

III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

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

June 4 - 6, 2021

West Virginia Wesleyan College
Buckhannon, West Virginia
and
Online through secure internet connection

**Thursday Evening, June 3
6:00 p.m.**

**OPENING SESSION
STATE OF THE CHURCH and CELEBRATIONS OF MINISTRY**

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball called the opening session to order from Wesley Chapel, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV. The service, which was streamed for virtual participation, was opened with a recorded Native American greeting from Elle High (lay equalization, Chair of Commission on Native American Ministries).

President Joel Thierstein welcomed the conference on behalf of West Virginia Wesleyan College and invited the conference to return to the Wesleyan campus in 2022.

Bishop Steiner Ball offered words of centering and prayer, inspired by the Covenant Prayer.

Rev. Martha Ognibene (clergy, Northern District Superintendent) and Rev. Joe Hill (clergy, Midland South District Superintendent) read a Call to Worship based on Isaiah 40.

SERMON (Part 1): Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) shared a message of Thanksgiving in the midst of the global pandemic. The message came from Ezra 3:10-13.

SPECIAL MUSIC: A musical interpretation of the Covenant Prayer was presented by Brett Miller, organist, and Don Gardner, vocalist, and interspersed between ministry celebrations.



Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston

ONE MATTERS AWARD: District Nominees for the One Matters Award were:

Greenbrier District: St. Luke's, Craigsville (Brandon Moll)

Little Kanawha District: Louisa Chapel (Shelley Mace)

Midland South District: Glasgow (Chris Hudnall)

MonValley District: Corley (Jonathan Fox)

Northern District: Weirton Charge (Carol McKay)

Potomac Highlands District: St. Paul's, Oakland (Matthew and Melissa Paugh)

Southern District: Fayetteville (Rick Crawford)

Wesleyan District: Phillips Chapel (Julie Davis)

Western District: Wayne (Todd Hurley)



Members of Corley UMC gather for outdoor worship. Corley received the One Matters Award.

The winner of the award for the conference was Corley UMC in Belington in the MonValley District. Following the death of their pastor in the summer of 2019, Jonathan Fox was assigned to the church as a lay person. When the pandemic hit, Corley adjusted its ministry to online, as well as meeting in a pavilion. Worship attendance grew from 19 in 2019 to 33 in 2020, with additional people worshipping online. They now

average 36 persons worshipping weekly and the church received three new members by profession of faith.

DENMAN AWARDS: The Harry Denman Evangelism Award honors United Methodists whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

Kristi Wilkerson (lay equalization, Annual Conference Lay Leader, Wesleyan District) presented the lay Denman Award to **Bobby Boggs**, from the MonValley District, for his work organizing the virtual Celebration of Mission Event Hot Wheels race which raised over \$62,000 for missions.



Alex Straub participates in the Harry Denman Awards presentation on Zoom. Alex received the Youth Denman Award

Chip Bennett (clergy, Bellemead, Western District) presented the clergy Denman Award to **Rev. Ellen File**, who serves as chaplain to the Beckley Campus of Burlington United Methodist Family Services, in the Southern District. She exemplifies the spirit of the Denman recognition by sharing a life-changing relationship with Christ to troubled youth. In 2020, she baptized 15 resident youth from the Beckley Campus.

Neil Leftwich (clergy, Spruce Street, MonValley District) presented the youth Denman Award to **Alex Straub** from New Cumberland UMC in the Northern District. Having developed contacts and relationships, Alex works with his pastor, Rev. Sharmune Burgess, to come up with creative ways and events to reach other youth in the community.

SERMON (Part 2): Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball brought words of hope.

Rev. Okey Harless (clergy, Western District Superintendent) offered a pre-recorded blessing for the churches.



Kristi Wilkerson, Lay Leader

LAITY ADDRESS: Kristi Wilkerson, the Annual Conference Lay Leader, gave the Laity Address. She based her message on the book, Horton Hatches an Egg, by Dr. Seuss. She shared how she has seen the conference remain as faithful to their task as Horton the elephant was. She told stories of faithfulness, creativity, and adaptability that she has witnessed in every district in the conference. She thanked the laity for all that has been done during the pandemic. She encouraged the churches to continue to meet the challenges that remain before them.

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Bishop Steiner Ball shared a video presentation prepared by the Connectional Table featuring bishops from throughout the global connection, celebrating the ways UM churches around the globe have responded to ministry needs during the pandemic. This video (*Blessed is the Church*) is available on the conference website.

Bishop Steiner Ball acknowledged the stress that the pandemic has caused the pastors and churches. However, she celebrated the benefits of online worship, despite the challenges. She highlighted the efforts of the conference to combat racism, including the “Front Porch” discussions of four West Virginia bishops which have been used throughout the conference. Portico is an online learning platform available for the conference, developed by the Congregational Vitality Team. She recognized the uncertainty of the General Conference, but looked for opportunity within the uncertainty. She talked about the experiment with the supervision of three Annual Conferences to be served by two bishops. She and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi will serve West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Susquehanna.

She shared that the conference will go from nine to eight conference superintendents to serve the nine current districts. Supervision of the charges in the conference will be shared across traditional district boundaries.

CABINET TRANSITIONS: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized the three cabinet members who were leaving the cabinet. She read a commendation for each of them.

Okey Harless, the Conference Superintendent assigned to the Western District, and his wife, Jane, were recognized earlier and the recording was shared. Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Okey for his leadership, determination, and witness. She recognized his leadership on apportionments and for helping the Western District to vision for the future. Okey is retiring after 42 years of ministry.



Rev. Martha Ognibene was one of three superintendents transitioning from the Bishop's Cabinet

In recognizing Martha Ognibene, the Conference Superintendent assigned to the Northern District, and her husband, Bart Thompson, she thanked Martha for her eight years as a superintendent and seven years as the Cabinet Secretary. In her citation, she recognized Martha's vision, sense of humor, and love of life. Her compassion, honesty, and spirituality were shared throughout the Northern District. Martha will be serving Wesley, Morgantown, in the MonValley District.

