

**IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS**  
**A. 2018 CONFERENCE PROGRAM**



**Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn**  
Retired



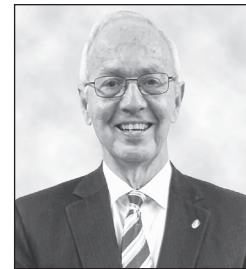
**Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball**  
West Virginia Conference



**Rev. Jan Brittain**  
Williamson's Chapel UMC



**Bishop Paul L. Leeland**  
Western North Carolina Conference



**Tom Bridges**  
Laity Speaker, Bunker Hill UMC,  
Kernersville

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

<b>THURSDAY, JUNE 21</b>	3:00 p.m.	Executive Session of Clergy Members <i>¶ 605.6 – “The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference”</i>
<b>FRIDAY, JUNE 22</b>	7:30 a.m.	Prayer Service..... Memorial Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Opening Worship: <i>Go and Teach</i> <i>Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, West Virginia Conference, preaching</i> <i>Bishop Paul Leeland, liturgist</i> <i>The offering will go toward Bennett College</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch Recess
	1:30 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Opening Hymn and Prayer Call to Order Welcome from Lake Junaluska Procedural Matters, Elections for Conference, and Consent Calendar Plan of Organization and Rules Committee on Nominations Opening Remarks from Bishop Leeland The Duke Endowment Church Vitality
	3:00 p.m.	Break

*continued on next page*

**2018 Western NC Conference Annual Meeting***continued*

	3:30 p.m.	Order of the Day: <i>Recognition of Retiring Clergy</i>		
	4:15 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Board of Laity (including Laity Address, UMW, UMM, UMY) Constitutional Amendment		
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner Recess		
	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service: <i>Commissioning of Provisional Members</i> <i>Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr., United Methodist Bishop (ret), preaching</i>		
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 23</b>	7:30 a.m.	Prayer Service.....	Memorial Chapel	
	8:30 a.m.	Order of Morning Prayer		
	8:45 a.m.	Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc.		
	9:15 a.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Conference Council on Finance and Administration 2019 Conference Budget The Commission on the Way Forward, Bishop Ken Carter		
	10:30 a.m.	Break		
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service: <i>Celebration of Life</i> <i>Rev. Jan Brittain, Williamson’s Chapel UMC, preaching</i>		
	12:15 p.m.	Lunch Recess		
	1:45 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Conference Board of Trustees Conference Board of Pension Committee on the Episcopacy Brotherhood-Sisterhood Connectional Ministries		
	3:45 p.m.	Break		
	4:15 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Cabinet Resolutions Petitions		
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner Recess		
	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service: <i>Ordination of Deacons and Elders</i> <i>Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr., United Methodist Bishop (ret), preaching</i> <i>Bishop Paul Leeland, liturgist</i>		
	<b>SUNDAY, JUNE 24</b>	10:00 a.m.	Closing Worship Service: <i>What Are We to Teach?</i> <i>Bishop Paul Leeland, preaching</i> Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth Adjournment of the 2018 Annual Conference, <i>sine die</i> <i>The offering will go toward the Lake Junaluska Bridge Restoration</i>	

**USHERS FOR THE 2018 SESSION**

George Eubanks, Mickey Penninger, and Kathy McAbee, Joint-chairpersons

**Team A (Green)**

Ellen Banks  
Kim Clardy  
Deb Demorest  
Kim Eller  
Jimmy Galloway  
Robert Hayward  
Jennifer Hege  
Donna Hill  
Joe Hout  
Jeff Martin

Rhita Newcomb  
Sherri Noble  
Chris Raines  
Michelle Scott  
Mike Sizemore  
Kennette Thomas  
Gary VanLandingham  
Kayln Wiley  
Greta Wolfe

**Team B (Yellow)**

Rocio Avila-Ramirez  
Chris Betts  
Teresa Blanton  
Lorraine Burns  
Rachel Cox  
Brian Crady  
Kelly Creekmur  
Willie Mae Ervin  
Nathan Finsel  
Tim Fitzgerald

Torey Haynes  
John Howard, Jr.  
Albertina McGirt  
Corey Milliet  
Jill Rhinehart  
Pete Ross  
Jim Tate  
Sean Turner  
Myra Waddell

**Team C (Red)**

David Blankenberg  
Lee Eggers  
Howard Fleming  
Richard Gould  
Sam Harris  
Hugo Hernandez  
Danny Keen  
Sherise Lindsay  
Carolyn Maynard  
Kathy Odell

Marcia Oliver  
Shana Pearson  
Lane Peeler  
Linda Peeler  
Brandon Powell  
Richard Routh  
Janie Sink  
Janice Taylor  
Julie Wood

**B. 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS****MONDAY-WEDNESDAY****JUNE 18-20**

C2LJ Bicycle Ride.....Christ UMC, Hickory N.C. to Kern Center, Lake Junaluska

**WEDNESDAY,****JUNE 20**

10:00 a.m. Clergy Ethics Make-up Session.....Long's Chapel UMC, 175 Old Clyde Hwy

**THURSDAY,****JUNE 21**

10:00 a.m. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting.....Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge

10:00 a.m. Conference Board of Trustees Meeting and Luncheon.....Terrace, T-319

10:30 a.m. Space4Grace Mini-Sabbath Experience,  
sponsored by Sabbath Living.....Waynesville Inn, 176 Country Club Drive, Waynesville

12:00 p.m. Associate to Pastor Coaching Kick-Off (bring your buffet lunch).....Terrace, T-316

12:00 p.m. Clergy Directory Pictures, Appointment Requested.....Harrell Center, HC-202

12:00 p.m. Extension Ministries and Beyond the Local Church Luncheon.....Kern Center, Auditorium

12:00 p.m. Hispanic/Latino Network Luncheon.....Lambuth Inn, Saville Room

1:30 p.m. Brotherhood/Sisterhood Meeting.....Terrace, T-213

3:00 p.m. God's Back Porch: Living Together as Jesus Intended  
hosted by Board of Laity.....Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr

3:00 p.m. Clergy Spouse Gathering.....Lisa Roberts' home, 76 Atkins Loop, Lake Junaluska

5:30 p.m. Candler Alumni &amp; Friends Dinner.....Long's Chapel UMC, 175 Old Clyde Hwy, Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Space4Grace Mini-Sabbath Experience,  
sponsored by Sabbath Living.....Waynesville Inn, 176 Country Club Drive, Waynesville

6:00 p.m. Board of Ordained Ministry Dinner.....First UMC, 566 S. Haywood St., Waynesville

6:00 p.m. Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members  
Meeting.....Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr

6:00 p.m. Retiring Clergy Dinner.....Lambuth Inn, International Room

8:00 p.m. AC After Hours.....BearWaters Brewing Company, 101 Park St, Canton

**FRIDAY,****JUNE 22**7:15 a.m. Retired Clergy and Spouses Breakfast sponsored by  
The Eugene M. Cole Foundation.....Lambuth Inn, International Room

8:00 a.m. Clergy Directory Pictures, Appointment Requested.....Harrell Center, HC-202

8:00 a.m. Emory Club 5k for UMCOR/Puerto Rico (on site sign up 7 a.m.).....In front of Stuart Auditorium

8:00 a.m. Women in Ministry Breakfast.....Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr

9:00 a.m. Givens: Cookies on the Lawn.....Tent by the Lake near Stuart Auditorium

9:15 a.m. Usher Training.....Stuart Auditorium, Near the Stage

12:00 p.m. Asbury Seminary &amp; Friends Luncheon (bring your buffet lunch).....Terrace, T-319

