III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION
Of
WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 13 – 16, 2019

West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, West Virginia

First Day – Thursday – June 13, 2019

Morning 10:00 a.m.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Clergy Executive Session was held at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Buckhannon, at 10:00 a.m., under the direction of the Rev. Jay Parkins, 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. Dr. Joseph Kenaston, Dean of the Cabinet, reported that, with the exception of situations that were being handled through a supervisory process with the knowledge of all participants, 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 the Virginia Thomas Law Center for the Performing Arts at 10:00 a.m. Rich Shaffer, WV Conference Lay Leader, opened the laity session with prayer and then introduced presenters.

Conference Secretary Judi M. Kenaston explained the operation of the new voting machines which will be used for the first time for the election of delegates to the 2020 session
of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. She then explained the procedure for election of delegates to the conferences. Laity will elect three voting lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference and three additional voting lay delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, who will also serve as reserves for General Conference. The laity will also elect two alternate delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference. Only laity vote for the lay delegates to the conferences. The clergy will elect an equal number of clergy delegates to these conferences.

Rich conducted a brief orientation for the people who were attending Annual Conference for the first time. He stressed the importance of attending the business sessions, training sessions, and worship experiences. He explained the importance of wearing the name tags so they would be permitted to vote. Voting members were to sit in the area of the Wesley Chapel designated as the “Bar of the Conference.” Rich stressed they read all the information in the workbook, as well as materials given to them at registration. Dining options were presented.

Rich then introduced Kristi Wilkerson, the Associate Conference Lay Leader, who talked about the Covenant Council and some of their goals. She explained how the Covenant Council works with ministry team leaders and other leaders of the Conference in the same way as a church administrative council does. She said councils are encouraged to “celebrate, challenge, clarify and coordinate” growing disciples. There is room to rethink and re-imagine as needed.

Kim Matthews, Associate Director of the United Methodist Foundation and Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, said that laity are called to ministry and explained the different categories of Certified Lay Servants, Certified Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers. She mentioned the increased numbers of laity who are involved in ministry through these categories. She also talked about the mission of the UM Foundation, their goals, and the good they are doing for our congregations.

Jim Berner, Treasurer of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference, talked about the budget and changes that would be voted upon in the business sessions. He talked about the changes in the health insurance that took place last year and the changes that would be required over the next three years in order to keep the plan solvent.

Ken Willard, Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality, discussed the percentages of people who no longer claim any church affiliation and how those numbers have continued to increase over time. Ken encouraged the laity to find ways to reach others for Christ and talked about the Vital Church Initiative.

Rich Shaffer closed the session with prayer.
OPENING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
1:30 p.m.

Annual Conference opened with a Communion Service that focused on the Invitational nature of the church, using the communion table as a symbol of that invitation. The table was used throughout the Conference for both worship and business. To model what it means to be “invitational,” margin notes were used as a teaching tool that might be used in the local church.

The Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy Choirs, under the direction of Patty Moffett Austin and accompanied by Karen Schlosser, sang the Gathering Music, which consisted of the following anthems: “Sing All Creation” by Glenn Caluda, “Children of Peace” by Mark Brymer, “Love One Another” by Hal Hopson, and “For the Beauty of the Earth” by John Rutter.

The preacher was Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball. She based her sermon on John 1:1-3, I John 4:11-19, and John 1:35-39. Bishop Steiner Ball also celebrated the Eucharist. Debra Harrison presented the Words for Children.

Worship leaders and communion servers were Scott Ferguson, Mary Ellen Finegan, Okey Harless, Debra Harrison, Joe Hill, Loretta Isaiah, Joe Kenaston, Callie Larson, Bonnie MacDonald, Bree Moll, Brody Morgan, Allie Murphy, Madison Murphy, Martha Ognibene, Nicole Peucker, Sophia Ramsey, Rich Shaffer, Amy Shanholtzer, Frank Shomo, Melissa Shortridge, Ken Willard, and Felica Wooten Williams. Six of the communion servers were children from the Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy Choirs.

Offerings received throughout Conference were divided among a variety of ministries, with each service highlighting one ministry. The three ministries were Africa University Scholarships; United Methodist Temple Clarksburg Recovery Home; and support for youth to attend Youth 2019.

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. Marks UMC, Charleston. Choral anthems were sung by the combined Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy Choirs.
and Conference Choir. The anthems were “A Festival Gathering” by Tony Alonso, “There is Peace” by Jim Papoulis, and “Agnus Dei” by Michael W. Smith, arranged by Roger Emerson.

Accompanying some of the anthems and hymns were Paul Howard, Charles Stockton, Brian Plitnik, and Andrew Scott, brass; Gary Nelson, percussion; and Ed Pauley and Rusty Joins, guitar.

Hymns were “God Is Here,” words by Fred Pratt Green and music by Cyril V. Taylor; “A Place At the Table,” words by Shirley Erena Murray and music by Lori True; “Come and Fill our Hearts,” words and music by Jacques Berthier; and “In the Midst of New Dimensions,” words and music by Julian Rush.

Sung Communion responses were “Holy, Holy,” words and music by Jimmy Owens and stanza 2 of “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” words by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring and music by George J. Elvey.

Communion songs were “When I Think of You” by Michael W. Smith; “All Bow Down” by Chris Tomlin; and “How Great Is Our God” by Chris Tomlin.

Sending music was “Celebration Fanfare” by Charles Callahan.

Thursday Afternoon
4:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE: Bishop Steiner Ball called the session to order. She offered an opening prayer including healing for Mary Ellen Finegan’s husband, Jim, and Mike and Christine Richard’s nephew, Tanner.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES: Rev. Jeff Allen (clergy, Director of the WV Council of Churches) brought greetings to the Annual Conference. He thanked Bishop Steiner Ball for serving as president of the WV Council of Churches. He spoke about the work of the Council in the areas of substance use disorder, prison ministries, and kinship care. October 13-14 will be their annual meeting in Charleston. Bishop Steiner Ball announced a summit for Substance Abuse Disorder to be held on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College.
NATIVE AMERICAN GREETINGS: A video featuring Ellie High (lay, chair of WV CONAM) who issued a welcome in the Native American tradition, highlighting creation and asking the Conference to be good stewards of the earth.

Judi M. Kenaston (lay equalization, Annual Conference Secretary, Southern District) moved that the 2019 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 2019 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.

Jami Edin, Steven Hamrick, Mark James, 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 Flensborg and Pam Sears (lay) and Ray Stonestreet and Rick Swearengin (clergy).


LAY: Beverly Baker, Susan Buttermore, Christy Carson, Edward Clemons, Jr., Lawrence Coss, Joni Cutlip, Kathy Daniels, Cassie Fisher, Suzie Fullen, Margaret Harrison, Nancy Kirkendall, Carmen LaRue, Gayle Lesure, Chey Morris, Cinny Rumberg, Deborah Shaffer, Lisa Stilgenbauer, Claudia Thomas, Pam Todd, and Lacy Watson

Resolutions that will be presented are found in the Conference Workbook and on handout 2019-20 and 2019-21.

Organizational motion was approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR: The Conference Secretary presented the Consent Calendar and the Nominations report for first reading

AGENDA: Mark Conner (clergy, First Huntington, Western District, Program Committee Co-Chair) and Krysta Rexroad Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Midland South District, Program Committee Co-Chair) welcomed the members of the Conference.
Krysta explained the theme of invitation to the Conference and highlighted the ways in which the Conference is working on being invitational, including new signage, new communion opportunities, worship service explanatory notes, and new technology. Mark asked for everyone to silence cell phones. 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 (2019-01), with permission given to the Program Committee Chair, the bishop, and her assistant to adjust the agenda as needed. The agenda was approved.

Mark mentioned that the Conference is being live-streamed and explained how the writing on the screen would indicate when everyone should speak. He led the congregation through a litany covenant, “An Invitation to Gracious Communication for Annual Conference 2019.”

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked the pages for their work. She introduced Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Southern District) as her assistant to the bishop. She 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.

Conference Secretary Judi Kenaston explained the voting for General and Jurisdictional Conference balloting for lay and clergy, highlighting the information in the Conference Workbook. There will be an opportunity to nominate additional laypersons that must be submitted by 7:15 p.m. Thursday evening. Those names will be added to the ballot on Friday morning.

