

V. DAILY PROCEEDINGS
236th Session
The Virginia Annual Conference
Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia
June 15-17, 2018

The Virginia Annual Conference opened in the Hampton Roads Convention Center with the Clergy Executive Session in Ballrooms D, E, F and G and the Laity Session in Halls B and C.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 15, 2018
CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, resident bishop of the Richmond Area, called the Clergy Executive Session to order at 10:33 a.m. She welcomed the members of the clergy session. Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Revitalization Coordinator, Lynchburg District, led the singing. Rev. Lynn Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elders, preached the message based on Matthew 28:1-10. She encouraged the clergy to remember the call that first brought them to ministry and remember it as a call to love God and everyone we meet. She described Jesus as a living document who has shaped us and moved us to new understandings. Liturgists were Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacons and Rev. Michael Davis, President, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. The sign language interpreters for the session were Ms. Shirley Musik and Ms. Virginia Bryant.

Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, noted which clergy have voice and vote in the clergy session. He referred to the printed booklet of Minute Questions and the 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, lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry 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 additions and corrections distributed separately, 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.

Regarding Minute Question 43.c.2, Rev. Mark Miller, Chair, Administrative Review Committee, explained the work of that committee. He affirmed that fair process was followed as two names were brought forward to have their conference relationships changed to administrative location. Rev. Tammy Estep, Chair, Conference Relations Committee, gave a summary of the process utilized in recommending that Rev. Teresa K. McRoberts be placed on administrative location. The recommendation was approved.

Rev. Estep then spoke to the process used in recommending that Rev. George Riggins be placed on administrative location. Rev. Riggins spoke against the recommendation. His advocate, Rev. Elizabeth Ecklund, spoke against the recommendation as did Rev. Keith Boyette, retired, Rappahannock River District. The recommendation was voted on by written ballot with 326 votes for the recommendation and 223 votes against the recommendation. The recommendation passed.

All other Minute Questions were passed with the required majorities.

Rev. Hall thanked the Board of Ordained Ministry for their work over the past year as well as Ms. Kristen Dowdy Seibert. Bishop Lewis thanked Rev. Meredith McNabb and Ms. Seibert, along with the Board of Ordained Ministry and especially Ms. Terri Biggins, the Bishop's executive secretary. She also thanked Mr. Steven Brown, Conference Chancellor, and the 16 district superintendents who act as an extension of her office. Finally, she encouraged the clergy to be gentle and kind to one another, love their people and take good care of themselves, being sure to utilize the mental health resources available to them when needed. Bishop Lewis dismissed the Clergy Executive Session at 1:13 p.m.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 15, 2018
LAITY SESSION

The meeting was opened by Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, at 10:33 a.m. Ms. Marguetta Mitchell, Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader, led the assembly in prayer.

A *Chuck Knows Church* video entitled "Our Purpose" was shown. Throughout the laity session several skits were enacted on the themes of leadership, spiritual gifts and prison ministry. District lay leaders and co-lay leaders performed in them.

The upcoming Lay Servant Academy, August 17 - 19, 2018, at the W. E. Skelton 4H Conference and Educational Center, Smith Mountain Lake, was announced. Lay Servant Academy is an excellent teaching and training resource for local church members. The book, *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts*, by Charles V. Bryant, which includes a "Grace-Gifts Discovering Inventory," was cited as another useful resource.

The mission statement of the church, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, was discussed."

Three topics related to the upcoming plenary sessions of Annual Conference were presented. Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., gave information about changes to the health plans offered to conference clergy. Mr. Harper discussed Constitutional

Amendment I and the upcoming vote that would be held. Mr. Rodney Bussard, Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader, provided an overview of Saturday's Great Day of Service.

Mr. Harper recognized members attending Annual Conference for the first time. Mr. Larry Creamer, Staunton District Lay Leader; Ms. Martha Murray, 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 provided information about the Annual Conference and the responsibilities of its members.

Mr. Ronald White, Richmond District Lay Leader, closed the session with prayer. Mr. Harper dismissed the gathered at 11:57 a.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15, 2018 PLENARY SESSION

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the first plenary of the 236th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference to order at 2:04 p.m. and noted it marks the 50th anniversary of the unification of the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. This unification created The United Methodist Church.

Ms. Christal Heyward, St. John's Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina, led the members and guests in singing the Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." This hymn has been sung by persons gathering for holy conferencing since the beginning of the Wesleyan movement. Rev. Gilbert Cofer, retired, Rappahannock River District, and Mr. Chaz Nickens, Fairview United Methodist Church, Danville District, opened the Annual Conference in prayer. This was Rev. Cofer's 73rd Annual Conference and Mr. Nickens' first Annual Conference. Rev. Raymond Wrenn, who has offered the opening prayer for Annual Conference since 2009, was unable to be present this year. Rev. Wrenn will be celebrating his 100th birthday later this month.

Bishop Lewis expressed appreciation to Ms. Heyward for stepping in after Rev. Robert H. McMichael, III, who had been scheduled to serve as worship leader, passed away. She thanked members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, and its Chair, Rev. Ileana Rosario, Lower United Methodist Church, York River District, for their preparatory work. Bishop Lewis expressed appreciation to Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Conference Rules Committee, and Ms. Terry Bain, member, Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the first half of the afternoon session as well as Rev. Rosemary Welch and Mr. Scott Diamond, members of the Conference Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the second half of the afternoon session and for Bishop Young Jin Cho for serving as parliamentary consultation. She introduced Ecumenical Officer, Council of Bishops, B. Michael Watson, who would be speaking at the Mission Service on Saturday.

The sign language interpreters for the 236th session were Ms. Virginia Bryant, Ms. Christina York and Ms. Shirley Musik.

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 acknowledged the retired Virginia Conference bishops and their spouses: Bishop Young Jin and Rev. Kiok Cho (in attendance); Bishop Ray and Ms. Martha Chamberlain; Bishop Kern Eustler; 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 the exception of the front eight rows in the first right section nearest the hallway when facing the stage, and the two rear left sections of the hall, when facing the stage, marked with orange flags and orange tape. The technical and camera platforms are included in the bar of the conference. The motion was approved.

Rev. Kim moved that the schedule printed on pages five and six in the *Book of Reports* be adopted as the agenda, with the addition of voting on Constitutional Amendment I following the prayer for consecration of conference leadership and the "Glory Sightings" video during the afternoon's session. She further moved that the following orders of the day be established: voting on Constitutional Amendment I at 5:00 p.m.; worship on Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 8:35 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. The motion was approved.

