

**III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS**

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

June 8 - 11, 2023

West Virginia Wesleyan College  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

**First Day – Thursday - June 8, 2023**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Afternoon**

**OPENING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

Annual Conference opened with a Communion Service that focused on “Proclaim Peace, Bring Good News” (Isaiah 52:7). The table was used throughout the Conference for both worship and business.

The service began with a Call to Worship based on Isaiah 52.

The preacher was Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Her sermon, based on Isaiah 52:7-12, was entitled “The Good Feet Church.” Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi presided at Communion. The hymns were: *Lift High the Cross*; *Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come*; *Marching to Zion*; and *Arise, Your Light Has Come*. The gathering music was *We are Singing for the Lord is Our Light* and *O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink* by Dale Wood. The offertory anthem was *Creation of Peace* by Mark Miller. The Conference Choir was composed of laity and clergy. The Music Director and Organist was Dan Stokes.

Worship leaders and communion servers included Bishops Sandra Steiner Ball and Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Heather Barker, Chip Bennett, Scott Ferguson, Barb Hale, Joe Hill, Loretta Isaiah, Neil Leftwich, Bonnie MacDonald, Matthew Paugh, Amy Shanholtzer, Melissa Shortridge, Rick Swearingin, Jeff Taylor, Maria Wiblin, Kristi Wilkerson, Ken Willard, and Jamion Wolford.

Offerings received throughout Conference were divided among a variety of ministries, with each service highlighting one ministry. The three ministries were Africa University Tractor Fund, Dig Deep Appalachia Water Project, and The Reparations Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia.

**First Day – Thursday - June 8, 2023**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Afternoon**

CLERGY SESSION: The Clergy Session was held in the Law Center for Creative Arts at 3:00 p.m., under the direction of the Rev. Scott Sears, chairperson of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Resident and Presiding Bishop and

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. At the beginning of the session, permission was granted for lay members Judi M. Kenaston, Secretary of the Annual Conference, and Sarah Estep, Secretary Elect, to be seated in the session. Permission to be present was granted for clergy serving in our conference who are members of other conferences, without vote, as well as lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The format for the report was designed by the Board of Ordained Ministry 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. Amy Shanholtzer, 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.

The Executive Session (Full member elders and deacons) voted in approval of the change to Rule B.III. A complete reporting of actions taken during this session is listed in *Section IV, Business of the Annual Conference*.

**LAY SESSION:** The Laity gathered under the leadership of Kristi Wilkerson (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Greenbrier Wesleyan District). An earlier orientation session for the laity was held virtually on Sunday, May 21, to aid the lay members of conference in their preparation for the conference session.

**First Day – Thursday - June 8, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Evening**

**ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE:** Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball called the conference to order.

**WELCOME:** Bishop Steiner Ball welcomed Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania Conference. The two bishops are partners in cooperative ministry for the West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and Susquehanna Conferences, sharing the leadership of the Susquehanna Conference. Bishop Steiner Ball presented Bishop Moore-Koikoi with a gift of West Virginia glass.

**ECUMENICAL GREETINGS:** Jeff Allen (clergy, Executive Officer of West Virginia Council of Churches, Nine Rivers District) brought greetings from the West Virginia Council of Churches. He said that the heart of the ministry of the Council of Churches is community, connection, confession, and commitment. Rev. Allen thanked Rev. Ken Krimmel, Rev. Jonathan Moon, Rev. Brad Davis, and Rev. Darick Biondi, who serve on the Council in various capacities. He also highlighted the work of Loretta Young and Rev. Deborah Coble, both of whom have helped the Council promote its work for legislative justice.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Nine Rivers District) explained who was allowed to be seated within the bar of the conference, what the colors on nametags indicated, how voting would occur, and the method of requesting recognition by the bishop. She requested that those speaking at the microphone identify themselves by giving their name, whether they are lay or clergy, the charge or position they represent, and their district.

Bishop Steiner Ball requested that those speaking be respectful and that clapping, cheering, or booing in reaction to a speaker is not appropriate. Bishop Moore-Koikoi asked that the conference remember that speakers should be heard and not judged, and that all are unified in our love for Christ and the Church.

ORGANIZATIONAL MOTION: Steve Hamrick (clergy, Calvary Ripley, Little Kanawha District and Assistant Secretary) moved the Organizational Motion. The 2023 session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall proceed under the plan of Organization, Rules, and Procedures adopted at this session. The Bar of the Conference will be the floor and rear section of the balcony of Wesley Chapel at WVWC, with the exception of the rear two rows of the main floor which are designated for visitors unable to climb stairs to the balcony. Only members of the Conference and individuals with proper credentials as invited guests will be permitted in the Bar of the Conference during Business Sessions. These persons include those serving churches in the West Virginia Conference on loan from another conference or another denomination under the provisions of ¶346 of the *Discipline*; affiliate members of the West Virginia Conference; retired local pastors not serving charges in the 2022-2023 year; ecumenical visitors; persons designated to provide accessibility assistance to members; and members of the Communications Team, including audio/visual personnel from GNTV.

Visitors may sit in the side balconies and the last two rows of the floor of the Chapel. Conference materials contained in the Conference Workbook, as well as additional materials available on the Conference website and distributed to conference members at check-in, are considered to be in the hands of Conference members. In compliance with ¶32 and ¶602.4 of the *Book of Discipline*, equalization members as listed on the handout 2023-10 including verbal additions are elected. Tellers, as named by District Superintendents and the Conference Secretary, are elected. Head Tellers: Pam Sears and Ray Stonestreet; Tellers: Michael Atkinson, Kim Becker, Eric Beeman, David Blankenship, Byron Bonnell, Robert Cole, Stewart Cottrell, Sue Dostal, Michael Estep, Jackie Fisher, Linda Friend, Jennifer Goldizen, Liz Hartman, Tyler Hylton, Jeremiah Jones, Ashli Knotts, Kelly Martin, Charles May, Diann Nickerson, Helen Oates, Carmen Rexrode, Chuck Ricks, Barbara Ritchie, Gerald Roberts, Pam Sears, Raymond Stonestreet, Barbara Theodoro, Stacy Tritt, and David Westfall. The following are elected as Assistant Secretaries: Pam Braden, Sarah Estep, Mark James, Pam Sears, and Audrey Stanton-Smith. Roll Call was taken at check-in. Resolutions to be presented at Annual Conference, submitted by the April 1 deadline stipulated in Miscellaneous Standing Rule 4.13, are found in the Resolutions Section of the

Conference Workbook and on supplemental materials found on page 2023-08 and 2023-09.

Bishop Steiner Ball stipulated that those being elected as equalization members are not eligible to vote on the Organizational Motion. The motion was approved. Bishop Steiner Ball welcomed the equalization members and announced that they were eligible to vote on all following business.

RULES: Jarrod Caltrider (clergy, Dunbar, Nine Rivers District, Rules Committee Chair) moved the changes in the rules for the conference, beginning with Part A: Rules and Procedures for the Annual Conference Session, found on pages 29-31 in the Conference Workbook.

These rules were adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary, presented the Consent Calendar for first reading.

AGENDA: Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Nine Rivers District, Program Chair) moved the approval of the agenda, found on 2023-01, with permission for the Program Team to adjust the agenda as necessary through the business sessions. Agenda was approved.