12:00 p.m. Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)  
& Multicultural Friends.....Jones Dining Hall, 238 N. Lakeshore Dr

12:00 p.m. Chaplains' Fellowship Luncheon.....Terrace, T-316

12:00 p.m. Get to Know Wesley Community  
Development Luncheon.....Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr

12:00 p.m. Givens: Pickin' &amp; Grinnin'.....Tent by the Lake near Stuart Auditorium

12:00 p.m. High Point University Alumni Luncheon.....Lambuth Inn, International Room

12:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social, hosted by WNCC Campus Ministers.....Campus Ministry Tent

12:00 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Luncheon.....Kern Center, Auditorium

12:30 p.m. Group Spiritual Direction, facilitated by Ned Martin.....Reynolds Center, 545 N. Lakeshore Dr

3:00 p.m. Get the Scoop Ice Cream Social,  
hosted by Methodist University.....Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge

5:30 p.m. Duke Divinity School Alumni Dinner.....Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym

5:30 p.m. Evangelical Movement Dinner.....Lambuth Inn, International Room

5:30 p.m. Hood Theological Seminary Alumni, Students,  
& Prospective Students Dinner.....Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr

5:30 p.m. Wesley Theological Seminary Gathering (bring your buffet dinner).....Terrace, T-319

6:00 p.m. Pfeiffer Pfriday Pfling.....Long's Chapel UMC, 175 Old Clyde Hwy, Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Pool Party for Middle and High School Youth.....Aquatic Center, Pool

9:00 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Worship.....Memorial Chapel

**SATURDAY,****JUNE 23**

7:15 a.m. Educational Opportunities Breakfast.....Terrace Auditorium, Third Floor

7:30 a.m. CONAM Breakfast (Native American Ministries).....Lambeth Inn, Saville Room

8:00 a.m. Clergy Directory Pictures, Appointment Requested.....Harrell Center, HC-202

12:15 p.m. Deacons, Diaconal Ministers, and Deaconesses Luncheon.....Harrell Center, HC-105

12:15 p.m. Gordon Conwell Alumni &amp; Friends Luncheon.....Terrace, T-316

12:15 p.m. Greensboro &amp; Bennett Colleges Luncheon.....Terrace Auditorium, Third Floor

12:15 p.m. UM Rural Advocates Banquet and Support.....Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr

12:30 p.m. Group Spiritual Direction, facilitated by Ned Martin.....Reynolds Center, 545 N. Lakeshore Dr

**C. DAILY MINUTES****THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018****EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 3 P.M.**

**CLERGY SESSION CONVENES:** In compliance with ¶¶ 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016), Bishop Paul L. Leeland convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2018 in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. After singing hymn 140, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, Bishop Leeland offered prayer.

**PRIVILEGE MATTER:** Bishop Leeland spoke a word of welcome and introduced Keith Wilson, conference musician, Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta GA, The Reverend Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, resident bishop, West Virginia Area, West Virginia Conference. The Bishop noted that 2018 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of The United Methodist Church.

**PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT:** At the request of Bishop Leeland, the clergy members in full connection approved that the conference musicians, identified guests, lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and local pastors be allowed to be present during the executive session.

**BUSINESS QUESTION 17:** After noting the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the responsibility of the bishop and the cabinet, and the meaning of “blameless” (not without error, weakness, or failure but with no complaints or charges) Bishop Leeland supplied the proposed response for business question 17 in regard to the character of the eight District Superintendents. Then each of the District Superintendents affirmed the character of the clergy serving in their districts and business question 17 was approved.

**BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT:** The Rev. Dr. Donald Jenkins, chairperson of the board, presented the report. He nominated the Rev. Paul B. Thompson for chairperson of the order of elder, and he was elected. The Reverend Gloria G. Hughes, chairperson of the order of deacon, announced the retreat of Deacons in full connection is scheduled for September 17-18, 2018 at Lake Junaluska. Grant Magness, founder of MIP (Mission Is Possible) will be the featured presenter. Dr. Jenkins mentioned the scholarship grants that had been awarded to assist seminary students and the work of the board to walk along side those candidates for ordained ministry as well as those whose status was changing through retirement, death, and vocational change.

**BUSINESS QUESTIONS:** The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, registrar of the board of ordained ministry, supplied the proposed responses for business questions 18-27, and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved.

**ELECTION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS:** The Rev. Kimberly Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, introduced and moved the election of three persons as provisional deacons and 18 persons as provisional elders in response to Business Question 28, and they were elected. (See Section V, *Business of the Annual Conference*, in the *2018 Journal*)

**BUSINESS QUESTIONS:** Rev. Ingram supplied the proposed responses for business questions 29–31, and the members approved with the required vote.

**ELECTION OF FULL CONNECTION MEMBERS:** The Rev. Ingram introduced and moved the election of six persons as deacons in full connection, 18 persons as elders in full connection, and the recognition of Tae Wan (Joseph) Kim as an elder in full connection in response to Business Question 32. Following Bishop Leeland’s inquiry of the candidates, asking the traditional and historic questions and admonitions from *The Book of Discipline* (2016), and the ordinands’ responses with the prescribed responses, they were elected and greeted warmly by the clergy. The same persons just elected were approved for ordination as deacons or as elders in response to Business Questions 33 and 34. (See Section V, *Business of the Annual Conference*, in the *2018 Journal*).

**BUSINESS QUESTIONS:** Rev. Ingram supplied the proposed responses for business questions 35-47, and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved, and the necessary votes were received.

**BUSINESS QUESTIONS:** The Rev. Ann L. Duncan, secretary for the board of ordained ministry, supplied the proposed responses to business questions 49-72, 76, 77, and 80 and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved. All other business questions were referenced for the body’s information. In response to business question 48, the Rev. Duncan requested the clergy to stand as she read the names of the members of the annual conference who had died since the last session and Bishop Leeland offered prayer. All of the business questions, considered as part of the executive session of the clergy, were approved as a whole.

**TREASURY SERVICES:** The Rev. Dr. R. Mark King, treasurer and director of administrative services, reported that the conference was looking to develop a third health option for active clergy for 2019 which would include a health savings account. He noted that the conference was continuing to address chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cardio-vascular disease, and depression. He announced that as result of the recent tax reform legislation reimbursement received for moving expenses will be reported as taxable income and any unreimbursed moving expenses are no longer deductible.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM:** Rev. Ingram presented the report from the leadership development team. She listed the top four characteristics of leadership effectiveness:

- Focus on developing, coaching, and mentoring to enable lay leadership to improve performance
- Influence the actions and behaviors of others to accomplish changes in the local church
- Propel the local church to set and achieve significant goals through effective leadership
- Inspire the congregation through preaching

She noted the fall leadership development opportunities: Partnering with Laity, Using Influence to Manage Change and Transition, Mindset First: How to Achieve Conflict Transformation. Two preaching cohorts will be offered this fall. Other opportunities for support are being developed including financial development and clergy tax help.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The executive session of the clergy members adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENS WITH WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION – 10:30 A.M.

