harper, Acting Secretary, York River District Member-At-Large*

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, June 20, 2013
PLENARY SESSION

Bishop Young Jin Cho called the first plenary of the 232nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 3:02 pm. Rev. Joanna S. Dietz, Saint George's United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, led the members and guests in singing the Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." An opening prayer was offered by Rev. Raymond F. Wrenn, in his 74th year as a member of the annual conference. Ms. Noelle Schoeman, a member of Loudon United Methodist Church, Winchester District, who was attending her first Annual Conference, also offered a prayer.

Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to the members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Sung Il Yoo and the York River District for their preparatory work. He also thanked Rev. Dietz for serving as the Music Leader for Annual Conference. Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to Rev. Stephen Bray, Chair of the Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarian for the afternoon session and Bishop Ray Chamberlain for parliamentary consultation. The sign language interpreters for the 232nd session were Ms. Virginia Bryant, Ms. Christina York-Nunez, and Ms. Shirley Musik.

Bishop Cho introduced York River District Superintendent Joe Carson for words of welcome. Rev. Carson welcomed Mr. Booker Brown Jr., York River District Lay Leader, onto the stage. Mr. Brown recognized Rev. Kiok Chang Cho, wife of Bishop Cho, and Ms. Donnie Carson, wife of Rev. Carson.

Rev. Carson acknowledged Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, and remarked on the recent death of his wife Ms. Eva Eustler. Rev. Carson acknowledged Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes Jr., and his wife, Ms. Mera Hughes, who were not present at the session but will attend later. Rev. Carson recognized Bishop Ray W. Chamberlain Jr. and his wife, Ms. Martha Chamberlain. He then acknowledged Bishop C. P. Minnick, Bishop Timothy Whitaker and his wife, Ms. Melba Whitaker, who were unable to attend. Bishops Chamberlain, Minnick, Eutsler, Hughes and Whitaker are retired bishops and former members of the Virginia Annual Conference.

Rev. Carson moved to establish the bar of the conference as consisting of the platform and all seats in the hall with the exception of the areas within the orange tape. The area at the front right side of the hall was excluded as were two sections at the back of the hall. It was further resolved that the technical and camera platforms be considered part of the bar. The motion was approved. Rev. Carson moved that the schedule printed on pages 7 and 8 in the *Book of Reports* be adopted as the agenda, and that the following orders of the day be established: the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion on Friday at 7:30 p.m., worship on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and the Service for the Ordering of Ministry on Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and worship on Sunday at 11 a.m. The motion was approved.

Rev. Carson nominated Rev. Susan M. Reaves as Conference Secretary for the remainder of the 2013-2016 quadrennium. He then moved for the election of Rev. Delano Douglas and Ms. Beverly Myers as assistant secretaries to the Annual Conference, and of Mr. Neill Caldwell as Editor of the Journal. The motion was approved. Rev. Carson then made a motion to elect the Annual Conference committees found on page 38 of the *Book of Reports* comprised of the Committee on Resolutions, the Committee on Memoirs and the tellers. He moved that Rev. Tim Tate replace Rev. Mike Sanborn as the clergy teller from the Roanoke District. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves announced that Meeting Room 106 on the main level of the Convention Center was designated as a Prayer Room throughout the Annual Conference. Rev. Reaves noted that the United Methodist Family Services report should be added to the Consent Agenda. She reminded members that all proposed amendments to the Consent agenda must be submitted before 4:00 p.m. Friday, June 20. Rev. Reaves asked members to bring to the secretary's desk a written copy of all motions and reports made from either the podium or the floor. She stated that with the exception of Consent Agenda requests, electronic versions of motions and reports were preferred.

Rev. Stephen G. Bray, chair of the Rules Committee, moved the suspension of the rules in order to have time to present his report. The rules were suspended. Rev. Bray presented the report of the Rules Committee found on pages 38-40 of the *Book of Reports* and corrections on the green addendum. I.C.6. Delete b. and renumber. Add the following new paragraph:

“For the election of delegates to the General and the Jurisdictional Conference the following clergy are eligible to vote:

- a. Active and retired members (elders and deacons)
- b. Active and retired provisional members
- c. Active and retired associate members
- d. Part-time and full-time local pastors who

1) Have completed the educational requirements (Five Year Course of Study, equivalency for Five-Year Course of Study based on approval of the General Board of Higher Education Ministry and Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry or an M. Div. from an approved seminary). Based on Judicial Council Ruling 1181, Analysis and Rationale, Paragraph 8

AND

- 2) Have been under uninterrupted appointment for two years.

Retired local pastors (including those under appointment) are NOT eligible to vote for the election of delegates (2012 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 316.6).”