CONFERENCE SECRETARY: Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Judi Kenaston for her time serving as Conference Secretary and announced that she is nominating Sarah Estep to be elected as Conference Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS: Michael Burge (clergy, Stealey/Temple, Clarksburg, Northern District), on behalf of the Resolutions Committee of the Program Team, moved the resolution *Regarding the Preaching and Teaching of United Methodist Doctrine*, submitted by Sandy Rowland Binotto, Rev. Mark W. Flynn, Rachel M. Fulton, Rev. Dr. Robert Fulton, Rev. James P. Gray, Darol Kendrick, Katrina Napier, and Rev. Cindy Skinner, and found on handout document 2023-08.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Duffey Memorial / Bass, Potomac Highlands District) spoke in favor of the motion.

Jeff Allen (clergy, Executive Officer of West Virginia Council of Churches, Nine Rivers District) asked whether the resolution was in order since it had not been before the body for 12 hours. The bishop replied that our rules and the organizational motion stated that all materials received at check-in were duly before the conference, so it was in order.

Helen Oates (clergy, First Williamstown / Summit Valley, Little Kanawha District) moved to refer the resolution to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The referral was approved.

NOMINATIONS: Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Nine Rivers District) explained the nominations process for the one delegate for a lay reserve to General Conference who will also serve as a member of the Jurisdictional Delegation. There were nine people nominated in advance by the 2022 Lay Members to Annual Conference. Those nominated were given an opportunity to submit a data sheet. Seven of

those nominated have submitted their data sheets and this was printed on handout 2023-07.

The bishop commented that the UMC Judicial Council was considering whether new delegates could be seated. The floor was opened for additional nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations. Balloting will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday.

**BREAK:** Stand up break was held. Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Nine Rivers District, Program Chair) encouraged the conference to pick up the daily newsletter offered by the Conference Communications Team.

**RULES:** Jarrod Caltrider (clergy, Dunbar, Nine Rivers District, Rules Committee Chair) moved the amendment to Rule B.I.1, which would change the rule regarding the responsibilities of the Conference Secretary by changing “shall be the editor” to “shall oversee the production” of the Conference Workbook and *Journal*.

Amendment was approved.

He moved the amendment to Rule B.II.18.4 to read “Coordinators to be nominated by the Core Leadership Team (not subject to Rule B.1.8.b): Disaster Response Coordinator; Volunteers-in-Mission Coordinator; Refugee/Immigration Coordinator; Health and Disabilities Coordinator.”

Michael Ludle (clergy, Ravenswood, Little Kanawha District) questioned whether the Health and Disabilities Coordinator should be two positions. Jarrod Caltrider stated that the current rule lists them together.

The amendment was approved.

Jarrod Caltrider moved an amendment by substitution to Rule B.III.

Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Southern District) asked for the report on the action of the Clergy Executive Session. Bishop Steiner Ball announced that the Clergy Executive Session approved the rule change. The vote to allow a substitution was approved.

Jarrod Caltrider presented the rationale for the change.

Joseph Kenaston (clergy, Forrest Burdette, Nine Rivers District, Chair of Conference Relations on the Board of Ordained Ministry) explained the need for the changes. First, anything already in the *Book of Discipline* was removed from the conference rules. Second, requirements for distance learning were updated to reflect the current reality of education. Thirdly, the Conference would defer to the *Book of Discipline* and the University Senate for educational requirements with the exception of leaving preaching, pastoral care, and church administration as additional requirements for clergy candidates on the Elder track. In addition, the rules will now reflect equity among the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, and Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. Finally, the rules were re-ordered and all Disciplinary references are given.

Jarrod Caltrider moved the approval of the substitution.

Wesley DeLeurere (lay equalization, MonValley District) offered an editorial correction which was accepted.

The substitution was approved.

Jarrod Caltrider moved the amendment to B.IV.13 Printed Materials.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Duffey Memorial / Bass, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against the amendment because it would limit the opportunity for discussion at the Annual Conference.

Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, MonValley District Superintendent) asked if the proposed amendment allowed submitters of resolutions to print the materials at their own expense for distribution. Jarrod Caltrider replied that the rule states that items requiring action may be distributed with the permission of the presider.

Stacy Tritt (clergy, Mt. Pleasant and Westover, MonValley District) asked whether it was possible to amend the rule to require submission seven days prior to Conference. Bishop Steiner Ball suggested that she develop the amendment and bring it back to the conference.

Michael Atkinson (clergy, First, Clarksburg, Northern District) reminded the body that rules can be suspended with a 2/3 majority vote to allow action on a resolution at any time.

Stacy Tritt moved to amend by striking “submitted 90 days in advance” and replace with “submitted and made available seven days prior to Annual Conference.”

Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Nine Rivers District) asked if the amendment required printed distribution. Stacy Tritt said her intention was for printed distribution.

Ralph Summers (lay equalization, Little Kanawha District) asked if this affected both places where the 90 days are specified. Jarrod Caltrider said that one of the references refers to when materials can be included in the Conference Workbook.

Jeff Allen (clergy, Executive Officer of West Virginia Council of Churches, Nine Rivers District) affirmed the need for the conference to have the opportunity to discuss resolutions.

Ray Maleke (clergy, Parkview/St. Andrews Charge, Little Kanawha District) asked whether the Conference Workbook will be delivered ahead of time. Jarrod Caltrider said that the proposed rule does not change the schedule for the Conference Workbook. Bishop Steiner Ball commented that the workbooks are all mailed on the same day, but some take longer to be delivered due to the Postal Service.

Deborah Shaffer (lay equalization, Little Kanawha District) asked that the conference be aware that much of the conference does not have adequate access to online materials.

The amendment was given to the Rules Committee for its recommendation.

**COURTESIES and CLOSING PRAYER:** Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Nine Rivers District, Program Chair) announced that there is a table out front where conference members can request a golf cart and she offered a phone number to call for reservations for the carts. She offered the closing prayer.

**Friday, June 9, 2023**  
**Morning 8:30 a.m.**

**OPENING:** Dan Stokes, Conference Music Director, opened the morning by leading the conference in singing. Bishop Steiner Ball shared a meditation of Colossians 3, which she considers her “life passage.”

WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN: Jonathan Acord (clergy, Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at WVWC, Greenbrier Wesleyan District) introduced Dr. James Moore, president of WVWC, who brought greetings to the conference, sharing stories about his journey as a professor and those who mentored him on his path. He recognized Rev. Angela Gay Kinkead, an elder retiring this year, who served for many years as the Dean of the Chapel at Wesleyan and was honored this year as Dean of the Chapel Emeritus.

WESPATH: Carrie Persivale is attending the conference, representing Wespeth and General Secretary Andy Hendren. Wespeth is one of the 13 agencies of The United Methodist Church and they provide pension benefits and comprehensive investment plans for Annual Conferences and others. She encouraged everyone to view the Wespeth General Conference petitions on their website. The website also provides pension plan members the ability to access and make changes in their benefits plan.

PENSIONS: Dustin McCune (clergy, Cross Roads, Nine Rivers District, Board of Pensions chairperson) presented the resolution ***BOP Health Insurance Funding Transition***, found in the Conference Workbook, and moved its adoption. The resolution presents a three-year plan, beginning January 1, 2024, to remove the cost of the active health insurance from the apportioned conference budget. The only premium cost to remain in the apportioned budget would be utilized for the Medicare supplement program and to fund the conference employee benefits. The resolution was intended to eliminate approximately \$3.1 million in the conference budget by 2026, reducing the average fair share expectation for local churches.