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, *Book of Reports* and on the green Addendum sheet found in the official packet with the following five corrections: Eastern Shore District Lay Teller Katelyn Leatherbury was replaced with David Greer; Alexandria District Clergy Teller Larry Craddock with Michelle Matthews; York River District Lay Teller Warren Wright with Jose Inchausti; Lynchburg District Clergy Teller June Carpenter with Sue Keen; and Farmville District Lay Teller Michelle Clary with Amy White. The motion was approved.

Rev. Reaves announced that Meeting Room 106 on the main level of the Convention Center was designated as a Prayer Room throughout the Annual Conference. Meeting Room 207 on the second level of the Convention Center was designated as a chapel where the Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m.

Rev. Reaves reminded conference members that amendments to the agenda must be submitted before the end of that day's session, Friday, June 15.

The deadline for requests for items to be removed from the Consent Agenda was set by the Consent Agenda Committee as 3:30 p.m., Friday, June 15. According to Conference Rules, removal of an individual item from the Consent Agenda requires 30 signatures accompanying the request. Motion forms to request removal of items from the Consent Agenda are at the front of the stage and must be returned to the "secretarial inbox" at the corner of the stage by the established deadline.

In response to the approval of five constitutional amendments at the 2016 General Conference, all annual conferences voted on these amendments.

The results of balloting by the Virginia Annual Conference were:

Amendment I	Yes 1101	No 469
Amendment II	Yes 1137	No 435
Amendment III	Yes 1490	No 79
Amendment IV	Yes 1533	No 34
Amendment V	Yes 1385	No 180

Rev. Reaves explained that all annual conferences reported the results to the Council of Bishops for ratification. After the votes on the Constitutional Amendments were ratified, the General Conference Secretary discovered that the wording for Constitutional Amendment I included a sentence that should have been omitted. The inclusion of this sentence requires another vote by annual conferences on this specific constitutional amendment. In establishing an order of the day for the annual conference agenda, a revote on Constitutional Amendment I will be taken at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon. Rev. Reaves asked members to bring to the secretary's desk a written copy of all motions and reports made from either the podium or the floor.

Rev. Joshua King, Chair, Rules Committee, presented the report of the Rules Committee located on page 44 with recommendations on pages 45-46, *Book of Reports*. In addition to this year's written report, the Rules Committee has included in the official packets a table of often used parliamentary procedures from *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Rev. King explained that the report of the Rules Committee included three main recommended changes:

- 1.) Replace Clergy Session Nominations at III.C.2.b with Clergy Nominations from the Floor.
- 2.) Replace Laity Session Nominations at III.D.5 with Lay Nominations from the Floor:
- 3.) Strike II.B Resolutions in whole and replace it with II.B Presentations followed by:
 - 1.) Requests for inclusion of presentations for the annual conference agenda shall be submitted to the Director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the proposal."
- 4.) Add a new sub-section "C" named Petitions to read: "II.C PETITIONS followed by:
 - 1.) An area designated by the annual conference planning committee shall be determined for receiving signatures for petitions."

The recommendations were approved.

Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland, Williamsburg United Methodist Church, York River District, moved that Section F of the rules on page 22, *Book of Reports*, under 3.(b) be amended "after the word 'delegates' add 'and/or alternates.'" The motion was approved.

Rev. Mochel Morris, retired, Rappahannock River District, moved that in section III, there be inserted:

A new number 8 after F.7 and renumber the current number 8 to be changed to 9. The new number 8 would read: a 20 minute pause in the balloting shall be observed each time the number of elected delegates reaches a multiple of three since the last pause. During these pauses, the Bishop may lead the conference in conduct of its usual business, including the work of prayer, discernment and reflection. After all General Conference delegates have been elected, there will be a pause of 20 minutes before the jurisdictional balloting begins. When five of the Jurisdictional delegates have been elected, there will be a final 20 minute pause.

The motion was not approved.

Rev. Erin Geoffrion, member, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), presented a report on monitoring. She noted that the Commission on Disabilities, COSROW, and the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy play an important role in helping the Annual Conference hear "the voices of everyone God calls to the table."

Roanoke District Superintendent Kathleen Overby Webster presented the Report of the Cabinet, pages 45-47, *Book of Reports*. She then presented for election the nominees for District Committees on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) listed on the gold sheet found in the official packet with the following correction under Winchester District should be Wilma Jennings instead of Wilma Jenkins. She presented nominees for members of the District Boards of Church Location and Building, found on the violet sheet in the official packet. The nominees were elected, as presented.

Rev. Overby Webster presented the remaining sections of Minute Questions 14, 15 and 16, found on the white sheets in the official packet, for approval with the following corrections:

- 1.) Remove the following from 14.f (3) Satellite Congregation: Bethel United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, 344 Locust Bottom Road, Eagle Rock, Va. It is correctly listed under 14.f.(4) Chartered Local Church.
- 2.) Under Minute Questions 14.j What cooperative parishes in structured forms have been established? Under Parish Name, add Forest/Forest Road Cooperative Parish. Under Church Name add Forest and Forest Road. Under district, add Lynchburg. Additionally, under Parish Name, add Shiloh/Mt. Olivet. Under Church Name, add Shiloh and Mt. Olivet. Under district, add Lynchburg.
- 3.) Minute Question 16: The Eagle Rock Charge: correction of the spelling of two names: Eagle Rock, not Road, and Shiloh (without an 'a').

Charlottesville District Superintendent Danny Kesner moved the following:

Be it resolved that Bethel United Methodist Church on the Charlottesville District be discontinued effective 30 June 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Charlottesville District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Bethel United Methodist Church on the Charlottesville District be transferred to Batesville 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.

Elizabeth River District Superintendent Wayne Snead moved the following:

Be it resolved that Chesapeake Avenue United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be discontinued effective 30 June 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Elizabeth River District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Chesapeake Avenue United Methodist Church on the Elizabeth River District be transferred to Portlock 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.