The Rules Committee further requests permission to rework the section at the end of the Rules on page 33 of the 2014 *Book of Reports* entitled “Voting Rights Related to Name Badge Colors” to reflect changes in the 2012 *Book of Discipline*. The motion passed.

Bishop Young Jin Cho shared the Episcopal Address. The address focused on the necessity of God's presence in the midst of Conference if we desire an exciting Spirit filled gathering. He lifted up examples of renewal and revitalization within the Conference and remarked, “No spiritual vitality, no vital congregations.”

Ms. Shannon Sixbey, Co-Chair of the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women, reported on the monitoring process. The report of the Commission can be found on page 81 of the *Book of Reports*.

Rev. Susan Reaves announced that following the adjournment of the afternoon session a representative of the signers of Resolution One and a representative of the Evangelical Fellowship will share reflections on the resolution. This will be followed by a time of conversation and prayer.

Rev. Larry Davies, superintendent of the Lynchburg District and Dean of the Cabinet, presented the Report of the Cabinet found on pages 40-43 of the *Book of Reports*. He then presented the nominees listed on the gold colored sheet in members' official packets for election to District Committees on Ministry. Those included on the sheet were elected.

Rev. Davies presented the nominees listed on a violet colored sheet in the official packets for District Boards of Church Location and Building. The nominees were elected.

Rev. Davies presented the remaining sections of Minute Questions (MQ) 14, 15 and 16. The following amendments were made to Minute Question 14: under 'a,' Accotink Cana should be removed; Floris at Reston on the Arlington District and Ignite United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District should be added. Minute Question 16 was also amended: as of July 1, 2008, Chatham Heights-Granbery United Methodist Charge separated; Chatham Heights United Methodist Church became a part-time station appointment; Granbery United Methodist Church formed part of the Anderson Chapel-Granbery United Methodist Church. Under MQ 15 b) Fellowship Church on the Danville District should be listed with the designation PCUSA under the heading Other Denomination.

Rev. Davies invited several district superintendents to offer motions on discontinued churches.

Rev. Brad Phillips, Elizabeth River District Superintendent, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Asbury United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective July 1, 2014 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River District Board of Mission and that the membership of Asbury United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be transferred to Charity United Methodist Church except for any member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church, their membership should be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Phillips moved the following:

Be it resolved that Asbury-Cradock United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective June 26, 2014 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River District Board of Mission and that the membership of Asbury-Cradock United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be transferred to Indiana United Methodist Church except for any member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church, their membership should be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Bob Parks, Farmville District Superintendent, moved the following:

Be it resolved that Rocky Run United Methodist Church, North Brunswick Charge be discontinued effective July 1, 2014 and “the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred” to the Farmville District Board of Mission and that the membership of Rocky Run United Methodist Church be transferred to Lebanon United Methodist Church, North Brunswick Charge except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Parks moved the following:

Be it resolved that Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, North Mecklenberg Charge be discontinued effective July 1, 2014 and “the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall be transferred” to the Farmville District Board of Mission and that the membership of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church be transferred to Shiloh United Methodist Church, North Mecklenberg Charge except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Ted Smith, Fredericksburg District Superintendent moved the following:

Be it resolved that Grant United Methodist Church (Westmoreland County, Virginia) be discontinued effective July 1, 2014 and the title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall be transferred to the Fredericksburg District Trustees and that the membership of Grant United Methodist Church be transferred to Lebanon United Methodist Church except for each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to another church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Dave Rochford, Staunton District Superintendent moved the following:

Be it resolved that Augusta Springs United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be discontinued effective July 1, 2014 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Staunton District Board of Missions; and that the membership of Augusta Springs United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be transferred to St. Paul's (Craigsville) United Methodist Church, except for any member who

directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Joe Carson, York River District Superintendent moved the following:

Be it resolved that Noland Memorial United Methodist Church on the York River District be discontinued effective July 1, 2014 and that all property, real and personal, tangible, intangible of the church be transferred to the York River District Board of Trustees, and that the membership of Noland Memorial United Methodist Church on the York River District be transferred to First United Methodist Church, Newport News, except that each member who should direct his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Davies offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministries of the churches that were closed.

Rev. Mark V. Ogren, Director of the Center for Congregational Excellence, presented new faith communities, beginning on July 1, 2014:

- Rev. Tim Ward is being appointed as the planter for Floris United Methodist Church at Reston on the Arlington District. Rev. Tom Berlin is the anchor church pastor.

- 2) The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, in partnership with the Old Dominion University Wesley Foundation and the Conference Church Development Team, will plant a new faith community, Ignite, that will oversee campus ministry (Elizabeth River District). Rev. Brandon Robbins is being appointed as the planter.

- 3) People United in Christ United Methodist Church will be a new faith community on the Staunton District in Buena Vista, Virginia. This new faith community is being led by a lay person, Ms. Danta Thompson.

