

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

A. PROGRAM OF THE 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

(Private Livestream)

10:00 a.m.

Executive Session of Clergy Members

¶ 605.6 – “The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference”

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

(www.wnccumc.org, Facebook Live, YouTube Live)

10:00 a.m.

Opening Worship – “Partnership in the Gospel” – Philipians 1:3-15

Bishop Paul L. Leeland, preaching

Offering: UMAR and Northern Haiti Connection

Celebration of Life: Remembering Deceased Clergy,

Diaconal Ministers, and Clergy Spouses

Conference Plenary – Business Session

Organizational Matters

Conference Business

Laity Presentation

Conference Council on Finance and Administration

2022 Conference Budget

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Recognition of Retiring Clergy

Conference Trustees

Disaffiliation Resolutions

Cabinet Resolutions

Location of the 2022 Annual Conference Meeting

Order of the Day – Celebration of Bishop Paul and Janet Leeland’s Ministry

Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth

Adjournment of the 2021 Annual Conference, *sine die***Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina**

Elect Board of Directors

Closing Prayer and Hymn

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

(Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska)

10:00 a.m.

Worship Service – Commissioning of Provisional Members

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, preaching

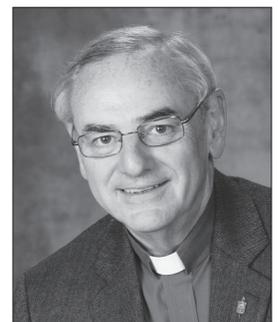
2:00 p.m.

Worship Service – Ordination of Deacons and Elders

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, preaching



Bishop Paul L. Leeland
Western North Carolina Conference
Charlotte Area



Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster
Southeastern Jurisdiction, Retired
Candler Bishop-in-Residence

B. CONNECTION POINTS (PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS)

Join WNCC for **CONNECTION POINTS** each evening throughout the week leading up to Annual Conference, connecting us to Christ, each other, and ministry in the world. *Streaming live:*

June 7–10

7:00 pm

www.wnccumc.org/AC21ConnectionPoints

When	What
Monday, June 7	Equity & Justice: Eradicating the Other Pandemic
	In the face of increasing injustice and violence against persons of color, United Methodists have pledged to “Stand Against Racism.” In March 2021, the Western North Carolina Conference established the department of Equity and Justice Ministries and hired the Reverend Doctor William (Bill) M. White to lead the strategic efforts in diversity, equity, inclusion, and advocacy and to help implement these practices in all areas of Conference and local church ministry. Join us for an opportunity to get to know Dr. White and learn about his passion and vision for this position.
Tuesday, June 8	Moving Forward in the UMC
	The current pandemic continues to alter the work of our denomination. General Conference was postponed and then postponed again. The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference was supposed to meet to retire and elect bishops. That has been postponed. Where do things stand in the denomination and what can we expect in the near future? Bishop Paul Leeland and WNC Delegation Chairs, Kim Ingram and Jennifer Davis, will lead a conversation about the future of The United Methodist Church. You are invited to submit questions in advance to kingram@wnccumc.org .
Wednesday, June 9	Theirs is the Kingdom Documentary Screening and Q&A
	<i>Theirs is the Kingdom</i> follows the rare creation of a contemporary fresco mural inside the sanctuary of the Haywood Street Congregation in Asheville, NC. This is a painting not of the rich and powerful, but of people battling homelessness, addiction, and mental illness. From first sketch to final unveiling, the viewer witnesses the difficulties of this ancient artistic technique while also meeting an ensemble cast of rich, complex characters. The documentary will be available for virtual screening beginning on June 1. On Wednesday, June 9, join Director Chris Zaluski, Artist Christopher Holt, and Rev. Brian Combs for a Q&A webinar to talk about the film, the artistic process, and the theology of Haywood Street. Learn more about the documentary on their website http://theirsisthekingdomfilm.com . Learn more about Haywood Street http://haywoodstreet.org and the Fresco project https://visit.haywoodstreetfresco.org .
Thursday, June 10	Conference Awards Night
	Every year, our conference recognizes individuals and congregations for outstanding ministry. Join us via live-stream as we present the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards, Francis Asbury Award, Scouting Award, and the Certificate in Church Treasury. We hope that you will gather with us on this special night to honor these leaders in ministry.

C. DAILY MINUTES**THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2021****EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 10:00 A.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 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2021, via a YouTube live stream platform. Bishop Leeland welcomed those attending and opened with prayer. Again, this year the session is being conducted virtually because of the pandemic. He noted that 2021 marked the 53rd year of The United Methodist Church and the 237th year of the Methodist Church in The United States. Bishop Leeland introduced Christopher Hampton, director of web and database administration. Mr. Hampton reviewed the chat and assist tools of the live stream platform. He explained that voting would be by V-Poll and would be conducted in real time. Mr. Hampton then proceeded to show attendees how to vote and walk through the connection process for voting. Participants should not have to refresh their screens and that there would be a 10 second delay between what is said and then heard. He reminded the clergy to check submit after voting and wait until the time clock begins before voting. He then presented a test question for each participant to submit. Technical difficulties for accessing and voting ensued. Bishop Leeland interrupted to say that the problems were trying to be diagnosed and fixed. After an additional delay and the inability to correct the technical issues, Bishop Leeland announced that the session would proceed with the Business Questions and a poll ballot would be emailed later today. The same log-in procedure would be required to vote and the vote tabulations would be recorded. Bishop Leeland thanked each clergy person for their ministry and pastoral presence. The bishop explained that ¶¶ 369.5, 603.3 and 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)* gave permission for the means of this meeting and the purpose and business of the executive session of the clergy and the sole eligibility of clergy members in full connection to vote.

PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT: At the request of Bishop Leeland, the clergy members in full connection, using the clergy session on-line poll ballot, approved by the required majority vote (Yes 79.9%, No 20.1%) that lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are granted voice and vote; and that local pastors may speak during the executive session.

BUSINESS QUESTION 17: Bishop Leeland affirmed the character of the eight District Superintendents and reported that each of the District Superintendents had affirmed that the character of the clergy serving in their districts was blameless. Business question 17 was approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line poll ballot (Yes 90%, No 10%).

