

III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

FIFTIETH SESSION
Of
WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 7 – 10, 2018

West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, West Virginia

First Day – Thursday – June 7, 2018

Morning 10:00 a.m.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Clergy Executive Session was held at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Buckhannon, under the direction of the Rev. Sharletta Green, chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Resident and Presiding Bishop. At the beginning of the session, permission was granted for Judi M. Kenaston, Secretary of the Annual Conference and lay member, to be seated in the session. Permission was granted for clergy serving in our conference who are members of other conferences to be present, without vote.

The format for the report was designed by the Order of Elders and presented the required Business of the Annual Conference 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 the Rev. Michael Estep reported for the Dean of the Cabinet that, with the exception of situations that were being handled through a supervisory process, all other clergy were blameless in their life and official administration.

A complete reporting of actions taken during this session is listed in *Section IV, Business of the Annual Conference*.

LAY SESSION: A Lay Session was held in Wesley Chapel. Conference Lay Leader Rich Shaffer opened the meeting with prayer for guidance and discernment during the Annual Conference and then introduced presenters. Conference Secretary Judi M. Kenaston explained the process for voting on a Constitutional Amendment and the reasons for voting for a second time on one of the amendments presented last year. Jim Berner, Conference

Treasurer, talked about the conference budget and the changes to be considered regarding the increasing costs of healthcare for clergy and other staff covered by the conference insurance. Kim Matthews, Vice President, United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, provided information about the work of the foundation and especially ways it can benefit local churches.

Dr. Joel Thierstein, new president of West Virginia Wesleyan College, was introduced to the laity and then spoke about future plans for the school.

Rich Shaffer presented an orientation for first-time attendees and stressed the importance of attending all of the business meetings, worship services, Circles of Grace, and teaching sessions with Rev. Junius Dotson. The Leadership Standards, found in the *Conference Workbook*, were highlighted. He also talked about the purpose of the Clergy Session and how their meeting is different from the Laity meeting. Kristi Wilkerson, Associate Conference Lay Leader, and Fred Kellerman, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, were also recognized.

Rich closed with prayer and offered a blessing for lunch.

Afternoon

OPENING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION



**Bishop Peter Weaver,
retired, preached at
Opening Worship**

Annual Conference opened with a Communion Service that celebrated the 50th Birthday of The United Methodist Church.

Guest preacher was Bishop Peter Weaver, retired UMC Bishop, who reflected on the 50th Anniversary of the merger and Pentecost by delivering a sermon titled, “Everyday a Birth-day.” Liturgists were the Rev. Harry Jenkins (Retired Clergy, Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg) and Angela Jones (Lay from St. Marks United Methodist Church, Conference Staff).

Bishop Steiner Ball celebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Peter Weaver and the Rev. Ed Thompson, ecumenical guest and judicatory leader for the Presbytery of WV. Assisting at the table in the role of Deacon were Dina Andrews, David Donathan, and Maria Wiblin.

Communion servers were the liturgists, members of the Appointive Cabinet, laity, and clergy of the West Virginia Annual Conference. The servers symbolically helped us to remember the merger and the unity experienced in gathering around the table, in our mission, and ministry. Some of the servers remembered the merger in 1968 and others have only known The United Methodist Church.

The Conference Choir, comprised of lay and clergy of the West Virginia Annual Conference, was under the direction of Craig Hinchman, Director of Music at St. Andrew UMC, St. Albans, and Julie Janisch, Director of Music at St. Mark's UMC, Charleston. Choral anthems were "*One World, One Communion*" by Pepper Choplin, "*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*" from *The Faith We Sing*, and "*Let Us Be*" by Thomas Porter. Gathering Music was "*Variations on All Are Welcome*" by Charles L. Lenz, Processional Hymn was "*All Are Welcome*" by Marty Haugen, and the sending music was "*Variations on The Church's One Foundation*" by Janet Linker.

Scripture reading was Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV).

The children's sermon was given by the Rev. Lauren A. Godwin and by Bishop William Boyd Grove who shared a special message about remembering the uniting conference via video.

Offerings received throughout Conference were divided among a variety of ministries, with each service highlighting one ministry. The ministry of Spring Heights was highlighted by the Rev. Tim Conrad.

Hymns were "*We Are God's People*" words by Bryan Jeffery Leech and music by Johannes Brahms and "*You've Called Us Together, O God, By Your Grace*" words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and music by William Howard Doane.



David Donathan and Maria Wiblin prepare for Communion.

Thursday Afternoon

2:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE: Bishop Steiner Ball called the session to order.

Judi M. Kenaston, Annual Conference Secretary, moved that the 2018 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 and included the following:

The voting bar of the 2018 Conference Session was designated as the main floor and the balcony section between the pillars of Wesley Chapel.

Roll Call was taken at check-in for Conference.

Lynda Eades, Paula Hamrick, Steven Hamrick, Pam Sears, and Elaine Stonestreet 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 and Pam Sears (lay) and Ray Stonestreet and Rick Swearingin (clergy).

CLERGY: Sarah Allen, Robert Anderson, Eric Beeman, Jacqueline Chambers, Cindy Eakle, Steve Gedon, Harold Langevin, Jr., Michael Ludle, Charles May, Mary Ann Nolte, Kara Phillipi, Jim Plyburn, Gerald Roberts, Scott Sears, Robert Shorter, Martin Straley, Clare Sulgit, and Ronnie Tote.

LAY: Jane Arnold, Mark Browning, Kathy Daniels, Linda Dyer, Laura Fygetakes, Patrick Haye, Nancy Kirkendall, Gayle Lesure, Michelle Lucarelli, Matthew May, Marsha Plybon, Barbara Rogers, George Shaffer, Rose Thornburg, Diane Warner, and Bob Whipp.

As per the request of the 2017 Annual Conference, all resolutions were listed on the bottom of handout 2018-02.

The motion was approved.

AGENDA: Mark Conner (clergy, First Huntington, Western Distrit, chairperson of the Program Committee,) welcomed the members of the Conference and Bishop Steiner Ball. He highlighted the Friday afternoon barbecue and celebration. He mentioned that the conference is being live streamed. He explained that a Worship Booklet with all of the worship services was in the packet received at check-in. Individual services will be available in the narthex for visitors. Announcements and courtesies should be given in writing to Rev. Lauren Godwin who is seated at the Program Committee table in the front. He moved the printed agenda (2018-01), with permission given to the Program Committee Chair, the bishop, and her assistant to adjust the agenda as needed. The agenda was approved.

Bishop Steiner Ball explained the process to be recognized by the bishop and asked for those speaking to identify themselves and indicate if they are lay or clergy.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE: The Conference Secretary explained the procedure for nominating laypersons to be on the ballot for the elections in 2019. There is also a form for lifting up clergy who may then indicate their willingness to serve by submitting requested information for the 2019 election. All eligible clergy will still appear on the ballot. Self-nomination for both clergy and lay is acceptable.

CONFERENCE GUESTS: Bishop Steiner Ball mentioned that Bishop Peter Weaver and his wife, Linda, will be present throughout the Annual Conference.

WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE: Bishop Steiner Ball introduced Lauren Weaver who will begin as the United Methodist Church Liaison and Spiritual Life Coordinator at West Virginia Wesleyan College on July 1.



Lauren Weaver

Lauren introduced the President of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Dr. Joel Thierstein. President Thierstein began serving at WVWC on July 1, 2017. He thanked Darlene Bosley, who is the Conference Assistant coordinating Annual Conference with the college. He said that he had two main reasons for coming to the college. The first reason is the incredible beauty of the campus and the pleasure it brings to the students, faculty, and visitors.

Secondly, he values

United Methodist education and the connection between the college and the campus and the way that it allows the development of students, both intellectually and spiritually. He also welcomed Lauren Weaver as an important connection with the congregations of the Annual Conference.



President Joel Thierstein

Bishop Steiner Ball announced an endowment called the Wesleyan Foundation that she has begun through the West Virginia United Methodist Foundation to help ensure the viability of the Office of Spiritual Life. She challenged congregations and individuals to contribute \$1,000 a year for three years to this endowment.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES: Bishop Steiner Ball presented awards from the Council of Bishops to Ms. Erin Sears and the Rev. Tim Allen for their participation in



the Council of Bishops training for Ecumenical Ministries.