Bishop Cho greeted the new church-start pastors and their families, and offered a prayer of commissioning.

Rev. Reaves, Conference Secretary, reported that no items had been removed from the Consent Agenda. Bishop Young Jin Cho presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*): page 100, Africa University Endowment Fund; page 90, Bishops' Foundation; page 99, Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center; page 63, Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations; page 96, Chaplain Service Ministries of Virginia, Inc.; page 75, Church Development Team; page 78, Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.; page 94, Credit Union, Virginia United Methodist, Inc; page 80, Commission on Disabilities; page 80, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 57, Board of Higher Education Ministries; page 84, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development; page 97, Industrial and Commercial Ministries; page 45, Board of Laity; page 88, Board of Ordained Ministry; page 94, Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS; page 91, Pell Foundation; page 92, Preachers' Relief Society; page 92, Retired Clergy Housing Corporation; page 91, Small Church Leadership Team; page 98, Society of St. Andrew, page 81, Commission on Status and Role of Women; page 89, Conference Board of Trustees; page 46, United Methodist Men; page 46, United Methodist Women; page 58, Virginia Conference United Methodist-Related Schools; page 97, Virginia Council of Churches; page 89, Wellness Ministries; page 93, Society for Wesleyan Studies; and on the green addendum, United Methodist Family Services. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Bishop Cho adjourned the regular Conference session. Dr. Stephen Mansfield, president of the Historical Society called the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society to order and presented his report, including the list of trustees found on the "ADDENDUM TO THE *BOOK OF REPORTS*" sheet in the official packet of the *Book of Reports* with two changes; the names of Rev. Roger C. Balcom and Mr. Darrell F. Shepherd were removed from the list of Society Trustees. The list was confirmed by the Annual Conference. The annual meeting of the Historical Society was then adjourned.

Bishop Cho reminded members and guests about the potato drop at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday and the conference mission offering to be taken during the worship service on Saturday morning. The Sacrament of the Eucharist will be celebrated tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room. The plenary session recessed for dinner at 4:29 p.m.

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION

A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion began at 7:30 p.m. Worship leader for the service was Bishop Young Jin Cho. Rev. Rhonda Van-Dyke Colby, Vice President for Student Life at Shenandoah University, Winchester District, preached on the theme, "Going to Seed" based on John 12:24-26. During the seating of families, Miss Devin Haley, soloist, St. George United Methodist Church, Alexandria District and the children's choir from First United Methodist Church Fox Hill, York River District, sang "This Little Light of Mine." The deacon assisting the Bishop was Rev. Janet Hawkins, Fort Hill United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District. The liturgists were Rev. Barry Foster, pastor of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Danville District; Mr. Aldo Gonzalez, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District and Ms. Hannah Perkins, Crewe United Methodist Church, Farmville District. Also assisting in the service was Rev. Susan Reaves, Secretary of the Conference and pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District. Rev. Doug Gestwick, pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, York River District was the communion coordinator. The anthem, "Go Light Your World" was sung by the Ebenezer Worship Team, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District. Members of the group included Dave Bryant, (lead vocals, acoustic guitar), Chris Baumann (keyboard), Scott Camden (lead guitar), Mike Johnson (drums), Allan Pacquette, (electric guitar, acoustic guitar, mandolin) and Barry Titus (bass). Mike Erdley, Kristen Erdley and Vicki Russ provided vocals.

Visuals were coordinated by Rev. Celeste Heath, pastor of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Alexandria District. The worship team leaders were Rev. Christina M.H. Perkins, pastor of Renwick and Goldfield United Methodist Churches, Iowa Conference and Rev. David Vaughan, pastor of Evangelical United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District. The Acolytes were Master Ian Thompson and Master Taylor Thompson, Saint Luke's United Methodist Church, York River District.

During the service, memorial candles on the worship table were lit and persons stood as Rev. Reaves, read the names of clergy, diaconal ministers, clergy spouses and the lay member 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. Bishop Cho presided in the service of Holy Communion. Following the benediction, the evening session was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, June 21, 2014

At 8:15 the Ebenezer Worship Team led the gathering in singing.

Bishop Young Jin Cho greeted the conference at 8:31 a.m., and introduced Dr. Elmer Colyer to lead the teaching sessions for the 232nd Session. Dr. Colyer is a professor of Historical Theology and Wesley Studies at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa and has pastored many small United Methodist congregations. He brought greetings from the Seminary. His presentation focused on renewal within the Church. He noted that when we use power or the *Book of Discipline* to solve differences, it will inevitably lead to division. Watching over one another in love is what connects us. He lifted up Jesus' words from John 15:5, "I am the vine..."

