

III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

FORTY-THIRD SESSION
of
WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 8 - 11, 2011

West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Wednesday Evening, June 8, 2011
CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION
7:00 pm Performing Arts Center

The Clergy Executive Session was held under the direction of the Rev. Janet Harman, chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and Bishop William Boyd Grove, Retired Bishop, in the chair for Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Resident Bishop. The format for the report was designed by the Order of Elders and presented required Business of the Annual Conference questions in the context of worship. Candidates for ordination and commissioning, who had been approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, were presented for approval by the executive session. During the session there was a period of accountability during which Dean of the Cabinet, David Erenrich, reported that, with the exception of complaints that were being handled with prayer and in the supervisory stage, all others were blameless in their life and official administration. A rule change regarding a change to the requirement for continuing education units was presented. This would require full, provisional, and associate members, as well as licensed local pastors who have completed the course of study, to complete 4 units of continuing education every two years, rather than 2 units every year. The rule change was approved and will be presented to the Annual Conference. The first Clergy Ballot for General Conference delegates was taken. A complete reporting of actions taken during this session is listed in Section IV, Business of the Annual Conference.

Thursday – June 9, 2011
Morning, 8:30 a.m.

The Conference Praise Team opened by singing “*Come All Ye People – Come Praise Your Maker.*” The Rev. Johnna Wheaton, chairperson of the Program Committee Worship Team, welcomed the conference and said that in many areas of the world the church gathers when an elder has something to say, called together by a drum or bell. She introduced Bishop William Boyd Grove to bring a word to open the conference. Bishop Ernest S. Lyght had asked Bishop Grove to preside during his illness. Bishop Grove offered

a prayer for the health of Bishop Lyght. The Praise Team lead the conference in “*God Welcomes All.*”

Bishop Grove brought words of inspiration to the conference, invoking memories of Pentecost and inviting the Holy Spirit to be present within the conference as it was at the Day of Pentecost.

Jonathan Dierdorff (lay, Forrest Burdette, Hurricane) led the conference in prayer.

The Rev. Johnna Wheaton led the conference in singing “*We All Are One in Mission.*”

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE: Bishop Grove called the session to order at 8:45 a.m.

AGENDA: John Sauvage (clergy, chairperson of the Program Committee) welcomed the members of the conference and explained the theme of “I Will Be Your Witness: Purpose” which is taken from Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Rev. Sauvage made announcements about parking and how to access the golf carts if needed to get around campus. Conference directories from last year were available to those who had their pictures taken. Prayers were asked for Dorsey Wilson who fell and is in the hospital. Rev. Sauvage moved the adoption of the printed agenda distributed as 2011-01. Approved.

Judith M. Kenaston, Annual Conference Secretary, moved that the 2011 session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church proceed under the plan of Organization, Rules and Procedures to be approved at this session. The motion was approved.

The voting bar of the 2011 Conference Session was designated as the main floor of Wesley Chapel, with the exception of the balcony area where the timers are seated and the audio-visual services are provided.

Roll call was taken by submission of confirmation cards.

Karen Fenton, Steven Hamrick, and Frank Shomo were elected to serve as assistant secretaries, and members designated by the program committee were approved to serve as timers and electronic monitoring assistants. The following tellers were elected on nomination by the Cabinet and the Conference Secretary: Head Tellers – Patsy Flensburg (Lay), Thomas W. Shepherd and James Plyburn (Clergy). Tellers: (Lay): Carl “Skip” Adkins, Rachael Allen, Donna Crane, Ruth Ann Crow, Emily Flaitz, Brynda Fleming, Judith Hall, Harry Holbert, Daisy S. Hunt, Fred Jackson David Jones, Kimberly Mace, Steven Matthews, Donna M. Morrison, Nathan Nutter, Stephanie Poole, Nora Ramsey, Ralph Ross, Norman Roush, Warren Rumbaugh. (Clergy): H. Earle Arthur, Jr., Robert L. Baer, Jr., Timothy D. Bleigh, Charles Richard Brown, Philip R. Dent, Ricky A. Duncan, David Lee Fisher, David L. Hall, Jr., Mona Jackson, Dennis A. Mehaffie, Cindy Murphy, Amanda Gayle Reed, Pam Shuman, Robert A. Sisler, Jeffrey V. Zickefoose

RULES: Patsy Flensburg (lay equalization, chairperson of Rules) explained the recommendations of the Rules Committee.

She moved the change to the rules relating to licensed and ordained ministry. This change was presented to the Executive Session on Wednesday evening.

Ken Krimmel (clergy, Little Kanawha District Superintendent) expressed concern that this rule change would be in conflict with the Discipline requiring annual reports of continuing education and encouraged the conference to vote against the rule change.

Joseph Jarrett (clergy, retired) said that it was his belief that this rule change would not affect the reporting of continuing education units.

Monty Brown (clergy, St. Mark's, Charleston) said that the rule change would allow persons to take advantage of continuing education opportunities which may be outside of the conference or of higher cost. He said that the Order of Elders had discussed when it should be reported, and annual reporting would still continue.

Rule change approved.

Patsy Flensburg moved the change to the membership of the Global Ministries Team. Judy Nutter (lay, chair of Global Ministries Team) spoke in favor of the increased number of members. Luana Cook Scott (clergy, Charleston District Outreach Ministries) asked when this would take effect. Bishop Grove said that it would be immediately.

Approved.

Patsy Flensburg moved the change to the membership of the Higher Education and Campus Ministry. Approved. Moved the approval to the membership of Camps and Outdoor Ministries. Approved.

Other editorial corrections will be made by the Rules Committee. Bishop Grove thanked Patsy and the Rules Committee for their work.

BALLOTING: Report was made of the first General Conference Clergy Ballot. There were 323 ballots cast; 307 valid ballots; 154 needed for election. There was no election. According to the Conference rules, the Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. After prayer, the Second General Conference Clergy ballot was taken.

Ballot packets were distributed to the Laity. Bishop Grove called for additional nominations from the floor. David C. Hardesty was nominated and added to the ballot as number 27. After prayer the first General Conference Lay Ballot was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Judith Kenaston (lay, Conference Secretary) explained the consent calendar and presented it for first reading.

BREAK

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #2: 254 ballots cast, 249 valid ballots; 125 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 15 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #3 was taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Conference Secretary announced that visitors should sit in the balcony to make sure there is room for all those who need to be in the Bar of the Conference to vote. The Administrative Review Committee will meet at noon. The Youth are sponsoring a competition among the District Superintendents for Youth Service Fund contributions. You may vote for the superintendents by placing a contribution in a jar beside their high school senior picture during the Ice Cream Social on Thursday night.

EVANGELISM TEACHING: The Rev. Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development) introduced Dr. Doug Anderson of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development at Dakota Wesleyan University and Associate Director for Congregational Development for the Indiana Annual Conference. He led the conference in exploring the difference between presence centered and purpose driven congregations and the movement from sharing faith in Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Thursday – June 9, 2011

Afternoon

The afternoon session was opened at 2 pm with the singing of “*Are Ye Able?*”

Bishop Grove introduced Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, the Bishop of the Los Angeles Area, who will be preaching at conference and was sitting in the balcony.