She recognized Joseph Kenaston, Dean of the Cabinet and Conference Superintendent assigned to the Southern District, and his wife, Judi. She thanked him for his gift for administration, combined with a deep compassion and spiritual care for others. His work in the Southern District developing mission opportunities will continue to bear fruit. She recognized his service as Dean of the Cabinet for five years, which included holding colleagues accountable, while always being available to offer guidance and assistance. Joe will be serving Forrest Burdette Memorial, Hurricane, in the Midland South District.

INTRODUCTION of BISHOP CYNTHIA MOORE-KOIKOI: Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced herself in a recorded video. She shared her West Virginia roots. She will be sharing coverage of the West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Susquehanna Annual Conferences with Bishop Steiner Ball.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Southern District) presented the Consent Calendar for the first reading. She reminded the conference that any item may be removed prior to the vote on the Consent Calendar which

will take place on Saturday.

She highlighted the conference offerings which will benefit the ongoing ministry of Disaster Response and can be made on the conference website by looking for “opportunities for generosity.”

BENEDICTION: Joe Kenaston gave the benediction.

Friday morning, June 4 10:00 a.m.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Clergy Executive Session was held by Zoom Webinar and GNTV Media provided a platform for access and voting. Each participant was provided a secure Voter ID which enabled voting. The session was under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Jay Parkins, chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Resident and Presiding Bishop. Permission was given through the voting feature for the presence of the Conference Secretary, Judi Kenaston, and the GNTV staff. Invitation for attendance was also extended to local pastors, provisional members, and clergy from other conferences serving within the bounds of the West Virginia Conference.



**Moderators answer questions
during the Clergy Session**

The bishop explained how to use the “get access” feature to request to be recognized. She also explained that those

eligible to vote are full member elders and deacons of the West Virginia Conference.

The Business of Annual Conference report was distributed by email to all who were registered for the Clergy Session. The report represents the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committees on Ministry.

The format for the session was designed by the Order of Elders and presented the required Business of the Annual Conference. Candidates for ordination and commissioning, who had been approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, were presented for approval by the Executive Session. All recommended persons were approved, welcomed, and given an opportunity to speak to the body.

Those completing the Course of Study or Master of Divinity degree were recognized.

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, all other clergy were blameless in their life and official administration.

A complete reporting of actions taken during this session can be found in *Section IV, Business of the Annual Conference*.

A LAY SESSION for lay members of the Annual Conference and others was held by Zoom Webinar on Sunday, May 23, 2021. The session was led by Ms Kristi Wilkerson, Conference Lay Leader. The session previewed Annual Conference business, including the proposed changes in structure and the healthcare recommendations. District lay leaders were introduced to the gathering.

**Friday evening, June 4
6:00 p.m.**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Gathering music was provided on the organ by Brett Miller.

The sermon was given by Rev. Mark Conner, retired conference elder. The sermon, “Changed from Glory into Glory” was drawn from selected verses from John 14.

Hymns were “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*” and “*For All the Saints*” and were sung by Mr. Don Gardner and accompanied by Mr. Brett Miller.

Kristi Wilkerson and Jarrod Caltrider served as liturgists.

Names of those who had died in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 conference years were read by Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary. As each name was read, a milestone was added to the baptismal bowl on the altar. Each family had received an invitation to participate online and a matching milestone to share in this worship experience.

(Clergy from 2019-2020): G. Randall Adkins; Andrew C. Agnew, Sr.; Arthur G. Backus; Michael L. Daniels; F. Olive Davis; Esther Wilmoth Dyer (diaconal minister); Jerry R. Eaton; Clyde L. Gum; George Hamrick; Parker L. Hinzman; Harold A. Langevin; Harold A. LaParl; Harry P. Light, Jr.; Richard L. Longbon; Edward D. Lowe; John L. Lowther; Bryan W. McMullen; Ernest D. Metheny; Billee Scott Mick; Charles W. Scragg, Jr.; Lawrence F. Sherwood; Donzel B. Wease; and Ralph E. Wycoff.

(Clergy from 2020-2021): Doreen Adkins; Gus Anderson, Jr.; H. Earle Arthur; John A. Barnes; Damron B. “Brad” Bradshaw; L. Norman Butler; Melvin R. Conley; Dorcas Linger Conrad; Homer H. Davis; Charles A. Ellwood; Mark D. Hickman; William E. Jemison; Dennis A. Mehaffie; Glendon A. Pysell; Lloyd Curtis Saville; Thomas W. Schuler; Vicki D. Sheppard; Earnest D. Shue; Mark Edward Smith; and Jeffrey V. Zickefoose.



Rev. Dr. Mark Conner

(Spouses from 2019-2020): W. Blaker Bolling; Kim L. Craft; Sylvia J. Daily; Karyn Mock Harris; Sharon L. Jones; and Virginia M. Saville. (Spouses from 2020-2021): Maurice R. “Marty” Baker; Douglas Duffield; Richard A. Fretwell; and Susan R. Wachter.

(Surviving Spouses from 2019-2020): Rheba V. Arbogast; Geraldine Beal; Velma R. Byrd; Rosalia A. Hanna; Virginia M. Hinkle; Naomi M. London; Helen McCauley; Lela V. McCormick; JoAnn Morrison; and Mamie Helen O’Dell. (Surviving Spouses from 2020-2021): Peggy Agnew; Ferne Arthur; Janet Marie Butcher; Shirley J. Boyd; Mary Aldene Davidson; Leota F. Darlington Dickens; Bonny J. Eskew; Ethel Ferguson; Zelda E. Nutter Groves; Julia Hewett Hall; Norma K. Gerstell Llewellyn; and Eva A. Perine.

**Saturday morning, June 5
9:30 a.m.**

OPENING REMARKS: Bishop Steiner Ball called the session back to order. There were members in attendance in Wesley Chapel, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and members who joined online, with voice and vote. GNTV Media hosted the online presence and provided the conference with secure Voter IDs for each online voter. There were also persons attending online, with voice and no vote, including retired local pastors not serving appointments, and those persons currently serving within the West Virginia Conference under *Book of Discipline* paragraph 346. These persons had access to be recognized, but did not have a voter ID. Additionally, the conference was livestreamed for visitors and observers.