The Rev. J. Zachery Christy, WNCC's youngest full connection clergy person, led the call to worship, followed by the singing of the processional hymns 154, *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*; and, *What a Beautiful Name*, sung by the Hood House Band. After an opening prayer given by the Rev. Kathleen Kilbourne, a video interlude was presented *Remembering the Merger*, which described the dismantling of the Central Jurisdiction in 1968 that structurally ended segregation. Kasey Kelly, Rev. Curtis Goforth, Maci Lynch, Sophie Lamb, and Pamela Shoffner led a responsive prayer of the church, modified from the 1968 General Conference liturgy. The Rev. Lauren Sims-Salata read the gospel lesson from *Matthew 28:16-20* and the epistle lesson from *1 Timothy 3:14-16*. After an introduction by Bishop Paul L. Leeland, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, resident bishop, West Virginia Area, West Virginia Conference, preached the sermon, "Go and Teach". Bishop Steiner Ball proclaimed that Paul's admonition to Timothy and Jesus' commission to the disciples declares that we are re-membered to God and one another, we rehearse and "swallow" the story that God will not let us go, so that we can teach the story of love and eternal life. We must see all the people and train ourselves to remember God's promises. Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, 18<sup>th</sup> president of Bennett College, brought greetings, gave thanks for the historic partnership between the conference and Bennett College and appreciated that the morning offering would benefit the school. Following the offertory, *How Can It Be*, sung by the Hood House Band, and the *Doxology*, Bishop Leeland, Bishop Steiner Ball, and assisted by Rev. Gloria Hughes, led the congregation in a prayer of confession and pardon and Great Thanksgiving. Bishop Leeland celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion with the assistance of deacons in full connection, district superintendents, and conference staff. After singing of the hymn 545, *The Church's One Foundation*, and benediction by Bishop Steiner Ball, worship concluded and the conference recessed at 12:00 p.m. Jarvis Wilson, Atlanta, GA and Keith Wilson, Ben Hill UMC, North Georgia Conference, are the music leaders for annual conference.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONVENES – 1:30 P.M.

**CONFERENCE CONVENES:** With Bishop Paul L. Leeland, resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church convened in the George R. Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on June 22, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Following the singing of hymn 553, *And Are We Yet Alive*, and an opening prayer by Kimberly Clarke, St. Matthews UMC (Greensboro, NP District), Bishop Leeland called the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the conference to order at 1:30 p.m.

**WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY:** Bishop Leeland introduced Ken Howle, executive director of Lake Junaluska, who welcomed the members of the annual conference to Lake Junaluska and presented his report. He noted that five million dollars has been invested in Lake Junaluska, including renovations of Lambuth Inn. The bridge over the dam is being restored, \$400,000 has been directed for youth ministry, and money is being spent to improve recreational resources at the Lake.

**VOTING BAR:** Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, moved and the conference approved that the voting bar, or legal limits, of the conference be set to include all of Stuart Auditorium, and that those voting should be seated within the bar unless other instructions are given in the case of a full house.

**EXPLANATION OF THE RED, YELLOW, AND GREEN CARDS:** Rev. Ingram explained the colored cards provided at registration. The use of the cards will assist Bishop Leeland to preside when members wish to be recognized to speak from the floor. To speak for an issue the conference member should lift the green card. In order to speak against a business item the member should raise the red card. If someone wishes to ask a question or raise a point of order, they will signal with the yellow card.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that the conference program as printed on pages four and five of the *Supplement to the Program and Reports booklet*, subject to necessary daily adjustments, constitute the official agenda of the 2018 conference session.

**REPORTS OF BOARD AND AGENCIES:** The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that the reports of the conference boards and agencies as published in the *Program and Reports booklet* and the *Supplement* be ordered to record, insofar as they do not require conference action and provided that conference agencies be permitted to file late reports and/or corrections no later than June 30, 2018.

**GREETINGS TO THOSE MEMBERS ABSENT:** The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that any action concerning conference members unable to attend because of illness or other family emergency be given directly to the conference secretary, and that the secretary write these absent members expressing the greetings and prayer concern of the conference.

**SECRETARIAL STAFF:** The conference secretary nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2018 session, and they were elected: Marsha Patton and the Rev. A. Owen Peeler, associate secretaries; the Rev. Kathy M. McAbee, George Eubanks, and Mike Penninger, Assistant Secretaries; and the Rev. Dr. Charles D. White, Jr. (Denny) as *conference secretary emeritus*.

**CONSENT CALENDAR MOTION:** The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, reported that the list of petitions for the consent calendar is found on page 16 of the *Supplement*. The Rev. Ingram moved that the consent calendar, PETITIONS 3-17 be adopted as printed, and it was approved. (The listing of petitions can be found in Section IX and additionally in Section VIII.)

**CONFERENCE RULES AND PLAN OF ORGANIZATION:** Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, Oak Hill UMC (Morganton, Catawba Valley District), member of the committee on organization and rules, moved the adoption of the Conference Rules and Plan of Organization, as amended and they were approved, printed in the *Supplement*, pages 43-50 and found in Section VII of the *Journal*. The first changes were in Part I, Section B. Officers, item 8 and Part II, Section C. Business Procedure Rule 12 updating the title of the Director of Connectional Ministries and Conference Director of Communications and aligning the conference structure with current practice. The next change was Part I, Section C. Conference Organization, item 2. Connectional Table. It adds the name of the chairperson of the Council on Campus Ministry to the Connectional Table and aligns the structure with paragraph 634.3 *The Book of Discipline* (2016). A change is made in Part I, Section C., item 3b, Council on Campus Ministry aligns the council with current practice and removes redundancy. In Part I, Section C., items 4b, 6b, and 6c makes changes in the membership of Board of Ordained Ministry, Commission on Communications, and Commission on Equitable Compensation. In Part I, Section C., item 7b. and Section E. Districts, District Conferences, and District Councils, item 6 paragraph numbers from *The Book of Discipline* have been added for reference. In Part I, Section D. Conference Journal, items 5 and 6 are deleted and the committee recommends no more Journal sales. The final change is in Part I, Section F. Election of Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, item 2 the phrase "on the proper forms" is deleted to align with current practice of electronic balloting.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS:** The conference secretary moved the adoption of the report of the committee on nominations for 2016-2020 *ad interim*, and the nominees were elected. The elections are found in Section II of the *Journal*.

**PRIVILEGE MATTER:** Bishop Leeland spoke to the members of the annual conference. He assessed what he had seen, learned and experience over the past year. One of the areas of leadership the bishop provides is in spiritual presence. The focus for the annual conference this quadrennium is the "Great Commission." In order to live into that command Bishop Leeland noted first that every district has identified vital churches and that the goal is to assist them to move from good to great churches. Second, every district is looking to new places for new people not just for new church starts but to create "fresh expressions" for faith and spiritual development outside of traditional church. Third, he discussed the initiative for effective leadership and the 14 characteristics identified in vital and effective churches. Several clergy in the eight districts have participated in a self-assessment around these characteristics and worked with a coach. The goal is to have 200 clergy in the conference by the end of the quadrennium involved in this leadership project. Finally, each district is investigating contextual assessment for missional networks and mission development.

**REPORT OF DUKE ENDOWMENT:** The Reverend Robb Webb, Director, Rural Church Division presented the report. Drawing on the theme of teaching in the "Great Commission" and the account of the resurrection from Matthew's gospel, Rev. Webb stressed that the resurrection emboldens us to not be afraid and that our story is one of life, one that must be lived and shared. In looking at what it means to live unafraid the Endowment has rethought the way it operates. This has meant tapping into Methodist roots that couples personal holiness and social holiness. This means that supporting charity includes supporting justice. Rev. Webb shared several examples of churches receiving endowment grants that invested not only in needed places for charity but in partnership with other agencies and institutions in order to look beyond the need to feed hungry people but also to investigate systemic issues causing hunger and food insecurity. Ahoskie UMC in Hertford County was one of those examples. Monticello UMC (Statesville, Appalachian District) is another example of addressing the need for children to read in order to perform well in school and in life. The Endowment is committed to helping churches and clergy overcome fear, to assess their church and community for best practices of ministry, and to foster strong clergy and strong churches.