YOUTH SERVICE FUND: Lydia Krimmel (Lay, YSF Chairperson, Little Kanawha District) announced the cabinet competition and clarified that the voting would be based on who has changed the most since their high school picture was taken. All money collected will be used for grants given by YSF.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: J.F. Lacaria (clergy, Director of Leadership Development and Ministry Support) introduced Heather Withrow (lay), the new Director of Camping and Outdoor Ministries. Heather introduced the staff of the summer camps who have come from around the world, as well as our own conference.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #1: 401 ballots cast; 388 valid ballots; 195 needed for election. Judi Kenaston (232) and Jim Berner (229) were elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. After prayer, the second General Conference Lay Ballot was taken.

Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #3: 243 ballots cast; 241 valid ballots; 121 needed for election. Ellis Conley (142) was elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #4 was taken following prayer.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bishop Grove announced that Ron and Edna Brooks were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The conference sang to them.

WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE: President Pamela Balch (lay equalization, president of WVWC) welcomed the conference to West Virginia Wesleyan. She has completed five years as president of WVWC. The current graduating class has a Mitchell Scholar (the first of any West Virginia college or university), the 9th Fulbright Scholar, a National Award winner from Alpha Lambda Delta, an NCAA Post –Graduate Scholar, and a Phi Kappa Phi Scholar who will attend medical school at WVU, among others. The athletic department has received both the President’s Cup and the Commissioner’s Cup from their conference. The college also received the President’s Community Service Recognition. The college now offers ten graduate degrees, including a new Master of Fine Arts which begins this year. Applications for the coming year are good and still being accepted. The work in the oval, including the fountain, was completed this year. Work has been completed on renovation of one residence hall and another is currently being built. The Thomas Law Center for Performing Arts is now debt-free. Wesleyan continues its connection with the local churches in the conference.

Bishop Grove thanked Dr. Balch.

Monty Brown (clergy, St. Mark’s, Charleston) presented a check to Dr. Balch for \$10,605 to be used for a lift to make Wesley Chapel accessible to all. The Saturday afternoon offering is also designated to go towards this expense of approximately \$15,000.

Bishop Grove read the letter of invitation from the college inviting the conference to return to campus next year.

STATE OF THE CHURCH: The cabinet presented the State of the Church address. Using video clips and stories of churches throughout the conference, they shared how churches in the conference are making disciples. They challenged the conference to let go of fear and stay focused on reaching people for Christ. At the request of the conference, this report is printed in Section 11 of this Journal.

PARTNERS IN CARE: Chaplain Bruce Reed (clergy, Chaplain, West Virginia National Guard) introduced Partners in Care, which is a program that helps congregations support troops, developed over the past three years with the WV Council of Churches. He presented a memorandum of understanding with the conference. He introduced Major General James Hoyer who addressed the conference with thanks for the contribution to this important initiative. The initiative addresses needs of service personnel throughout the state of West Virginia. West Virginia is the most deployed National Guard unit in the country, percentage per capita.

He praised the chaplains of the West Virginia National Guard, including Chaplain Bruce Reed. He also recognized Bill Atwell, who is retiring after 43 years as a pilot in the US Army, and thanked Dennis Sparks and Rev. Ricardo Flippin from the WV Council of Churches for their participation in the initiative. The Guard brings \$450 million per year in economic impact to the state of West Virginia. 43% of those in the WV Guard have a college degree or are now in school and an additional 30% have other job training. He introduced Joanne Jeager Tomblin, the first lady of West Virginia, who addressed the conference. She recognized the service men and women in West Virginia and spoke about her initiative “Serve West Virginia Military.” The website is www.serve.wv.gov.

Major General Hoyer and Bishop Grove signed the initiative.

STRETCH BREAK

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #2: 429 ballots cast; 406 valid ballots; 204 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 15 or more votes. After prayer, General Conference Lay Ballot #3 was taken.

Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #4: 259 ballots cast; 240 valid ballots; 121 needed for election. Mary Ellen Finegan (122) was elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #5 was taken following prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Conference Secretary announced that there was a card for Bishop Lyght and Eleanor in the narthex of the chapel and encouraged conference members to sign it.

BREAK

RESOLUTIONS: Joe Shreve (clergy, Chapel Hill, Buckhannon, Program Committee) moved “Making Disciples Who Make Disciples” submitted by the Evangelism Team and supported by the Covenant Council. Mary Ellen Finegan spoke for the resolution which will set the conference priority for the next quadrennium. Approved. *See Resolution One in Section VI of the Journal.*

Joe Shreve moved the adoption of the petition to General Conference, “Recognizing Men as Victims of Domestic Violence.” This petition was submitted by Shauna Hyde (Clergy, Christ Church, Charleston, Associate) and endorsed by the Administrative Board of Christ Church. Shauna Hyde spoke in favor of the petition. Approved. *See Petition in Section VI of the Journal.* Petition will be submitted on behalf of the Annual Conference.

Resolution “20-20: Visioning an AIDS-free world” was moved. Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries) spoke for it. Motion passed. *See Resolution Two in Section VI of the Journal.*

This concluded the work of the Resolutions committee.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION: Jeff Taylor (lay, Western District Lay Leader and President of the UM Foundation) reported on the work of the Foundation. In 2010 the Foundation received \$5 million in new deposits and finished the year with nearly \$56 million under management. They have received over \$1.5 million to date in 2011. The Foundation has distributed funds to many ministries throughout the conference and beyond, including scholarships, mission work, relief for families of the Montcoal mine disaster, and many others. He expressed gratitude for the many directors who have come before him, for the bishops who provide leadership to the Foundation Board, and for the many board members, past and present. He highlighted the creation of a charge officer who relates to the Foundation. He also thanked his staff: Kim Matthews, Joyce Townsend and Sally Sloan.

Bishop Grove thanked Jeff for his work at the Foundation.

FRANCIS ASBURY HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD: Larry Buckland (clergy, St. Paul, Fairmont) presented the Francis Asbury Award to the Rev. Jim McCune for his outstanding leadership in campus ministry. Rev. Buckland spoke of the valuable work that Jim McCune has done in Campus Ministry at both Marshall University and Potomac State, as well as chairing the Board of Higher Education. The award is presented by the Division of Higher Education at the General Board of Higher Education. Jim McCune thanked the conference for its commitment to campus ministry, including welcoming the tenth campus ministry site at Bluefield State this year.

The Campus Pastors were introduced: Jane Ellen Nickell (Allegheny College, PA); Felica Wooten Williams (Bluefield State); Cindy Stackpole (WVU); Sarah Rettig (Fairmont State and Pierpont Community and Technical College); Deborah Dague (West Liberty); Benjamin Wells (Marshall University); Janet Harman (University of Charleston); Greg Godwin (Concord University); Mark James (Glennville State); Jim McCune (Potomac State); and Angela Gaye Kincaid (Dean of the Chapel, WVWC).

A request was made for the names of students attending these campuses and for support of churches in the districts with our campus ministries.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #3: 428 ballots cast; 416 valid ballots; 209 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. After prayer, General Conference Lay Ballot #4 was taken.