Bishop Steiner Ball told the Conference that the majority of those participating were online, and she planned to allow time for those online to participate fully. While those in person would be recognized by raising their hands, those online would use a “get recognized” feature provided by GNTV Media.

Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Annual Conference Program Committee Chair, Cross Lanes, Midland South District) explained the secure voting platform. She mentioned that all members had been given the opportunity for training in online webinars held May 25 and May 27, which were recorded for those unable to attend. She gave explicit directions for the voting process and led the conference in practice votes. This vote also allowed the members who were attending in-person to practice while tellers counted their votes. Each vote taken was counted both electronically and in-person and the totals were added together before being reported to the Conference.



Krysta Rexrode Wolfe

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE: Steve Hamrick (clergy, UM Temple Beckley, Southern District and Assistant Secretary) moved that the 2021 session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church proceed under the plan of Organization, Rules, and Procedures adopted at this session.

The motion was as follows:

- The bar of the conference will include Wesley Chapel at WVWC; the bar will also include members on electronic devices connected through a secure log-in provided in advance by the West Virginia Conference.
- All Annual Conference related materials, posted on the conference website, be considered in the hands of conference members at the opening session.
- Members voting through secure log-in will exercise their right to voice, amend, and vote as instructed at the pre-Conference online voting training. Voting will take place in-person at Wesley Chapel and electronically as provided through secure log-in. Training for voting has been provided for all members. Members of the Annual Conference shall be responsible for ensuring that all necessary technology is in place and working properly to participate.
- In compliance with paragraphs 32 and 602.4 of the *Discipline*, Equalization Members, as listed on pages 10 and 11 of the *Conference Workbook*, are elected.
- In order to secure the *floor*: (1) Members participating through secure log-in will use GNTV webinar's recognition feature to indicate a desire to make a motion, amendment, or speak, as instructed in training. If the Bishop recognizes the request, the member will follow the prompts to confirm their microphone as unmuted. (2) Members present in Wesley Chapel will raise hands from their seats to request to be recognized.
- The following tellers, as named by District Superintendents in collaboration with the Conference Secretary to serve at Wesley Chapel, are elected: Jonathan Acord, Scott Ferguson, Gary Hartsog, Loretta Isaiah, Angela Jones, Jeffrey Kanode, Joseph Kenaston, Beverly Kerr, Ellen Krimmel, Neil Leftwich, Michael Ludle, Steve Matthews, Martha Ognibene, Alyssa Perry, Brian Plum, Deborah Shaffer, Rich Shaffer, Melissa Shortridge, Robert Stigall, and Clare Sulgit.
- The following are elected as Assistant Secretaries: Pam Braden, Steve Hamrick, Pam Sears, and Audrey Stanton-Smith.
- The webinar facilitators, selected by the Bishop in collaboration with the Conference Secretary and the Program Committee, are approved. They are Jarrod Caltrider, Shea James, Ken Krimmel, Sarah Estep, Chip Bennett, and Jim Minutelli.
- Roll Call will be taken by submitting roll call cards for those attending in-person and by logging in to the secure electronic location.

- To maintain an open meeting, the West Virginia Annual Conference will be livestreamed and recorded for playback.
- Resolutions, to be presented at Annual Conference and available at the time of printing of the *Conference Workbook*, are found within the Pensions report and within the report from CFA. There is one additional resolution, found in the distributed supplemental materials.

Bishop Steiner Ball reminded the Conference that Equalization Members listed in the *Workbook* would not vote on the organizational motion because they have not yet been elected into membership. Online Equalization Members had their voter IDs turned off by GNTV Media. In-person Equalization Members were identified by an orange nametag and were not counted by the tellers.

The vote was opened. Online voters could choose “yes” or “no.” In-person voters stood to be counted in favor, were seated, and then those opposed were given a chance to stand to be counted. Each subsequent vote was taken in the same manner, except in subsequent votes, in-person members could raise their hands, rather than stand.

The vote total for both online and in-person votes for the Organizational Motion was 350 in favor; 3 opposed. Motion was adopted.

Bishop Steiner Ball recognized that Equalization Members were duly elected. Online voter IDs were activated, and in-person Equalization Members were to be counted for the remainder of the Conference.

ROLL CALL: Conference Secretary Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Southern District) called for the online roll call vote to provide a list of those who had logged in to the secure voting. The vote was taken. In-person members were counted in roll call by returning cards provided for them with their credentials.



**Rev. Scott Sears, Chair of
Rules Committee**

AGENDA: Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Annual Conference Program Committee Chair, Cross Lanes, Midland South District) presented the revised agenda for the day. The agenda was presented in the supplemental materials to the *Conference Workbook* which was distributed on Wednesday. She moved adoption of the revised agenda. It was supported by a vote of 508 in favor to 2 opposed.

RULES: Scott Sears (clergy, Chair of Conference Rules, First Huntington, Western District,) presented the work of the Rules Committee. Due to the large volume of the work, the Rules were presented in two parts beginning with *Part A. Rules and*

procedures for the Annual Conference Session. This section of the Rules confirmed what was included in the Organizational Motion and allowed for such work to continue in the future. The changes allowed for future gatherings and other bodies within the West Virginia Conference to hold electronic meetings and voting.

Scott Sears moved the adoption of Part A, Section II, subsections 3, 7, 13, 17, 26, and 28, as found in the *Conference Workbook*.

The vote was taken. It was adopted by a vote of 452 in favor and 6 opposed.

Scott Sears moved the adoption of all of Part A of the Conference Rules, including all the amendments and deletions and changes made to Part A by this session of the Annual Conference. The vote was taken. *Part A of the Rules and Procedures for the Annual Conference Session* was adopted by a vote of 454 in favor and 6 opposed.

