

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

### DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
UNITED METHODISTS OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

May 19-21, 2019

Wildwood, NJ

Sunday, May 19, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

#### CLERGY SESSION

Bishop Schol began by leading the singing of 'Blessed Assurance' and then opened with a prayer. He reminded the clergy that there were two important rules to remember. First rule is to do the work of the church, and the second is to make sure that work gets done before dinner!

Rev. Dave Wiley made a motion to set the bar of Clergy Session. The motion passed.

Rev. Thomas Korkuch and Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty, both from the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the Board Report (Parts II-V of the Disciplinary Questions – 17-50a). As each question was presented, it was received and/or adopted, as action required.

At question number 17, Bishop Schol shared with the body what was needed if a church chose to disassociate with the UMC. First, the local church needs to hold a church conference and have a vote to disassociate which must have a two-thirds approval. Second, Trustees need to pay future pension liabilities, and, third, this must happen within three years, by 2023. The Conference will work with churches wanting to disaffiliate if that church affiliates with a Wesleyan church and/or a church affiliated with Wespath. Bishop Schol promised to help lead our Conference forward so that we can reach where we need to be to thrive.

The Board Report continued. During this time, the Candidates for Ordination were introduced and then led out of the room. Bishop asked for a vote to approve the candidates. They were approved unanimously. Similarly, the Candidates for Commissioning were introduced, led out of the room and Bishop Schol asked for a vote to approve the candidates. They were approved unanimously.

The names of the Clergy Saints were read. The retirees were introduced and invited forward. Rev. Gina Hendrickson offered a prayer for the retirees.

The Clergy Report in its entirety was presented for approval. The entire report was approved.

After the presentation of the report, Bishop Schol spoke to the body regarding Shared Ministries and Billables, explaining the dollar amount still owed to the conference. He also talked about the plan to turn this around over the next three years.

The 2020 General Conference delegates were introduced and given one minute each to speak to the body.

Bishop Schol encouraged all clergy to continue to move ministry forward and reach out to all those in our communities and thanked everyone for the work they do.

Bishop ended the session with a prayer and offered a grace before dinner.

#### LAITY SESSION

Marilyn Kinelski, Northern Shore District Lay Leader, opened the session with prayer and encouraged everyone to 'go with hope through hospitality'.

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Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed all and reminded the body that God has blessed us in many ways. Referring to the conference theme 'Rooted', she stated that we must be rooted in Christ to experience the fullness of God.

Ms. Williams spoke about a new lay leader education plan called the Lay Leadership Program 100, which will launch in September of this year. The goal of the program is to achieve growth in our churches. The program is looking to have one hundred clergy and one hundred lay leaders attend to learn how to make disciples, and transform lives and communities. The program will also offer a yearly calendar of programs to laity. She outlined in detail how this program would help laity understand God's word and share it with others. The program is meant to encourage lay leadership to grow and to make time for education.

George Lagos, Director of Lay Servant Ministry, came forward to speak about the lay servant ministries. He celebrated that there are over eleven hundred lay servants currently in our conference, and he announced a goal to double that number, noting that the basic and the advanced lay servant classes have had an increase in attendance over the past year. He also informed the body that the fall classes would focus on preaching, and that in 2020 there would be a new class on Transforming Evangelism. This year's pilot certified Lay Minister's class covered skills, leading and communication. George then asked all the district directors to stand and thanked them for all their work.

Kathy Schulz came forward and spoke about how the Lay Leadership Academy is for all leaders of the church. She distributed brochures to the body, explaining that they were available for churches.

The nominees for the General and Jurisdictional Conferences were introduced and each had one minute to speak to the body.

A video on Rise Against Hunger was presented. Following this, Judy DiCecco, Capital District Lay Leader, encouraged the body to help package thirty thousand meals while here.

Celebration videos were also shown, celebrating the work that laity is doing and reminding everyone that we are one body and one spirit.

Rachel Callender closed the session with prayer and gave the blessing for dinner.

### **Sunday, May 19, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **ORDINATION, COMMISSIONING AND RECOGNITION OF ORDERS SERVICE**

The Service for Ordination of Deacons and Elders with Commissioning and Recognition of Orders began with the song "We Need You Lord." Herb Carney, from the Lenni-Lenape Tribe, greeted the gathering and explained that Wildwood used to be Lenape land. The clergy processed in to "Joyful, Joyful".