Bishop Cho gave thanks to Dr. Colyer for bringing the message the Conference needed to hear. Bishop Cho called the session to order and expressed appreciation to Rev. Bart Weakley a member of the Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarian for this morning's session and to Bishop Ray Chamberlain for being available for consultation.

Rev. Stanley A. Thompson presented the report of the Minutes Committee. He moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Clergy Executive Session, the Friday afternoon plenary, and the evening worship service. The minutes were approved.

Bishop Cho expressed his appreciation for Mr. Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader. Mr. Harper delivered the Laity Address. The theme was the need to focus and see a shifting mission field with accurate vision. He called us to be joined together in the love of Christ and concluded with John Wesley's covenant prayer.

Mr. Thomas Nealley, Chair of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found on pages 47-50 of the *Book of Reports*. The Commission recommended that the Equitable Salary Fund apportionment for 2015 be \$500,000. The recommendation was approved. Mr. Nealley presented the minimum compensation schedule for 2015: full connection pastors, \$40,000; probationers and associate members, \$36,500; local pastors, \$34,000. The schedule was approved. He presented the floor schedule for 2015 as well: full connection pastor, \$28,000; probationer or associate member, \$25,600; local pastor, \$24,000. The floor schedule was approved.

Mr. Nathaniel L. Bishop, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), presented a preliminary report on budgetary matters. He noted that the Conference is doing a good job of containing expenses and reserves have grown. Receipts have grown and Mr. Bishop said, "I hope we will

return to where we were before the financial downturn.” Rev. Steve Summers, Vice-Chair of CFA, presented the proposed budget. CFA considered the recommendation from the 2013 Conference on a cost of living increase for District Superintendents. It was felt that the housing allowance built into the Superintendents’ compensation covered this.

Rev. Clarence R. Brown Jr., Chair of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) moved to suspend the rules in order to allow time to present the reports and recommendations of VUMPI found on pages 101-112 of the *Book of Reports*. The rules were suspended. He noted the effect of the Affordable Care Act on benefits. VUMPI is fully compliant. Rev. Brown presented Recommendations 1 through 6. The Recommendations were approved.

Rev. Larry Davies, Lynchburg District Superintendent and Chair of the Bishop’s All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations Task Force, presented the report on All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations, located on pages 50-51. He called upon Ms. Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence, who encouraged us to be more accountable to one another spiritually. She presented a video on Discipleship Circles. Rev. Davies concluded with prayer.

Bishop Cho invited Rev. John Peters, Executive Director of the Association of Educational Institutions, to recognize the six conference-related educational institutions. Five presidents were present, including Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, President of Ferrum College; Major General Maurice Forsythe, President of Randolph-Macon Academy; Dr. William T. Greer Jr., President of Virginia Wesleyan College; Dr. Robert R. Lindgren, President of Randolph-Macon College and Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, President of Shenandoah University. Dr. Fitzsimmons addressed the conference on behalf of the Association of Educational Institutions.

Bishop Cho recognized Mr. George Howard, Deputy General Secretary of Mission and Evangelism, General Board of Global Ministries, who thanked the Virginia Conference for its support of mission around the world. He presented two Advance Awards for 2013, one for the highest total amount of missionary support in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and a second for the highest amount of designated giving in The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Cho dismissed the morning session in order to prepare for worship. Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr. was the guest preacher. He is Bishop of the Oklahoma Area and brought greetings from both his conferences. His text was 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 and his sermon was titled, “It Is What It Is.” He preached on God’s ability to pull the improbable out of the impossible. The liturgists were Ms. Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference Director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence and Ms. Alexandra Woody, Calling 21 Intern, Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church, York River District. Participating with Bishop Cho in the Missionary and Deaconess Commissioning were Mr. Howard and Rev. Jessica D. Squires, Culpeper United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District. Rev. James Patterson “Pat” Watkins was commissioned as a Missionary and appointed to Ministry with God’s Renewed Creation, General Board of Global Ministries.

Bishop Cho commissioned Ms. Laarni Bibay, Children’s Health Advocate and Medical Mission Project Coordinator and Ms. Anselma Samson, Leadership Development Coordinator for Church and Community. They were consecrated on April 27 for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner and appointed to Resurrection United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District.

