

Daily Proceedings

**Minutes of the 33rd Session
Desert Southwest Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 15–18, 2017
Renaissance Hotel & Spa in Glendale, Arizona**

**Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, President
Rev. Nancy Cushman, Secretary
Carla Whitmire, Associate Secretary for Proceedings**

**Orders of the Day
Rev. Ann Thomas**

**Recorders
Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Dina Reid**

1 **OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
2 **PLENARY SESSION 1**
3 **Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata**
4 **Thursday, June 15, 2017**
5 **8:30–11:30 a.m.**
6 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**
7

8 **Call to Order**

9 Bishop Hoshibata called the session to order at 8:34 a.m. with prayer.
10

11 **Organizational Matters**

12 The Bishop introduced Rev. Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary. Cushman welcomed all to the 33rd
13 Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. She pointed out that all the information needed for
14 this Annual Conference could be found on the Annual Conference Guidebook App and hoped all had
15 found it and were familiar with it. She stated that Tech Help was available. Cushman also noted that the
16 nurse was located on the opposite side of the room to the northeast. Finally, Cushman prayed that the time
17 together inspired and filled those present with the Holy Spirit.
18

19 Cushman addressed the following procedural motions. Cushman moved

- 20 • the names of the people who registered for the Conference constitute the official roll call for the
21 33rd Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference; **Approved**
- 22 • those persons who requested and received permission to be excused from Annual Conference
23 through their District Superintendent were excused. Requesting to be excused were: *for the entire*
24 *Conference—Active Clergy:* Eric Brown, John Fairchild, Valerie Fairchild, Meredith Grandy,
25 Larry Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Tom Kiracofe, Michael Patzloff, Sharon Ragland, Scott Ritchey;
26 *Retirees:* Jim Ek, Suzanne Getz, Patricia Goss, Bert Lewis, Stewart Lewis, Madonna Moess,
27 Peter Vaught, Marilyn Ware, Marico Wilson; *partial time away:* Don Benton, David Devereaux,
28 Lana Fong, Janet Keffer, Michael Keffer, James Wallasky; **Approved**
- 29 • the entire floor of the *Imaginarium* constitute the Official Bar of the Conference; and that our
30 Annual Conference operate under the “trust” system:
 - 31 • only those laity who were officially elected Lay Members from their churches, diaconal
32 ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, United Methodist Women & United Methodist
33 Men conference presidents, or conference & district Lay Leaders and
 - 34 • only those clergy who are deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members,
35 associate (related to local pastors) members and affiliate (related to pastors in extension
36 ministry) members, local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment and campus
37 ministers were allowed to cast a vote when a vote was taken.
38 Clergy of another denomination or other Annual Conferences may not vote; **Approved**
- 39 • all preliminary minutes and audio recordings of the Sessions were the property of the Conference
40 Secretary and as such are part of the official proceedings. **Approved**
41

42 Cushman explained that the Commission on Religion & Race and the Commission on Status & Role of
43 Women has a disciplinary responsibility to monitor the proceedings of the Annual Conference, and our
44 leadership affirmed our Conference’s desire to have them do so. Cushman moved that the monitors sit on
45 the floor to observe and be granted time Friday and Sunday mornings to give a report to the Annual
46 Conference. **Approved**
47

48 Cushman then addressed the following additional procedural matters, pointing out:

- 1 • the 2016 Journal contained the rules of order for this Annual Conference;
- 2 • the four microphones located in the Bar of the Conference. She instructed those wishing to speak
- 3 to wait to be recognized by the Bishop, then go to the microphone indicated by the Bishop and
- 4 begin by stating their name and church;
- 5 • Conference Rule III.G. which limited a speaker to one speech on any one question and limits the
- 6 speaking time to three minutes;
- 7 • if making a motion, the motion was to be emailed to Cushman, Carla Whitmire, and Trinity
- 8 Donovan, the Conference legislative coordinator, if email was not possible, Cushman asked that
- 9 the motion be submitted in writing on the motion pad;
- 10 • announcements to go up on the screen were to be given to Christina Dillabough, Director of
- 11 Communications;
- 12 • presenters on the agenda needed to arrive 15 minutes before report time and to sit at the
- 13 designated table.

14
15 Cushman then moved that the persons listed in report C.1.f. of the Preconference Journal constitute the
16 Conference Secretary’s Staff for this Annual Conference and she encouraged those having questions to
17 call on those staff members for assistance. **Approved**

18
19 Cushman asked that all clergy members of the Conference moving to a new appointment, retiring, or
20 those who have made any changes to their contact information in the last year, please go on the
21 Documents and Procedures section of the Guidebook App and complete the Change of Address form.

22
23 She requested that all cell phones be set on vibrate or turned completely off during Conference sessions
24 and if a call was received, the person taking the call move outside of the *Imaginarium*. Cushman shared
25 that the hotel has asked that no food be taken out of the dining room to eat in the hallways or in the
26 *Imaginarium*.

27
28 Cushman explained that Spanish and Korean translators and translation equipment were available.
29 Translating devices were in an area near the Communications Booth.

30
31 She called the Conference’s attention to the Reporting Guide in the Preconference Journal as a useful tool
32 in gathering information to be shared with your local church. Cushman encouraged the checking of the
33 media screen each morning for room changes. That concluded Cushman’s organizational matters.

34
35 Bishop introduced those at the front table: Marilee Clark, Conference Chancellor; Rev. Ann Thomas,
36 Agenda and Orders of the Day; Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary; and Laurie Lineberry,
37 Conference Lay Leader.

38 **Introduction of Monitors**

39
40 Diana Volere, Chair of the Commission on Race & Religion, and Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Chair of the
41 Commission on Status and Role of Women, were introduced. Volere invited the monitors to the stage.
42 She thanked the monitors for their service. Hansen and Volere stated that during their reports, they have
43 chosen to recognize Super heroes of inclusivity. They invited the Conference to pay attention, and to be
44 the kind of people who uses words and opportunities to help create safe spaces and inclusive
45 relationships. They led the Conference in a prayer.

46 **OPENING WORSHIP**

Bishop Robert Hoshibata, Preaching
Theme: Courage

Rev. Dr. Rula Colvin, Chair of Annual Conference Worship, introduced DeLyn Celec, the Annual Conference song leader. Bishop Hoshibata offered a call to worship followed by readings and congregational singing. The Scripture was Colossians 1:1–10. The Bishop’s Episcopal Address was titled, *Becoming What God Wants Us to Be*. The worship concluded with a Blessing/Sending out by the Bishop.

Introduction to Holy Huddles

Bishop Hoshibata instructed the ushers to distribute folders to the Conference to be used through the Holy Huddles. He indicated that each table would have a monitor to record the discussions. The Bishop invited to stage those leading the first Holy Huddle; Jerry McGuire, Rev. Jessica Goad, Rev. Beth Rambikur.