Lynchburg District Superintendent Scott Davis moved the following:

Be it resolved that Salem (Appomattox) United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Lynchburg District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Salem (Appomattox) United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be transferred to Tyreeanna 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. Davis made the motion:

Be it resolved that Big Island United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Lynchburg District Board of Trustees and that the membership of Big Island United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be transferred to Cove 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. Davis further moved:

Be it resolved that St. James United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Lynchburg District Board of Trustees and that the membership of St. James United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be transferred to Emmanuel 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. Overby Webster moved the following:

Be it resolved that Bethel United Methodist Church, Eagle Rock, on the Roanoke District be discontinued effective 30 June 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Roanoke District Board of Missions, Inc. and that the membership of Bethel (Eagle Rock) United Methodist Church on the Roanoke District be transferred to Glen Wilton 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 West View United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be discontinued effective 30 June 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Staunton District Board of Mission, Inc., and that the membership of West View United Methodist Church on the Staunton District be transferred to Cherryvale 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.

Winchester District Superintendent Larry Thompson moved the following:

Be it resolved that Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be discontinued effective 30 June 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Winchester District Board of Mission, Inc., and that the membership of Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be transferred

to Little Mountain 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 also made the following motion:

Be it resolved that Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be discontinued effective 30 June 2018 and that all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible of the church be transferred to the Chestnut Grove Cemetery Association, Inc., and that the membership of Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church on the Winchester District be transferred to Pine Grove 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. Overby Webster prayed over the churches being discontinued. She gave thanks to God for the ministry they had provided and extended the hope that the influence of their discipleship would be experienced in new places, among new people. She moved the adoption of Minute Questions 14-16. The motion was approved.

Rev. Mark Ogren, Director, Center for Congregational Excellence, presented new faith communities beginning on July 1, 2018. Fairfax United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, will become a multi-site church. Rev. David Bonney is the lead pastor and Rev. Mino Kim will be the church planter. Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District, will add another satellite, Restoration Loudon. Rev. Tom Berlin is the lead pastor and Rev. Jake McGlothlin will be the church planter.

Rev. Ogren recognized Korean United Methodist Church of Koinonia, Arlington District, which was started in 2008 by Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, Arlington District. Korean United Methodist Church of Koinonia will be chartered on July 1, 2018. It is led by Rev. Young Bong Kim. Bishop Lewis greeted the church-start pastors and offered a prayer for the new churches and the communities they will serve.

Bishop Lewis acknowledged her mother, Ms. Alethia Lewis, and her sister, Ms. Le'Ontyne Buggs, who are attending their second Virginia Annual Conference. Following this she reviewed the conference vision. The Virginia Annual Conference Vision is to be "Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve." All United Methodist Churches in the Virginia Annual Conference will have a process of intentionally forming disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by 2020. Bishop Lewis encouraged churches to begin the process with prayer, then have a conversation about your church's potential mission field for intentionally forming disciples. She presented three resources:

- 1.) *#SEEALLTHEPEOPLE – Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations* by Junius B. Dotson; www.SeeAllThePeople.org (Discipleship Ministries)
- 2.) *Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People* by Junius B. Dotson (Discipleship Ministries)
- 3.) *Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples* by Phil Maynard

Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader, delivered the laity address. During his address he spoke of the many learning opportunities he had throughout the past year. He discussed Bishop Kenneth Carder's blog "ShiftingMargins" (Shiftingmargins.com). His blog often discusses life with his wife, Linda, who lives with Alzheimer's disease. Bishop Carder writes, "What is the sacred within the present moment? It is LOVE! Love transforms the present moment into a sacrament!" Mr. Harper quoted 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace and in its various forms." He then encouraged members of conference to take love outside to Hampton and beyond.

Mr. Neal Wise, Chair, Site Selection Committee, presented the committee's report located on page 51, *Book of Reports*. The Site Selection Committee recommended the 2023 Annual Conference be held in Roanoke on June 15-17. The recommendation was approved.

Bishop Lewis reminded everyone that Annual Conference will begin on Thursday and end on Saturday next year. She spoke about the importance of honoring fathers and father figures and with this in mind, pastors will be with their congregations and have the possibility of being with their children on Father's Day.

Bishop Lewis introduced a "Glory Sightings" video about the SHEEP Ministry of South Hill United Methodist Church, Farmville District. SHEEP stands for South Hill Elementary Educational Program and was begun with a grant from the Annual Conference.

Rev. Reaves reported that no items had been removed from the Consent Agenda. Bishop Lewis presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following reports (page numbers refer to the *Book of Reports*): page 155, Association of Retired Ministers and Spouses; page 145, Bishops' Foundation; page 77, Church and Society; page 110, Church Development Team; page 79, Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.; page 157, The Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, Inc.; page 111, Commission on Disabilities; page 80, Board of Discipleship; page 144, Committee on Episcopacy; page 111, Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; page 162, United Methodist Foundation; page 114, GraceInside; page 86, Heart Havens; page 93, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries; page 158, Virginia Conference Historical Society; page 90, Virginia United Methodist Housing Development; page 106, Board of Laity; page 83, Conference Missional Ministries Board; page 140, Board of Ordained Ministry; page 157, PAUMCS; page 87, Pinnacle Living; page 155, Preachers' Relief Society; page 156, Retired Clergy Housing Corporation; page 51, Site Selection Committee; page 115, Society of St. Andrew; page 113, Commission on Status and Role of Women; page 144, Conference Trustees; page 89, United Methodist Family Services; page 107, United Methodist Men; page 146, United Methodist-related Schools; page 109, United Methodist Women; page 116, Virginia Council of Churches; page 117, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; page 91, Wesley Housing Development Corporation. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented with page number corrections as listed above.

Rev. Joe T. Carson, III, Chair, Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented the report found on pages 52-53, *Book of Reports*. He noted that the Equitable Compensation Commission had a positive balance at the end of 2017 of approximately \$131,000. The recommended

Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2019 is \$350,000. Rev. Carson recommended that no change be made to the current Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2018. This would set the Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2019 at \$42,000 for Full Connection Pastors, \$38,500 for Provisional and Associate Members and \$36,000 for Local Pastors. The recommendation was approved.

Rev. Carson reported that the Commission on Equitable Compensation also recommended no change from the 2018 floor schedule. This would set the floor schedule for 2019 at \$28,000 for Full Connection Pastors, \$25,600 for Provisional and Associate Members and \$24,000 for Local Pastors. The recommendation was approved.

