

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

235th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference

“A New Thing” Isaiah 43:19

Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia

June 16-18, 2017

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 16, 2017

The 235th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference in the Hampton Roads Convention Center was preceded by the Clergy Executive Session in Ballrooms D, E, F and G and the Laity Session in Halls B and C.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, resident bishop of the Richmond Area, called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 1:01 p.m. She expressed her joy at being with the clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference. She welcomed the members of the clergy session, and expressed appreciation to those who prepared the session. The worship leaders were Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. Lynn Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elders; Rev. Michael Davis, Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; and Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Roanoke District. The sign language interpreters for the session were Ms. Shirley Music and Ms. Virginia Bryant. Bishop Lewis announced that there will be open seating during the Clergy Session. Rev. Alley-Grant offered an apology for the practice of segregated seating by order at previous clergy sessions. Rev. Stanley also made a statement of apology.

Rev. Alley-Grant brought the devotion based on Isaiah 43:18-19, Philippians 2:5-7 and John 13:33-35. She noted that we live in an age in which we ask ourselves, “What is going to happen to us?” Jesus provides the answer: “Do the loving thing.”

Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chairperson, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, noted which clergy have voice and vote in the clergy session. Rev. Hall referred to the printed booklet of Minute Questions and an addendum sheet, and pointed out the page for submitting

corrections. He set the bar as the entire hall. Rev. Hall moved that staff members for the bishop and from the Center for Clergy Excellence, the sign language interpreters, diaconal ministers, and the conference chancellor be admitted into the clergy session with voice but without vote. The motion was approved.

Rev. Hall led the members in the presentation of the Minute Questions. The entire printed booklet of Minute Questions, with the addendum, was presented in an itemized manner. Members of the clergy who were retiring at this session of annual conference were invited to stand for recognition. Persons receiving their first appointment as local pastors in all categories were invited to the platform to be recognized by the members. Bishop Lewis asked the historic questions of those persons who were to be ordained. Candidates for commissioning, ordination, recognition of orders and transfer into the conference from other denominations were presented and approved. Appropriate recognition was given to all persons being received into a new relationship with the annual conference at the current session.

All Minute Questions were passed with the required majorities. Rev. Hall thanked the Board of Ordained Ministry and Rev. Meredith McNabb, Director of Clergy Excellence.

Bishop Lewis thanked Rev. Hall and Rev. McNabb for their work as well as Ms. Terri Biggins, her administrative assistant, and all of the Clergy Excellence staff, the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Superintendents in their role as an extension of her office. Bishop Lewis then exhorted the gathered to visit house to house, to teach and preach Christ, and create disciples. The members of the session applauded Bishop Lewis for leading her first executive session. Bishop Lewis dismissed the Clergy Executive Session at 2:34 p.m.

LAITY SESSION

The Laity Session was opened by Mr. Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader, at 1:00 p.m. Worship began with opening praise and song by Rev. Robert McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference, and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Sign language interpreters were Ms. Christina York and Ms. Lindsey Bomba-Holcomb.

Ms. Nicole Kent, Cunningham United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District, led the call to worship. Opening prayer was led by Mr. Charles Hume, Franktown United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District. Liturgical Dance to the music “Magnify” by We Are Messengers was performed by Ms. Gabby Burge, Wellspring United Methodist Church, York River District.

Mr. Joe Amend, Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader, read Isaiah 43:19. Mr. Harper led the devotion “The Longer I Live” written by Chrystal Evens Hurst.

Ms. Hannah Hale, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District, informed the body about the Youth Service Fund and its work.

The Boy Scout video, “Faith in Scouting: Methodist,” was shown. Mr. Bill Chaffin, Virginia Conference Ministry Scouting Coordinator, shared some thoughts on United Methodist Scouting. There were young scouts from a local scouting troop present on stage representing scouting in the area.

Mr. Blake Mitchell, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District; Ms. Emily Stallings, Beaverdam United Methodist Church, Richmond District; and Ms. Joanne Moon, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, presented a narrative entitled “Engage Me” focusing on the relationships between young adults and older adults in our churches and communities.

Mr. Bob May and Ms. Olma Olay-May, with the Church World Service (CWS) Refugee Resettlement Office in Harrisonburg, gave their personal testimony about how they are involved in ministry with refugees and immigration.

In May 2016 General Conference approved five constitutional amendments. Since the Annual Conference will be voting on these amendments, District Lay Leaders presented a summary of each: Ms. Joyce Duncan, Lynchburg District, Amendment I; Mr. John Meeuwissen, Alexandria District, Amendment II; Mr. Ronald O. White, Richmond District, Amendment III; Ms. Brenda Brooks, Roanoke District, Amendment IV; and Mr. Gerry Fuss, James River District Co - Lay Leader, Amendment V.

Mr. Harper discussed the varied responsibilities of lay members at Annual Conference.

Mr. Larry Creamer, Staunton District Lay Leader; Mr. Bobby Thompson, Danville District Lay Leader; Mr. Robert Forrest, Charlottesville District Lay Leader; Mr. Gene Cross, Arlington District Lay Leader; Ms. Jennifer Hume, Eastern Shore District Lay Leader; and Ms. Sue Mayo, Farmville District Lay Leader, shared schedules, worship times, the Consent Agenda, raising questions from the floor and making motions.

Ms. Nancy Yarborough, York River District Lay Leader, closed the session by sharing Isaiah 43:19.

The closing music selection was led by Rev. McMichael and Mr. Wilson.

The Session was dismissed at 2:15 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 16, 2017

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the first plenary of the 235th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 3:02 pm. Rev. Robert McMichael, III, Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference, and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia, led the assembly in singing “And Are We Yet Alive,” a hymn sung by persons gathering for holy conferencing since the beginning of the Wesleyan movement. Bishop Lewis called upon Rev. Raymond Wrenn, retired, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District, and Ms. Ashton Huddleston, St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, to open the Annual Conference in prayer. This was Rev. Wrenn’s 77th year as a member of the annual conference and Ms. Huddleston’s first annual conference.