Holy Huddle #1—Values

Rev Jessica Goad explained the contents of the folder the Conference members received at registration. The folder contained the product of the various surveys, listening sessions, and holy huddles, in which members have engaged in the past year as part of the Initiative for Growth and Vitality. Goad explained that there would be five Holy Huddles during the Conference, providing an opportunity to hear about and engage this compelling vision for our life and ministry in the Desert Southwest Conference

Goad introduced the first Holy Huddle, titled “Our Values,” which was found on page 2 in the folder. She stated that our values form the bedrock of our lives together. Throughout the surveys, listening sessions, and Holy Huddles, many values that are important to our work in growth and vitality were lifted. However, there were six that seemed to rise to the top as foundational values for being a Courageous Church: Loving like Jesus, Acting for Justice, United in Hope. These are six values (trust, compassion, relationship, authenticity, boldness, collaboration) we aspire to live into; deep yearnings that have been identified as ways we desire to live together; and new ways of living into which God is molding our various ministry settings to bring about growth and vitality with and beyond our communities.

Goad added that as a connection of courageous lay and clergy leaders, we share the responsibility of determining how these values are and can be embodied in our various contexts. She invited the members to reflect on each of these values and write down an image or thought or emotion as the value was spoken and an image appeared on the screen.

Jerry McGuire shared that while all of these values are important, the focus of the first Holy Huddle would be the value of trust. McGuire shared that developing a culture of trust within our ministry setting and within the Conference is the foundation upon which growth and vitality are built. Trust enables the other values to emerge and grow—to be bold and collaborate with others, to develop authentic relationships, to have compassion for all. Trust enables us to be a courageous church with a firm foundation in God. To engage in an understanding of our trust in God, McGuire invited the Conference to sing verses 1 and 2 of the hymn, *How Firm a Foundation*.

McGuire shared that the hymn reminds us that our firm foundation is our confident reliance on God. Two components of trust helped the committee to identify in their work together over this last year; 1) that we confidently rely on God; that our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is working in the world around us and in each of us, this is trust in God; and 2) that we confidently rely on one another because God is working through all people. He added that trusting God means we believe God is actively leading, calling, and

1 equipping us for ministry in every aspect of our lives. It might look like investing in a new ministry or
2 mission project, even if the finances seem challenging. Or, maybe, focusing on the strengths of the people
3 who are present in our current ministries rather than talking about the people we wish would come.
4 Perhaps it looks like stepping aside from a ministry we have done for many years in order to cultivate
5 new leadership and make way for new ideas. It could also look like stepping into a new ministry.

6
7 McGuire stated that this deep trust in God looks different across our ministry settings. He invited the
8 Conference to answer the following questions around their table; *In your unique ministry setting, what*
9 *would it look like to believe, to expect, that the awesome wonder of God will show up in all you do? How*
10 *might your ministry change with that kind of trust and expectation?*

11
12 Rev Jonathan Arnpriester recognized the recorders for the Holy Huddles and thanked them.

13
14 Rev. Beth Rambikur explained that the second part of trust is confidently relying on one another. We
15 believe each and every person is uniquely and wonderfully made and equipped with strengths different
16 from and complementary to our own. We also believe each and every person is called by God to serve in
17 unique ways, equipped with our unique strengths. Engaging in ministry with one another in a culture of
18 trust requires us to build relationships with one another, confidently relying on each other's God-given
19 strengths and God-inspired callings. It also requires us to lead those in our ministry settings in a way that
20 builds and practices this trust. This type of servant leadership allows people to serve as they are called and
21 resists the structures and temptations that say "no" to pursuing that calling. This trust in one another does
22 not come without its barriers—broken trust, lack of trust, fear, and more. It is important to identify and
23 work to remove or reconcile with these barriers that keep us from trusting one another. Rambikur shared
24 that Bishop Robert Schnase would lead the Day of Learning and share more on this topic.

25
26 Rambikur added that we know from the surveys, listening sessions, and Holy Huddles there is a lack of
27 trust in our congregations, in our Conference, and in some of our relationships with each other. We heard
28 personal stories of broken trust, even betrayal. We know barriers exist to building trust but as a people of
29 confession and accountability, we believe naming these barriers and places of brokenness gives God the
30 power to move us from hearing to healing.

31
32 Rambikur invited the Conference to practice some boldness and authenticity during an opportunity to
33 share around their tables. She asked them to reflect on where you have found or experienced broken trust
34 and to reflect on a practice or action that could bring healing in that situation. Recorders were asked to
35 take brief notes of the barriers and practices that are named.

36
37 Rambikur thanked the Conference for their diligent and courageous work, engaging the value of trust. She
38 asked them to thank each person around their table for this gift of time and sharing. She indicated that the
39 responses shared would be posted to the guidebook app. Goad led the Conference in a trust activity. She
40 invited the Conference to choose a river stone available on the table, write the word "trust" on it, and find
41 a partner to pray a trust prayer together.

42
43 Bishop Hoshibata shared that Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarette lost her grandson recently and will not be
44 able to offer the message at the Service of Memorial. The Bishop announced that Rev. Louie Lyon would
45 share the message at the service. The Bishop offered prayer for Rev. Sombrero and her family.

46
47 **Nominations**

1 Julie Yarrow, Chair of Nominations, directed the Conference to the Nominations and Leadership Report
2 found in the Guidebook App. Yarrow stated that there are two Nominations documents. The first was the
3 traditional document from years past. The new document was sorted by last name of members on each
4 committee. Yarrow asked the Conference to review the documents for any corrections to spelling or
5 contact information. Changes were to be submitted to Rev. Anthony Tang, Rev. Beth Rambikur, or
6 Yarrow by 8:00 a.m. Saturday. Yarrow added that the Nominations Committee worked to improve both
7 the age diversity and ethnic diversity of our committees. A new priority was to place new members on
8 committees on a yearly schedule to avoid a large turnover of committee members in any given year.

9
10 **Committee on Episcopacy**

11 Rev. Gary Kennedy, Chair of the Committee on Episcopacy was introduced. Kennedy shared the
12 functions of the Committee on Episcopacy as described in ¶637.3 in the United Methodist 2008 *Book of*
13 *Discipline*. Kennedy invited Bishop Hoshibata to join him. Kennedy thanked the Bishop for all that he
14 does and asked the Conference to thank him with applause. Kennedy stated that a donation has been made
15 in honor of Bishop Hoshibata and his wife, Greta, to Africa University.

16
17 **Legislation: Rule Changes**

18 Rev. Nancy Cushman directed the Conference to the Routine Organizational Matters for Annual
19 Conference Rule Changes, item D.1.a. in the Preconference Report. She explained that the rule change
20 was to add the opening and closing motions which are made each year to the Conference Rules and to
21 update the references to publication methods that are outdated. She moved that the rule change be
22 approved. **Approved**

23
24 **Announcements**

25 The Bishop reminded the Conference that there was a free book table supplied by the retired clergy. He
26 thanked Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester for coordinating the recorders for the Holy Huddle sessions.