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT: Reverend Lynda L. Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW), chairperson, presented the report. She thanked the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and their service. Because a new Quadrennium has begun, Rev. Ferguson noted that the board has reorganized with more diversity, experience, and new responsibilities. She voiced appreciation for Adri Bullard-Rodgers, ministry assistant in the office of ministerial services; Rev. F. Annalee Allen, associate director of ministerial services; and to, Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, director of ministerial services. Rev. Ferguson reported that the Board will work to be more aware of the harm that racism causes to individuals and communities. To this end the focus and content for clergy ethics training will be on anti-racism training and application. Beginning this fall each district will host a training event. All clergy will be required to attend the training and they are encouraged to bring a lay person to join them. The Executive Committee created a "Fair and Equitable Interview Task Force, chaired by Ceola Ross-Barber (Laity, Newlyn St. Greensboro, NP) and Rev. Kevin Turner (Clergy, Davidson, ME). Changes and revisions have been made in regard to the interview questions for full connection candidates and are posted on the conference website under the ministerial services tab. The Board has given attention to updating the vacation and continuing education policy for clergy and has been submitted as petition 9 for consideration and vote at the conference session on Saturday. Rev. Ferguson concluded the report by thanking Bishop Leeland for his leadership and prayed for blessings upon him.

ORDER OF ELDERS: Rev. Ferguson reported that Rev. Angela A. Pleasants has resigned as chairperson for the Order of Elders and that Rev. Norma Hickman de Villagrana, Zion (Monroe, ME) is nominated as chair and was elected by the required majority vote from the elders in full connection using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 95%, No 5%).

BUSINESS QUESTIONS: Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, began the presentation of the required business questions that need a vote. Elders in full connection, deacons in full connection and all members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote. Business question 18a (members of the Administrative Review Committee) were approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 97%, No 3%). Business question 19 was referenced to highlight the candidates for ministry. Business question 20 (persons who have completed licensing, are approved, but not appointed) were approved by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.8%, No 0.2%). Business question 21 (persons approved and appointed as full time and part-time local pastors on 7/1/2021) were approved by the required $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.4%, No 0.6%). Business question 25 (clergy from other denominations approved to serve in the Western North Carolina Conference) was approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (96.6%, No 3.4%). Rev. Ferguson read the names and a picture was displayed of the six persons to be elected as provisional deacons and the eight persons to be elected as provisional elders; and they were elected by the required $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.4%, No 0.6%). Business question 29 (persons continuing as provisional members) were approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.7%, No 0.3%). In business question 31b (ordained clergy received from other Christian denominations) two persons were elected as local pastors by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 97.5%, No 2.5%). In response to business questions 32, 33, and 34, Rev. Ferguson read the names and a picture was projected of the one person to be elected into full connection and approved to be ordained as a deacon and 14 persons to be elected into full connection and approved to be ordained as an elder. They were elected and approved by the required $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot: Q 32 (Yes 99.1%, No 0.9%), Q33 (Yes 99.7%, No 0.3%), Q 34 (Yes 99.5%, No 0.5%).

In response to business question 38, Rev. Ferguson read the names and a picture was shown of the two persons received by transfer from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church; and, they were received by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.2%, No 0.8%). In business question 39 (transferred in for other Methodist denominations), one person was welcomed into the annual conference. In response to business question 42b three persons were discontinued as provisional members by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.7%, No 0.3%). In response to business question 46 a, b (Conference membership terminated) two persons were approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 98.6%, No 1.4%). Rev. Paul B. Thompson, Huntersville (Huntersville, ME), vice-chairperson, continued the report of the required business questions. The response to business question 48 (What clergy have died during the year) will be honored and remembered later in the session. Rev. Thompson presented the response to business question 50a1 (personal voluntary leave, 5 years or less) and it was approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.5%, No 0.5%). In response to business question 50a3 (family voluntary leave, 5 years or less) approval was given by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.2%, No 0.8%). In response to business question 50a4 (family voluntary leave, more than 5 years) approval was given by the required 2/3 majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 96.6%, No 3.4%). Rev. Thompson presented business question 52 (request for medical leave) and it was approved by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.7%, No 0.3%). In response to business questions 53 and 56, Rev. Thompson read the names and a photograph was displayed of the two deacons, 21 elders, and six local pastors who are retiring this year. The required majority vote in each instance for deacons and elders was given for this change of status using the clergy session on-line ballot (Q 53 Yes 99.8%, No 0.2%). Donald Eugene Meadows was recognized as a retiring certified lay minister with his name and picture displayed. Rev. Thompson presented the response to business question 72a (associate members and elders approved for appointments to less than full-time service). The first vote is for those up to 8 years, and they were approved by the required 2/3 majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 99.1%, No 0.9%). The second vote is for those who will have been less than full-time for 8 years or more, and they were approved by the required 3/4 majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes 98.5%, No 1.5%). Rev. Thompson presented the response to business question 76c (appointment to "other valid ministries") and the required 2/3 majority vote was received using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes, 99.5%, No, 0.5%). Rev. Thompson moved that all the business questions considered as part of the executive session of the clergy be approved, and they were affirmed by the required majority vote using the clergy session on-line ballot (Yes, 98.9%, No, 1.1%).

RECOGNITION OF DECEASED CLERGY: The Rev. Paul Thompson read the names and a picture was displayed of the one associate member, retired; the two active elders and the 17 retired elders; and the two active local pastors and the four retired local pastors who have died in the last year. Bishop Paul Leeland celebrated the lives of these departed sisters and brothers, gave thanks for their years of service and ministry, and petitioned for God's grace for their families, friends, and fellow clergy. Using words from the liturgy of the service of death and resurrection Bishop Leeland offered a prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a benediction by Bishop Leeland, the executive session of the clergy members adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021

OPENING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M.