RULES: Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District, Chair of Rules) presented the Rules report. He moved the adoption of the following amendment to Miscellaneous Standing Rules:

1. To Amend B.IV.1

**Election of Trustees for West Virginia Wesleyan College.** The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than twenty (20) elected members nor more than thirty-six (36) persons. In addition, the Board of Trustees shall include the President of the College; the Bishop of the West Virginia Area of The United Methodist Church; the President of the Alumni Association; the President of the Faculty Council; the President of the Staff Council; and the President of the Student Senate and the President of the Community Council all of whom shall be ex-officio members of the Board, with vote. The Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania area of The United Methodist Church may become an ex-officio member, with vote. Of the Board on a year to year basis if he/she acknowledges annually in writing a willingness to accept such membership on the Board of Trustees.
Members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church at its regular annual session in accordance with ¶634.4.c.3. Persons shall be nominated by a Special Nominating Committee. The Special Nominating Committee shall include the Resident Bishop of the West Virginia Area of The United Methodist Church who shall serve as chairperson; the President of West Virginia Wesleyan College; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of West Virginia Wesleyan College; and two persons appointed jointly by the Resident Bishop and the Chairperson of the Board, including a clergyperson in Full Connection with the West Virginia Annual Conference, and a layperson who is a member of a local church within the bounds of the West Virginia Annual Conference. The latter two persons shall be members of the Board of Trustees. Trustees shall be of legal age as determined by Civil Law.

Greg Godwin (clergy, First Clarksburg, Wesleyan District) moved the following amendment to the first sentence. The amendment would delete the words “not more than” in the first line and add that the trustees “include at least four (4) full clergy members of the West Virginia Annual Conference.” The sentence would thus read “The Board of Trustees shall consist of twenty (20) elected members that include at least (4) four full clergy members of the West Virginia Annual Conference.” The motion was seconded. He spoke for the motion because the reduction of trustees should not eliminate the number of clergy member trustees.

J.F. Lacaria (clergy, retired, Midland South District) spoke against the amendment. Angela Gay Kinkead (clergy, Pea Ridge, Western District) asked who selects the Board of Trustees.

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent, Dean of the Cabinet) replied that the college has a special Nominating Committee, chaired by the bishop, that presents names for election. Ellis Conley (clergy, Forrest Burdette, Midland South District) spoke against the amendment. Kristi Wilkerson (lay, First Buckhannon, Wesleyan District) spoke for the amendment.

The Godwin amendment was not supported.

The amendment from the Rules Committee was supported.

To Amend Rule B.II.6.a, found on page 439 of the 2018 Conference Journal as follows:

II.6.a. «Purpose: To provide support services for the ordained minister’s career development for appointed and retired clergy including personal and career counseling, continuing education, assistance for retirement and all matters pertaining to ministerial support. all clergy and their immediate families in the areas of counseling funds, peer support, retreats, and other opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and physical wellness.

The amendment was supported.

Scott Sears moved the rules in their entirety. They were supported.
SUSPENSION OF RULES: Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) moved to suspend the Rule 1A in order to delete the requirement that resolutions be considered every day of Conference.

Suspension of the rules was upheld. Rule change was referred to the Rules Committee to bring back a report within 24 hours.

WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE: Lauren Weaver (clergy, United Methodist Church Liaison and Spiritual Life Coordinator at West Virginia Wesleyan College) introduced the President of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Dr. Joel Thierstein. President Thierstein is beginning his second year as president of WVWC. He thanked Lauren Weaver and Darlene Bosley, the Conference Assistant coordinating Annual Conference with the college. He welcomed everyone to the Conference and shared a humorous story about the bears that have made occasional appearances on the campus.

RESOLUTIONS: Jim Martin (clergy, Lubeck, Little Kanawha District, Program Committee) presented the resolution Voting Values for the Election of General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates submitted by Conference Justice and Advocacy Team. The resolution was supported without debate. See Resolution One in Section VI of the Journal.

LARCUM (Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic-United Methodist) ecumenical group. Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Southern District, Assistant to the Bishop) announced the annual meeting of LARCUM, which will be held September 9 – 11, 2019, at John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, and the speaker will be Clayton Childers from the UM General Board of Church and Society. The theme will be “Christianity and Civil Religion” and there will be speakers and breakout sessions available.

In addition, Ken Krimmel brought greetings from Bishop Matthew Riegel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

RULES: Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District, Chair of Rules) brought the Rules report concerning the amendment to the rules that was moved by Joe
Kenaston. They recommend the deletion of Rules of Order and Business Procedure (II.6)
“Proposed agenda, submitted by the Committee on Annual Conference Program, shall
include time each full day of the Annual Conference Session for presenting resolutions.”

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) spoke in favor of the
deletion of the rule because we currently have very few resolutions and it is unnecessary to
mandate that the resolutions be presented every day.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) spoke against the
resolution.

The resolution to delete was adopted.

COURTESIES: Lauren Godwin (clergy, Grace Keyser, Potomac Highlands District)
announced that anyone interested in going on the Costa Rica VIM trip should meet with
Barry Moll following the session.

Greg Smith (lay equalization, Little Kanawha District) asked who was supposed
to attend the evening session which was listed as “executive” in the Sched app. The bishop
said that it was for everyone and should not be listed as executive.

PRAYER: Jim McCune (clergy, Elizabeth Memorial, Midland South District)
offered the closing prayer.

**Thursday – June 13, 2019**
**Evening 7:00 p.m.**

Bishop Steiner Ball opened the evening session with prayer.

Lay nominations for General Conference were received in writing during the
early part of the session.

The bishop introduced and recognized the delegation that served for General
Conference 2016 and the Special Session of 2019. She explained how the delegation
worked to prepare for each of the
conference sessions, including
the listening sessions that they
held throughout the Annual
Conference. She praised the
delegation for their diligence
of preparation in prayer and
study. She led the Conference in
praying for the delegation.

![2016 and 2019 Delegation](image)
Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Certified Lay Minister, Western District) moved that nominations for lay delegates to General Conference be closed. Motion was seconded and approved.

Bishop Steiner Ball shared Ephesians 4: 1 – 6; 29 – 32 (NRSV) I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Bishop Steiner Ball emphasized that God loves and desires each person. Jesus saves. All are called in God’s spirit to work together to bear witness to God’s love and God’s action in Jesus Christ.

She presented what was changed at the Special Session of General Conference and the Judicial Council decisions and how these decisions impact the conference and the churches within the annual conference. She asked Conference members to consider some questions and share their thoughts with a few people sitting around them.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a time of anointing was shared. Each participant was given a vial of oil to share with others during the Conference.
Friday – June 14, 2019
Morning Communion
7:45 a.m.

Morning Communion was provided at 7:45 a.m. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball celebrated Holy Communion in the open air outside the Meditation Chapel. The liturgy was based on Isaiah 43. Okey Harless acted as communion steward and assisted the Bishop in serving all those in attendance.

Morning
8:15 a.m.
Prayer and Praise

Morning prayer and praise in the Wesley Chapel focused on a traditional setting. Congregational hymns, “Surely the Presence of the Lord,” “Blessed Assurance,” and “How Great Thou Art” were sung, with piano accompaniment provided by Craig Hinchman. Julie Janisch led the congregational singing for the service.

Joshua 1:1-19 in the King James Version was read as the scripture to start the day. Concluding the service, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball offered a blessing over the chapel prior to conducting the business of the Annual Conference for the day. As the bishop blessed the space, a bell was rung at different intervals and candles were lit on the presiding table. The candles were a representation of the entire West Virginia Conference.

Business
8:45 a.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball opened the session by singing “His Name is Wonderful.” She highlighted the conversation from Thursday night and said that the questions and PowerPoint would be available on the conference website.

Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary) explained the balloting process for elections of delegates. Additional lay nominations were taken on Thursday evening and were assigned a number for voting in addition to those who were nominated previously. The first 19 were on the original ballot. The additions began with number 20. The ballot now read: Betty Bailey 1; Gavin Brandenburg 2; Timothy Davis 3; WITHDRAWN 4; Eva Hensley Faulkner 5; Rachel (Flynn) Fulton 6; Laura Fygetakes 7; Craig Hinchman 8; Judi M. Kenaston 9; Katie Kerns 10; Royce A. Lyden 11; Melissa Paugh 12; Robert John Quesenberry 13; Judy Raines 14; Carmen R. Rexrode 15; Erin Sears 16; Rich Shaffer 17; Nancy L. Stephens 18; Kristi Wilkerson 19; Martha J. Hill (St. Marks, Charleston) 20; Bev Kerr (Suncrest, Morgantown) 21; Hannah Lamb (Wayside, Vienna) 22; Bree Moll (First,
Tellers distributed the VistaCom electronic voting machines.

Scott Casey, president of VistaCom, gave instructions for using the electronic voting machines and a test ballot was taken.

A prayer video by Bishop John Schol, serving the New Jersey Area in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, was shown to the conference. The conference Voting Values, passed on Thursday, were displayed.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 1 was taken.

POINT OF ORDER: Bill Wilson (clergy, retired) pointed out that the names that were displayed on the screen were not scrolling and could have influenced the balloting. Bishop Steiner Ball agreed that the names that were improperly displayed on the screens could have influenced balloting and invalidated the first ballot. Clergy Ballot 1 was retaken.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 1 was taken.

JIM BERNER RETIREMENT RECOGNITION: Ken Ramsey (clergy, Bridgeport, Wesleyan District, Chair of CFA) introduced Jim Berner (lay equalization, Conference Treasurer) who has served as Conference Treasurer, Statistician, and Pensions Benefit Officer since 1994 and is retiring this year after 25 years of service. He presented Jim with a hand turned pottery vase inscribed with Philippians 4:2. He also gave a gift voucher for travel to Jim and his family.

Bishop Steiner Ball brought greetings and words of admiration from three other bishops with whom Jim has served: Bishop S. Clifton Ives, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght and Bishop William Boyd Grove. Bishop Steiner Ball read commendation she had written thanking him for the dedication he had shown for his work and the compassion which he brought to the role, even when it required difficult decisions and recommendations.

Jim Berner thanked the bishops with which he served and shared humorous memories of each of them. He thanked the laity for electing him to General Conference
numerous times. He thanked the clergy for the work that they do. The Conference gave Jim a standing ovation.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 1 RESULTS: 419 cast; 5 invalid ballots; 208 needed for election. Judi Kenaston was elected with 209 votes. Names of laity receiving 10 or more votes were read.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 1 RESULTS: 241 cast; 1 invalid ballot; 121 needed for election. There was no election. Names of those receiving 10 or more votes were read.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND: Bishop Steiner Ball introduced Dr. Walter Lee from South Carolina who is an ambassador for the Black College Fund, an assistant Professor of Education at the University of South Carolina Upstate, and Campus Coordinator of the nationally acclaimed “Call Me MiSTER” Program. He spoke to the Conference about the importance of the Black College Fund which is supported by our connectional giving.

BALLOT: Voting Values document was displayed. In a video, Bishop Jeremiah J. Park of the Harrisburg Area of the Northeastern Jurisdiction offered prayer.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 2 was taken.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 2 was taken.

CONFERENCE STAFF RECOGNITION: Bishop asked conference staff to come forward to be introduced to the Conference. Those present included Bonnie MacDonald (Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff), Ken Willard (Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality), Deborah Coble (Director of Communications), Shea James (Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries), Joe Webb (Communications and Media Specialist), Amy Mullins (Spring Heights Camp Manager), Chris Ridgway (Connectional Ministries Assistant), Karen Thaxton (Central Services Administrative

Some of the Conference Staff recognized by Bishop Steiner Ball
Assistant), Angela Jones (Administrative Assistant and Ethnic Local Church Concerns Coordinator), Lisa Shafer (Administrative Secretary to the Bishop); Judi Kenaston (Conference Secretary), Myra Bess (Controller), Cheryl Sutton (Receipts Billing), Kathy Damron (Administrative Assistant and Benefits Specialist), and Ken Krimmel (Assistant to the Bishop). In addition to those conference staff who were present, she recognized the District Administrative Assistants, the Health and Welfare and Mission Directors, Campus Ministry, Spring Heights staff, VIM Director and Disaster Response Directors, and the Flood Recovery Directors.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 2 RESULTS: 244 votes cast; no invalid ballots; 123 votes needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 15 votes or more.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 2 RESULTS: 421 votes cast; 1 invalid vote; 211 votes needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 15 votes or more.

QUESTION: Danny Kinder (clergy, Elkview Charge, Midland South District) asked whether a family member of someone already elected should withdraw from the ballot. The bishop responded that all those who are on the ballot remain eligible and family membership does not negate their eligibility.

BALLOT: Voting Values were displayed on the screen. Prayer video from Bishop Mark Webb of the Upper New York Area of the Northeastern Jurisdiction was shown.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 3 was taken.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 3 was taken.

Voting machines were collected.

BREAK

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

The Memorial Service was held Friday, June 14 at 11:00 a.m. Gathering music was “It is Well” by Jim Brickman. The postlude “Meditation on Promise” was written by Brenda Portman. The anthem performed by the Conference Choir was “God is Working for Our Good” by Mark Hayes.

Hymns included “For All the Saints” and “Hymn of Promise.” Music was led by Conference Music Directors Craig Hinchman and Julie Janisch.
Outgoing Conference Treasurer Jim Berner provided the sermon entitled, “What Shall We Say,” based on Romans 8: 31, 35, 37-39. The sermon was followed by an invitation to discipleship in which people were encouraged to pray at the altar while “Spirit Song” and “I Surrender All” were led by the Conference Music Directors.

The liturgy was adapted from Street Psalms (https://streetpsalms.org/memorial-liturgy/) by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball.

As the names of those who had died in the past year were read by Judi M. Kenaston, Conference Secretary, candles were lit and a chime was rung in their honor. Each family representing a conference saint received a hand-blown glass shell from Hinkle Glass, a reminder of their baptism. The names read included:

(Clergy and Deaconess): Chalmer Abrams; M. Eugene Adkins; Helen Davis Bell; Conrad Keith Brown; Grace Estel; J. Emmett “Jack” Ferrell; Deborah Friend; Richard Gibson; George Hastings Gray; Nancy Hamm; Melva Humphrey; Loren Metzner; Vaughn J. Michael, Jr.; Patricia “Trish” G. Neely; Robert Elwood “Bob” Nichols; Ralph D. Reedy; Steven W. Runnion; Randy Stewart; John Carl Ward, Jr.; Jeffrey N. Winter; Charlotte Ann Wood; Richard L. Wright; and Elizabeth Shaver Smith Wycoff

(Spouses): Jane Ellen Brown; Juanita Faye Burke; Marie Victoria Ferrell; Mary Ann Griffin; Beverly Marie Hines-Brown; Parnell Formbly Kelly-Easley; Bonnie L. Patrick; Janis Lynch Sauvage; and Harlow “Jr.” Stover.

(Surviving Spouses): Betty Rae Dippolito DeFelice; Dorothy “Dot” E. DuBois; Elneda Catherine Miller; Juanita Smith Moats; Juanita Pearl Perkins; Daliah Faye Mattox Pullins; Edith Regina Spring; and Winoma Marguerite Spurgeon.

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

Friday – June 14, 2019
Afternoon 2:00 p.m.

Bishop Steiner Ball opened the session by leading the singing of “There’s Something About That Name.”

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY: Bishop Steiner Ball introduced Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, GBHEM Assistant General Secretary, The Black College Fund & Ethnic Concerns, who brought greetings from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Due to the retirement of Dr. Kim Cape, the Board has recently selected a new Acting General Secretary, Rev. Greg Bergquist. Bishop Steiner Ball serves as the vice-president of the Board.

BALLOT: Voting machines were distributed to clergy and lay members of Conference. Voting Values for the election were displayed.
GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 3 RESULTS: 241 votes cast; 4 invalid ballots; 119 needed for election. Amy Shanholzer was elected with 158 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 3 RESULTS: 408 votes cast; 4 invalid ballots; 203 needed for election. Rich Shafer was elected with 230 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi of the Pittsburgh Area offered prayer through a taped video presentation.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 4 was taken.
LAY BALLOT 4 was taken.

BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL: Loretta Young, president of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal, reported on the national meeting for BMCR. She presented an award to Bishop Steiner Ball for her support of BMCR, specifically her encouragement of all churches in the West Virginia Conference to take an offering on BMCR Sunday. She also presented an award for the West Virginia Conference who had one of the highest contributions to BMCR.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 4 RESULTS: 243 votes cast; 4 invalid ballots; 120 votes needed for election. There was no election.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 4 RESULTS: 410 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 206 votes needed for election. There was no election.

The Voting Values were posted. A prayer video was shared featuring Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Philadelphia Area of the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 5 and GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 5 were taken.

PENSIONS: Jamie O’Brien (lay equalization, Chair of Pensions, Wesleyan District) moved the approval of the Pensions report.

Robin Kelvey (lay, Lubeck, Little Kanawha District) requested that the formula used to calculate the unfunded liability be shared in the Pensions report.
Jim Berner said that the formula is a church’s apportionment divided by the entire
budget multiplied by the unfunded liability to get the amount owed by a local church.
Robin requested that the formula be included in the report and Bishop Steiner Ball said
that could be done.

Clare Sulgit (clergy, St. Marys, Little Kanawha District) asked where the amount
for the unfunded liability could be found. Bishop Steiner Ball said that it was only available
by calling the business office.

William Wilson (clergy, retired, Western District) said that the Board of Trustees
has paid close attention to the formula so that churches can receive the most accurate
information possible.

Greg Godwin (clergy, First Clarksburg, Wesleyan District) asked what happened to
the money after it was collected. The bishop responded that the money is sent to WesPath.

Robert Baer, Jr. (clergy, Peters Valley, Greenbrier District) moved the question
on all before the Conference.

The motion to close debate was supported. The section I. A-D was supported.

Jamie O’Brien moved section II, A-D.

Robert Stigall (lay, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) asked whether the
premium increases listed in item C were the total amount or the church’s portion. Jamie
O’Brien stated they were the total amount.

Section II. A-D was approved.

Jamie O’Brien moved Section II, E-G. This section was approved.

He moved Section III, A-D. This section was approved. He moved Section III,
E-G. This section was approved.

He moved the entire report of the Board of Pensions.

Bill Wilson (clergy, retired, Western District) pointed out that the date in the
resolution approved should be 2020 and not 2019.

The Pension report was approved.

GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY BALLOT 5 RESULTS: 411 votes cast; 0
invalid ballots; 206 votes needed for election. Erin Sears was elected with 249 votes. This
completed the General Conference Delegation for the laity. The Conference Secretary read
the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY BALLOT 5 RESULTS: 246 votes cast;
2 were invalid; 123 were needed for election. Jeffrey Taylor was elected with 141 votes
and Lauren Godwin was elected with 136 votes. This completed the General Conference
Delegation for the clergy. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20
votes or more.

The Voting Values were displayed. A video prayer from the Northeastern
Jurisdiction was shared by Bishop Latrelle Easterling of the Washington Area.
LAY JURISDICTIONAL BALLOT 1 and CLERGY JURISDICTIONAL BALLOT 1 were taken.

FLOOD RECOVERY: J.F. Lacaria (clergy, retired, Executive Director Long-Term Recovery, Midland South District) introduced the Long-Term Recovery Team: Jack Lipphardt, Director; Dan and Sue Lowther, Disaster Response Coordinators; David Stilgenbauer, VIM Coordinator; Chad Ferris and Buck Edwards, Construction Coordinators; and Grace Msisha and Miranda Nabors, Case Workers.

Miranda Nabors and Grace Msisha shared the work of the Case Workers as they have helped families and communities recover from the devastating 2016 flood. Miranda invited the Conference to encourage their congregations and communities to continue reaching out to those still recovering from the floods. Grace spoke of the privilege of bringing hope when hope was hard to find.

Jack Lipphardt (clergy, retired, Director of Long-Term Recovery) shared that, due to the support of the Conference and UMCOR, the UMC Response Team is the last team still working on the flood recovery.

The team encouraged the Conference to support the “For As Long As It Takes” campaign. An offering was collected using flood buckets passed throughout the Conference. Conference members were also encouraged to carry the message to their local churches and to others who could help. Checks may be made to Conference Treasurer with “2016 Flood 935” in the memo.

Sue Lowther (clergy, Mullens & Dir. Of Admin/New Vision Depot, Southern District) asked that after the flood buckets were used for the collection, individuals should take the buckets back to their congregations, fill them and return them to the New Vision Depot.
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: Michael Atkinson (clergy, St. John Scott Depot, Chair of Equitable Compensation, Midland South District) opened his report by offering prayer. He highlighted some updates for Equitable Compensation coming from the extended report presented by a task force in 2018. The costs from 2012 to 2018 were included in the Equitable Compensation report (found in Section 7 of this Journal). Increases in minimum salaries raise costs to the local church and also result in realignments of appointments. The Cabinet has attempted to decrease the number of churches using equitable compensation to meet their basic salaries. This has occurred through realignment of charges and the increase in the number of circuits (multiple churches served by one pastor). He highlighted the number of churches at the minimum salaries that might be affected by the increase of the insurance claims.

He moved Item #2. The 2020 minimum salaries of full-time appointed clergy:

Category 1: $37,000 (Members in Full Connection, Provisional Members)
Category 2: $35,000 (Associate Members)
Category 3: $34,000 (Full-Time Local Pastors)

Jim McCune (clergy, Elizabeth Memorial, Midland South District) spoke against the recommended salaries.

Nathan Weaver (clergy, Quiet Dell, Wesleyan District) moved that the salary figures be: Category 1: 37,925; Category 2: 25,875; Category 3: 34,850; Category 4: 30,750. The motion was seconded, and he spoke for it.

Kevin Lantz (clergy, Steele Memorial Barboursville, Western District) asked if Michael Atkinson had said that there were four charges in the conference receiving equitable compensation. Michael Atkinson replied that beginning July 1, there would be four charges receiving funds.

Harold George (clergy, Open Door Ministries, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against the amendment because it would cause the loss of more full-time positions for clergy.

Keith Forkey (clergy, Mt. Olivet, Northern District) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Bishop Steiner Ball paused the debate to honor an Order of the Day: Retirement Service. Names of those standing to speak were noted.
Friday – June 14, 2019
ORDER OF THE DAY
Afternoon 4:00 p.m.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

The Retirement Celebration recognized those who entered into a retired relationship with our conference this session. A video presentation of interviews with some of the retirees for 2019 was prepared by the Conference Communications Team.

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


Liturgists were Kim Matthews, the Rev. Carl (Bo) Terrell, and the Rev. William H. Wilson.

The Scripture lesson for the service was Isaiah 43:1-3a.

Hymns were “Be Thou My Vision,” “For the Fruits of This Creation,” “God, We Spend a Lifetime Growing,” and “Eternal God, Transcending Time.” The anthem was “Be Not Afraid” (Taylor Davis). The Gathering Music was “Partita on Hyfrydol: I. Introduction and Chorale; IV. Adagio; V. Finale” (Charles Callahan), and the Sending Music was “Trumpet Tune in D” (David Johnson).

Friday – June 14, 2019
Afternoon 5:15 p.m.

Business

PRAYER CONCERN: Bishop opened with prayer after sharing concerns that she has received: Bill Isner’s newborn grandson who has been having seizures; Living Hope High School needs nine more sponsors for students; and Emily, a member of Chapel Hill UMC, who has been hospitalized.

BALLOT: JURISDICTIONAL CLERGY BALLOT 1 RESULTS: 244 votes cast; 1 invalid ballot; 122 needed to elect. Mary Ellen Finegan was elected with 130 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 10 votes or more.
JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 1 RESULTS: 410 votes cast; 8 invalid ballots; 202 needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 10 votes or more.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Jenny Williams (clergy, Avery, MonValley District) asked that the Conference consider racial diversity when they are voting for delegates.

BALLOT: JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 2 was taken. JURISDICTIONAL CLERGY BALLOT 2 was taken.

Voting machines were collected.

DINNER.

