

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
V. DAILY PROCEEDINGS
239TH SESSION
THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The COVID-19 global pandemic made the 239th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference unique from pre-COVID years. Conference sessions were held on various dates 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 10, 2021
Reville United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA

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 10:00 a.m. She thanked the clergy for their work through the Pandemic and the racial civil unrest. And further, she thanked those who worked on the Worship Workgroup, the Missions and Ministry Workgroup, and now the Post-Covid Re-Entry Group. She welcomed the members of the clergy session and expressed appreciation to Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence; Ms. Kristin Dowdy Seibert, Program and Administrative Coordinator, and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Ms. Terri Biggins, the office of the Episcopacy; Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop, and Chancellor Steve Brown, as well as those who made preparations for the session.

Bishop Lewis set the bar for this session as all those present in the Zoom Conference. Those present and eligible to vote are: ordained deacons and elders in full connection-- including those elected to membership and approved for ordination during this meeting. Those with voice are associate members, provisional members, licensed local pastors, and guest clergy. Voting will be done through the Zoom poll platform.

Following the welcome, the clergy and those gathered were invited into a time of worship by Rev. Darcey Johnson, Chair, Order of Elder. Bishop Lewis called upon Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry to lead us through the Minutes Questions. Rev. Estep moved that we admit to the session the administrative staff in the Bishop's Office, Ms. Terri Biggins, and in the Center for Clergy Excellence, Ms. Kristen Dowdy Seibert, and the Conference Chancellor, Mr. Steve Brown, with voice. The motion was approved. Rev. Estep referred to the Minutes Questions and pointed out the page for submitting corrections.

Rev. Estep led the members in the presentation of the Minutes 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.

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

Rev. Robert Vaughn, Arlington District, Community of Faith Church, advocate of Rev. Andrew Ensz who is currently under complaint, rose to seek a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council pursuant to ¶¶ 56.5 and 2610.2(j) of the 2016 Book of Discipline, relating to the membership status of Rev. Ensz. Bishop Lewis requested that this item be addressed after the Minutes Questions are completed, if it is in order.

Rev. Estep led the members in the presentation of the remaining Minutes Questions found in the PDF file made available to attendees related to clergy membership in the Annual Conference. All Minutes Questions were approved as were necessary (majority, 2/3, or 3/4 vote).

Bishop Lewis called upon Rev. Vaughn to now speak regarding his request to seek a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council pursuant to ¶¶ 56.5 and 2610.2(j) of the 2016 Book of Discipline, relating to the membership status of Rev. Ensz who is under multiple complaints.

In this first series of questions, the context centers around the Bishop's accepting multiple complaints, at different times, by different complainants, based on the same underlying set of facts, and alleging the same chargeable behavior on the part of Rev. Ensz:

1. Pursuant to ¶¶ 20, 362, 2701, and any other pertinent constitutional or Disciplinary rights, as well as Judicial Council Decision 1226 and any other pertinent decisions, may a bishop accept multiple complaints on the same underlying set of facts alleging the same chargeable behavior? Multiple complaints are distinguished from multiple complainants who jointly write and submit a single complaint.
2. When a bishop accepts multiple complaints on the same matter, does it unconstitutionally dilute the rights of the original complainant, or otherwise violate the Disciplinary rights of a complainant pursuant to ¶¶ 362, 2701 or any other provision of the Discipline or Judicial Council decisions, such as in relation to seeking a just resolution to which all parties agree?
3. Does accepting multiple complaints on the same matter constitute double-jeopardy pursuant to ¶ 2701.2(d) or any other provision of the Discipline?
4. Pursuant to ¶362.1 and any and all fair process rights and pertinent Judicial Council decisions, if it is permissible to accept a second complaint on the same matter on which a complaint has already been received, may a bishop a) orchestrate a second complaint; b) disclose to a second complainant or otherwise utilize information that is not public and is only available through the content of the first complaint letter in order to facilitate a viable second complaint; and/or c) orchestrate a second complaint with the effect of partly displacing the original complainant, such as due to finding the original complainant dissatisfactory in some way and desiring a party in the role of complainant who is more hostile to the respondent and more amenable to the bishop?
5. Pursuant to ¶362.1 and any other pertinent Disciplinary provisions, when a complaint is submitted by a cabinet member (district superintendent), and the district superintendent's term on the cabinet ends, and said complainant notifies the bishop of withdrawal of the complaint, is it permissible for a bishop to substitute in a new complainant from among the members of the cabinet or otherwise?

I request the following further declaratory decision regarding the authority of bishops in relation to complaint process timelines.

6. Pursuant to ¶362.1(e) and Judicial Council Decisions 777, 915, 1156, and 1361, is use of the word “shall,” in relation to conducting a supervisory process within 90 days, a synonym for a different, more permissive verb? Does the Discipline actually mean “shall,” or is it permissible to still be in a supervisory response process around 625 days later?

I request the following series of declaratory decisions regarding fair process rights in the context of the supervisory response process and Rev. Ensz.

7. Pursuant to ¶¶ 20 and 362, any and all aspects of fair process and clergy constitutional or Disciplinary rights, Judicial Council Decisions 777 and 1226 and any other pertinent decisions, is it permissible for a bishop to a) call a meeting with a clergy member, b) outside of a complaint process c) but in contemplation of orchestrating a complaint against that person d) attempt to coerce that clergy person e) into making admissions f) that could then be used as the basis for a complaint?