Using a live stream video platform, The Wiseman's View Band presented the prelude, "Amazing Love." The Reverend Justin H. Lowe, Sedge Garden (Kernersville, YV), chair of the annual conference worship committee, welcomed and prepared worshippers. The theme for worship is "Beginning Anew." Rev. Lowe described the contents of the worship box delivered earlier to members. The box held a butterfly shaped flower paper, which could be planted, an offering envelope, a wooden prayer cross, and a small votive candle. From the sanctuary of Greensboro Korean UMC, Cheryl Little, St. Matthews (Greensboro, NP), Rynn McGee-Pierce, Gideon Grove (Stokesdale, NP), Brenda Steadman, Ceclia Phelps Memorial (Greensboro, NP), Donna M. Miller, Muirs Chapel (Greensboro, NP), and Yebeen Park, Greensboro Korean (Greensboro, NP) offered the call to worship adapted from Psalm 51 and The World Methodist Social Affirmation, UMH 886. The Annual Conference Virtual Choir led the singing of the opening hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive," UMH 553, featuring the Stokesdale UMC handbells, and organ accompaniment by Michael Brannon. Reeni Dowd provided American Sign Language interpretation. The Rev. Pamela E. Blackstock, Central (Charlotte, ME) read the scripture from Philippians 1:3-11. Bishop Paul L. Leeland, WNCC Resident and Presiding Bishop, brought the message. He reflected on the transitions of the events of the past and looking forward to the future, not only in the immediacy of the current pandemic and the struggle within the United Methodist Church, but also of his own personal life and ministry with his upcoming retirement. Paul's letter to the Philippians has been foundational for his entire ministry. He gave thanks to God for the partnership with others in the proclaiming of the gospel in the past and prayers for that same grace to bring completion in the future. He urged and prayed that Jesus' disciples and the church will bear the fruit of righteousness and prove what is excellent. We can do that by preaching the Jesus of scripture and the historic creeds of the church; and, working to unify with reformation the Church through Jesus Christ. Secondly, Bishop Leeland admonished the conference to complete the good work begun in you through Christ by following Paul's exhortations to love completely, abhor evil, and be committed to the good. He closed with an ancient prayer of the church invoking the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Rev. Blalock invited worshippers to respond to the message by using the prayer card, received earlier in the worship box, and write a prayer for the church, place it a special place, and pray the prayer regularly. In further response the 9:09 Band sang "Create in Me." The 2021 Annual Conference Offering will be evenly divided between the Northern Haiti Mission Connection and UMAR. Gifts this year will be in honor of Bishop Paul and Janet Leeland in celebration of their ministry. More information about the recipients can be found on the annual conference website. The Rev. Maegan D. Habich, University Chaplain and Director of Church Relations, Pfeiffer University led the affirmation of faith, "A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada". With Sarah McKinney playing "Amazing Grace" on a hammered dulcimer, a celebration of life remembered the 28 clergy and diaconal ministers; and, the 38 spouses of clergy and diaconal ministers who had died since the last session of annual

conference. The Reverends Ellis Carson, Mary Elizabeth “Meg” Gaston, Samuel Lewis, Wanda Lancaster, David Blankenberg, Lisa Marshall, Joseph Precht, Chad Shoaf, Charles DiRico, Johnny Lord, and Amy Hutchinson, representing the 2020 and 2021 classes of ordinands for elder and deacon, led the liturgy and read the names in alphabetical order as a picture, if available, was shown, a candle lighted and a bell tolled.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Bishop Paul L. Leeland, resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, convened the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, using several digital platforms to live stream the proceedings. Bishop Leeland noted that this the 53rd year of The United Methodist Church and the 237th anniversary of the Methodist Church. The continued pandemic necessitates the need for the annual conference to meet virtually and because of the new technology being used to facilitate the meeting he asked that the members of the conference have grace and patience as we navigate this session of the annual conference. Bishop Leeland introduced Chris Hampton.

TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS: Mr. Chris Hampton, conference director of web and database administration, opened with great appreciation for the Rev. Dr. Andrea F. Smith, West (Mooresville, ME) for the assistance in making the live stream possible. Brad and Josh from the church’s tech team provided invaluable technology support. For reasons outside of the conference’s control, a last-minute change requires changing the voting platform. While not ideal, efforts have been made to make the transition as seamless as possible. An email was sent to notify of the change and the new link to log-in to the voting platform. The voting ID provided earlier is still the ID needed to vote today. The only thing changed is the web link. Like last year, 2020, Election Buddy will be used. This platform is survey style, which means you will vote on all the questions all at once any time this afternoon. The ballot will go live shortly after the conference session live stream is complete and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. to cast the ballot. An email from Election Buddy will alert members that the ballot has opened. There are three ways to connect to the ballot. The first is an email from Election Buddy. The second way by text message, if the conference member has mobile number on file. The third way is to go the conference website, vote now. Remember, one’s last name must be entered just as it appears and is case sensitive. Once the ballot appears, for each question the options are yes, no, or abstain. Each question must be answered in order to cast the complete ballot. Once finished there will be a verify your ballot tab. Click the tab and a page will appear to check all the responses. If one is satisfied with the answers, then click submit. For help with any issue, email a ticket to help@wnccumc.net. A tech team will be available to assist. This is the only way, at this time to help.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Leeland announced all items from the clergy session were approved. He reminded the conference members that paragraph 603 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)* gives permission for the change of venue for the annual meeting. The Bishop thanked conference members for their presence and requested their patience. He further noted that Rule 32 of the conference order and rules provides permission for use of a virtual format.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: Bishop Leeland introduced Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, who presented the following motions which will appear on the ballot for a vote:

VOTING BAR: Rev. Ingram moved that the voting bar for the annual conference will be the 2021 clergy and lay members of the annual conference who are present and voting virtually or on a paper ballot. (Vote: Yes 99.2%, No 0.8%).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The conference secretary moved that the conference program as printed on page three of the *Supplement to the Program and Reports* booklet constitute the official agenda of the 2021 conference session. (Vote: Yes 99.1%, No 0.9%)

REPORTS OF BOARD AND AGENCIES: The conference secretary moved 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 July 1, 2021. (Vote: Yes 94.4%, No 5.6%)

SECRETARIAL STAFF: The conference secretary nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2021 session: Marsha Patton and Rev. A. Owen Peeler, as associate secretaries. (Vote: Yes 96.3%, No 3.7%).

PETITION 9: VACATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CLERGY: Rev. Ingram referred conference members to the petition on page 50 of the *Program and Reports Supplement*. She noted that Rev. Laura H. Auten, Uwharrie District Superintendent, has recorded an information video about the policy that can be found on the annual conference webpage. Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministries presented the petition, which is an update of the former guidance adopted in 2002. The petition has the endorsement of the conference board of laity. The petition was adopted. (Vote: Yes 96%, No 4%).

CONFERENCE RULES AND PLAN OF ORGANIZATION: Rev. Ingram, conference secretary, referenced the conference plan of organization and rules, printed on pages 30-38 of the *Supplement*. Rev. Ingram introduced Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, Oak Hill (Morganton, CV) and chairperson of the conference committee on organization and rules, explained the responsibilities of the committee, listed the names of the members, and noted that the proposed changes to be made were primarily concerned with bringing the rules in line with *The Book of Discipline (2016)*, better reflecting current practices by the annual conference and clarifying the language used. He indicated that a more detailed video was available on the annual conference website to learn the explanations for the specific recommended changes. (Vote: Yes 98.2%, No 1.8%). The approved version of the organization and rules can be found in the 2021 Journal.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: The conference secretary presented the report of the committee on nominations for the 2020-2024 quadrennium ad interim changes printed on pages 38 of the *Supplement* and moved its adoption. The changes are the result primarily due to resignations or because persons are no longer eligible to serve. (Vote: Yes 97.9%, No 2.1%).