The sign language interpreters for the 235th session were Ms. Virginia Bryant, Ms. Christina York, and Ms. Shirley Music.

Bishop Lewis expressed appreciation to the members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Ileana Rosario, Lower United Methodist Church, York River District, for their preparatory work. She also recognized Rev. McMichael and Mr. Wilson for serving as music leaders for annual conference.

Bishop Lewis expressed appreciation to Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, and Ms. Judy Craun, member, Conference Rules Committee, for serving as

parliamentarians for the afternoon session and Bishop Ray Chamberlain for parliamentary consultation.

Bishop Lewis recognized York River District Superintendent Seonyoung Kim who welcomed the assembly to Hampton and the York River District. Rev. Kim introduced Ms. Nancy Yarborough, York River District Lay Leader. She then recognized retired Virginia Conference bishops and their spouses: Bishop Kern Eustler, Bishop Ray and Ms. Martha Chamberlain, and Bishop Young Jin and Rev. Kiok Cho. She recognized the retired bishops who were not able to be present: Bishop C. P. Minnick, Bishop H. Hasbrouck and Ms. Mera Hughes, and Bishop Tim and Ms. Melba Whitaker.

Rev. Kim moved to establish the bar of the conference as consisting of the platform and all seats in the hall with exception of rows four through seven in the front right section and the two sections in the rear left of the hall marked with yellow tape. Also, that the technical and camera platforms be considered part of the bar. The motion was approved.

Rev. Kim moved that the schedule printed on pages 5 and 6 in the *Book of Reports* be adopted as the agenda, and that the following orders of the day be established: the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion on Friday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m.; the Mission Service on Saturday, June 17, at 11:00 a.m., the Retirement Service at 2:00 p.m., and the Service for the Ordering of Ministry at 7:30 p.m.; and worship on Sunday, June 18, at 11:00 a.m. The motion was approved.

Annual Conference Secretary Susan Reaves moved the election of Rev. Delano Douglas and Ms. Beverly Myers as assistant secretaries to the Annual Conference, and of Ms. Madeline Pillow as Editor of the *Journal*. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves moved the election of the Annual Conference committees found on page 43 of the *Book of Reports* and on the green Addendum sheet found in the official packet with one change in the lay tellers for the Farmville District. The name of Kyla Silver should be replaced with Joshua Blakely. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves reminded members that all other proposed amendments to the agenda must be submitted before the end of the June 16, Friday afternoon session. She announced that Meeting Room 106 on the main level of the Convention Center has been designated as the Prayer Room throughout the Annual Conference.

She also announced that the Consent Agenda Committee has determined that the deadline for requests for items to be removed from the 2017 Consent Agenda is 4:00 p.m., June 16. She noted that 30 signatures from conference members are required for such a request to be valid. Rev. Reaves asked that written copies of all motions and reports made from the floor or the podium be placed into the secretary's basket located in front of the secretary's desk.

Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Rules Committee, moved the acceptance of the proposed rule change to II.A.2 of the Standing Rules printed on the green Addendum sheet found in the official packet. The motion was approved.

Rev. King then moved for the suspension of the rules so that this rule change could be put into effect at this annual conference. The motion was approved.

Rev. King presented the report found on pages 44-47 of the *Book of Reports* and recommended the adoption of the resolutions contained in the report. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis recognized the attendance of her mother, Ms. Alethia Lewis, and her sisters, Ms. Le'Ontyne Briggs and Ms. Reta Lewis. The conference welcomed the bishop's family with a round of applause.

Bishop Chamberlain briefly chaired the Conference.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Co-Chair, Committee on the Status and Role of Women, presented a report on monitoring. She also lifted up the importance of every vote for the Constitutional Amendments to be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, June 17. She emphasized Proposed Amendment II.

Mr. Wilson played and Rev. McMichael sang the song "My Soul is Anchored." Bishop Lewis delivered the Episcopal Address. She shared that in the past nine months she visited all 16 districts, traveled 3,712 miles, met 3,255 people and led 32 "Chat and Chew" sessions. She encouraged the people of The United Methodist Church to look to the future and to acknowledge that even small churches can grow spiritually, numerically and financially. "We need to do church differently." There is a new thing about to happen in Virginia and we need to be open to the Holy Spirit moving among us. As she

delivered the address Bishop Lewis left the stage and walked among the people throughout the hall.

Winchester District Superintendent Larry Thompson, Dean of the Cabinet, gave the Cabinet Report located on pages 48-51 of the *Book of Reports*. Rev. Thompson moved that the report be approved. The motion was approved.

Rev. Thompson then presented for election the nominees for District Committees on Ordained Ministry, listed on the gold sheet found in the official packets. He presented nominees for members of the District Boards of Church Location and Building, found on the violet sheet in the official packets. The nominees were elected, as presented.

He presented for annual conference approval the remaining sections of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16, found on the white sheets in members' official packets, with the following corrections: At the top of the third page add (2) *other mergers (indicate denomination)* over the section that begins York River, Holy Cross International United Methodist Church; and under Minute Question 15 b) the following should be added: United Christian Parish, Arlington District, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The United Church of Christ; The Presbyterian Church (USA). The motion was approved.