At the Baptismal font Bishop Schol greeted the congregation with the words; "We gather like trees planted near streams of water. The roots of faithfulness have yielded the fruits we celebrate tonight'. After a song of affirmation, he opened with prayer.

Bishop Schol, Bishop Lyght and Bishop Johnson celebrated the Baptism of Elba Rose Pillot Stow, daughter of Rev. Jacqueline and Pedro Stow.

#### **Commissioned as Missionary**

Chun Grace Cho

The service moved into a time of Commissioning of a Missionary. Family and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands as the candidate was commissioned. Judy Chung and Rev.



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The service moved into the time of examination and ordination of the full member candidates. Family and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands as each candidate was ordained.

### **Ordained Elders**

Kaleigh Tomich Corbett	Jongin Lee
Blair Goold	Sarah Borgstrom Lee
Katelyn N. Hillis	Gabrielle Marie Martone
Jin Kook Kim	Myounghun Stephen Yun
Ben Lee	

Bishop Schol invited all who may have heard God's call to ministry while at the service to come forward and promised those newly commissioned or ordained would pray with them. He then offered a closing prayer and benediction, challenging the congregation with these words: "May you have enough fear to get your courage going."

**Monday, May 20, 2019, 8:00 a.m.**

### **OPENING**

The Conference praise band opened the session with songs of praise.

### **BALLOTING**

Megan McKay instructed the clergy on how to use the electronic voting handsets. Two practice votes were taken.

### **PRAYER VIDEO**

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, from the Virginia Conference, offered a prayer, via video, for the beginning of voting.

### **VOTING**

The first clergy ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 284, Number of Valid Votes: 258, Number needed to elect: 130; Persons elected: None

The Second Clergy ballot was taken. # Votes: 289; Number of Valid Votes: 261, Number needed for election: 131; Person elected: Drew Dyson

### **WORSHIP**

The conference praise band opened worship with the song, "Te Amo." Jacob Greco, one of the conference youth, led the call to worship and opening prayer.

### **SETTING THE BAR**

Conference secretary, Rev. Dave Wiley made a motion to set the bar of the conference. The motion passed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dave Wiley made the necessary announcements.

### **EPISCOPAL ADDRESS**

Bishop Schol began his address by telling about the early Methodist history in NJ and how it is still active today by serving local communities and world-wide mission. He celebrated how GNJ continues to be a missional force within the region and how we raised and gave \$3, 154,339 for local and world-wide mission. He spoke about how the GNJ raises up leadership, focusing on Judy Colorado. He celebrated the diverse commissioned and ordained people of GNJ and all the new leadership within our conference.

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Bishop Schol celebrated the many new ministries started this past year across the conference. These ministries were started by both laity and clergy. He spoke about how GNJ makes and sends disciples within the conference and around the world, celebrating vital congregations and all they are doing to grow spiritually and numerically. He celebrated how GNJ has influenced the world, giving the example of how the UMC in Tanzania expanded women's role in the church after seeing women from GNJ teach and lead. He spoke about the transformative ministry of our mission partners, telling how A Future with Hope has progressed in creating Hope Centers across the conference, how the Next Generation Ministries are reaching young people in new and innovative ways, and how the IGNITE Youth Conference has grown to more than fifteen hundred people. He repeatedly mentioned how our ministry continues to grow roots and spread the gospel across the world. He reminded the congregation that our ministry is in vain if we are not transforming lives, the church and the world, and that transformation begins in the heart.

Bishop Schol then spoke about his experiences at a General Conferences he had attended in 2004. He remembered how he, along with representatives from each jurisdiction and delegates from countries around the world presented what came to be called The Unity Resolution. It passed by over ninety percent. He went on to speak that if he were to do something similar today, it would be to allow new expressions of Methodism so that we stop hurting each other and give room for different theologies, methods for interpreting the Bible and diversity in practicing our faith. We should offer a resolution that we stop weakening the Wesleyan witness in the world and diminishing our mission in the world, and that we should allow new expressions of Methodism to emerge. He went on to describe what has been happening across our country and around the world since the past General Conference and how institutions, conferences and people have stated that they cannot abide by the General Conference decision. Bishop stated it is time to find a way forward in which we bless one another, set one another loose for mission and free each other to pursue the Gospel with passion. He reminded the congregation that it is not our unity that is at stake, but salvation--the transformation of lives, communities and the world. We must stop focusing inward and begin to focus outward. The renewal must be aimed at transformation of the heart because legislation cannot do that.

