

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

238th Session

The Virginia Annual Conference

The COVID-19 global pandemic made the 238th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference unique. Conference sessions were held on various dates from varying locations using telecommunications technology for distance participation. Specific accommodations were used in each, in accordance with CDC safety guidelines to protect members of the Virginia Annual Conference.

Clergy Executive Session

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Virginia United Methodist Conference Center

Glen Allen, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Clergy Executive session was held as a Zoom webinar. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 9:30 a.m. She welcomed the members of the clergy session and expressed appreciation to Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence; and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry as well as those who made preparations for the session.

Rev. Hall referred to the Minute Questions and pointed out the page for submitting corrections. He moved that the bar of the clergy executive session be set as all those present in the Zoom Conference who registered via invitation of the Center for Clergy Excellence to full members of the annual conference. Diaconal ministers, lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference chancellor and staff members from the bishop's office and the Center for Clergy Excellence were also admitted into the clergy session with voice but without vote. The motion was approved.

Rev. Hall led the members in the presentation of the Minute Questions found in the PDF file made available to attendees related to clergy membership in the Annual Conference. Applicable questions were voted on and passed using online polling. Bishop Lewis asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained. Recognition was given to all persons being received into a new relationship within the Annual Conference or being approved for a retired relationship. All Minute Questions were approved.

Minute Questions 18.A and 18.B were corrected to remove the name of Rev. Grace Han from the Administrative Review Committee (A) and add her to the Board of Ordained Ministry (B).

Bishop Lewis then announced the fixing of appointments with one correction. Rev. Russell Alden replaces To Be Served (TBS) on the Otter Charge, Lynchburg District. All other appointments were correct as listed in Appointments 2020, a document provided for the executive session and available on the conference website.

Bishop Lewis dismissed the clergy session at 11:48 a.m.

Service of Ordination for Deacons and Elders

Friday, July 10, 2020

Woodlake United Methodist Church

Chesterfield, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Ordination was live streamed.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis opened the service with a greeting and a prayer at 11:00 a.m. A recognition of shared ministry and a reaffirmation of baptism followed. Rev. Lynn Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elders, read Matthew 9:35-10:8 and preached a message titled "Itinerant Missionaries." Her message stressed that God is focused on making things right. She recounted a mission trip experience and reminded the assembly, we are sent "by God to mend what is divided and fix what is broken God's way."

Bishop Lewis asked those who were presented for ordination the historic questions. Each person having their orders recognized or being ordained was called forward. Bishop Lewis, laid gloved hands upon each of them and ordained them into their order. Two deacons and eight elders were ordained. One person had orders recognized.

Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service were Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons, and Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence.

The service concluded at 12:01 p.m.

Service of Commissioning

Friday, September 11, 2020

Woodlake United Methodist Church

Chesterfield, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Commissioning was live streamed.

The Service of Commissioning began at 11:00 a.m. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis opened the service with a word of welcome and prayer, followed by a recognition of our shared ministry and reaffirmation of baptism. Those candidates being commissioned as provisional members of the Virginia Annual Conference were presented. Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, the newly elected Chair of Order of Deacons, read Galatians 5:13-26 and preached a sermon, titled "Partners for the Journey." She stressed "The freedom Christ gives us is freedom from self for service to others" and is intended to be used in community.

Each candidate came forward and received the blessing of Bishop Lewis to "proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, announce the reign of God and equip the church for ministry in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Bishop Lewis invoked a moment of silence for those who lost their lives 19 years ago on September 11, 2001. Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry and Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, also took part in the service. Live music was supplied by Mr. Darren Raley, Woodlake UMC, Richmond District.

The service concluded at 11:39 a.m.