Eastern Shore District Superintendent Alex Joyner moved the following:

Be it resolved that Berea United Methodist Church on the Eastern Shore District be discontinued effective 30 June 2017 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Eastern Shore District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Berea United Methodist Church on the Eastern Shore District be transferred to Atlantic United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Richmond District Superintendent Peter Moon moved the following:

Be it resolved that Bishop Memorial United Methodist Church on the Richmond District be discontinued effective June 30, 2017 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Richmond District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Bishop Memorial United Methodist Church on the Richmond District be transferred to Highland Springs United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Staunton District Superintendent Dave Rochford moved the following:

Be it resolved that Rankin United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be discontinued effective September 4, 2016 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Staunton District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Rankin United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be transferred to Calvary United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Rochford moved the following:

Be it resolved that Wayne Hills United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be discontinued effective June 30, 2017 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Staunton District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Wayne Hills United Methodist Church on the

Staunton District be transferred to St. Mark's United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Thompson moved the following:

Be it resolved that Amor y Paz United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be discontinued effective 30 June 2017 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Board of Missions, Inc., Winchester District and that the membership of Amor y Paz United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be transferred to Mt. Olive United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Thompson then moved:

Be it resolved that Powell's Grove United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be discontinued effective 30 June 2017 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Grace Annex UMC, Winchester District and that the membership of Powell's Grove United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be transferred to Grace Annex United Methodist Church except for each member who directs his/her membership be transferred to another church be transferred to that church.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Victor Gomez, Amor y Paz –Mt. Olive Cooperative Parish, Winchester District, asked for a moment of privilege and noted that Amor y Paz was the last chartered

Hispanic congregation. However, the Virginia Conference has renewed its Hispanic Caucus and should continue to strengthen Hispanic/Latino ministries or in his words, “Brown needs to stick around.”

Rev. Kim moved the following,

Be it resolved that East Hampton United Methodist Church be discontinued effective July 1, 2017 and “the title to all the real and personal, tangible, intangible property of the local church shall be transferred” to the York River District Board of Missions, Inc. or the York River District Board of Trustees as shown below and that the membership of East Hampton United Methodist Church be transferred to St. Mark’s United Methodist Church as noted below:

1. All property, real and personal, tangible and intangible including the church building (714 East Pembroke Avenue, Hampton, VA 23669), grounds (702, 704, and 706 East Pembroke Avenue plus 6 South Boxwood Avenue, Hampton, VA 23669), and adjacent parsonage (710 East Pembroke Avenue, Hampton, VA 23669 (currently rented) shall be transferred to the York River District Board of Missions.

2. All property, real and personal, tangible and intangible including the official parsonage at 106 Southerland Drive, Hampton, VA 23669 (currently rented) shall be transferred to the York River District Board of Trustees.

3. EHUMC membership rolls, active and inactive, shall be transferred to St. Mark’s UMC, 99 East Mercury Blvd., Hampton, VA 23669 effective July 1, 2017. After that date, it is up to each member

to find a new church home and request their membership be transferred from St. Mark's UMC to that new church home.

The motion was approved.

Rev. Thompson offered a prayer of recognition for the ministries of those discontinued churches and the ways they blessed the lives of people in their communities. He moved the approval of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis thanked Rev. Thompson for his service as Dean of the Cabinet. Roanoke District Superintendent Kathleen Overby Webster will assume this role after annual conference.

Rev. Mark Ogren, Director, Center for Congregational Excellence, presented five new faith communities: Arlington Urban Edge, Arlington District to be served by Rev. Kate Floyd; Gainesville United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, served by lead pastor, Rev. John Patterson, adds a second site, Bristow Campus, served by Rev. Benson McGlone; Ghana Wesley United Methodist Mission, Alexandria District, served by lead pastor, Rev. Emmanuel Nkrumah, adds a second site, Alexandria Campus, served by Rev. John Obeng; Christ United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, served by lead pastor, Rev. John Speight, Jr., adds an online campus, to be served by Rev. Tony Arnold; and Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, served by lead pastor, Rev. Tom Berlin, adds an online campus served by Rev. Ashley Allen. Bishop Lewis greeted the new church-start pastors and the lead pastors and offered a prayer of commissioning.

Bishop Lewis introduced "Glory Sightings," a series of videos highlighting where the glory of the Lord is present throughout the Virginia Conference.

Bishop Lewis asked Rev. Reaves if any requests were made to remove items from the consent agenda. No requests had been received. She presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*): page 153, Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses (ARMS); page 143, Bishops' Foundation; page 88, Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations; page 107, Church Development Team; page 73, Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc; page 155, Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, Inc; page 161, Virginia United Methodist Development Company; page 76, Disaster Response; page 108, Commission on

Disabilities; page 74, Board of Discipleship; page 102, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 158, United Methodist Foundation; page 111, GraceInside; page 79, Heart Havens; page 81, Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; page 154, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; page 87, Board of Higher Education Ministries; page 111, Industrial and Commercial Ministries; page 77, Initiatives of Hope; page 103, Board of Laity; page 78, Mission Encounter; page 79, Conference Committee on Mission Personnel; page 78, Missional Connections Team; page 75, Center for Next Generation Ministries; page 157, Old Stone Church Foundation; page 75, Older Adult Council; page 141, Board of Ordained Ministry; page 155, Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries, Virginia Chapter; page 153, Preachers' Relief Society; page 154, Retired Clergy Housing Corporation; page 112, Society of St. Andrew; page 110, Commission on Status and Role of Women; page 142, Conference Board of Trustees; page 80, United Methodist Family Services; page 104, United Methodist Men; page 144, United Methodist-related Schools; page 78, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission; page 106, United Methodist Women; page 113, Virginia Council of Churches; page 114, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; page 78, Voices of Youth; page 83, Wesley Housing Development Corporation; page 158, William Watters Foundation and page 76, Council on Youth Ministries.

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Rev. Joe T. Carson, III, incoming Chair, Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found on pages 52-54 of the *Book of Reports*, with recommendations on page 52. Rev. Carson recommended the following:

The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2018 be \$350,000. The recommendation was approved

The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2018 be \$42,000 for Full Connection Pastors, \$38,500 for Provisional and Associate Members and \$36,000 for Local Pastors. The recommendation was approved.

The floor schedule for 2018 be approved as \$28,000 for Full Connection Pastors, \$25,600 for Provisional and Associate Members and \$24,000 for Local Pastors. The recommendation was approved.