CONSENT CALENDAR MOTION: The conference secretary reported that the list of petitions for the consent calendar is found on page 39 of the Supplement and that the full description of petitions 3-8, and 10-17 are printed on pages 40-50 of the Supplement. All the petitions on the consent calendar will be a single vote on the ballot. (Vote: Yes 98.4%, No 1.6%).

JUST COMPENSATION TASK FORCE: Bishop Leeland reported that following the 2020 session of the annual conference he appointed a task force to investigate just and equitable compensation regarding a clergy person's appointment. The study revealed that clergy serving similar sized congregations had a wide discrepancy in compensations between gender and race. The task force research and findings will be posted on the conference web site and any proposal will be submitted for consideration at the 2022 session of the annual conference.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF LAITY: Bishop Leeland introduced John Crane, conference lay leader and president of the Board of Laity, who presented the report. On behalf of the board of laity he thanked the thousands of laity across the annual conference who shared their time, talents, resources, and witness to make a difference during the unprecedented time of a global pandemic. He thanked them for the ways the laity had served by sewing masks, learning new technologies to provide virtual platforms for worship and learning, volunteering at food banks and vaccination clinics, and providing support for those experiencing suffering and loss. In looking ahead, the board of laity is thinking of three distinct ways to build upon and encourage the ministry of the laity. First, the board will work with the conference staff and district staffs to improve laity communications. The goal is to make it easier for the laity to stay connected and informed about training opportunities, ministries, and resources. Second, the board wants to build upon the tradition for laity training within the conference by expanding the number of courses available and help prepare laity for leadership roles, both within the local church and beyond. Finally, the board wants to be intentional about finding new ways of deploying laity into ministries of transformation.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: The Rev. George M. Coates, Hickory Grove (Charlotte, ME) and president, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration. He summarized the responsibilities of CF&A required by *The Book of Discipline* to develop, maintain and administer the fiscal policies of the annual conference, to develop and manage the budget, and to serve as a ministry partner to make ministry and mission possible. He presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1a: 2022 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES. The Rev. Coates presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1b: 2022 Conference Budget. The overall budget for 2022 totals 17.057 million dollars. This amount is an increase of 6.68% or 1.068 million dollars from the 2021 budget. He explained that the increase was due, primarily, to a 2021 judicial council decision that increased the amount in the general church funds. Rev. Coates thanked the Rev. Dr. R. Mark King, conference treasurer and director of administrative services and the entire treasury service team for their work. Bishop Leeland echoed that appreciation noting that again this year an outside, independent audit offered an unqualified and excellent opinion on the way conference funds were managed. (Vote for Petitions 1a and 1b: Yes 95.9%, No 4.1%).

REPORT OF CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS: The Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Kalish, First (Wadesboro, UW) and president, presented the report of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. She presented and moved the adoption of PETITION 2a: PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES. Rev. Kalish presented and moved the adoption of PETITION 2b: HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES. Bishop Leeland offered profound appreciation to Dale Bryant, conference benefits administrator for his work in regard to the pension and health benefits of the conference. (Vote for Petitions 2a and 2b: Yes 98.5%, No 1.5%).

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CLERGY: The Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, introduced the recognition of 47 clergy retiring at the 2021 session. This class of retirees account for 1800 collective years of service. The name and service record of each retiree is listed in the Supplement on pages 63-66. While the Rev. Mark J. Key, Mt. Tabor (Winston-Salem, YV) spoke on behalf of the retirees by video, the names and pictures of each retiree was displayed. The Rev. Ellis K. Carson, Mount Tabor-Celia Phelps (Greensboro, NP) offered a response to the retirees on behalf of the ordination class of 2021. During his remarks the names and pictures of the retirees continued. On behalf of the ordination class of 2021, The Rev. Carrie A. Carpenter, Aldersgate (Shelby, CV) offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Bishop Leeland added his word of appreciation to the class of 2021 retirees and welcomed the new clergy being ordained and appointed to serve in the annual conference.

DISAFFILIATION OF CHURCHES: Bishop Leeland introduced Greg Huffman, conference chancellor, who outlined the decisions of the Special Session of the General Conference in February 2019 that created a pathway for churches to leave the denomination under certain circumstances. Paragraph 2553 allows a church to disaffiliate, or exit the denomination, if a church has objections of conscience in regard to the "traditional plan" passed at the 2019 General Conference, or if it has objections regarding the actions or inactions of its own annual conference in relation to the "traditional plan." When a church decides it wants to enter into the process it contacts its district superintendent and after deep consultation with its own congregation, the district superintendent, and the conference itself, a church vote can be scheduled. If the church votes to disaffiliate, which requires at least 2/3 of the members in attendance to vote in favor of disaffiliation, the matter is then turned over to the conference trustees. The conference trustees negotiate what is called a disaffiliation agreement with the church. As part of that agreement a church has to pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to its disaffiliation date. It has to pay 12 more months of apportionment and it also has to pay its pro-rata share of the annual conference funding liability to the denominational pension plan. A disaffiliating church has to repay any grants or loans from the conference or any other Methodist organization that it has received in the last 10 years. The church has to cover all the costs legal, accounting, and otherwise of asset transfers in the conference legal costs. Finally, the annual conference must approve the agreement. The following churches are requesting disaffiliation under ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) at this session of the annual conference: Calvary (Fleetwood), Dryman's Chapel (Franklin), Green Hill (Lenoir), Hoey Memorial (Shelby), Mt. Carmel (Monroe), Mt. Gilead (Randolph County), Mt. Hebron (Forest City), Oak Grove (Lawndale), Olin (Olin), Palm Tree (Lawndale), Prospect (Monroe), Snow Creek (Statesville), South River (Woodleaf), Sunshine (Bostic), Withers Chapel (Belews Creek), and Zion (Todd). Members will vote on the disaffiliation of each church individually.

PDFs of the legal documents for disaffiliation for each church are posted at www.AC2021.org.

Note, the disaffiliations become effective as of the date of property transfer, not the date of approval at Annual Conference. Thus, the disaffiliated churches will appear in the 2022 BAC.