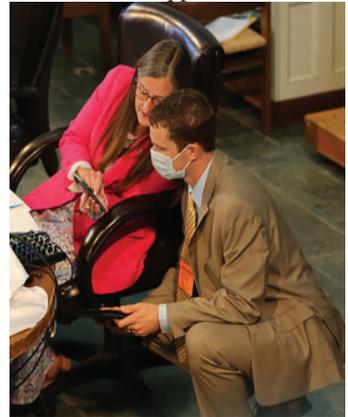
PENSIONS: Jamie O'Brien (lay equalization, Chair of the Board of Pensions, Wesleyan District) requested permission for Bob Gerlach and Peter Hang from WesPath to be allowed to speak to answer clarifying questions from the body, if needed. Approval was given by the body.

Jamie O'Brien explained the recommendations of the Board of Pensions to move from the Conference's current partially self-funded active health insurance plan to HealthFlex offered by WesPath. The recommendation does not include the Medicare supplement offered through the Conference. He expressed the concern of the Board of Pensions over the current lack of participant options, difficulties imposed on the appointment process, lack of population diversity, lack of participant education, and lack of proactive wellness opportunities. They requested multiple bids, but received only the WesPath proposal. Other providers sited very high claims cost, large number of employers, and cumbersome structure as the reasons for declining to provide a proposal. The Board believed that the HealthFlex plan from WesPath would keep costs and the funding structure similar to the current plan. Providing a flat rate per participant as the charge responsibility will enable the cabinet to make appointments more equitably. The move would allow the costs for the coming year to remain the same.

He moved that the Conference transition to HealthFlex for the active health insurance coverage beginning January 1, 2022.

Jeff Allen (clergy, Director of WV Council of Churches, Midland South District) asked if there is a cost to the Annual Conference to begin participating in HealthFlex. Jamie O'Brien said that there was no cost to buy into the program.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Retired, Western District) moved to amend Item F under the Medical



Bishop Steiner Ball confers with Jamion Wolford, Director of Administrative Services, during debate on the Healthcare proposal

Insurance proposal by adding “A Medicare supplement will continue to be offered to Medicare Eligible Participants by the Conference.” to the end of Item F. Motion was seconded.

Amendment was supported without discussion by a vote of 443 in favor to 20 opposed.

Jack Lipphardt (clergy, Retired, Midland South District) asked if retirees would be eligible for participant plus one. Jamion Wolford (lay equalization, Conference Treasurer, Little Kanawha District) responded that they would not be eligible unless they were not Medicare eligible.

Ford Price (clergy, Epworth Ripley, Little Kanawha District) asked if dental or vision automatically was a part of the new plan and, if not, who decides which plan to choose. Jamion Wolford replied that the dental and vision are options within the plan and plan participants choose which options they prefer.

Vote was taken on the motion to adopt the recommendation to move active health insurance to Healthflex in 2022, as amended. The motion was adopted by a vote of 456 in favor and 6 opposed.

Jamie O’Brien moved the adoption of the remainder of the Board of Pensions report which included the resolution, **Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the West Virginia Annual Conference**. Also included in the motion were the Retired Ministers’ Housing Loan Fund and Clergy Emergency Fund Policy. The motion was adopted by a vote of 462-2. (*See Resolution One in Section VI of the Journal*).

The entire report as submitted and amended was supported by a vote of 456 in favor and 1 opposed.

VIDEO: A video produced by the Discover Team, “We Are All Called!” was shared. (Video resources available on the Conference website - www.wvumc.org).

RECESS: There was a 15-minute recess.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: Michael Atkinson (clergy, Chair of Equitable Compensation, First Clarksburg, Wesleyan District) presented the report of the Equitable Compensation team. He explained the work of the Equitable Compensation team and moved the report as printed, which would define full-time clergy service for the conference by setting a minimum base compensation for category 1 at \$38,000; category 2 at \$35,800; and category 3 at \$34,600. This would be an increase of \$1,000 for Category 1; \$800 for Category 2; and \$600 for Category 3.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Duffey Memorial /Bass Charge, Potomac Highlands District) moved an amendment to the minimum base compensation by increasing all categories by \$800, so that the totals would be \$37,800 for Category 1; \$35,800 for Category 2; and \$34,800 for Category 3. The motion was seconded.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Huntington, Western District) asked for the rationale for the

recommendation of the Equitable Compensation team. Michael Atkinson responded that the team was trying to help clergy in Category 1 who are struggling with student loan debt.

A vote was taken on the amendment, and it was supported 244 in favor and 199 opposed.

Karen Tate (clergy, Vincent Memorial/Broad Oaks, Wesleyan District) asked if the average apportionments for churches would go down enough to compensate for the increase in minimum salaries. The bishop answered that apportionments are calculated for each individual church. With this response, Karen Tate spoke against the motion as amended.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Retired, Western District) asked whether the action taken earlier regarding healthcare would affect Recommendation #6, which requires that a minimum of 70% of the conference medical insurance plan be paid.

Michael Atkinson responded that the report was prepared prior to the changes to the health care plan. He said that the intention would be that the charge is required to provide a minimum of \$6,500. He suggested that this could be changed editorially.

Randy Flanagan (clergy, Wesley Morgantown, MonValley District) rose to a point of order: that any change to wording would need to come as an amendment. The bishop stated the point of order was well taken.

Robert Baer, Jr. (clergy, Peters Valley, Greenbrier District) moved that Recommendation #6 be changed to “a minimum of \$6,500 per charge as required by the Healthcare plan.” The motion was seconded.

Jeff Allen (clergy, Director of WV Council of Churches, Midland South District) asked what the total cost of seminary education is and if it is not known, if it could be studied.

Dwayne Brown (clergy, Tennerton/Mt. Hope, Wesleyan District) asked if the \$6,500 amount would vary according to what plan was chosen. Michael Atkinson responded that some churches provide more assistance to the clergy than the minimum requirement. The recommendation deals with the minimum amount.

The Conference Secretary read the wording for the Robert Baer, Jr., amendment.

Carol Keller (lay, Gassaway/Morrison, Wesleyan District) clarified that the change was being made to line 26 on page 83.

Scott Ferguson (clergy, Potomac Highlands District Superintendent) asked if this change would also apply to page 84, lines 34 and 44 under the limitations of Financial Support. Michael Atkinson said that line 34 is not affected, but that line 44 should read “medical insurance over \$6,500” rather than “medical insurance over 70%.”