8. Also pursuant to ¶¶ 20 and 362, any and all aspects of fair process and clergy constitutional or Disciplinary rights, Judicial Council Decisions 777 and 1226 and any other pertinent decisions, is it permissible a) to continue attempting to coerce admissions b) in contemplation of a complaint c) and outside a complaint process d) after the clergy person has already answered questions regarding what would be the substance of the imagined charges.

9. Further, pursuant to ¶¶ 20, 362, 2701, 2704, 2706, any and all aspects of fair process and clergy constitutional or Disciplinary rights, and any pertinent Judicial Council decisions, may a bishop demand that a potential respondent provide evidence of alleged chargeable behavior, thereby alleviating the obligation of the church to expend the effort of investigating and developing evidence of the alleged chargeable behavior sufficient to meet the church’s burden of proof?

10. Further, also pursuant to ¶¶ 20 and 362, any and all aspects of fair process and clergy constitutional or Disciplinary rights, Judicial Council Decisions 777 and 1226 and any other pertinent decisions, a) is it permissible for a bishop to call a meeting with a respondent, b) deny that the meeting is about the complaint against the respondent, c) deny them the opportunity to have their advocate present, d) lure the clergy person into a meeting under the assurance that this meeting has nothing to do with chargeable behavior, e) then try to coerce them f) into making admissions regarding new imagined chargeable behavior g) in contemplation of a complaint?

Finally, I request a declaratory decision regarding the following:

11. When Judicial Council Decision 777 and its progeny state that the steps of complaint, administrative, and judicial processes in ¶362 and elsewhere must be followed “carefully and explicitly or injustice results. Lack of diligence, integrity, care, or compassion in dealing with a case almost always results in irreparable harm to both individual and church”—may a bishop determine whether any such harm would actually result from deviation from Disciplinary processes and lawfully deviate from Disciplinary processes whenever a bishop judges that such harm would not occur or is outweighed by other considerations?

Bishop Lewis received this request, and will convene with Mr. Steven Brown, Chancellor, Virginia Conference and with the Chancellor of the Council of Bishops to consider her response.

Rev. Estep gave thanks to Rev. Baynham Freeman and Ms. Dowdy Seibert for their work as they will be moving from their respective positions.

Bishop Lewis dismissed the clergy session with prayer at 11:36 AM.

SERVICE OF ORDERING - THE LICENSING OF LOCAL PASTORS & COMMISSIONING OF DEACONESS
JUNE 15, 2021
REVELLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Ordering the Licensing of Local Pastors and Commissioning of Deaconess was recorded on June 15, 2021 and streamed on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

The recorded Service of Ordering began at 6:30 p.m. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, opened the service with a word of greeting and prayer, followed by a recognition of our shared ministry and reaffirmation of baptism. Those candidates being licensed by the Virginia Annual Conference were presented by Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Scott Davis, Cabinet Representative; and Rev. Gary Miller, Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. Bishop Lewis questioned those presented. The number of those licensed were twenty-nine, one in absentia, and three more who were licensed between Annual Conference sessions. Two individuals were commissioned as Deaconess.

Rev. Victor Gomez, Harrisonburg District Superintendent, read Jeremiah 1:4-10. Bishop Lewis preached.

The class as a whole was licensed together with a blessing from Bishop Lewis.

Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, was the staff lead in planning the service. Others assisting in the service included: Rev. Jeffrey Mickle, Dean of the Cabinet and Mr. Gerald Ricks, Music Leader.

The service concluded with Bishop Lewis giving a benediction.

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021
REVELLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Commissioning was recorded on Monday June 14th and streamed on Friday June 18th at 7:00 PM.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, 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.

Bishop David Graves, bishop of Alabama-West Florida Episcopal Area, preached from John 15:9-17 a message titled “Let Them Know You Love Them”. Bishop

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Graves offered these words during the sermon, "Let people know you love them, but to do that, you have to stay in love with Jesus."

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." Ten candidates were commissioned.

Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, was the staff lead in planning the service.

The service concluded with Bishop Lewis giving a benediction.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Commissioning was recorded on Monday June 14th and streamed on Friday June 18th at 7:00 PM.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, opened the service with a greeting and a prayer at 7:00 p.m. A recognition of shared ministry and a reaffirmation of baptism followed.

Bishop David Graves, bishop of Alabama-West Florida Episcopal Area, preached from John 15:9-17 a message titled "Let Them Know You Love Them". Bishop Graves offered these words during the sermon, "Let people know you love them, but to do that, you have to stay in love with Jesus."

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 hands upon each of them and ordained them into their order. No deacons and ten elders were ordained.

Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence, was the staff lead in planning the service. Others participating in the service were: Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. Darcy Johnson, Chair, Order of Elders; Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Board of the Ordained Ministry; Mr. Gerald Ricks, Worship Leader and Worship Team; and Rev. Sarah Payne, Cover Artwork.

The service concluded with Bishop Lewis and Rev. Blakely giving a benediction.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Remembrance was recorded on June 16, 2021 and streamed on Sunday June 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, introduced the service. Rev. Lydia Rodriguez, Wesley United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, preached "Sermons We See" from the following text: Galatians 5:16-26. The theme of the message was to live your life as a testimony to the spiritual gifts that are within you.

Rev. R. Samuel Kirubakaran and Rev. Lynda Moore served as liturgists. Rev. Joshua King, 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 2020 Annual Conference. The acolytes, Ms. Sarah Burnett, Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond District, and Ms. Lindsay Paullin, Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond District, lit a candle for each person named. Rev. Nickie Moreno Howard, Conference Associate Director of Learning, was staff lead for planning this worship service. The memorial booklet was prepared by Rev. Lisa McGehee, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Richmond District.