27
28 The Bishop asked Rev. Camille Penstil to close the session in prayer. Adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

29
30 **LAITY SESSION**
31 **Thursday, June 15, 2017**
32 **1:10–3:10 p.m.**

33 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**

34
35 Laurie Lineberry, the Desert Southwest Conference Lay Leader, opened the Laity Session with greetings.
36 Lineberry introduced Bishop Hoshibata for his greetings. Bishop Hoshibata welcomed all to the Laity
37 session. The Bishop opened the time with prayer. Lineberry introduced the District Lay Leaders; Paul
38 Browning, East; Phyllis Murray, North; Martiza Velazquez, south; Alice Brown, Conference United
39 Methodist Women President; and Sheryl McKinney, Conference Lay Servant Director.

40
41 McKinney introduced Demi Prentiss, author of *Radical Sending—Go to Love and Serve*.

42
43 Prentiss talked about hospitality, how to practice radical hospitality, how this calls for courage, and how it
44 opens the door to be all God would have us be.

1 Prentiss explained to the laity that there are three parts of radical hospitality: inviting, inclusion, and
2 radical welcome. She stated that hospitality is a process we are always being called to practice. She stated
3 there are two parts of hospitality—welcoming in and sending out.

4
5 She invited the laity to sit quietly to think about ways their church exhibits hospitality and how to take it
6 to the next step. The laity then talked in small groups about how to take the churches to the next step and
7 what that next step might be.

8
9 Two important ways we share our ministry is by sharing the Good News and telling our story.

10
11 Prentiss shared that in her book, *Radical Sending*, we are asking the church to understand that people are
12 in mission every day, in the places they live, work, and spend their time, mainly outside of church. She
13 asked the church to take a risk, to understand itself differently. Jesus calls us to risk; Jesus calls us to step
14 out of our comfort zone. Prentiss thinks Jesus asks us, “What are you willing to change about
15 yourselves—as an individual and as a congregation?”

16
17 Prentiss compared trekking with hospitality, talking about being equipped and establishing a basecamp.
18 The base camp is not the goal; it exists for the good of the hikers. The church is not the goal; it exists for
19 the people. She stated that the church serves as our base camp to support the people.

20
21 Prentiss shared that it is important for us to understand ourselves as sent, and read Matthew 28:18–20
22 from The Message. This is one of the most important things for us to do. We need the support of the
23 church to come back to, a place to be refreshed, and to share the experiences of sharing in the world.

24
25 According to Prentiss there are four areas to practice discipling people in the pattern of radical sending,
26 including formation, worship, pastoral care, communication

27
28 Prentiss called the laity to practice radical hospitality, to be a courageous church.

29
30 Announcements

31
32 The session was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

33
34 **CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION**
35 **Thursday, June 15, 2017**
36 **1:10–3:10 p.m.**
37 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Cira B & C**
38

39 The Clergy Session was opened by Julius Keller, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry with prayer.
40 Keller recognized the Board of Ordained Ministry members and Rev. Dan Hurlbert the previous chair of
41 the committee.

42
43 **Point of Privilege**

44 Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary, reminded clergy to check their service record in the 2016 Journal
45 and send any corrections to Cynthia Satchel. The Book of Discipline requires publishing clergy service
46 records each year in the Journal. The published service record is by law the official record and will have

1 the last word if there is a discrepancy for retirement calculations. It has been the practice of our
2 Conference to include clergy contact information along with clergy service records in the Journal.

3
4 Cushman shared that publishing personal contact information is not required by the General Conference.
5 The Journal is a public document and this year DVDs of the Journal will not be sent to each delegate and
6 church. and instead be published in a downloadable Journal online. This raised concerns about clergy and
7 privacy. Personal contact information will not be included in the Journal this year.

8
9 Cushman asked the clergy if they use the clergy directory that has been published in the back of the
10 Journal. Would they use a clergy directory if we made one available through electronic means?
11 Discussion followed. It was decided that a Clergy Directory available only to clergy will be produced.

12
13 Tina Rees, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, moved that Julie O’Neal, Administrative
14 Assistant to the Bishop, be admitted to the session with voice but no vote. **Approved**

15
16 Rees moved that licensed local pastors, both full and part time, and local pastors who have entered into
17 retired relationship be allowed to be present at this clergy session and given the right to speak should
18 someone be moved to do so. **Approved**

19
20 Additionally, she reminded the group that all things stated in the session were in strict confidentiality.

21
22 Sarai Case, registrar of the Board, presented the Business of the Annual Conference pertaining to
23 ordained ministers and local pastors.

24
25 18. Who constitute:
26 a) The Administrative Review Committee (§636)? (v) **Passed**
27 Members: Deits, Bob; Lansberry, Candace; Self-Price, Deanna; Alternates: Bonneau, Ed; Jeff
28 Procter-Murphy

29 b) The Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry (§635.1d)? *For information only*
30 Grandy, Janice; Keller, Julius; O’Neal, James; Ragland, Sharon

31 19. Who are the certified candidates (§§ 310, 313, 314)
32 a) Who are currently certified as candidates for ordained or licensed ministry? *For information only*

33 20. Who have completed the studies for the license as a local pastor, are approved, but are not now
34 appointed? (§315 —Indicate for each person the year the license was approved.) *For information only*

35 21. Who are approved and appointed as: (Indicate for each person the first year the license was awarded.
36 Indicate what progress each has made in the course of study or the name of the seminary in which they
37 are enrolled. Indicate with an asterisk those who have completed the five-year course of study or the
38 M.Div. (§319.4). (3/4 v)

39 a) Full-time local pastors? (§318.1) **Passed**

40 b) Part-time local pastors? (§318.2) **Passed**

41 d) Students who have been certified as candidates in your annual conference and are serving as local
42 pastors in another annual conference while enrolled in a school of theology listed by the
43 University Senate (§318.3) **Passed**

44 22. Who have been discontinued as local pastors (§320.1)? *For information only*

45 24. What ordained ministers or provisional members from other Annual Conferences or Methodist
46 denominations are approved for appointment in the Annual Conference while retaining their conference
47 or denominational membership (§§331.8, 346.1)?