Mr. Ken Peterson, President, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) presented the Board's report found on pages 54-72, *Book of Reports*. He began by pointing out that for 2019, VUMPI recommends three new health plans that will replace the Conference's current health plans. The changes are described in Report 2. These recommendations are intended to improve the health plans available to Virginia Conference clergy, contain health care costs, and make strategic adjustments to avoid the so called "Cadillac tax" penalty under the Affordable Care Act. For 2019, VUMPI makes the following nine recommendations:

- 1.) Total apportionments of \$16,520,000. This is a 250,000 dollar reduction from last year. This is the fifth consecutive year in which the total VUMPI apportionment is either unchanged or reduced from the prior year.
- 2.) The establishment of three new Conference health plans as noted above with four notable provisions. First, clergy who have accumulated medical credits in the Clergy Managed Care Plan be given the option to remain in that plan in 2019 so that those credits are not lost. Second, the current medical plan made available to clergy receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan disability benefits, and to surviving spouses and dependent children of clergy, be offered in 2019 with no changes in the plan design. Third, Pre-Medicare-eligible clergy, who currently only have the option to enroll in the PPO plan, be able to enroll in either the PPO Core plan or the PPO Buy-Up plan in 2019, which gives that group of retirees a choice of plans, where currently there is only one option. Fourth, the two Conference dental plans continue to be offered in 2019 with no plan design changes.
- 3.) The launch of a new vision plan in 2019.
- 4.) The expansion of the enrollment tiers with can be found on page 64, *Book of Reports*. Expressed as a percentage of the 2018 total cost, the rate of increase for those enrolling in the new family coverage tier generally will be about 2 to 3%. The Conference-sponsored health plans for both pre-Medicare-eligible and Medicare-eligible retirees will continue to be on the two-tier enrollment structure in 2019.
- 5.) The elimination of the Retiree Health Plan Access fee, which allowed clergy with at least ten years of full time Virginia conference ministry to freeze their years of service as well as the elimination of the requirement that a clergyperson have ten consecutive years of full time ministry immediately preceding retirement. Instead, retiree health plan eligibility would be based on the total of all years of full time appointed ministry in Virginia Conference churches, plus all years of full time ministry other than in Conference churches but with enrollment in the Conference health plan.
- 6.) Regarding the calculation of pension benefits of the Pre-82 pension program, the Past Service Rate would be increased from \$565 to \$570 in 2019.
- 7.) No change be made to funding for the Clergy Retirement Security Program and the Comprehensive Protection Plan.
- 8.) Is a summary of the 2019 comprehensive benefit funding plan that is required by the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶ 1506.6. The plan should demonstrate the ability to fund all financial obligations associated with VUMPI-administered benefit plans in 2019. The plan is to be submitted to Wespath.
- 9.) Is a resolution addressing clergy housing tax exclusions, as allowed under the Internal Revenue Service rules. The full resolution can be found on pages 71-72, *Book of Reports*. Upon Conference approval, VUMPI will make copies of this resolution available on its website for income tax filing purposes.

The preceding nine recommendations were presented for approval. The recommendations were approved.

Dr. Carlos Liceaga, Ms. Iris Gunter Smith and Rev. Gary Miller, members, The Common Table for Church Vitality, presented the report of Common Table, pages 73-77, *Book of Reports*. They lifted up highlights related to ministries that fall under the direction of the Common Table.

Ms. Susan Healey, Monumental United Methodist Church, James River District, described her experience with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) after losing a home to Hurricane Matthew and then having her next residence destroyed by lightning. Through UMCOR, people came from all over to rebuild her house and her life. She said, "these workers showed me the power and the grace of God working in and with and through them." Ms. Healey closed her remarks saying, "The Holy Spirit and the light of Jesus Christ shines through you."

Bishop Lewis then prayed with Ms. Healey and the Annual Conference.

Dr. Liceaga presented the following:

- 1.) Recommendation 3 for approval, page 76, *Book of Reports*: Approve the resolution by the Virginia Conference Commission on Archives and History regarding United Methodist Historic Site No. 7: William Watters Grave, McLean, Virginia, Heritage Landmark as found in the *Book of Reports* (Resolution 8, page 175).
- 2.) Recommendation 4 found on pages 76-77, *Book of Reports*, by the following boards for approval which states:
 - 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 the Board of Discipleship regarding changes in the Standing Rules related to the structure of its board;

- c. By Missional Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services of Virginia, and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.
- d. By Missional Ministries that the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Missional Connections Team of the Conference Missional Ministries Board between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; Pinnacle Living.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

Rev. Charles Swadley, Williamsburg United Methodist Church, York River District, made a motion that:

The Common Table initiate a study on how the future relationship of the local churches, the districts and the Virginia Conference may be strengthened for the ecumenical work of the body of Christ united in witness to the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virginia Council of Churches; and further that the results of this study be reported with recommendations and future funding levels to the 2019 Annual Conference.

Rev. Marc Brown accepted Rev. Swadley's motion on behalf of the Common Table. The motion was approved. The recommendations were approved.

Ms. Pat Hickman, Connectional Ministry staff member for over 40 years, was recognized for her work through the Virginia Conference.

Mr. Warren Harper and Rev. Marc Brown, co-chairs, Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT) presented their report, pages 119-123, *Book of Reports*, and in the Addendum found in the official packet.

Mr. Harper offered for election the nominations to committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the annual conference found on pages 119-123, *Book of Reports* and the Addendum, with the addition of Rev. Fred Okello as a clergy nominee to the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis asked all persons serving in leadership through all conference boards and agencies to stand as they were able. She prayed over the conference leadership and consecrated them for the work before them.

A "Glory Sightings" video about Park View Community Mission, Lynchburg District, highlighting the foodbank, was shown.

Rev. Reaves presented the constitutional amendments found on the salmon colored sheet in the official packet. She reminded members where the bar of the conference was set and reviewed voting eligibility for constitutional amendments. Rev. Reaves reported that after the votes on the proposed Constitutional Amendments from the 2016 General Conference were ratified, the General Conference Secretary discovered that the wording for Constitutional Amendment I included a sentence that should have been omitted. This discovery requires another vote by annual conferences on this specific constitutional amendment.

Rev. Reaves explained that the outcome of a vote on a constitutional amendment 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.

Head Teller, Rev. Kyungsook Cho, explained the balloting procedure. Ballots were distributed. Bishop Lewis opened the balloting. After all members of Conference voted, the balloting was closed and ballots taken up by the tellers.