Rev. Reaves announced that books recommended by Bishop Lewis' will be at the Cokesbury display in the display area. Also, following adjournment of the Friday afternoon session, the Episcopal Residence Committee will hold a question and answer session regarding its recommendation to the annual conference in Rooms 203 and 204. Following that the Council on Finance and Administration will have a question and answer session in Rooms 203 and 204 as well.

She reminded the assembly that the Annual Conference mission offering will be received during the 11:00 a.m. worship service Saturday, June 17. The Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Room 106.

Also, Bishop Lewis will lead a tour to the Holy Land on February 26-March 6, 2018. People interested in the tour can contact Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop.

Following the "Glory Sightings" video, Wesley Flood Buckets, Bishop Lewis recognized the youth members of the annual conference.

The plenary session recessed for dinner at 4:49 p.m.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION, JUNE 16, 2017

A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion began at 7:30 p.m. Worship leader for the service was Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. Rev. Tom Joyce, Assistant to the Bishop, was the preacher. His message, "Running the Race," based on Isaiah 43:1-3a and Hebrews 12:1-3, emphasized the race we run is not a competition. It is a race that is run, heading in a common direction. "We are striving toward a goal of the joy of a life giving relationship with God in Jesus Christ."

The liturgists were: Rev. Hung Su Kim, Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, Arlington District; Rev. James Daniely, Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, Alexandria District; Rev. Carl Perez, Galilee United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District; Ms. Madisyn Grogan, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District; and Ms. Kelsey Flutsch, Centreville United Methodist Church, Arlington District. The deacon assisting Bishop Lewis was Rev. Mary Sue Swann, Mechanicsville United Methodist Church, Richmond District. Assisting in the service

was Rev. Susan Reaves, Secretary of the Conference. The Acolytes were Mr. Nicholas Johnson, Trinity United Methodist Church, York River District and Ms. Molly Johnson, Trinity United Methodist Church, York River District. Music was provided by Rev. Robert McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

The worship planning team for this and each of the worship services in the 235th Session was led by Rev. Barbara Miner, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District. Also on the planning team were Rev. Michelle Holmes Chaney, Centreville United Methodist Church, Arlington District; Rev. Emily Moore Diamond, Warsaw United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District; Rev. Mary Dadisman, Kenwood United Methodist Church, James River District; Rev. Ellen LaCroix-Fillette, Centreville United Methodist Church, Arlington District; Rev. Ashley Allen, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District; and Rev. Brent Levy, Christ United Methodist Church, Chapel Hill on loan to the North Carolina Annual Conference.

Acolytes lit memorial candles and chimes were sounded as Rev. Reaves read the names of clergy, diaconal ministers, clergy spouses and lay members of the Virginia Annual Conference who died during the previous year. The congregation joined in giving thanks to God for each of these faithful people. Bishop Lewis presided and Rev. Swann assisted at the table for Holy Communion. Following the benediction, the evening session was adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 17, 2017

“Singing our Faith” was led at 8:15 a.m. by Rev. Robert McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta Georgia. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis greeted the conference at 8:27 a.m.

Bishop Lewis introduced the bible study leader, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett. She serves the Birmingham Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church. She read Matthew 13:1-9, the parable of the sower. She also lifted up Isaiah 43: 16-17, 19. She spoke about good soil, stating, “You are the good soil through which God is doing a new thing.” She encouraged everyone to ask themselves, “What new thing is God leading my church to do?”

Bishop Lewis called the session to order at 9:03 a.m. She announced that the ministry area formerly known as Ministries with Young People has a new name and new vision. It has been renamed the Center for Next Generation Ministries, or simply NextGen Ministries. Its goal is to raise up the next generation of spiritual leaders to follow Jesus into the world. Mr. Paulo Lopes, Conference Director, Next Generation Ministries, led the conference in prayer.

Bishop Lewis expressed appreciation to Ms. Terry Bain and Rev. Rosemary Welch, members of the Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the morning's session and to Bishop Young Jin Cho for being available for parliamentary consultation.

A "Glory Sightings" video was shown on St. Luke's United Methodist Church's Stickpower indoor field hockey team.

Rev. Stan Thompson, Chair, Minutes Committee, moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Clergy Executive Session, the Laity Session, the Friday afternoon plenary, and the evening worship service. The minutes were approved.

Bishop Lewis expressed her appreciation for Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader. Mr. Harper presented the report of the Board of Laity, found on pages 103-104 of the *Book of Reports*. Mr. Harper delivered the Laity Address. He spoke about the things he heard at the 15 district "Chat and Chews" he attended with the Bishop. Bishop Lewis and Mr. Harper seated themselves in wing back chairs brought onto the platform. They engaged in a time of conversation with one another. Bishop Lewis asked, "Why is it so important for clergy and laity to partner with one another?" Mr. Harper spoke about the need for trust between the two. Laity in ministry need to feel they are in partnership with their minister.

Mr. Ken Peterson, President, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) presented the Board's report in two parts: section I, found on pages 54-59, and section II on pages 60-68 in the *Book of Reports*. He lifted up report 2 and report 7. He noted that the VUMPI apportionment has not increased since 2014. This is the fourth year in which the Clergy Benefits Apportionment recommendation has either not increased or has decreased. Also clergy participating in the Virginia Conference wellness program can

decrease their contribution to the plan. Mr. Peterson presented recommendations 1-6. They were approved.

Bishop Lewis asked Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, VUMPI and the members of the board to stand. The Conference expressed their appreciation.

Ms. Rachel Miller and Rev. Jonathan Page, members of the Common Table for Church Vitality, presented the Common Table report found on pages 69-71 in the *Book of Reports*. They spoke about the conference as one of vital churches.