Rev. Timothy Allen and Ms. Erin Sears received ecumenical recognition from the Council of Bishops

FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD:

Mark Stotler (lay equalization – Chairperson of Higher Ed and Campus Ministry) presented the Francis Asbury Award to Mr. Rod Blackstone of St. Marks UMC, Charleston. The award recognizes individuals who have advanced campus ministry. Rod Blackstone serves on the University of Charleston campus ministry board. He supports the UC campus in a variety of ways and shares his faith with the students.



Mr. Rod Blackstone receives the Francis Asbury Award for service to campus ministry

RULES: Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District, Chair of Rules) presented the Rules report with assistance from members of the Conference Rules Committee. Janet Harman (clergy, Deacon Associate St. Marks, Charleston, Midland South District) moved to amend Rule B.II.5.a. by inserting the words appointed and retired clergy after the word “development” in order to allow the Clergy Support and Pastoral Care team to include all clergy within its work. This amendment was approved.

Rebecca Van Stavern (clergy, Peterstown, Greenbrier District) moved to amend Rule B.II.16.b.5 by inserting the words or in the event the position is not filled, the United Methodist Women’s Conference President or her designee after “Coordinator for Education and Interpretation.”

The amendment was approved.

Faith Bragg (lay equalization, Rules Committee) moved to amend Rule B.IV.9.b.2. by adding the following to what can be included in the data sheet for lay nominees for General Conference: The personal data sheet may include a statement of 50 words or fewer describing what the nominee would contribute as a delegate.

The amendment was approved.

Jerry Linkous (lay, First Princeton, Southern District, Member of the Rules Committee) moved to amend Rule B.IV.10.b.3 by deleting ~~through the annual conference website~~ as the method for distributing clergy information for General Conference discernment.

The amendment was approved.

Scott Sears moved the adoption of the Conference Rules as amended. The Rules were adopted.

RESOLUTION: Jim Martin (clergy, Lubeck, Little Kanawha District, member of the Program Committee) moved the adoption of the resolution *Urging the West Virginia Conference to be Seekers of Knowledge and Advocates of Understanding Among Adherents of Abrahamic Faiths*. The resolution was supported without discussion. *See Resolution One in Section VI of the Journal*.

NOMINATIONS: Angela Gay Kinkead (clergy, Pea Ridge, Western District, chair of the Nominations Team) highlighted handout 2018-08 and the nominations that are contained in the *Conference Workbook*. These nominations will be considered at a later time during the conference session.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: Judi Kenaston (lay Equalization, Conference Secretary, Southern District) explained the voting procedure for the constitutional amendment and that those eligible to vote are all laypersons and full clergy members, elders, and deacons.

Mark Smith (clergy, Duff Street-Temple, Wesleyan District) encouraged the conference to support the amendment.

Ford Price (clergy, Epworth, Ripley, Little Kanawha District) asked what had been added to the amendment. The incorrect wording from the previous version was “The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine.” This language was not approved by General Conference and should not have been included.

The vote was taken.



CABINET TRANSITIONS: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized the retirement and transition of the Rev. Rick Sale and his wife, Carol Markstrom. They will be moving to Arizona. She read a commendation of his service, citing his organization, thoroughness, sense of humor, and passion for ministry which he shared during his two years serving the MonValley District as a Conference Superintendent.

LAITY ADDRESS: Rich Shaffer (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Little Kanawha District) presented the Laity Report. Basing his words on John 21:1-9, the resurrection story which tells of Jesus appearing to the disciples as they were fishing, Rich wore fishing gear. He compared a fishing trip to how we witness to people, saying you need to understand where you are fishing and what you are trying to catch, as well as having patience.



Mr. Rich Shaffer
Conference Lay Leader

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Southern District) announced that the afternoon offering was \$3,569.28. The offerings will be divided equally among the designated projects.

DISMISSAL: Elle High (lay equalization, Chair of CONAM, MonValley District) explained the purpose of the drum in Native American culture and the creation of the drum which she used for the dismissal blessing.

Thursday – June 7, 2018

Evening 7:30 p.m.

HISTORIC QUESTIONS AND RETIREMENT SERVICE

Thursday evening's worship service included the asking of historic questions of the ministerial candidates and honoring those entering the retired relationship this year. A video presentation of interviews with some of the retirees for 2018 was prepared by the Conference Communications Team.

Bishop Steiner Ball and Secretary Judi M. Kenaston presented those in attendance with certificates, pins, and globe candles.

2018 Retirees: Jimmy D. Adkins, Timothy Allen, Gus Anderson, Jr., Vera C. Archer, Michael T. Bradfield, J. Montgomery Brown, Phillip R. Dent, Sharon Dietze, Michael K. Funkhouser, Charles Furbee, Steve L. Grimes, Charlene Hamrick, George E. Hamrick, Jr., Janet M. Harman, Hal Jesse Hevener, H. Thomas Hill, Stephen Inman, C. Richard Justice, Gerald M. Kincaid, Jr., Kerry Lilly, Thomas Marsh, Donald S. Maxson, Rose Marie (Jo) McCartney, Barry Moll, Frank J. Naglic, Sr., Gary E. Nelson, Richard H. Sale, Brenda E. Shreve, and Judy R. Vetter.

The highlighted offering was for West Virginia Annual Conference Volunteers-In-Mission.

Liturgists were Rod Blackstone, the Rev. Charles E. Hicks, Bree Moll, the Rev. Earnest Watkins, the Rev. William H. Wilson, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, and Kristi Wilkerson.

Scriptures were *Exodus 3:1-14a*; *Numbers 27:12-23*; and *2 Timothy 1:3-12*.

Hymns were “*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*,” “*What Gift Can We Bring*,” “*Marching to Zion*,” and “*Tu Has Venido a la Orilla (Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore)*.” The anthem was “*I Thank My God (J. Aaron McDermid)*.” The organ prelude was “*Prelude and Fugue in D Major*” and organ Sending Music was “*Finale from Symphony No. 1 (L. Vierne)*.”

Candidates for membership were asked the Historic Questions by Bishop Steiner Ball.

Four retirees presented to the four elder ordinands one of their own personal elder stoles, to be used in ministry, in the tradition of remembering Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha as a sign and symbol of submission to God and carrying the responsibility of sharing God’s word.

Friday – June 8, 2018

Morning, 8:30 a.m.

GATHERING AND MORNING PRAISE: Annual Conference began each day with a Morning Prayer and Praise Service. These services were taken from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* written by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Enuma Okoro. Each morning, the congregation was invited into a time of worship by the ringing of bells, followed by a responsive call to worship. Following the scripture lessons each day, the congregation was invited to enter into a time of prayer, speaking aloud the names of those in need of prayer and concluding with the Lord’s Prayer. The sending hymn each morning was “*May the Peace of the Lord Go With You*,” words taken from the Celtic Book of Prayer and music by Julie Janisch.

Friday morning included the opening hymn “*Poor, Wayfaring Stranger*.” The congregation read responsively a Psalter reading from Psalm 39:11-13, followed by scripture readings from Deuteronomy 11:13-19 and Acts 5:27-42.

Liturgists were the Rev. Jarrod Caltrider and the Rev. Jenna Moon.

TEACHING TIME: The Rev. Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, was the teacher for the morning. Discipleship Ministries is the UMC agency that helps local church, district, and conference leaders fulfill the shared dream of making world changing disciples. The agency connects leaders with needed resourcing, training, consulting, and networking that support spiritual formation, new church development, and revitalization of local churches.



The Rev. Dotson spoke about developing intentional discipleship systems within the local church. He told the conference that making disciples for Jesus Christ begins with having a heart for all God's people, even people not personally known to us, people who reject God or reject us, and even our enemies.

Rev. Junius Dotson addresses the Conference during early morning teaching time.

Friday – June 8, 2018

Morning, 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball opened the session by singing “*Thy Word*.” She thanked the Rev. Dotson for his message.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: Michael Atkinson (clergy, St. John’s, Midland South District, Chairperson of Equitable Compensation) presented the Equitable Compensation report.

The report of the Task Force established by the 2017 Annual Conference was printed on Handout 2018-14. The Task Force was established to explore the impact Minimum Salary adjustments have on those receiving Equitable Compensation. (*See complete report in Section XI Miscellaneous*).

The report concluded:

1. Pastors are receiving a fair and adequate compensation.
2. Salaries are not generous, and efforts should be made to ensure pastors are paid an equitable and just salary.
3. Increases in minimum salaries should be made after prayerful consideration of the financial and ministry impact on local churches.
4. The trend to create larger circuits and charges and the transition from full-time to part-time will accelerate.
5. Pastors and congregations are encouraged to be in dialogue and develop stewardship strategies relative to their local context.