Disaffiliation of Calvary United Methodist Church, Fleetwood, N.C., Appalachian District (Vote: Yes 91.7%, No 8.3%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Calvary United Methodist Church, Fleetwood, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Calvary United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Calvary United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Calvary United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Calvary United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Calvary United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Calvary UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Calvary UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District (Vote: Yes 91.7%, No 8.3%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, by unanimous consent of the congregation present at Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church on October 14, 2020 has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “Traditional Plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, the Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church believes the “Traditional Plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, the Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “Traditional Plan,” another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “Traditional Plan;”

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church and the actions of a church’s Annual Conference; and,

Whereas, Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Dryman’s Chapel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Dryman’s Chapel United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Green Hill United Methodist Church, Lenoir, N.C., Appalachian District (Vote: Yes 91.6%, No 8.4%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Green Hill United Methodist Church, Lenoir, N.C., Appalachian District

The congregational decision has been made after careful review, open discussion, and in accordance with all information provided by the disaffiliation process from *The Book of Discipline*.

Our request for disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church is based on the fact that the Western North Carolina Conference voted at the 2019 Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference to reject the Traditional Plan and its implementation. The delegates chosen to represent the Western North Carolina Conference at the 2020 General Conference do not support the Traditional Plan. By voting in this way, these delegates do not reflect our beliefs.

Furthermore, allowing division has only led to more dissension and we do not wish to affiliate with any of the proposed pathways because we simply feel God is not present in them and is leading us in a different direction. The congregation of Green Hill opposes all plans, including the Traditional Plan, and is requesting disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. We would like to pursue an exit plan that would allow us to leave the denomination, retain all of our assets, and operate independently.

A duly called church conference, more than 2/3 of the voting members of Green Hill United Methodist voted to disaffiliate.

The disaffiliation agreement between Green Hill United Methodist Church and the Conference Trustees is attached as Exhibit A.

Per ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*, Green Hill United Methodist Church petitions the 2021 annual conference delegates of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church to approve our disaffiliation and the disaffiliation agreement.

Disaffiliation of Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District (Vote: Yes 91.7%, No 8.3%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference (of the 33 members present, the vote was 33 in favor of disaffiliation, 0 against, and 0 abstaining) has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District (Vote: Yes 91.8%, No 8.2%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Mount Carmel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Mount Carmel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Mount Carmel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mount Carmel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mount Carmel UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Mount Gilead United Methodist Church, Sophia, N.C., Northern Piedmont District (Vote: Yes 91.5%, No 8.5%)

Submitted by: The Board of Trustees, Mount Gilead United Methodist Church, Randolph County, N.C. (Northern Piedmont District)

Whereas, members of Mount Gilead United Methodist Church have expressed disagreement with the results and enforcement of the “traditional plan” adopted by the 2019 General Conference; and,

Whereas, Mount Gilead United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process in ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* whereby congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church can disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and retain ownership of its real and personal property without charge; and,

Whereas, the leadership of Mount Gilead United Methodist Church has communicated and met with the District Superintendent regarding the process and requirements of disaffiliation pursuant to ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, the District Superintendent has provided the leadership of Mount Gilead United Methodist Church with notification of the church’s disaffiliation obligations, including its financial obligation for apportionments and its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations; and,

Whereas, Mount Gilead United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference held at 1:00 pm on Sunday, January 31, 2021, voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church pursuant to *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Mount Gilead United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. necessary to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mount Gilead United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A) pursuant to the requirements of ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mount Gilead United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church, Forest City, N.C., Blue Ridge District (Vote: Yes 91.5%, No 8.5%)

Submitted by: Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church, Forest City, N.C., Blue Ridge District

The congregation and members of Mt Hebron United Methodist Church have followed the teachings of the Bible and traditional values of the Christian church. Currently, we wish to proceed the disaffiliation process.

It is our intent to complete all necessary steps of disaffiliation be completely disaffiliated by 07-01-2021.

At the 2019 Western N.C. Conference petitions passed which our congregation feels to be a direct contradiction in our traditional beliefs.

We believe that per Section VIII. Disaffiliation of Local Churches Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality that we have a responsibility to pursue disaffiliation to preserve our traditional discipline:

¶ 2553. *Disaffiliation of a Local Church Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality*—1. Basis—Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this ¶, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.

We disagree that opposing the ordination or marriage of homosexuals is unjust or unconstitutional. We believe that the rejection of the traditional plan in petition 22 that was passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference is in direct conflict with the teaching of the Bible and the cherished beliefs of our congregation. For reasons of conscience regarding change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference we hereby request consideration to be included in the Disaffiliation Agreement.

Disaffiliation of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District (Vote: Yes 91.5%, No 8.5%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, Oak Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Oak Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Oak Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Oak Grove United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Oak Grove UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Oak Grove UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Olin United Methodist Church, Olin, N.C., Appalachian District (Vote: Yes 91.7%, No 8.3%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Olin United Methodist Church, Olin, NC, Appalachian District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Olin United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Olin United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Olin United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Olin United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Olin United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Olin UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Olin UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Palm Tree United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District (Vote: Yes 91.6%, No 8.4%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Palm Tree United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Palm Tree United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Palm Tree United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Palm Tree United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Palm Tree United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Palm Tree United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Palm Tree UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Palm Tree UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Prospect United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District (Vote: Yes 91.7%, No 8.3%)

Submitted by: The Board of Trustees of Prospect United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, members of Prospect United Methodist Church have expressed disagreement with the results and enforcement of the “traditional plan” adopted by the 2019 General Conference; and,

Whereas, Prospect United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process in ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* whereby congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church can disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and retain ownership of its real and personal property without charge; and,

Whereas, the leadership of Prospect United Methodist Church has communicated and met with the District Superintendent regarding the process and requirements of disaffiliation pursuant to ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, the District Superintendent has provided the leadership of Prospect United Methodist Church with notification of the church’s disaffiliation obligations, including its financial obligation for apportionments and its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations; and,

Whereas, Prospect United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 21, 2021, voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church pursuant to *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, the Board of Trustee of Prospect United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contract, instruments, etc. necessary to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Prospect United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A) pursuant to the requirements of ¶ 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Prospect United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Snow Creek United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District (Vote: Yes 91.8%, No 8.2%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Snow Creek United Methodist Church, Statesville N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Snow Creek United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Snow Creek United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Snow Creek United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Snow Creek United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Snow Creek United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Snow Creek UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Snow Creek UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Subject: Disaffiliation of South River United Methodist Church, Woodleaf, N.C., Uwharrie District (Vote: Yes 91.6%, No 8.4%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of South River United Methodist Church, Woodleaf, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the South River United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, South River United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, South River United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next and rejected the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, South River United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members present at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per Book of Discipline per ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, the Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of South River UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and South River UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2021 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the South River UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, effective at the close of the Annual Conference.