Common Table recommendations are found on pages 70-71 of the *Book of Reports* and the green addendum sheet: 1) The delegates and reserves elected as Virginia Conference delegates for the 2016 General Conference serve as Virginia Conference delegates and reserves for any called General Conference session held prior to 2020; 2) Approve the formation of FLOW ministry at Virginia State University as a Wesley Foundation of the Virginia Conference effective July 1, 2017; 3) approve recommendations by the following boards: a) by the Board of Discipleship, the endorsement of Rev. Gregory West as a general evangelist according to the standards of the General Board of Discipleship; b) by Missional Ministries, the continuation of Conference Relationship Agreements: between the Virginia Conference and the following: Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation and Wesley Housing Development Corporation; c) by Missional Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, Inc; United Methodist Family Services; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc; and d) by Missional Ministries regarding Advance Special offerings found in the *Book of Reports*, pages 85-86 and the corrections found on the addendum. The recommendations were approved.

Rev. Delano Douglas, Virginia State University (VSU) campus minister and associate pastor, Ettrick United Methodist Church, James River District, was recognized. VSU's campus ministry, FLOW (Faith, Love, Outreach and Worship), is the first Wesley Foundation in Virginia at a Historically Black College and University. He introduced those who are part of this ministry: James River District Superintendent Rob Colwell, Rev. Bob Lamb, lead pastor, Ettrick United Methodist Church, and Rev. Dorothy O'Quinn, FLOW board chair. FLOW student leaders Mr. James Barber, Mr. Jon-

Thomas Smith and Ms. Ronnika Davis were also present. Rev. Douglas has brought together the ministries of FLOW and Ettrick United Methodist Church.

Rev. Marc Brown and Mr. Harper, co-chairs, Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT) presented the CLDDT report found on pages 116-120 in the *Book of Reports* and on the addendum found in the official packets with the following change: the removal of Garrett Johnson, Mandy Katz, and Johnathan Massey from the nominees for Ferrum College Trustees. In addition the spelling of Unsil Choi, Common Table, Bishop Nominated, should be corrected. The clergy teller for the Roanoke District should be changed from Bobbie Henley to Christina McLain. Rev. Victor Gomez, Amor y Paz-Mt. Olive Cooperative Parish, Winchester District, lifted up Rev. Lydia Rodriguez as a nominee to the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy. The nomination was received by the CLDDT. The nominees to committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the annual conference were elected as amended.

Bishop Lewis asked all persons serving in leadership through all conference boards and agencies to stand as they were able. She thanked the conference leadership for their service, consecrated them to God's service and prayed for them.

Ms. Martha Stokes asked for a moment of personal privilege. "The Common Table report and recommendations have been adopted. Conference leadership has been consecrated. One of those recommendations was that the 2016 General Conference delegation be the delegation to the 2019 called session of the General Conference. Will you pray for us?" Bishop Lewis led the body in prayer for the delegation.

Rev. John Peters, Executive Director, Association of Educational Institutions, began the introduction of the presidents and chaplains from the United Methodist affiliated universities, colleges and preparatory school by noting that Rev. Jan Nicholson Angle, Dean of Chapel, Ferrum College could not be present; however he introduced Dr. Jennifer Braaten interim President of Ferrum College. Rev. Josh Orndorff, Randolph-Macon Academy Chaplain, introduced Brigadier General David Wesley, academy president. Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Randolph College Chaplain, acknowledged Dr. Brad Bateman, Randolph College President, who was away at his son's graduation. Rev. Kendra Grimes, Chaplain and Director of Church Relations, Randolph-Macon College, acknowledged Mr. Bob Lindgren, Randolph Macon College President, who could not be

present as he was at his daughter's graduation. Rev. Greg West, Chaplain, Virginia Wesleyan College, introduced Dr. Scott Miller, Virginia Wesleyan College President, and Dr. Justin Allen, Dean of Spiritual Life, Shenandoah University introduced Dr. Tracey Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah University President, who spoke on behalf of all the schools and introduced a video. Bishop Lewis took an impromptu survey of those who were current students, alumni, and staff of the six United Methodist affiliated schools by asking them to stand. She asked parents of children who want to go to college to stand and reminded members of the annual conference, "We have excellent United Methodist Colleges available.

Videos about Wesley Theological Seminary and Duke Divinity School were shown. She then asked those from various theological institutions to stand and be recognized.

Dr. James Salley, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement of Africa University, gave a report on the school. He recognized Bishop Wallace-Padgett who leads the North Alabama Annual Conference. Her conference has given 113 % of their apportionment to Africa University. He also recognized Bishop James Swanson, Sr. Mississippi Annual Conference, who has initiated a \$1.6 million dollar campaign for Africa University. Dr. Salley noted that Africa University is "transformation in action." Although many people said it would never be built, today it has students from 26 countries, graduated 718 students in 2017 and currently operates debt free. This is Africa University's 25th year anniversary. A video about Africa University was shown.

Rev. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell, Retired, Alexandria District pointed out on page 122 of the *Book of Reports* that the Virginia Conference did not pay 100% of its apportionment to Africa University.

Rev. Denise Honeycutt, Senior Connectional Engagement Specialist for Global Ministries, presented three General Board of Global Ministry recognitions: for the highest total amount of designated giving in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church; for the highest number of Advance projects supported in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church; and for the highest number of missionaries supported in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Lewis and Rev. Glenn Rowley, Director, Center for Justice and Missional

Excellence, accepted the awards. Rev. Honeycutt thanked the conference for “putting faith in action.”

Bishop Lewis announced an order of the day, and dismissed the morning session to prepare for worship.

The mission service began with individuals from various conference ministries processing with items that represented their ministries and placed them on and before the altar. The preacher for the mission service was Bishop James Swanson, Sr. The liturgists were Rev. Victor Gomez, Amor y Paz -Mt. Olive Cooperative United Methodist Parish, Winchester District; Rev. Mark Miller, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District; Ms. Kamesha Miller, St. John’s United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District, Mr. Forrest White, Trinity United Methodist Church, Richmond, District and Rev. Amy Crisp, Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, Richmond District. The scripture was Luke 6:12-19. Bishop Swanson’s sermon was titled “Stay Focused.” Bishop Swanson said, “We cannot rely on walls to protect us...We need to put our faith in God and God’s power.” He also reminded the assembly that, “Love is the juice of justice.” Following his sermon, Bishop Lewis called people who wanted God to use them to come forward and Bishop Swanson prayed over them. The conference mission offering was taken during the service. The music was led by Rev. McMichael, III and Mr. Wilson.