Bishop Schol told the congregation that he, along with the cabinet, the GNJ Way Forward Team and other conference leaders are supporting moving into new expressions of Methodism, and he believes that we will find a way forward that maintains healthy historic connections and release and bless one another for what God has in store for us. He wanted to be clear, stating that he wasn't interested in changing a few paragraphs in the Book of Discipline: The Gospel demands more of us. He is not sure what it will look like, but it will be Wesleyan, it will be connectional, it will be transformative, and it will turn the church outward. He spoke of how we have important values and ministry that demand we remain connectional and we have differences that require new expressions that set us loose for the Gospel. He celebrated how GNJ led in many different ways, throughout history, in leading to new policies and making differences.

Bishop Schol ended by reminding the congregation that God is not done with the Methodist movement in GNJ and we are ready to plant new seedlings, grow new trees, send out deep roots, grow new branches for what God has next for us so we may transform the world.

### LEGISLATION

#### **Committee on Nominations**

Rosa Williams presented the Committee on Nominations report and made a motion for its adoption. It passed.

#### **Trustees Enabling Resolution**

Rev. Clifford Still presented the Trustees Enabling Resolution and made motion for its adoption. It passed.

#### **Conference Advance Special Report**

Rev. Isabel Quezada presented the Conference Advance Special report and moved for its adoption. It passed.

#### **Historic Sites Resolution**

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John Callanan, Chair of the Commission on Archives and History, presented the Centenary University, Warren County, Historic Site resolution and moved it's for adoption. The motion passed.

### **Discontinuance of Churches**

Rev. Gina Kim, Rev. Glenn Conaway and Rev. Myrna, District Superintendents of the Palisades, Delaware Bay and Gateway South districts respectively, came forward and made motions for the approval of the closure of three churches: Alpine UMC, Ewan UMC and Fairview Village UMC. The motions passed.

Rev. Bethke raised a prayer for the congregations of the three churches.

### **NEXT GEN VIDEO**

A video focusing on Next Gen was played, showing how UMs are reaching out across college campuses.

### **UPDATE ON ENDING SEGREGATION LEGISLATION**

Rev. Samuel Arroyo began the update by giving some history of the state of segregation in NJ. The update is that progress has been unacceptably slow and they are waiting for an answer for NJ by the end of May. He went on to explain the plans that the coalition are planning to implement for statewide action.

Lynn Caterson explained that the Judicial Council ruled that, although the trustees moved to be a part of the law suit, the Annual Conference did vote for the resolution, and that we are legally a part of the segregation law suit.

### **Statements of Relationships**

Rev. Clifford Still presented the Statements of Relationships for the A Future With Hope, the Centenary Fund and Preacher's Aid Society, the Nehemiah Properties, Inc. and the Next Generation Ministries all together and made a motion for their adoptions.

### **Motion**

Creed Pogue made a motion to divide the question to separate the Nehemiah Properties statement out from the rest. The motion failed.

The original motion passed.

### **United Methodist Communities**

Larry Carlson and Nona Ostros presented a video highlighting the United Methodist Senior Care facilities.

### **United Methodist Stewardship Foundation**

Vasanth Victor spoke about the role and vision of the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation, explaining their history, development, goals and what they can do to support both individuals and churches.

### **A Future With Hope**

Rick Reinhard gave a brief history of A Future With Hope Foundation (AFWH) and spoke about all the mission they have done within local communities through Hope Centers. He encouraged everyone to check out their table at Conference. He ended by reminding the body of TFWH four pillars: Relief, Repair, Rebuild and Renew.

### **Next Generation and Camping Ministries**

Rev. Brandon Cho and Eric Drew talked about the Next Generation Ministries and all they have done and are planning to do to reach the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ. Eric Drew spoke about all that's going on in our campus ministries.

### **Centenary Fund and Preacher's Aid Society**

Rev. Dave Wiley spoke about history of the Centenary Fund and Preacher's Aid

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Society, of how and why it was started back in 1839. He went on to explain how the Fund has helped and continues to help retirees and their families.

### Video

A video was shown showing how Hope Centers have helped different people in various situations through difficult times.

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Service of Remembrance opened with the participants processing in to 'When We All Get to Heaven'. Rev. Ginny Samuel opened the worship with prayer and led the Call to Worship. Rev. Deb DeVos read the scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-12a and John 11:17-27.