Service of Remembrance  
Saturday, September 12, 2020  
Woodlake United Methodist Church  
Chesterfield, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Remembrance was video recorded on September 12, 2020, and posted to the Annual Conference website. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis introduced the service. Rev. Esther Agbosu, Bethany UMC, York River District, preached "A Glorious Welcome" from the following texts: John 14:1-4, Revelation 14:13 and Isaiah 25:6-9. She reminded her listeners that the pain of being separated by death from those we love cannot compare to the joy of resurrection into the presence of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Shayne Estes, Central UMC, Richmond District; Rev. Brian Simmons, Wesley UMC (Colonial Heights), James River District; Rev. Gretchen Simpson Nelson, Wesley UMC, York River District; and Rev. Josh Dalton, Woodlake UMC, Richmond District served as liturgists. Rev. Kevin Elmore, Andrew Chapel UMC, Rappahannock River District and Rev. Stephanie Kimec Parker, The Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC, Elizabeth River District were acolytes. Rev. Susan Reaves, Annual Conference Secretary, read the names of the clergy, diaconal ministers, clergy spouses and lay members of the Annual Conference who had claimed the promise of the resurrection since the 2019 Annual Conference. The acolytes lit a candle for each person named. Live music was supplied by Mr. Darren Raley, Woodlake UMC, Richmond District.

Service of Retirement  
Saturday, September 12, 2020  
Woodlake United Methodist Church  
Chesterfield, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Retirement was video recorded on September 12, 2020, and posted to the Annual Conference website. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis opened the service with words of welcome. She announced that the Retirement Class of 2020 represented 1,491 years of faithful, dedicated service. Rev. Pamela Culler, Retired, Richmond District, delivered the sermon "See, Listen, Pray, and Love All the People." Her text was 1 John 4:7-16. She reminded her listeners that love is not just an emotion. Christian love is an act, an attitude and a decision to see, hear and pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., addressed the retirees and congratulated them on the years of service they brought to The Virginia Annual Conference. A video of a prayer led by laity from some of the retirees' churches was shown. Rev. Archana Samuel, Sherbourne UMC, Richmond District and Rev. Yun Kim, Saint Peter's UMC, Richmond District were the liturgists.

Plenary Session  
Saturday, September 19, 2020  
Woodlake United Methodist Church  
Chesterfield, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the plenary session was held in a Zoom webinar format. Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Rules Committee, instructed the Conference members on using the voting and motion-making features. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Area, greeted the members of the Annual Conference noting the unusual circumstances. She shared a centering moment, reminding us that we are resilient people. She called the plenary of the 238th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 9:39 a.m. Voting could not take place due to technical problems experienced by Options Technologies, the vendor supplying the electronic voting system. At 12:01 p.m. Bishop Lewis "invalidated and postponed the Annual Conference until 2020, if possible. Until that time the Annual Conference will be postponed."

Plenary Session  
Saturday, October 31, 2020  
Virginia United Methodist Conference Center  
Glen Allen, Virginia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the plenary session was held in a Zoom webinar format. Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Rules Committee, instructed the Conference members on using the voting and motion-making features. Rev. Susan Reaves, Conference Secretary, announced the deadline for filing requests for items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Area, greeted the members of the Annual Conference at 9:29 a.m. She then conducted two practice votes through the Lumi system. At 9:34 a.m. she called the 238th session of the Annual Conference to order noting the unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic and its effect on the Annual Conference and the life of the Church. She shared a centering moment, reminding us that we are resilient people. She encouraged all United Methodists in the Virginia Conference to observe three days of prayer and fasting in this time of national division.

The Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive" sung by the River Road United Methodist Church was shown. This hymn has been sung by persons gathering for holy conferencing since the beginning of the Wesleyan movement. Rev. Raymond Wrenn, Retired, Winchester District, who is 102, offered the opening prayer on a prerecorded video. This is his 80th year as a member of the Virginia Annual Conference. Ms. Danielle Cloud, Fredericksburg UMC, Rappahannock River District, also prayed for the assembly on a prerecorded video. Ms. Cloud is in the 11th grade and this was her second year as a member of Annual Conference. She has been attending annual conferences in various ways since she was five.