Friday – June 14, 2019
Evening
Celebration of Spring Heights

The Conference celebrated the 60th anniversary of Spring Heights, the Conference’s camping and outdoor facility. Conference members and guests gathered on the oval lawn in front of Wesley Chapel to enjoy family-friendly worship, a sing-along with the Spring Heights Alumni Band, and roasting marshmallows over an open fire. Located just north of Spencer in Roane County, Spring Heights brings youth to a place of curiosity and discovery in their spiritual journeys, as well as carrying the camp into the communities around the Conference with the Dayspring camping program. At Spring Heights, campers ages 7-18 deepen their relationship with God through Bible studies and devotionals. The campsite offers outdoor activities, such as swimming, horseback riding, hiking, canoeing, crafts, high ropes, and challenge courses.
Saturday – June 15, 2019
Morning Communion 7:45 a.m.

Morning Communion was provided at 7:45 a.m. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball celebrated Holy Communion in the Meditation Chapel. The liturgy was based on Isaiah 43. Okey Harless acted as communion steward and assisted the bishop in serving all those in attendance.

Morning, 8:15 a.m.
Prayer and Praise

Morning prayer and praise in Wesley Chapel was offered in a contemporary style. Contemporary music was offered by Dustin McCune, Nathan Weaver, Gary Nelson, and Craig Hinchman. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Lisa Fox, Robert Fulton, and Andrew Tennant led the congregation in a four-part call to worship. The scripture reading was Luke 5:1-11 in the Message translation. The service was concluded as it was on Friday with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball blessing the entire chapel space for worship and for the business of the day. Candles again were lit on the presiding table and bells were rung at different intervals during the blessing of the space.

TEACHING TIME: Ken Willard (lay equalization, Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality, Midland South District) led a teaching session about Invitational Discipleship. Ken provided some numbers about the people in our conference mission field: 12% live below the poverty level; 59% have white-collar jobs; the average age is 42; 34% are single parents; 94% are white; 3% are African-American; 1% are Hispanic; 0.7% are Asian; and 1.6% are Pacific Islander / American Indian /Other. His presentation and a PowerPoint presentation are available on the conference website, www.wvumc.org.

Morning, 10:30 a.m.

LAITY ADDRESS: Rich Shaffer (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Little Kanawha District) presented the Laity Address. Dressed in clothes from his youthful days in the 60s and 70s, he shared his personal testimony which he titled “Are you open, real, and vulnerable?” Growing up as part of a parsonage family, he struggled to find his own identity. He learned that regardless of the choices he made, God was there throughout. He invited the Conference to make themselves open, real, and vulnerable as they shared their stories of faith with others.
BREAK
Bishop Steiner Ball brought the Conference to order by leading the Conference in singing “Majesty.”

BALLOT: Voting machines were distributed by the tellers.
JURISDICTIONAL CLERGY BALLOT 2 RESULTS: 218 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 110 needed to elect. Michael Estep was elected with 112 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 15 votes or more.
JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 2 RESULTS: 375 votes cast; 2 invalid ballots; 187 needed to elect. Rachel Flynn Fulton was elected with 196. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 15 votes or more.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bart Thompson (clergy, Warwood / Short Creek, Northern District) urged the Conference to be inclusive in voting and inviting all persons to the table.
PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Lauren Shanholtzer (lay equalization, Midland South District) requested that the Conference also consider electing a youth to the delegation. There are two youth who were nominated from the floor – Bree Moll and Hannah Lamb.

Voting Values were posted prior to the vote. A video message from Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar of the Boston Area offered the prayer before voting.
JURISDICTIONAL CLERGY BALLOT 3 and JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 3 were taken.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: Bishop Steiner Ball began the conversation on Equitable Compensation by explaining what equitable compensation does and does not do. She responded to questions that she has been asked since the initial presentation on Friday.
Michael Atkinson (clergy, St. John Scott Depot, Chair of Equitable Compensation, Midland South District) explained how minimum compensation figures were determined. He also explained the salary supplement for churches transitioning from full-time to part-time or during a short-time leave for the pastor. He stated the committee attempts to maintain the delicate balance between clergy salaries and the financial health of the church when making recommendations.
Bill Wilson (clergy, retired, Western District) made a parliamentary inquiry about whether the length of the presentation was creating an unbalanced debate.
Bishop Steiner Ball directed the Conference to the debate begun on Friday.
John Quesenberry (lay, Mullens, Southern District) spoke against the amendment.
Melissa White (clergy, Pinnacle Rock, Southern District) spoke in favor of the amendment.
Bishop Steiner Ball clarified that the decision being made for Equitable Compensation does not set salaries for clergy.

Ellen File (clergy, Chaplain, BUMFS Beckley Center, Southern District) asked whether the increase in health insurance costs would happen regardless of the change in the minimum compensation. Michael Atkinson said that it would.

Karen Tate (clergy, Westover, MonValley District) spoke against the amendment.

Bronson Clark (clergy, East Cabell Shared Ministry, Western District) asked if student local pastors were eligible for equitable compensation. Michael Atkinson replied that there are no full-time student local pastors.

Robert Baer, Jr. (clergy, Peters Valley, Greenbrier District) called for the question on all before the Conference. The motion was supported.

The Weaver amendment was not supported. The original motion as brought by the Equitable Compensation committee was supported.

Michael Atkinson moved that the Accountable Reimbursement Plan be set at $2,000 per charge. This was supported.

He moved that the Equitable Compensation budget be set at $142,500. This was approved.

He moved approval of the entire report and it was approved.

BALLOT: JURISDICTIONAL CLERGY BALLOT 3: 235 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 118 needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 3: 400 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 201 needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

Bishop Steiner Ball offered prayer.

JURISDICTIONAL LAY AND CLERGY BALLOTS 4 were taken.

TRUSTEES: Bill Wilson (clergy, retired, Western District, President of Trustees) presented the report of the Conference Trustees found in the Conference Workbook. He explained the importance of the trust that is given to the Conference in holding the property and assets for all United Methodists through the Trust Clause.

He moved the resolution *Closed Properties, and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same* found on page 145 of the Conference Workbook. *See Resolution Three in Section VI of the Journal.*
He moved the resolution *Closed Church – Real and Personal Property Funds* found on Document 2019-15. The resolution was approved. See *Resolution Four in Section VI of the Journal*.

He moved the resolution *Unlawful Appropriation of Church Property* found on Document 2019-16. The resolution was approved. See *Resolution Five in Section VI of the Journal*.

He moved the resolution *Proceeds from Sale of GlenWood Park Retirement Village, Princeton, WV* found on page 146 of the Conference Workbook. The resolution was approved. See *Resolution Six in Section VI of the Journal*.

COVENANT COUNCIL: Kristi Wilkerson, (lay, First Buckhannon, Associate Lay Conference Leader, Wesleyan District) moved the adoption of the special Sundays found on pages 149 and 150. They were adopted.

BALLOT: JURISDICTIONAL CLERGY BALLOT 4: 229 votes cast; 0 invalid ballot; 115 needed to elect. Joe Hill was elected with 128. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more. This completed the Clergy Jurisdictional Delegation.

JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 4: 396 votes cast; 1 invalid ballot; 198 needed to elect. Kristi Wilkerson was elected with 238 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

The Voting Values were posted.

JURISDICTIONAL LAY BALLOT 5 was taken.

CLERGY ALTERNATE BALLOT 1 was taken.

Rick DeQuasie (clergy, retired, Little Kanawha District) moved to include Jim Berner’s Memorial Service sermon in the *2019 Conference Journal*. (See Miscellaneous Section 10).

COVENANT COUNCIL: Kristi Wilkerson, (lay, First Buckhannon, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Wesleyan District) moved the Covenant Council Recommendations found in the Conference Workbook on page 63, including the Coordinators approved by Covenant Council. She added the name Christie Hill as the Coordinator for Safe Sanctuaries.

Belinda Toms (lay equalization, Director, Tyand Parish, Wesleyan District) requested that her name be removed as co-chair of Celebration of Missions Event. Bishop Steiner Ball thanked her for the work she has done as co-chair of C.O.M.E.
COUNCIL OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Ken Ramsey (clergy, Bridgeport, Chair of CFA, Wesleyan District) moved the adoption of the Fiscal Policies found in the Conference Workbook on pages 151-156. They were approved.

He moved recommendations 3-15 found on page 148. They were approved.

He moved adoptions of the budget of $12,877,355

Mary Thomas (lay, Temple Beckley, Southern District) moved to keep all salaries in the budget for 2020 at the 2019 level. The motion was seconded and she spoke in favor of it.