COURTESIES: Kim Rolls (lay, member of the Program Committee) brought courtesies. She recognized all those attending conference for the first time. She recognized Charles Godwin who is attending conference for the 65th consecutive year. She asked for prayer for Dorsey Wilson who fell last evening, and for the family of Larry Border, who died this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary, highlighted the clergy service information change form and the procedure for ordering extra copies of the Conference Journal. The Congregational Development dinner will be in Jenkins Hall. She reminded the conference of the card in the narthex for Bishop Lyght.

PRAYER: Fred Kellerman (Lay, Equalization Member, Lewisburg) dismissed the session with prayer.

Thursday – June 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thursday evening worship was a service of Word and Table. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, bishop of the Los Angeles Area, was the preacher. Bishop William Boyd Grove was the celebrant. The music director and organist was David Donathan, Christ Church, Charleston.

Organ prelude was “*Trumpet Jubilation*” by Richard Frey. The conference choir, comprised of lay and clergy of the West Virginia Annual Conference, presented the anthems “*Look at the World*” by John Rutter, and “*Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song*,” arranged by John Carter. The organ postlude was “*Variation on HYMN TO JOY*” by Albert Travis.

The Children’s Sermon was given by Ellis Conley.

The Gospel Reading was *John 14:12-17*.

Other scripture readings were *Psalms 107:1-9* and *Acts 1:1-10*.

Bishop Swenson’s sermon was “*Leaving the Table*.”

Hymns were “*In Unity We Lift Our Song*,” and “*For All the Saints*.” Choral Worship during communion included “*Let Us Break Bread Together*,” “*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*,” “*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*,” and “*Spirit Song*.”

Liturgists for the service were the Cabinet of the West Virginia Annual Conference. Communion servers were Ordained Deacons in Full Connection in the conference.

Communion bread was provided by the Western District.

An offering was received for Volunteers in Mission.

As names of those who had died in the past year were read by the Conference Secretary, pictures were displayed and family and friends were invited to stand. Names read were:

(Clergy): Rex L. Ball, Gary L. Boyd, Frank Brotherton, Rondal C. Browning, Billy Cornell, Donald L. Cale, Marvan G. Frame, Merle F. Frank, William S. Hart, Cyrus E. Holly, David E. Jasper, H. Randolph Kidd, Richard D. Ogden, G. Frank Plybon, G. Charles Roth, Margaret “Peig” Schmitz, Clarice J. Daniel Smith, John L. Smith, Roy L. Stanley, John Earl Tenney, Ralph E. Thompson, Jr.

(Assigned Supply, serving at the time of death): Alvin Russell.

(Spouses): Marsha Ann Anderson, Darlene Lucelle Crickard, Herman Lusk, Phyllis Ann Mehaffie, Ruth Samaroo, Linda Simms, Doris R. Stewart, Norman L. West.

(Surviving Spouses): Shelva D. Andrews, Elizabeth Arbogast, Grace “Pug” Geary, Ouida N. Hutchinson, Edna M. Mitchell, Neva T. Patterson, Lola M. Raines, Esther Spurlock, Dorothy J. States, Katherine Young, Sarah H. Young.

Following worship an Ice Cream Social, sponsored by the conference youth, was held in front of Wesley Chapel.

Friday Morning – June 10, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP: Worship was lead by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, bishop of the Los Angeles Area. Hymns were “*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*,” “*We All Are One in Mission*” and “*Give Thanks*.” The Praise Team sang “*God of My Days*.” Bishop Swenson’s sermon was “*Whole-hearted Ignorance*” using the text of Acts 1:6-8 and I Peter 1:3-9. Worship participants were Morgan Perdue (lay equalization, Wesleyan Student), Alicia Matheny (lay equalization, UM Student Movement Chair) and Bill Dawson (clergy, Sistersville First). Bishop Grove offered a prayer for those in our communities whose names have been brought to the conference.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bill Wilson (clergy, Assistant to the Bishop) updated the conference on Bishop Lyght's health. He is under medical attention for his ongoing health concerns in the hospital in Buckhannon. He is anticipating being released from the hospital before conference ends. The bishop is in prayer for the conference. The cabinet has selected Ed Grant (Midland South District Superintendent) to be the chaplain for the bishop.

MONITORING: Jay Parkins (clergy, Duffey Memorial, chair of Justice and Advocacy) reported that Justice and Advocacy, along with Religion and Race, is providing monitoring for the annual conference. He affirmed the conference for its use of inclusive language, particularly in regard to gender issues. He expressed concern that no persons of color have been elected so far. The results of the monitoring for Thursday were posted on the screen during the day.

YOUTH SERVICE FUND: Lydia Krimmel (lay, chair of the Youth Service Fund) presented the "Silver Hard Hat" award to Potomac Highlands District Superintendent, Dallas Forren, who was declared the winner according to the money collected. The total collection for the evening collection was \$1,901.20.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #5: 257 ballots cast; 251 valid ballots; 126 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #6 was taken following prayer.

Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #4: 384 ballots cast; 383 valid ballots; 192 needed for election. Judy Nutter (243) and Patricia "Pat" Mick (200) were elected. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. After prayer, General Conference Lay Ballot #5 was taken.

LAITY ADDRESS: Royce Lyden, (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader) introduced the Laity Address. Members of the Lay Ministry Team gave the address as "Letters to the Annual Conference." Those who shared were Conference Associate Lay Leader, Steve Nicely (lay equalization, Little Kanawha District), Patsy Flenborg (lay equalization, Rules chair, Little Kanawha District), Zachary Allen (lay equalization, Covenant Council, member of the General Board of Church and Society), and Royce Lyden. At the request of the body, the Laity Address is included in Section 11, Miscellaneous, of this Journal.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #6: 232 ballots cast; 228 valid ballots; 115 needed for election. Ken Ramsey (133) was elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #7 was taken following prayer.

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE 2012 REPORT: Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop) introduced Monty Brown (clergy, St. Mark's, Charleston) who will work with the Assistant to the

Bishop, to coordinate the planning for Jurisdictional Conference, which will be held in Charleston in July 2012. There will be 252 elected delegates plus the College of Bishops and visitors. Monty Brown stressed the importance of hospitality. Volunteers will be needed to provide water, serve as guides, provide transportation, provide cookies and snacks for in between sessions, staff prayer chapels, prepare welcome packets, prayers shawls, signage, traffic control, etc.

The committee is Helga Hallett, Mark Conner, Kim Matthews, Jeff Taylor, Ed and Brenda Grant, Jim Reed, Pat Mick, Suzanne Knight, Lisa Shaffer, Rod Blackstone, Judy Nutter, Randy Flanagan and Frank Shomo. There is a volunteer sheet (Document 2011-20) and it will be posted online.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #5: 423 ballots cast; 419 valid ballots; 210 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. After prayer, General Conference Lay Ballot #6 was taken.