David Stilgenbauer (clergy, Rivesville/Highlaws, Mon Valley District) moved to amend page 135, Line 39 to replace “full-time charges will be billed for at least one participant whether the Charge has a participant in HealthFlex or not” with “full-time charges will be billed for at least one participant if they have a participant in the HealthFlex program.” It was seconded. He spoke in favor of the amendment.

Clare Sulgit (clergy, St. Marys, Northern District) asked what the financial implications would be if the amendment were passed.

Jamion Wolford (lay equalization, Treasurer and Benefits Officer, Little Kanawha District) said that there are approximately 80 full-time charges that are not participating in the healthcare program. The effect would be that the overall cost could not be spread out among all charges. He said that the amendment would also create an impediment to appointment making.

Jane Arnold (lay, Capon Bridge, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against the amendment.

Joe Hill (clergy, Nine Rivers District Superintendent) asked, if the amendment passes, would the current proposal allow the 2024 budget to be presented as prepared. Jamion Wolford said that charges providing insurance would bear a greater burden of the amounts needed to sustain the insurance program.

Joseph Kenaston (clergy, Forrest Burdette, Nine Rivers District) spoke against the amendment.

John Langenstein (clergy, Northview, Northern District) spoke against the amendment because the part-time appointments would greatly benefit from the apportionment reduction.

Robert Baer, Jr. (clergy, Peters Valley, Southern District) called the question on everything before the conference.

Call for question was supported.

The Stilgenbauer amendment was not supported.

Resolution **BOP Health Insurance Funding Transition** was supported. *See Resolution One in Section VI of the Journal.*

Dustin McCune moved the report and recommendations included in the Pensions report. This included the resolution **Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the West Virginia Annual Conference**. *See Resolution Two in Section VI of the Journal.*

Deborah Shaffer (lay equalization, First Parkersburg, Little Kanawha District) expressed concern for clergy and asked what happens if benefits are not available.

Jamion Wolford responded that the Board of Pensions, along with the Cabinet and CFA, are working to help churches make the transition as costs may increase. A grant program for churches during the three years of transition will be available. He made himself available to answer specific questions.

Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Southern District) asked for an explanation of the Medicare Part D “Donut Hole.” Jamion Wolford suggested asking Wespeth. He said that Medicare was on a different calendar than the insurance program which causes some confusion.

Entire report was supported.

**EQUITABLE COMPENSATION:** Michael Atkinson (clergy, First Clarksburg, Northern District, Chair of Equitable Comp) presented the report of the Equitable Compensation Team. The recommended base compensation was \$42,000 for Category I, \$40,000 for Category II, and \$39,000 for Category III, an increase of \$3,000 in each category from the 2023 minimum compensation.

Michael Ludle (lay equalization, Young Adult, Nine Rivers District) moved to amend the recommendation by adding “until January 2030” after “Beginning in January 2024.” Scott Sears (clergy, First Huntington, Nine Rivers District) raised a point of order as to whether this would bind future Annual Conferences. After consideration, Bishop Steiner Ball ruled that it would and so the amendment was out of order. Michael Atkinson said that the committee had heard the request and would take it into consideration.

Harold George (clergy, Open Door Ministries, Potomac Highlands District) asked how much these increases would increase pension costs. Jamion Wolford (lay equalization, Treasurer and Benefits Officer, Little Kanawha District) said it would increase costs for pension by \$480 per year. Harold George spoke against the recommended increases in Base Compensation.

Julie Davis (clergy, Otterbein Elkins, MonValley District) spoke in favor of the recommendations.

The report, including the minimum base compensation recommendations, was approved.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES: Judy Raines (lay equalization, Chair of Global Ministries, Southern District) celebrated the ministries of our seven mission projects (Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries in South Charleston, Heart and Hand House in Phillipi, House of the Carpenter, Scott's Run Settlement House, Tyrand Cooperative Parish, and Upshur Parish House); Burlington Family Ministries; New Vision Depot; Parish Development Teams; Disaster Ministries; Health Ministries; Immigrant and Refugee Ministries; Volunteers in Mission and Disability Ministries. She highlighted the Celebration of Mission Events held throughout the conference. There will be tables with information available in the tent outside during the lunch break. A video was shown of the West Virginia Global Ministries work.

Bishop Steiner Ball asked the mission directors to stand as Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered prayer for them and their work.

NOMINATIONS: Lauren Godwin (clergy, Grace Keyser, Potomac Highlands District) shared the work of the Nominations Team, offering thanks to Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary. New nominations were included in the reports of Global Ministries and Campus Ministries. In addition, there were nominations of conference trustees, West Virginia Wesleyan trustees, the new Nominations Team, the new conference secretary, and district committees.

Michael Atkinson asked to clarify the terms for David Young, a new Wesleyan trustee. He is in the entering class of trustees.

Nominations were approved and can be found in Section 2 of this *Journal*.

RECOGNITION: Bishop Steiner Ball recognized Judi Kenaston who retires as Conference Secretary after serving for 21 years. Judi has been serving as the Chief Connectional Ministries Officer of the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church since January. She will continue in that role. Bishop Steiner Ball's citation recognized that her attention to the details of preparing, assisting, and record keeping never caused her to lose sensitivity for the unique concern of each person. She also highlighted her work with clergy families in their times of loss and her diligent work with the Nominations Committee. A video highlighting the years that she had served was shared with the conference.

Bishop Steiner Ball presented her with a book, Conference Secretaries in West Virginia Methodism from 1848-2023, prepared by Paula McGrew, which detailed the conference secretaries from 1848-2023. She also gave her a plate of West Virginia glass and a gift certificate.

Judi Kenaston acknowledged the bishops, directors of connectional ministries, conference staff, and others she has worked with, and thanked the conference for the opportunity to serve both in the conference and the general church. She thanked her family for their support.

RECOGNITION OF CERTIFIED LAY MEMBERS: Kristi Wilkerson (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Greenbrier Wesleyan District) introduced the Conference Lay Ministry Team.

Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Nine Rivers District) introduced the newly certified laypersons. Certified Lay Ministers: Pam Braden, Eldon Callen, Krista Cather, Lou Costanzo, Andrew Fowler, Greg Hicks, Roy McNemar, Diann Nickerson, Robbie Parsons, James Rogers, and Linda Summers; CLM Specializations in Congregational Care: Betty Ann Miskowiec and Sam Colvin; Certified Lay Speaker: Pam Braden.

Certified Lay Servants: Charlie Bourque, Anthony Browning, Becky Browning, Joe Burdette, Hobart Butler, Eldon Callen, Donna Crane, Robert Elliot, Eva Sue Guthrie, Barbara Hale, Robin Holstein, Autumn Hopkins, Art Lambert, Nancy Lemon, Ronald Lemon, Chad Lusk, Diann Nickerson, Jean Ann McCoy, Loren Mundstock, Tyler Riggins, Cynthia Rumberg, Heidi Schmidt, Rhonda Lynn Stewart, Peter Tabor, Larry Trogdon, and Penny Watson.