- 1 a) Annual Conferences *For information only*
- 2 b) Other Methodist Denominations *For information only*
- 3 25. What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve
- 4 appointments or ecumenical ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference while retaining their
- 5 denominational affiliation (§§331.8, 346.2)? (v) **Passed**
- 6 26. Who are affiliate members:
- 7 b) Without vote (§§334.5, 344.4)? (2/3 v) **Passed**
- 8 28. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school? (under
- 9 §§322.4, 324, 325)
- 10 a) Provisional Deacons under the provisions of §§ 324.4a, c or §324.5(3/4v) **Passed**
- 11 b) 3/4 Provisional Elders under the provisions of §§ 324.4a, b or §324.6 (3/4 v); § 322.4 (v 3/4)
- 12 **Passed**
- 13 29. Who are continued as provisional members, in what year were they admitted to provisional
- 14 membership, and what seminary are they attending, if in school (§326)?
- 15 a) In preparation for ordination as a deacon or elder? (§326) *For information only*
- 16 30. What ordained clergy, coming from other Christian denominations, have had their orders recognized
- 17 (§347.6): (v) **Passed**
- 18 32. Who are elected as members in full connection? (3/4 v)
- 19 a) Deacons **Passed**
- 20 b) Elders **Passed**
- 21 33. Who are ordained as deacons and what seminary awarded their degree?
- 22 a) After provisional membership (§330)? (3/4 v) **Passed**
- 23 b) Transfer from elder (§309)? (3/4 v) **Passed**
- 24 34. Who are ordained as elders and what seminary awarded their degree?
- 25 a) After provisional membership? (§335) (3/4 v) **Passed**
- 26 43. Who are on location?
- 27 a) Who has been granted honorable location (§358.1)? *For information only*
- 28 c) Who has been placed on administrative location (§359)? *For information only*
- 29 44. Who have been granted the status of honorable location–retired (§358.3):
- 30 b) Previously? *For information only*
- 31 46. Who have had their conference membership terminated?
- 32 b) By withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office (§360.2, .4)? (v) **Passed**
- 33 48. Deceased
- 34 a) What associate members have died during the year? *For information only*
- 35 c) What elders have died during the year? *For information only*
- 36 d) What deacons have died during the year? *For information only*
- 37 49. What provisional or ordained members (elders and deacons) have received appointments in other
- 38 Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church while retaining their membership in this Annual
- 39 Conference (§§331.8, 346.1)? *For information only*
- 40 50. Who are the provisional, ordained members or associate members on leave of absence and for what
- 41 number of years consecutively has each held this relation (§353)?
- 42 a) Voluntary?
- 43 (2) Personal, more than 5 years (§353.2a 3) (2/3 v) **Passed**
- 44 (3) Family, 5 years or less (§353.2b 3) (v) **Passed**
- 45 52. Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (§356)? (v) **Passed**

1 53. What members in full connection have been retired (§357): (List alphabetically. If retiring in the
2 interim between conference sessions (§357.2d), indicate the effective date of retirement.) (Under §357.1,
3 no vote required; under §357.2, v; under §357.3, v 2/3) **Passed**

4 54. What associate members have been retired (§357): (List alphabetically. If retiring in the interim
5 between conference sessions (§357.2d), indicate the effective date of retirement.) (Under §357.1, no vote
6 required; under §357.2, v; under §357.3, v 2/3) **Passed**

7 56. Who have been recognized as retired local pastors (§320.5)? *For Information Only*

8 72. Who are approved for less than full-time service?

9 a) What associate members, provisional, or full elders are approved for appointment to less than
10 full-time service, what is the total number of years for which such approval has been granted to each, and
11 for what fraction of full-time service (in one-quarter increments) is approval granted (for purposes of
12 equitable compensation claim and pension credit) (§338.2, 342.2, 1506)? (v 2/3, after 8 years v 3/4)

13 **Passed**

14 b) What deacons in full connection and provisional deacons are approved for appointment to less
15 than full-time service (§331.7)? **Passed**

16 73. Who have been appointed as interim pastors under the provisions of §338.3 since the last session of
17 the annual conference, and for what period of time? *For Information Only*

18
19 After all the connections were voted on, the Bishop referred to Gina Campbell speaking at the Next
20 Conference, in April 2017, who encouraged us—how we live with Scripture and the importance of
21 stating, “I believe that the Bible says...” rather than, “The Bible says...” Bishop also spoke of the
22 Commission on the Way Forward and that there is hope. He stated we can keep the church together by
23 praying, talking, and serving together. Bishop closed the clergy session in prayer.

24
25 **PLENARY SESSION 2**

26 **Thursday, June 15, 2017**

27 **3:15–4:45 p.m.**

28 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**

29
30 **Call to Order**

31 Bishop Hoshibata called the session to order at 3:24 p.m.

32
33 **Legislation: Resolutions/Rule Changes**

34 Kent Olson, interim Chair Church and Society, presented to the Conference the Resolution Protecting the
35 Right to Peacefully Address Injustice Through Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions; item D.4.d. in the
36 Preconference Report. He moved that the resolution be approved. The Bishop led the Conference in
37 prayer. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables. There were no speeches for or against the
38 resolution. **Approved**

39
40 Olson presented to the Conference the Resolution on Holy Land Travel, item D.4.e. in the Preconference
41 Report. He moved that the resolution be approved. Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader, led the
42 Conference in prayer. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

43 Keith Roberts, West District Lay Leader, spoke against the resolution.

44 Rev. Sandy Johnson, Boulder City UMC, spoke for the resolution.

45 Deaconess Martha Lundgren, St. Mark’s UMC, spoke against the resolution.

46 Howard Moses, Faith UMC, spoke for the resolution.

47 Willie Wheeler, Spirit of Hope UMC, spoke against the resolution

1 Rev. Judy Boroto, retired, spoke for the resolution.

Approved

2
3 **Holy Huddle #2—Courageous Church: Loving Like Jesus**

4 Bishop Hoshibata introduced Barbara Davis Hines and Rev. David McPherson. Davis Hines and
5 McPherson spoke about love and shared quotes about love from Lao Tzu, “Being deeply loved gives us
6 strength,” and Judith Smith, “Loving others is really hard. Hate is easier than love. Lazy self-service is
7 easier than love ... the commandment to love is humanity-wide (see Matthew 22:34–40). Whether it’s
8 loving our families, other Christians you may not see eye-to-eye with, or those who share different
9 political beliefs, the commandment is the same. Jesus’ commandment isn’t the feel-good warm and fuzzy
10 kind of love. It includes loving our enemies, just as Jesus did ...” They stated love transforms lives and
11 communities, but it takes courage. McPherson shared that one theme emerged to the Convergence Team
12 and to the churches, “We want to be more involved in our communities. We need to be more involved.”

13
14 Davis Hines and McPherson stated that Jesus showed courageous love to the sick, the afflicted, the
15 wounded, the weary, the lost, the broken hearted, the bereaved, the poor, the starving, the prodigals, the
16 sinners, the lonely, the persecuted, the devastated, all those in need, the hurting, the abused, the
17 marginalized, the harassed, the helpless, those needing deliverance...the list is endless. They asked, “What
18 is stopping us?”

19
20 Davis Hines led the Conference in a Holy Huddle, focusing on the following questions, *What is the most*
21 *courageous thing your church has done to be loving like Jesus?* and *What is Christ calling you to do now*
22 *that will take courage?*

23
24 After table conversation, the Conference watched a video. McPherson reminded the Conference that
25 being involved in our communities isn’t just to get people to church. It’s to build relationships that will
26 transform us and it’s to serve.