The conference recessed for lunch at 12:19 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 17, 2017

Rev. Robert McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia, led in “Singing Our Faith” at 1:45 p.m. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the session to order at 1:59 p.m. She called upon Ms. Madisyn Grogan, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District, to lead in prayer.

Ms. Deedee Kent, Cunningham United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District, asked for a moment of personal privilege. She lifted up the seven men missing off of the USS

Fitzgerald which was struck by a merchant vessel off the coast of Japan earlier in the day. Gunner's Mate, Seaman Dakota Rigsby, a sailor with ties to Fluvanna, Virginia, was lifted up by name. At the Bishop's request Ms. Kent's daughter, Ms. Nicole Kent, Cunningham United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District, prayed for the missing sailors and their families.

Following the prayer Bishop Lewis expressed appreciation to Rev. Joshua King, chair, Rules Committee and Mr. Scott Diamond, member of the Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the afternoon session and to Bishop Ray Chamberlain for being available for parliamentary consultation.

A "Glory Sightings" video was shown about the Asbury Drum Line from Asbury (Church Hill) United Methodist Church, Richmond District.

A service for the recognition of retirement was held to celebrate the ministry of those clergy who were retiring at the 235th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference and their spouses. Together, they represent 1,130 years of ministry. Rev. Janet Knott, Bethlehem-Jollivue United Methodist Charge, Staunton District, preached on II Corinthians 5:16-21. Her message was titled "Be an Ambassador." Rev. Knott spoke about how we can accept a new future if we stay connected to Christ. "We are called to be Christ's ambassadors in the world. We must remember that God is making his appeal for Christ through us." Liturgists for the service were Mr. Dylan Aron, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District; Rev. Genevieve Bowles, Hot Springs United Methodist Church, Staunton District; and Rev. Daniel Kim, Kenwood United Methodist Church, Richmond District. Also participating in the service were Rev. Michael Davis, Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elders; and Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. Bishop Lewis greeted each retiree and spouse as they crossed the stage. The retirees then signed a large cross on stage.

Bishop Lewis took a moment to recognize Bishop Kern Eustler who is the second oldest living episcopal leader.

Bishop Lewis recused herself for the report on the Episcopal Residence. Bishop Ray Chamberlain presided. Ms. Shirley Cauffman, Chair, Episcopal Residence Committee,

presented the report found on pages 120-121 of the *Book of Reports*. She moved that the Episcopal Residence Committee find an appropriate residence in a different location, as detailed in the *Book of Reports*.

Mr. Paul Geib, First United Methodist Church, Danville District, proposed the following amendment: “that the property of the residence shall be heated and cooled by a geothermal heat pump powered by solar power from roof mounted or pedestal mounted solar panels. The solar panels shall be supplemented by purchased wind generated electricity.” The motion was not approved.

Rev. Bob Cooper, Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, Richmond District, called for the question. The motion to call the question was approved. The motion to find an appropriate episcopal residence was approved.

Bishop Lewis returned to preside.

Rev. Susan Reaves, Annual Conference Secretary, presented the five constitutional amendments found on pages 163-166, *Book of Reports*. She reminded members where the bar of the conference was set and reviewed voting eligibility for constitutional amendments. Rev. Reaves reported that the outcome of the amendments is determined by the total vote of all members of all annual conferences and the results of the balloting on the proposed constitutional amendments will be submitted directly to the Executive Secretary of the Council of Bishops without announcement in the annual conference session.

Rev. Grace Han, Head Teller, provided instructions about the distribution and receiving of ballots. The ballots were distributed.

Prior to voting for the individual proposed amendments, Bishop Lewis asked if there were questions related to the amendment under consideration or speeches regarding the amendment. Ms. Martha Stokes, head of the delegation to General Conference, and Rev. Tom Berlin, Secretary of the delegation to General Conference, were available to answer questions on Amendments I, III, IV and V. Rev. Mary Dadisman, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), and Rev. Erin Geoffrion, member of COSROW, were available to answer questions on Amendment II. Questions of clarification were asked and speeches were made for and against the proposed

constitutional amendments. Bishop Lewis prayed. After proposed Amendments I and II were voted on, Rev. John Bright, Jamison Memorial United Methodist Church, Farmville District, proposed the following, “We suspend the rules on the remaining three amendments and have them read and then vote with no other action of the body.” The motion was not approved.

Bishop Lewis instructed members to vote following the presentation of each remaining amendment.

Following the vote for all five constitutional amendments, Bishop Lewis closed the balloting on the constitutional amendments and the tellers collected the ballots.

Rev. Reginald Early, Shenandoah United Methodist Charge, Staunton District, asked for a moment of personal privilege to remember the nine people who lost their lives at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, exactly two years ago because of “the color of their skin”. The Bishop prayed as did Rev. Early.

Rev. Tom Berlin, member of the Commission on the Way Forward, presented a report. He spoke about the insight the commission has gained from reading the book, *The Anatomy of Peace*, and noted that whether a person has a “heart at war or a heart at peace” affects his perception of others. He shared the vision statement from the Commission on for a Way Forward and encouraged delegates to go to the website for the Commission on a Way Forward (<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-about-us>). According to the Scope section the commission has “been directed to consider, ‘new forms and structures’ of relationships through the ‘complete examination and possible revision’ of relevant paragraphs in the *Book of Discipline*.” When describing the work of the Commission so far he said, “Good relationships, deep learning and a posture of humility before God and one another, these are the essential things” to have in place before a proposal can be crafted. Bishop Lewis prayed for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and the future of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Reaves announced that the Eucharist will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. Sunday in Room 106 and youth members will be present during the Sunday morning recess at designated areas to receive gifts for the Youth Service Fund.