Rev. Hyo Lee, Richmond District Superintendent, greeted the Conference and welcomed them as the Superintendent of the host district. He recognized the Bishops who were former members of the Virginia Annual Conference. Rev. Lee acknowledged Bishop H. Hasbrouck and Ms. Mera Hughes; Bishop Ray and Mrs. Martha Chamberlain and Bishop Young Jin and Rev. Kiok Cho who were present on the Zoom webinar. Bishop Tim and Ms. Melba Whitaker and Bishop C. P. Minnick were not able to be present. He also remembered the ministry of deceased Bishop Kern Eustler. Bishop Lewis prayed for the retired bishops, their spouses and Bishop Eustler.

Bishop Lewis expressed her appreciation to Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop; Rev. Susan Reaves, Conference Secretary; and Rev. Delano Douglas and Ms. Beverly Myers, Assistant Conference Secretaries, for assisting with the session of Annual Conference. She also thanked Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, and Mr. Scott Diamond, Incoming Chair, Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians at the day's session. Bishop Lewis also acknowledged appreciation of her Administrative Assistant, Ms. Terri Biggins.

Rev. Lee made a motion to permit the 238th session of the Virginia Annual Conference to take place in the virtual format. The motion was approved.

Next Rev. Lee moved that the virtual bar of the Conference be set as the specific locations of the sites of members and members at the host site, the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center in Glen Allen, Virginia; who have been provided with the appropriate member credentials. The motion was approved. Rev. Reaves moved for the election of the Assistant Secretaries, Rev. Delano Douglas and Ms. Bev Myers; and Editor of the Journal, Ms. Madeline Pillow White. She moved for the election of the Annual Conference Committee nominees listed on page 31, *Book of Reports* and those listed on the Addendum to the *Book of Reports*. The motion to elect each person was approved.

Bishop Lewis moved for the elections of the Chancellor, Mr. Steven D. Brown and Conference General Evangelist, Rev. Gregory West. The motions were approved.

Mr. John Meeuwissen, Chair, Board of Laity, Nominations Committee, moved the election of Ms. Martha Stokes as Conference Lay Leader. The motion was approved.

Rev. King, proposed rule changes for the 2020 Annual Conference to meet virtually. There were four proposals. The first addresses Rule I.B.7. It states the roll is to be taken with a signature. This change would allow for the roll of the Annual Conference to be taken by those registered and present by Lumi, the vendor contracted for technical support for the voting at conference this year. The second proposal would suspend Rule II.D.3 in its entirety, thus not allowing members of this Annual Conference to add to the printed agenda. The third proposal is to amend Rule VI.A to be absolutely clear in allowing our District Conferences to also meet virtually as the District Superintendents see fit, to simplify holding district conferences. And the fourth would strike from Rule VII.D the section that permitted only those showing proper credentials to be given a ballot for voting. Striking this last portion of the rule allows this year's credentials to be granted to everyone registered through Lumi. The Rules Committee also recommends these rules be in effect for this year only.

Rev King moved for a suspension of the rules. The motion was approved.

Rev. King then moved for approval of the four recommendations. The motion was approved.

Rev. King pointed out the rule amendments found on pages 31-34, *Book of Reports*. There were 15 proposed changes. He moved for the adoption of all 15 recommendations.

The application of the newly Revised Roberts Rules of Order.

Officially incorporates the purpose of Common Table and its relationship to the Virginia Annual Conference into the rules.

Changes the name of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team to simply "Conference Nominations Team."

Changes the manner in which the *Book of Reports* is made available. Rather than providing it strictly by mail, the Annual Conference would have the flexibility to make it available in other formats and by other mediums.

Strike the words "requiring addition to Agenda" and instead add the words "for Consideration as Additions to the Agenda" to the title of rule II.D.3. Allows for those clergy who are being recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry as full members of the Annual Conference to be included in the nominations as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

Corrects a typographical error in Rule III.D.5 to a cross reference to another of the standing rules.

Adds to Rule III.D.6.c "and nominated from the floor" to be in accordance with the changes made by the 2016 General Conference, Book of Discipline ¶34.

Allows for clergy and laity balloting for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference to be invalid if more than 15% of the ballots received were invalid.