27
28 Davis Hines led the Conference in a Holy Huddle, focusing on the following questions, *Of the six values*
29 *mentioned earlier, which ones might your church need to focus on that will help shift the church culture*
30 *from comfort to courage, from loving relationships with each other to building loving relationships with*
31 *people in your church neighborhood?* and *How might you help the church make the shift?*

32
33 The Conference watched a video presentation showing examples of the Desert Southwest Conference
34 churches loving like Jesus.

35
36 **Equitable Compensation**

37 Pastor Winona Dye, Chair of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, was introduced. Dye referred
38 the Conference to the report and recommendations in the Preconference Journal.

39
40 Recommendation #1—1.5% increase in minimum pastor salaries for 2018

Approved

41
42 Recommendation #2—Proposed Conference Arrearage Policy

Approved

43
44 Dye directed the Conference to the Equitable Compensation Rule Changes, item D.1.c. in the
45 Preconference Report. She explained that the rule changes more clearly defines that equitable
46 compensation subsidies are to be used only for pastor compensation and benefits, not church operating
47 expenses. And the Rule Changes state that the expectation is that churches will not generally receive

1 equitable compensation subsidies for more than five consecutive years. She moved that the rule change be
2 approved. **Approved**

3
4 Adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

5
6 **A SERVICE OF MEMORIAL**

7 **Rev. Louie Lyon, Preaching**

8 **Thursday, June 15, 2017**

9 **5:00–6:00 p.m.**

10 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**

11 **Theme: Love**

12
13 The Service of Remembrance began with gathering music by harpist Shannon Schumann followed by an
14 offering prayer by Bishop Hoshibata and a choral reading, *The Gift of Love*. Rev. Louie Lyon offered the
15 message entitled, *Have You Used Your Life Well?* Lyon started his message reading Luke 6:20–31.

16
17 Before the service, Bishop Hoshibata met with the families and presented each family with a “Blessing
18 Bowl” in remembrance of their loved one. Summer Kemp-Schlemmer led the reading of the names to be
19 remembered. As each name was read photographs were shown and a brief statement was read about the
20 deceased. Harpist Shannon Schumann provided musical accompaniment. Those remembered included:
21 Cheryl Jones Cumbee, Robert Farley, Tanya Griffith, Lawrence Hinshaw, Alita Holt, Mariano Moreno,
22 Robert Remp, Susan Roots, James Stewart, Donna Usher, Helen White. After the remembrance, an
23 invitation for the offering was offered which would benefit Justice For Our Neighbors. Bishop Hoshibata
24 gave the benediction.

25
26
27 **PLENARY SESSION 3**

28 **Friday, June 16, 2017**

29 **8:15–11:30 a.m.**

30 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**

31
32 **Call to Order**

33 Bishop Hoshibata called the session to order at 8:23 a.m.

34
35 **Centering Moment**

36 DeLyn Celec led the Conference in gathering music. Rev. Dr. Rula Colvin ended with prayer.

37
38 **Monitoring Report**

39 Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Chair of the Commission on Status and Role of Women, and Diana Volere,
40 Chair of the Commission on Race & Religion, were introduced. They thanked the Conference for being
41 heroic. They reported that there have been only good comments. The worship team was acknowledged as
42 superheroes of inclusivity. Volere praised the worship team for their inclusivity. Hansen presented the
43 worship team with stars. Volere shared from the epistle of James. “But everyone must be quick to hear,
44 slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.” She
45 asked the Conference to remember inclusivity isn't just in picking wise words when we speak, but it's
46 listening in grace.

1 **Cabinet Presentation**

2 The theme of the Cabinet report was Seasons of Love. Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, South District
3 Superintendent, greeted the Conference and invited the District Administrative Assistants to the stage and
4 thanked them with a gift. She introduced the new South District Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Holly.
5

6 The Cabinet shared events and changes that happened in the past year.

7 **Marriages and Engagements**

8 Rev. Dr. Kristin Longenecker, Desert Foothills UMC, and Christian Hansen were married October
9 21, 2016.

10 Rev. Angie McCarty, Santa Cruz UMC, and Jonathan Bell are engaged to be married July 1, 2017.

11 Rev. Rock Fremont, Central UMC, and Ernie Gregg were married December 7, 2016

12 Pastor Michael Patzloff, University UMC, and John Lafever were married September 30, 2016.

13 **Additions to Clergy Family**

14 Rev. Paul Hyong, Korean UMF–Tucson, and Jiea Cho welcomed a daughter, Amber Nayeon Cho,
15 born July 19, 2106.

16 Pastor Michael Patzloff, University UMC, and John Lafever finalized the adoption of Oliver Patzloff
17 in August, 2016.

18 Rev. David, First UMC–Mesa, and Rebecca Rennick are expecting a baby girl June 25, 2017.

19 **Clergy who moved out of the Conference**

20 Rev. Angie McCarty, Santa Cruz UMC, is moving to Kansas City.

21 Rev. Michael Herdt, St. John’s UMC–Kingman, is moving to Great Rivers Conference.

22 The Cabinet asked clergy who had lost family members to stand. Bishop Hoshibata offered a prayer.
23

24 The Cabinet shared changes in the local churches. New names signal a new life, a new start, a new
25 vision...

26 Santa Clara UMC celebrated their new name, **New Hope/Nueva Esperanza UMC**

27 Green Valley Community of Arizona celebrated their new name, **UMC of Green Valley**

28 The Hispanic new faith start in Las Vegas celebrated their new name, **Global Community UMC**.

29 Albright UMC & Creighton UMC celebrated their merger, becoming **The Bridge UMC**.

30 Celebrated the union project of **Korean UMF & First UMC**

31 Celebrated the cooperative ministry of **Mountain View UMC & Haven UMC**

32 Moving to a new location gives new imagination, and shows great courage

33 **Journey UMC**, Las Vegas–North District

34 **Closing Churches**

35 **Methodista Iglesia de Somerton**, Somerton–West District

36 **San Simon UMC**, San Simon–South District
37

38 The Conference affirmed the closing of Methodista Iglesia de Somerton and San Simon United Methodist
39 Church. Leftwich prayed for the congregations.
40

41 Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent shared that in 2012 a new season began for the District
42 Superintendent. *The Book of Discipline* made a change in describing the role of a superintendent.
43

44 These words were added: “The Church expects, as part of the superintendent ministry, that the
45 superintendent will be the chief missional strategist of the district...” (Discipline 2012 ¶ 419, 1)
46

1 Brims shared that the Cabinet is asking for the Conference’s help to further define the role of Missional
2 Strategist.