Robert Stigall (lay, Morris Memorial, Midland South District) asked for clarification of 70% of compensation on line 34 under eligibility for funds. The bishop said that percentage was not affected by the amendment.



Rev. Michael Atkinson considers proposed changes to Equitable Compensation recommendations.

Ken Ramsey (clergy, Bridgeport, Wesleyan District) said that line 44 on page 84 should read “any amount over the \$6,500” because that is included in the Limitations of Financial Support.

The amendment would read: On page 83 line 26, item 6, and page 84, line 44, delete “minimum of 70% of conference medical plan” and change to “minimum of \$6,500 per charge as required by the Healthcare plan.”

A vote was taken and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 442 in favor and 14 opposed.

In answer to the question of how much seminary costs, the following statements were offered by online participants: Erin Sears (lay equalization, Member of Covenant Council) said her seminary cost was around \$45,000 per year in tuition and living expenses to attend Candler School of Theology. Michael Rexroad (clergy, Central Huntington, Western District) said his costs were around \$80,000 at ATS.

Ford Price (clergy, Epworth Ripley, Little Kanawha District) asked how the \$6,500 cost compares to the 70% amount. Jamion Wolford said that the comparisons are enumerated on the conference website.

Jane Costanzo (lay equalization, Northern District) asked how medical insurance premiums will be paid and to whom. Jamion Wolford responded that the billing will come from the Treasurer’s Office to each charge and will be delineated between charge responsibilities and the participant’s choices. The charge will be a standard amount of \$6,500, unless the charge elects to pay more of the participant’s amount.

Mike Estep (clergy, Suncrest, MonValley District) spoke against the report as amended because of the high cost of seminary and the difficulty of recruiting students to come to the West Virginia Conference.

A vote was taken on equitable compensation recommendations as amended. The motion was adopted by a vote of 442 in favor and 14 opposed.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Dean of the Cabinet) presented Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball with a Hot Wheels car and track in recognition of his participation in the Hot Wheels race that raised funds for Celebration of Mission Events when in-person

events were not possible. He thanked him for his participation in ministry throughout the



The bishop’s husband, Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball, and Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston, Dean of the Cabinet, celebrate the Hot Wheels C.O.M.E.

conference. A check for \$61,490 was presented for C.O.M.E.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Support and Ministry Staff) highlighted the Ministerial Education Fund which assists both local pastors participating in the Course of Study and seminary students with education costs. There are numerous scholarships available for those in need.

LUNCH: Krysta Rexrode Wolfe gave instructions for those in person to receive a box lunch. The conference will re-convene at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Steiner Ball offered a prayer for the meal.

Saturday afternoon, June 5
2:00 p.m.

Throughout the afternoon video presentations were shown as time allowed. These videos are available on the conference website, www.wvumc.org:

Portico

Mission Projects

DaySpring (a ministry of Spring Heights)

Spring Heights Retreats for 2021

House of the Carpenter (with Bishop Steiner Ball and Director Rev. Mike Linger)

Congregational Vitality Team Update

WVUMC celebrates 25th Anniversary of the Order of Deacons

“We Are Called” – Discover Team

Bishop Steiner Ball called the session back to order at 2:00 p.m., following the lunch recess. She opened with prayer, including prayer requests shared aloud in the session and online.

A video of Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi was shared. Bishop Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Steiner Ball will be providing episcopal leadership for three conferences – West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Susquehanna. Bishop Moore-Koikoi brought greetings to the conference and shared her excitement with the shared leadership experiment.

Bishop Steiner Ball called on Scott Sears for the second part of the Rules report.

RULES: Scott Sears (clergy, Chair of Conference Rules, First Huntington, Western District) presented the second part of the work of the Rules Committee. He indicated that the proposed changes would affect the current Rules found on page 16 of the *Conference Workbook*, beginning with line 48 and continuing through page 29. He began with the changes proposed for *Part B: Rules and Procedures for the Organization of the Annual Conference. Section IV: Miscellaneous Standing Rules of the Conference Subsection 8: District Conference.*

He pointed out that paragraph 658 of the *Book of Discipline* states, “A district conference shall be held if directed by the annual conference of which it is a part and may be held upon the call of the District Superintendent.” The amendment to the Conference Rules reflects that this Annual Conference desires to direct District Conferences to be held as they are either needed or desired as part of the ongoing mission and ministry of a district.

He moved amending *Part B, Section I, Subsection 8* as follows (and printed in the *Conference Workbook* on page 48 in lines 23 through 47):

8. District Conference. [*Book of Discipline* ¶42, 656-669] District Conferences shall may be held annually in each district of the Conference. The Annual Conference authorizes the District Superintendent to call district conferences as needed. In addition to the ex-officio membership, each Charge Conference shall may elect two principal and two reserve delegates. The ex-officio membership of the District Conference, when called, shall be comprised of the following: All clergy of the district: including retired, those under disability, maternity leave, leave of absence, or sabbatical leave —associate, provisional, diaconal and local; the deaconesses of the district; District personnel, as listed: district trustees, district lay leader and associate lay leaders, chairperson of the District Board of Laity, chairperson of the District Council or equivalent structure, presidents of the District United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and District Council of United Methodist Youth Ministries.

Local church personnel as listed (from local churches within the district): lay members of the Annual Conference, church lay leader, chairperson of Church Council, presidents of United Methodist Women, chartered United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Youth Fellowship. A current and accurate report of all elected officers and committee chairpersons shall be submitted to the WV Conference office. The report shall include name and current contact information.

The Annual Conference directs Each District Superintendent to hold a District Conference following the meeting of the General Conference at the first session following General Conference, to elect for a term of four (4) years, a District Lay Leader. The term of office shall be subject to the two-quadrennium rule.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Retired, Western District) moved the following amendment to the proposed rule change: “*When there is no District Conference held for the annual election of District Trustees, District Trustees will be elected by the Annual Conference as directed by Paragraph 2518.2 BOD. Listing of District Trustees shall be reported in the annual*

reporting for election from District Superintendents that includes the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and District Committee on Church Building and Location.”

The motion was seconded, and he spoke in favor of it.