The service concluded with Bishop Lewis giving a benediction.

SERVICE OF RETIREMENT
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Retirement was recorded on June 15, 2021, and streamed on Thursday June 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, opened the service with words of welcome. She announced that the Retirement Class of 2021 represented 1224.50 years of faithful, dedicated service. Rev. June Carpenter, Fieldale-Mount Bethel Cooperative Parish, Danville District, delivered the sermon "Retired But Still Serving" Her text was Jeremiah 29:1, 4-11. She reminded her listeners you never retire from being a disciple, and God doesn't retire from taking care of you. Following the sermon, statements from the retirees were read.

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. Rev. John Conway, Central United Methodist Church, Arlington District, passed the mantle from the Retiree Class of 2021 to the Ordination Class of 2021 represented by Rev. Arum Kim, Saint Thomas United Methodist Church, Alexandria District. Rev. Charles Wickham, Retired Elder, led a prayer of blessing for the retirees.

Serving as liturgists were: Rev. Brett Isernhagen, Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, York River District, Ms. Daisy Young, Boulevard United Methodist Church, Richmond District; Rev. Kevin Elmore, Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, Rappahannock River District. Rev. Seungsoo Jun, Conference Associate Director of Serving Ministries, was staff lead for planning this worship service.

The service concluded with Bishop Lewis giving a benediction.

V>DAILY PROCEEDINGS
SERVICE OF LAITY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Service of Laity Celebration was recorded on June 17, 2021 and made available for worship on Sunday June 20, 2021. Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader, opened the service with words of welcome. The service included eight lessons: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 24-27; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 3:12-17; Ephesians 1:11-19; Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-12; Micah 6:6-8 and Philippians 1:3-6; and John 17:20-23. The service concluded with a benediction from Mx. Blake Mitchell, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District.

Others participating in the service included: Ms. Lori Valentine de Segovia, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA), Laity Co-Chair; Ms. Elizabeth "Lily" Segovia Valentine, Main Street United Methodist Church, Staunton District; Mr. Robert Segovia Valentine, Main Street United Methodist Church, Staunton District; Ms. Debbie Cali, Grace United Methodist Church, Alexandria District; Mr. Thomas Lyons, Certified Lay Minister, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District/Hanoi International Church; Ms. Angie Williams, River Road United Methodist Church, Richmond District; Ms. Carolyn Bain, Warsaw United Methodist Church, Rappahannock River District; Ms. Judy Diggs, Asbury United Methodist Church, Roanoke District; Mr. Aaron McCartney, Woodlake United Methodist Church, Richmond District; Ms. Robin Lee, Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, Arlington District; Ms. Nancy Walsh, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District; Mr. Albert Weal, St Paul's United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District; Mr. Blake Mitchell, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District. Mr. Gerald Ricks, Worship Leader and Annual Conference House Band provided music. Mr. Dwayne Stinson, Conference Associate Director of Influence, assisted as the staff lead for the worship service.

FRIDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the plenary session was held in an Online webinar format. Annual Conference began at 8:00 am with the Singing of our Faith under the direction of Mr. Gerald Ricks, North Georgia Conference, and Annual Conference House Band: Ms. Tasheina Canty-White, Online Worship Leader for Abundant Life A.M.E. of Dallas, TX; Ms. Ashley Herring Broadwater, House of Hope, Atlanta; Mr. Lucan James, Jr., John's Creek United Methodist Church, North Georgia Conference; Mr. Jerome Stephens, Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church; Mr. Rod Vester; and Mr. Wes Watkins, Victory Christ Ministries Incorporated, Charles County.

At 8:15 am, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, introduced the Rev. John Kinney, Virginia Union University, retired Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology and Senior Vice President of the university, who led us in a recorded Bible Study with a focus on the courage this Annual Conference has on taking on the difficult theme that is offered by Jesus in John 17:20-23 of remaining one in the midst of so much divide. From creation to consummation, the intent of God is to live into this community, that is one with God. Rev. Kinney went over the design, the deviation from, and the deliverance of God's unity in all of God's creation. Following the study, music concluded the morning study.

At 9:12 am, Rev. Brian Siegle, South Hill United Methodist Church, Farmville District gave a recorded presentation to offer guidance on how to use the webinar system to facilitate Annual Conference.

At 9:16 AM, Rev. Joshua King, Annual Conference Secretary, announced the deadline for filing requests for items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Bishop Lewis then offered some practice with the technology before calling the conference session to order.

At 9:23 am, Bishop Lewis, greeted the members of the Virginia Annual Conference, offered her thanks to leadership and called the 239th session of the Virginia Annual Conference to Order.

A virtual choir led the Annual Conference in the singing of the Charles Wesley hymn "And Are We Yet Alive". This hymn has been sung by persons gathering for holy conferencing since the beginning of the Wesleyan movement. Rev. Raymond Wrenn, Retired, Winchester District, who is 102, offered the opening prayer on a prerecorded video. This is his 81st year as a member of the Virginia Annual Conference. Attending her first Annual Conference, Youth Member Ms. Rachel Zahradka, Trinity United Methodist Church, James River District, also prayed for the assembly on a prerecorded video.

Rev. Hyo J. Lee, District Superintendent, Richmond District, on behalf of the Richmond District and Ms. Susan Custer, Richmond District Lay Leader, welcomed the Bishop, Conference Lay Leader, and the members of the Annual Conference to the 239th session of the Virginia Annual Conference in this virtual session.