Michael Atkinson highlighted that conference minimum salaries have increased over the last several years and is now higher than six other conferences, not including missionary conferences.

Appointment trends: we have merged more churches, created larger charges, and increased number of circuits and partnerships.

Michael Atkinson moved the budget for the Equitable Compensation for 2019 (Line 1 on page 70 of the *Conference Workbook*). The budget for \$142,500 was approved.

He moved the salaries for full-time appointed clergy as printed in the *Conference Workbook*.

Keith Forkey (clergy, Mt. Olivet, Northern District) moved to table this motion and any discussion on equitable compensation until after the Pensions report has been received and acted upon. The motion was seconded. The motion to table was approved and the discussion was tabled until after the Pensions report was acted upon.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Dan Johnson (clergy, Retired, Southern District) presented a video on the planned Educational Opportunities trip scheduled for September 28 - October 7, 2019. Both lay and clergy are welcome to attend. The bishop has issued a special invitation to those whom she has ordained and commissioned. Additional information can be found on the conference website.

RESOLUTIONS: Jim Martin presented the resolution *Revision of the Social Principles*, submitted by Don Dobbins, Wilma Dobbins, Mark W. Flynn, James. H. “Oz” Gray, Larry Hakes, Gerald Kincaid, Glen Pysell, Gerald Roberts, Doug Smailes, Mary Thomas, and Stephen J. White.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Frank Shomo (clergy, Midland South District Superintendent) proposed to amend by adding “Be it further resolved that the following sentence be added to the current wording ‘As United Methodists we affirm our responsibility to advocate and help provide for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of all children.’”

The amendment was seconded and approved without discussion.

JF Lacaria, (clergy, Retired, Midland South District) proposed the following amendment by deletion by removing line 24 “be it further resolved that we oppose the proposed change in our teaching about abortion.” The motion was seconded. He spoke in favor of it due to the fact that there is no proposed change to oppose.

Mark Flynn spoke against the amendment.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Retired, Western District) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Barry Moll (clergy, St. Peter’s/Trinity, Midland South District) spoke against the amendment.

The amendment was not supported.

Lou Costanzo (lay equalization, Finance and Administration, Northern District) asked why the changes being addressed in the resolution had come about. The bishop responded that the General Board of Church and Society has been working on the Social Principles to make them more in line with the realities of a global church, such as The

United Methodist Church.

Erin Sears (lay equalization, Member of GBCS, Southern District) serves as a member of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS). She explained that GBCS has been working on a revision of the Social Principles and has asked for comments on the proposed draft. She encouraged conference members to visit the GBCS website and make their comments.

Frank Shomo asked if it would be helpful to read the proposed change from the working document presented by GBCS. He read the section proposed.

David Biondi (clergy, Retired, Midland South District) moved to refer the resolution to the conference Justice and Advocacy Team with a request that they report back to the 2019 Annual Conference.

Bob Fulton (clergy, Hamlin, Western District) spoke against referral.

Okey Harless (clergy, Western District Superintendent) called for the question on all that is before the body. The motion was seconded. This motion was supported.

A vote on the motion to refer to the Justice and Advocacy Team was not clear. The bishop called for a count vote. Tellers were called to count the vote. The counted vote was 240 for referral and 284 against referral.

The action on the floor was halted for an Order of the Day – Memorial Service. The resolution would be considered later on Friday afternoon.

COURTESIES: Lauren Godwin (clergy, Keyser, Potomac Highlands District) asked that people who are parked illegally on campus to please move their cars. She shared prayer requests for Seth Osbourn whose father is part of the Wesleyan community, Carol Duffield in the recent loss of her son, and a woman named Heidi. The bishop announced the arrangements for lunch for the Memorial lunch and the Pensions lunch which are both in the French See Dining Center.

ORDER OF THE DAY.
MEMORIAL SERVICE
Friday 11:00 a.m.

The Memorial Service was held on Friday morning at 11:00 a.m.

Gathering music was “*Agnus Dei*” by Michael W. Smith, and the postlude was “*Love Divine*” arranged by Dale Wood. The anthem by the Conference Choir was “*Lord It Belongs Not to My Care*” by Carl Schalk. Organist and Music Directors were Craig Hinchman and Julie Janisch. Dismissal with Blessing was *Numbers 6:24-26* with a Sung Response: “*Seven-fold Amen.*”

The Scripture Readings were *Revelation 7:9-17* and *Mark 4:1-9*. Liturgists were the Rev. Frank “Tex” Frye, Robin Kelby, and Loretta Young.



A memorial calligraphy made by Julia Conley was presented to the families of those remembered in the service.

Julia Conley of Forrest Burdette, Hurricane. Names read were:

(Clergy): Dallas B. Bailey, Jr.; Gregory L. Blair; Borden T. Brady; Ronald R. Brooks; Carl E. Burrows; Jerry W. Chandler; George D. Clay; Phyllis K. Coston; William C. Eskew, Jr.; F. Mark Fisher; Julia Ann Hay Halstead; Howard N. Keener; William G. Kniceley; Kenneth Lee London; Donald Ludolph; Jack D. Mayes; Donald W. McCauley; Roy R. Mick, Jr.; Thomas W. Shepherd; William D. Slates; Paul M. Stadelman; Freda Hayes Steele; Roy K. Stevenson; D. Homer Stewart; Perry L. Stewart; Bernard Vandergrift; Clifford N. West; Thomas Woodson.

(Spouses): Marilee V. Backus; Helena “Jane” Conrad; Charles Edward Dorsey; Virginia Rose Ellwood; Robert D. Hamm; Janis Irene Hensley; Timothy E. Meek; Judith Staub; Leanna R. Wright.

(Surviving Spouses): Nola Anderson; Michele Clark; Marie Barger Green; Betty Holler Jackson; Delma Ruth Jobson; Mary Kathleen “Katie” Kidd; Eleanor N. Leaman; Mary Gertrude Moxley; Mary L. Phillips; Beverly Jean Parsons; Mary Lee Potts; Lorna Mae Pringle; Nancy Harless Wells; Eleanor N. Wilson.

Following the service, a lunch was held for families of those who were remembered in the Memorial Service.

Friday – June 8, 2018

Afternoon 2:00 p.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball opened the afternoon session by singing “*He Is Lord*” and leading the conference in prayer.

GREETINGS: Mike Hall, Chief of Staff for West Virginia Governor Jim Justice, brought greetings from the Office of the Governor.

COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD: Bishop Steiner Ball and the Rev. Tom Salsgiver, a member of the Susquehanna Annual Conference and a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, presented the work of the Commission. Bishop Steiner Ball was one of the three moderators for the Commission. Their presentation included the makeup of the Commission, reflecting people from many different positions and viewpoints; how the Commission did its work; and the three sketches that the Commission has presented to the Council of Bishops. Following the presentation, the Conference broke into Circles of Grace to discuss the sketches and how The United Methodist Church can remain faithful to its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Janet Harman (clergy, St. Marks, Charleston, Midland South District) explained the process for the Circles of Grace and indicated how to find the correct rooms.

Approximately 70 Circles of Grace met for one hour to discuss the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Friday – June 8, 2018

Afternoon 4:00 p.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball called the session to order by singing “*Majesty*” and announced that extra index cards from the Circles of Grace are available. She led the conference in prayer for the Rev. Jim Reed who went home to be with his wife who is ill, and Lisa Shafer, the Bishop’s Administrative Secretary, whose boyfriend’s son has died from addiction issues.

RESOLUTIONS: Returned to consideration of the resolution, *Revision of the Social Principles*. The resolution, as amended, was approved. *See Resolution Two in Section VI of the Journal.*

PENSIONS: Jamie O’Brien (lay equalization, Chair of Pensions) presented the Pensions report.

He moved approval of Section 1 A - C. It was approved. He moved Section 2 E. It was approved. He moved Section 2 F. It was approved.

He moved Section 2 G.

Matthew Johnson (clergy, Suncrest Associate, MonValley District) asked if it were in order to make amendments to the recommendation. He moved to add to Section 2 G which was recommended to read “Change prescription drug co-payment to 30% of the cost of the drug or \$35 whichever is greater” so that it would now read: “Change prescription drug co-payment to 30% of the cost of the drug (with a maximum cost of \$100) or \$35 whichever is greater.”