Bishop Steiner Ball offered a prayer for all the laypersons who have been certified this year and previously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bishop Steiner Ball announced that after lunch, laity and tellers should arrive promptly in order to receive voting devices. Clergy who are not tellers should arrive by 1:30 and come in quietly because voting will be taking place.

Judi Kenaston announced that a key card to a hotel has been turned in. She pointed out the pages in the Conference Workbook to prepare for voting for a delegate. She highlighted the order form for ordering additional *Journals*.

Grace Langenstein (clergy, Gateway, MonValley District, Member of Program Committee) announced that lost and found items could be found at the desk in the narthex. The Retiree Luncheon will be held in the Dining Hall and other meals will be served in the Social Hall.

The conference sang “Happy Birthday” to John Bruce (clergy, Mathias, Potomac Highlands District).

PRAYER: Angela Gay Kinkead (clergy, Elizabeth Memorial, Nine Rivers District) offered a closing prayer.

**Friday, June 9, 2023**  
**Afternoon 1:00 p.m.**

Dan Stokes, Music Director, led the session with the singing of “*How Great is Our God.*”

The afternoon session opened with only the laity present, assisted by tellers.

ELECTIONS: The Conference Secretary explained the voting procedure for electing one additional layperson to the General and Jurisdictional delegation for the postponed 2020 General Conference and electronic voting devices were distributed to all laypersons.

A representative from the Vistacom company explained how the voting devices work. A test ballot was taken. Bishop Steiner Ball asked Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Nine Rivers District) to pray before the ballot was taken.

Ballot #1 was taken.

Dan Stokes led those present in the singing of “*Spirit of the Living God*” while waiting for the results.

There were 324 votes cast; 163 votes needed for election. There was no election. Those receiving votes were read.

Ballot #2 was taken.

There were 317 votes cast; 159 votes needed for election. There was no election. Those receiving votes were read.

Clergy were invited back into the session.

Kristi Wilkerson (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Greenbrier Wesleyan District) asked who was remaining on the delegation and who has withdrawn.

Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Nine Rivers District) responded that the delegation was printed on page 20 of the Conference Workbook and the laity who have left the delegation are listed on the handout sheet for the laity.

Ken Willard (lay equalization, Director of Congregational Vitality, Nine Rivers District) withdrew his name from the nominations.

Jake Henley (lay equalization, Youth Coordinator, Nine Rivers District) asked for a moment of personal privilege to remind the conference that several of those who were no longer on the ballot were young people and encouraged the laity to be mindful of the need to have younger representation.

The bishop invited the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation to come forward and Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, MonValley District Superintendent) introduced the delegation and explained that clergy Mary Ellen Finegan and Sharletta Green and laity Erin Sears Lea, Royce Lyden, and Bree Moll have withdrawn from the delegation.

**LAITY ADDRESS:** Kristi Wilkerson (lay equalization, Conference Lay Leader, Greenbrier Wesleyan District) presented the laity address. She began by inviting all laity to attend the retreat with the bishop, We are a Work in Progress – a Study of Philippians and Colossians, to be held August 18-19, 2023 at the Summersville Arena and Conference Center.

The address centered on the theme “It’s good to go where everybody knows your name.” She highlighted churches throughout the conference who are reaching out to the community in various ways. Knowing someone’s name is how we cultivate relationships that lead to deepened faith commitment.

**DENMAN AWARDS:** Ken Willard (lay equalization, Director of Congregational Vitality, Nine Rivers District) announced the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. Kevin Yates from Fourth Avenue UMC in Huntington drives the church van to transport persons in local addiction recovery homes for worship and other church events. He uses the travel time as a way to both develop relationships and to share his faith and testimony with others. He is open with his own journey of recovery and has become a mentor in faith to many of the men and women he transports.

The second recipient was Robert Fulton (clergy, Hamlin, Nine Rivers District). Bob has focused his ministry on reaching new people with the Good News of the Gospel,

including with parking lot worship services, Upward sports in the church gymnasium, engaging in online worship, and hospitality focused on those who are new to church.

**ONE MATTERS AWARD:** The One Matters Award was presented to Jordan Chapel in the Greenbrier Wesleyan District. The congregation had five baptisms in 2022 and four of them were over the age of 13. They averaged about 30 people in worship; 30 more worshipping online and had 15 first-time guests last year. They also had 14 professions of faith through confirmation. The award includes a \$1,000 check.

## BREAK

**YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Shea James (clergy, Director of Young Disciples, Nine Rivers District) introduced Caroline Nichols (lay equalization, CCYM Co-Chair, Northern District). Caroline celebrated the return of Fall Workshop where her co-chair, Katie Howard, preached. She thanked the conference for their support of youth activities.

Lauren Shanholtzer (lay equalization, Co-Coordinator of Youth Ministries, MonValley District) announced plans for Youth 2023 which will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, in July.

Jake Henley (lay equalization, Co-Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Nine Rivers District) shared plans for Fall Workshop, November 10-12 at Jackson's Mill.

Lauren Shanholtzer announced the ice cream social for the evening. She announced that if the youth meet their goal of \$1,500, then Shea James, Lauren Shanholtzer, and Chip Bennett will become human banana splits.

Shea James introduced Louisa Copenhaver who is the new Camp Director for Spring Heights. Louisa thanked the volunteers for helping prepare for the camping season. She invited conference members to volunteer at the camp or host a DaySpring Camp.

Mark Stotler (lay equalization, Chair of Campus Ministry, Nine Rivers District) and Shea James introduced the campus ministers and shared some of the activities held on campuses this year: Benjamin Wells (Marshall University), Diann Nickerson (West Liberty University), Jonathan Acord (West Virginia Wesleyan College), Lauren Godwin (Potomac State College), and Maria Wiblin (Fairmont State University).

**FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD:** Mark Stotler presented the Francis Asbury Award to Rev. Angela Gay Kinkead for her many years serving as Dean of the Chapel at West Virginia Wesleyan College (2001 – 2015). Her nurturing care helped students discover their call and understand personal calls to ministry. Angela Gay is retiring this year.

**JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY:** Martha Hill (lay equalization, Chair of Justice and Advocacy, Nine Rivers District) shared the work of the Justice and Advocacy Team. In 2022, the committee submitted two resolutions which were approved by the Annual Conference. The Clean Drinking Water resolution resulted in training materials that were distributed

during Lent and are still available. The Gun Violence resolution has served as a prototype for other conferences and was shared with elected officials. Gun Violence prevention is a priority for the General Board of Church and Society. This year, members of the Conference Committee on Religion and Race, Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), and others gathered in the Potomac Highlands District to learn more about the conference's historic African-American congregations.

B.A. Miskowiec presented a quilt to the Annual Conference. The quilt, created by quilters in the conference, centers the sacraments of communion and baptism and is given to be used as a spiritual formation and educational tool. Bishop shared that the quilt is a reminder of the work left to be done to invite all people to the table. She dedicated the quilt with prayer.

**BALLOT #3:** Prior to the ballot, Bishop Steiner Ball reminded the conference that Ken Willard and Donna Galloway have withdrawn their names. Ballot #3 was taken.

**RULES:** Bishop Steiner Ball summarized action the conference took on Thursday as they looked at the rule concerning printed materials and deadlines for resolutions to be submitted. The Rules Committee had considered an amendment by Stacy Tritt striking "submitted 90 days in advance" and replacing with "submitted and made available seven days prior to Annual Conference."