Disaffiliation of Sunshine United Methodist Church, Bostic, N.C., Blue Ridge District (Vote: Yes 91.3%, No 8.7%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Sunshine United Methodist Church, Bostic, N.C., Blue Ridge District

The congregation and members of Sunshine United Methodist Church have followed the teachings of the Bible and at this time we wish to disaffiliate as a matter of conscience, and we are prepared to complete the disaffiliation process.

It is our intent to complete all necessary steps of disaffiliation in the hope Sunshine United Methodist Church will be completely disaffiliated by 07-01-2021.

At the 2019 Western N.C. Conference petitions passed which our congregation stands in disagreement with. We disagree with the petition to General Conference about removing the language in the Discipline stating that homosexual practice is “incompatible with Christian teaching.” We also disagree with the rationale behind Petition 22 in its opposition to the Traditional Plan. To rule against homosexual ordination or marriage is in no way unjust or oppressive. For this reason, we disagree with the rejection of the Traditional Plan in Petition 22 that was passed at the 2019 Western N.C. Annual Conference.

We no longer wish to be affiliated with the United Methodist Church or any offspring of it.

We stand firm in the decision regardless of pending United Methodist Church legislation.

The Conference Trustees and Sunshine UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553.

We ask that that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Sunshine UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Withers Chapel United Methodist Church, Belews Creek, N.C., Yadkin Valley District (Vote: Yes 91.7%, No 8.3%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Withers Chapel United Methodist Church, Belews Creek, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Withers Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Withers Chapel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Withers Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Withers Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Withers Chapel United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Withers Chapel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Withers Chapel UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Zion United Methodist Church, Todd, N.C., Appalachian District (Vote: Yes 91.5%, No 8.5%)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Zion United Methodist Church, Todd, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Zion United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and,

Whereas, Zion United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Zion United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and,

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and,

Whereas, Zion United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2553; and,

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Zion United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and,

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Zion UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶ 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2021 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Zion UMC from The United Methodist Church.

CABINET RESOLUTIONS: Bishop Leeland introduced Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the Bishop and secretary of the Cabinet, appearing on the live stream, who proposed adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment:

**Resolution for the Closure of
Doubts United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District
GCFA: 304271**

Whereas, the membership of Doubts United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin District, has declined in worship and resources are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, 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, on November 16, 2020, the charge conference of Doubts UMC made a faithful decision to close as a congregation after holding a closing worship on November 15, 2020; and,

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

Resolved, that **Doubts United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District**, be closed effective November 16, 2020 and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, 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.

**Resolution for the Closure of
Fines Creek United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District
GCFA: 302480**

Whereas, the membership of Fines Creek United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District, has declined to 1 person in worship; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, 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 Smoky Mountain District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Smoky Mountain District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that **Fines Creek United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District**, be closed effective May 25, 2021 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 ¶ 2549.3 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of
First (Eden) United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District
GCFA: 294628**

Whereas, First (Eden) United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District, has declined to worship attendance averaging 3 (in person) and 5 (online); and,

Whereas, the church is no longer financially able to support a pastor’s salary and pension, and district and conference apportionments, nor able to adequately maintain the building(s); and,

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

Whereas, members present from First (Eden) United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District, made a faithful decision by vote on February 14, 2021 to discontinue as a congregation, effective February 20, 2021; and,

Whereas, First (Eden) United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on February 14, 2021; and,

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

Resolved, that **First (Eden) United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District** be considered closed effective February 20, 2021; 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.

**Resolution for the Closure of
Highland United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District
GCFA: 295246**

Whereas, Highland United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, has declined to worship attendance averaging 6 or fewer; and,

Whereas, the church is no longer financially able to support a pastor's salary and pension, and district and conference apportionments, nor able to adequately maintain the building(s); and,

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

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

Resolved, that **Highland United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District** be considered closed effective March 31, 2021; 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.

Further resolved, that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc. be requested to transfer title to all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, of Highland United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, to the merged congregation of Ward Street United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, and Rankin Memorial United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, as the location and property for their newly merged congregation.

Rev. Coles offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the mission, ministry, heritage, legacy, and the people of the several congregations dissolved and abandoned.

Bishop Leeland indicated that on the ballot, adoption of the resolutions of church closures will require only a single vote (vote: Yes 96.9%, No 3.1%).

RESOLUTION FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING: Bishop Leeland indicated that *The Book of Discipline* requests that a date and place be set for the time of Annual Conference for 2022. He proposed that the location of the 2022 Annual Conference meet at Lake Junaluska, June 17-19, 2022. (Ballot vote: Yes 96.7%, No 3.3%).

**ORDER OF THE DAY:
CELEBRATION OF BISHOP PAUL AND JANET LEELAND'S MINISTRY**

While Bishop Paul Leeland will continue his leadership of The Western North Carolina Conference through the month of August 2021, the Rev Kimberly T. Ingram noted that today the annual conference celebrates the retirement of Bishop Paul and Janet Leeland and his faithful service for over fifty years of ministry. The Rev. Sanford L. Giles, chairperson of the committee on episcopacy, indicated that Bishop Leeland is completing his fifth year as resident bishop and presiding at his final annual conference for the Western North Carolina Conference. His official retirement is September 1, 2021. Rev. Giles announced that if not for COVID-19, this celebration would be in-person at Lake Junaluska and for that reason the recognition and celebration of Bishop Leeland's ministry will be presented using images, anecdotes, and expressions of gratitude to Bishop Leeland and his wife, Janet. Rev. Giles expressed his personal gratitude for Bishop Leeland's ministry and wished him and Mrs. Leeland well in retirement. Wanda Musgrave, former chair of committee on episcopacy traced the chronology of his ordination, pastoral ministry, including his church appointments, and his election to the episcopacy and annual conferences served. Jarvis R. Wilson, presented a musical tribute, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Rev. Beth Hood, North Carolina Annual Conference assistant to the bishop and director of clergy life, Rev. Cory Smith, former district superintendent and director of connectional life ministries of the Alabama-West Florida Conference and pastor of Auburn UMC, Dr. Gray Southern, board member of Wespeth, Rev. Dr. Otto D. Harris, III, former interim director of equity and justice and senior pastor, Saint Mark's (Charlotte, ME), Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee, chair of dismantling racism task force and senior pastor, First (Rutherfordton, BR), Rev. Kari L. Howard, co-chair conference leadership development team and pastor West Bend (Asheboro, UW), Rev. Frank Ramos, chair conference vitality team and pastor Adonai Mission (Asheboro, UW), Jane Boatwright Wood, former Western North Carolina Conference lay leader, and Peg Aldridge, member of the committee on the episcopacy listed significant accomplishments of Bishop Leeland's leadership in local congregations, the annual conferences in which he presided and the general church. Each speaker gave personal testimony and gratitude and wished Bishop and Janet Leeland well in retirement. Rev. David A. Snipes, president and CEO of the United Methodist Foundation, announced that in collaboration with the committee on the episcopacy, the Foundation has created a permanent endowment, The Paul and Janet