Bishop Schol introduced and invited Carolyn Pendleton forward. Carolyn explained the history of the Black Methodist's for Church Renewal (BMCR) and presented Bishop Earnest Lyght, the preacher for the Service of Remembrance, with the BMCR Award for all he has done at the national, jurisdictional, and local level for the BMCR.

Bishop Lyght, a former pastor and superintendent within the GNJAC, opened his message by just giving thanks and sending greetings to the conference. He then went on to speak about how his journey seems to have always been associated with rivers, the Delaware, Hudson and Canal Rivers. He told about he crossed them many times over throughout his journey. He then spoke of how those we are remembering today have also crossed a river. He calls this 'God's benedictions.' He quoted Elliot who said 'our endings are where we start from.' He used the story of Job as an example because only after Job acknowledged God's sovereignty did his life truly begin.

Bishop Lyght raised all the blessings the saints we are celebrating today gave us through the course of their journeys. He then asked if the congregation knows resurrection power. He spoke about how Martha and Mary were not happy with Jesus because he had taken his sweet time to get there, but for Jesus, he arrived right on time and he showed them his resurrection power. Jesus did the same with the disciples when he met them after his crucifixion. He showed them his resurrection power. Bishop Lyght reminded the congregation that we have inherited God's resurrection power and with that, how can we fail?

A video was shown of all the saints who were called home to glory.

### All the Saints:

Edward Abbott	Beverly A. Erickson
Willard W. Albertus	Horace M. Frantz
Elizabeth Barrett	John Geldart
Gail Brown	Dorothy Gilbert
Traci L. Callender	Lois Hepner
Glenn R. Carlson	Kay Heppenstill
Carl J. Catts, Sr.	June D. Hewitt
Nyada G. Clarke	Shirley A. Kearney
Daniel F. Cline	Charnell Kolm
Carmine Coppola	Nelson Lamb
Robert W. Crowther, Jr.	Benny Pillot Leoteau
Anna L. Davis	Elsie (Carlton) Levari-Scattergood
William E. Drane	Melva J. Matlack
Margaret Michael	Shirley E. Reasner
Rollo Michael	Frederick S. Richardett, Jr.
Margaret Moore	Anita Sinclair
Alfred Murray	Wayne Wentworth

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### **Motion**

Rev. Jessica Naulty made a motion to have the open letter to the Bishop read into the minutes of Annual Conference.

### **Motion**

Bishop Schol asked for a motion to refer Jessica's motion to the fall. The motion was made. It passed.

### **CLOSING WORSHIP OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Bishop Schol led the congregation in a Great Thanksgiving of Holy Communion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Bishop Schol gave the closing blessing.

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Margaret D. Murray  
James Archibald Parr  
John D. Painter

Bishop Dale White  
Richard Workman

Rev. William Carter III sang 'We Will Behold Him' as a tribute to all the saints.

### VIDEO

A video was shown telling of the progress the Miracles Everywhere Campaign has made since its inception and how it has helped churches throughout the conference.

### OFFERING

Bishop Lyght introduced the offering by saying, "It's giving time"! He encouraged the congregation to give generously for the Miracles Everywhere Campaign.

### GIVING THANKS

Bishop Schol gave thanks for the memorial families for being with us and helping to celebrate their loved ones.

### MEAL BLESSING

Rev. Ginny Samuel gave the blessing for lunch.

### BENEDICTION

Bishop Lyght gave the benediction.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dave Wiley gave the necessary announcements.

### PRAYER

Sarah, a conference youth, offered a prayer before the laity voting.

### LAITY BALLOTING

Megan McKay instructed the laity on how to use the electronic voting handsets. There were two practice votes were taken.

The first laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 445, Number of Valid Votes: 433, Number needed to elect: 217:  
Persons elected: None

The second laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 449, Number of Valid Votes: 432, Number needed to elect:  
217: Persons elected: Bethany Amey Sutton and Judy Colorado

The third laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 449, Number of Valid Votes: 444, Number needed to elect: 223:  
Persons elected: None

The fourth laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 448, Number of Valid Votes: 435, Number needed to elect:  
219: Person elected: Harriett Olson

The fifth laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 445, Number of Valid Votes: 445, Number needed to elect: 223:  
Persons elected: None

The sixth laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 439, Number of Valid Votes: 439, Number needed to elect: 221:  
Persons elected: None

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The seventh laity ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 442, Number of Valid Votes: 442, Number needed to elect: 222: Person elected: Stephen Quigg

### CLERGY BALLOTING

The third clergy ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 304, Number of Valid Votes: 287, Number needed to elect: 145: Person elected: Rev. Hector Burgos