Jarrold Caltrider (clergy, Dunbar, Nine Rivers District, Rules Committee Chair) called on Krysta Rexrode Wolfe to share the perspective of the Program Committee as to the change for permitting resolutions to be submitted seven days prior to Annual Conference.

Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Nine Rivers District, Program Chair) explained the current way the resolutions are submitted, including current deadlines for printing in the Conference Workbook and distribution at check-in.

Jarrold Caltrider said that the Rules Committee recommends against the amendment.

Mark Flynn (clergy, Duffey Memorial/Bass, Potomac Highlands District) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Jake Henley (lay equalization, Co-Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Nine Rivers District) spoke against the amendment.

Stacy Tritt (clergy, Mt. Pleasant and Westover, MonValley District) asked whether the proposed rule would only apply to printing of the resolutions. She asked if the rule change would have prevented the resolutions that were being considered at this session to be considered.

Krysta Rexrode Wolfe responded that there are currently two deadlines for submission of the resolution: one for printing in the Workbook and one for submissions after the first date. The third way to submit a resolution is by a vote to suspend the rules and allow consideration.

Jeff Allen (clergy, Executive Officer of West Virginia Council of Churches, Nine Rivers District) asked what the second deadline was for the submission of resolutions.

Krysta responded that the current rule allows for submissions by June 1. The proposed rule would eliminate the June 1 option.

Jeff Allen spoke in favor of the amendment.

Michael Rexroad (clergy, Central Huntington, Nine Rivers District) offered an amendment to the amendment to strike “resolutions would be considered only if submitted 90 days in advance.”

John Langenstein (clergy, North View, Northern District) asked whether the proposed rule affected anything other than the resolutions. Jarrod said it did not.

Jane Ellen Nickell (clergy, Retired, Greenbrier Wesleyan District) asked whether the amendment to the amendment would cause a problem with the later language that stated that items should be submitted two weeks in advance.

Michael Rexroad clarified that his intention was to remove language which would prevent resolutions from being considered.

Loretta Isaiah (clergy, Little Kanawha District Superintendent) called the question on the amendment to the amendment. The call to end debate was supported.

The amendment to the amendment was not supported.

Richard Bush (lay, St. Paul’s, Little Kanawha District) moved to refer the rule to the Rules Committee to write a rule that would present what Krysta Rexrode Wolfe explained with the three deadlines. The motion was seconded. Bishop Steiner Ball explained that the process that Krysta explained is the exact process that is currently being used and that in order to obtain that result, the rule could be voted down.

Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Southern District) stated that in order to refer the motion, Rule I.2.A, which states the process for rule changes, would need to be suspended.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Huntington, Nine Rivers District) stated that he had seconded the motion understanding that the motion would bring back a rule that is formatted to make the deadlines easily understood with three deadlines.

Bishop Steiner Ball stated that the proposed rule did not contain the second deadline.

Connie Weaver (lay, Lewis, Little Kanawha District) stated that the deadlines that were stated were actually from different parts of the rules and so could not be easily put in the same place.

Bishop Steiner Ball stated that the conference must first take action to suspend the rules with the purpose of referring the rule to the Rules Committee. The suspension of the rules was not supported.

Melissa Paugh (clergy, Hoyes-McHenry, Potomac Highlands District) asked if someone had moved to suspend the rules. Bishop Steiner Ball stated that it was covered in our rules.

Loretta Isaiah called for the question on everything before the conference. The call for suspending debate was supported.

The amendment was not supported.

Proposed rule change was supported.

Jarrod Caltrider moved the adoption of the entire Rules report. It was adopted.

BALLOT #3: Ballots cast 309; Needed to elect: 155; There was no election. Names of those receiving votes were read.

BALLOT #4 was taken.

MISSION AWARD: Judy Raines (lay equalization, Chair of Global Ministries, Southern District) announced the second annual Mission Award. It was given to Cornerstone Ministries Charge, MonValley District. The charge has aided two Ukrainian families in settling, using parsonages that were not being used to house them and meeting other needs for them.

Sarita Robinson (clergy, Cornerstone Ministries, MonValley District) introduced one of the families that has been resettled and thanked the conference for their support.

Judy Raines introduced new hires for the conference mission projects: Michael Richard is the director of Scott's Run Settlement House in Osage. Michael began his work in July 2022.

She thanked Rev. David Stilgenbauer for the wonderful work he had done to see Disaster Response, New Vision Depot, and his own Volunteers in Mission work completed. She welcomed Rev. Jim McCune who is the new Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. Jim McCune shared his enthusiasm for the work that is going on. He gave ball caps to the bishops. The Scouts who are coming to the Jamboree in the Southern District will be creating 5,000 flood buckets.

Judy Raines celebrated the work of Brenda Hunt at the Heart and Hand House, Inc. and invited her forward to receive a plaque of recognition.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked the Global Ministries Team for their work spreading the Gospel through the hands and feet of willing servant leaders.

BALLOT #4 Total ballots cast 306; Needed for election 154; Kim Matthews was elected with 185 votes.

Ballot devices were collected by the tellers.

#### COURSE OF STUDY COMPLETION

Cheryl George (clergy, Main Street / St. Paul, Potomac Highlands District, Registrar for Local Pastors) celebrated those who are in the Course of Study program. Kevin Gillespie completed the COS this year. She invited others who have completed the Course of Study to stand and be recognized.

Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Ministry Formation, Nine Rivers District) recognized those who have completed a milestone in their ministerial journeys.

Jeremy Daniels (Asbury Theological Seminary); Grace Langenstein (Wesley Theological Seminary); Nelson Ngongo (Drew Theological Seminary); Michael Rexroad (Asbury Seminary); and Sarita Robinson (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) have finished their M.Div. degrees.

Monica Salvo (Asbury Theological Seminary) completed her Master of Arts degree. Those who were currently in seminary were asked to stand and be recognized.

Bishop Steiner Ball prayed for all those who were furthering their education. She asked the conference to welcome Nelson Ngongo, who will be serving in the Northern District. He comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bishop Steiner Ball announced the Corn Hole Tournament to be held this evening. She thanked Bishop Moore-Koikoi for attending Annual Conference for the first two days.

## RETIREMENT RECOGNITION AND HISTORIC QUESTIONS

4:30 p.m.

The afternoon worship service began with the Historic Questions for those clergy candidates being commissioned and ordained. The candidates being commissioned were Robert Dean Cole, John Stephen Langenstein, and Lawrence Wesley Rebelo. Bradley G. Davis was the candidate for ordination as an Elder and Betsy M. Evans was the candidate for ordination as a Deacon. The gathering music was *Shine, Jesus, Shine* and *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. The Postlude was *God of Grace and God of Glory*. The Choral Offertory was *Creation Will Be at Peace* by Anna Laura Page. The hymns were *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, *Blest Be the God of Israel*, *Ye Servants of God*, *Rejoice in God's Saints*, and *I Love to Tell the Story*. Dan Stokes was the Music Director and Organist. The Scripture was John 15:9-17. The Retirement Recognition included giving of the retirement pins and certificates by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Judi M. Kenaston, Conference Secretary. The retirees were also given the opportunity to participate in videos about their ministries. Brief clips were offered during the service and the longer interviews were available on the conference website. The retirees recognized were Dina Andrews, Carl Beatty, Saundra Boley, William Brown, Margaret Carr, Marybeth Chien, Johnny Conrad, Destry Daniels, Teresa Deane, April Forkey, Karen Frank, Robert Fulton, Jeff Godwin, Larry Hakes, Paul Helmick, Aaron Himes, Angela Gay Kinkead, Thomas McDowell, David Merryman, Mary Nolte, Jesse Pope, Alan Price, W. Ford Price, Ken Ramsey, Stephen Paul Rector, Rosemary Saunders, Jonathan Smith, James Sprague, Bonnie Starkey, Terry Stone, Lisa Taylor, Carl Van Stavern, George Webb, C. Phillip Wilson, Gwen Wolford, and David Yanero. In addition to the bishop, conference secretary, and musicians, the service included Scott Sears, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Ellis Conley and Jim McCune as liturgists.