The amendment was seconded. Matthew Johnson spoke in favor of the amendment.

Paul Helmick (clergy, First South Charleston, Midland South District) moved to amend the amendment by requiring that the 3rd party administrator provide a list of preferred maintenance drugs for plan participants to share with their health providers. The amendment was seconded.

Okey Harless (clergy, Western District Superintendent) asked what this change would do to the current plan.

Paul Helmick spoke in favor of his amendment.

Jamie O'Brien deferred to Jim Berner (lay equalization, Pensions Officer, Midland South District) to respond to Okey Harless' question. Jim Berner stated that it would not be a problem to put a list on the website. Okey Harless requested that he answer the question about the cost increase in the original amendment.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District) rose to a point of order that questions were only appropriate on the amendment to the amendment.

Keith Forkey (clergy, Mt. Olivet, Northern District) spoke against the amendment to the amendment.

Ed Craft (clergy, East Greenbrier Charge, Greenbrier District) spoke in favor of the amendment to the amendment.

Karen Johnson (district lay equalization, Greenbrier District) spoke against the amendment to the amendment.

Karen Tate (clergy, Camden/Cowen/Craigsville, Greenbrier District) asked if the list would be preferred or required drugs. Paul Helmick clarified that he was asking for a preferred list, but the decision would be up to the health care provider.

Patty Blanchard (lay, Big Tygart, Little Kanawha District) spoke against the amendment because the list was already provided on the ExpressScripts website.

Amendment to the amendment was not supported.

Consideration of the Matthew Johnson amendment to change prescription drug co-payment to 30% of the cost of the drug (with a maximum cost of \$100) or \$35 whichever is greater:

Frank Shomo (clergy, Midland South District Superintendent) asked what the impact of this amendment would be if approved.



Mr. Jamie O'Brien moves the recommendations of the report of the Board of Pensions

Jim Berner said that this would not provide enough revenue to resolve the shortfall caused by \$1.8 million drug costs. He stated that this cost did not apply to the deductible but does apply to the maximum out-of-pocket costs.

Keith Forkey (clergy, Mt. Olivet, Northern District) spoke in favor of the amendment, saying that he could not afford his medications if this amendment doesn't pass and believes this is a justice issue.

Patty Blanchard (lay, Big Tyler, Little Kanawha District) spoke against the amendment.

John Quesenberry (lay, Mullens, Southern District) spoke for the amendment.

Rick Hyre (district lay equalization, Northern District) asked if these amounts would be capped. Jim Berner responded that the total out-of-pocket was \$7,350. Rick Hyre then stated that these increases were common throughout business.

Okey Harless (Western District Superintendent) spoke against the amendment.

Lou Costanzo (lay equalization, CFA, Northern District) asked for clarification of why the Board of Pensions was making the recommendation. Jim Berner stated that they were trying to close the gap between income and expenditures. Lou Costanzo asked whether the original recommendation would do that. Jim Berner said that between \$400,000 and \$450,000 was needed for the upcoming year.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District) asked to clarify the amount because it was different from what was printed for the pre-conference information session. That estimated amount was \$359,000 - \$450,000.

Robert Stigall (lay, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) called the question on all that was before the body.

Amendment was supported.

Section G, as amended, was approved.

Jamie O'Brien moved Section II.H. It was approved. The report as a whole was approved.

COURTESIES: Lauren Godwin (clergy, Grace Keyser, Potomac Highlands District) announced that a hearing aid has been found and can be collected at the Courtesies table. Matthew Paugh has left conference to be with his father who is ill. Bishop led the conference in prayer for Matthew and his family.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BARBECUE: Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, Director of Congregational Development, Midland South District) and Micah Blanks (clergy, Highland Ave., MonValley District) shared instructions for the evening, encouraging the conference to be open to meeting new people. They asked conference members to remove their nametags.

YOUTH SERVICE FUND: Max McGinnis announced that, in addition to the Ice Cream Social, there would be a dunking booth and, for a fee, the District Superintendents could be dunked.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Conference Secretary announced that the presentations by the Rev. Junius Dotson would be on the conference website as soon as the Communications Team could get them uploaded and by Sunday at the latest.

CONFERENCE BARBECUE: A barbecue dinner was served on the lawn in front of the Chapel for conference members, guests, the West Virginia Wesleyan community, and the people of Buckhannon. The Rev. Junius Dotson brought a message; the evening included good food, music, games, and fellowship.



Saturday – June 9, 2018

Morning, 8:30 a.m.

GATHERING AND MORNING PRAISE: This service, taken from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* written by Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Enuma Okoro, invited the Conference into a time of worship by the ringing of bells, followed by a responsive call to worship. Following the scripture lesson, the congregation was invited to enter into a time of prayer, speaking aloud the names of those in need of prayer and concluding with the Lord's Prayer. The sending hymn was "*May the Peace of the Lord Go With You,*" words taken from the Celtic Book of Prayer and music by Julie Janisch.

The opening hymn was *“My Hope is Built,”* followed by a Psalter reading from Psalm 46:1-4. The scripture lessons were Deuteronomy 12:1-12 and Acts 6:1-15. Liturgists were the Rev. Krysta Rexrode Wolfe and Hannah Lamb.

TEACHING TIME: Rev. Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, was the teacher for the morning. Rev. Dotson expanded upon his message of developing intentional discipleship systems within the local church.

Saturday – June 9, 2018

Morning, 10:30 a.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball re-opened the session with the singing of *“And Are We Yet Alive?”*



Dallas UMC and Lisa Fox, Pastor (3rd from left) receive the “One Matters Award.”

exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lay Denman Award: Ross Thornton who serves as the assigned supply at Fourth Avenue UMC, Huntington. Attendance at the church has more than doubled while he has been

ONE MATTERS AWARD: The Rev. Vance Ross, Director of Annual Conference Relations at Discipleship Ministries and a former member of the West Virginia Conference, presented the “One Matters Award” to Lisa Fox and the Dallas United Methodist Church in the Northern District. A video of the revitalization of the congregation through prayer and intentional discipling ministries was shown.

DENMAN AWARDS: Ed Corbitt (lay equalization, Chair of Evangelism, Northern District) presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards which were established to honor persons whose

there; many of those now attending are struggling with addiction and the myriad of problems that arise from addiction. He meets weekly with a diverse group as they engage in a Wesleyan style class meeting and effortlessly incorporates sharing his faith in his everyday activities.

Clergy Denman Award: The Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey, Senior Pastor of Bridgeport UMC. The church has received over 200 members through profession of faith in the last few years. The church has a weekly attendance of 700 on several campuses.



**Ken Ramsey
Clergy Denman
Award Winner**

Youth Denman Award: Max McGinnis, Johnson Memorial UMC, Huntington. He has been the leader of the Youth Service Fund in CCYM, and is an Eagle Scout where his project was renovating the interior of Ebenezer Community Outreach. He has restarted the youth ministry at Johnson Memorial and meets weekly with a variety of youth.

Bishop Steiner Ball announced that the Ice Cream Social and dunking booth raised \$3,700 for Youth Service Fund. Jim Malick has had to leave conference due to his wife's illness. She led the conference in prayer for Jim.

PENSIONS: The work on Pensions, begun on Friday, was continued. Jamie O'Brien (lay equalization, Chair of Pensions) moved to amend II.C so that it would read: "All Health Care premiums increase 20%."

Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District) moved to amend this amount to a 13% increase and study the possibility of giving participating churches a pension holiday from the same funds that were used before. The motion was seconded and he spoke in favor of it.



**Ross Thornton
Lay Denman Award Winner**



**Max McGinnis
Youth Denman
Award Winner**

Mark Smith (clergy, Duff Street/Temple, Wesleyan District) asked for the actual dollar amount that either of these percentages would provide.

Jamie O'Brien replied that the change that was made to the proposal yesterday would bring in about \$50,000. The amount needed is between \$390,000 to \$400,000. A 20% increase would raise around \$640,000 and the 13% increase about \$355,000.

Jim Berner (lay equalization, Pensions Officer) said that it would be possible to consider a pension holiday, but that the percentage of funds at 13% would not adequately fund the insurance

Okey Harless (clergy, Western District Superintendent) asked how the rate of claims are compared to last year.

Jim Berner said that the rate is similar to last year, but his concern is that there are not adequate funds to pay claims because claims must be paid throughout the year and, as of the end of May, there are 209 churches who have not paid any of their 2018 apportionments. While there are currently reserves to complete this year, not paying claims makes the conference insurance vulnerable to being rejected by providers.