The fourth clergy ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 317, Number of Valid Votes: 304, Number needed to elect: 153: Persons elected: Rev. Kaleigh Corbett

The fifth clergy ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 313, Number of Valid Votes: 313, Number needed to elect: 157: Persons elected: Rev. Jennifer Cho

The sixth clergy ballot was taken to elect delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference. Number of Votes: 329, Number of Valid Votes: 287, Number needed to elect: 144: Persons elected: None

The seventh clergy ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 331, Number of Valid Votes: 302, Number needed to elect: 152: Persons elected: None

The eighth clergy ballot was taken. Number of Votes: 336, Number of Valid Votes: 304, Number needed to elect: 153: Persons elected: Rev. Catherine Williams, Rev. Thomas Lank, Rev. William Williams, Rev. Eunice Vegas-Perez

The ninth clergy ballot was taken to elect reserves for the Jurisdictional Conference. Persons elected: Rev. Tanya Linn Bennett, Rev. Bob Costello, Rev. Sang Won Doh

### CLOSING

The morning session ended with the praise band leading in song.

## Monday, May 20, 2019, 1:15 p.m.

### GATHERING

The conference praise band opened the afternoon session by leading the congregation in praise music.

### OPENING PRAYER

Alexis Jones, a conference youth, opened the afternoon session with prayer.

### LEADERSHIP ADDRESS

Rev. Hector Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries, introduced the conference leadership: Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Michelle Ryoo, Chair of GNJ Commission on the Status and Role of Women; Rev. Kay Dubisson, Chair of GNJ Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns; Rev. Tom Korkuch, Chair of GNJ Board of Ordained Ministry and Rev. Sang Won Doh, Chair of GNJ Connectional Table.

Rev. Burgos quoted from the prophet Jeremiah where it speaks about being a tree planted by water sending out its roots by a stream, then introduced the strategic plan for the next five years.

Rosa Williams spoke of the strategic missional goal of the conference to raise one hundred laity and one hundred clergy who make disciples that make disciples. The focus will be on nurturing leaders who multiply passionate disciples so that congregations can effectively connect and engage with diverse groups of people in their community.

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Rev. Michelle Ryoo addressed the shifts in thinking and doing ministry together by connecting with people and communities, creating intercultural competence, engaging younger and more diverse disciples, equipping leaders through interactions and experience, building regenerative ministries and cultivating new sources of ministry.

Rev. Kay Dubisson spoke of how to achieve this new strategic plan. It will be done by using five new strategies of starting new faith communities, using The Maker's Place, working towards intercultural competence, amplifying the Next Gen ministries and creating opportunities for healing, renewal and transformation and developing financial support streams for congregations.

Rev. Tom Korkuch discussed the resources available to congregations to help them become more vital and Christ-like. These resources are: Team Vital, an assessment and strategic planning process; clergy coaching, helping clergy in the area of leadership ; PaCE, which helps clergy develop their leadership around the areas they are passionate about; Local Pastor Licensing School, which provides a foundation for leadership development for our candidates; the GNJ Clergy Leadership Development Seminar, which gathers monthly to help clergy become fruitful, transformative and apostolic leaders; and Mosaic ministries, which helps develop new ways of thinking and doing local church ministry, mission and leadership with young clergy.

Rev. Sang Won Doh discussed new resources that are being developed within our conference. Resources such as Breakthrough, which is designed to provide easy to implement practices and worship series; A Discipleship Pathway, helping to make and implement an intentional pathway to discipleship within congregations; The Congregational Leadership Academy, which is a year-round coordinated program that develops the skills needed to grow vital ministries in the local church; and The Way We Gather Makes a Difference, a resource designed to help congregations be authentic to who they are today while preparing for growth and moving into the next level of impact in their ministries.

### VIDEO

The Leadership 100 Video was shown to describe the resources that have been developed to help churches and their pastors best lead the congregations they currently have.

Rev. Hector Burgos spoke about the real and substantial challenges ahead of us. He also highlighted the great possibilities that are also before us--as long as we are rooted in Christ, rooted in mercy and justice, rooted in diversity and rooted in our commitment to excellence.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

Bishop Schol recognized the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Methodist Women and invited Kathy Schulz and Harriet Olsen forward to share the blessings of UMW ministries.

### VIDEO

A video celebrating United Methodist Women's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was shown.