Rev. Reaves announced the following:

- 1.) The Scuttle Bus will be available to pick up and drop off people going between their cars and the Convention Center.
- 2.) Please remove all items from seats in preparation for the evening's worship.
- 3.) Bishop Lewis' book recommendations will be at the Cokesbury display in the display area.
- 4.) Annual Conference members are encouraged to wear their Great Day of Service t-shirts to tomorrow morning's session. T-shirts may be received through donations in support of tomorrow's Great Day of Service.
- 5.) The Board of Communication is selling cooling towels for the Great Day of Service.
- 6.) The annual conference mission offering will be received during the 11:00 a.m. worship service tomorrow.
- 7.) The Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Room 207.
- 8.) The next 5 Talent Academy will take place on October 30, 2018 using a new format featuring four different speakers. The topic is on worship. Bishop Lewis will be preaching to open the day and doing a presentation in the afternoon.
- 9.) Bishop Lewis will be conducting a Wesley Heritage Tour that will expand our knowledge of the ministry of John Wesley. Please consider this her personal invitation to be a part of this adventure in faith and join her in experiencing a once in a lifetime journey! The tour will be on April 23 – May 1, 2019.

The plenary session recessed for dinner at 5:10 p.m. following the announcements.

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 15, 2018
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION

A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion began at 7:30 p.m. Worship leader for the service was Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. Rev. Ileana Rosario, Lower United Methodist Church, York River District, preached on the theme, “Love Never Ends,” based on Revelation 7:9-17. Her message proclaimed that “the communion of saints is a promise that when we serve, God uses us to bless others.” The communion of saints is also “a miracle of love that never ends. We celebrate and honor those who came before us. It is a blessing that we will see them again!”

Ms. Christal Heyward, St. John’s Chapel (Anglican), Charleston, South Carolina led the music. The deacon assisting the Bishop was Rev. C. Milton Rodgers, Grace United Methodist Church, Alexandria District. The liturgists were: Rev. Fred Ouma Okello, New Beginnings United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District; Mr. Chad Sokolowski, Restoration United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District; Rev. Marie Elizabeth Misiaszek, Woodlake United Methodist Church, Richmond District; and Rev. Daniel Burch, Warsaw United Methodist Church, Rappahannock River District. Acolytes for the service were Ms. Caroline Pope and Ms. Ann Cook, both from Trinity United Methodist Church, Smithfield, James River District. Ms. Robin Griffin, Trinity United Methodist Church, Smithfield was the bell ringer. Also assisting in the service was Rev. Susan Reaves, Annual Conference Secretary.

Three white candles were lit on stage in remembrance of the three persons who lost their lives during the Charlottesville protest held on August 12, 2017. During the service, memorial candles on the worship table were lit, a bell was rung and persons stood as Rev. Reaves read the names of clergy, diaconal ministers, clergy spouses and the lay members of the Virginia Annual Conference who died during the previous year. Following the reading of the names, the assembled were invited to name and pray aloud for the members of their church who had died during the previous year. The congregation joined in giving thanks to God for each of these faithful people. As the communion elements were brought forward liturgical dancers entered the worship space. Dr. Josie Hoover, Adjunct Professor of Liturgical Dance, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. choreographed their movements. Bishop Lewis presided over Holy Communion.

Following the benediction, the evening session was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 16, 2018
PLENARY SESSION

Ms. Christal Heyward, St. John’s Chapel (Anglican) Charleston, South Carolina, led the conference in “Singing our Faith” at 8:15 a.m.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the Annual Conference to order at 8:33 a.m.

Bishop Lewis recognized Bishop Hasbrouck and Ms. Mera Hughes who were present at the morning session. Mr. Chris Ganoe, incoming co-chair, Conference Council on Youth Ministries, led the Annual Conference in prayer.

Following the prayer Bishop Lewis thanked Ms. Terry Bain and Mr. Thomas Hassler, members, Rules Committee, for serving as parliamentarians for the morning session and to Bishop B. Michael Watson for being available for parliamentary consultation.

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

A service celebrating the ministry of clergy who were retiring at the 236th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was held. They were recognized along with their spouses. Bishop Lewis presided. Bishop Lewis noted that the clergy retiring in 2018 represented 1,285.5 years of service. Rev. David Forrest, St. Thomas United Methodist Church, Arlington District, delivered a message titled “Not Driven to Despair” on 2 Corinthians 4:1-10. He shared that we do not need to have all the answers in order to follow Christ. Rev. Forrest affirmed we may not know much about God, but what we do know is so important we need to go around the world and across the street to share it. Liturgists for the service were Ms. Kathy Day, Kenwood United Methodist Church, Richmond District; Rev. Maggie Hasselbach, Highland United Methodist Church, James River District; and Rev. Harold White, New Mission United Methodist Church, Eastern Shore District. Mr. John Fuller, Executive Director, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., participated in the service. Others assisting in the service were: Rev. Lyndsie Blakely, representing the Order of Deacons; Rev. Lynne Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elders; and Rev. Michael Davis, President of Associate Members and Local Pastors. Bishop Lewis greeted the retirees and spouses on stage as statements from the retirees were read.

Ms. Martha Stokes and Rev. Tom Berlin, leaders of the General Conference delegation, brought a report about the 2019 Special Session General Conference scheduled for February 2019. Rev. Berlin reviewed the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and the recommendation of the Council of Bishops (COB). He then outlined the plans put forward by the Commission on a Way Forward to the COB: the One Church Plan, the Connectional Conference Plan and the Traditional Church Plan. By a majority the COB recommend the One Church Plan, but all three plans will be presented by the Commission on a Way Forward.

Ms. Stokes reported that the final report of the Commission will be published on or around July 7, 2018. She noted that the Judicial Council ruled on May 25th that legislative petitions in addition to the report from the COB may be filed as long as the business proposed to be transacted in such petitions is in harmony with the stated purpose in the call. That purpose is to receive and act upon the report from the COB based upon the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Ms. Stokes encouraged Annual Conference attendees and local congregations to pray for the entire 2019 Special Session General Conference, especially around Thanksgiving when delegates will receive the legislative materials for the Special Session General Conference. She listed several prayer initiatives as an aid to ongoing prayer. Among those was encouragement to pause and pray for the Special Session Conference for four minutes daily from 2:23-2:26 a.m. and/or p.m. The times represent the dates of the session. She asked the body to pray whenever they could.