COVENANT COUNCIL: Steve Nicely (lay, Covenant Council Chair) presented the recommendations of the Covenant Council which were found in the workbook. Approved. He moved the election of the coordinators. Approved. He moved the annual conference offerings. Approved. He moved Guidelines for Hunger Ministries. Approved.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries) introduced the conference staff, including J.F. Lalaria (clergy, Director of Leadership Development and Ministry Support). The two of them work as a team in leading the conference staff. Other staff members are Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development), Laura Allen (lay, Director of Communications), Adam Cunningham (Communications Specialist); Thomasina Stewart (clergy, Director of Ethnic Ministries), Bob Wilkins (clergy, Missions Consultant), Tom Clark (clergy, VIM Coordinator), Heather Withrow (lay, Director of Camping and Outdoor Ministries). Support staff includes: Chris Ridgway (lay, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant for Connectional Ministries), Andrea Holley (Administrative Assistant for other staff members), and Mary Mayes (lay, AV Coordinator). Also recognized was Don Keller who has served as the Camps Director for many years and is returning to his home conference of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Steve Nicely moved the entire Covenant Council report. It was approved.

ORDER OF THE DAY: Recognition of Retiring Class and New Clergy Members.

The service of recognition opened with "*The Summons*."

The 2011 class of those entering the retired relationship were recognized as their names were read by Martha Ognibene (clergy, member of the Board of Ordained Ministry). Retirees were greeted by Bishop Grove and the conference secretary. They received a pin, a certificate of appreciation for their years of service, and a gift made and presented by participants in the Children's Conference.

The Children's Conference has completed work on a quilt for Bishop Lyght that was begun last year. The quilt was displayed for the conference.

Bishop Grove led the conference in a prayer litany for the retirees.

A video was shown featuring retirees who chose to be interviewed about their life in ministry. Those interviewed included Etheldene Yanero, Steven Rhodes, Ken London, Carol Duffield, Lindsay Thorp, Larry Walker, Suzanne Ellis, and Sharon Godwin Carr.

The Praise Team sang “*Glorify You Alone.*”

HISTORIC EXAMINATION OF MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Martin Hallett (clergy, St. Johns, Midland South District, and member of the Board of Ordained Ministry) introduced the service. Alicia Randolph Rapping (clergy, Upshur Parish House) introduced the ministerial candidate for ministry in Associate Membership, Rodney Heckert.

Elizabeth “Butch” Baker (clergy, First, Clarksburg, Deacon Associate) introduced those ministerial candidates for full membership as Deacons, Janet Lee McCloud Flanagan and Barbara Anne Bartz Rogerson.

Ministerial candidates for Full membership were presented by Richard Work (clergy, Avery, Mon Valley District). Those received as Members in Full Connection were Timothy Dean Bleigh, Mary Elizabeth Brumley, Brian Keith Long, Gregory A. Markins, Kenneth Samuel Peters, Amanda Gayle Reed, David W. Stilgenbauer, and Eric Carter Weaver. The candidates were questioned by the bishop and welcomed by the conference.

Martha Hill (lay, St. Mark’s Charleston and member of the Board of Ordained Ministry) explained the tradition of passing the mantle from a member of the retiring class to the new class of elders, as Elijah passed the mantle to Elisha as a sign and symbol of submission to God and carrying the responsibility of sharing God’s word. The mantle was passed from Sharon Godwin Carr, retiring elder, to Gregory Markins, candidate for elder’s orders.

The closing hymn was “*Grace Alone.*”

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #7: 241 ballots cast; 239 valid ballots; 120 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #8 was taken following prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Due to the luncheon for clergy retirees, lunches for everyone else will be available in the Social Hall, and not in French See Dining Hall.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dwayne Lowther (clergy, retired) offered the closing prayer before lunch.

LUNCH BREAK

Friday Afternoon – June 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

The afternoon session began with the singing of “*Here I Am, Lord*” led by music director, David Donathan.

Bishop Grove recognized Lisa Shaffer, the Bishop’s administrative secretary.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Richard Bowyer (clergy, retired) pointed out that our delegation at this point is not inclusive and that we should be aware of the need to send an inclusive delegation.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #8: 196 ballots cast; 194 valid ballots; 98 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. Mark Conner withdrew his name from the ballot for General Conference and requested that people who were voting for him would vote for someone who would make the delegation more inclusive. General Conference Clergy Ballot #9 was taken following prayer.

Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #6: 421 ballots cast; 415 valid ballots; 208 needed for election. Fred Kellerman (225) was elected. This completed the delegation to General Conference. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. Bishop Grove explained that the first two persons elected to Jurisdictional Conference would also attend General Conference as reserve delegates. After prayer, Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #1 was taken.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY: Ginnie Lowther (clergy, Retired and Chair of Archives and History) highlighted the upcoming celebration of the 225th anniversary of Old Rehoboth. She then introduced Lawrence Sherwood (clergy, retired) who has written a new book, "Francis Asbury Tours in West Virginia." After reading a portion of Asbury's diary, he presented a copy of the book to Bishop Grove and one for Bishop Lyght. Joe Kenaston (clergy, Lewisburg) shared insights about Bishop Francis Asbury. Rev. Kenaston will be portraying Bishop Asbury at the celebration at Old Rehoboth. Ginnie Lowther and Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries) presented Lawrence Sherwood with a plaque designating him as "Distinguished Historian," citing his many years of dedication to the history of the conference.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #9: 203 ballots cast; 202 valid ballots; 102 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #10 was taken following prayer.

PENSIONS: Joe Kenaston (clergy, Lewisburg, chair of the Conference Board of Pensions) presented the report of the Board of Pensions. He read from Acts chapter 6, concerning the way the early church allowed for the care of those who have served the church. He pointed out that 42% of the conference budget goes for Pension and Health Care. He offered an editorial correction to what was presented in the Conference Workbook. He indicated that the CRSP program will likely be changed at General Conference. For the past several years, the Day of Remembrance offerings have been going to the Central Conference Pension Initiative. This year the offering will go to its original purpose of providing emergency funds and moving expenses for retired clergy and surviving spouses. There has also been an increase in the amount allowed for moving expenses for retired clergy.

He explained the changes to the health plan that occurred on April 1, in accordance with the federal legislation, including the inclusion of adult children to the age of 26 and the removal of cap in lifetime insurance benefit. There is no increase in the requests for 2012 either in premiums, the churches' contribution, or the apportionment request for pensions. The \$1.6 million reserve for health insurance is a small percentage of what is needed each year and if there is a year with sizable claims in health needs this may not be enough.

He moved Pensions recommendations 1.a and 1.b. Approved. He moved sections II, A-H, of the report. Approved. Joe Kenaston moved the Miscellaneous Recommendations, A-F. Approved.

He moved the adoption of the resolution **Rental / Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the West Virginia Annual Conference.** It was approved. *See Resolution Three in Section VI of the Journal.*

He thanked Jim Berner, Conference Treasurer, as well as his staff, Cheryl Sutton and Louise Raines. He also thanked Bill Howard, of Benefit Assistance, and Jack Grimm, of the 4Most Health Plan.

He moved the adoption of the entire report.

Lawrence Sherwood (clergy, retired) pointed out that there was a conflict between what Pensions is recommending for the Day of Remembrance and what the Council of Finance and Administration has printed in the Conference Workbook. Joe Kenaston responded that this should be cared for in the CFA report tomorrow.

Report was accepted. Bishop Grove thanked the Board for its diligent work.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #1: 393 ballots cast; 361 valid ballots; 181 needed for election. Royce Lyden (227), Zachary Allen (204) and Connor Kenaston (202) were elected. The first two will serve as reserves to General Conference. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. After prayer, Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #2 was taken.