Joni Cutlip (lay, Chapel Hill, Wesleyan District) asked if there was an estimate for what it would cost the participants and the churches for the 20% increase.

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) offered numbers based on the proposed increases. Currently a family plan is divided 70/30 between the charge and the pastor. In answer to the question concerning the impact to the churches and pastors if a 20% premium increase is passed, then the total cost for a family plan will increase by \$3,158 from \$15,792 to \$18,950. The 70% paid by the charge will increase in 2019 from \$11,054 to \$13,265. This represents an increase of \$2,211 to the charge. The 30% paid by the pastor will increase from \$4,738 to \$5,685 or net of \$947. A 13% premium increase would be a total of \$2,053 which would be divided 70% for the charge and 30% for the clergy.

Barry Moll (clergy, St. Peter/Trinity, Midland South District) spoke in favor of the amendment because he believed that the amount of increase would cover the needed cost.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Retired, Western District) spoke against the amendment. He first stated that the increases will affect everyone in the plan, including the retirees who are in the program. He cautioned against using funds that are held in reserve which he thinks would be needed if the amendment passes.



**Barry Moll
participates in the debate
on pensions recommendations**

Greg Godwin (clergy, First UMC, Clarksburg, Wesleyan District) asked how long the reserves would last if the amendment were approved. Jim Berner stated that with the current rate of expenditures our reserves would last about one year.

Marsha Plyburn (Lay, Washington, Little Kanawha District) shared what the two increases would mean for her personally.

Robert Baer, Jr. (clergy, Peters Valley, Greenbrier District) called the question on all that is before the conference. Motion was approved.

The amendment to limit the increase to 13% and request a pension holiday was not supported.

The motion to increase premiums by 20% (Item C) was approved.

Jamie O'Brien moved approval of Items A, B, and D. These were approved.

He moved Part II: Items I, J, and K. These items were approved.

He moved Part III: A – G.

Jenny Williams, (clergy, Avery, MonValley District) asked who was eligible for emergency benefits specified in III.C

Jim Berner explained that the policy was found on page 146 and applied to active clergy families under appointment or retired clergy but was limited to medically related needs. Clergy should apply through their district superintendents.

Robert Stigall (Lay, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) asked if the maximum emergency limit included those who have already reached the previous limit. Jim Berner said that the new limit would include those persons who had previously reached the old limit.

Dan Lowther (clergy, Pineville - Matheny & Wyoming and Director of Field Service for New Vision Depot, Southern District) stated that the New Vision Depot is not yet part of Mission Central as is stated in the report.

Jay Parkins (clergy, Christ Church, Midland South District) asked if laypersons participating in the plan are eligible for the emergency funds. Jim Berner replied that they are not.

Part III, A – G was approved.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Jamie O'Brien and the Pensions Team for their diligent work.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: Michael Atkinson (clergy, St. John's Scott Depot, Midland South District and chair of Equitable Compensation) continued the report which was begun on Friday. He reviewed the report of the Equitable Compensation Task Force which was found in the handout packet as the document 2018-14. He led the conference in prayer. He moved that the 2019 minimum salaries for full-time appointed clergy be set at the following levels:

Category 1: \$37,000

Category 2: \$35,000

Category 3: \$34,000

Category 4: \$30,000

Jim McCune (clergy, Elizabeth Memorial, Midland South District) moved that the WV Annual Conference recommends that all local churches and all annual conference salaries be frozen for 2019 in solidarity with those receiving minimum salaries with no pay raise.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District) raised a Point of Order since charges set salaries in consultation with the district superintendent. Bishop Steiner Ball ruled that the amendment was in order because it was an aspirational recommendation.



Michael Atkinson, Chair of Equitable Compensation

Michael Atkinson asked if the amendment were in order since the salary recommendations have not yet passed.

Bishop Steiner Ball asked Jim McCune to hold the amendment until the minimum salary standards have been passed. Jim McCune withdrew his amendment.

Chris Scott (clergy, Winfield, Midland South District) asked how holding the salaries without increases impacts future raises.

Michael Atkinson replied that the Equitable Compensation team attempted to keep the balance between holding increases and recommending

increases and were aware of the long-term picture.

The Minimum Salary recommendations were approved.

Jim McCune (clergy, Elizabeth Memorial, Midland South District) returned to his motion that the WV Annual Conference recommends that all local churches and all annual conference salaries be frozen for 2019 in solidarity with those receiving minimum salaries with no pay raise.

Lauren Godwin (clergy, Grace Keyser, Potomac Highlands District) offered an amendment which would replace the language following “The WV Annual Conference recommends” to read “that all charges do not increase salaries and mandates all conference clergy staff and superintendents do not include a salary increase” and continue with “for 2019 in solidarity with those receiving minimum salaries with no pay raise.”

Randy Flanagan (clergy, Wesley Morgantown, MonValley District) asked what salary line the amendment is referring to since clergy in the health insurance program have already received a \$2,000 decrease in salary on Line 2.

Steve Prince (clergy, Sabra - Highland – Jones, MonValley District) asked if this amendment refers to part-time clergy who frequently make below the minimum salary. The Bishop stated that currently it does. Steve Prince moved that the words “full-time” be inserted before “clergy” in the amendment.

Butch Baker (clergy, Retired, MonValley) said that the word used should be “mandates” to indicate that the Annual Conference is taking the action. Lauren Godwin said this is her intention.

Kerry Bart asked if he could amend the amendment to encourage churches that are not paying the minimum salary to increase it to the minimum. Bishop Steiner Ball asked him to hold that amendment.

Calvin McCutcheon (clergy, Retired, Wesleyan District) pointed out that Robert’s Rules of Order do not allow amendments to amendments to amendments.

The vote was taken on the Prince amendment to include the words “full-time” and it was approved so that the wording of the amendment was now: “The WV Annual Conference recommends that all full-time charges do not increase salaries, and mandates all conference clergy staff and superintendents do not include a salary increase for 2019 in solidarity with those receiving minimum salaries with no pay raise.”

Nancy White requested whether the intention was to include clergy staff only or rather it was intended to be clergy and staff. Lauren Godwin clarified that it was intended to be clergy staff, without a comma.

Scott Knowlton (clergy, Wesley Chapel Short Gap, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against the amendment because it would make churches who otherwise might give needed raises not do so.

Melissa White (clergy, Pinnacle Rock, Southern District) spoke for the amendment.

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) moved to amend the Godwin amendment to remove “conference clergy staff and” so that the amendment would only include the superintendents.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District) called the question on the Joe Kenaston amendment. Motion to close debate on this amendment was approved. Jenny Williams (clergy, Avery, MonValley District) asked to clarify what was before the conference for vote.

The amendment was not supported.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) moved to insert “on Line 1 of the salary sheet” after the word “salaries.” The amendment was seconded and he spoke for it because there are multiple parts of the salary sheet that make up the total compensation. Michael Atkinson pointed out that the salary sheet was part of the Equitable



Mark Flynn speaks during debate on the floor

Compensation Task Force report if anyone needed it for reference.

Jane Eye (lay, Mountaintop Ministries, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against the Godwin amendment because she thought that churches should be able to increase the salaries as they are able.

Mark Smith (clergy, Duff Street, Wesleyan District) asked if the current amendment by Mark Fynn was in order. The bishop said that it was as we can have an amendment to an amendment.

Deborah Dague (clergy, West Liberty Campus Minister, Northern District) asked if the freeze on salaries included mission coordinators and campus ministers. The Bishop replied that it would because they are clergy conference employees.

Eddie Martin (clergy, Matewan, Western District) pointed out that clergy in the insurance plan had received a decrease in salary because of the action to increase premiums.

Frank Shomo (clergy, Midland South District Superintendent) spoke against the Flynn amendment because it does not prevent a salary increase since there are multiple ways to change salary on the salary sheet.

Jo McCartney (clergy, Westover, MonValley District) spoke against the Flynn amendment because Line 1 has already been decreased by the increase of insurance premiums in Line 2 which was already approved.

Randy Flanagan (clergy, Wesley Morgantown, MonValley District) moved that we place all that was before the conference on the table because of the complexity of the proposition. The motion was seconded. The amendment and all amendments attached to it were tabled.

Michael Atkinson offered the services of the Equitable Compensation team in further discussion about salaries and stewardship of resources. He moved approval of the entire Equitable Compensation report.

Rich Shaffer (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Little Kanawha District) expressed support for the Task Force report and requested that they bring a similar report next year.