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) moved to refer the amendment to CFA to receive the budgetary implications and report back after lunch. The motion was seconded and approved.

Ken Ramsey moved the election of Jamion Wolford as Treasurer and Pensions Officer. He was elected. Jamion was introduced to the Conference and welcomed. James Berner (lay equalization, Conference Treasurer, Midland South District) presented Jamion with a set of money ties that he has worn for the past 25 years. Jamion thanked the Conference for his election.

Voting machines were collected.

COURTESIES: Lauren Godwin (clergy, Grace Keyser, Program Committee) asked those who are in the narthex to be aware that their noise disturbs those within the Chapel; Bob Shields is attending his 60th Annual Conference session; the brother of Jensen Cather, who is a page, was injured in an accident on Friday; requested prayer for all those serving in the military, particularly Chip Bennett, a clergy member of the Conference; prayers were requested for David Rumberg and Mark Shrader for health and family concerns.

CLOSING PRAYER: Suzanne Knight offered the closing prayer.
Saturday – June 15, 2019
Afternoon 2:00

ORDER OF THE DAY
ANSWERING THE HISTORIC QUESTIONS

Bishop Steiner Ball introduced the 2019 class of ordinands. She asked them the Historic Questions of the church asked of all ordinands in The United Methodist Church. The time concluded with prayer and the hymn, “The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve.”

COVENANT COUNCIL: Kristi Wilkerson (lay, First Buckhannon, Wesleyan District, Associate Conference Lay Leader) introduced Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff, Midland South District). Bonnie recognized the work of April Forkey (clergy, McMechen/Hope, Northern District) who has coordinated the Safe Sanctuaries program in the Conference for the past eight years. She travelled the conference, explaining the requirements of Safe Sanctuaries, helped adapt the new policies, and trained churches in designing their own policies.

HARRY DENMAN AWARD: Ken Willard (lay equalization, Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality, Midland South District) presented the Lay Denman Award to Helen “Sammy” Martin and Joan “Johnny” Wetherholt of Oak Grove UMC in the Potomac Highlands District for their work in starting a feeding ministry that serves over 300 people and provides an opportunity for relationship building as they share the love of Christ. They were unable to be in attendance because they were continuing their work in the mission field. The award was presented to their pastor and representative from their church, and the award will be presented to them in person at a later date.

ONE MATTERS AWARD: Ken Willard presented the “One Matters” Discipleship Award to Rev. Tom Jeffrey and the congregation of West Hamlin UMC for their work in making disciples in
their community. Rev. Jeffrey had planned to retire last year but was drawn by the Holy Spirit to remain and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

VOTING devices were distributed to lay and clergy who were eligible to vote for Jurisdictional Conference delegates.

BALLOT: JURISDICTIONAL
LAY BALLOT 5: 387 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 194 needed to elect. Royce Lyden was elected with 238 votes. This completed the Jurisdictional Delegation for the laity.

BALLOT: CLERGY
ALTERNATE BALLOT 1: 218 votes cast; 4 invalid ballots; 108 needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

The Voting Values were posted. Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Assistant to the Bishop, Southern District) prayed for the Conference before the ballot was taken.

CLERGY ALTERNATE BALLOT 2 was taken. LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 1 was taken.

RESOLUTIONS: Jim Martin (clergy, Lubeck, Program Committee, Little Kanawha District) presented the resolution, “Asking for the Conference’s Endorsement of a Petition to General Conference” found on Document 2019-10 and submitted by Mark Flynn, Daniel Fulton, Rachel Fulton, Larry Hakes, Janet Parker, Marshall Robinson, and Doug Smailes.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) spoke for the resolution requesting the Conference’s endorsement of a petition requesting that Associate Members be given the right to vote on constitutional amendments.

Okey Harless (clergy, Western District Superintendent) spoke against the resolution because it sets a precedence in asking the Conference Secretary to write the petition when it can be submitted to General Conference by an individual.

Jay Parkins (clergy, Christ Church Charleston, Midland South District) spoke against the resolution because full membership is available to all clergy through the Advanced Course of Study.

The resolution was not supported.
STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS: Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball gave her “State of the Church” address. She highlighted the many places around the conference where vital ministry is occurring, disciples are being made, and United Methodists are walking with Jesus despite living in anxious times. The content of the address can be found in Section 11 Miscellaneous.

COVENANT COUNCIL: Ken Willard (Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality, Midland South District) shared a brochure about the Congregational Vitality Initiative. The initiative includes coaching, leadership development, church self-study, church survey, mystery guests, and workshops. There is also an option of on-site consultations. Basic Coach Training will be held on August 17, 2019, in Charleston and October 26, 2019, in Fairmont. More information is available on the conference website, www.wvumc.org.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent, Dean of the Cabinet) introduced the bishop’s spouse, the Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball, and presented him with a contribution to the endowed fund designated for the Spiritual Life Ministries at WV Wesleyan College and held by the United Methodist Foundation. Rev. Ball greeted Mary Lou Grove who was watching on live stream. He spoke about the tremendous conference support of opioid recovery ministries. He invited the Conference to the WV Power Baseball game on Sunday, July 21 at 2:00 p.m., which will raise funds for the Bishop’s Appeal for Disaster Response.

CABINET TRANSITIONS: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Frank Shomo and his wife, Michelle. Frank has served the Midland South District since 2016. She read a commendation of his service, citing his thoroughness, sense of humor, fairness, and passion for ministry which he shared during his three years serving the Midland South District as a Conference Superintendent. His music, including accordion playing, brought joy and spirit to the Cabinet.
Mark Conner (clergy, First Huntington, Program Committee chair, Western District) moved to limit speeches in debate to one minute. Jenny Williams (clergy, Avery, MonValley District) asked if the one minute would include introductions. The bishop said it would not. Motion was approved.

COUNCIL OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Ken Ramsey (clergy, Bridgeport, Chair of CFA, Wesleyan District,) brought the report of the CFA in regard to the impact that the Mary Thomas amendment to keep all salaries at the 2019 level would have on the budget. Because some salary items were decreased for the 2020 budget, returning to the 2019 level would increase the budget by $52,627 over what is proposed for the 2020 budget. The amount of increase for 2020 for the specific line items identified was $40,775. This would include conference superintendents, administrative assistants, campus ministry, mission directors, conference secretary, and conference staff.

Clare Sulgit (clergy, St. Marys, Little Kanawha District) asked what would be the comparison if the amount for the new treasurer training were removed since it is no longer needed. Ken Ramsey stated that the increase would then be $8,200.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Princeton, Southern District) asked if the $40,775 proposed to be removed from the 2020 budget by the amendment represented a net or gross figure. Ken Ramsey said it was a net figure.

Mike Neusch (lay, Cheat Lake / Calvary, MonValley District) asked for clarification on what was before the Conference.

Barry Moll (clergy, retired, Wesleyan District) questioned whether the CFA reporting was an accurate reflection of what the amendment was asking because the salary line items listed in the 2019 budget that have been removed were not included in the amendment. Ken Ramsey stated that CFA was asked to look at the budgetary impact between 2019 and 2020 but that the amount of salary increases for the 2020, budget was reflected in the $40,775 for the specific salaries included in the amendment.

Keith Forkey (clergy, Mt. Olivet, Northern District) asked whether it was possible to limit the salary freeze to just the district superintendents.

Gavin Brandenburg (lay equalization, Person age 18 – 30, Western District) moved to amend the amendment to freeze only line 111/501100 at the 2019 funding levels. The amendment was seconded and he spoke in favor of the amendment which would eliminate the increases to the district superintendents and not impact other conference employees.

Timothy Allen (clergy, Fairview, MonValley District) moved the question on all before the Conference. Motion to close debate was supported.

The Gavin Brandenburg amendment was not supported.

The Mary Thomas amendment was not supported.

The entire budget was supported. The entire CFA report was approved.
The conference adopted a budget of $12,877,355 for 2020. This is an increase of $441,193 or 3.55% from the 2019 budget.

CABINET TRANSITIONS: Bishop Steiner Ball introduced the Rev. Loretta Isaiah and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Ravi Isaiah. Rev. Isaiah will be the new conference superintendent serving in the Little Kanawha District. The Conference offered prayer for Loretta and Ravi. Rev. Joe Hill, who has been serving as the conference superintendent in the Little Kanawha District will now serve in the Midland South District.