**Saturday Morning, June 10, 2023****8:30 a.m.**

TEACHING TIME: Sue Nilson Kibbey invited the conference to delve deeper into prayer. Churches across the conference will join in the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative journey this fall.

**Saturday Morning, June 10, 2023****10:00 a.m.**

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Gathering music was provided on the organ by Dan Stokes. The gathering music included *Hymn of Promise* by Natalie Sleeth and an arrangement of *Amazing Grace* by Raymond Haan. The Conference Choir, under the direction of Dan Stokes, provided special music. The Offertory anthem was *I Will Arise* from Brookfield Press.

The preacher was Rev. Jacob Steele, pastor of Christ UMC, Wheeling. His sermon was based on Acts 9:36-43. Additional Scripture in the service was Revelation 21:1-7.



Names of those who had died in the 2022-2023 conference year were read by Judi M. Kenaston, Conference Secretary. A gift was presented to each family present at the Bishop's Luncheon following the service.

(Clergy): Gary Beale; Earl Bible; Arthur "Gene" Bourgeau; Verlin Eugene Butcher; John Casto; I. Joanne Horne Clevenger; Earl Cochran; Michael Coleman; Jay Paul Cook; Herbert R. Coston; James E. Dailey; Sandra Kay Firth; Danny Fleming; Irene Ford; Frank "Tex" Frye; Allen Ernest Johnson; Kenneth Kendall; Nancy Sue Killingsworth; Mary Virginia "Ginnie" Lowther; Robert Mann; Betty Helen McBee; Carroll L. McCauley; Dallas Peyton, Sr.; Kelly Simmons; Samuel Starling; Conrad Tenney; Larry Allen Walker; Nancy Hager White; Billy Reed Wickline; and John Wildman.

(Spouses): Donna Allen; George W. Bennett; Roberta Lee Vincent Butcher; James C. Finegan; Linda Fleming Glotfelty; Paula Jo Dundas Hamrick; Betty Sue Heavner; Eugeanie "Jeanie" Malick; Merdith Marker; Nancy Carolyn Merrifield; Beverly J. Warner; and Debra Lynn Wilson.

(Surviving Spouses): Katherine Jean Hughes; Helen "Petie" Shafer Boone; Verlie S. Conrad; Anna Edgell; Pattie Jewell Helmick; Mavis Inez Lolley Martin; Dorothy M. Morrison; Molly Pauley; Genesta Perry; Merle Evelyn Shaffer-Havens; Dorothy Christine Turner-Lacy; and Betty Jean "BJ" Wood.

**Saturday Afternoon, June 10, 2023**  
**1:00 p.m.**

The daughters of Genesta Perry, who was recognized at the Memorial Service, opened the afternoon session with music. Genesta, Mary, Angela, and Estella are members of Bethel UMC in Archdale, North Carolina.

STATE OF THE CHURCH: Bishop Steiner Ball shared her reflections on the State of the Church in the West Virginia Conference and throughout the Connection. She explained what is happening with church closures, disaffiliations, and separating from The United Methodist Church. West Virginia has not had any churches leave through disaffiliation. There have been about 50 congregations who have made a decision to close. About half of these had come to the end of their life cycle. Some other congregations have separated to become independent congregations or united with another denomination. She thanked Rev. Melissa Shortridge who has gone into each congregation that is discussing closing so that all churches receive consistent information about closure and disaffiliation. She called on the Annual Conference to continue showing love to all, despite the "messiness" in the church. She reminded the conference of the need to make sure that our actions share the Word of God, in the midst of the messiness. She said, "There are people that live and continue to dwell in deep pain and deep hurt, and they need the comfort of Christ. They need the healing of Christ. They need the hope of Christ, and if we pause our ministry over some church messiness, then there are people who are not getting the hope and healing light and life that they need."

TRUSTEES: Randy Flanagan (clergy, Retired, President of the Board of Trustees, Nine Rivers District) moved approval of the Trustees report and the three included resolutions:

***Closed Properties and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same; Closed Church – Real and Personal Property Funds; and Unlawful Appropriation of Church Property.***

Janet Harman (clergy, Retired, Nine Rivers District) asked why the funds from GlenWood Park have not been released and what will happen to the funds when they are released.

Randy Flanagan responded that the process has been held up by the state procedures which require the state to sign off on all tax responsibilities. The hope is that when the funds are released, they will be deposited in the Foundation. A committee has been formed that will bring a recommendation to the next Annual Conference.

Gina Palmer (lay, Blackwater, Potomac Highlands District) asked why the resolution on Closed Churches does not list “net” proceeds in the fourth “be it resolved.”

Jamion Wolford (lay equalization, Treasurer and Benefits Officer, Little Kanawha District) responded that all the costs are net proceeds in the way the trustees operate.

Warren Beam (lay equalization, Greenbrier Wesleyan District) asked what is the purpose of the Unlawful Appropriation of Church Property resolution. Randy Flanagan responded that it allowed the trustees to take action between annual conference sessions to protect the property. Bishop Steiner Ball gave an example of a time that the resolution allowed the trustees to verify ownership of a property.

Trustees report and resolutions were approved (*See Resolutions Three, Four, and Five in Section VI of the Journal.*)

**GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES:** Mary Lou Greenwood Boice, Director of the Advance from the General Board of Global Ministries, celebrated the work of our conference Global Ministries. She commented that mission and ministry are the responsibility of the whole church. She presented a certificate of appreciation for the Annual Conference and recognized the grants available for helping with placements of migrants. Global Ministries is focused in four priority areas: Missionary Service; Evangelism and Church Revitalization; Humanitarian Relief and Recovery; and Global Health. She celebrated the ministry of UMCOR and their cooperation with Disaster Response Coordinators, including Jim McCune. UMCOR is currently in 115 countries, including Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria. The General Board of Global Ministries is currently holding consultations around the world with those involved in mission.

**ELECTION OF CONFERENCE SECRETARY:** Bishop Steiner Ball moved the nomination of Sarah Estep as the conference secretary beginning July 1. Sarah currently serves as the administrative assistant for the MonValley District and will take on additional responsibilities as the conference secretary. She was elected.