Reflects changes the Board of Laity is requesting for its membership.

Makes changes to the purpose of the Bishop's Foundation from providing the training for leadership development to providing funding for said training.

Changes the membership of the United Methodist Foundation.

Changes the structure of the Virginia United Methodist Board of Pensions and Related Benefits to include more classes.

Changes the number of years in advance that the Conference Site Selection Committee will need to recommend from five to three years.

15. Inserts an appendix that was referenced in Standing Rule VII.D

The Rev. Bill Davidson, Retired, Richmond District proposed the following amendment to the proposed rules, a MOTION TO AMEND BY DELETION On page 33 of the *Book of Reports* under numbers 13 and 21 of the Changes Recommended by the Rules Committee (referencing the Standing Rules V.A.4.f) I move to delete the following words: "to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve", thereby ending the sentence with the words "and carry out the vision of the Annual Conference." Page 33 of the *Book of Reports*: 13. Paragraph V.A.4.f – second sentence – strike "to create a culture of call by engaging, equipping, and empowering people so that they might effectively partner with each other and their pastors to live out God's call as they lead the church in transforming the world as disciples of Jesus Christ." and insert "is to fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and carry out the vision of the Annual Conference [DELETE to be "Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve]."

The motion to amend did not pass by the necessary 2/3rds majority. Rev. Mochel Morris, Retired, Rappahannock River District, raised a point of order. The heading on the voting screen was incorrect and did not reflect that it was a vote on the amendment but said it was a vote on the slate of rule changes. A revote was called for. Rev. King explained that normally an amendment does not need a two-thirds majority but as this is an amendment to the rules it does take a two thirds majority to pass. After a brief break, a revote was taken. The amendment was approved.

Rev. Rob Vaughn, Community of Faith UMC, Arlington District, proposed an amendment to the rules, "to delete recommendation #3, page 33." It was seconded. The question was called. The motion was not approved.

Bishop Lewis removed the report of the Historical Society from the Consent Agenda since a vote is needed on a recommendation, to be presented during the Common Table report. The following items were listed on the Consent Agenda and can be found on the following pages in the *Book of Reports*: page 105, Bishops' Foundation; page 65, Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations; page 54, Church and Society; page 73, Church Development Team; page 55 Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; page 113, The United Methodist Credit Union, Inc.; page 120, Virginia United Methodist Development Company; page 74, Commission on Disabilities; page 55, Board of Discipleship; page 56, Older Adult Council; page 56, Council on Youth Ministries; page 52, Ecumenical Study Group; page 104, Episcopacy Committee; page 74, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 119, United Methodist Foundation; page 76, GraceInside; page 60, Heart Havens; page 64, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; page 72, Board of Laity; page 57, Missional Ministries Board; page 57, Disaster Response; page 57, Partnerships of Hope (formerly Initiatives of Hope); page 58, Mission Encounter; page 58, Conference Committee on Mission Personnel; page 57, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission; page 58, Voices of Youth; page 103, Board of Ordained Ministry; page 116, Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure; page 60, Pinnacle Living; page 112, Preachers' Relief Society; page 112, Retired Clergy Housing; page 76, Society of St. Andrew; page 75, Commission on Status and Role of Women; page 104, Conference Board of Trustees; page 113, United Methodist Men; page 105, United Methodist-related schools; page 115, United Methodist Women; page 78, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; page 62, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and page 62, Wesley Housing Development Corporation.

Bishop Lewis asked Rev. Reaves if any other items were being removed from the Consent Agenda. There were no other items to remove. Bishop Lewis moved the approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved.

Mr. Neal Wise, Chair, Site Selection Committee, moved for a suspension of the rules in order for the committee's recommendations to be applied this year. The motion was approved.