BALLOT: LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT
1: 346 votes cast; 5 invalid ballots; 171 needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

BALLOT: CLERGY ALTERNATE BALLOT 2: 186 votes cast; 2 invalid ballots; 93 needed to elect. Sharletta Green was elected as the first alternate with 93 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 2 and CLERGY ALTERNATE BALLOT 3 were taken.

CABINET PROPERTY REPORT: Martha Ognibene (clergy, Northern District Superintendent, Secretary of the Cabinet) directed the Conference to Handout 2019-06. She moved the approval of information in question 14. This was approved. Information found in questions 15 and 16 was presented for information only. Also included was information about conference circuits.

She moved the adoption of the entire report. The complete report was approved.

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

QUADRENNIAL NOMINATION REPORT: Melissa Shortridge (clergy, Greenbrier District Superintendent) reported the work of the Quadrennial Nominating Committee which has nominated the Nominations Committee for the new quadrennium. The Nominations Team is found in Section 2 of this Journal.
ECUMENICAL AWARD: Erin Sears, a student at Candler Theological Seminary, joined the Conference by video conferencing. Bishop Steiner Ball read a letter of commendation from the Council of Bishops for her ecumenical work and the completion of the first cohort of the United Methodist Ecumenical Plunge. Erin thanked the Conference for its support and for electing her to the delegation. Bishop Steiner Ball led the Conference in prayer for Erin and her ecumenical work.

BALLOT: LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 2: 348 votes cast; 3 invalid ballots; 173 needed to elect. Bree Moll was elected as the first alternate with 210 votes. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

BALLOT: CLERGY ALTERNATE BALLOT 3: 183 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 92 needed to elect. Joseph Kenaston was elected as the second alternate with 99 votes. This completed the clergy delegation.

LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 3 was taken.

Clergy voting devices were collected.

LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 3: 340 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 171 needed to elect. There was no election. The Conference Secretary read the names of those receiving 20 votes or more.

LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 4 was taken.

Bishop Steiner Ball encouraged conference members to take flood buckets back with them and refill them. Items needed for the buckets can be found on the UMCOR website.

LAY ALTERNATE BALLOT 4: 337 votes cast; 0 invalid ballots; 169 needed to elect. Judy Raines was elected as the second alternate with 222 votes. This completes the entire delegation.

Voting machines were collected.

Bishop Steiner Ball asked for all the elected delegates to come to the front to be recognized. She led the Conference in praying for the new delegates and the task ahead of them. The delegation is:

General Conference Clergy: Amy Shanholzter, Jeff Taylor, Lauren Godwin
General Conference Lay: Judi Kenaston, Rich Shaffer, Erin Sears

Additional Jurisdictional delegates:

Clergy: Mary Ellen Finegan, Mike Estep, Joe Hill ALTERNATES:
Shearetta Green, Joe Kenaston

Lay: Rachel Flynn Fulton, Kristi Wilkerson, Royce Lyden ALTERNATES:
Bree Moll, Judy Raines
COVENANT COUNCIL: Kristi Wilkerson (lay, First Buckhannon, Wesleyan District, Associate Conference Lay Leader) explained the purpose of Covenant Council. The role of the Covenant Council is to celebrate, challenge, clarify, and coordinate the growth of disciples and the development of leaders throughout our ministry areas. She highlighted Document 2019-18 which further defines the purpose of Covenant Council.

Pat Mick (lay equalization, Chair of Global Ministries, Greenbrier District) highlighted the mission work of the Annual Conference. She announced that cash collections for Celebration of Mission Events total almost $95,000 already, and this does not include the tangible contributions. Alicia Rapking, who has been the director of the Upshur Parish House, will be taking an appointment in Parkersburg. Kristi Wilkerson will become the new director of Upshur Parish House beginning July 1. Seven students have received scholarships through the Edwin Bryon and Elva Mary Humphreys Memorial Scholarship Fund. Eight VIM scholarships have been granted to youth in the conference. Six will be traveling to Costa Rica and one to Alaska. There are 5 Virginia Higgins grants available, as well as hunger grants and revolving loan and grants.

Joanne Davis (Hope in the Mountains) and Rosemary Grattan (The House of the Carpenter) have recently left their work as Church and Community Workers. Anna Troy is the new Church and Community Worker at Clarksburg Parish.

Pat Mick highlighted the “Reclaim! Embracing Wesley’s Radical Missional Spirit” event scheduled for August 9-10, 2019 at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport. Reggie McNeal will be the keynote speaker. The cost is $25.

Jeff Metheny (lay equalization, Secretary of Global Ministries, Little Kanawha District) introduced a video celebrating the 200 years of mission in the Methodist Church.

CCYM: Shea James (clergy, Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries, Midland South District) introduced Bree Moll (lay equalization, CCYM Chairperson, Greenbrier District) who shared the experiences of the youth during the year, including Fall Workshop with the theme of “Run the Race.” She announced that over $900 was raised for YSF at the ice cream social on Friday night. This money will help two youth travel to India with the NEJ Mission of Peace. The Conference will sponsor the jurisdictional youth event this year at Grace UMC, Keyser, the first weekend of November.
CAMPUS MINISTRY: Shea James highlighted the work of campus ministry and the campus pastors were introduced. The campus ministry at Glenville will transition to a church-sponsored ministry. She said that coffee makes for a great introduction and the campus ministries have been extending hospitality by offering coffee to conference members. The coffee has come with a sheet of tips for how churches can reach into their communities. She shared a video featuring our conference campus ministries.

Mark Stotler (lay equalization, Chair of Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Midland South District) introduced the campus ministers: Benjamin Wells (Marshall); Debra Dague (West Liberty); David Johnston (Vines and Branches / Concord University); Maria Wiblin (Fairmont); Mark Pruett-Barnett (University of Charleston); Lauren Godwin (Potomac State); Beth Johnson (WVU); and Lauren Weaver (WVWC).

INTERNS: Shea James introduced Caitlin Ware who is an intern serving with the Communications Team, and Lawrence Rebelo, who is an intern at Faith UMC in Fairmont with Rev. Larry Buckland.

COURTESIES: Lauren Godwin (clergy, Grace Keyser, Program Committee, Potomac Highlands District) announced that Tom Bone’s original cartoons are available for purchase and proceeds will go to the Bishop’s Appeal for Disaster Recovery; pictures will be made of former pastors of Duffey Memorial at the dinner break; Brad Davis and Clay Martin are traveling to the Holy Land this week; John Flynn of the MonValley District is celebrating his birthday; Ken and Ellen Krimmel have a new grandson, Jack Murphy, born on Friday; prayer requests – Paul Helmick of First, South Charleston, is recovering from surgery; Jim Burrough’s granddaughter broke her arm on Friday; the husband of Davina Bell, Administrative Assistant in the Little Kanawha District, is in intensive care.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Monty Brown (clergy, retired, Midland South District) highlighted the competition sponsored by the Jane Ellen Brown Memorial Prayerspitality Trust found on Document 2019-17.

CLOSING PRAYER: Monty Brown offered the closing prayer.

DINNER BREAK
Saturday – June 15, 2019
Evening 7:00

Bishop Steiner Ball opened the session by leading the Conference in singing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

Conference Secretary Judi Kenaston celebrated that 100% of the voting devices were returned.

CAMPING MINISTRIES: Shea James (clergy, Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries, Midland South District) shared about the life-changing experience of camp. She highlighted ministries of the district camps, Asbury Woods in the Western District and Crossroads in the Little Kanawha District, as well as camps that occur in locations chosen by the districts. DaySpring Camps have allowed the ministry of Spring Heights to reach out to the community. Last year the DaySpring Camp was offered in Keyser in the Potomac Highlands District. In 2019, there will be a DaySpring Camp in Pineville in the Southern District.

She thanked the Conference for providing the ministries for young disciples and outdoor ministries through apportionment giving.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Sue Dostal (lay equalization, UMW President, Western District) shared a video celebrating the 150 years of United Methodist Women, the largest faith-based organization of women in the world. The video highlighted the historical work of the UMW, the activism for racial justice, and the current missional emphases: Just Energy For All; Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline; Living Wage for All; and Ending Maternal Mortality.