John Sauvage moved that the Laity Address and the State of the Church address by the cabinet be included in the Conference Journal. Motion approved.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: The Rev. Dennis Sparks, executive director of the WV Council of Churches, addressed the conference. He spoke of the young people who are marching to Blair Mountain in protest of Mountain Top Removal. The United Methodist church was the first to take a stand against Mountain Top Removal. The Council of Churches is leading the way in helping allow for conversations around difficult issues of justice. Dennis Sparks will be retiring in December as executive director.

Bishop Grove spoke of the importance of the Council of Churches, as it speaks to justice ministries.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #10: 203 ballots cast; 202 valid ballots; 102 needed for election. Mark Flynn (108) was elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. General Conference Clergy Ballot #11 was taken following prayer.

INTERNS: Alicia Rapping (clergy, Upshur Parish) introduced the Summer Interns. Sara Allen, St. Marks (Charleston) and CDOM; Greg Hoffman, WV Office of Connectional Ministries; Nathan Weaver, Duff Street (Clarksburg); Carrie Cramer, Upshur Parish House and Tunnelton UMC; Cassie Kile, Mountaintop Ministries (Franklin); Meghan McComber, Marshall University Campus Ministry and Community of Grace. Rev. Rapping encouraged churches to host summer interns.

COKESBURY: Cheryl Burton, manager of the Charleston Cokesbury Store addressed the conference. She said that sales were down by \$3 million below the budget projection. Five stores were closed last year. She encouraged people to make purchases through the store which will allow the Charleston store to remain open. She highlighted some new offerings, “Worship in Song” songbook and the new “Common English Bible.” She encouraged people to use the website www.ministrymatters.com that replaces the worship connection. It is currently free.

BREAK

The Conference sang “*Standing on the Promises*” to begin after the break.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #2: 391 ballots cast; 375 valid ballots; 188 needed for election. There were no elections. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. After prayer, Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #3 was taken.

Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #11: 214 ballots cast; 211 valid ballots; 106 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more. New ballot packets were distributed to clergy. General Conference Clergy Ballot #12 was taken following prayer.

RETHINK CHURCH: The conference viewed a video produced by RETHINK CHURCH.

HARRY DENMAN AWARDS: Mary Ellen Finegan (clergy, Central-Trinity, Fairmont, and Evangelism Team Chair) highlighted the handout which includes the Bishop’s Challenge Award for charges who have had at least one new profession of faith in each of the last three consecutive year. There have been 1,330 professions of faith.

Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development) assisted with the presentation of the Harry Denman Awards.

The Lay Award was given to Carolyn Hawley, a member of St. Paul’s UMC in Nitro. She has been instrumental in a children’s group called AGEE’s Angels, which was named after a church member who died and stands for Assisting God with Everything Everywhere. This group has raised over \$20,000 for pediatric care and research. Ms. Hawley addressed the conference and said she was shocked to learn that she received the award because she was “blessed to hang out with amazing kids.” Her mother, daughter and two sons were present in the balcony and were recognized.

The Clergy Award was given to Rev. James “Jim” McCune, pastor of Grace, Keyser, for his efforts in reaching into the community with boundless energy and enthusiasm, including a strong student based ministry at Potomac State College. He also works with those at Burlington and in many community activities. He knows his congregation and his neighbors. Rev. McCune thanked the conference for the honor.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #3: 354 ballots cast; 344 valid ballots; 173 needed for election. Gayle Lesure (208) and Jeff Taylor (188) were elected. This completed the Jurisdictional Delegation. Another ballot will be taken to elect alternates. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20 or more votes. After prayer, Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #4 was taken.

The conference viewed a video called “With” produced by the The General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women. The video can be found at www.ministryWITH.org.

BALLOTING: Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #12: 188 ballots cast; 184 valid ballots; 93 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 20 votes or more.

Monty Brown withdrew his name from consideration for General Conference. General Conference Clergy Ballot #13 was taken following prayer.

MISSION PROJECTS: Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries) introduced Judy Nutter (lay, chair of Global Ministries) who introduced the mission agency directors. Executive Director, Burlington – Michael Price; Executive Director of Glenwood Park – Daniel Farley; Church and Community workers: Anita Tracy (Richwood – Craigsville Cooperative Ministries); Frances Coffey (Mary’s Cradle); Gayle Lesure (Greater Clarksburg); and Judy Matheny (United Methodist Ministries). Judy is retiring this year with 41 years of service, 17 ½ years within our conference.

Mission directors: Community Development Outreach Ministries (CDOM) – Luana Cook Scott, executive director; Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Inc., – Celeste Sheffield, director; Heart and Hand House, Barbour County – Brenda Hunt, director; Scott’s Run Settlement House – Sarah Graham, executive director; Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, Inc. – Belinda Toms, director; Upshur Parish House and Crosslines – Alicia Randolph Rapping, executive director; House of the Carpenter – Gary Beale, director. Gary is retiring after 43 years and the new director will be Mike Linger.

NOMINATIONS: Carol McKay (clergy, Lavalette and Chair of the Nominations Team) reported the work of the Nominations Team. The work is found both in the workbook and on a handout that was distributed on Thursday. Complete nominations are found in Section II of this Journal. Nominations report was approved and persons named were elected.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #4: 348 ballots cast; 340 valid ballots; 171 needed for election. Betty Bailey was elected as alternate to Jurisdictional Conference. The Conference Secretary read the names who had received 20

or more votes. Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #5 was taken.

Barry Moll moved to suspend the rules to allow for the conference secretary to read all names receiving 10 votes or more. The rule was suspended. The motion was passed.

Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #13: 191 ballots cast; 189 valid ballots; 95 needed for election. Ed Grant (106) was elected. This completed the General Conference delegaton. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. The first Jurisdictional Conference Ballot was taken after prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Minister Mates' luncheon will be Saturday at Nellie Wilson Lounge. The choir will practice in the choir loft at 5:45.

CLOSING PRAYER: Michael L. Ludle (lay, CCYM president) closed with prayer.

WORSHIP

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR ORDINATION of DEACONS and ELDERS with COMMISSIONING and RECOGNITION of ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The service was conducted by Bishop William Boyd Grove, retired bishop. Musical leadership was provided by director, Suzanne Knight, First, Romney, and organist, Barbara Good, First, South Charleston. Processional was "*Processional from Judas Maccabeaus*" by G.F. Handel. The anthem was "*Before the Throne of God Above*" arranged by David Angerman, and the choral offertory was "*One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*" by Craig Courtney.

Hymns included "*Lift High the Cross*," "*Jesus Calls Us*," "*Jesu, Jesu*," "*O Jesus, I Have Promised*," "*More Precious than Silver*," and "*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*."

Bishop Swenson's sermon was "*Witness to An Empty Sky*." Scripture Lessons were *Isaiah 43:8-13*; *Acts 1:1-10*; and *Luke 7:19-22*.

An offering was received for the Spring Heights Campership Fund.

Rodney Heckert was welcomed as an Associate Member of the Annual conference.

David Franklin Donathan and Christina Smith Ruehl were commissioned for the work of a deacon.

Lauren Ann Godwin, Timothy J. Kelley, Diane Michelle Kenaston, Kelly Louise Martin, Jacob D. Steele, and Felica Wooten Williams were commissioned for the work of an elder.