### BLACK COLLEGE FUND

Bishop Schol introduced Jalen Lawson, a Black College Fund Representative, who spoke about the unique and powerful education the fund allowed her to receive at Bennett College.

### LEGISLATION

#### Shared Ministry Formula

Bob Dietz and Judy Colorado presented the Shared Ministry Formula and made a motion for its adoption. The motion passed.

#### Shared Ministry Plan

Judy Colorado presented and highlighted the 2020 Shared Ministry Plan. She made a motion for its adoption. The motion passed.

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### **Motion**

Creed Pogue made a motion that the Annual Conference direct CF&A to pay our general church apportionments at least at the rate shared ministries are paid.

Bishop Schol informed the body that this motion is not appropriate at this time and brought the original motion for a vote.

The original motion passed.

Creed Pogue's motion was brought back to the floor. Bishop explained how the Conference currently receives funds used to pay shared ministries. A written copy of the motion was requested. Pogue was given time to write it down.

### **Policy Recommendation Resolution**

Bob Dietz presented the Policy Recommendations Resolution and made a motion for its approval.

### **Motion**

Rev. Charles Bender made a motion to refer all policy recommendations found on pages ninety and ninety-one in the pre-conference journal to the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons and the Fellowship of Local Pastors for their input and to report to CF&A for the 2020 session of annual conference. The motion passed.

### **Motion**

The motion previously made by Creed Pogue, now written down, was brought back to the floor. After some discussion, Creed Pogue was assured that CF&A would be paying our full obligations to the general church. Pogue withdrew his motion. This needed a vote by the body. The withdrawal was approved.

### **Pension and Health Benefits**

Rev. Bill Wilson presented the Pension and Health Benefits resolution and the Health Insurance Guidelines resolution. He made a motion for approval of both. The motion for each passed.

### **Clergy Equitable Compensation for 2020**

Christine Day presented the Commission on Equitable Compensation for 2020 resolution as well as the Standards for Parsonage resolution. After making a correction on the Minimum Equitable Salaries table for year eight to read: \$49,973 for clergy in full connection; \$45,973 for provisional and associate members and \$43,501 for full time local pastors, she made a motion for the approval of both resolutions,

### **Motion**

Joel Thompson made a motion to remove the standard cable connection requirements under the standards for parsonages.

A recommendation was made to send this motion to the Equitable Compensation Commission to take a closer look at it for next year. The recommendation was approved.

The original motion passed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dave Wiley made the necessary announcements.

### **VIDEO**

A video about worship by Lan Wilson gave information about the new Breakthrough program. Breakthrough is there to help pastors improve their weekly worship and sermons.

### **SERVICE OF PASSAGE**

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The Service of Passage opened with the 'We'll Praise Him', sung by the Conference choir while Bishop Schol, the District Superintendents and other participants processed to the dais. Rev. Myrna Bethke opened with the call to celebration and introduced the retirees.

Bishop Schol celebrated and gave thanks for all the years of leadership the retirees have given to the church. The District Superintendents anointed the retirees.

Rev. Michelle Ryoo read the names of the new full members as they came forward. They stood before the retirees. The retirees symbolically passed the mantle to the new full members. The retirees anointed the new full members.

Bishop Schol explained the biblical and historical symbolism of the passing of the mantle, reminding the body that for centuries the mantle has been passed to men and women who were gifted and called to make disciples to build up the body of Christ.

Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez read the names of the new commissioned members as they came forward and they stood before the new full members. As Rev. Vega-Perez explained that a portion of the mantle also falls on them, the mantle was symbolically passed to the newly commissioned and the new full members anointed the newly commissioned.

Rev. Doug Goldsborough introduced the newly appointed local pastors as they came forward and stood before the newly commissioned. The commissioned symbolically passed the mantle to the pastors and anointed them.

The mantle was passed to Rosa Williams as she invited all the new certified lay ministers in the congregation to stand so they could be recognized. Afterwards, Rosa Williams passed the mantle through the congregation.

Bishop Schol offered a benediction

### LAITY BALLOTING

Mariellie Colon, a conference youth, gave a prayer before voting.

Laity ballot eight for the Jurisdiction delegation was taken. Number of votes: 366; Number of valid votes: 343; Needed for election: 173; Person elected: Dale Caldwell

Laity ballot nine was taken. Number of votes: 367; Number of valid votes: 349; Needed for election: 175; Persons elected: Cynthia Kent and Mosell Jules

Laity ballot ten was taken. Number of votes: 362; Number of valid votes: 362; Needed for election: 182; Persons elected: none.