The 2014 Conference Offering was received with the assistance of young adult Conference members and the Holy Rollers, a bicycle group of laity and clergy. In support of the Conference Offering, the Holy Rollers rode to the Annual Conference from Charlottesville by way of Yorktown. “Amazing Grace” was performed in Korean by Rev. Hyung Il Moon, Urbanna United Methodist Church, York River District; in Twi by Rev. Emmanuel Nkrumah, Ghana Wesley United Methodist Mission, Alexandria District; in Spanish by Rev. Lydia E. Rodriguez, Arlington United Methodist Church, Arlington District, and in American Sign Language by Rev. Rob Vaughn, Community of Faith United Methodist, Arlington District. Musical leadership was provided by Ebenezer Worship Team. The worship service concluded at 12:08.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, June 21, 2014

The Ramsey Memorial Hispanic-Latino Worship Team, Ramsey Memorial United Methodist Church, Richmond District, led in “Singing Our Faith” at 1:45 p.m. Members of the group were Ms. Natalie Aguilar (vocals), Mr. Oswaldo Aguilar (bass), Mr. Milton Bonilla (keyboard, vocals) and Ms. Sarah Russo (guitar, vocals).

Bishop Cho called the session to order at 2:01 p.m.

A service celebrating the ministry of clergy who were retiring at the 232nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was held. They were recognized along with their spouses. Bishop Young Jin Cho presided. Rev. James R. Noland, Pastor of Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond District, delivered the message on the theme of “The Holy Spirit is dangerous, let’s live dangerously.” The liturgists were Rev. Esther N. Agbosu, Henderson United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District and Rev. Peter Surran, Franktown United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District. Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., participated in the service. Other Virginia Annual Conference officials assisting in the service were: Rev. Herbert Brynildsen, Chair of the Order of Deacons; Rev. Frances T. Cooper, Chair of the Order of Elders and Rev. John R. Hall, Sr., President of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. Bishop Cho greeted the retirees on stage.

Bishop Cho expressed appreciation to Ms. Judy Craun and Rev. Jim Smith, members of the Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the afternoon session and to Bishop Ray Chamberlain for being available for consultation. Following the recognition of retirees, Bishop Cho acknowledged Bishop R. Kern Eustler. He then outlined a revised order of the day: the afternoon teaching session, a time of witness by two churches, the Common Table report, the election of Board and Agency members, the presentation of Denman Awards, and the discussion of resolutions.

Dr. Elmer Colyer led a time of study, “The Triune God and Trinitarian Gospel: The Heart of Renewal.” Following the teaching session, Bishop Cho led the assembly in singing “Spirit of the Living God” three times, substituting “us” for “me” on the third time.

Bishop Cho introduced Rev. Sherry Daniels, Norfolk United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District and church members, Ms. Portia Murphy and Ms. Frieda Clark, for a time of witness. Following a video, Rev. Daniels and her members shared some of the signs of renewal that Norfolk United Methodist Church had experienced following 100 days of prayer.

Bishop Cho introduced Rev. Todd Schlechty, church planter of The Vine, Arlington District, for a time of witness. The Vine, developed from the Elijah congregation of Dunn Loring United Methodist Church, has grown from nine to 600 worshippers. The report included a video testimony given by two of the members who remained faithful through the closing and re-opening of the church.

Rev. Marc Brown stated the mission of the Virginia Annual Conference: “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.” He gave the report on the Common Table for Church Vitality found on pages 51-54 and 57-87 of the *Book of Reports*. He also reported that since the printing of the *Book of Reports*, the Common Table for Church Vitality had approved Bishop Cho’s request that it organize and oversee conference wide times of holy conferencing pertaining to the issue of homosexuality during the 2014-2015 year.

Rev. J. D. Daniely, Director of the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at Virginia Commonwealth University presented a story of renewal that resonated with the Conference theme, “Lord, Renew Us with Your Spirit.”

Rev. Marc Brown then introduced the Common Table for Church Vitality. Mr. Warren Harper and Rev. Marc Brown as co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team presented the report on pages 54-57 and the Addendum to the *Book of Reports* on the Green Paper in the Official Packet for additional nominations. Mr. Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader and Vice-Chair of the Common Table, presented the report on the Common Table.

Mr. Warren Harper presented Recommendation 1 found on page 54, from the Common Table for Church Vitality and the following boards:

First by the Board of Discipleship regarding the observance and special offering for Christian Education Sunday and for the endorsement of Rev. Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship (page 77). Second, by the Board of Global Ministries regarding:

- Advance Specials for 2013-2014 found on pages 86-87
- The Relationship Agreements as presented to the Health and Relief Team between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.: United Methodist Family Services of Virginia: Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.” Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation: and Wesley Housing Development Corp., found on page 86
- The three following special offerings: February, Heart Havens month; December, United Methodist Family Services and the weeks between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, Virginia United Methodist Homes – Samaritan Fund on page 83-84. These offerings are included and will be voted upon

in the CFA Report on page 2. The recommendations passed.