Bishop Lewis welcomed retired bishops formerly from the Virginia Annual Conference present with the session: Bishop H. Hasbrouck and Ms. Mera Hughes; Bishop Ray and Mrs. Martha Chamberlain and Bishop Young Jin and Rev. Kiok Cho. Bishop Lewis also recognized and gave thanks for retired bishops formerly of the Virginia Annual Conference who were not able to be present: Bishop Tim and Ms. Melba Whitaker and Bishop C. P. Minnick. Bishop Lewis prayed for these bishops and their spouses.

Bishop Lewis expressed her appreciation to Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop; Rev. Joshua King, Ad-interim Conference Secretary; and Rev. Susan Reaves and Ms. Beverly Myers, Assistant Conference Secretaries, for assisting with the session of Annual Conference. She also thanked Mr. Scott Diamond, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, and Ms. Terry Bain, 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 239th 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 Reveille United Methodist Church in Richmond, Virginia; who have been provided with the appropriate member credentials. The motion was approved.

Rev. Lee moved that the agenda as printed on pages 6, 7 and 8 of the Book of Reports with the amendment on the Addendum to the Book of Reports (the removal of the Minutes Report on Saturday morning) be approved as amended.

Mr. Stephen Short, Richmond District, Member at Large, moved to amend the agenda to make the Report of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) an order of the day at 10:45am.

The motion was seconded and then spoken for by Mr. Short.

Bishop Lewis informed the Annual Conference members that the Implementation District Alignment Team (iDAT) report would be moved to precede the CFA report.

Rev. Jonathan Page, Herndon United Methodist Church, Arlington District, raised a Point of Order seeking understanding about moving the iDAT Report with the CFA report and if that was in order. Bishop Lewis ruled that it was in order.

The motion to amend the agenda was approved.

The motion to accept the agenda as amended was approved.

Special Music was then offered by Mr. Ricks and Conference House Band.

Bishop Lewis moved for the election of Rev. Joshua King as the Annual Conference Secretary for the remainder of this quadrennium. The motion was approved.

Rev. King moved for the election of the Assistant Secretaries, Rev. Susan Reaves and Ms. Beverly Myers; Editor of the Journal, Ms. Madeline Pillow White; and Rev. Steven Summers as Director of Connectional Ministries. The motion to elect each person was approved.

Bishop Lewis asked Rev. King 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. Scott Diamond, Chair, Rules Committee, proposed rule changes. His written report, with these changes, can be found on pages 40-43 of the Book of Reports. Recommendations were approved to be effective at the conclusion of this Annual Conference.

Rev. Jennifer Coffey, Clergy on Personal Leave, Danville District, moved that Section VII. entitled "Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure" of the Standing Rules of Order and Procedure be amended by adding a new subheading under VII.E and that all sequential headings be properly reordered: The new subheading VII.F shall be titled 'Electronic Voting Procedure' it shall state the following: "Anytime the presider opens the floor, during an electronic meeting, whether for questions, discussions, motions, and/or amendments he or she shall wait at least 3 minutes before putting the question, motion, report or amendment to a vote." Motion was seconded. After no discussion, the motion was passed by a 2/3 vote.

Rev. Ryan Ware, Wesley Chapel–Rock Springs United Methodist Church, Danville District, raised a parliamentary inquiry seeking clarification if these rules would take effect this year or next year. Bishop Lewis responded that per our rules it would take effect next year.

The recommendations from the Rules Committee were approved as amended with a 2/3 vote.

Rev. Summers reported on the requested amendments to the Charter of the Common Table for Church Vitality. Those amendments can be found on pages. 43-50 of the Book of Reports.

Rev. Bill Davidson, Benn's United Methodist Church, York River District, moved that this report be amended by striking out: Recommendation 3, referring to Section 1, Purpose, pages 43 and 44 of the Book of Reports, which reads "B. Vision—The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference is to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve." and preserve this section of the Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality in its original form. Motion was seconded. The motion to amend was approved.

All 26 recommendations from the revision of Common Table Charter as amended were approved.

An Order of the day at 10:45 am was convened at 10:48 am. Rev. Scott Davis, Lynchburg District Superintendent, presented the video report from the iDAT. The video report featured Rev. Tracey Bass, Impact United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District, iDAT representative, and other representatives of the iDAT. Their full written report can be found on pages 110-111, Book of Reports. There was no vote taken, though the floor was opened for questions and comments. There was much conversation and many questions in response to this report.

Mr. William H Talley IV, President, CFA, delivered the 2021 Budget Overview, pages 112-121, Book of Reports. The report was given via a pre-recorded video. Mr. Talley IV then moved the adoption of the proposed 2022 budget, pages 112-114, Book of Reports.

Rev. Lindsey Baynam Freeman, Director of Center of Clergy Excellence, Richmond District, moved that the Conference separate Schedule C-Apportionment 403 from the rest of the budget for discussion and vote, and that we consider Schedule C-Apportionment 403 prior to the rest of the budget. There was a second. Debate ensued. The motion to consider Schedule C-Apportionment 403 prior to the rest of the budget was approved.

The body now considered Schedule C-Apportionment 403 only.

Rev. Mochel Morris, Retired Clergy, Rappahannock River District, moved to suspend the rules to change the required number of votes to 2/3 to change this portion of the budget. Motion was seconded.

A point of order was made by Mr. Jim Smith, Washington Street United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, If the body to approve the CFA Schedule C - 403, which allows for the iDAT implementation funding, are we the annual conference session thereby providing the approval for the iDAT implementation plan required in light of paragraph 610 section 1, letter b which requires structural matters be defined and approved by the annual conference session?