Joe Kenaston (clergy, Southern District Superintendent) spoke against the amendment, stating that the provision was already in the *Book of Discipline*.

The amendment was not supported by a vote of 94 in favor and 329 against.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Duffey Memorial/Bass Charge, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against the proposed change because District Conferences are an important connection within the conference. He suggested that District Conference could be used for celebrations and for voting on the district budget.

Mike Estep (clergy, Suncrest, MonValley District) spoke in favor of the proposed change, stating that it didn't prevent District Conferences, but it allowed for greater flexibility to the superintendents and the districts concerning when and how the conferences are held.

The vote was taken. Changes to *Part B., Section I, Subsection 8* were adopted with 335 in favor and 92 opposed.

Scott Sears highlighted the document 2021-09 which contains an edited proposal to what was found in the *Conference Workbook around Rule B. Rules and Procedures for the Organization of the Annual Conference, Subsection IV: Miscellaneous Standing Rules of the Conference and Subsection 6: Equalization of Lay and Clergy Membership*.

He explained that the Rules Committee had worked for the past two years to refine the rule that the Committee believed met the requirements of Paragraphs 32 and 602.4. He moved the following amendment:



Rev. Mike Estep

6. *Equalization of Lay and Clergy Membership.* *The Annual Conference Secretary shall annually review the number of clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference, based on information in the most recent Conference Journal, and determine the number of additional lay members required to be in compliance with ¶¶32 & 602.4. By authority of the Annual Conference ~~the~~ Secretary shall determine the number of additional lay members required for equalization and select and notify and invite persons to be present for election as these equalization members according to priorities of sequence in the following list:*

- a. *The Conference Secretary and the Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services.*
- b. *Lay persons serving on General Church Agencies.*
- c. *Lay persons employed as Director or Associate Directors of Office of Connectional Ministries.*

- d. *Lay persons who chair conference agencies including those who are elected to chair sections or divisions.*
- e. *Church and Community Workers.*
- f. *The Conference Chancellor.*
- g. *The President of West Virginia Wesleyan College, if that person is a member of The United Methodist Church. (If a member of The United Methodist Church.)*
- h. *A West Virginia Wesleyan College student who is a young adult as determined by the Discipline. The student shall be a member of The United Methodist Church in the WV Annual Conference, familiar with the multi-faceted nature of the Campus Community and representative of the diversity of the student body. The student shall be invited by the Office of Spiritual Life in consultation with the Student Senate and President of the College.*
- i. *All lay persons serving on the following Conference Agencies: Nominations, Program, Rules, and nine youth between the ages of 15 and 18 to be ~~selected~~ invited by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.*
- j. *All lay persons serving on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Council on Finance & Administration and Conference Covenant Council.*
- k. *All lay persons serving as the chairperson of a District Council on Ministry or equivalent structure.*
- l. *All lay persons employed as Directors of Conference Health and Welfare institutions and Mission Projects, if they are members of The United Methodist Church (if a member of The United Methodist Church).*
- m. *Certified Lay Minister under assignment*
- n. *A West Virginia Wesleyan College student who is a young adult as determined by the Discipline. The student shall be a member of The United Methodist Church in the WV Annual Conference, familiar with the multi-faceted nature of the Campus Community and representative of the diversity of the student body. The student shall be named by the Dean of the Chapel in consultation with the Community Council President and President of the College.*
- m. *Up to eight persons from each district invited by the District Committee on nominations or equivalent structure or superintendent with attention to ethnicity, race, age, gender and church size.*
- n. *Certified Lay Minister under assignment*

- o. *Additional persons selected invited by the Parish Coordinators in each district upon nomination by the District Committee on Nominations (or equivalent structure), after the Conference Secretary has informed the District Superintendents of the appropriate number per district. Individuals from this priority list who have responded affirmatively to the invitation by their respective group shall be formally invited by the Annual Conference Secretary. Those who accept shall be presented for election by the Annual Conference in the organizing motion. Once duly elected by the Annual Conference, they will be seated within the bar as equalization members.*

The Committee on Annual Conference Program, in consultation with the Council on Finance and Administration, shall assist with expenses of equalization members and shall determine the amount of the stipend each year. Funds will not be provided for attendance at one-day special sessions.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Duffey Memorial/Bass Charge, Potomac Highlands District) moved to substitute the rule that he had proposed to the Rules Committee, and which had been printed in the *Conference Workbook*. The motion was seconded. He spoke in favor of the rule, stating his belief that the existing rule was in violation of the Constitution.

Scott Sears stated a point of order, that the proposed substitution required a District Conference every year and the action that the conference took earlier does not require District Conferences. Bishop Steiner Ball agreed that the substitution was out of order.

Mark Flynn questioned whether this would also apply to the elections of district lay leaders which are required to be elected once every quadrennium, and the Bishop said that it would not because this election is required by the *Book of Discipline*. Scott Sears clarified that the rule on District Conferences required this election.

The vote on *Part B, Section IV*, subsection on 6 was held. The change to the rules was adopted by a vote of 319 in favor and 86 opposed.

Mark Flynn requested a Decision of Law on the passage of Rule 6. The request is as follows:

In accordance with ¶¶51 and 2609 of the Book of Discipline, I request a bishop's decision of law on the following questions about the amended new rules for "Equalization of Lay and Clergy Membership," in light of Discipline ¶¶32, 602, and 604.1, Judicial Council Decision #886, and other relevant church law:

Does the newly amended rule 6, on Equalization of Lay and Clergy Membership violate



Rev. Mark Flynn

Discipline Paragraph 32's requirement for the genuine "election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference" (emphasis added), or any other relevant church law, when it provides for an election which takes place only after that year's annual conference session is called to order? Does this amended rule violate Discipline Paragraph 32 or any other part of church law when this vote would take place only AFTER the nominees had already arranged to take time off of work, checked into hotel rooms, and traveled to the site of the annual conference session? Does this amended rule provide a genuine election in conformity with Discipline Paragraph 32 and other relevant church law when it would be too late at the time of the vote to have other persons make these same arrangements to be present for the annual conference session?