Mr. Harper introduced Ms. Katie Wax, a member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and Rev. Glenn Rowley, Director of the Virginia Conference Center for Justice and Missional Excellence. They presented the next recommendation of the Common Table. Ms. Wax proposed that Imagine No Malaria be a mission emphasis of the Virginia Annual Conference for the Conference Year 2014-2015 with a goal of saving 100,000 lives. The recommendation was passed and a time of celebration and dancing followed. This concluded the report of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

Rev. Brown presented the nominations to committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the annual conference found in the Books of Reports, the Addendum Sheet, and by verbal nomination of the bishop. They were then elected. He asked all persons serving in leadership throughout the conference boards and agencies to stand as they were able. The Bishop then consecrated them for service and prayed for all who serve God's kingdom on earth.

Ms. Beth Christian, Chair of the Conference Board of Discipleship, presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. Rev. David Burch, Vision of Hope United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District, received the clergy award; Mr. David Bailey, Conference Director of the Lay Servant Academy received the laity award and Ms. Casey Heinlein, Burnt Factory United Methodist Church, Winchester District received the youth award.

The Rev. R. Douglas Geeting, Chair of the Conference Site Selection Committee, presented the report found on page 87. The Site Selection Committee recommended that Annual Conference be held in Roanoke on June 21-23, 2019 and June 19-21, 2020. The recommendation was approved.

Rev. Mochel Morris, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, introduced Resolution 1: "Change *Book of Discipline* Reference to Homosexuality" found on page 127. There was no recommendation from the Resolution Committee. Rev. Margie Turbyfill, Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Richmond District, spoke on behalf of the signers. Rev. Tom Berlin, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, made a motion to postpone indefinitely Resolution 1. Rev. Beth Anderson, Bermuda Hundred United Methodist Church, James River District spoke in favor of the motion. She encouraged further conversation to allow time for the Holy Spirit to be at work. Mr. Donald Stephens, Dranesville United Methodist Church, Arlington District, spoke for postponement. Ms. Maggie Osborne, Rising Hope Mission Church, Alexandria; Mr. William Cantrell, Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, Arlington District and Rev. Penney Matheson, Linden-Markham United Methodist Charge, Winchester District spoke against postponement.

A point of order was raised by Mr. Rick Taliaferro, Stephens City United Methodist Church, Winchester District. It was decided that the motion was properly before the body. Rev. Justin Allen, Dean of Spiritual Life, Shenandoah University, Winchester District called for the question. The motion to postpone indefinitely Resolution 1 passed. Following the resolutions, Rev. Susan Reaves announced that the CF & A would answer questions regarding their report in Conference Room C & D following the close of the session. Bishop Cho recessed the annual conference for dinner at 5:08 p.m.

SATURDAY EVENING, June 21, 2014 A SERVICE FOR THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY

Bishop Young Jin Cho presided at the Service for the Ordering of Ministry," beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches, represented the ecumenical community. The sermon was delivered by Bishop Robert E. Hays, Jr, resident bishop of the Oklahoma area. It was titled, "Membership Has Its Privileges." And was based on Matthew 16:24-26. The world will offer us the privileges of membership but to belong to Jesus Christ's inner circle we must pick up the cross.

Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service included Mr. Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Edward R. Walker, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Beth C. Downs, Director of Clergy Excellence and the following members of the Board of Ordained Ministry: Rev. Herbert Brynildsen, Rev. Frances T. Cooper, Rev. Brenda L. Laws, Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Rev. Alex B. Joyner, Rev. Susan M. Hannah, Rev. Won Gyu Lee, Rev. James G. Daniely, Rev. Timothy Beck, Rev. Kenneth Stephen Waclow, Rev. Joseph Cailles, Rev. Michelle "Mitzi" Manning, Rev. William B. Montgomery, Rev. John R. Hall, Sr., Rev. Christian S. White Jr., Rev. Seonyoung Kim, Rev. Robert E. Cooper, Rev. Lorenzo D. Hill, Rev. Joan M. Rudisell, and Rev. F. Elizabeth Givens. Rev. Drew VanDyke Colby was the music leader. A quartet consisting of Mr. Charlie Baber, Mr. Ryan LaRock, Ms. Lindsey Baynham and Ms. Michelle Matthews sang "The Cost." Mr. LaRock also played the piano and ukulele during the service. Other musicians included Mr. Randy Abernathy (trumpet), Mr. Jimmy Dameron (acoustic guitar), Rev. Brian Sixeby (percussion), Mr. Philip Tickle (bassist) and Mr. Drew Wilson (multi-instrumentalist).

Bishop Young Jin Cho licensed, commissioned and ordained the candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service. Following the prayer of thanksgiving, Bishop Cho addressed the members and guests in attendance. He invited those feeling led by the Holy Spirit to inquire into Christian ministry to come forward and greet him during the singing of the final hymn. Newly-ordained deacons and elders counseled with those inquiring into representative ministries and gathered contact information. The session concluded at 9:22 p.m. with the dismissal and blessing.

SUNDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION - June 22, 2014

"Singing our Faith" was led at 8:15 a.m. by the Ebenezer Worship Team. Bishop Young Jin Cho led a moment of silent prayer, then welcomed Dr. Elmer Colyer, to teach a final lesson titled, "the Social Embodiment of Renewal; Trinitarian Ecclesiology." Dr. Colyer thanked the Virginia Annual Conference for the hospitality he had received. Bishop Cho expressed his appreciation to Dr. Elmer Colyer and encouraged the assembly to seriously consider participating in covenant discipleship.

Bishop Cho noted that Rev. Norma Dean, Westover United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District was not able to be with us. Her husband Aubry had passed away the day before. Bishop Cho led a prayer for Rev. Dean and her family. A video was shown about rebirth at Westover United Methodist Church. Rev. Vivian Utz, Byrd Chapel United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District shared a brief witness about the church. Bishop Cho introduced Rev. Donald Gibson, Basic United Methodist Church, Staunton District, who touched on some of the programs initiated there.

Rev. Stanley A. Thompson, Chair of the Minutes Committee presented their report. The minutes of the Laity Session and the Saturday morning plenary session and afternoon plenary session were reviewed and corrected. The minutes were approved. Rev. Thompson announced that the Minutes Committee would meet on July 7, 2014 at noon to complete the review and certification of the minutes. The motion was approved.

Bishop Cho then nominated Marc Brown as Director of Connectional Ministries. He was elected. Bishop Cho took a moment to announce that worship at 11:00 a.m. is an order of the day and will be broadcast over the Internet via live stream. The session will recess at 10:45 a.m. to allow for preparation.

Bishop Cho announced that \$140,000 had been raised for the Bishop's Initiative and \$11,000 for Imagine No Malaria. The number of kits, collected was 41,218 and a breakdown of that number by type of kit was shown on the announcement screens: 30,844 Health kits, 11,306 School kits, 5,325 Birthing kits, 1,666 Layette kits, 228 Cleaning kits, 394 Bedding kits, and 1,455 miscellaneous kits.

Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Statistician, presented the report found on page 112 of the *Book of Reports*. He noted that while 2013 membership and worship attendance numbers have declined, the decrease is less than 1% in both cases. He celebrated the rise in ethnic membership, the number of Asian members has increased 5%, African American Membership is up 2% and Latino/Hispanic membership is up 7%.

Mr. Dommissie also serves as Conference Treasurer and presented the treasurer's report, found on pages 113-116 of the *Book of Reports*. He pointed out that 3.4 cents of every dollar spent by churches went toward apportionments. Overall revenues were up by 3.13% in 2013. Overall, the receipts for apportionments totaled \$28,384,747.00. The apportionments for 2015 are nearly identical to the 2014 apportionments.

Rev. Larry Davies, Lynchburg District Superintendent, presented a proposal from the Cabinet to approve the disposition and transfer of the net proceeds of the 2013 sale of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Bath County (abandoned) from the Conference Trustees to the Staunton District Board of Missions. If accepted, the proceeds from the sale would be used to further the community outreach work of People United in Christ. This is the newest faith community on the Staunton District, and they are ministering to single-parent and at risk families. The recommendation passed.

Mr. Stephen Clark, President of the Foundation Office presented the report found on page 95-96. He indicated this has been a strong year for the Foundation Office. He presented a check for \$10,000.00 to Bishop Cho to be used in support of the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program.

Mr. Nathaniel L. Bishop, President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), moved the suspension of the rules to allow time to present the report found on pages 117-126 of the *Book of Reports*. The rules were suspended. Mr. Bishop presented Section I of the report, "Summary of Conference Budget for 2015," found on page 117, and supporting schedules found on the following pages. Conference apportionments are budgeted for \$32,720,000 in 2015, a one percent drop from 2014. He presented Section II of the report, "Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches," found on pages 120-121 of the *Book of Reports*. He then presented Section III, "Apportionment Procedures," on pages 121-122; Section IV, "Annual

Conference Special Offerings,” found on pages 122 and 123; Section V of the report, “Policies,” found on pages 123-125 and Section VI, “A Church in Mission,” found on pages 125-126. He made note of Section VII, “Response to 2013 Annual Conference,” found on page 126. This section addresses the question raised to consider the possible need for individual districts make cost-of-living adjustments to district superintendent’s salaries. Mr. Bishop reported that districts currently determine equitable housing benefits which adequately cover cost-of-living. Mr. Bishop moved the acceptance of the entire report. The entire report was accepted. Mr. Bishop expressed his thanks to fellow members of CFA, vice-chair Rev. Steve Summers and Conference staff. He announced that this was his final year on CFA and presented Rev. Steve Summers as the incoming president.