The report of Equitable Compensation was approved.



CABINET RECOGNITION: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized Mike Estep and his wife, Sara, as they leave the cabinet to serve Suncrest UMC in Morgantown. She thanked Mike for his five years of service in the Potomac Highlands District. She recognized his quiet gift of spiritual discernment, his leadership in mission and spiritual development, and his dedication to his family, while at the same time, encouraging both the Cabinet and the district to have fun.

NOMINATIONS: Sarah Lowther Hensley (lay equalization and member of the Nominations Team, MonValley District) gave the Nominations report. She added to the written report, the nomination of Charles Hicks for the Class of 2021 of the Conference Trustees. He has been filling a vacancy created after the 2017 Annual Conference. Suzanne Ellis is remaining on the Board of Higher Education. She made the following additions to the report of the Burlington Board on page 114 in the *Conference Workbook*: Class of 2021: Kim Rolls; Class of 2022: Thomas Caldwell, Jamie Carter, Cheryl George, and Scott Ingleton.

She moved the entire report.

Okey Harless (clergy, Western District Superintendent) added the name of Ray Stonestreet to the Western District Committee on Ministries.

Report was approved.

COVENANT COUNCIL: Kristi Wilkerson (lay, First Buckhannon, Wesleyan District and Associate Conference Lay Leader) brought the report of the Covenant Council. The nominees for Health Ministries Coordinator is Clare Sulgit and Disabilities Ministries is Michael D. Ludle.

There are two new Special Sundays with offerings recommended: Black Methodists for Church Renewal Sunday and Disability Awareness Sunday.

CABINET PROPERTY REPORT: Martha Ognibene (clergy, Northern District Superintendent and Secretary of the Cabinet) directed the conference to Handout 2018-06. She moved the approval of information in question 14.

Michael L. Ludle (clergy, Burnsville, Wesleyan District) offered the correction that the Napier Church that was closed was on the Burnsville Charge.

Question 14 was approved.

Information found in questions 15 and 16 was presented for information only. There was one addition to question 16: South Elk Garden will cease to exist and Emoryville UMC will become a station church.

She moved the adoption of the entire report. Complete report was approved.

The content of this report is found in *Section 4, Business of Annual Conference* of this Journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary, highlighted the form for ordering additional Journals and reminded the conference of the deadline for lay nominations for General Conference.

CLOSING PRAYER: Terri Deane (clergy, Johnson Memorial Huntington, Western District) offered the closing prayer.

Saturday – June 9, 2018

Afternoon, 2:00 p.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball brought the conference together with the singing of “*Blessed Assurance*.”

TRUSTEES: Bill Wilson (clergy, retired, Chair of the Conference Trustees, Western District) presented the Trustees report. He explained that the denomination’s “Trust Clause” means that the Conference owns all property to be held in trust for the present and future of ministry of The United Methodist Church and thus no individual church or person “owns” the property. The work of the Conference Trustees involves managing the property in its care.

He highlighted the report of the Trustee Agent (*found in Section 7, Reports*).

He moved the resolution ***Closed Properties, and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same*** found in the *Conference Workbook*. The resolution was approved. *See Resolution Four in Section VI of the Journal*.

He corrected the language in the resolution ***Closed Church - Real and Personal Property Funds***. On line 52 in the *Conference Workbook* the words “upon recommendation” should be “in consultation with” so that it reads: “FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference authorizes the Annual Conference Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Cabinet, to disburse, as available, up to \$50,000 a year of those funds between sessions of the Annual Conference. Said disbursement is to be reported to the Annual Conference at its next regularly scheduled session.”

The resolution was approved as amended by the Trustees. *See Resolution Five in Section VI of the Journal*.

Bill Wilson thanked the Conference Chancellor, Rob File (lay equalization, Conference Chancellor, Southern District) for the work that he does on behalf of the Trustees. He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cliff Schell (clergy, Retired, Wesleyan District), who has served as the Trustees Agent for the past eight years. The Trustees will look for a new Trustee Agent.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Cliff Schell and Bill Wilson for their work.

CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENTS: The amount raised for the Celebration of Mission Events to this point is \$98,900.67.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet) and Ken Krimmel (clergy, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries) introduced the Bishop’s spouse, the Rev. Dr. Barry Ball, and presented him with a gift certificate for white water rafting. Rev. Ball reminded the conference that he is available to help them take the next steps in meeting the ministry needs of the opioid crisis.



Joe Kenaston and Ken Krimmel present Barry Ball with a gift.

MINISTRY OF MEMORY AWARD: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized Lawrence Sherwood (clergy, Retired, Potomac Highlands District) for receiving the Ministry of Memory Award at the Board of Pensions Retirees luncheon on Friday. The award, presented by the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, is presented to those who have achieved “excellence in archival and historical work in the local church, annual conference, jurisdictional or central conference.” There were only two of the awards presented this year throughout the General Church. Rev. Sherwood is a scholar of Bishop Francis Asbury. He published The Tours of Bishop Francis Asbury in West Virginia in 2011 and has contributed to several other publications. He is the longest serving member of the Annual Conference.

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Bishop Steiner Ball gave the State of the Church address. She highlighted multiple moments to celebrate as the conference has been innovative in addressing the challenges before it. She thanked the Conference for keeping the emphasis on its mission during anxious times within the General Church. The address in its entirety can be found in *Section 11, Miscellaneous* of this Journal.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Ken Ramsey (clergy, Bridgeport, Wesleyan District and CFA Chair) reported that the CFA voted not to incorporate a referred policy into their recommendations which would have required the budget to not include an increase if certain criteria were not achieved.

He moved the adoption of the Fiscal Policies. They were approved.

He moved recommendations 3 - 15 in the report with the addition of the two special Sundays with offerings that were approved earlier. (February 3 Black Methodists for Church

Renewal Sunday and March 10 Disability Awareness Sunday). These recommendations were approved, including the resolution, **Parsonage Allowances - Clergy in Extension Ministries**. See *Resolution Six in Section VI of the Journal*.

He moved Recommendations 1 and 2, including that a budget of \$12,436,162 be adopted for 2019. This is an increase of \$72,917 or .59% from the 2018 budget.

The entire report of CFA was approved and can be found in *Section 13 Finance* of the 2018 Journal.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized Bishop Peter Weaver and his wife, Linda, who have been present during this conference week. Bishop Weaver preached at Opening Worship and will participate in the Ordination Service. She presented him with some Holl's Chocolates and a piece of hand-blown West Virginia glass.

RESOLUTIONS: Jim Martin (clergy, Lubeck, Member of the Program Committee, Little Kanawha District) moved the resolution "***United Methodist Teaching Regarding Human Sexuality***" which was found on Handout 2018-19.

Mark Flynn spoke in favor of the resolution.

Gavin Brandenburg (lay equalization, Person 12-18, Western District) moved to refer the resolution to the delegation to the 2019 Special Session. The motion was seconded and he spoke for it.

Mark Smith (clergy, Duff Street/Temple, Wesleyan District) asked for someone to speak to the reason why the resolution was proposed.

Mark Flynn explained his thought process in putting together the resolution was to make a statement prior to the 2019 Special General Conference.

Joe Hill (clergy, Little Kanawha District Superintendent), Scott Ingleton (clergy, Lindside, Greenbrier District) and Jenny Williams (clergy, Avery, MonValley District) spoke in favor of referral.

Bob Fulton (clergy, Hamlin, Western District) and Michael Shaffer (lay, St. George, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against referral.

Glenn Pysell (clergy, Retired, Greenbrier District) called the question on the referral.

The resolution was referred. The resolution is listed in *Section 6 Resolutions*.

RECOGNITION OF NEW SUPERINTENDENTS: The bishop recognized and welcomed Scott Ferguson, who will be the new Superintendent in the Potomac Highlands District; and Rev. Amy Shanholtzer, her husband, Craig, and daughters Claire and Lauren. Amy will be the new superintendent in the MonValley District. They were each given an opportunity to address the Conference. Rev. Ferguson's wife, Becky, was not able to be present. Their son, Conner, is attending the conference and they also have a daughter, Kaitlyn.



Bishop Steiner Ball leads the Conference in prayer for the new superintendents and their families.

SEXUAL ETHICS AND SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICIES: Ken Krimmel (clergy, Director of Connectional Ministries), Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Formation), and Shea James (clergy, Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries) presented the policies for Sexual Ethics and Safe Sanctuaries.