Bishop Steiner Ball explained that she will have 30 days to give her ruling on the Decision of Law. After that, the Judicial Council will review her Decision of Law and either agree, agree in part, or state what would need to be changed to bring the Conference into compliance with the *Discipline*.

Scott Sears moved *Part B, Section I, Section II, and Section IV* of the proposed



**Tellers count votes in Wesley Chapel.
Members also voted online.**

rules which provide for the redesigning of the conference ministry structure. This material was found on pages 41 – 47 of the *Conference Workbook* (and is printed in the Rules in this *Journal*).

Judy Raines (lay equalization, Chair of Global Ministries, Southern District) requested to make an amendment as follows: "*To insert Section B.II.16 'Global Ministries' from our current conference rules found on page 20 of*

the Conference Workbook with the exception of substituting the words "Core Leadership Team where it says 'Covenant Council' in Line 50/51 which is paragraph 4 of 16b at line 30 on page 45 of the Conference Workbook, so that it appears in the new structure proposal following the rules for Finance and Administration and before Lay Ministry: all of this is to be renumbered accordingly."

Judy Raines was unable to connect audibly from the online platform, so Bishop Steiner Ball read her motion from the "get recognized" function provided for online participants. The motion was seconded. Judy Raines emailed her rationale and Scott Sears read it aloud to the body.

Bill Wilson (clergy, Retired, Western District) spoke in favor of the amendment. Randy Flanagan (clergy, Wesley Morgantown, MonValley District) asked how other teams were being cared for and if there are already plans for how to deal with Global Ministries. Bishop Steiner Ball stated that the Core Leadership Team will work creatively in those

areas not required by the *Book of Discipline* and will allow participation by broadly defined membership. Kristi Wilkerson (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Wesleyan District) stated that membership for all areas not required by the *Book of Discipline* would be named by the Core Leadership Team. Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff, Midland South District) stated that while the Board of Global Ministries already has structured policies detailing its operations, this amendment would decide how the team membership is selected. Gary Hartsog (lay equalization, Southern District Lay Leader) spoke in favor of the amendment because it brings clarity to the structure. Bishop Steiner Ball directed the conference's attention to the graphic found on page 55 of the *Conference Workbook* which explains which committees are selected by whom. Bill Wilson responded to Randy Flanagan and Gary Hartsog by stating that it is important to balance the structure.

A vote was taken on the Raines amendment. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 347 for and 66 against.

Rich Shaffer (lay equalization, Little Kanawha District) moved that the immediate past lay leader (for the first year of quadrennium) should serve for one year on the Lay Ministry Team. Motion was seconded.

Vote was taken without discussion. Amendment adopted 338 in favor 61 opposed.

Discussion continued on the main motion as twice amended.

Jennifer Spoor (lay member, Eastern Cabell–Milton, Western District) asked why the six tasks enumerated in the purpose for the Covenant Council in the current rules are left out of the new structure.

Scott Sears replied that the new Core Leadership Team had responsibilities that were required of it and they represent new priorities for the conference. Bishop Steiner Ball stated that the Core Leadership Team will focus on the vision, mission, and goals of each Team.

Jennifer Spoor responded that she fears that no one would assume the responsibilities for the necessary functions.

A vote was taken on the amended rules for re-structure. It was adopted by a vote of 378 in favor and 33 opposed.

Scott Sears moved the entire Rules report. It was adopted by a vote of 393 in favor and 19 opposed.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARD: Gary Henderson, Chief Relationship Officer for UCom, presented the Epi Award to Deborah Coble, Conference Director of Communications, in a recorded video message. The Epi Award, based on the Greek word *Epikoinonía*, is given to the top five communicators throughout the United Methodist Connection. He recognized the importance of the communication excellence of the West Virginia Conference and highlighted the respect that Deborah is accorded in the General Church.



Rev. Deborah Coble acknowledges applause for her Epi Award

BREAK: Conference was recessed for 10 minutes.

RESOLUTION: Jeff Matheny (lay, Mt. Pleasant Mineral Wells, Little Kanawha District) presented a resolution from the Covenant Council: Moving Toward a Simplified Ministry Structure Through a Transitional Year, which requested a transitional year for the Covenant Council to work with the Core Leadership Team as the new structure is implemented. The resolution was in the *Conference Workbook* supplementary material in document 2021-05.

Ellen File (clergy, Chaplain, BUMFS Beckley Center, Southern District) asked if the resolution needed to be amended to include the addition of Global Ministries. Bishop Steiner Ball said that the resolution refers to all that was approved.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 382 in favor and 4 opposed. (*See Resolution Two in Section VI of the Journal*).

CONSENT CALENDAR: Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Southern District) moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar, which was originally presented at the Thursday evening session. The Consent Calendar, containing reports presented in writing in either the *Conference Workbook* or supplemental materials, was supported by a vote of 391 in favor and 2 opposed.

TRUSTEES: Randy Flanagan (clergy, vice-president of the Conference Board of Trustees, Wesley Morgantown, MonValley District) presented the trustees report. Trustee President, Betsy Martin-Edwards (lay equalization, Trustee President, Wesleyan District) was participating online. Rev. Flanagan moved three trustee resolutions, noting that there was an editorial change to a date in the third resolution: (1) Closed Properties, and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same; (2) Closed Church – Real and Personal Property Funds; and (3) Unlawful Appropriation of Church Property.

Trustee resolutions were approved by 389 in favor and 8 against. (*See Resolutions Three, Four, and Five in Section VI of the Journal*).



Eva Hensley Faulkner,
Associate Conference
Lay Leader

COVENANT COUNCIL: Eva Hensley Faulkner (lay equalization, Associate Lay Leader, Southern District) moved adoption of the report of the Covenant Council, including recommendations found on pages 78-79 of the *Conference Workbook*. The recommendations included a vision for global ministries presence in local churches, the Conference Advance Specials, and coordinators for Connectional Ministries, with the exception of the Child Protection Coordinator, which is yet to be named.