The Site Selection Committee moved to amend the Site Selection Committee report adopted at the 2019 Annual Conference and accept only the next three years of location recommendations and further, the Site Selection Committee makes no recommendation for a location in 2025. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), reported by recorded video on the importance of monitoring at Annual Conference. In this endeavor COSROW works with the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy. Monitoring helps raise awareness and shows us if we do indeed, see all the people. Up to this point 215 people have responded to the laity survey. Rev. Dadisman also encouraged people to observe Thursdays in Black (TIB), Towards a World Without Rape and Violence. It is a movement launched by the World Council of Churches to raise awareness and make concrete, measurable progress towards a world without rape and violence.

Rev. Alan Layman, Chair, Minutes Committee, reported the Minutes Committee met on September 17, 2020 to review the minutes of the June 18th Clergy Executive Session, July 10th Ordination Service and September 11th Commissioning Service. Additionally, the Committee will meet on November 16, 2020 at 11 a.m. to review the minutes of today's proceedings. He moved the acceptance of the minutes of this 238th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. The motion was approved.

Rev. Lee, brought the report of the cabinet. He moved for the approval of the District Committees on Ordained Ministry and the District Boards of Church Location and Building. The motion was approved.

Rev. Lee moved for approval of the following:

Be it resolved that Charles Wesley United Methodist Church on the Arlington District be discontinued effective October 31, 2020, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Arlington District Trustees and that the membership of Charles Wesley United Methodist Church on the Arlington District be transferred to Wesley United Methodist Church in Vienna, Virginia except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Be it resolved that Graham Road United Methodist Church on the Arlington District be discontinued effective October 31, 2020, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Arlington District Trustees and that the membership of Graham Road United Methodist Church on the Arlington District be transferred to Friendship 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.

Be it resolved that Travis Chapel United Methodist Church on the Eastern Shore District be discontinued effective October 31, 2020, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church was transferred to the Virginia Annual Conference Board of Trustees as of September 19, 2020, following ad interim closure, and that the Virginia Annual Conference Board of Trustees transfer all such property to the Eastern Shore District Board of Missions and that the membership of Travis Chapel United Methodist Church on the Eastern Shore District be transferred to Cheriton 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.

Be it resolved that Crawford United Methodist Church on the James River District be discontinued effective October 31, 2020, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the James River District Board of Mission and that the membership of Crawford United Methodist Church on the James River District be transferred to Rocky Run 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.

Be it resolved that Howard Chapel United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be discontinued effective October 31, 2020, and that all property, real

and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Northwestern Virginia United Methodist Church Board of Missions, a nonstock corporation, and that the membership of Howard Chapel UMC on the Winchester District be transferred to Pine Grove UMC except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the discontinued churches.

Rev. Lee made the following motion:

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, located in the Danville District, having engaged faithfully and amicably in a process to exit the denomination, including intentional, prayerful discernment and discussion, voted to do so on August 23, 2020, at a duly called Church Conference. Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church discontinued ad interim as of September 15, 2020, in keeping with UM Book of Discipline Paragraph 2549.3.

Be it resolved that Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church on the Danville District be discontinued effective October 31, 2020, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church was transferred to the Virginia Annual Conference Board of Trustees as of September 15, 2020, following ad interim discontinuance and that the membership of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church on the Danville District be transferred to Bethlehem United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

Bishop Lewis prayed for Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Lee then announced that the Cabinet is working on a video-based approach on race and race relations. There are 14 videos of 15 minutes each meant to inspire further conversations about race. He thanked clergy and laity for continuing to reach out to people throughout the pandemic.

Rev. Paul Baker, Chair, Church Development Team, welcomed the new faith community New Life International United Methodist Church at St. Andrew's, Rev. John Obeng, planter, Alexandria District; and Impact United Methodist Church, Rev. Tracy Bass, planter, Elizabeth River District. He thanked Rev. Melissa Dunlap, former Chair, Church Development Team, for her work; and Rev. Mark Ogren, former Director of Congregational Excellence, who retired after 46 years of service. The Bishop prayed for the new faith communities.

The Glory Sighting Video about the Henry Fork Center in the Danville District was shown.

Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, addressed the conference and reflected on his eight years as Conference Lay Leader. He remarked on the advances in the relationships between clergy and laity. He talked about the work that is being done to address issues of race and race relations within the Conference. He noted that we have not seen all the people. He reminded us "We need to keep asking questions and be Christ to all the people." He then took off his Conference Lay Leader pin to pass on to Ms. Martha Stokes, incoming Lay Leader.

Ms. Stokes addressed the conference. She reminded the assembly that we have no experience to draw on in order to address our present reality. Just as God called Moses through the burning bush onto holy ground, we have been called onto holy ground. We have been called by name and called to bring transformation to the world.

Mr. Meuswissen presented a stained-glass panel bearing the cross and flame to Mr. Harper with the dates of his service as conference lay leader. A donation to Agape Children's Community Service was made in his honor.

Bishop Lewis paused the conference for a ten-minute stretch break.

Mr. Ken Peterson, Chair, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), reviewed the pension report, pages 43-50, *Book of Reports* by recorded video. After briefly describing each recommendation Mr. Peterson moved the acceptance of all seven recommendations. The motion was approved.

Rev. Joe Carson, III, Chair, Equitable Compensation Commission, reported that there were no changes to the minimum compensation schedule and the floor schedule.

Bishop Lewis announced that Rev. Ted Smith, Director of Connectional Ministries, had asked to be placed on a voluntary leave of absence. Mr. Warren Harper, Co-Chair, Common Table for Church Vitality, reported on the work of that body. He noted that the Common Table has been working on a revision of its charter. It is available in the addendum but will not be voted on until 2021. There are two recommendations. The first recommendation is listed on the Addendum to the *Book of Reports* and is presented on behalf of Missional Ministries Board:

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.; Pinnacle Living.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

He presented the Virginia Conference Historical Society recommendation:

That the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church petition the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church to designate "Canaan," the home of Edward Dromgoole, Sr. as a United Methodist Historic Site and submit the completed application form "Registration of a United Methodist Historic Site" to the said General Commission on Archives and History with the signature of the bishop and conference secretary.

Mr. Harper then recommended the approval of the motions. The motions were approved.

Mr. Harper presented the nominations to committees, commissions, boards and agencies, pages 80-85, *Book of Reports*, and the Addendum found in the Official Packet. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis prayed for the ministry of the 2020-2021 Board and Agency Leadership.

Mr. David Domnisse, Conference Statistician, presented the statistician's report, page 85, *Book of Reports*. At the end of 2019, the membership of the conference was 314,000, average worship attendance was 92,000 and 82,000 people participated in small groups. There were 2,500 professions of faith and just under 2,000 baptisms. There were 75,000 serving in mission, reaching 2,000,000 people.

Rev. Kathy Gochenour, Chair, Board of Discipleship, presented the Harry Denman Evangelism awards. There are three Denman awards given each year. This year Rev. Brenda Laws, Intellectual Disabilities Services, Eastern Shore Community Services Board, was the recipient of the clergy award. She has a heart for serving marginalized adults and coordinates an annual summer camp on the Eastern Shore. The laity award was given to Ms. Arlene Fields, Grace UMC, Alexandria District. She creatively teaches children and mentors the staff she works with. She and a partner launched a new form of worship called "Thrive," to minister to younger and more diverse families. The youth award was given to Mr. Jackson Smith, Good Shepherd UMC, Richmond District. He is 16 years-old and has served for five years as a volunteer for the All God's Children Camp. He organized and coordinated a fund raiser with the Good Shepherd United Methodist Men raising \$10,000 to send children to the All God's Children Camp. Rev. Gochenour noted that the One Matters award did not have a nomination this year.

A video provided by Mr. Greg Peters, President, UMFS, described the history of the organization and the work they do now. UMFS is celebrating its 120th anniversary. Bishop Lewis thanked Mr. Peters for his many years of ministry. He will be retiring from his role at UMFS in the Spring of 2021.

Rev. King, moved for a suspension of the rules. The motion was approved. Rev. Jonathan Page, Herndon UMC, Arlington District, raised a point of order. He asked if there should have been speeches for and against the suspension of the rules before the vote was taken. Rev. King explained that a motion to suspend the rules goes directly to a vote without prior discussion.