Rev. Mochel Morris, Chair of the Resolutions Committee introduced Resolution 7, “Virginia Conference and General Conference Membership” (p. 134). Mr. Bill Waddell, General Counsel for the Council of Bishops then addressed the resolution. He lifted up the pertinent Constitutional Disciplinary Paragraphs to Resolution 7: Section II General Conference ¶13 Article I.2 – “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conference.” and Section VI Annual Conferences, ¶32 Article I which details the requirements for clergy and lay membership of the annual conference. An annual conference does not have the authority to change these requirements as established in the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. The resolution on annual conference membership, improperly attempts to limit who can be elected. An annual conference cannot legislate qualifications that are not in the *Book of Discipline*.”

Mr. Edward Rigg, Main Street, United Methodist Church, South Boston, asked for a suspension of the rules. The rules were suspended. A motion was made that following the presentation of a resolution and the comments by the maker, all debate on resolutions shall be limited to two speeches for the resolutions and two against the resolution with a limit of two minutes for each speech. The motion carried.

Rev. Morris called for a suspension of the rules in order to allow the maker of Resolution 2, “Investment in Fossil Fuel Companies” to speak as she is not a member of the Annual Conference this year. The motion carried.

Mr. Jaydee Hanson, Co-Chair of the Board of Church and Society recommended non-concurrence and referral to the Board of Pensions. Rev. Clarence Brown, Chair of the Board of Pensions, recommended non-concurrence and referral at this time. The maker of the motion, Ms. Katherine Layton, Whites Chapel United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District, spoke to the issue lifting up global warming and the effects it has already had on the planet. She connected the resolution to good stewardship of God’s creation. Ms. Mary Whitlock, Prince Edward United Methodist Church, Farmville District, spoke against the resolution. Mr. Mike Crist, Rehoboth United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District, also spoke against the resolution. Rev. David Squires, Newcastle United Methodist Church, Roanoke District spoke for it. Ms. Ginny Greer, Main Street United Methodist Church, Bedford spoke for it. Rev. Elfie-Finn McKenzie, Lovettsville United Methodist Charge, Winchester District posed a question on holding the resolution over until next year. Rev. Doug Gestwick, Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church, York River District, raised a point of order. It was deemed not pertinent. Mr. Hanson moved to refer Resolution 2 to the Board of Church and Society and to the Board of Pensions to raise the resolution and report back to the Annual Conference next year. The motion passed.

Rev. Morris lifted up Resolution 3, “Defeat Poverty with Wages” page 129. Rev. Hunter Mabry, Co-chair of the Board of Church and Society spoke to the motion. He addressed the growing disparity between rich and poor. Mr. Bill Brown, Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church, Richmond District, spoke for the resolution. Raymond Nations, York River District, spoke against the resolution noting that he was a small business owner and contended that jobs would be lost. Mary Ellen Van Nederynen, at-large-member, Arlington District, spoke against the resolution. Rev. Kathleen Haines, Heritage United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District, spoke for the resolution. Mr. Wiley Noah, at-large-member, Alexandria District offered an amendment to the resolution. He suggested inserting “and that all Virginia Conference United Methodist Church members who directly and indirectly hire and use the labor of individuals, lead the way by complying with the provisions of this resolution.” The amendment did not pass. The original resolution was voted upon and passed.

Mr. Mike Nelson, James River District asked for a moment of personal privilege. He announced that the Virginia Annual Conference has packed 2,361,590 meals through Stop Hunger Now. Bishop Cho then recognized an order of the day. He invited the members and guests to recess in order to prepare for worship.

Bishop Young Jin Cho was the preacher for the closing worship service. He expressed his appreciation to those who worked faithfully in planning and preparing for the Annual Conference. He thanked the Ebenezer United Methodist Church Worship Team, the sign language interpreters, the congregational ministries staff and all those who worked behind the scenes. Bishop Cho preached the sermon “Sing the Lord’s Song in a Foreign Land” based on Psalm 137. The liturgists were Ms. Barbara Tate, Oakton United Methodist Church, Arlington District and Rev. Sung Il Yoo, Regester Chapel United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District. The Ebenezer Worship Team provided musical accompaniment. The service included a time for everyone assembled to reaffirm their baptismal vows. During the anthem, the ushers distributed the “Appointments Edition” of the *Virginia United Methodist Advocate*.

Following the anthem, Bishop Cho invited the district superintendents to present the appointments for their districts. Bishop Cho presented the new district superintendents and their spouses. Superintendents completing their terms placed a stole on the shoulders of the newly-appointed superintendents. The preachers were stationed and the appointments were fixed as printed in the *Virginia United Methodist Advocate*.

With the “Sending Forth” by Bishop Young Jin Cho, the 232nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was adjourned, sine die.