The report and recommendations were approved by a vote of 382 in favor and 1 opposed.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA): Ken Ramsey (clergy, Chair of CFA, Bridgeport, Wesleyan District) presented the report of CFA. He moved the approval of items 3 – 15 of the recommendations, which were found on pages 168 – 170 of the *Conference Workbook*. He changed the language in Item 3, 40b from “amount over Required 70% Health Premium Funded by the Church” to “amount over the required \$6,500 Health Insurance Payment” to reflect the action of the conference on health insurance.

These items were approved by a vote of 382 in favor and 2 opposed.

Ken Ramsey moved the adoption of items one and two on page 68, which included a budget of \$12,233,195 for 2022, which is \$644,460 less than the 2021 budget and represents a decrease of 5% of the 2021 budget.

Steve Hamrick (clergy, UM Temple Beckley, Southern District) asked if the calculations for the three-year average in 40b would represent two years at the 70% and one year with the new calculation of greater than \$6,500. The answer was yes. The over \$6,500 amount would begin with calendar year 2022.

Michael Atkinson (clergy, First Clarksburg, Wesleyan District) asked what the impact of the health insurance adjustments would have on the budget. Jamion Wolford (lay equalization, Conference Treasurer, Little Kanawha District) answered that the budget was prepared with the anticipation that the new plan would be adopted, and any needed adjustments would be evaluated moving forward. It is anticipated that there will be a savings in the reserves and that is reflected in the 2022 budget.

The 2022 budget was supported with a vote of 372 in favor and 8 opposed.

Ken Ramsey moved the adoption of the fiscal policies as found on pages 171-176 of the *Conference Workbook*. The vote was taken. It was declared invalid after it was determined that the wording for the online ballot was incorrect. After correcting the wording of the online ballot, the ballot was taken a second time. The fiscal policies were adopted with a vote of 389 in favor and 8 opposed.

Ken Ramsey moved the adoption of the entire report from CFA. It was approved by a vote of 383 in favor and 5 opposed.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Jamion Wolford for his work as Conference Treasurer. She also thanked Ken Ramsey for his leadership of CFA, which has been extended due to the pandemic and the delay in General Conference. Ken Ramsey thanked the bishop for her leadership.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized Caitlin Ware and Sarah Wilmoth who are both serving on the Communications Team during conference and will be attending Duke Divinity School. Caitlin has been the interim chaplain at WVWC this conference year.

NOMINATIONS: Scott Mayberry (clergy, Chair of the Nominations Team, Perry Memorial, Southern District) presented the work of the Nominations Team. He shared the

process that the team used through numerous meetings, working to reflect the conference with attention to geography, lay and clergy, gender, age, ethnic background, individual gifts, and church size. The Nominations report included Archives and History, Episcopacy, Equitable Compensation, Pensions, Religion and Race, Rules and Conference Trustees, as well as the Core Leadership Team instituted by earlier Conference action. Also included is the Board of Ordained Ministry, district committees, Health and Welfare and Mission agencies, campus ministry boards, and new trustees for West Virginia Wesleyan. All nominations were printed.

Scott Mayberry moved the entire report, found in both the *Conference Workbook* and supplemental materials.

Michael Rexroad (clergy, Central Huntington, Western District) asked how someone would be replaced on a district committee if they chose to no longer serve. The bishop responded that the district nominations process would replace the person in the interim and the new person would be approved at the next Annual Conference.

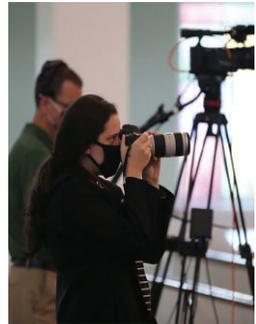
The report of the Nominations Team was approved by a vote of 373 in favor and 3 opposed.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Scott and the entire Nominations Team for their work.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Bishop Steiner Ball highlighted the Bishop's Chalice Golf Challenge to be held on Monday, July 19, 2021, which will raise funds for the Endowment for Religious and Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

CONFERENCE DATE: Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Annual Conference Program Committee Chair, Cross Lanes, Midland South District) announced that the date and location for the 2022 Annual Conference would be June 9 – 12, 2022, at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Krysta moved adjournment of the conference following the Sunday Service: Recognition of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination. Motion was approved by acclamation.



Caitlin Ware takes pictures at Annual Conference as part of her role on the Communications team

Sunday morning, June 6

WORSHIP 9:30 a.m.

A SERVICE of LICENSING, COMMISSIONING and ORDINATION

The service was conducted by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Resident and Presiding Bishop. Musical leadership was provided by Julie Janisch, Music Director at St. Marks, Charleston, on the organ. Musical reflections included “Baptized in the Water;” “Blest are They;” “Variations on *Old Hundredth*,” and “Variations on *The Church’s One Foundation*.”

Bishop Steiner Ball’s sermon was based on Isaiah 57:6-12 and Matthew 5:1-6.

The service included a recognition of common ministry and remembrance of baptism.

Those persons who are newly ready to receive the license of local pastor were recognized: Rick Bloom, John Bruce, Stacy Chrise-Tritt, Johnny Davis, V.J. Davis, Jackie Fisher, Corey Gero, Tonja Hamrick, Sharon Howard, Chris Hudnall, Gregory Keith, Katie Knotts, Jenny Phares, Lawrence Rebelo, Nikki Richardson, Peter Scott, William Walters, Caitlin Ware, and Sarah Wilmoth.

Darrell Todd Hurley and Michael Lewis Rexroad were commissioned for the work of an elder.

Sharmune D. Burgess, Paula Lea Perdue Napier, and Matthew Aaron Paugh were ordained elders.

Members of the Bishop’s Cabinet assisted in the Fixing of the 2021-2022 Appointments.

Other participants in the service were Mike Estep, Chair of the Order of Elders; Jay Parkins, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Jeff Taylor, Chair of the Order of Deacons; Gwen Wolford, Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors; Kristi Wilkerson, Conference Lay Leader; Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary; Bonnie MacDonald, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff; and Ken Willard, Director of Congregational Vitality.

ADJOURNMENT: The 2021 Session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was adjourned sine die.



New elder, Rev. Sharmune Burgess, greets her sponsors following her ordination.