**REPORT OF CHURCH VITALITY TEAM:** The Reverend Dan Pezet, Director of Congregational Vitality; Rev. Mike Fongemy, Chairperson; and, Rev. Rob Hutchinson presented the report. The church vitality team seeks to resource local congregations with grants, tools, and leadership for the mission of the church. In 2017 CVT continued financial support for 14 new faith communities and began two new church starts. The goal is six new church starts per year. The Nehemiah Project is a conference-wide initiative to help churches move from where they are to wherever God is calling them to go next. This project is designed to help a congregation focus on up to five recommendations for the church's future, and coordinates coaches and guides to work with the church for up to three years to help them accomplish their goals. The goal is two pilot churches in 2018 and at least ten churches participating in 2019. CVT provides access to Mission Insite, an online demographic software that provides customized population reports. Fresh Expressions of Church are small faith communities that do not look like conventional church models but are anchored to existing

congregations. The Church Vitality Team will provide a start-up grant of \$500.00 to any congregation that covenants to begin a Fresh Expression in the next 12 months.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The conference secretary made necessary announcements.

**RECESS:** Conference recessed at 3:00 p.m.

### ORDER OF THE DAY – 3:30 P.M.

#### RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Sixty clergy were recognized on the event of their retirement. The Rev. W. Mark Andrews spoke on behalf of the retirees. The Rev. Angel J. Christ spoke in response on behalf of the 2018 class in full connection. Mike Watson, president of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Rev. Kyle Lynn Sigmon, a member of the 2018 class in full connection, Bishop Paul L. Leeland, Dale Bryant, Rev. R. Mark King, treasurer and director of administrative services, Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, also participated. Retirees were presented with certificates and each spouse was given a rose.

**CONFERENCE RECONVENES:** Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 4:20 p.m. with the singing of hymn 369 *Blessed Assurance*. Following prayer by John Crane, district lay leader Catawba Valley District, Bishop Leeland spoke words of appreciation for conference musicians, Jarvis Wilson and Keith Wilson. In addition Bishop Leeland remembered Rev. Robert McMichael, whose untimely death happened earlier this year. Rev. McMichael was one of the conference musicians at the 2017 annual conference.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF LAITY:** Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader and president of the Board of Laity, presented the report. Ms. Wood noted that the mission of the board of laity is to model, assess, and advocate for the laity to fulfill the conference mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. She reported the four focus areas for the board: communications task force which has developed a facebook presence and increased posts on the conference website; continued development of accountability groups; conference-wide lay engagement – equipping, educating, and leading; and, a Certified Lay Servant Ministry task force.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES:** Molly Vanhoy, president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, gave the annual report of the council. She highlighted several of the district mission outreach projects which included collecting bibles for homeless persons, creating homeless outreach kits, collecting clothing for the underprivileged, and promoting district wide-youth events. She reviewed the positive impact of the two annual youth retreats, SpiritUs at Fort Caswell on Oak Island and IgniteUs at Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville. She concluded her report with a personal testimony of the impact that CCYM has had on her life.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN:** Neil Brown, conference president of United Methodist Men, gave the annual report of that organization. Mr. Brown highlighted the mission foci of UMM in providing scholarships for ministerial education for second career clergy candidates, Upper Room Prayer Ministry, Scouting, The Crossnore Children's Home, disaster recovery and building team mission support, partnering with United Methodist Women to work against domestic abuse, support of Carolina Cross Connection, hunger relief through the Society of St. Andrew and Stop Hunger Now, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry and Strength for Service devotional books. He noted that WNCC continues to have the highest number of life members, the second highest percent of churches with a charter and second highest number of charters. He further noted that United Methodist Men were encouraged to develop accountability groups and grow in spiritual formation. He announced that William Waddell will serve as the next conference president of United Methodist Men. The report concluded with a video presentation about Amending Through Faith, a curriculum designed for men to look at abuse and violence against women.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:** Julia Willis, conference president of United Methodist Women, presented the report. The theme of the report was "We Have a Story to Tell" and she highlighted the historic beginnings of United Methodist Women in 1869 at Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, noted the year's activities for personal growth and service, praised the 20,784 members of 661 local units and their support of local ministries, and recalled the recent Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. March 23, 2019 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of United Methodist Women. As part of that celebration the conference UMW has a goal of \$1.5 million for the Legacy 150, a five year campaign to establish an endowment for continued mission work. In 2017 total mission giving to the national office amounted to \$622,360.00. UMW continues to raise awareness about domestic abuse and human trafficking.

**ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS:** Ron Ballard, Central UMC (Asheville, BR District) presented the report. The goal is to have at least one accountability group in 80 percent of the 1100 churches. Twelve mentors have been trained to help local congregations establish accountability groups in the local church. The purpose of the group, based on the Wesleyan model of discipleship groups, is to create opportunities to hold each other graciously accountable, and to deepen the relationship with God and each other.

**LAITY ADDRESS:** Tom Bridges, Bunker Hill UMC (Kernersville, YV District) and a certified lay minister delivered the 2018 Laity Address using *Exodus 3:7-12* (the call of Moses); *Luke 1:26-38* (Annunciation to Mary); and *Matthew 4:18-22* as his text. In the address Mr. Bridges declared that baptism is the ordination of the laity. The baptismal liturgy reminds us that regardless of age, stage of life or particular gifts or talents our lives on earth are to be viable extensions of the life and ministry of Jesus. We are called to be the voice of Jesus in our world. Do not ignore your call. Mr. Bridges shared his own personal story of call which led to his becoming a certified lay minister. He explained the differences between a certified lay servant and a certified lay minister. A certified lay minister requires training, supervision, joined to a ministry team and accountable to several conference and district

committees. He encouraged the laity to open the door to God's call for their witness and to explore the possibility of undertaking the process to become a certified lay minister.

**DEACONESS COMMISSIONING:** Bishop Paul L. Leeland consecrated and commissioned Sylvia Sekle-Dueh to be a deaconess in the United Methodist Church for love, justice, and service. She will serve in the area of health and welfare and is assigned to Hickory Grove UMC (Charlotte, Metro District).

**RECESS:** The conference recessed at 5:30 p.m.

### EVENING WORSHIP

#### COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS – 7:30 P.M.

The service of commissioning opened with a video presentation of the candidates to be commissioned introduced by the Rev. Donald Jenkins, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Rev. Joy Moss led the call to worship. Following the processional hymn 3150, *Father, We Have Heard Your Calling* (Worship & Song), the Rev. Sue Anne Morris, chairperson of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, led *A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*. The Rev. Dr. David Greene, licensing school coordinator, presented the 2018 class of licensed local pastors. Bishop Paul L. Leeland examined the local pastors and offered prayer. Following a prayer for illumination and scripture reading of *Jonah 1:1-3a* by the Rev. Dr. Jamye Christy, Bishop Leeland introduced Bishop Alfred Gwinn Jr., retired. Bishop Gwinn preached the sermon "Anywhere But Nineveh." Bishop Gwinn declared that Jonah's unwillingness to go to Nineveh was not because of fear or anxiety about the hardship but a conflict of wills and purpose. What Jonah wanted and God wanted were different. Jonah wanted the people destroyed. God wanted to save them. Nineveh is a symbol of what God wants. He asked the candidates to be commissioned if they will go where God needs you. He told them they will need a team approach and need God's strength. Following a musical response to the word, "Give Me Jesus" by Amberly Johnston, JoAnn Carter, lay member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, spoke the words of introduction and Rev. Jenkins presented the 2018 class of 21 persons to be commissioned for ministry. Bishop Leeland examined the candidates and following the singing of hymn 2222, *The Servant Song* (TFWS), commissioned the newly elected provisional members for ministry, assisted by Bishop Gwinn. Each candidate who was commissioned received a cross and certificate of commissioning from the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented by the Rev. Jenkins and Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services. Mr. Keith Wilson, conference musician vocalist, and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, pianist/organist participated in the service. The service concluded with an unison blessing and benediction.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018

#### CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 8:30 A.M.

**ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER:** After singing, *This Is the Day*, Ashlee Alyeah Hand offered prayer. Molly Vanhoy read scripture from *I Chronicles 22:18* and closed with prayer.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.:** Tom Jordan, chairperson of the board, convened the annual meeting and began the annual report. He recalled the creation of the foundation in 1967 by the annual conference with \$38,000 in seed money. At present the foundation has \$226 million in managed assets. Mr. Jordan nominated the following for election to the board and they were elected: in the class of 2021 – Brad Chapman, Jennifer Davis, Rev. Ken Lyon, Anne Martin, and Will Rucker. Mr. Jordan introduced Rev. David A. Snipes, president and executive director, who continued the report around the theme, *pivotal moments*. The goal of the foundation is to build the church for generations to come. At the end of 2017 the diversified fund had produced a return of 17%. The foundation is developing some new initiatives as part of the Reynolds Program, such as The Reynolds Academy for Ministry Management and providing clergy financial advice. Rev. Snipes thanked the board members for their service and leadership. He noted that the foundation is the fourth largest United Methodist foundation in the nation. The foundation has restructured its operation. Rev. Snipes is executive director. Caroline Cox is director of Reynolds Ministry Program, Brad Crossley is director of financial services, and Susan Cothorn is director of ministry services. Ms. Cothorn shared stories of the foundation including the story of Cleveland and Marlene Ellison who have created an endowment for their local church. She also noted the clergy debt reduction loan program designed to assist clergy to pay off education loan debt. This project has received a 1.5 million dollar grant from the Duke Endowment. Ms. Cothorn reported that 111 new managed fund accounts were created in 2017. Mr. Jordan concluded the annual report and presented the foundation's tithe in the amount of \$30,000 to Bishop Leeland for the Bishop's Initiative for Leadership. The annual meeting of the Foundation adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

**CONFERENCE RECONVENES:** Pursuant to adjournment the annual conference reconvened at 9:05 a.m.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken, president, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration and PETITION 1: 2019 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES and moved the adoption of items 1-19, and they were approved.

Lee Spencer, Maple Springs, (Winston-Salem, YV District), asked a question about the increase in compensation for District Superintendents and the overall decrease in the 2019 budget. Rev. Kinken responded.

The Rev. Dr. Kinken presented the proposed 2019 CONFERENCE BUDGET, moved its adoption and it was approved.



Janet Reep Morgan, Messiah (CV District), asked a question about line item 509, intentional interim ministry. Rev. Kinken responded.

Rev. Dawn M. Hand, (Metro District), asked a question about the funds budgeted for youth ministry and Rev. Kinken answered.

Rev. Willetta Ar-Rahmaan, St. Paul, (Newton, CV District), asked a question about new church starts and revitalizations being consolidated and Rev. Kinken answered.

The Rev. Dr. Kinken introduced the Rev. Dr. Mark King, treasurer and director of administrative services, who presented his annual report to the annual conference. Dr. King noted that the conference received 88.25% payment toward apportioned amounts. 850 congregations paid 100% of apportionment dollars. The conference ended 2017 with surplus funds and those monies were placed in the conference reserve fund which is now at 30%. Total assets of the conference amount to \$100 million, with a majority of those dollars set aside for pension. He announced that a new webpage will soon be available on the conference administrative website that will show real time payments by local churches for apportioned funds.

**POINT OF INFORMATION:** Peg Aldridge, Davidson, (Metro District), asked a question to challenge the laity.

**MOTION:** Rev. Harley D. Scaff, Christ (Hickory, CV District), moved that the agenda be changed to consider petitions 18-21 during the morning session. The motion was defeated.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:** Bishop Leeland explained the reason for taking a vote again for proposed constitutional amendment one. Because of the wording being improperly printed when previous votes were taken each annual conference is required to vote on ratification either yes or no. No amendments may be made. Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, read the amendment and explained who may vote: deacons and elders in full connection and lay members of the annual conference. Once ballots were distributed the vote was taken. The results will be submitted to the Council of Bishops where they will receive and report on the aggregate tally of all annual conference reporting.

**REPORT ON THE COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD:** Bishop Leeland introduced Bishop Ken Carter, who was asked to serve as one of the moderators for the Commission on the Way Forward. Bishop Carter reminded the members of the annual conference about the formation of the United Methodist Church and the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction that structurally ended segregation fifty years ago; and, the welcoming of the Ivory Coast Annual Conference into the United Methodist Church. These dates are important because the conversation is not solely an United States conversation. He suggested that binary thinking is not helpful. He next recounted the story of the commission on the way forward: its creation, its organization, its mission, vision, and scope of work, the constitution of its membership, and the very intentional process of building trust.

The defining statement for the commission's work is: The commission will design a way forward that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible.

He briefly outlined the three plans presented to the Council of Bishops:

*One Church Plan:* removes the language about human sexuality that was inserted in *The Book of Discipline* in 1972. It honors contextual differences across the world. It allows local congregations to place the 1972 language into their standing rules. It would allow LGBTQ persons a home in the United Methodist Church where this is contextual. This is the simplest model and requires no constitutional amendments.

*Traditionalist Plan:* A second plan maintains the language in *The Book of Discipline* about homosexuality. It greatly increases the accountability to certify that persons uphold this at every level of the church. It is not maintaining the status quo. It is sharpening and making more pronounced accountability for being a traditionalist church and providing an exit for people, whether they are centrists or traditionalists. This plan has a number of constitutional amendments.

*Connectional Conference Plan:* The third plan is similar to the World Methodist Council. Relationships would be looser and it would be more an umbrella for three branches of the church. This plan has 32 constitutional amendments.

He concluded by sharing his pastoral framework out of which he chooses to minister, which is how do we live together with our multiple stories and continue to claim the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bishop Leeland announced that there will be a link on the conference website for persons to ask a question or share an impression with the delegates to the 2019 Called Session of the General Conference. Cards will also be available at the information desk for conference members to write a response and they will be collected and shared.

**POINT OF INFORMATION:** Rev. Michael A. Macdonald, Black Mountain (BR District) asked how many petitions remained to be considered. Rev. Kim Ingram responded that a total of six petitions have yet to be considered. Rev. Macdonald moved that the four petitions not part of the Report of the Board of Pensions and Health benefits be the first order of business in the afternoon session. The motion was not approved.

**RECESS:** The conference recessed at 10:45 a.m.

**WORSHIP SERVICE – CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE – 11:00 A.M.**

The Rev. Jan Brittain, pastor of Williamson’s Chapel UMC, Mooresville, Metro District, was the preacher for this service. The scriptures, read by Rev. Kyle L. Sigmon and Rev. Angel J. Christ from *Genesis 12:4-8* and *Genesis 22:9-14*, were the texts for her sermon entitled, “Altars of Faithfulness.” In her message, Rev. Brittain reflected on altars of promise and praise, reflection and plea, place and purpose, obedience, and God’s altar of provision. Kathi Graham and Leisa Stamey played the bagpipes and escorted the families in recession from the service. Bishop Paul L. Leeland; Keith Wilson, conference musician, vocalist; Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, pianist/organist; and members of the 2018 class elected to full connection assisted in the service. During the Naming of the Saints, the lives of 25 clergy and diaconal ministers were remembered and celebrated, as well as the spouses of 22 clergy and diaconal ministers who died in the year.

**CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 1:45 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE RECONVENES:** Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 1:45 p.m. with singing of hymn 133 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* and prayer by Ben Free, member of Celia Phelps (Greensboro, NP District).

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Bob Wilhoit, chairperson, presented the report. He updated progress on construction of the new conference memorial center. He noted that the new building will qualify as an energy efficient facility and that leasing space not currently needed by the annual conference will not adversely affect the non-profit status of the conference. He commented that A. Anthony Corp. continues to provide management services and that Foundry Commercial works to sell discontinued church properties. A decision about continued use of lease vehicles for the district superintendents and some other conference staff will be determined after December, 2018. He continued to admonish and encourage churches to look at liability and property insurance coverage.

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS:** Michael Watson, president, presented the report and moved adoption of PETITION 2, PART a: PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, and the petition was adopted.

Mr. Watson presented and moved adoption of PETITION 2, PART b: HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES and the petition was adopted.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Bishop Leeland reported that the offering on behalf of Bennett College totaled \$19,456.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY:** Wanda Musgrove, chairperson, made the report. A core focus of the Bishop is the “Bishop’s Emerging Leader Initiative.” In partnership with Queens University seventy-two people have been selected to develop leadership plans around 15 characteristics tied to making fruitful congregations. DeEtta Rivens, administrative assistant to the bishop, was recognized and thanked for her work. Rev. Paul Milton escorted Mrs. Janet Leeland to the stage. Ms. Musgrove noted that the Bishop marks his fiftieth year in the ministry and that the Leelands celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 27, 2018.

**REPORT OF BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD:** Rev. Joe Westfall, president, made the report. The standard benefit for the families of deceased clergy continues to be \$9,500. Compassion, comfort, and care are core values of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood. Rev. Roland Barnhardt, executive director, noted that the laity members provide half of the annual income for the BH/SH. Eighteen clergy members have died in the past year and 1,048 clergy members of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood have died over the life of the organization thus far.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Rev. J. Daniel Hester, chairperson, Leadership Development Team, presented the report. He highlighted the work of the Leadership Development Team to increase the capacity of ministry professionals to interpret, adapt, and lead in ever changing contexts for ministry. He particularly noted the extensive library now available at [www.LEADwnc.org](http://www.LEADwnc.org) and through the eLEAD newsletter, the development of opportunities for individual coaching and peer learning groups in preaching, spiritual formation, and mid-career ministry. Rev. Hester encouraged a partnership between clergy and laity for effective leadership. To that end, he introduced Tom Bridges and Kylee Rose Frye, lay leadership, who presented a video and provided an overview of the lay servant ministry initiative of the Board of Laity.



**JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION TEAM:** Pamela Shoffner, chairperson, began the report and noted that there are ten areas of concern for social justice ministries for which the team is responsible. Ms. Shoffner introduced Neffie (Connie) Locklear, convener, who summarized the work of **Native American Ministries**. Ms. Locklear described the effort to bring tribal communities together to build leadership and address long-standing concerns, particularly the historic trauma of separating children from families who were sent to boarding schools. Rev. Emmanuel Boakye-Yiadom, convener, reported for the **Commission on Religion and Race**. He mentioned that this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration had brought the largest attendance. He announced that the 2019 event will be Saturday, January 19, 2019 at University City United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Susan Suarez-Webster, convener, spoke about **Hispanic/Latino Ministries**. The Hispanic Caucus of The United Methodist Church will assemble in Charlotte, August 1-5, 2018. People from the U.S., the Caribbean, Central and South America will be attending. Rev. In-Yong Lee updated the work of the **Dismantling Racism Task Force**. The mission of the task force is to eradicate systemic forces of racism in the WNCC. Mandatory dismantling racism training for clergy and key lay leaders is being planned. Four pilot training events are being developed for the spring of 2019. Rev. Jonathan Brake, convener and WNCC Earthkeeper, reported on **Creation Care Ministry**. The mission is to help persons to know God in creation and to act on behalf of environmental wholeness and justice. The purpose is to encourage creation stewardship and sustainable living and to spur action for advocacy around local environmental issues. Rev. Brandon Wrencher, co-vice chairperson of the justice and reconciliation team, highlighted the work of **Christian Community Development**. The effort is to amplify the need to prioritize the experiences and needs of ministry for minority, multi-ethnic, and underserved populations in any given community. As part of the report a video was shown that showcased youth who attended a conference focused on justice and reconciliation ministry last summer at Clafin University. Rev. Wrencher concluded the report with news about one of the Advocacy Seed Grants introduced at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. Olivia Navarrow was a recipient of one of the grants for her Sparrow Project, designed to feed people not dumpsters.

**MISSION ENGAGEMENT TEAM:** Brian Mateer, chairperson, presented the report. He highlighted the three awards the team had recently received in the areas of health initiatives, international disaster response, and national disaster response. The mission engagement team is charged to help equip the local church develop mission connection teams. He noted that Project Agape, the WNC mission outreach in Armenia, celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A video was shown that illustrated examples of neighboring well which featured Rev. Laura Birch and her family. The newest mission connection team links churches and Pam Wolf, founder of food for kids, with providing fortified peanut butter for children in Haiti.

**CHURCH VITALITY TEAM: DENMAN AWARD:** Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader and executive director of the Foundation for Evangelism, and Rev. Sherrie B. Schork, Smoky Mountain District church vitality strategist, gave the report. Ms. Boatwright Wood spoke about the Foundation for Evangelism which works to equip disciples to make a witness about Jesus Christ. She outlined the criteria for the annual Harry Denman awards. Rev. Schork announced that Rev. Donnie S. Mitchem is the 2018 recipient of the Harry Denman Award and the first ordained Deacon in this conference to be so honored. Rev. Mitchem is a licensed psychotherapist with Atrium Health. In partnership with Christ UMC (Charlotte, Metro District) and Coulwood Middle School she has impacted students and families in that community.

**CHURCH VITALITY TEAM: ONE MATTERS AWARDS:** Vance Ross, from UM Discipleship Ministries, described the "One Matters" award which was created in 2015 with the purpose of lifting up churches, which in recent years moved from zero baptisms and profession of faith into positive numbers. Rev. Daniel L. Pezet, II, conference director of church development, introduced Rev. Dr. Nancy B. Rankin, Northern Piedmont district superintendent. Rev. Rankin presented a "One Matters" award to Collins Grove, Greensboro (NP District) and pastor Rick Yourse. Rev. Angela A. Pleasants, Catawba Valley district superintendent, presented a "One Matters" award to Arneys/Fairview (CV District) and pastor W. Edward Stephenson. Each recipient was given a plaque and a check for \$1000.00 for further discipleship-making ministries.

**CHURCH VITALITY FRESH EXPRESSIONS:** Rev. Luke S. Edwards, coordinator, explained that *Fresh Expressions of Church* are small faith communities that do not look like conventional church models. More than 260 people participated in informational sessions called Vision Days, and 13 Fresh Expressions meet regularly across the conference. Rev. Daniel L. Pezet, II, conference director of church development, commissioned all those who will commit to launch a new fresh expression and invited them to learn about grant funds to begin those new initiatives.

**RECESS:** The conference recessed at 3:53 p.m.

**CONFERENCE RECONVENES:** Pursuant to adjournment the conference reconvened at 4:15 p.m. with singing hymn 733, *Marching to Zion*, and prayer by Evelyn Gomez-Perez, Forest Hill (Concord, Metro District).