**NEW PLACES, NEW PEOPLE:** Ken Willard (lay equalization, Director of Congregational Vitality, Nine Rivers District) and Joe Webb (clergy, New Wineskins, Little Kanawha District) shared what is happening in the area of New Places - New People, including the Fresh Expression movement which seeks to build faith communities where people are already gathering around shared interests. They highlighted the New Places – New People workshops. There is an event coming on November 10-11 in Pittsburgh in collaboration with the Susquehanna and Western PA Conferences called Level Up! Fresh

Expressions experts Michael Beck and Luke Edwards and church planting specialist, Rachel Gilmore, will be present. There are also classes on Portico and more information on the conference website.

**CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM:** Members of the Core Leadership Team explained their work through a fun presentation in the format of the “Jeopardy” game. Julie Tennant, Jeff Matheny, Barbara Hale, Larry Buckland, and Matthew Paugh entertained the conference while sharing their work. The categories were Core Leadership Basics, The Five “Cs”, Effective Meetings, Ministry Teams, Nonpotent Potables, and Rhyme Time. The participants were circuit-riding bishop, Francis Asbury, trailblazing preacher, Jarena Lee, and Anglican cleric, revivalist, and theologian, John Wesley. Some of the jeopardy answers highlighted the purpose of the Core Leadership Team, which is to align, strengthen, and equip leaders and ministry teams of the Annual Conference. The team uses appreciative inquiry which focuses on leveraging a team’s core strengths, rather than seeking to overcome or minimize its weaknesses. The final jeopardy answer was “three verbs to describe the work of the Core Leadership Team as we support the Annual Conference in its mission to raise up and equip passionate ministry leaders and teams who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The question was “What is discover, develop and deploy?” which is the conference mission.

The Core Leadership Team coordinates the work of the annual conference ministry teams.

**CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY:** Ken Willard (lay equalization, Director of Congregational Vitality, Nine Rivers District) presented the Congregational Vitality report. Cindy Boggs (clergy, Northern District), Chairperson of the Congregational Vitality Team, was not present due to illness. Ken Willard asked the conference to wave to her as she watched the streaming. The team has used John 1:14: “*The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood,*” (The Message). The Team has been busy equipping laity and clergy leaders and supporting our local churches. They partnered with the cabinet to provide pastoral transition support to both pastors and congregations through Leaving Well and Beginning Well workshops, transition cohorts, on-boarding, coaching, and new Portico courses. They have issued grants for 23 churches for over \$70,000 in areas such as hospitality, new ministry opportunities, and more. The team has partnered with the Western Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Conferences on the four-day “Rooted” trip to learn about new ministries from practitioners around the country. They brought Luke Edwards and Michael Beck to the conference to share key learnings from their new books. They held an on-site consultation at Spruce Street UMC in Morgantown. Jason Moore has been doing a cohort with churches in our conference to support their efforts in the area of online worship and discipleship. Kay Kotan came to teach a large group of laity and pastors about Simplified, Accountable Structure. There is a six-week lay academy Zoom study on strategic ministry planning.

Ellis Conley (clergy, Retired, Nine Rivers District) shared about the culture of coaching for both clergy and laity. Twenty-one pastors were invited to participate in transitional cohorts led by Jim McCune or Ken Willard. Fifty pastors are working with coaches. There is a list of available coaches listed on the conference website.

Ken Willard announced that Sue Nilson Kibbey's work on Dynamite Prayer will be available soon on the conference website.

**RESOLUTION:** Michael Burge (clergy, Stealey – Temple Clarksburg, Northern District, Resolutions Team of Program Committee) moved the resolution **Congregations Engaging in Partnerships with Their Local Schools**, found on page 139 of the Conference Workbook. The resolution urges congregations to seek out and actively engage with their local schools in positive and constructive efforts to improve academics, provide basic human needs, and support emotional well-being. The resolution was approved. (*See Resolution Six in Section VI of the Journal.*)

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION:** Kim Matthews (lay equalization, Vice-President of the UM Foundation, Nine Rivers District) celebrated the grant program of the Foundation, which has given over \$1,760,000 in grants. This year the Foundation has given \$123,000 in grants. She announced a new grant program designated by the donor to be the state's first fund for reparations to those harmed by slavery and racism. A steering committee has been established to set guidelines for the funds.

The Clean Water Account provides funds to help bring clean water to communities in West Virginia.

The Foundation is sponsoring the Bishop's Chalice Challenge to raise funds for the Endowment for Religious and Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College. The event will be held at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Hurricane on July 17, 2023. The 2023 Faith and Generosity conference will be held at Pipestem State Park, September 25-27. The presenter will be Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems.

Jeff Taylor (clergy, President of the UM Foundation, Nine Rivers District) introduced board members who were present at Annual Conference. He also introduced staff members Kim Matthews (Vice-President), Susannah Carpenter (CFO), Allie Sears (Communication Specialist), Becky Parkins (Accounting and Communications Assistant), and Hannah Lamb (summer intern). He shared reasons why churches should invest in the Foundation, such as competitive returns and low fees; they give back to the conference; they are non-profit, a ministry of service; and they make sustainable investments with Christian values.

## BREAK

**PORTICO:** Ken Willard (lay equalization, Co-Director of Connectional Ministries, Nine Rivers District) gave an update on the Portico online learning platform. There are currently over 200 courses to choose from in Portico. Other conferences have partnered with the West Virginia Conference to access this learning opportunity.

**STAFF RECOGNITION:** Bonnie MacDonald (clergy, Director of Leadership Formation and Co-Director of Connectional Ministries, Nine Rivers District) and Jamion Wolford (lay equalization, Director of Administrative Services, Little Kanawha District) introduced and thanked the Connectional Ministries Staff; Conference Administrative Staff, and District Administrative Staff.

COMMUNICATIONS: Deborah Coble (clergy, Director of Communications, Nine Rivers District) introduced the Communications Team and highlighted the variety of talents that they bring to the conference work as volunteers. Three persons were newly certified United Methodist Communicators: Todd Hurley, John Langenstein, and Caitlin Ware.

Audrey Stanton-Smith, who is on the communications team, is currently serving as the editor of the Response Magazine for the United Women in Faith

Brad Bennett was nominated by the Communications Team to receive the Helping Hands Award of Excellence, which recognizes an employee or volunteer in communications throughout the Connection who is committed to best practices in communication as they assist the church in making disciples for Jesus Christ. Brad was the first person in the United Methodist Connection to receive this award.

CABINET PROPERTY REPORT: Scott Ferguson (clergy, Secretary of the Cabinet, Potomac Highlands District Superintendent) presented the Cabinet Property Report which appears in Section IV of the *Journal*. He moved Section 10 Subsection b; Section 11 Subsection a and all of Section 12 for approval. They were approved. He highlighted the churches that have closed this year and read the names of each church that has closed aloud, before offering a prayer. He moved Section 10, Subsection f, item 4 for approval. It was approved. He moved the adoption of the entire report. It was adopted.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Jeff Porter (lay equalization, Chair of CFA, Nine Rivers District) moved items 3 – 16 of the report found on page 140 of the Conference Workbook, which included the Special Sundays and the resolution **Parsonage Allowances - Clergy in Extension Ministries**. These items were approved. (*See Resolution Seven in Section VI of the Journal.*)

He highlighted the summary of the 2024 budget found on page 149 in the Conference Workbook. The recommended budget is \$578,803 less than the 2023 budget which is a decrease of 4.86%. Most of the change is accomplished by removing part of the active health insurance funding from the budget, which does not eliminate the cost, but realigns the anticipated cost from the Conference budget to full-time charges.