Laity ballot eleven was taken. Number of votes: 361; Number of valid votes: 361; Needed for election: 181; Persons elected: none.

Laity ballot twelve was taken. Number of votes: 362; Number of valid votes: 362; Needed for election: 182; Person elected: Carolyn Pendleton.

Laity ballot thirteen for the reserve delegates was taken. Persons elected: Jane Ehlers, Creed Pogue and Andrea Wren-Hardin.

### ADJOURNMENT

Bishop dismissed the laity.

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**Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m.**

### **WORSHIP**

The conference praise band began with praise music. David Hoag, a conference youth, led the congregation in the Call to Worship and opening prayer.

### **TEACHING SESSION**

Bishop Schol introduced Kristina Gonzalez, Director of Innovative Leadership for an Inclusive Church for the Greater North West Episcopal Area, as our guest teacher. Ms. Gonzalez spoke about the similarities the North West and GNJ have in our diversity. She spoke about going to a calendar and agenda meeting, and how the Unity Resolution came to be at the 2004 General Conference.

She stated that we must be humble and realize our minimal understanding of scripture. She went on to describe a posture of humbleness, by using a cupped hand, imagining all people in that cup. She asked us to remember that all those people are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Ms. Gonzalez spoke to the body on the topic of Emotional Intelligence (EI) and the importance of understanding it in our context. She raised the three important questions she asks to keep herself in a humble space when considering cultural differences.

She began by asking the body, what they think about EI, who comes to mind? She then encouraged people to speak with their neighbors. Ms. Gonzalez described people with EI as usually calm, reliable and unflappable. She then reflected on Jesus' ministry and his EI, of how he spoke of the "board" in our own eye and the "splinter" in another's, and the question he asked before he healed the woman caught in adultery: through it all, she stated, Jesus expressed patience. She went on to state it's not just about patience, it's also about ending with justice. EI is a skill that we can learn and develop. Through it we can learn cultural self-awareness, self-governance, intercultural literacy and systems of equity.

Ms. Gonzalez challenged the body with the question: How do I know that I am included? She explained how this leads to System of Equity and understanding the various cultures involved.

Ms. Gonzalez concluded her teaching by summarizing the four phases of EI. She brought up the passage of Jesus in the Temple when he turned over tables. She believes that Jesus waited for the right moment in the right place to disrupt the norm. She stated that we should be aiming for systems that are inclusive and equitable. She encouraged the conference delegates to share the EI recipe cards with our congregations to help them understand their EI and grow towards openness and inclusion.

### **VIDEO**

A video of the Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery was shown, showing how it has influenced many youth.

### **OFFERING**

Bishop announced that \$29,886.50 was collected at yesterday's offering.

### **GNJAC 2020 DELEGATION:**

Bishop Schol introduced the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates as well the reserve delegates.

Bishop Schol reflected on the diversity within the delegation and our conference, noticing that the delegation does not fully reflect the ethnic diversity in our conference. He also challenged to body to consider the diversity of theological views and how, he believes, the delegation does not fully reflect our conference diversity. He spoke about how the diversity within our midst is so important to who we are as a conference and how he appreciates each one. He went on to give thanks, naming the variety of local churches within our conference.

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

The praise band led in singing 'Draw the Circle Wide'. During the song, those who were able stood and formed a circle around the entire room.

### READING OF APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Schol called forward Rev. Steve Bechtold and Rev. Drew Dyson, both District Superintendents who would be leaving the Cabinet to go to new appointments. He thanked them for their work and service.

Bishop Schol introduced the new appointees to the cabinet and to the general agencies.

Each District Superintendent came forward and read the names of the new appointments in their districts.

Rev. Bechtold offered the charge for all new appointments.

Bishop Schol closed with prayer.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Wiley gave the necessary announcements.

### HOLY CONFERENCING

Bishop Schol introduced the Way Forward Team and asked them to share a bit about the work they have done. He began by explaining the differences between Conservative and Liberal ways of thinking and actions. In his explanation, a continual loop was easily noticed. He called this a collusion loop. He explained how, by continuing the same behavior without changing, no progress is made, and an inward mindset is developed. Bishop then invited Ashley Wilson forward to continue the discussion.

Ms. Wilson discussed four different inward mindset styles: better than others, I deserve more, less than others, and the need to be seen. She explained that when we have an outward mindset, we are focusing on the needs of others.