Ken Krimmel moved the adoption of the Sexual Ethics Policy, found on 2018-17. Bonnie MacDonald explained that the policy, previously approved, has been updated to reflect changes in the 2016 Discipline.

The Sexual Ethics Policy was approved and can be found in *Section 11, Miscellaneous* of this Journal.

Ken Krimmel moved adoption of the Safe Sanctuaries Policy. Shea James explained that this policy, which was originally adopted in 2008 and was formerly called the “Child Protection Policy,” has been updated to include protections for vulnerable adults that were not previously included and also a cyber-policy that incorporates changes in technology.

Safe Sanctuaries Policy was approved and can be found in *Section 11, Miscellaneous* of this Journal.

TRANSITIONS: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized Ken Krimmel and his wife, Ellen, as Ken transitions to Oak Hill UMC from being the Director of Connectional Ministries. She thanked Ken for his work with Connectional



Ministries and mentioned that Ken will continue to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop.

SCOUTING: Girl Scout Troop 32353 from Trinity UMC, Cowen, in the Greenbrier District received the Bishop's Award for Scouting. The Girl Scouts and their leader addressed the Conference.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION: Jeff Taylor (clergy, President of the UM Foundation) reported that the Foundation is managing over \$100,000,000 of assets. He highlighted that these funds reflect the efforts of many who came before. He thanked the leadership of Bishop Wertz, Bishop Grove, Bishop Ives, Bishop Lyght, and Bishop Steiner Ball. He thanked former leaders of the Foundation, including Clair Jarvis, Sam Sink, Art Backus, and David Peters. He recognized the staff of the Foundation: Kim Matthews (Vice President), Jaye Walker, and introduced Susannah Carpenter, who is the Director of Finance and Administration. Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Vice President of the Foundation, Western District) spoke about the grants for ministry that the Foundation has been able to give. They are working on creating a culture of generosity. They are hosting a conference on faith and generosity. More information is found on Handout 2018-23.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES: Pat Mick (lay equalization, Global Ministries chair, Greenbrier District) presented the report of Global Ministries. They will be hosting an event "Reclaim!" on August 9 - 10, 2019. The speaker will be Reggie McNeal.

She announced the plan for a Mission Passport which will give everyone the opportunity to visit and support the conference mission projects and the New Vision Depot. Those persons who complete all the activities within the passport and who bring the passport to their district Celebration of Ministries Events will receive a prize. The mission projects are making plans to share resources and partner together. The two new coordinators for Health and Disabilities have already begun their work. Scholarships for the Humphreys Scholarship Fund will be distributed for the first time with funds administered by the Foundation. There are food justice ministries springing up around the conference.

She highlighted the ministries of the mission projects that are outlined in the *Conference Workbook*.

Judy Raines (lay equalization, Nominations, Southern District) chair of the Church and Community Ministries of Global Ministries, recognized the retirement of Church and Community Worker, Gayle Lesure, who has served the conference in Church and Community Ministries for many years.



Groundbreaking shovels for the youth center at The House of the Carpenter

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Mike Linger (clergy, Director of The House of the Carpenter, Northern District) presented shovels to the bishop and Pat Mick to commemorate the groundbreaking of the Youth Center on Wheeling Island. The groundbreaking occurred in April 2018 and work is continuing on the center.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: David Stilgenbauer shared upcoming opportunities for Volunteers in Mission. VIM is a grassroots movement for those who feel led to participate in mission. This year there are trips planned to Alaska, Honduras, Costa Rica, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and others can be arranged if there is interest. There are also trips planned to various places in West Virginia that are helping with flood recovery.

SECRETARY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES: Jeff Matheny (lay, Mt. Pleasant, Little Kanawha District; Secretary of Global Ministries). He thanked the congregations of Morris Memorial Charleston, Pea Ridge, First Princeton, Christ Wheeling, and Epworth Ripley which hosted the missionaries who visited the conference last year. Becky Parsons, Mission Advocate for the Northeastern Jurisdiction, addressed the conference concerning the work of Global Ministries. She is a resource person for the secretary of Global Ministries. There are over 400 United Methodist missionaries around the world. She recognized Gayle Lesure, a Church and Community Worker in the West Virginia Annual Conference, who is currently the longest serving missionary in the denomination.

A short video on the United Methodist Committee on Relief was shared featuring Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of Global Ministries, and Bishop Tom Bickerton, president of UMCOR.

HEART + HAND OUTREACH MINISTRIES: Vicki Ballengee (director of Heart + Hand which is located in South Charleston in the Midland South District) reported on the ministries of Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries. She shared a video presentation of Heart + Hand which showed the various ministries and the opportunities for volunteers in the South Charleston area.

ABUNDANT HEALTH: Clare Sulgit (clergy, St. Marys, Little Kanawha District, Health Coordinator) introduced the Abundant Health initiative of the General Church. The ministries focus on health of mind, body, and spirit. She explained that many churches are

already participating in ministries of Abundant Health and encouraged all congregations to register their ministries with the General Church online or with the sheet that was available as handout 2018-28. The General Conference will help resource churches that are trying to do ministries in Abundant Health. She challenged the conference to meet on the break in front of John Wesley for a “Hula-Palooza” – a hula hoop competition. Bishop Steiner Ball donated her t-shirt to the winner.

BREAK



Bree Moll (Greenbrier District Youth) and Ginna Fox (MonValley District Young Adult) try out the hula hoops during the break to highlight Abundant Health Ministries

Bishop Steiner Ball brought the conference back from break by singing “*Whose Side are you Leaning On?*”

LIVING HOPE HIGH SCHOOL: a video was shown of the first graduate of Living Hope High School to attend Africa University. Appreciation was expressed to the conference for their support and encouragement that allowed him to have a scholarship.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW): Sue Dostal, (lay equalization, president of UMW, Western District) presented the UMW report. The UMW, the largest faith-based mission organization in the world, equips women for action in four areas: Economic Inequality; Climate Justice; Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color; and Maternal and Child Health.

Each year they host three conference-wide events: Spiritual Growth Retreat in the Spring, Mission u in July, and Annual Meeting in September. This year’s Spiritual Growth retreat will be held on the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the UMW. All women are

invited to participate. Each district held its own Mission Encounter events this year which increased attendance by about 10 times. This year over 60 women from the West Virginia Conference participated in the General Assembly.

SPRING HEIGHTS and CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE: Shea James (clergy, Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries, Midland South District) highlighted the ministries of Spring Heights. There are more than 300 campers registered at Spring Heights. They have a new day camp program called DaySpring that takes the camping experience into communities around the conference.



The children of Children's Conference presented the bishop with a gift of Bible story pictures that they created.

Spring Heights is working toward accreditation with American Camping Association. Spring Heights will then be the only Christian camp in West Virginia that is ACA accredited.

On October 13, 2018, Spring Heights will host a celebration of 60 years of ministry. All are invited.

She recognized the staff of Spring Heights which has supervised this year's Children's Conference. Children's Conference is available to children and grandchildren of conference members who are ten years old and younger. Members of the Children's Conference were introduced along with the staff. They presented the bishop with a collection of Bible story art that they had created.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES: Brookann Simmons (lay equalization, chair of CCYM, Midland South District) shared the work of the CCYM during the year. This year's theme has been "Challenge." The Rally on the Mountain will occur at Winter Place in July. Fall Workshop will be held November 13-15 and the cost is \$100. There is one student attending the NEJ Mission of Peace and Brookann is attending the Global Young Peoples Convocation in South Africa.

The Youth Service Fund (YSF) raised over \$3,700, including \$600 for dunking the bishop.

DISCOVER U: Shea James shared about a new program that will begin this year. A group of young people developed the program Discover U based on five things that they believe make transformational events: (1) they are encouraged and challenged; (2) they are faithfully witnessed to by people with more life experiences; (3) they have new experiences – they are encouraged



Shea James

to do something that they have never done before; (4) they form deep relationships with peers; (5) adults were open and honest with them and invited them into relationship. Discover U will partner youth aged 15 – 18 years with young people aged 18 – 23 years and the pair will work with mentoring adults. The first event will occur in July.

INTERNS: Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Support, Midland South District) introduced the interns participating in this year's intern program: Erin Sears will be working with Communications; Lauren Shanholtzer will work with Young Discipleship; and Amanda Webb is working with the Upshur Parish House.