Janet Lee McCloud Flanagan and Barbara Anne Bartz Rogerson were ordained Deacons in Full Connection.

Timothy Dean Bleigh, Mary Elizabeth Brumley, Brian Keith Long, Gregory A. Markins, Kenneth Samuel Peters, Amanda Gayle Reed, David W. Stilgenbauer, and Eric Carter Weaver were ordained Elders in Full Connection.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Bishop William Boy Grove ordained the new deacons and elders. Rev. Dennis D. Sparks, Executive Director of the West Virginia

Council of Churches, was the ecumenical representative. Bill Deel, layperson, Jack Lipphardt, member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Susie Echols, deacon, and Monty Brown, elder, presented the candidates for Ordination to the bishop. Judith M. Kenaston, Annual Conference Secretary, and J.F. Lacaria, Director of Ministry Formation, assisted with presentation of stoles and certificates.

Saturday Morning – June 11, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

MORNING PRAISE AND PRAYER: Gathering music was “*Shukuruh Allah*”, “*Great is the Lord*,” and “*Days of Elijah*.” The Praise Team sang “*Let Your Mercy Reign*.” Scripture reading was Isaiah 61:1-7. A video presentation of the Mission projects of the conference was shared. Worship participants were Sarah Allen (lay equalization, West Liberty Campus Ministry), Gregg Hoffman (Summer Intern), Eric Veltre (lay equalization, Wesleyan Young Adult), and Hannah Hoskinson (lay equalization, Mon Valley Youth).

COURTESIES: Bishop Grove brought courtesies to the conference. Sarah Allen (lay equalization, Northern District Young Adult) is celebrating her 20th birthday today.

MONITORING REPORT: Diane Kenaston (clergy, newly commissioned elder) presented the monitoring report from Friday. She celebrated the lay delegation for General and Jurisdictional conference. The delegation is 50% male and 50% female; 10% ethnic-minority; and 40% young adult. The clergy are only half way through their election process, but their statistics are: 80% male, 100% are elders, 100% are middle adult and 100% are white.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Thomasina Stewart (clergy, Ebenezer, Huntington) pointed out that there are just over 770 ethnic members of our conference out of about 100,000 United Methodists. There are about 28 black members of this Annual Conference Session. She urged the conference that when voting for delegates, members consider persons who would carry the voice of the ethnic community to General Conference.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot #5: 331 ballots cast; 317 valid ballots; 159 needed for election. Scarlett Kellerman was elected as alternate delegate to Jurisdictional Conference. This completed the delegation, including two alternates.

Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #1: 172 ballots cast; 167 valid ballots; 84 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. The Jurisdictional Conference Ballot #2 was taken after prayer.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Zachary Allen reminded the conference that only 20% of the clergy delegates elected so far are serving a local church.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: Beth Peters (clergy, Humphries, Tornado) presented the Equitable Compensation report. She highlighted the printed report

and celebrated that there would be no increase in the healthcare costs this year. The minimum salary recommendation in each category increased by \$300. Recommendation approved.

Entire report approved.

CABINET PROPERTY REPORT: Ellis Conley (clergy, Secretary of the Cabinet) presented the Cabinet Property Report. He moved approval of those churches recommended to be abandoned or discontinued. There are two exceptions to conference policy for disposition for sales. They include Booth-Union on the West Mon Charge and Brandonville on the Brandonville Charge, both in Mon Valley District. He moved approval of 14C. Resolution Adopted. ***See Resolution Four in Section VI of the Journal.***

Rev. Conley presented a resolution lifting deed restrictions so that the Gordon Church may be used as a church. Approved. He presented a resolution lifting deed restrictions to allow Spruce Grove building to be used as a church. Resolution Adopted. ***See Resolution Five in Section VI of the Journal.***

He moved the resolution dealing with New Salem / Sandlick Parsonage. Robert File (lay, Conference Chancellor) explained the resolution. Resolution adopted. ***See Resolution Six in Section VI of the Journal.***

Entire property report approved.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bill Wilson and J.F. Lacaria recognized Mary Mayes for 25 years of service at the Conference Center. Mary Mayes has served as the receptionist and currently maintains the conference Audio/Visual library.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #2: 187 ballots cast; 181 valid ballots; 91 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. The Jurisdictional Conference Ballot #3 was taken after prayer.

TRUSTEES: Andy Jackson (lay, chair of Trustees) brought the report of the Conference Trustees. He highlighted the Trustees' written report. The trustees have been able to provide assistance to churches for improvements with the funds available from the sale of closed buildings. The trustees have also been involved in the purchase of the new Episcopal residence. He thanked Jim Berner and Bill Wilson and the staff in their offices. He also thanked Robert File, the conference chancellor, and Cliff Schell, who has completed his first year as the Trustee Agent.

He explained and moved the following property resolutions: **Unlawful Appropriation of Church Property**, Approved. *See Resolution Seven in Section VI of the Journal.* **Abandoned Properties, and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same**; Approved. *See Resolutions Eight in Section VI of the Journal* and **Abandoned Property Funds**. Approved. *See Resolutions Nine in Section VI of the Journal.*

Moved complete report, including financial statements. Report was approved.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY: Janet Harman (clergy, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry) explained the historical significance of diaconal ministry. As of

1996, diaconal ministry ceased receiving new candidates for this form of lay ministry. Our conference still has one active diaconal minister, and she has requested retired status. Rosalind Gebhard Paul served the conference for 20 years as the manager of the Cokesbury Store. The Board recommended to the conference the retirement of Rosalind Gebhard Paul. This retirement was approved.

BREAK

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #3: 203 ballots cast; 197 valid ballots; 99 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more.

Heather Elkins (clergy, Associate Dean, Drew University) requested that her name be removed from the ballot.

The Jurisdictional Conference Ballot #4 was taken after prayer.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Dallas Forren (clergy, Potomac Highlands Superintendent) shared with the conference that David Erenrich's father is in surgery. He asked the Cabinet Secretary, Ellis Conley (clergy, Mon Valley Superintendent), to lead the conference in prayer for David and his family.

SCOUTING: Ralph Herron (lay, Scouting Coordinator) presented the awards for scouting. Those receiving the Bishop's Award for Excellence were: Pack 12 and Troop 12, Stout Memorial UMC, Little Kanawha District; Troop 17, St. John UMC, and Troop 177, Morris Memorial UMC, Midland South District; Troop 7, Pleasant Valley UMC, and Troop 81, Wesley UMC, Mon Valley District. One other troop received the award but was not present for the presentation.

Ralph Herron explained the Torch Award and introduced those persons who currently have the Torch Award in the conference. The Torch Award is a United Methodist award.

A Torch Award was presented to Ben T. Vincent of Gassaway UMC. He is an Eagle Scout, received the God and Country Award and has given leadership in three councils. He is an active member of the WV Scouting Ministry Committee and the Circuit Rider.

A second Torch Award was given to Col. Bruce D. Reed. He is an elder in the conference, and a Life Scout. As a pastor he organized four Troops and three Explorer Posts. As a military chaplain he has distributed "Strength for Service" to the troops. He is a long-term supporter of the UMM Circuit Rider and WV Scouting Ministry.