Following the announcements, Bishop Lewis recessed the afternoon session at 5:18 p.m.

Saturday Evening, JUNE 17, 2017

A SERVICE FOR THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis presided at the Service for the Ordering of Ministry, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jonathan Barton, General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches, represented the ecumenical community. Bishop James Swanson, Sr., Bishop, Mississippi Annual Conference, preached the sermon, “But, I Haven't Finished Yet” based on Acts 10:30-44. He professed the “Holy Spirit is anxious to fall on people to transform them so that they can transform the world.” People must be available to the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit may work and they must pursue God’s mission instead of their own.

Bishop Swanson asked the people to stand, saying, “If God is speaking to your heart, you just need to take one step.” He invited those present to respond to God’s call to ministry in Christ’s church. Persons responded by coming forward to be greeted by Bishops Lewis and Swanson and Rev. Jason Stanley and then received a blessing from the soon to be ordained and commissioned clergy.

Bishop Lewis licensed, commissioned and ordained the candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service. During the service 40 local pastors were licensed, 15 provisional members were commissioned, one deacon was ordained, 15 elders were ordained and one associate member was recognized. Bishop Lewis recognized the presence of Bishop Young Jin Cho and Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett and blessed the people. Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service included: Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons; Rev. M. Lynne Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elders; Rev. Michael Davis, Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; and Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry. Serving as Marshals were Dr. Justin Allen, Dean of Spiritual Life, Shenandoah University, Winchester District; Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Associate Director, Call, Candidacy and Discernment, Center for Clergy Excellence; Rev. Jessica Squires Colwell, Associate Pastor, Culpeper United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District; Rev. Susan Hannah, Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church, Danville District; Rev. Donna Holder, Westover Hills United Methodist Church,

Richmond District; Rev. Darcey Johnson, River Road United Methodist Church, Richmond District; Rev. Ileana Rosario, Lower United Methodist Church, York River District; and Rev. Meredith McNabb, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence.

Rev. Alan Combs, Front Royal-John Wesley United Methodist Cooperative Parish, Winchester District served as acolyte. Rev. Bradley McMullen, Timberlake United Methodist Church, Lynchburg District served as the crucifer. Banner carriers were: Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman, Zion United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg District (Local Pastors); Rev. Michele Manning, Retired Deacon, Alexandria District (Diaconal); Rev. Timothy Beck, Kenbridge United Methodist Church, Farmville District (Commissioned); Rev. Gary Miller, St. John's United Methodist Church, Atlantic, Virginia (Associate Member); Rev. Christian White, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria District (Deacon); Rev. Clarence Brown, Annandale United Methodist Church, Alexandria District (Elder); and Rev. Elizabeth Givens, Welborne United Methodist Church, Richmond District (Bishop). Serving as symbol carriers were Rev. Brandon Robbins, Ignite Norfolk-Wesley Foundation, Old Dominion University, Elizabeth River District, (Bible); Rev. Brenda Laws, Intellectual Disabilities Services, Eastern Shore District (Pitcher, Towel, and Basin); and Rev. Won Gyu Lee, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District (Patent and Chalice). Rev. Robert H. McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference served as music leader, accompanied by Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

The service concluded at 9:44 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION, JUNE 18, 2017

“Singing our Faith” was led at 8:15 a.m. by Rev. Robert H. McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. McMichael announced that the Africana Hymnal from which he drew some of the songs used at Annual Conference was available on a thumb drive from Cokesbury.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis greeted the conference at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, North Alabama Annual Conference, Bible study teacher. The Conference sang “Happy Birthday” to Bishop Wallace-Padgett whose birthday was

Thursday. She read Acts 16:25-34 and presented the lesson, "Singing God's New Song." Following the Bible study, Bishop Lewis thanked Bishop Wallace-Padgett for her teaching.

Bishop Lewis called the session to order at 9:02 a.m. and wished all the fathers a happy Father's Day. She thanked Rev. Marc Brown, Ms. Bev Myers and Ms. Terri Biggins for their work in making annual conference happen. She also thanked those people whose names will never be called, but who assisted in the work of conference all the same. She also thanked the Annual Conference Planning Team, the York River District and everyone attending conference. Finally she thanked Rev. Susan Reaves, Conference Secretary, and Rev. Delano Douglas, Assistant Conference Secretary. She invited Mr. David Renner, Burnt Factory United Methodist Church, Winchester District, to pray.

She expressed appreciation to Rev. James Smith and Rev. Sung Woon Yoo, members of the Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the morning's session and to Bishop Young Jin Cho for being available for parliamentary consultation.

Rev. Stan Thompson, Chair, Minutes Committee, presented the committee's report. Rev. Thompson moved the acceptance of the minutes for the Saturday morning plenary session and worship service, the Saturday afternoon plenary session and the evening worship service as reviewed and corrected. Rev. Thompson announced that the Minutes Committee would meet on June 27, 2017 to complete the review and certification of the minutes. He moved that the minutes for the Sunday morning session be approved in advance. The motions were approved.

A "Glory Sightings" video was shown about ministry with women in Cambodia.

Mr. David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer and Statistician, presented the Statistician's Report found on page 121 in the *Book of Reports* and the Treasurer's Report found on pages 122-128 in the *Book of Reports*. Mr. Dommissie noted that church membership for the conference was down slightly. Professions of faith for 2016 dropped below 4,000, while ten years ago they were above 6,000. In regard to the treasurer's report, Mr. Dommissie reported that when he became the Virginia Annual Conference's treasurer, the Conference reserves were negative. Since the adoption of the Contingency for Budget

Shortfalls, the guidelines in the Council of Finance and Administration policy have been met and exceeded.