Using a Mindset Pyramid displayed on the screen, Bishop Schol explained how we dehumanize someone when we objectify that person. He continued by explaining that when we work at building relationships, we begin to see people as people, and this leads to listening and learning. He stated that this is an outward mindset and only when we begin to work with an outward mindset, can we get out of the collusion loop. Bishop talked about how Jesus spent most of his time in relationships, getting to know people. Bishop did a demonstration with chairs which visually explained the importance of trying to see people as people and realizing that the only chair we can move is our own.

Bishop Schol explained how people are wired differently, stating that, for some, beliefs are based on facts and, for others, beliefs are based on principles. He explained that when our starting points are not the same, we need to be at different tables. Bishop invited Rev. Sang Won Doh forward to explain to the body some of the things the Way Forward Team has already begun to begin turning the church outward.

Rev. Doh first stated the Way Forward Team's purpose and reflected on some of the questions people may have. He realized some people are asking 'why is there a way forward team in GNJ?' and how others believe that General Conference has already spoken for us," while others are stating how General Conference does not represent them. Rev. Doh informed the body that the Way Forward Team's goals were to renew the church, to bless one another, to allow congregations to thrive, to model congregational groupings and to identify connections

Rev. Doh defined The Way Forward Team role as one that will create sacred space and process to assist local churches and the conference to live out the goals as well as find new expressions of ministry. He went on to state their hopeful timeline.

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

Rev. Doh asked for prayers for the Way Forward Team, stating they are brothers and sisters in Christ but that without prayer, they could easily separate in hatred; only with prayer can they continue together.

Bishop Schol explained that, right now, we are focusing on the 'why and what,' not on the 'how.' He noted that until we define our why and what, the how will be difficult. He stated that soon each local church will be allowed to live out their expression of ministry. Bishop Schol stated that we will find what we have in common and find ways to move the church forward in our differences, noting that how we are going to do this is the work of the Way Forward Team. He concluded that instead of continuing the collusion loop, GNJ will find a new way to be the church.

Bishop invited both Rev. Dave Wehrle, vice-chair of the Greater New Jersey Wesleyan Covenant Association, and Rev. Amanda Hemenetz, chair of the Greater NJ Reconciling ministry, to come forward and speak.

Rev. Wehrle spoke about the core belief that unites us: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. He gave a brief testimony of Christ in his life and how grateful he is to be on the Way Forward Team. He also spoke about how he believes that the Holy Spirit will lead the Team. He asked for help from the body for their input and prayers so they may discern what Jesus has for us.

Rev. Hemenetz began by noting the scripture that states how a seed must die in order to bear much fruit. She said this has been her theme scripture since coming onto the Way Forward Team. She spoke about her belief that death is happening in our denomination and, being in Easter season, we are looking for resurrection into something new. She spoke about how she sees new life for the church, of the hope she now has for a new church, having a vision where people will be doing ministry in different ways and doing it well. She also asked for prayers for the team.

Bishop Schol said he would not speak about disaffiliation but about affiliation and blessing. He used the example of when children leave home it is not disaffiliation but a moment of growth.

Bishop Schol had people speak at different microphones on the various levels on the outward mindset pyramid.

### LEGISLATION

#### Israel Resolution

The presenter for the Boycott Israel Resolution was not present so the resolution could not be presented. Bishop Schol encouraged sending two people to Israel, one in support of the boycott and another in support of Israel and have them report back next year.

#### Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline Resolution

Kathy Schulz, President of the GNJ United Methodist Women, presented the Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline resolution and made a motion for its adoption. The motion passed.

#### Call for GNJ to Adopt a Public Statement in Response to General Conference 2019

Rev. Amanda Hemenetz explained to the body that the Call for GNJ to Adopt a Public Statement in Response to General Conference 2019 resolution was written shortly after the 2019 General Conference and prior to the work of the Way Forward Team. She respectfully withdrew the resolution.

#### Call for GNJ to recommit to be an Inclusive Church Resolution

Rev. Tanya Linn Bennett explained that the GNJ Board of Church & Society, the Commission on Religion and Race, and the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns were going to bring a substitute resolution. She stated that they would respect Bishop Schol's request to delay this resolution until after the Way Forward Team presents their report. Rev. Bennett did explain that these three bodies did endorse an open letter to the Bishop and requested that the open letter, along with the over twelve hundred names on it, be read to the Bishop. Bishop Schol felt that reading this letter would put us back into a collusion loop. He stated he has read the letter and seen the names on the letter.