Bishop Lewis called upon Chancellor Steve Brown who responded by saying that this action is not a structural change, but that would be what is on the table for next year.

The request to suspend the rules to change the threshold of the vote on this portion of the budget was approved at 74.86 %.

Rev. Thomas James, Washington Street United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, moved that the new budget lines, listed below, in the 2022 budget found in Schedule C be removed from the 2022 Conference budget.

- District Developers Salaries, Housing, and Pension \$830,000,
- District Administrative Managers \$120,000,
- District Ministry \$480,000,
- District Superintendent Directed Funds \$320,000,
- Extended Cabinet Directed Funds \$40,000, and
- DS and new District Developer Moving Expenses, \$18,000.

This motion was seconded.

Rev. Morris, made a Point of Order stating that she did not get a chance to move the action of changing the vote to 2/3 vote. Bishop Lewis ruled that according to Robert's Rules of Order there is only one vote necessary.

The body debated Rev. James' motion to amend the budget. The motion was approved.

A Point of Order was brought by Mr. Brian Lamb, Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, Rappahannock River District, the role of the Bishop whether the bishop is allowed to speak on a motion. Mr. Diamond, Chair of the Rules Committee, spoke to the Point of Order deeming the speech of the Bishop was in order.

Rev. Gary Hulme, Extension Ministry to Pastoral Counseling, Arlington District, moved to amend Rev. James' motion that CFA make whatever adjustments necessary to reflect the budget adjustments should the Thomas motion pass.

It was seconded. Mr. Diamond said that this motion was out of order at this time as it was not an amendment to Rev. James' motion.

The body continued debating Rev. James' motion. Rev. James' motion was voted and was approved by 76.81%.

Rev. Gary Hulme moved that we revert back to the 2021 formula which did not take the iDAT into account. Motion was seconded.

Mr. Todd Ringenbach, Lay Member at large, Arlington District called the question for the Hulme motion. The question was called by 96%.

The body voted on the Hulme motion and it was approved with 77.23%.

The body now voted on Apportionment 403-Schedule C as amended and the motion was approved by 88.75%.

Rev. Jim Ullian, Community United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District, requested an inquiry about the apportionment schedule and how it relates to a cabinet policy. Bishop Lewis ruled that this inquiry was out of order.

The vote on the full budget was brought before the body by Bishop Lewis. The budget as amended was approved by 76.4%

Rev. David Hindman, Retired Clergy, York River District, raised a Point of Order that the vote on the full budget was not before the body as amendments and debate had not been allowed. Bishop Lewis ruled that there was nothing on the speaker's screen to be dealt with and so it was in order to move to a vote.

Bishop Lewis called a 30-minute lunch recess.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, reconvened the Annual Conference at 2:48 pm.

Rev. Joshua King, Annual Conference Secretary, moved as someone voting in favor of the budget, to reconsider the budget. No discussion was had. The motion was approved.

Rev. David Hindman, Retired Clergy, York River District, moved to add a new item L to the CFA Report, Section V - Policies, (p. 121 in the Book of Reports):"

"Transparency

When, as part of its fiduciary and stewardship responsibilities, the CFA makes long-term financial projections related to future funding of Conference ministries and apportionments, CFA shall communicate those projections verbally and in writing to the Annual Conference.

When CFA proposes significant changes in apportionments (10% or more), especially reductions or complete termination of funding (immediately or over a set period of time) for any board, agency, or other recipient of financial support, such proposed changes and the guiding rationale shall be presented verbally and in writing to the Annual Conference for its information and final approval."

The motion was seconded.

A Point of Order was brought by Rev. Jonathan Page, Herndon United Methodist Church, Arlington District, to note that the agenda was scheduled to adjourn

at 3:00 pm and it was 2:56 pm. Bishop Lewis accepted the Point of Order.

Rev. Page moved to suspend the rules that we extend the business of the Annual Conference until 4:00 pm. The motion was seconded. There was no debate and brought to a vote. The motion was approved by 89%.

The debate was brought back to the Hindman motion.

Rev. Janine Howard, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, amended the motion to add language “convey this information to Annual Conference members no later than 60 days prior to Annual Conference session.” There was debate and the amendment was approved.

The debate was brought back to Rev. Hindman’s motion as amended. There was no further debate. The motion was approved.

Rev. Hindman moved that Conference Apportionment 406, Virginia Education Fund, shall be retained at the 2020 amount of \$420,000.

Bishop Lewis ruled this motion out of order as this motion was not properly before the Council on Finance and Administration in the time as determined by the Conference.

Rev. Hindman asked a question of parliamentary nature about how this was deemed out of order. Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer, responded that it is an overall increase to the budget and needs to be considered by CFA prior to allowing it on the floor of the Annual Conference.

Rev. Tim Tate, Warrenton United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, moved on page 118 [Book of Reports], under section 5, in the first sub bullet, I move to strike the sentence which reads, “Each District Superintendent’s salary shall be between \$105,000 and \$120,000 at the discretion of the Bishop” and replace it with “Each District Superintendent’s salary shall be \$95,000.” This motion was seconded.

This motion was debated. Rev. Randy Kiel, Victoria United Methodist Church, Farmville District, called for the question. The call for question was approved by 92.83%. The motion by Rev. Tate was voted on and approved.

An inquiry was raised by Mr. Leon Miller, Sunset Drive United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District, asked for someone to speak to the increase of \$82,000 for the line item 411 World Service fund.

Mr. Dommissie spoke to the request for information.