Bishop Lewis thanked Rev. Berlin for his work on the Commission on a Way Forward and thanked Floris United Methodist Church for allowing him to work with the Commission over the last 17 months. She told the assembly, “Do not factor out the God factor,” in the work of the upcoming

Special Session Conference. She encouraged us to “pray and pray and pray.” She asked everyone to stretch out a hand toward the Virginia Conference delegation assembled on the platform as she prayed for them and for the Conference.

A “Glory Sightings” video about the Staunton District’s HELP medical closet was shown. HELP stands for the Health Equipment Loan Program.

Rev. Melody Tanner, Chair, Committee on Resolutions, gave a brief report on the work of the committee.

Bishop Lewis addressed Resolution 6, Gracious Accommodation Virginia Annual Conference, pages 172-173, *Book of Reports*. She stated that, “It seeks Annual Conference approval to ignore the Trust Clause ¶2501.1, 2016 *Book of Discipline*. Resolution 6 seeks to negate, ignore or violate church law and encroaches on the power of the General Conference. Therefore, it is out of order and not properly before the body.” Rev. H. O. “Tom” Thomas, retired, Lynchburg District, asked that the writers be allowed to return on Sunday with a new motion from the floor.

Chancellor Steven Brown advised Bishop Lewis to clarify that she will entertain a motion from Rev. Thomas but will not allow an amendment to Resolution 6 as it has been ruled out of order and is not before the body.

Rev. Tanner introduced Resolution 3, Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families, pages 166-167, *Book of Reports*. It was addressed by Mr. Darin Buse, Fulks Run United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg District. The resolution was approved.

Rev. Tanner introduced Resolution 1, Affirm Unity in Christ, page 165, *Book of Reports*. Rev. Kirk Knave, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, Winchester District, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Leah McGlynn, First United Methodist Church, Fox Hill, York River, spoke for the resolution and included an amendment within her speech.

An amendment to the resolution was offered by Rev. Bill Davidson, retired, Richmond District, before Ms. McGlynn’s speech was recognized as an amendment.

Rev. Davidson’s amendment reads, “Be it resolved that the Virginia United Methodist Church supports the recommendation of the Council of Bishops of the One Church Plan and its full development by the Bishops for its presentation to the 2019 General Conference.” There was an objection to the amendment and therefore it could not be accepted by the maker of the resolution. A vote was needed to amend the resolution.

A proposal to table the resolution until a later time was made. The motion to table was not approved.

The Davidson amendment was not approved.

Ms. McGlynn’s amendment was then addressed. The amendment read as follows:

“God’s saving grace” would become “God’s abundant grace” and after “transforms the world.” add “For the communion table is His and ‘It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is our righteousness, holiness and redemption’ (I Corinthians 1:30).”

The question was called and approved.

The McGlynn amendment was not approved.

The question was called for Resolution 1 and the motion was approved.

Resolution 1 was approved.

Rev. John Peters, Executive Director, Association of Educational Institutions, introduced the newest president in the association and 12th president of Ferrum College, Dr. David Johns. Dr. Johns offered his thanks to the Virginia Conference and noted that he had once served as a pastor of a United Methodist church in the East Ohio Conference. He then introduced the presidents of the other United Methodist schools supported by the Virginia Conference: Dr. Scott Miller, Virginia Wesleyan University; Dr. Robert Lindgren, Randolph-Macon College; and Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah University. The leadership from Randolph-Macon Academy and Randolph College sent greetings as well. A video highlighting student leadership in Virginia Conference United Methodist affiliated institutions was shown. Bishop Lewis greeted the presidents. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President, Wesley Theological Seminary, was also recognized.

Ms. Mary Jane Rawley, President, Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, and Ms. Darlene Amon, a longtime board member of the Wesley Community Service Center, presented Mr. John Hatcher with a plaque in recognition of his years of ministry at the Wesley Community Service Center, Portsmouth, Elizabeth River District. Mr. Hatcher retired in April 2017 after working faithfully and humbly for 47 years serving the poor and marginalized in Christ’s name.

Bishop Lewis reminded the annual conference members about the Great Day of Service taking place from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Susan Reaves, Annual Conference Secretary, made the following announcements:

- 1.) The youth delegation would be receiving an offering for the Youth Service Fund prior to Sunday’s morning’s worship service.
- 2.) The Treasurer’s office will have a staff member at the Registration Desk for persons who would like to use a credit card to make a donation to the Annual Conference Offering,
- 3.) Everyone must sign an indemnity form in order to take part in the Great Day of Service.

The morning session was dismissed in preparation for worship.

Bishop Lewis presided over the Mission Worship service. Bishop B. Michael Watson was the guest preacher. He was elected to the episcopacy in 2000 and served first the South Georgia Conference and then the North Georgia Conference. He retired in 2016 and is currently a member of the

World Methodist Council and a member of The United Methodist National Youth Ministry Organization. His text was James 1:22-25 and his sermon was titled, “What Are We Doing?” He proclaimed the incarnational theology of the Christian faith by stating that “God didn’t just say, God did!” The church is a voluntary movement that fulfills the greatest purpose on earth. It is a powerful witness when the church does what God has called it to do.

The liturgists were Rev. Jae Song, Red Valley United Methodist Church, Danville District; Rev. Ashley Roth, North Amelia United Methodist Charge, Farmville District; Mr. Jonathan Fuller, Floris United Methodist Church, Arlington District; Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, Lunenburg United Methodist Charge, Farmville District; and Ms. Courtney Chaney, Centreville United Methodist Church, Arlington District. The 2018 Conference Offering was collected by the ushers and Holy Rollers. Rev. Everett Hopkins, Wellspring United Methodist Church, York River District, prayed. Musical leadership was provided by the Nexus Praise Team led by Rev. Daniel Park. The worship service concluded at 12:22 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 16, 2018 GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 1,637 members of the Virginia Annual Conference took part in 1) ministry outside of the Convention Center; 2) UMCOR Kit building in the Convention Center; and 3) presentations on social justice issues at the Convention Center. During this time 3,000 kits were packed. Participants were also deployed around Hampton praying with residents, picking up trash from waterways, as well as clearing brush from alley ways and historic African American cemeteries.

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, 2018 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 B. Michael Watson delivered the sermon, “We Have This Ministry,” based on 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 and 5:18-20. He stated, “God has a place of service for all Christians, but amongst the baptized some are ordained for specialized ministry.” Those called to this ministry must “do something with the wonderful gift that is ministry” and “must choose what to do with this holy privilege.”