3
4 The Cabinet gave a presentation about the four areas of focus for the role of Missional Strategist. Brims
5 started by sharing a definition of MISSIONAL. Missional is intentionally living as someone sent by God.
6 A missional community sees the call of Christ to go into all the world.

7
8 Escobedo-Frank, South District Superintendent, shared the first area of focus for the role of Missional
9 Strategist, “to challenge the church into creative imagination, focus, and risk taking that is rooted and
10 grounded in the organic mission of the church.”

11
12 Leftwich, West District Superintendent, shared the second area of focus, “to encourage the church to
13 develop real life-changing relationships with the vulnerable, overlooked, and invisible people in the
14 community.”

15
16 Morley, North District Superintendent, shared the third area of focus, “to call the church to create
17 innovative, and collaborative partnerships to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they
18 present themselves.”

19
20 Bishop Hoshibata paused the Cabinet report to take a special offering for the congregation of Zion UMC
21 who recently suffered a fire destroying their Sanctuary. Donations can be made online at
22 www.dscumc.org/zionumc. Morley prayed for Zion UMC and their community.

23
24 Brims, East District Superintendent, shared the fourth area, “to persistently strengthen the connectional
25 church as it lives into the reality of being one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all
26 the world.”

27
28 Brims led a prayer closing the Cabinet Report.

29 30 **Holy Huddle #3—Response to Cabinet Presentation**

31
32 Rev. N. Susan Brims directed the Conference to the response sheet in their Initiative for Growth and
33 Vitality folder for Holy Huddle #3. Brims led the Conference in a Holy Huddle, focusing on the following
34 question, *What did you hear that signals a change that will help us grow and become even more vital*
35 *than we are now?*

36
37 Rev. Neil Leftwich led the Conference in a Holy Huddle, focusing on the following question, *Which of*
38 *the four strategies excites you and has the potential for energizing your church?*

39
40 Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank led the Conference in a Holy Huddle, focusing on the following
41 questions, *How could this concept of “missional strategist” benefit the mission of your local*
42 *congregation? How can we be more helpful to your church?*

43 44 **Bishop’s Award**

45 The Bishop's Award for 2017 was given to Paul Browning.

1 Bishop shared that Paul Browning is actively engaged in ministry in his local church. He has been a
2 member of Desert Foothills UMC since shortly after the founding of the church. He has served in many
3 leadership positions on boards and committees at Desert Foothills UMC. He has also served as Lay
4 Leader for the church and is a Stephen Minister.

5
6 Browning gives of his time in mentoring and developing spiritual relationships with others, and
7 volunteers within his congregation to help people move, prepare taxes, and offers support for those
8 struggling with alcoholism and drugs. He and his wife Deb watch out for local homeless individuals and
9 they advocate for them in the community, all while building relationships with them, even reconnecting
10 them with their families and relatives in other states.

11
12 Browning serves as the East District Lay Leader and also serves on the East District Superintendency
13 Team.

14
15 During Church Conference season, Browning attended almost every Church Conference. When he
16 encounters laity, he engages in supportive ways, often making a return trip to learn about a ministry at a
17 local church, to meet with a particular lay person, or simply to worship with that congregation. Browning
18 works diligently to connect churches with larger ministries, such as Justa Center.

19
20 Browning serves with a gentle heart, giving willingly of his time and talent. He holds nothing back from
21 serving God and God's people, while holding a full-time job. His family includes his wife Deb, his
22 children, and grandchildren.

23 24 **Legislation: Constitutional Amendments**

25 Rev. Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary, led the Conference in voting on the Constitutional
26 Amendments from the 2016 General Conference. Cushman explained who was eligible to vote. She
27 explained that the results would not be announced at the Annual Conference, but would be reported later
28 with that of other conferences across the denomination.

29
30 Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Willcox UMC, asked that the Conference allow all provisional clergy members,
31 associate and affiliate clergy members, and local pastors to vote for the Constitutional Amendments.
32 Bishop explained that if that was allowed the vote would be invalid.

33 34 Constitutional Amendment I

35 There were no speeches for or against the Constitutional Amendment. Bishop Hoshibata prayed before
36 the vote.

37 38 Constitutional Amendment II

39 There were no speeches for or against the Constitutional Amendment. Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay
40 Leader, prayed before the vote.

41 42 Constitutional Amendment III

43 There were no speeches for or against the Constitutional Amendment. Bishop Hoshibata prayed before
44 the vote.

45 46 Constitutional Amendment IV

1 There were no speeches for or against the Constitutional Amendment. Bishop Hoshibata prayed before
2 the vote.

3
4 **Constitutional Amendment V**

5 Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, family leave, spoke against this amendment.

6 Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Trinity Heights UMC, asked the Bishop for his opinion. Bishop deferred to Rev. Dan
7 Hurlbert, first elected clergy to General Conference from Prescott UMC, to speak. Hurlbert spoke
8 against the amendment.

9 Wendy Kreider, St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, spoke against the amendment.

10 Rev. Janessa Chastain, Grace UMC–Mesa, asked who originated the resolution. Mark Hrabe, St. Mark’s
11 UMC, shared the resolution came from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference

12 Rev. Jimeliva Pettiford Martin, Calvary UMC, asked if voting against this amendment would break the
13 unity. Bishop responded to her question that the needs of the jurisdiction do not draw the jurisdictions
14 away from a sense of unity.

15 Lineberry prayed before the vote. The ballots were collected and given to Cushman.
16

17 **Conference Finance & Administration Overview**

18 Rev. Matt Ashley, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, presented the 2018
19 Conference budget totaling \$6,134,778 a 0.4% decrease from the 2017 budget. Recommendations will be
20 presented on Sunday from the Preconference Journal. The Bishop thanked Ashley for his work with the
21 Conference Finance and Administration.
22

23 **Appointments: West District**

24 The Bishop, Rev. Neil Leftwich (West District Superintendent), and Keith Roberts (West District Lay
25 Leader) announced the appointments for the West District for 2017–18. The Bishop first appointed
26 Leftwich as Superintendent of the West District. Leftwich then read the names of churches and extended
27 ministries, and the Bishop the names of the pastors. When completed, Roberts prayed over the
28 appointments.
29

30 **Appointments: East District**

31 The Bishop, Rev. N. Susan Brims (East District Superintendent), and Paul Browning (East District Lay
32 Leader), announced the appointments for the East District for 2017–18. The Bishop first appointed Brims
33 as Superintendent of the East District. Brims then read the names of churches and extended ministries,
34 and the Bishop the names of the pastors. When completed, Browning prayed over the appointments.
35

36 **Appointments: North District**

37 The Bishop, Rev. Dan Morley (North District Superintendent), and Phyllis Murray (North District Lay
38 Leader) announced the appointments for the North District for 2017–18. The Bishop first appointed
39 Morley as Superintendent of the North District. Morley then read the names of churches and extended
40 ministries, and the Bishop the names of the pastors. When completed, Murray prayed over the
41 appointments.
42

43 **Announcements**

44 Rev. Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary, shared that a family from our Desert Southwest Conference
45 traveling in London has a 14-year-old son missing. Cushman asked for anyone with a connection to a
46 church in London to see her. Cushman prayed for the family; Len and Christina, their daughter Hope, and
47 son Aiden who was missing.