Rev. King called for the question on everything that is before us on the table. The action was seconded. The call for the question was approved by 90%.

After being reconsidered, the full budget as amended was approved.

Rev. Tim Barth, Floral Hills - Mount Olivet Cooperative Parrish, Danville District, moved to suspend the rules that we extend the business of the Annual Conference until 5 pm. There was a second. The motion was approved by 71.42%.

Mr. Neal Wise, ex officio member, Site Selection Committee, presented the site selection report with the motion for the 2024 location to be Hampton, Virginia. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), presented the report which can be found on pages 82-83, Book of Reports. In this endeavor COSROW works with the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA). They collect statistics based upon observable demographics to report on voices that are heard at the Annual Conference. Rev. Dadisman also mentioned the 65th anniversary of the ordination of women in the denomination.

Rev. Alan Layman, Chair, Minutes Committee, reported via pre-recorded video the Minutes Committee will meet on June 22, 2021 to review the June 10, 2021 Clergy Executive Session, the worship services and the minutes of today and tomorrow’s proceedings. He moved the acceptance of the minutes of this 239th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. The motion was approved.

Rev. Jeffrey Mickle, Dean of the Cabinet, 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. Tammy Estep, Haygood United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District, raised a point of inquiry into the status of a declaratory decision read into the minutes of the Executive Clergy Session.

Bishop Lewis ruled on this point of inquiry, “I make the following ruling on this motion or request. The motion for a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council is out of order as the contents relate to an open, pending process, and the annual conference is not the proper forum to deal with a pending complaint. The Judicial Council has repeatedly and consistently held that a presiding Bishop has no authority to make substantive rulings on supervisory process at annual conference. Presiding Bishops have no obligation to answer questions that are improper. Furthermore, I will not allow anyone to expose a person who is the subject of the inquiry to further harm and an increased risk of further disclosure of confidential information. The remedy for a violation of confidentiality resides in those processes and not on the floor of an annual conference session. See Judicial Council Decision No. 1131. As this motion or request is out of order, it will not be received in the record and there will be no further discussion.”

Rev. Andrew Ensz, Rise Campus Ministry, Alexandria District, raised a point of order, The Bishop’s ruling is incorrect because it is a request for a declaratory decision and not a ruling of law. It is appropriate for it to come to the floor of Annual Conference.

Bishop Lewis called upon Mr. Steve Brown, Conference Chancellor, who confirmed that any more discussion about this is out of order according to Judicial Council decision 1131.

Rev. Tim Barth, Floral Hills - Mount Olivet Cooperative Parrish, Danville District, raised a point of order in regards to this declaratory decision. Bishop Lewis had already said that any point of orders around this are out of order.

All other speeches or requests for speech were deemed out of order, including a challenge to the Chair by Rev. Estep.

Rev. Mickle again brought before the Annual Conference the approval of the District Committees on Ordained Ministry and the District Boards of Church Location and Building. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mickle moved for approval of the following:

Be it resolved that The Arlington Forest United Methodist Church on the Arlington District, be discontinued effective June 30, 2021 and all property, real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the church be transferred to the Arlington District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Arlington Forest United Methodist Church on the Arlington District be transferred to Clarendon United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to a different church.

Be it resolved that (i) Browns Chapel United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be discontinued effective as of April 9, 2021, (ii) the transfer of all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church to the Virginia Annual Conference Board of Trustees, and the further disposition of such property by the Conference Trustees, be approved, (iii) the membership of Browns Chapel United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be transferred to Salem United Methodist Church in Dillwyn, except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church, in which case such membership be transferred to that other church, and (iv) as a result of the foregoing, the connectional relationship of the church body represented by Browns Chapel United Methodist Church be severed from The United Methodist Church.

Be it resolved that Early's Chapel United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Trustees of the Lynchburg District of The United Methodist Church, and that the membership of Early's Chapel United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be transferred to New Bethel United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

Be it resolved that Fieldstone United Methodist Church on the Roanoke District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension, and that the membership of Fieldstone United Methodist Church on the Roanoke District be transferred to Asbury United Methodist Church on the Roanoke District except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

Be it resolved that Jollett United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Harrisonburg District Board of Missions, Inc., and that the membership of Jollett United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be transferred to Furnace United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

Be it resolved that Mount Clifton United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Harrisonburg District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Mount Clifton United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be transferred to Otterbein Chapel United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

Be it resolved that Mount Hebron United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Harrisonburg District Board of Missions, Inc., and that the membership of Mount Hebron United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be transferred to Christian Newcomer United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

Be it resolved that Pamplin City United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church, Farmville District, and that the membership of Pamplin City United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be transferred to Piney Ridge United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

There was discussion related to the cabinet report and a prayer was offered prior to the vote.

Rev. Jonathan Page, Herndon United Methodist Church, Arlington District, made a motion to adjourn the 239th session of Virginia Annual Conference. The motion was voted on and did not pass. (592 Yes 49.75%, 598 No 50.25%, 37 abstained)

Rev. Tim Barth, Floral Hills - Mount Olivet Cooperative Parrish, Danville District, asked a question about the discontinuance of Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church of the Farmville District.

Bishop Lewis recommended that Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church be voted on separately as there were questions around it.

Rev. Ryan Ware, Wesley Chapel – Rock Springs Charge, Danville District, point of clarification Could we get someone on the phone from the Trustees to get a dollar amount in regards to the settled price that was paid to the Conference.

Rev. Mickle led us into a vote on the discontinuation of all listed churches, not including Brown's Chapel of the Farmville District. The motion was approved.