Rev. Joshua King, Bethany UMC, Winchester District, moved, "We suspend the rules to move the order of the day to a time undetermined in order to complete the business of the agenda excluding the item of receiving motions from the floor." The motion was approved.

Mr. Bill Chafin, Conference Leader, Scouting Ministries, spoke by recorded video about Scouting programs for churches. He noted that scouting ministries are a youth supporting arm of Conference Ministries. It is not only about Boy Scouts. It also includes Girl Scouts, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Campfires. He lifted up Programs of Religious Activities for Youth (PRAY) for churches not involved with scouting. There is an online course for local church scouting coordinators. This year the Boy Scouts awarded Bishop Lewis the Silver Torch Award.

A Glory Sighting video about the Latino Hispanic ministry of Una Familia was shown. Una Familia reaches an underserved population on the Eastern Shore. It nurtures children in elementary, middle school and high school so they can succeed academically and socially.

This year the Conference Offering will be split evenly between Virginia area food banks and Partnerships of Hope (formerly Initiatives of Hope). The offering was received electronically at vaumcdonations.org. Bishop Lewis prayed over the offering.

Mr. David Domnisse, Conference Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report, pages 86-92, *Book of Reports*. Despite a drop in giving, increases in investment income partially offset the decrease in apportionment receipts which were 84.39%, down 3.74% from 2018. Investment income and expenditures under budget in 2019 helped offset the decrease in the percentage of apportionments paid as shown on page 88, *Book of Reports*. Currently, apportionment receipts are down 6.8% compared to this time last year. However, the decrease in revenue has been offset by the recovery in the financial markets, the Payroll Protection Program loan received by the conference and the cost cutting measures taken by the Conference.

Ms. Betty Forbes, President, Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), delivered the 2021 Budget Overview, pages 93-95, *Book of Reports*. The Conference Budget for 2021 is \$27,850,000 which is a reduction of \$3,600,000 or 11.45%. This is the largest budget reduction in the last 15 years. She spoke about the prioritization of the 2020 apportionments to address the challenges faced by local churches during the pandemic. Priority One apportionments represent 72.77% of apportionments while Priority Two makes up the other 27.23%. The Conference is in much better financial shape than CFA imagined it could be at this time. Ms. Forbes reported CFA has requested the Bishop to appoint a District Alignment Team (DAT) to study how the local churches can do ministry most effectively and align conference finances in order to achieve the conference vision.

Ms. Forbes then moved the adoption of the proposed 2021 budget, pages 93-95, *Book of Reports*, and the adoption of items 2-6, pages 96-102, *Book of Reports*. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis thanked Ms. Forbes. She is completing her last year on CFA after many years of service.

Ms. Kathy Merry, Co-Chair, District Alignment Team, reported by recorded video on their work. CFA requested the formation of this work group. The team was formed to address the question, "How can we most effectively organize the Conference and align it with emerging needs and the Conference vision?" Bishop Lewis thanked Mr. Domnisse and Ms. Merry.

Bishop Lewis announced that CFA will pay for Filing of Proof of Claims related to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) bankruptcy. She encouraged churches who had ever had a charter with the BSA to file a Proof of Claim in order to receive protection from future legal liability. The treasurer's office will answer questions from local churches before the forms are due. They must be in the conference office no later than November 2, 2020. Mr. Jacob Hudson, Lebanon UMC, Farmville District, made a "motion to reconsider the prior rules suspension to exclude motions from the floor." The motion was not approved.

Bishop Lewis prayed over the Conference and dismissed the gathering at 2:09 p.m.

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes Committee, have read, corrected, and approve these Daily Proceedings of the 238th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on November 16, 2020:

Ms. Leticia Borden  
Rev. Jiyeon Kim  
Rev. Andrew Ware

Ms. Sandra Fulcher  
Rev. Alan Layman

Rev. William Greer  
Ms. Iris Smith