He moved lines 1 and 2 of the budget. It was approved.

He moved approval of the entire report. It was approved.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Jeff and the entire council for their diligent work with the cabinet and other conference leaders.

APPORTIONMENT REVIEW: Andrew Tennant (clergy, Kenova, Nine Rivers District) brought the report of the Apportionment Review Team which was requested by the 2022 Annual Conference. The committee was made up of members of CFA, the cabinet, and laity. They were tasked with looking at the current formula that is used to calculate Fair Share apportionments for local churches. They spoke with a variety of other annual conferences. They determined that now was not the right time to change the formula for apportionments in the conference. The team learned that most other conferences do not apportion for health care. This information assisted the CFA and Board of Pensions in formulating the insurance recommendation.

RESOLUTIONS: Michael Burge (clergy, Stealey-Temple Clarksburg, Northern District, Resolutions Team of Program Committee) prepared to present the resolution *Regarding Faithfulness to the Book of Discipline* submitted by Sandy Rowland Binotto, Rev. Mark W. Flynn, Rachel M. Fulton, Rev. Dr. Robert P. Fulton, Rev. James P. Gray, Darol Kendrick, Katrina Napier, and Rev. Cindy Skinner.

POINT OF ORDER: Ken Krimmel (clergy, Oak Hill, Southern District) said that according to the rules passed yesterday, the conference would need to suspend rule B.IV.13 which was passed yesterday in order for it to be considered.

Monty Brown (clergy, Retired, Nine Rivers District) moved suspension of the rule B.IV.13, in order to consider the resolution, *Regarding Faithfulness to the Book of Discipline*.

Bishop Steiner Ball asked for the tellers to count a standing vote because it was difficult to determine if the two-thirds vote needed was achieved.

The counted vote was 184 for suspension and 148 against suspension of the rules. The number needed for a two-thirds majority was 222. The call for suspension of the rules was not sustained.

POINT OF ORDER: Bonnie Galloway (lay, Bruceton Mills, Potomac Highlands District) questioned whether the new rule was being read correctly because it states that items for action before the conference could be distributed at check-in and could be considered. The bishop said that resolutions were excluded from that part of the rule.

Scott Sears (clergy, First Huntington, Nine Rivers District) asked if all other resolutions that were considered since yesterday had been turned in within the 90-day period. Bishop Steiner Ball said that they had been.

Michael Rexroad (clergy, Central Huntington, Nine Rivers District) asked why the resolution was held to the end because he felt this was done in bad faith to keep the conference from debating the resolution.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE: Jenny Williams (clergy, Leave of Absence, MonValley District) stated that, in order to mitigate harm for members of the conference, there were supportive clergy available to speak with anyone in need.

BREAK

PRAYER: Bishop Steiner Ball offered prayer for the conference.

Krysta Rexrode Wolfe moved to reconsider the suspension of the rules because the resolution that was to be considered was submitted in good faith according to the rules that were in place at the time of submission.

Ashley Wood (lay, Trinity Beech Hill, Nine Rivers District) asked if the motion was in order. Bishop Steiner Ball said that it was.

Frank Shomo (clergy, Retired, Nine Rivers District) and Bev Jacobson (clergy, Retired, Potomac Highlands District) spoke against reconsideration.

James Pauley (clergy, Calvary, MonValley District) and Tom Matthews (clergy,

Bloomington and Swanton/Kitzmiller, Potomac Highlands District) spoke in favor of reconsideration.

Ted Heckert (lay equalization, Potomac Highlands District) called for the question. The call for the question was supported.

The bishop explained that a vote to reconsider would mean support for reconsidering the vote to suspend the rules in order to consider the resolution.

Wesley DeLeure (lay equalization, MonValley District) asked if the vote taken ended all the debate or just the debate on the reconsideration. Bishop Steiner Ball said that it ended debate on the reconsideration motion.

Motion to reconsider was not supported by a vote of 194 for and 201 opposed.

Bishop Steiner Ball asked the conference to continue praying for one another, to listen deeply to God and to each other, and to try to put the needs of others before their own needs.

Judi Kenaston (lay equalization, Conference Secretary, Nine Rivers District) moved the Consent Calendar that had been presented and amended on Thursday. It was adopted.

**PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:** Amy Shanholtzer (clergy, Dean of the Cabinet, MonValley District) recognized the bishop's spouse, the Rev. Dr. Barry Ball. She highlighted the milestones that he had accomplished since being a part of the Annual Conference, including earning a Doctorate in Ministry and retiring. Last summer he also became "Grandpa." She presented him with a Grandpa Shark t-shirt in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Sloane, last summer. She also presented Bishop Steiner Ball with a Grandma Shark t-shirt.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Krysta Rexrode Wolfe (clergy, Cross Lanes, Nine Rivers District, Chair of the Program Committee) thanked the staff and faculty at WVWC for hosting the conference; the Program Committee and those who worked on the worship subcommittee for the months of dedication they have given; Dan Stokes, from the Susquehanna Conference, who served as music director for the week; Lynn Frum and the golf cart drivers; Judi Kenaston and Jamion Wolford for their organization, patience, and ability to see the whole picture to keep the life of the Annual Conference moving all year long; Bonnie MacDonald and Ken Willard for their year-round guidance and direction; and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball for her leadership.

Bishop Steiner Ball thanked Krysta for her leadership.

Krysta Rexrode Wolfe moved adjournment following the conclusion of the Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination on Sunday morning. Motion was approved.

Announcements were made about returning nametag holders, availability of Appointment Lists, Sunday School, and details about the clergy procession for the Sunday Service.

**Sunday Morning, June 11, 2023**

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 Dan Stokes as organist and choir director. Gathering and recessional music was presented by the West Virginia Brass Quintet, comprised of Evan Beachy, Joel Cotter, David Porter, Sarah Plumley, and Andrew Scott. Hymns were *Crown Him with Many Crowns* and *Go to the World*. The Offertory Anthem was *The Great Commission* by Dan and Heidi Goeller and the Anthem was *Send Down the Fire* by Marty Haugen.

Bishop Steiner Ball's sermon, *How Beautiful Are Your Feet?*, was based on Romans 10:11-15.

Those persons who are newly ready to receive the license of local pastor were recognized: Kyle Ashley, Karen Frazier, Linda Friend, Robert Haynes, Sonya Hughes, Amy McNeil, Cindy Morgan-Roberts, Timothy Ours, Susan Pierce, Monica Salvo, Pamela Todd, Samuel Wigal, David Wilson, Timothy Wine, and Samuel Wigal.

Robert Dean Cole, John Stephen Langenstein, and Lawrence Wesley Rebelo were commissioned for the work of an elder.

Bradley G. Davis was ordained an elder and Betsy M. Evans was ordained a deacon.

Members of the bishop's Appointive Cabinet assisted in the Fixing of the 2023-2024 appointments.

Other participants in the service were Scott Sears, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Yvonne Harris, Vice Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Stephanie Bennett, Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Mike Estep, Chair of the Order of Elders; 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, Co-Director of Connectional Ministries and Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff; Ken Willard, Co-Director of Connectional Ministries and Director of Congregational Vitality; and Jamion Wolford, Treasurer, Benefits Officer, and Director of Administrative Services.

ADJOURNMENT: The 2023 Session of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was adjourned sine die.