Mr. Dommissie, reported in regards to Brown's Chapel and Rev. Ware's point of clarification. \$56,257.00 was the settled price with the Trustees.

The motion to discontinue Brown's Chapel of the Farmville District was approved.

Rev. Susan Hannah, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Danville District, moved to suspend the rules in order to extend the session of annual conference until 6:30 pm today and reconvene tonight following the Service of Ordering. There was a second. The motion was not approved.

Rev. Mickle moved the approval of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16 as contained in the Annual Conference Materials. The motion was approved.

Rev. Ware, as someone who voted in the affirmative of Rev. Hannah's motion, moved to reconsider the motion to extend the session.

Rev. Jeff Haugh, Vale United Methodist Church, Arlington District, raised a point of order. Rev. Ware voted in the affirmative and the affirmative lost and so his motion was out of order. Bishop Lewis ruled that this point of order was correct and so this motion was considered out of order.

Ms. Lorac Lawton, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, moved to suspend the rules in order to reconsider Rev. Susan Hannah's motion. She had previously voted in the negative. The motion to reconsider passed.

The Hannah motion to suspend the rules in order to extend the session of annual conference until 6:30 pm today and reconvene tonight following the Service of Ordering was approved.

Rev. Mickle requested a moment of personal privilege to thank the people of the Virginia Annual Conference who have extended themselves in many ways over this last year. The cabinet is deeply grateful for all the extraordinary ways people are reaching out during this Post Covid Re-entry.

Mr. Dwayne Stinson, Associate Director of Influence, recognized the new faith communities: Thalia United Methodist Church Microchurch Network, Rev. Joseph Varner, Planter, Elizabeth River District; The Mission at Washington Street United Methodist Church, Ms. Audrey Smith, Planter, James River District; NOVA Missional Hub, Rev. Monica Reynolds, Planter, Rappahannock River and Alexandria Districts; Indian Church RVA, Rev. Sam Kirubakaran, Planter (2019), Richmond District.

Mr. Stinson offered a prayer for these new faith communities.

Bishop Lewis asked for praise to God for the new faith communities.

Ms. Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader, addressed the conference and gave thanks for the mentors in her life, including recently passed Ms. Darlene Amon, previous Conference Lay Leader. She used her recent foot injury as a metaphor for learning new things. Ms. Stokes closed with the words from Ms. Amon speaking to us as clergy and laity encouraging us to work together and taking risks in order to become more than what has been.

Rev. Tammy Estep, Haygood United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District, raised a point of order. Her previous challenge to the decision of the chair is based from [sic] Judicial Council decision 1131 which says, "whenever a presiding bishop rules a matter of law out of order, the proper remedy is to appeal the bishop's ruling to the body of the session." What was before us were declaratory decisions and do not require a ruling of law by the Bishop.

Bishop Lewis ruled this point of order out of order.

Rev. Joe Carson, III, Chair, Equitable Compensation Commission, reported via pre-recorded video that the recommendation is for there to be no changes to the minimum compensation schedule and the floor schedule. His full report can be found on page 55 of the Book of Reports. The recommendation was approved.

Mr. David Domnisse, Conference Treasurer, gave a word of appreciation to Rev. Joe Carson, III for his years of service.

Rev. Steven Summers, Director, Connectional Ministries, presented the report of Common Table on Church Vitality. There were two recommendations from the Common Table on Church Vitality. The first recommendation was that the Relationship Agreements as presented by the Missional Connections Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; UMFS; Pinnacle Living; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued. The second recommendation was that Gregory B. West be recommended and endorsed as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship.

Rev. Jeff Haugh, Vale United Methodist Church, Arlington District, requested a response from Rev. West to the question, "You believed that it is time for the church to split a few years ago. What is your current stance on these issues today?"

Bishop ruled this question out of order and stated that due to the personal nature of this question it needed to be taken up with Rev. West outside of Annual Conference.

These recommendations from Common Table of Church Vitality were approved.

Rev. Summers presented the nominations to committees, commissions, boards and agencies, pages 88-92, Book of Reports, and on the Addendum found in the Official Packet. The motion was approved.

Rev. Summers extended thanks to all the committees for their work.

Bishop Lewis prayed for the ministry of the 2021-2022 Board and Agency Leadership.

Mr. David Domnisse, Conference Statistician, presented a pre-recorded statistician's report, page 93, Book of Reports. At the end of 2020, the membership of the conference was 308,490, average worship attendance was 238,654 and 60,000 people participated in small groups. There were 1,121 professions of faith and 674 baptisms. There were 46,000 serving in mission, reaching 1,400,000 people.

The Green Church Award is presented to a church or churches who affirm the importance of healing and defending God's creation in their mission as a local congregation presented by the Caretakers of God's Creation Team. This year the Green Church Award was presented to Monumental United Methodist Church, in Portsmouth, VA.

Ms. Stacey Anthony, Chair, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), reviewed the pension report on a pre-recorded video, the written report can be found on pages 94-102, Book of Reports. After briefly describing each recommendation Ms. Anthony moved the acceptance of all 5 recommendations. The motion was approved.

Mr. David Domnisse, Conference Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report via a pre-recorded video, the written report can be found on pages 103-109, Book of Reports.

Rev. Janine Howard, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, moved to create oversight and restrictions for legal expenses.