2018 Interns: Amanda Webb, Lauren Shanholtzer, and Erin Sears

Bonnie MacDonald shared about the leadership development processes that are available throughout the conference. Candidacy has allowed

exploring candidates to refine their call. Grants for Course of Study have increased. She encouraged the conference to pray for those who are participating in the Course of Study program. She recognized those persons who had completed the Course of Study this year.

She recognized those who were currently enrolled in seminary or who were anticipating enrolling in the coming year.

A new scholarship, “Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship,” has been created through a partner program with the Lilly Foundation; the thirteen United Methodist seminaries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; and the UM Foundation of WV. The recipients of the scholarship this year are Brad Davis and Sarah Loudon (both attending Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio); and Tyler Sprouse (attending Duke). Karen Ward from the GBHEM brought greetings and thanked the conference for their work. She highlighted the Young Persons Initiative. Some key findings they have found that are important in developing call: (1) change takes time and many influencers; (2) meaningful change does not happen quickly; (3) culture and context matters; (4) youth need both mentors and peers; (5) churches encourage call by asking often.

RESOLUTIONS: Jim Martin (clergy, Lubeck, Little Kanawha District, member of the Program Committee) moved adoption of the resolution “*De-List Pitcher UMC as a Historic Site*” which was found on Handout 2018-33.

Heather Moore (clergy, Kanawha - Mt. Vernon, MonValley District) spoke against the resolution.

Ken Krimmel (clergy, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries, Little Kanawha District) spoke for the resolution.

The resolution was supported. *See Resolution Seven in Section VI of the Journal.*

Jim Martin moved adoption of the resolution “***Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Occupation***” found in the *Conference Workbook*.

Marvin Tripett (lay, Crossroads, Little Kanawha District) spoke against the resolution.

Neal Lacey (district lay equalization, Southern District) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Chris Scott (clergy, Winfield, Midland South District) moved to amend the resolution by removing the language in Line 26 “by withholding military assistance from the State of Israel due to its practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children” and replacing it with “and urge that the US would use financial and diplomatic leverage to end the practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children.”

Jenny Williams (clergy, Avery, MonValley District) asked to clarify if the language concerning the US Foreign Assistance Act remained in the amendment.

George Hohmann (lay equalization, District Lay Leader, Midland South District) asked what was in the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act that makes it relevant. Jenny Williams replied that the language in the resolution reflects the language of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act. George Hohmann asked if this would, in fact, limit all military aid to Israel.

Max McGinnis (lay equalization, Youth Equalization Member, Western District) directed the conference’s attention to the “Be It Further Resolved” that requests the conference to write members of congress.

Robert Baer, Jr. (clergy, Peters Valley Charge, Greenbrier District) called the question on all that is before the conference.

The motion to end debate was supported.

The Conference Secretary read the amendment that was offered to the first Therefore Be It Resolved: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on the government of the United States to adhere to its own established law – in this case, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act – and urges that the U.S. would use financial and diplomatic leverage to end the practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children;

The amendment was supported. The resolution was supported. *See Resolution Eight in Section VI of the Journal.*

APPOINTMENT AND ASSIGNMENT LIST was distributed to all conference members. Appointments and Assignments can be found in *Section V Appointments* of the Journal.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary, moved approval of the Consent Calendar. It was approved.

LAY NOMINEES FOR 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE: Betty Bailey, Gavin Brandenburg, Edward Corbitt, Tim Davis, Jane Ensminger, Eva Faulkner, Rachel Fulton, Laura Fygetakes, Craig Hinchman, Judi Kenaston, Katie Kerns, Royce A. Lyden, Melissa K. Paugh, John Quesenberry, Judy Raines, Carmen Rexroad, Erin Sears, Rich Shaffer, Nancy Stephens, and Kristi Wilkerson

CONFERENCE DATE: Ken Krimmel, Director of Connectional Ministries, announced that the 2019 Conference would meet June 13 - 16, 2019, at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Cheryl George (clergy, Baker, Potomac Highlands District, Chair of Conference Communications Team) said that Tom Bone is auctioning his original artwork and those interested may contact Rev. Jack Lipphardt or find more information on the Conference Facebook page.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ralph Herron, Monty and Jane Brown, and Cindy Boggs were unable to attend Annual Conference due to health concerns, and Marsha Plybon's granddaughter is experiencing difficulty in the late stages of her pregnancy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Conference Secretary Judi Kenaston announced that Volvo keys have been found and turned in; recordings of the teaching sessions with Junius Dotson are now available on the Conference website; and five persons from Living Hope High School are still in need of sponsors. Those interested in sponsoring a student may meet near the statue of John Wesley at the end of the session. Clergy are requested to check their service records in Section 12 of the current Journal and report any changes or corrections prior to publication of the 2018 Journal using Handout 2018-22 or by email.

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes on Sunday begin at 8:15 and end in time for the Ordination Service. Seats are reserved for those participating in the classes. International Bible Study is in Lohr Auditorium with Kim Matthews; Opioid Crisis Conversation will be in Hyma Auditorium with Barry Ball; and Discipling System in Room 200 of the Martin Religious Center with Beverly Colombo.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Mark Conner (clergy, First Huntington, Western District, Program Committee chair) thanked the president and staff of WVWC for the efforts required for the barbecue; pages and tellers; children's conference staff and participants; tellers and timers; small group facilitators; local staff at West Virginia Wesleyan coordinated by Darlene Bosley, which includes resident hall coordinators and golf cart drivers; GNTV crew; Conference Staff, particularly Chris Ridgway; Program Committee and Worship Team; music leaders, Craig Hinchman and Julie Janisch; all who work behind the scenes; Conference Secretary, Judi Kenaston; guests, Bishop Weaver and Junius Dotson; and Bishop Steiner Ball. He highlighted the evaluation form which will be done electronically. He asked everyone to turn in the name badge holders. He reminded those persons staying in the residence halls that keys must be turned in at the Rockefeller Gymnasium before worship in the morning.

Mark Conner led the conference in prayer. He moved adjournment following the Service of Ordination and Commissioning on Sunday. Motion was approved by affirmation.

Sunday Morning-- June 10, 2018

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Three classes were held at 8:15 a.m.

WORSHIP 9:30 a.m.
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR ORDINATION
WITH COMMISSIONING

The service was conducted by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, resident and presiding bishop. Musical leadership was provided by the Conference Brass Quintet, Craig Hinchman and Julie Janisch, directors of music and organists, and the Conference Choir. Introit was "*Celebrate the Day*" by Pepper Choplin. The Baptism hymn was "*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters;*" offertory anthem was "*God, The Spirit, Lives Within Us,*" by Lloyd Larson.



Invitation anthem was “*How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord,*” by Fred Pratt Green and Kevin Hildebrand. Sending music was “*Grand Choeur,*” arr. Brockman. Processional hymn was “*God is Here.*” Other hymns included “*Spirit of the Living God,*” and “*Finish, Then, Thy New Creation.*” Recessional Hymn was “*Go to the World.*”

Liturgists and worship participants were Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball; Bishop Peter Weaver; Rev. Mike Estep and Rev. Rick Sale, District Superintendents; Rich Shaffer, Lay Leader; Judith Kenaston, Conference Secretary; Rev. Sharletta Green, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Jay Parkins, Vice-Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Claudia Fizer, Chair of Order of Deacons; Rev. Gwen Wolford, Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; Rev. Ken Krimmel, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries; Rev. Sara Lamb, Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry; and Rev. Bonnie Glass MacDonald, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Support.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball’s sermon was “Something Known and Something New.” The Scripture Lesson was Deuteronomy 6:1-12(NIV).

The highlighted offering was designated for Puerto Rican Mission Trip Supplies for Volunteers-in-Missions.

Esther Lillian Tennant, infant daughter of Rev. Andrew and Julie Tennant, and Augustine Thomas Biondi, infant son of Rev. Darick Biondi and Rev. Cindy Briggs-Biondi were baptized.

Sharmune C. Burgess, Matthew Aaron Paugh, and Donald C. Stilgenbauer were commissioned for the work of an elder.

Christopher William Bennett, Jonathan Andrew Dierdorff, Charles Walter May, Raymond Delmer Stonestreet, and Karen Kay Tate were ordained Elders in Full Connection.

Appointments were fixed by Bishop Steiner Ball in a liturgy of covenant by clergy and laity.

Benediction was offered by Bishop Steiner Ball and Claudia Fizer, Chair of the Order of Deacons.

ADJOURNMENT: The 2018 Session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was adjourned sine die.