**PETITION 19: CHANGE IN PERCENTAGE OF PROCEEDS FROM CLOSED CHURCH PROPERTIES:** Sue Jones, member of the petitions committee (Cashiers, Smoky Mountain District) presented the petition.

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Rankin, district superintendent Northern Piedmont, spoke in favor of the petition.

Teila Hand-Broadnax, St. Marks (Charlotte, Metro District) moved to amend the petition in the resolved paragraph that would change the distribution of proceeds from 25% and 75% to 50% for the district and conference vitality team and spoke in favor of the amendment.

Rev. Linwood C. Brooks, Mouzon (Charlotte, Metro District) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Rev. P. Glenn Kinken, III, Davidson (Metro District) spoke against the motion.

Rev. Otto D. Harris, III, St. Marks (Charlotte, Metro District) spoke in favor of the amendment.

David Lisk, St. Andrews (Charlotte, Metro District) spoke against the change.

Rev. Michelle D. Chappell, Central (Charlotte, Metro District) asked a question about the grant process for funding from the conference vitality team, and Rev. Dan Pezet, director of church development, answered.

The amendment was defeated and the original petition was approved.

**PETITION 18: SUPPORT OF NETworX:** Ms. Jones presented the petition and Rev. Lucy B. Robbins spoke in favor of the petition.

Rev. Elizabeth O. Coppedge-Henley asked a question about any requirement for a non-profit requesting approval as a special offering agency to submit an annual audit.

Rev. Glenn Kinken and Rev. Mark King responded.

The petition was adopted.

**PETITION 21: JUST POLICY FOR LOCAL CHURCH EMPLOYEES:** Ms. Jones presented the petition and Rev. Kelly P. Carpenter spoke in favor of the petition.

A Member (AP District) spoke against the petition.

McKinley Greer, Faithwalk (Gibsonville, NP District) spoke in favor of the petition.

David Isenhour, Rocky Ridge, (Concord, Metro District) spoke against.

Helen Ryde, (BR District) spoke in favor.

Rev. Charles D. Rivens, Sr., New Covenant (Lenior, AP District) asked a question and the Bishop answered.

Samuel Johnson, Christ (Hickory, CV District) spoke against the petition.

Rev. W. Leon Morrow, Hickory Grove (Greensboro, NP District) moved to table the petition and the motion to table was defeated.

The petition was adopted.

**PETITION 20: ENCOURAGING GRACIOUS EXIT ACCOMODATION:** Ms. Jones presented the petition as amended by the submitters. The amendment is in the resolved section at the end of the petition. In the sentence that begins "Such an exit path..." add the word "consider" before the word "allow" and change the word "allow" to "allowing" so that the sentence would read: Resolved, ... Such an exit path should consider allowing congregations to leave the denomination with their buildings and assets. ...

Bishop Paul L. Leeland ruled the petition not properly before the annual conference and ruled the petition out of order.

Rev. Charles C. Kyker, Christ (Hickory, CV District) made a point of order (Part II Rules of Order, Part A. Presiding Officer, Rule 1.) and appealed the ruling of the chair. The appeal was not sustained and the Bishop's ruling was upheld. The petition was not considered.

**CABINET RESOLUTIONS:** The Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the Bishop and secretary of the Cabinet, proposed adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment, and they were adopted:

**Macedonia United Methodist Church**, Iredell County, Appalachian District (GCFA: 300071; AP-500.1)

*Whereas*, Macedonia United Methodist Church, Iredell County, Appalachian District, has declined to an average worship attendance of three (3) persons,

*Whereas*, due to declining attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and

*Whereas*, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Appalachian District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Macedonia United Methodist Church, Iredell County, Appalachian District, be declared discontinued and abandoned effective November 10, 2017; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, Ashe County, Appalachian District (GCFA: 297850; AP-430.2)

*Whereas*, Trinity United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District, no longer has any persons gathering for worship,

*Whereas*, due to the lack of attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and

*Whereas*, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Appalachian District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Trinity United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District, be declared discontinued and abandoned effective May 31, 2018; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Mountain Valley United Methodist Church**, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District (GCFA: 291330; BR-100.2)

Whereas, Mountain Valley United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 3 members, with worship attendance averaging 4; and,

Whereas, the church is financially unable to support a pastor's salary and district and conference apportionments, nor adequately maintain the buildings; and

Whereas, Mountain Valley United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶¶ 201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016); and,

Whereas, members present from Mountain Valley United Methodist, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by unanimous vote on April 12, 2018; and

Whereas, Mountain Valley United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on April 29, 2018; and

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that Mountain Valley United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective May 15, 2018; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**New Hope United Methodist Church**, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley District (GCFA: 294093; CV-465)

Whereas, New Hope United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley District, has declined to 12 members in worship attendance; and

Whereas, the church is financially unable to support the pastor's salary, and district and conference apportionments, nor to maintain the buildings; and

Whereas, due to declining attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and

Whereas, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the Catawba Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the New Hope United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2018; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Cole Memorial United Methodist Church**, Mecklenburg County, Metro District (GCFA: 291705; ME-120.0)

Whereas, Cole Memorial has completed a study and assessment with the Church Legacy Initiative of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, in this study it was decided that Cole Memorial was struggling to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by *The Book of Discipline* (2016) ¶¶ 201-204; and

Whereas, at a Charge Conference held on March 18, 2018, the charge voted for discontinuance; and

Whereas, Cole Memorial United Methodist Church plans to hold a celebration of their many years of faithfulness sharing the gospel in their community with a closing worship service on June 17, 2018; and

Whereas, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Metro District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that Cole Memorial United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2018; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Vida Nueva United Methodist Church**, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District (GCFA: 296081; NP-560)

Whereas, the reported membership of Vida Nueva United Methodist Church is 61 members, with worship attendance of 20 or less; and

Whereas, the Vida Nueva United Methodist Church financial obligations for the pastor, a parsonage, property insurance, and certain other costs have been borne in full by the District and the Conference since its inception in 1994; and, the current Vida Nueva United Methodist Church congregation is unable to take on any of those financial obligations; and

Whereas, Vida Nueva United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by *The Book of Discipline* (2016); and

Whereas, the Vida Nueva United Methodist Church congregation has been invited by Mayodan United Methodist Church in Mayodan, North Carolina to become members and they have been attending since July 2017; and

Whereas, the Northern Piedmont District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building committee have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that Vida Nueva United Methodist Church be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective November 1, 2017; that the remaining members be transferred to Mayodan United Methodist Church; and that the property be transferred

to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Staley United Methodist Church**, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District (GCFA: 289688; NP-030.2)

Whereas, the reported membership of Staley United Methodist Church is 30 members, with worship attendance of 10 or less; and Whereas, Staley United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by *The Book of Discipline* (2016); and

Whereas, the Northern Piedmont District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building committee have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Staley United Methodist Church be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 1, 2018; that the remaining members be transferred to First Liberty United Methodist Church; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Calvary United Methodist Church**, Randolph County, Uwharrie District (GCFA: 300628; UW-050)

Whereas, the charge conference of Calvary United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Uwharrie District, has made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation;

Whereas, Calvary United Methodist Church has planned to hold a celebration Homecoming service on April 22, 2018, and a closing worship service on June 10, 2018;

Whereas, the Uwharrie District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Uwharrie District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Calvary United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Uwharrie District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2018; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Tabernacle United Methodist Church**, Stanly County, Uwharrie District (GCFA: 299186; UW-475.2)

Whereas, the charge conference of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Stanly County, Uwharrie District, has made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation;

Whereas, Tabernacle United Methodist Church is a legal corporation;

Whereas, the Uwharrie District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Uwharrie District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Stanly County, Uwharrie District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective December 31, 2017; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference; and the legal corporation dissolved.