- 1.) Move to create a Legal Expenses Oversight Work Group, with the following members
 - a. Two members Conference Council on Finance and Administration
 - b. Two members of the Conference Trustees
 - c. The Conference Lay Leader, or a member of the Board of Laity, named by the Lay Leader
 - d. One representative from the Committee on Rules
 - e. One District Superintendent

The purpose of the work group is to

- 1) Review current agreement for services/contract for the position of Chancellor, offering recommendations for revisions to provide accountability to the Annual Conference
- 2) Consult with the United Methodist Church Conference Chancellors Association (United Methodist Church3) to determine if Virginia “best practices” are consistent with those of other Annual Conferences
- 3) Determine if the Conference Standing Rules should be modified to establish accountability protocols
- 4) Recommend control measures on expenditures for legal services
- 5) Report back to the Annual Conference within 90 days of adoption of this motion

The motion was seconded. The motion was debated. Rev. Brian Siegle, South Hill United Methodist Church, Farmville District, called the question. There was a second. The motion to call the question was approved.

The motion from Rev. Howard was approved.

Bishop Lewis closed the business of the Annual Conference with the announcement that we will not need to reconvene at 9:00 PM. Bishop Lewis closed with a word of prayer.

Bishop Lewis recessed the Annual Conference for worship at 6:37 PM.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE OF ORDERING OF MINISTRY
FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Due to COVID-19, the services of Commissioning and Ordination were pre-recorded on Monday, June 14, 2021 and were streamed on Friday June 18, 2021 beginning at 6:45 pm. The Services commissioned ten candidates as Commissioned members, ordained no Deacons, and ordained twelve Elders. The service concluded with Bishop Lewis offering a benediction. All worship services were recorded in more detail at the beginning of these minutes.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION
SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021
REVEILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Starting at 8:46 am, Mr. Gerald Ricks and Conference House Band led us in a time of Singing Our Faith. At 9:00 am, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, bishop of the Richmond Episcopal Area, introduced our bible study leader, Rev. John Kinney, Virginia Union University, retired Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology and Senior Vice President of the university. Rev. Kinney led the Annual Conference in a pre-recorded Bible study titled, “United in Serving”. The texts that Rev. Kinney chose were his own reading of the deviation in creation (the fall of Adam and Eve) and Matthew 25. The major points of his study were: God’s deliverance was the block that pushed us into the promise of a new heaven and new earth. The Church is culpable in the continuation of the deviation when the Church acts as though they are the place for people to come to be better than other people. “When you have done something to the least of these, you have done them to me” says Jesus. And in this teaching, it is not an up/down relationship, but a side-to-side relationship. God is such a God of with, that God is willing to come down, even to hell, to be with us. And we are called not to be in division, but to be in oneness in relationship with each person who is made uniquely whole.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, reported on the monitoring process. Rev. Dadisman began her report with a prayer of thanksgiving from the United Methodist Hymnal. The full report will be published later on the conference website and sent out via email as the statistics are still being compiled. Rev. Dadisman’s immediate reflections though sees more laity and racial diversity speaking at this Annual Conference in comparison to previous Virginia Annual Conferences. Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA), would like to announce that today is Juneteenth, a day of truth and reconciliation and we call upon all Methodists to pray and participate as today is the first national recognized holiday celebrating freedom from slavery.

At 10:00 am there was an order of the day to begin our worship service for the service of Mission and Ministry. Mr. Gerald Ricks, Worship Leader, and Annual Conference House Band opened the service with words of welcome. This service was live from Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA. Bishop Lewis delivered the sermon “United as One”. Her text was John 17:20-23 and was read by Rev. Kendra Grimes, Randolph-Macon College Chaplain, Richmond District. Bishop Lewis reminded her listeners of a calling to be one with Christ by recalling Jesus’ prayer to God and his prayer for the disciples. This prayer of Christ is trustworthy and true. Our oneness with God mandates us to share the good news of Jesus’ salvation offered through his sacrifice.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A conference offering was collected during this worship service via a donation link on the conference website or by mail to the Conference Treasurer's office, and will continue to be received until August 31, 2021. This year, the goal of our conference offering is \$200,000.00, which will support Partnerships of Hope and Virginia Area Food Pantries. In Mozambique we provide support for Theological Education for Leaders ministry; in Brazil, our efforts support the Shade and Fresh Water Project. Also included is our ministry with the Native Americans. In addition, in Cambodia our focus is on support for street children and making Cambodia a provisional Methodist denomination.

Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, Associate Director of Serving announced the offering will be collected through the end of August. If the goal of \$200,000.00 is reached, we will be pouring a bucket of ice water over top of Bishop Lewis that will be videoed and made available at a later time. Rev. Jun also announced where to find the district drop-off points for our kits and cans.

Rev. Josette Franklin, Greenwood-Laurel Park United Methodist Church, Richmond District, led us in a responsive liturgy before the fixing of the appointments.

The appointment listings were distributed electronically, and Bishop Lewis fixed the appointments as Rev. Jeffrey Mickle, Dean of the Cabinet affirmed that each appointment in their own respective district were correct as distributed, except those District Superintendents who were in person: Rev. Scott Davis, Lynchburg District; Rev. Charles Bates, Rappahannock River District; Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Richmond District approved that appointments were correct as distributed.

Rev. MiRhang Baek, Richmond United Methodist Church, Rappahannock River District, also served as liturgist in the worship service. Rev. Jun, Conference Associate Director of Serving, assisted as the staff lead for the worship service.

At 11:23 am, Bishop Lewis, invited Virginia United Methodists to engage in Ministry this afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Then Bishop Lewis thanked the Annual Conference Planning Team and The AV Company. Bishop Lewis gave the closing benediction.

At 11:25 am, Bishop Lewis adjourned the 239th Virginia Annual Conference.