Another Torch Award was given to Paul "Sunshine" Shogren of St. Paul UMC, Oakland, Maryland. He is an Eagle Scout who began with the Cub Scouts in 1938. He has 73 years of service in BSA. He was a staff member at Old Abrue Camp in 1947, during Philmont Scout Ranch's formative first decade.

The final award was the Silver Torch Award and was given to Steven P. McGowan who is a Roman Catholic. He has served on local, council, regional, and national levels. He has been a key West Virginian and B.S.A Volunteer in the development of the Summit in Fayette County.

Greg Godwin (clergy, Northeastern Jurisdictional Scouting Coordinator) presented Bishop Grove with a cartoon that had been printed in the Daily Journal on Friday, depicting

him as a relief pitcher. Bishop Grove thanked Greg for his leadership in Scouting and mentioned that the United Methodist church is a tremendous supporter of Scouting.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #4: 197 ballots cast; 189 valid ballots; 95 needed for election. Janet Harman (114) and Monty Brown (96) were elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. Helga Hallett (clergy, retired) requested that her name be removed from the ballot. The Jurisdictional Conference Ballot #5 was taken after prayer.

Keith Forkey (clergy, New Life) moved that the rules be suspended to consider a motion to take those persons with the highest vote totals on the next ballot. The motion to suspend the rules was not supported.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Rick Dequasia (clergy, Trinity, Pt. Pleasant, chair of C.F.A.) introduced Jim Berner (lay, treasurer) who explained that the bonding that is provided in Fiscal Policy 44 will not be available after January 1, 2013. Although there is no change for 2012, churches need to be aware that the bonding will not be available the following year.

Rev. Dequasia directed the conference to the C.F.A. report. He reminded the conference that the Day of Remembrance offering should read “Supports emergency funds for Conference claimants, moving expenses for retiring clergy or widows of clergy who died while serving, and Housing Grant Fund for clergy at or near retirement.” This is in keeping with the recommendation from the Board of Pensions which was approved Friday. He moved items 3 – 15, which included the resolution, Parsonage Allowances – Clergy in Extension Ministries.

Policies were supported. *See Resolution Ten in Section VI of the Journal.*

Rev. Dequasia moved support of the Fiscal Policies and the Investment Policies. Approved.

He highlighted the Opportunities for Ministry (Budget) for 2012 and asked if there were any questions. He moved Recommendations 1 and 2, which deals with the budget.

Michael Estep (Clergy, Ronceverte) moved to amend the budget by deleting World Service – General Church – Contingency which is an amount of \$202,499. Meredith Gudger-Raines (clergy, Wesley Associate and Community) spoke against the amendment. Jim Berner (lay, treasurer) spoke against the amendment on behalf of C.F.A. Amendment was not supported.

Budget recommendations were supported.

Rick Dequasia highlighted the 2010 apportionment review, found in the Conference Workbook. He encouraged churches to pay their apportionments in full. He thanked Jim Berner, Bishop Lyght, and the members of C.F.A. for their help in the work of the Council.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #5: 200 ballots cast; 193 valid ballots; 95 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. The Jurisdictional Conference Ballot #6 was taken after prayer.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development) introduced Tyrone Gordon who will be preaching at the Pentecost Vigil service in the afternoon. Tyrone Gordon was the speaker at the Commission Possible event in April. He was just elected as a clergy delegate from the North Texas Annual Conference. She encouraged people to post the link so the people back home can watch the celebration through live-streaming.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary, moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar included all the reports found in Section VII of this *Journal* and the Statistician's Report, found in Section XIV. It was approved.

PRAYER MINISTRIES: Bill Dawson (clergy, Sistersville First, Conference Prayer Coordinator) encouraged the conference to pray for those going to General Conference. A prayer guide can be downloaded from www.renewalministries.com. They are looking for 1000 churches who are willing to be in prayer during the General Conference in April/May 2012. They are also requesting 1000 prayer delegates to attend General Conference, at their own expense, to staff prayer booths. Anyone interested in attending as a Prayer Delegate should contact Bill Dawson.

Rev. Dawson asked those who had been elected to General Conference to stand and he led the conference in a prayer for them.

QUADRENNIAL NOMINATIONS: Ed Grant (clergy, Midland South Superintendent) has chaired the Quadrennial Nominations to elect the Nominations Team for the next quadrennium. Those nominated were:

District Representatives: Karen Grafton (LW Greenbrier District); Michael Ludle (LM-YA Little Kanawha District); Aliene Lee (LW Midland South District); Aslam Barkat (CM Mon Valley District); Keith Forkey (CM Northern District); Robert Anderson (CM Potomac Highlands District); Judy Raines (LW Southern District); Brian Seders (CM Wesleyan District); Kim Matthews (LW Western District)

Members at Large: Clair Sulgit-Horn (CW CHAIR); Zachary Allen (LM-YA); Erin Sears (LW-YOUTH); Tom Shepherd (CM); Jacqueline Collins (LW-YA); Judy Vetter (CW); Fred Jackson (LM); one person to be elected.

The other members of the team serve by virtue of office.

The nominations were approved.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Ed Grant said that he had delivered the card that was sent from the conference and he stated that Bishop Lyght was deeply moved. He asked that we continue to pray for the Bishop and for Eleanor.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #6: 204 ballots cast; 199 valid ballots; 100 needed for election. Amy Shanholtzer (120) was elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more.

James Martin (clergy, Pruntytown-Fetterman) asked to suspend the rules so that he could move to take the four persons with the highest vote totals on the next ballot to

complete the delegation. The rules were suspended.

James Martin moved that the top four names on the next ballot be the final two delegates to Jurisdictional conference and the two alternates. The motion was seconded.

Tom McDowell (clergy, Christ-St. Andrews, Parkersburg) amended the motion to state that in electing these persons that the conference remember the voices that should be heard and that a truly inclusive delegation be elected. The amendment was approved.

The question was raised as to how many persons would be voted for on this ballot. The maker of the motion stated that it was his intention that we would vote for two and take the top four.

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Lewisburg) spoke against the motion, stating that the process was too important to short-change merely because it is taking too long.

The motion was defeated.

Randy Flanagan (clergy, Christ Church, Charleston) said that he has been appointed 39 times and has seen nine delegations put together. He said that this was the first time that the conference has come close to having a delegation that is not racially inclusive. He said that this delegation reflects the false stereotype that persons outside of the conference have of the West Virginia Conference, and encouraged the conference to send an inclusive delegation with the votes that are left.

The Jurisdictional Conference Ballot #7 was taken after prayer.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: The people who will be going on Volunteers-in-Mission trips processed into the Chapel carrying flags representing the 52 different countries where groups have traveled over the past 30 years. The flags made an impressive display in the front of the Chapel. Tom Clark (clergy, Director of the Volunteers-in-Mission) led the groups that are going this year in a Commissioning Litany.

Bishop Grove prayed for the groups that will be going this year. Tom Clark led the conference in singing "*Jesus Loves Me*" and "*Jesus Loves the Little Children.*"

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Minister's Mates will meet for lunch at noon in Nellie Wilson Lounge.