Leeland Endowment Fund, which will support the mission and ministries of the Northern Haiti Mission and UMAR. On behalf of the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women and their president, Julia A. Willis, Lynda Morris, president of the Metro District United Methodist Women, presented to Bishop Paul Leeland a special mission recognition pin with two diamonds, which represents a contribution of \$2,000.00 for global mission work of the United Methodist Women, in honor of his support of United Methodist Women. On behalf of the committee on episcopacy, the board of laity and the cabinet, Rev. Andrea F. Smith, West-St. Paul (Mooresville, ME) and member of the committee on episcopacy, presented the bishop a framed picture of the words that most described the bishop, with the words most associated with him in larger fonts. The words were depicted in the shape of the cross and the word "Faithful" was the word most frequently used to describe Bishop Leeland. Hank Dozier and Rev. Shirley Canty, Burge Memorial - Rock Hill (Mount Holly, CV) offered prayer. Bishop Leeland expressed gratitude for the affirmation and affection given to him and Janet Leeland.

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 as previously published.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 11:47 a.m. in order to convene the annual meeting of The United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.: The Reverend David A. Snipes, President and CEO of the Foundation, called the annual meeting to order and presented the report. He noted the creation of the Foundation in 1967 by the annual conference with the dream of providing planned giving development. Fifty-four years later the Foundation is self-sustaining and on the basis of assets managed is the largest foundation in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the third largest in the connection. All of the work of the Foundation is only possible through the partnerships formed with the Foundation and its contributors. He encouraged the members of the annual conference to view the pre-conference video to learn about the Foundation team members and learn the stories of transformational ministries. The clergy and lay members of the annual conference are members of the Foundation and as such elect the board of directors. Rev. Snipes nominated the following for election to the board in the class of 2024: Ann Martin, Brad Chapman, Jennifer Davis, Rev. Ken Lyon and Will Rucker. There are 15 board members in three classes of five, plus additional ex officio members. These, nominees will require a vote which will appear on the ballot (Election Buddy Poll Ballot results: Yes 98.5%, No 1.5%). Rev. Snipes reported that this year the Foundation distributed monies totaling almost 1.2 million dollars either back into the annual conference or into the world for transformational ministries. A part of that distribution is a check for \$75,000.00 for the Comprehensive Plan for Equity, the Bishop's annual emphasis. In the past four years a total of \$188,000.00 has been contributed to this initiative. The annual meeting of the Foundation adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECONVENES: The conference reconvened at 11:55 a.m.

PRIVILEGE: Bishop Leeland thanked Rev. David A. Snipes for his twenty years of service to date as president and CEO of the United Methodist Foundation. Also, he expressed his appreciation for the very detailed work that the Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, does throughout the year to prepare and execute the executive session of the clergy and the annual meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Ingram made the following announcements: the electronic ballot will open after the close of this live stream session and will remain open until midnight. For help with the ballot or with questions email the help desk at help@wnccumc.net. Mail-in ballots must be received by Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The results of the ballot will be posted on or before June 21, 2021.

HYMN: A choir of Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro presented the hymn "New Revelation."

BENEDICTION: Using Paul's benediction from II Thessalonians, Bishop Paul L. Leeland pronounced the benediction.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021

THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY GEORGE R. STUART AUDITORIUM, LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA

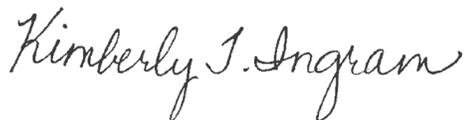
WORSHIP SERVICE – THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING – 10:00 A.M.

The Rev. Kyle Sigmon, FaithBridge (Blowing Rock, AP) opened the service, presenting three of his original compositions: "Limitless", "One", and "Abide". Following the processional hymn 577 (UMH), "God of Grace and God of Glory", Bishop Paul L. Leeland led the responsive greeting and prayer; and, the act of remembering our baptism and common ministry. Bishop Leeland introduced Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, retired and former resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, who will bring the morning proclamation. Rev. Dr. Judy R. Chung, executive director of missionary service, General Board of Global Ministries, presented the one candidate for commissioning as a church and community worker missionary, explained the work of church and community workers missionary program and examined the candidate. Bishop Leeland commissioned the candidate for her ministry. Bishop Leeland presented the names of the three candidates for commissioning as consecrated deaconesses, examined them and commissioned them as consecrated deaconesses. John Crane, conference lay leader, on behalf of the board of laity, presented those to be commissioned as provisional members. Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW) and chair of the

board of ordained ministry read the names of the 14 persons in the class of 2020 and the 14 persons in the class of 2021 to be commissioned as provisional members. Bishop Leeland asked the people of God to give assent to the commissioning of these 28 persons as provisional members and it was given. Following the song of celebration, “Be Thou My Vision”, by Brooke Reyes, worship leader and member of Mars Hill UMC (Mars Hill, BR); accompanied by Adam Ward, organist and member of Providence UMC (Charlotte, ME), Bishop Larry Goodpaster offered the prayer for illumination. After his reading of the scripture, Bishop Goodpaster took as his text, Philippians 2:1-11 and delivered the sermon, entitled, A Fine Madness. Bishop Goodpaster remembered the time of his ordination as a deacon in the North Mississippi Conference and the defeat again that year to merge the N. Mississippi Conference and the Upper Mississippi Conference (black annual conference of The Central Jurisdiction). It brought a challenge to his ordination, but he chose to work to end systemic racism. The question that emerged for him fifty years ago and that he asks all those to be commissioned, “Have you lost your mind?” Given the current climate and culture of the nation and denomination, why would you choose a path toward ordination? But he encouraged the candidates. He told them they were in good company with the likes of John Wesley, Noah, Moses, the Apostle Paul, and Jesus. The church needs leaders who have lost their minds to the creative, redemptive, and transformative power of the Holy Spirit and will be obedient to the voice of the Good Shepherd. He challenged the candidates to be a witness for Jesus Christ and the power of God at work in peoples’ lives. He prayed, like Paul, for the provisional members to gain the mind of Christ, a gift of God and activated by faith. Rev. Annalee Allen, conference associate director of ministerial services, led the affirmation of faith, The Apostles’ Creed. Bishop Leeland examined the candidates to be commissioned as provisional members and assisted by Bishop Goodpaster prayed over and commissioned each candidate. The newly commissioned provisional member received a cross from Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference director of ministerial services, and their credentials. Following a prayer of thanksgiving by Bishop Leeland and the recessional hymn 648 (UMH), “God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”, Bishop Leeland pronounced the dismissal with blessing.