The Rev. Dawn M. Hand asked a question and Rev. Coles responded. Janet Reep-Morgan asked a question and Rev. Coles answered. Rev. Coles then led a litany of thanksgiving for the mission, ministry, heritage, and the people of the several congregations dissolved and abandoned.

**PETITION TO REUNITE IMMIGRANT FAMILIES:** Rev. Kathy Randall Bryant moved the adoption and spoke in favor of the following proposal:

**Proposal: Reunite Immigrant Families**

Whereas, the United States government recently implemented a coercive “zero tolerance” policy resulting in the traumatic separation of children from immigrant parents and the subsequent incarceration of children in detention centers; and

Whereas, the President of the United States signed a subsequent Executive Order ceasing this separation, yet omitting any language about the children previously separated and housed in detention centers; and

Whereas, God instructs us to not oppress the alien among us (*Leviticus 19:33-34*) and care for the least among us (*Matthew 25:40*); and

Whereas, ¶162.H of the *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* state, “We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.” (*The 2016 Book of Discipline*); therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, shall respectfully request the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Justice to reunite children with their families who had previously been separated by the United States government due to the “zero tolerance” policy in an expedient, humane, and compassionate manner.

Rev. Samuel T. Harris, Coleridge (UW District) spoke against the petition.

Rev. Marilyn L. Weiler, Pine Grove (Winston-Salem, YV District) spoke in favor of the proposal.

Vann Jones, Hardison, Mocksville (YV District) raised a point of order and the Bishop responded.

Wade Loftin, Bethel, Thomasville (YV District) spoke against the petition.

Nerina Packard, First (Cherryville, CV District) asked a question and the Bishop noted the clarification.

Terry Fulcher, Mount Carmel (Winston-Salem, YV District) spoke in favor.

Rev. Tommy L. Robertson, retired (UW District) spoke against.

Angela Dean, Bethlehem (Claremont, CV District) asked a question and Bishop Leeland answered.

The proposal was adopted and the conference secretary instructed to submit the proposal to the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Justice.

**PRIVILEGE MATTER:** Bishop Leeland expressed his deep appreciation to Jarvis Wilson and Keith Wilson who have served as the conference musicians for this session of the annual conference.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Rev. Kimberly Ingram, conference secretary made necessary announcements, including words of appreciation to Rev. H. Michael Rich for his work as conference director of communications.

**RECESS:** The conference recessed at 5:30 p.m.

### SERVICE OF ORDINATION – 7:30 P.M.

Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr., The United Methodist Church (retired) preached a sermon from *Romans 12:1-10*, titled “The DNA of Your Calling.” Bishop Gwinn challenged the ordinands to give themselves whole heartedly to God and not depend on your own strength, be the example, do not lose focus on what God wants you to be, and act courageously, praise the lord and do not be afraid. Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader, and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry assisted in the service. Following examination, six deacons and 18 elders were ordained by Bishop Paul L. Leeland, assisted by Bishops Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr., Charles Crutchfield, and Charlene Kammerer. Tae Wan {Joseph} Kim had his orders recognized as an elder in full connection in The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Rhonda B. Smith, Rev. Carrie A. Wright, Rev. Saxon Scarborough, and Laurin Allred provided special music, accompaniment and direction for the hymns. Grady Wiley, Edna B. Johnson, Rev. Matthew R. Lawing, and Rev. Brad Hopper participated in the liturgy.

Each ordinand received a red stole appropriate for their order and their certificate of ordination.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

#### A SERVICE OF THE WORD, AND THE FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS - 10 A.M.

Bishop Paul L. Leeland, taking his text from *Colossians 1:15-20, 25-29*, preached the sermon entitled, “What Are We To Teach.” Recalling the instructions of his grandmother and the preaching of John Wesley, Bishop Leeland challenged the conference: “If you want to live the biblical life, if you want to know what to teach, this is how you live the life of the kingdom: do no harm, do all the good you can, and stay in the ordinances of God – read scripture, pray, worship, observe the sacraments, and be held accountable.” He encouraged the congregation that despite risks, dangers, and weaknesses, we are called to reach out to the least, the last, and the lost and teach the story of God’s love in order to present people mature before God. The Greensboro Community Cluster Choir, under the direction of Dr. Charlesetta Dawson and Carolyn Hill; and, the Denver UMC Contemporary Band, under the direction of Brittany Bethel, provided special choral presentations and music. Rev. Juston Smith, associate pastor, First UMC (Gastonia, CV District) served as the organist and provided accompaniment.


**OFFERING:** The morning offering was designated for the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center Bridge Restoration Fund.

**FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS:** Bishop Paul L. Leeland officially fixed the clergy appointments for the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church for the ensuing year.

**CHARGE AND COVENANT PRAYER:** Bishop Leeland charged the licensed, commissioned, consecrated, and ordained clergy to go where they are sent and called to serve. He charged the laity, including deaconesses and diaconal ministers, to live and serve in God’s world and to receive and support the clergy appointed to their churches

**BLESSING OF THE TREES:** Following the singing of hymn 369, *Blessed Assurance*, the trees that had adorned the worship space were blessed and will be planted on the grounds of Lake Junaluska as a reminder of the fruit that is born from the seeds that have been planted in our lives. Worship concluded with special music, *I Need You to Survive*, sung by the Greensboro Community Cluster Choir and a responsive benediction led by Bishop Leeland.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adjourned *sine die* at 12 p.m.



Kimberly T. Ingram



Paul L. Leeland

### D. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

This is to certify that at a service of commissioning held on Friday evening, June 22, 2018, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I, Paul L. Leeland, a bishop in The United Methodist Church did Commission for ministry in The United Methodist Church under the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as provisional members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference:

Cole Darren Altizer, Carrie Allison Carpenter, Luke Patton Christy, David Eugene Cochran III, Sharad Hasseini Cresman, Charles Stephen DiRico Jr., Kelly Renee Dotson, Holly Dawn Evensen, Mary Elizabeth Gaston, Evan Wilson Hill, Amy Beth Hutchison, Bahekelwa Soph Imatha, Tamara Zarita McDowell Ingram, Jeremiah Lemuel Johnson, Wanda Gail Helms Lancaster, Gregory Ross Little, Caitlin Murray McAlhany, Joseph Thomas Precht, Kristen McCulley Surratt, Caitlin Margaret Tremper, and Bryan Allen Wilson.

This is further to certify that at a service of ordination held on Saturday evening, June 23, 2018, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I did

**Ordain to the Order of Deacon in The United Methodist Church:**

Meredith Angeline Hinton, Matthew Rick Lawing, Corey Cole Milliet, Jerrienne Canipe Pyles, Kyle Lynn Sigmon, Debra Chrismon Swing;

**Ordain to the Order of Elder in The United Methodist Church:**

Sarah Louise Belles, Joshua Oren Britton, Lonna Angel Jackson Christ, John Zachery Christy, Darryl Diwayne Dayson II, Karen Crouch Doucette, Jonathan Alan Gaylord, Bradley Thomas Hinton, Dianne Rudd Johnston, Joshua David Kurtz, Adam Christopher Love, Tracy Fulbright Love, Christopher Alan Smith, Jesse Ray Smith, Juston Ray Smith, Patricia Black Spicer, Aryn Margaret Williams-Ruebel, and Daniel Robert Wilson.



Bishop