1
2 Point of Personal Privilege

3 Rev. Jimeliva Pettiford Martin, Calvary UMC, asked the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference to
4 move in compassion and boldness to the least of those in our communities as the temperature rises to the
5 extreme heat, to open our churches to those in need of water and cool shelter.

6
7 Adjourned at 11:29 a.m.
8

9 **PLENARY SESSION 4**

10 **Friday, June 16, 2017**

11 **1:00–5:30 p.m.**

12 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**
13

14 **Call to Order**

15 Bishop Hoshibata called the session to order at 1:14 p.m.
16

17 Rev. Nancy Cushman announced that Aiden was found and is safe. Bishop shared that Pastor Robin Lee,
18 Hope UMC, woke with pain related to his accident last year. Bishop offered prayers for Lee.
19

20 **Convergence Team**

21 Bishop invited Sally Hecht and Roanne Wallace to the stage and thanked them for their assistance
22 facilitating the Convergence Team. Bishop expressed his appreciation for the Convergence Team
23 members for their service and presented them with a green, growing plant. The members included
24 Christina Dillabough, Director of Communication; Jerry McGuire, North District; Rev. Dave Summers,
25 Paradise Valley UMC; Dan Morley, North District Superintendent; Barbara David Hines, Desert Mission
26 UMC; Rev. Jessica Goad, Flagstaff Federated Church; Rev. Gary Kennedy, Willowbrook UMC; Laurie
27 Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Dave McPherson, Director of New Faith & Vital Faith
28 Development. Bishop thanked Julie O’Neal, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, for her assistance
29 and support. The Conference thanked them with applause. Phase Two of The Initiative on Growth and
30 Vitality will implement the vision. We will explore how to make the vision come alive. An
31 Implementation Team has been assembled.
32

33 **Africa University**

34 Bishop Hoshibata introduced Joel Huffman. Huffman shared some of the facts and history of the Africa
35 University. In 2012, a Desert Southwest Conference group went to Africa University. Jan Huffman shared
36 some of her observations from the trip. Joel Huffman shared that at a reunion, the group determined that
37 they would like to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Africa University with a
38 conference-wide effort to provide scholarships for African students. The proposal was approved
39 unanimously by the Conference Council on Finance & Administration.
40

41 The Conference watched a video of Pambi Jatutu, a student at Africa University, expressing the life
42 changing gift, given to her as a scholarship recipient of Africa University.
43

44 Joel Huffman stated that there are two major flagships of ministry and mission in the United Methodist
45 Church, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and Africa University. UMCOR has brought
46 relief around the world and Africa University is making a difference on the whole continent of Africa.

1 There are, in any given year, between 23 to 29 countries represented in the student body. (This year there
2 are 25.) The University now has over 5,000 graduates. The student retention rate is 99.3%.

3
4 Huffman expressed his gratitude to the local churches for their support of the general church
5 apportionments. Africa University exists because of your commitment to the connectional system. The
6 Desert Southwest Annual Conference has paid 100% of the Africa University apportionment for many
7 years.

8
9 Hoffman shared examples of how churches have partnered together to create scholarships with the
10 Usahwira Scholarship program. Huffman asked churches involved in a scholarship program of Africa
11 University to stand and be recognized.

12
13 The Usahwira Scholarship program requires an annual commitment of less than \$5,800 for four years.
14 Divided between two and three churches, this is not overwhelming. In addition, it is hoped the
15 Conference will build a fund of \$130,000 to endow an annual scholarship in perpetuity for a student
16 attending Africa University as well as a fund to provide a post graduate year scholarship for an Africa
17 University graduate at our own Claremont Theological Seminary. Huffman stated that the details of these
18 opportunities will be sent to the local church over the coming summer months.

19
20 Huffman shared that the goal is to get 100% of our local churches to participate in the scholarship fund
21 and to help churches understand and become familiar with the great work done by The United Methodist
22 Church through Africa University.

23 24 **Board of Ordained Ministry**

25 The Bishop introduced Rev. Julius Keller, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Keller recognized
26 and thanked the Board of Ordained Ministry Committee members. Keller thanked Rev. Dan Hurlbert,
27 previous Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, for his support and guidance. He invited the
28 Conference to the Ordination Service. Keller invited Rev. Sarai Case, the Registrar for the Board, to the
29 stage. Case invited those to be commissioned to come forward. The following are to be commissioned or
30 ordained: Provisional Elders: Alma Aguirre-Olivares, Kimberly Scott, Erfain Zalava; Provisional Deacon:
31 Joshua Warner; Case invited those to be ordained and those transferring into the Desert Southwest
32 Conference to come forward Elder Full Member: Maria Antonieta Fernandes, Court Fischer, Susan
33 Holden; Deacon Full Member: Patricia Blackwood, Brenda Smith; transferring from other denominations
34 as Elder Full Member: Joel Bullock, Kristin Hansen. The Bishop asked the Historic Questions of the
35 ordinands and those being commissioned. He then presented them to the Conference. The Bishop thanked
36 Keller and the Board of Ordained Ministry for their work.

37 38 **Legislation: Rule Change/Resolutions**

39 Dennis Foster presented to the Conference the Resolution to Measure the Effectiveness of the Resolution
40 for Full Inclusivity as a Path to the Growth and Vitality of the Church as Presented and Passed June 18,
41 2016 at the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, item D.4.a. in the Preconference Report. He moved that
42 the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