Sue Dostal invited all United Methodist Women to attend Mission u this summer at Cedar Lakes near Ripley. The studies are “Women United for Change,” and “Practicing Resurrection – The Gospel of Mark.”

NOMINATIONS: Angela Gay Kinkead (clergy, Pea Ridge, Nominations Chair, Western District) presented the Nominations report. There were five new conference trustees nominated due to resignations. These nominations are part of the report in Section 2.Agencies

Greg Godwin (clergy, First Clarksburg, Wesleyan District) requested that the WVWC trustees be listed in classes, how long they have served, and include biographical information.
J.F. Lacaria (clergy, retired, Midland South District) assured the Conference that nominations for trustees will come from the college and will include the requested information in the future.

Deborah Shaffer (lay equalization, Little Kanawha District) asked whether the campus ministry advisory groups are geographically limited for a reason.

Angela Gay Kinkead responded that they are local advisory groups that function for the actual running of the campus programs. Bishop Steiner Ball said that her question should be directed to the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

Angela Gay Kinkead moved the adoption of the Nominations report. Approved.

RESOLUTIONS: Jim Martin (clergy, Lubeck, Little Kanawha District, Program Committee) presented the resolution, “A Proposed Resolution on Keeping Our Covenant” submitted by Mark Flynn, Daniel Fulton, Rachel Fulton, Larry Hakes, Janet Parker, Marshall Robinson, and Doug Smailes.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) spoke for the resolution which supported the position taken by The United Methodist Church at the February Special Session and requested that all persons abide by The Discipline.

Timothy Allen (clergy, Fairview, MonValley District) moved to insert between the final two “be it resolveds”: “Be it further resolved, that as followers of Christ in the Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in Scripture and informed by tradition, reason and experience, we commit ourselves to the vows made at our baptism to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms.”

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

Monty Brown (Clergy, retired, Midland South District) moved to table the amendment and the resolution.

Motion to table was supported.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION:
Jeff Taylor (clergy, President of UMF; Midland South District) and Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Certified Lay Minister, Western District) presented the report of the UM Foundation. Jeff introduced the staff who were present: Becky Parkins, Accounting Assistant, and Max McGinnis, who is serving as an intern at the Foundation this summer. Bishop Steiner Ball is the honorary chair of the board. He also recognized the officers of the board: Lynn Dotson, chair; Cheryl Davis, vice chair; and Judy Raines, treasurer. All board members were invited to stand.
They have moved to a new location on the corner of Court Street and Laidley at the United Center in order to provide more space for the ministry. The Foundation is sponsoring 13 leaders to attend the Lakeside Stewardship and Generosity Training. They held a Faith and Generosity Academy last fall and will host a second conference this year.

They are available to help with planned giving and as an investment option for the churches.

They have given multiple grants over the past year and are currently taking new applications for grants.

Jeff highlighted the endowment established by Bishop Steiner Ball and her husband, Barry, for ministry at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES: Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Certified Lay Minister, Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Western District) celebrated the call on lay lives and invited them to pursue that call through Lay Servant training. She encouraged clergy to support their laity who are answering a call.

Certified Lay Servants complete one course in an area of their interest. Certified Lay Speakers take six specific courses and are interviewed by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministry. Certified Lay Ministers are interviewed by the District Committee on Ministry. There are now nearly 50 CLMs in the conference.

CLERGY EDUCATION SUPPORT: Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff, Midland South District) recognized those who are serving in ministry, including those completing or working on the Course of Study and those in seminary.

Eric Beeman, Potomac Highlands District, and Carl Beatty, Western District, completed the Course of Study this year.

She invited others who are in the process of the Course of Study to stand and be recognized. On Sunday, the Conference will recognize those who have completed licensing school this year.

There are grants that are available for courses taken by local pastors.

The following have completed their Master of Divinity or other qualifying degree this year: Christie Berty, Rod Blanchard, Anna Efaw, Dustin McCune, Ernie McDougal, Ethan Rapking, Don Stilgenbauer, and Lauren Weaver.

The Conference has 32 students attending eight seminaries. Fifteen of those students are age 35 or under.

There were grants for scholarship support of $162,541 given to the seminary students through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF), the UMFWV, and the UM Men’s Hal Burke Award.
Prayer was offered for all those experiencing a call from God.

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

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

CLOSING REMARKS: Mark Conner (clergy, First Huntington, Western District, Program Committee Co-Chair) and Krysta Rexroad Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Midland South District, Program Committee Co-Chair) announced that the dates for the 2020 Annual Conference will be June 4-7, 2020 and the theme will be “Generative.”

Sunday School will be International Bible Study in Hyma Auditorium led by Kim Matthews and Discipleship Class in Loar Auditorium led by Ken Willard.

Mark Conner offered thanks to the pages and tellers; children’s conference staff and participants; tellers and timers; local staff at West Virginia Wesleyan coordinated by Darlene Bosley, which includes resident hall coordinators and golf cart drivers; GNTV crew; Program Committee and Worship Team; music leaders, Craig Hinchman and Julie Janisch; all who work behind the scenes; conference staff and particularly, Bonnie MacDonald and Ken Willard; Conference Secretary, Judi Kenaston; 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.

He announced that $7,500 was raised for flood recovery.

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

Saturday Evening – June 15, 2019
Vesper Service

The Vesper Service liturgy was taken from “A Liturgy for Evening Prayer” from Upper Room Worshipbook, compiled and edited by Elise S. Eslinger; Upper Room Books, 2006.

Liturgists were Angela Jones and Alicia Rapking. Music was provided by Alan Flaitz.

Scripture was Psalm 139 and Isaiah 55 read from the NRSV translation. Hymns were “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” and “Change My Heart, O God.”
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Two classes were held at 8:15 a.m.: International Bible Study in Hyma Auditorium led by Kim Matthews and Discipleship Class in Loar Auditorium led by Ken Willard.

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 West Virginia Brass Quintet, Craig Hinchman and Julie Janisch, directors of music, and the Conference Choir. Introit was “Anthem to the Trinity” by Howard Helvey. Processional hymn was “How Firm a Foundation;” Baptism hymn was “Water Has Held Us;” and Offertory anthem was “An African Doxology,” by Lanny Allen. Verses of “Here I Am, Lord” were sung during the examination and ordination. The Invitation hymn was “As A Fire Is Meant for Burning,” by Ruth Duck sung to the Beach Spring tune. Recessional hymn was “In Unity We Lift Our Song” sung to the tune Ein’ Feste Burg. Sending music was “Concertato on “Ein’ Feste Burg,” by Vaclav Nelhybel.

Liturgists and worship participants were Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball; Rev. Mike Estep, Chair of the Order of Elders; Rev. Claudia Fizer, Chair of the Order of Deacons; Rev. Gwen Wolford, Chair of the Fellowship of Associate Members and Licensed Local Pastors; Rev. Frank Shomo, District Superintendent; Rich Shaffer, Lay Leader; Judi M. Kenaston, Conference Secretary; Rev. Jay Parkins, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Sara Lamb, Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Earnest Watkins, Co-Director, PMLS; and Rev. Dr. Bonnie Glass MacDonald, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball’s sermon was “An Extraordinary, Challenging Journey.” The Scripture Lesson was Mark 4:35 - 41 (NRSV). The text of the sermon can be found in Section 11, Miscellaneous.

Isaac Christopher Ployd, infant son of Rev. Diane Kenaston and Rev. Dr. Adam Ployd, was baptized.
Sarah Emily Allen, Rodney Lee Blanchard, Michael Anthony Burge, Sarah Elizabeth Lowden, Raymond Maleke, Dustin Darrell Glenn McCune, and Cynthia Lou Skinner were commissioned for the work of an elder.

Lauren Sanders Weaver was commissioned for the work of a deacon.

Joseph Deleno Webb was ordained deacon in full connection.

James William Burrough, Lisa Marie Fox, Michael A. Loudermilk, Bonnie Kay Starkey and Nathan Weaver were ordained Elders in Full Connection.

Deborah Lynn Coble, Shea Marie James, and James O. Murphy were welcomed as elders transferring from other conferences.

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

Benediction was offered by Bishop Steiner Ball and Joe Webb, newly ordained deacon.

ADJOURNMENT: The 2019 Session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was adjourned sine die.