WORSHIP SERVICE – ORDINATION OF MEMBERS IN FULL CONNECTION – 2:00 P.M.

The Rev. Kyle Sigmon, FaithBridge (Blowing Rock, AP) opened the service, presenting three of his original compositions: “Limitless”, “One”, and “Abide”. Following the processional hymn 577 (UMH), “God of Grace and God of Glory”, Bishop Paul L. Leeland led the responsive greeting and prayer; and, the act of remembering our baptism and common ministry. Bishop Leeland introduced Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, retired and former resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, who will bring the afternoon proclamation. John Crane, conference lay leader, on behalf of the board of laity, presented those to be ordained in full connection. Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW) and chair of the board of ordained ministry read the names of the 3 persons in the class of 2020 and the one person in the class of 2021 to be ordained as deacon; the 10 persons in the class of 2020 and the 14 persons in the class of 2021 to be ordained as elders; and, the one person by transfer from another denomination, whose ordination was being recognized. Bishop Leeland asked the people of God to give assent to the ordination of these 28 persons in full connection and it was given. Following the song of celebration, “Be Thou My Vision”, by Brooke Reyes, worship leader and member of Mars Hill UMC (Mars Hill, BR); accompanied by Adam Ward, organist and member of Providence UMC (Charlotte, ME), Bishop Larry Goodpaster offered the prayer for illumination. After his reading of the scripture, Bishop Goodpaster took as his text, John 12:20-26 and delivered the sermon, entitled, Now I See. Bishop Goodpaster noted that today is Juneteenth and remembers the day the last slaves learned of their emancipation. While this new federal holiday will celebrate the end of slavery, it will also recall the long, continuing struggle for justice in the United States. The date on each ordinands’ credentials should remind them of their baptismal vows to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. May each ordinand remember the vows taken today to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ and seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people. In view of this historic date Bishop Goodpaster used the desire of some Greeks (who represent the world at large) to see Jesus to admonish, encourage, and challenge those to be ordained to help people to see Jesus in their words, actions, attitudes, leadership, and ministry. He cautioned the ordinands not to try this alone but to take companions on the journey. He explained that it is easy to get distracted, to grow weary, to become jaded and grow cynical, envious, suspicious, and discouraged. He encouraged them to stay focused on God, follow Jesus, and discipline their lives into a cross-shaped life. Rev. Annalee Allen, conference associate director of ministerial services, led the affirmation of faith, The Apostles’ Creed. Bishop Leeland examined all the candidates to be ordained. Following further questions by Bishop Leeland, the classes of 2020 and 2021 for the order of deacon were ordained by Bishop Leeland, assisted by Bishop Goodpaster, Bishop Jose Antonio McLoughlin, Episcopal Bishop for the Diocese of Western North Carolina, and other clergy in full connection by prayer and the laying on of hands. Each newly ordained deacon received a stole and were presented a certificate of ordination. Bishop Leeland examined the classes of 2020 and 2021 for the order of elder and ordained them by prayer and the laying on of hands. Bishop McLoughlin, Bishop Goodpaster, and other clergy assisted. Each newly ordained elder received a stole and were presented a certificate of ordination. Bishop Leeland welcomed and recognized the ordination of the one person transferring into the Western North Carolina Conference from the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Following a prayer of thanksgiving and the recessional hymn 648 (UMH), “God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”, Rev. Carrie A. Carpenter, Aldersgate (Shelby, CV) a newly ordained deacon, pronounced the dismissal with blessing.



Kimberly T. Ingram



Paul L. Leeland

D. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

This is to certify that at a service of commissioning held on Saturday morning, June 19, 2021, 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 *The Book of Discipline* (2016) as provisional members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference:

Arthur Cade Barefoot, Joshua Hackney Barnes, Andrew Dixon Baten, Nina Dawn Miller, Thomas Henderson Owens, James Edward Padgett, Taylor Nicole Pryde, Emily Laine Rivers, Katherine Elise Sherrill, Michael Kenneth Turner, Charmaigne Van Rooyen, Nathan Scott Webb, and Precious Adula Wilson, of the 2020 class; and,

Tangela Linn Cameron, Spencer Elizabeth Cullom, Stephen Lee Fitch, Caroline Raines Franks, Katherine Blaylock Galyon, Fomba Karva, Kelli Brown Mullinix, Thomas Wayne Purdy, Linell Robinson, Camille Zabreta Roddy, Shonnie Lewis Streder, Robert Lawrence Summers, Bradley Dean Treece, and Claire Noelle Holland Watson, of the 2021 class.

This is further to certify that at a service of ordination held on Saturday afternoon, June 19, 2021, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I did

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

Lisa Kindley Rettew, Kelly Rae Shrader, and Kayln Marie Wiley, of the 2020 class; and,

Carrie Allison Carpenter, of the 2021 class;

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

Wendy Anne Von Seggern Barnes, Nicole Ross Baten, Kevin Thomas Bates, Luke Stephen Edwards, David Benjamin Floyd, Samuel McMasters Lewis, Stacey Reavis Lundy, Kristina Kay Mares, Jeremy Scott Morris, and Brandon Phillip Conrad Wrencher Sr. of the 2020 class; and,

Cole Darren Altizer, David Alan Blankenburg, Ellis Khari Carson, Luke Patton Christy, Charles Stephen DiRico, Mary Elizabeth Gaston, Evan Wilson Hill, Amy Beth Hutchison, Wanda Gail Helms Lancaster, Johnny Donald Lord, Joseph Thomas Precht, Chad Howard Shoaf, Bryan Allen Wilson, and John William Yeager, of the 2021 class.



Bishop