Virginia Annual Conference members assisting in the service included Mr. Warren Harper, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. John Hall, Sr., Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry; Rev. Meredith McNabb, Director, Center for Clergy Excellence; Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Associate Director for Call, Candidacy and Discernment, Center for Clergy Excellence; Rev. Lynn Alley-Grant, Chair, Order of Elder; Rev. Jason Stanley, Chair, Order of Deacon; and Rev. Michael Davis, President, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. The following members of the Board of Ordained Ministry served as acolytes, crucifers, marshals, banner carriers and symbol carriers: Rev. Alan Combs, Rev. Bradley McMullen, Rev. B. Justin Allen, Rev. Jessica Squires Colwell, Rev. Susan Hannah, Rev. Donna Holder, Rev. Darcey Johnson, Rev. Ileana Rosario, Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman, Rev. Gary C. Miller, Rev. Michele Manning, Rev. Timothy Beck, Rev. Christian White, Jr., Rev. Clarence Brown, Rev. F. Elizabeth Givens, Rev. Brandon Robbins, Rev. Brenda Laws, and Rev. Won Gyu Lee.

Music for the service was led by Ms. Christal Heyward, St. John’s Chapel (Anglican) Charleston, South Carolina. An anthem was sung by the Virginia Wesleyan University Chorale, directed by Mr. Bryson Mortenson.

Bishop Lewis licensed, commissioned, recognized orders and ordained the candidates as listed in the worship booklet for the service. Following the prayer of thanksgiving, Bishop Lewis invited those feeling led by the Holy Spirit to inquire into Christian ministry to come forward and greet her during the singing of the final hymn. The service concluded at 9:34 p.m. with the dismissal and blessing.

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 17, 2018 PLENARY SESSION

“Singing our Faith” was led at 8:15 a.m. by Ms. Christal Heyward, St. John’s Chapel (Anglican) Charleston, South Carolina.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the morning plenary session to order at 8:31 a.m.

Ms. Lizzy Lawrence, Christ United Methodist Church, Alexandria District, led in prayer. Ms. Lawrence is an incoming co-chair of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

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

Rev. Stanley Thompson, Chair, Minutes Committee, presented his report. The minutes of the Saturday morning plenary session and service for the ordering of ministry were reviewed and corrected. The minutes were approved.

Rev. Thompson announced that the Minutes Committee would meet on June 27, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. to complete the review and certification of the minutes and moved that the minutes be approved as certified. The motion was approved.

Mr. David Domisse, Conference Statistician and Treasurer, presented the report of the statistician, page 123, *Book of Reports*. He shared some

encouraging statistics. Within the Virginia Annual Conference 95,000 United Methodists met in small groups, 2,400 people were baptized and 75,000 people were in mission serving over 1 million people.

Mr. Dommissé shared the report of the Treasurer, pages 124-130, *Book of Reports*. He highlighted the strong increase in the collection percentage for apportionments which was 89.91 percent in 2017. This was a 2.86 percent increase over 2016. Mr. Dommissé noted that the reports found on pages 127-130 are in very small print and he will ask the Conference Communication Staff to place these reports on the Conference website in an easier to read format.

Ms. Betty Forbes, Chair, Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) presented the Council’s report found on pages 131-142, *Book of Reports*. She presented Section I: Summary of Conference Proposed Budget for 2019, pages 131-133, *Book of Reports*. The overall budget for 2019 was reduced from 2018.

Winchester District Superintendent Larry Thompson moved “to amend the budget on page 132 in the *Book of Reports*, Schedule A, Apportionment 401, line 2 by striking the \$10,000 in the 2019 column and inserting \$50,000.” This motion would increase the amount apportioned for the Virginia Council of Churches. The question was called. The motion to call the question was approved.

The Thompson motion was not approved.

Rev. Justin Allen, Assistant Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Spiritual Life, Shenandoah University, moved the following changes to page 131, Section I – Preliminary Conference Budget, “Conference Apportionments—line 406, Virginia Education Fund be amended from \$700,000 to \$800,000 a 0 percent increase over the 2018 budget and line 405, Church Extension, be amended from \$1,125,000 to \$1,025,000, a 2.5 percent increase over the 2018 budget.” The amendment was not approved.

The total budget Section I was voted on. The recommendation was approved.

Ms. Forbes then presented Sections II-VI as follows:

- Section II: Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches on pages 134-135, *Book of Reports*.
- Section III: Apportionment Procedures on pages 136-137, *Book of Reports*.
- Section IV: Annual Conference Special Offerings on page 137, *Book of Reports*.
- Section V: Policies on pages 138-141, *Book of Reports*
- Section VI: A Church in Mission on page 142, *Book of Reports*.

In addition to the recommendations printed in the *Book of Reports* the following should be changed under Section V.B Travel & Meeting Expenses to 45 cents per mile for Conference Staff and to 27 cents per mile for volunteers.

The recommendations were approved.

The CF&A also noted that the bishop will appoint a task force to determine the feasibility of maintaining and improving the existing Wesley Foundation properties currently used for the purpose of campus ministry. The study will include an independent appraisal and analysis of the buildings. A report on the task force’s findings will be made to CF&A by January 15, 2019. The costs of this will be funded by CF&A and a report given at the 2019 Annual Conference in Roanoke.

Rev. Anita Mays, member, Board of Church and Society, presented the Green Church Award to Newport-Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, Roanoke District, and their pastor, Rev. Morris Fleischer. They have actively opposed the fracked gas pipeline that is going past their church in Giles County, and in so doing they are serving as advocates for their community and for the earth.

Rev. Don Jamison, Chair, Board of Discipleship and Rev. Karen Workman, member, Board of Discipleship, presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. The Denman Award is given to persons who are recognized by the Annual Conference for the impact their lives and personal ministry have on those around them. The Clergy award was given to Rev. Larry Cochran, Belmont United Methodist Church, Richmond District. His consistent presence has grown the local food ministry to serve over 60,000 individuals last year. The Laity award recipients were Mr. Kevin and Ms. Judy Mooers from the Northumberland Charge, Rappahannock River District. To date the Mooers’ have influenced over 650 elementary aged students and have shared in over 180 professions of faith because of their efforts. The Youth Award recipient was Mr. Justin Robins, Shady Grove United Methodist Church, Mechanicsville, Richmond District. He was not present because he was at camp sharing his faith with other youth. Through his personal efforts, at least a dozen youth joined the youth program at his church. Mr. Robin’s award was received by his pastor, Rev. John Kelchner. Bishop Lewis congratulated each recipient in turn.