COURTESIES: Kim Rolls recognized the congregation of First UMC, Shinnston, that is celebrating its 225th anniversary on October 9th this year. The Asbury books written by Lawrence Sherwood have sold out, but he is taking orders and more will be available at the Rehoboth celebration on June 25th.

Fred Jackson (lay, president of UMM) invited everyone to attend the United Methodist Men's gathering on September 9 – 11 at Jackson's Mill. Registration for the Golf Tournament, for the meal, and for the Scouting are available in the Narthex.

Cliff Schell (clergy, retired serving Flemington Charge) spoke about the Celebration of Mission Events which raised over \$90,000 for the Conference missions, in addition to gifts in kind. Greenbrier District was the top district and raised over \$27,000. Mon Valley district raised over \$20,000.

Kim Rolls asked that the conference remember the family of Clarence Spencer from the Wayne Church who died this week.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #7: 198 ballots cast; 189 valid ballots; 95 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. Bishop Grove commented that there were many people who received only one vote. After prayer, ballot #8 was taken.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Luana Cook Scott encouraged the conference to visit the Cokesbury Store that is set up in Rockefeller Gymnasium.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries) introduced John Sauvage (clergy, chair of the Program Committee) who introduced Nancy Henderson White (clergy, Deacon Associate at St. Paul, Nitro) and Rich Hogg (clergy, Burlington) who were responsible for the pages. The pages were as follows: Greenbrier District: Jacob Estep, Ty Hilton, Ryan Swearingen; Little Kanawha District: Uriah Ludle, Justus Robinson, Allie Sears; Midland South District: Eliza Smith; Mon Valley District: Philip Carson, Todd Funkhouser, Jacob Rexroad; Northern: Mandi Theodoro; Potomac Highlands: Chelsea Brinker, Catherine Gooding; Southern: Reagan Adams, Sarah Hall; Wesleyan: Hollie Bragg, Lizzy Edwards, Kara Lloyd; and Western: Sarah Cartwright and Stephanie Frasher. Adult helpers: Rich Hogg, Jeremiah Jasper, Diane Kenaston, and Michael Waide.

John Sauvage thanked Debbie Leigh, the local arrangements coordinator, David Donathan, the music director, and Johnna Wheaton, the worship coordinator, and the AV workers.

The evaluation is being done online at www.wvumc.org/conference. An email will be sent to all who registered sharing the link for the evaluation.

DATE FOR 2012 CONFERENCE: Bill Wilson (clergy, Assistant to the Bishop) announced that Bishop Lyght has set the date for next year's conference. It will begin on Wednesday evening, June 6, with the Clergy Executive Session, and conclude on Saturday afternoon, June 9. Next year's conference will include the retirement of Bishop Lyght. Bishop Marcus Matthews, bishop of the Upper New York conference, will be the preacher for 2012 Annual Conference. The guest musician and teacher will be Cynthia Fielder Wilson, from Atlanta, GA.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: David Erenrich (clergy, Dean of the Cabinet) compared Bishop Grove to a pinch-hitter who has hit a homerun. He thanked him for returning to live in the conference after his retirement and for stepping in at a difficult time and serving the conference this week. Bishop Grove responded that it was a privilege to be with the conference this week. He regrets that it was due to Bishop Lyght's illness that he was in the chair, but that he felt the week was a special gift. He thanked Bill Wilson and Judi Kenaston for their help during the week.

BALLOTING: Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #8: 185 ballots cast; 183 valid ballots; 92 needed for election. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more. After prayer, ballot #9 was taken.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Randy Flanagan (clergy, Christ Church, Charleston) announced that Phyllis Coston had been honored by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary as their Distinguished Alumni. She is the first deacon to be honored with this award. The Conference also sang Happy Birthday to Phyllis.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Luana Cook Scott (clergy, Director of CDOM) announced that she would be researching the ways that other conferences conduct their clergy elections and will send this information to the various constituent groups who can look at the possibilities and perhaps prepare a change to the way we do the elections. Bill Wilson (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries) said that our process is dictated by our rules and any change would have to come to the Rules Committee so that a change could be made prior to the next election cycle.

The conference sang the hymns “*God of Grace and God of Power*” and “*Pass It On!*”

BALLOTING: Prior to announcing the results of the ballot, Judi Kenaston thanked the tellers, the head tellers including Patsy Flensburg (Lay) and Jim Plyburn and Tom Shepherd (Clergy). She specifically thanked Tom Shepherd for his work with the scanners and setting up the program that allowed for the voting to take place.

Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot #9: 180 ballots cast; 176 valid ballots; 89 needed for election. Ravi Isaiah (115) and Aslam Barkat (92) were elected. The Conference Secretary read the names of those who had received 10 votes or more.

Monty Brown (clergy, St. Mark, Charleston) moved to suspend the rules so that the two persons with the highest vote totals will be the alternates to Jurisdictional conference. The Rules were suspended. Motion was made to allow the persons with the highest vote totals to be elected as the alternates to Jurisdictional Conference. Diane Kenaston (clergy, commissioned elder) asked what would happen if there was a tie. Bishop Grove said it would require another vote.

The final ballot was taken after prayer.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: John Mason (clergy, retired) shared that Archie Searls from the Chelyan UMC has attended 50 straight Annual Conferences as a lay person.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Judi Kenaston thanked the assistant secretaries who have served the conference this week: Karen Fenton (lay) and Steve Hamrick (clergy) and Frank Shomo (clergy).

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Sue Lowther (clergy, Blueville-Haymond-St. John's, Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator) thanked all who brought flood buckets to conference. There were 543 flood buckets brought this week. 413 of those buckets will go to Mission Central to be used wherever they are needed.

FINAL BALLOT REPORT: There were 175 ballots cast; 172 valid ballots; 87 needed for election. The two that received the top votes were Mark Conner (117) and Ken Krimmel (62). They will serve as the alternates to Jurisdictional Conference.

CLOSING PRAYER: The session closed by singing the Old 100th Doxology at 12:40 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon – June 11, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
PENTECOST VIGIL CELEBRATION

FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS: A worship program was distributed that contained a listing of appointments. Following the opening prayer given by the Lay Leader, Royce Lyden, each district superintendent declared “Thanks be to God for the wonderful blessing of the Spirit’s movement” in the district. Bishop Grove, acting on Bishop Lyght’s behalf, declared the appointments for the conference years 2011-12 to be fixed, as printed and corrected. The conference sang “*This Is a Day of New Beginnings.*”

A prayer was led by Claire Shanholtzer (Lay Equalization, Conference Youth).

The scripture lesson was Acts 2:1-21.

An offering was taken for the Wheel Chair lift at Wesley Chapel.

Music was provided by the Praise Team. Liturgical dancer was Lauren Bone.

Worship participants were Royce Lyden, Claire Shanholtzer, Erin Sears, Christopher Gudger-Raines, and Nathan Weaver.

Tyrone Gordon, senior pastor of St. Luke Community UMC in Dallas, Texas, led the Pentecost Vigil Celebration. Rev. Gordon reminded those in attendance that, “You don’t need permission to do the Great Commission.” All in attendance at the service were given red stoles as a symbol of the birth of the church and a hope of rebirth of the spirit within the congregations of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

ADJOURNMENT: The 2011 Session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. sine die.