Ms. Betty Forbes, Chair, Council of Finance and Administration, presented the report found on pages 129-140 of the *Book of Reports* in sections. She recommended the acceptance of Section I, the proposed budget for 2018. The motion was approved.

She recommended the acceptance of sections II-VI. The motion was approved.

She recommended the acceptance of section VII of the report: “that the Annual Conference authorize the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference to sell the Conference-owned land adjacent to the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, Virginia, at an appropriate time as determined by the Board of Trustees.” The motion was approved.

Mr. David Dommissé asked for a moment of personal privilege. He recognized that today was Ms. Forbes’s 50th wedding anniversary and she was spending it at Annual Conference.

A “Glory Sightings” video highlighting the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech was shown.

Rev. Don Jamison, Chair, Conference Board of Discipleship, and Mr. David Abarca, Assistant Director, Annual Conference Relations for Discipleship Ministries, came forward to present the One Matters Discipleship Award, presented to a church in each annual conference that has gone from zero professions of faith to having a profession of faith. It was awarded to Bethel United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District. Rev. Barbara St. Jean, pastor; Ms. Frances Dixon, church council chair; and Ms. Sarah Seeley, baptized and confirmed on January 22, 2017, were present to receive the award.

Rev. Jamison spoke about Harry Denman for whom the Harry Denman Evangelism Award was named. He presented the Denman Award for Evangelism to a clergyperson, a layperson and a youth. The awards were given as follows: the clergy award to Rev. Reggie Tuck, Messiah United Methodist Church, Alexandria District; the laity award to Mr. Johnnie Morris, Journey United Methodist Church, Farmville District; and the youth

award to Ms. Nicole Kent, Cunningham United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District.

A “Glory Sightings” video about the Hispanic ministry of Belmont United Methodist Church, Richmond District, was shown.

Rev. Mochel Morris, Chair, Committee on Resolutions, presented Resolution 5, “Hydraulic Fracturing Oil and Gas,” on pages 172-173 of the *Book of Reports*. The Committee on Resolutions recommended concurrence. Mr. Jaydee Hanson, Chair, Board of Church and Society, spoke on behalf of the maker of the resolution who was absent.

Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Rules Committee, raised a point of order: “There is no ‘therefore’ in this resolution, so it cannot be voted upon.” Rev. Marc Brown, Director, Connectional Ministries, moved that the word “whereas” before the numeral 1 be changed to “therefore.” Mr. Hanson agreed that this was a friendly amendment. The motion to accept the change was approved. Bishop Lewis prayed. The motion was approved.

Rev. Morris presented Resolution 4, “Resolution on Holy Land Travel” on pages 171-172 of the *Book of Reports*. The Committee on Resolutions recommended concurrence. The maker of the resolution, Rev. John Copenhaver, spoke to the resolution. The motion passed.

Bishop Lewis asked the Committee on Resolutions to stand and recognized their hard work.

Rev. Mary Dadisman, Clergy Co-Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, reported on the monitoring process, giving the breakdown of those who spoke at conference by race, gender and age. She encouraged the body to work for the full inclusion of everyone at God’s table.

Rev. Pam Baldwin, Rock Spring United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District requested a point of privilege. She asked for prayers for Frank “Corky” Lasley and his wife who were involved in an automobile accident and admitted to UVA hospital. Bishop Lewis added that two people were injured in falls at Conference; and prayers had been requested for eight year old, Sydney Floyd, had been admitted to a Pediatric

Intensive Care Unit. Per Bishop Lewis' request, Rev. Baldwin prayed for all those mentioned.

Two members of Virginia United Methodist Homes: Ms. Martha Stokes, Director, Church and Community Relations, and Mr. Chris Henderson, Chief Executive Officer, gave a presentation which included the unveiling of a new logo and name for Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. It will be renamed Pinnacle Living.

It was reported on the announcement screens that the number of kits received for distribution by the United Methodist Committee on Relief totaled 47,012. There were 390 bedding kits, 4,479 birthing kits, 366 cleaning kits, 26,599 health kits, 1,397 layette kits, 12,987 school kits, 540 sewing kits and 254 miscellaneous kits collected. Also the amount collected for the Annual Conference special offering was \$134,000.

Rev. Susan Reaves, Conference Secretary, announced information regarding the trip to the Holy Land led by Bishop Lewis. She also noted youth were on hand to collect the Youth Service Fund offering at designated stations during the break.

A "Glory Sightings" video about Cars for Christ, West End United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District was shown.

Bishop Lewis recognized an order of the day and recessed the conference at 10:57 a.m. to prepare for worship.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis led the closing worship service. She spoke about vision and set the clergy and laity free to be in ministry as long as it was biblically and theologically sound and within the bounds of the *Book of Discipline*. She announced that the ministry vision for the Virginia Annual Conference is to be a "disciple of Jesus Christ who is a lifelong learner who influences others to serve." Bishop Lewis went on to describe how this was a shared vision that came out of the 32 sessions of the "Chat and Chew" she held across the conference and it would be undergirded by scripture and prayer.

Liturgists for the service were Rev. Ashley Allen, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District; Rev. Beth Anderson Spencer, Courthouse Community United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District; and Rev. Marcela Jarman, Sterling United

Methodist Church, Arlington District. Musicians were Rev. Robert McMichael, III, Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference, and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, Hillside International Truth Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

The preachers were stationed and the appointments were fixed as printed in the *Advocate* with one addition, Rev. Robert Riggles has been appointed as Associate Pastor at The Vine United Methodist Church, Arlington District. Ushers distributed copies of the appointment list printed in the July, 2017 *Advocate* at Bishop Lewis's direction. Bishop Lewis adjourned the 235th session of the Virginia Annual Conference at 12:15 pm.

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes Committee, have read, corrected, and approve these Daily Proceedings of the 235th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on June 27, 2017, Thursday at Glen Allen, VA.

Joanne Day
Robert W. Stinson
William D. Weigel, Jr.
Russell D. IV

Stanley A. Thompson