Rev. Amy Valdez Barker, Executive Director for Global Mission Connections, Global Ministries, recognized the Annual Conference’s support of the United Methodist Advances. She discussed the abundance of awards the Virginia Conference has already received. She also spoke about ways to commit even more deeply to mission. Rev. Glenn Rowley, Director, Center of Justice and Missional Excellence, received these recognitions in the following categories as ranked among other annual conferences:

- United States Disaster Response (#1)
- International Disaster Response (#3)
- Missionary Support (#1)
- Mission Initiatives (#4)
- In Mission Together (#2)
- Health-Related Programs (#4)

Rev. Valdez Barker indicated that, “Mission and Methodism is a marriage made in heaven. God is calling the Virginia Conference to step up in mission.”

Bishop Lewis spoke about the Great Day of Service and what was accomplished when Annual Conference members engaged in mission work. She thanked Rev. R. Shaun Smith and Rev. David Magruder, organizers of the Great Day of Service, for their work. She also thanked Ms. Evonne Dickey, Administrator, York River District, for applying her tactical skills to the planning of the Great Day of Service. She showed a stack of prayer cards that were received during the prayer walks and shared some of the prayer requests with the Annual Conference. The Bishop reported that 1,637 people participated in the event. She expressed her appreciation to those who worked faithfully in planning and preparing for the Annual Conference. A “Glory Sightings” video of the members of Annual Conference at work in Hampton was shown.

A motion was made by Rev. Jan Rivero, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District: “That the Virginia Annual Conference meeting in Hampton, VA

- Condemns the manipulation of scripture to justify a political policy that is contrary to the command of Jesus to love one another, especially children;
- Calls upon all public figures to implement policies and actions that reflect the words of Romans 13:10 which reads, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”
- Calls upon the Department of Justice and appropriate agencies to release detained children, reunite families unjustly separated, and develop immigration reform that protects all children and families.
- And requests that a copy of this motion, be delivered to the Attorney General of the United States.”

Mr. George Bergdoll, Memorial United Methodist Church, Farmville District, offered the following amendment that “All those entering the United States obey the law of the United States and once in the United States obey all laws of the United States.”

The question was called on all that was before the body. The motion was approved.

The Bergdoll amendment was not approved.

There was a point of order regarding whether an address to the body by Ms. Martha Dodd Slippy, Independence United Methodist Church, James River District, was a speech against the motion or an amendment to the motion. Ms. Slippy asked to amend the motion. Her amendment was to “Add legal immigration” to the motion. The word legal would appear in the third paragraph between develop and immigration.

The amendment was not approved.

The Rivero motion was approved.

Rev. Tom Thomas, retired, Lynchburg District, made the following motion:

Move that the Virginia Annual Conference urges that any Plan of a Way Forward passed by the 2019 General Conference have within it the provision of a fair and gracious exit path for congregations who cannot in good conscience abide by the stance of the church regarding LGBTQI ministry, as determined by the 2019 General Conference.

Such an exit path should consider allowing congregations to leave the denomination with their buildings and assets, assuming their own liabilities. Nevertheless, General Conference should consider asking congregations to pay their fair share of conference financial liabilities. ‘Though we can’t think alike, may we not love alike?’ John Wesley said. Let us bless one another in pursuing the various paths of ministry we believe God is laying before us.

The secretary of the annual conference shall inform the secretary of the general conference, all active bishops of the church, each of the heads of the General Conference delegations and their members of their delegations of this motion.

Mr. David Domnisse asked to amend the motion as follows: “We add conference liabilities and VUMPI liabilities.”

Rev. Phil Woodson, First United Methodist Church, Charlottesville District, made a motion to table everything before the body. The motion was approved.

Bishop Lewis thanked Rev. Melody Tanner, Chair, Committee on Resolutions and the rest of the committee for their work.

Bishop Lewis recognized an order of the day and recessed the conference to prepare for worship.

Conference Secretary Susan Reaves announced that the Youth Service Fund Offering would be taken up by the youth delegation during the recess.

After the recess and before the worship service Rev. Erin Geoffrion, Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), reported on monitoring. COSROW recorded the gender and ethnicity of each individual who spoke at a microphone. She relayed that those speaking were 5% Asian, 2% Hispanic, 26 % Black and 65% white. Women spoke at the microphones 57% of the time and men 43%. In comparison, there are 1,624 clergy in the Annual Conference: 81% are white, 72% are men and 28% are women. Rev. Geoffrion said that COSROW recommends putting in place a way to track the demographic data for the lay members of conference.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis delivered a message based on 1 Peter 4:10. She reminded the members of the Annual Conference, that at her installation she called upon the Holy Spirit to “stir up the gifts.” Bishop Lewis reminded the Annual Conference, “God has given each of you a spiritual gift. Use them well to serve one another.” The liturgists were Rev. Emily Moore Diamond, Mary Washington Hospital Chaplaincy, Rappahannock River District; Mr. Jacob Sorrentino, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Elizabeth River District; Mr. Ed Gorski, Red Valley United Methodist Church,

V. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

Danville District; and Rev. Mi Sook Ahn, Fairmount United Methodist Church, Richmond District.

The ushers distributed *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate*. Bishop Lewis invited the district superintendents to present the appointments for their districts. Bishop Lewis presented the new district superintendents and their spouses. Superintendents completing their terms placed a stole on the shoulders of the newly-appointed superintendents. The appointments were fixed as printed in *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate* with the following corrections: on the Eastern Shore District, Rev. Barbara Parker will serve the Greenbackville United Methodist Charge; on the Lynchburg District, Rev. Willie Butler will serve the Otter United Methodist Charge; on the Rappahannock River District, Rev. Mark Roscoe will serve Bethel United Methodist Church, Caroline County; on the Roanoke District, Rev. Geoffrey White will serve the Mount Olivet United Methodist Church; and on the York River District, in extension ministry, Rev. Forrest B. Teague will serve as Director of Campus Ministry at Christopher Newport University .

With the “Sending Forth” by Bishop Lewis, the 236th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes Committee, have read, corrected, and approve these Daily Proceedings on today’s date, June 27, 2018.