43 Rev. Cynthia Kristopeit, retired, spoke against the resolution.

44 Randy Gaines, St. Paul's UMC–Tucson, spoke for the resolution.

45 Rev. Sandy Johnson, Boulder City UMF, spoke against the resolution.

46 Howard Moses, Faith UMC, spoke against the resolution.

47 Bishop Hoshibata prayed before the vote.

Not Approved

1
2 Rev. Anthony Tang, Director of Connectional Ministry, and Paul Gomez, Red Mountain UMC, presented
3 to the Conference the Resolution to Fix Dates of General and Jurisdictional Conference Elections, item
4 D.4.b. in the Preconference Report. They moved that the resolution be approved. The Conference
5 discussed the resolution at their tables.
6 Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Trinity Heights UMC, asked what would happen if a delegate was not able to serve.
7 Tang responded that if that were to happen a reserve delegate would fill the opening.
8 Ron Folkwein, Mountain View UMC, asked for clarification as to who would be the delegates in the 2019
9 Special Session of General Conference. Tang answered that this rule change would not affect any
10 Special Session of General Conference. Tang added that the *Book of Discipline* states that the
11 delegates would be the same as the previous General Conference.
12 Rev. Jimeliva Pettiford Martin, Calvary UMC, made an amendment to add to the end of line 20 ...
13 *beginning after General Conference 2020 ...* Seconded. **Amendment was Not Approved**
14 Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, family leave, spoke against the amendment.
15 Kim Ogle, St. Mark's UMC, spoke against the resolution.
16 Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, spoke for the resolution.
17 Rev. Beth Rambikur, First UMC–Tucson, spoke for the resolution.
18 Rev. Timote Piukala, Tongan UMC, spoke for the resolution.
19 Don Booth, St. Mark's UMC, offered a point of information.
20 Darlene Bradner, Shepherd of the Hills UMC, called the question. Seconded. **Question Called**
21 **Resolution Approved**
22
23 Tang and Paul Gomez presented to the Conference the Resolution to Clarify Head Delegate Process, item
24 D.4.c. in the Preconference Report. They moved that the resolution be approved. The Conference
25 discussed the resolution at their tables. Bishop prayed for the vote. **Approved**
26
27 Tony Dawson, Chair of New Faith Communities Committee, and Rev. Eve Williams, Vital Faith
28 Committee, directed the Conference to the New Faith Community Endowment Rule Changes, item D.1.b.
29 in the Preconference Report. They moved that the rule change be approved.
30 Rev. Beth Rambikur, First UMC–Tucson, asked for an explanation to the oversight. Dawson stated that
31 there is already an application process set up online.
32 Rev. Cynthia Kristopeit, retired, asked what the balance is on the fund. Dawson responded that there was
33 about \$5 million in the fund. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables. The Bishop
34 prayed for the vote.
35 Rev. Candace Lansberry, Desert Skies UMC, spoke against the resolution.
36 Rev. Beth Rambikur, First UMC–Tucson, spoke against the resolution.
37 Rev. Jody Topping, Faith UMC, spoke for the resolution.
38 Rev. Cynthia Kristopeit, retired, spoke against the resolution.
39 Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, City Square UMF, spoke for the resolution.
40 Rev. Pam Wagner, retired, asked who can apply for the funds. Williams answered that all churches can
41 apply.
42 Pastor Jimmy Nelson, Holbrook UMC, spoke for the resolution.
43 Rev. Dr. Robert Burns, retired, asked if the spending is only on the earnings of the fund. Rev. Dave
44 McPherson answered there is not a rule but New Faith has always said it would only spend the
45 earnings on the funds.
46 Rev. Anthony Tang, Director of Connectional Ministry, made an amendment to eliminate the words
47 "Ministry Cabinet" and keep the reference to "Covenant Council." Seconded.

1 Stuart Salvatierra, North Scottsdale UMC, asked how many lay members serve on Covenant Council.
2 Tang answered there are currently ten lay members on Covenant Council.

3 **Amendment was Approved**

4 Rev. Cynthia Kristopeit, retired, made an amendment to remove the sentence, *This endowment fund may*
5 *also be used to support loans guaranteed by the Conference should the Loan Guarantee Fund be*
6 *inadequate. Replace with Only interest from the endowment fund will be available, and not the*
7 *corpus funds. Seconded.*

8 Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC–Sun City, asked if this fund had been used to guarantee loans. Randy
9 Bowman, Conference Treasurer, stated that the funds have been used once to approved a loan so the
10 amendment would be for going forward.

11 Pastor Rolland Loomis, First UMC–Tucson, spoke against the amendment.

12 Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, City Square UMF, spoke against the amendment.

13 Howard Moses, Faith UMC, spoke for the amendment.

Amendment was Not Approved

14 Bishop Hoshibata prayed for the vote.

Rule Change Approved

15
16 Bishop Hoshibata announced that Zion UMC offering taken earlier was \$6,400 taken earlier with the
17 online commitments the offering is over \$10,000.

18
19 Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank offered prayers for Rev. Lori Martin-DeWitt, retired, in the recent loss of
20 her father, and for Payson UMC and the community which effected by wildfire.

21
22 **Holy Huddle #4—Courageous Church: Acting for Justice**

23 Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader; Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications; and Rev.
24 Gary Kennedy gave examples of churches acting courageously in ministry, facing community wide
25 opposition and lack of funding. Imagine the impact if resources such as money, time, and manpower were
26 not an obstacle.

27
28 Kennedy shared that with God all things are possible and we are a connectional church. We need to think
29 beyond walls. There is probably another church or an organization to partner with. If we start by talking
30 to our neighbors to name an injustice that they would like to see end, we could have a whole new group of
31 passionate volunteers. Kennedy led the Conference in a Holy Huddle on the question, *If resources were*
32 *not an obstacle, what injustice do you wish your church would act courageously to end?*

33
34 Lineberry led a Holy Huddle on the question, *What are some steps your church can take to begin this*
35 *process and courageously act for justice?*

36
37 Dillabough encouraged the Conference to go to their church and their neighborhood and ask these same
38 two questions. Kennedy closed the Holy Huddle time in prayer.

39
40 **Bishop's Award**

41 Sharon Scobie, a member of the Desert Spring UMC, was a recipient of a Bishop's Award for 2017.
42 Scobie joined the Conference via phone. Scobie's involvement at her church includes leadership as she
43 has served as Lay Leader of the church, UMW Circle leader, women's study group leader, and Lay
44 Member to Annual Conference.

45
46 The North District United Methodist Women are proud of her involvement as District President, District
47 Treasurer, and District Coordinator of Program Resources. Additionally, she has served as the District

1 UM Social Ministries Board member and Executive Director of UM Social Ministries of Southern
2 Nevada. Serving during a time of transition, Scobie brought calm and focus to the organization.

3
4 At the Annual Conference level, Scobie has served on committees such as chairing Nominations, serving
5 on the Covenant Council, and serving as a member of the Commission of Christian Unity and
6 Interreligious Concerns. Her greatest passion has been the United Methodist Women. She has been the
7 Conference UMW Secretary, UMW President, and UMW Assistant Dean and then Dean of Mission u.

8
9 On the general church level, Scobie has been a representative to the UMW's Western Jurisdiction
10 leadership and a delegate to UMW Assemblies. She has been the Desert Southwest Conference delegate
11 to General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences.

12
13 Phyllis Murphy, North District Lay Leader, accepted the award on her behalf.

14 15 **Honoring Retirees**

16 Rev. Julius Keller, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry, asked those retiring to come to the stage. Those
17 retiring included: Mary Lou Adame, George Cushman, David Devine, Alicia Tomkus Huertas Elizondo,
18 Bob Gilfert, Dennis Hutson, Janet Keffer, Mark Lansberry, Lenore Renfro, and Nina Yardley. Rev. Louie
19 Lyon offered a prayer for the retirees. Keller presented a video honoring the retirees, sharing their calls to
20 ministry, highlights of their ministry, and what they were looking forward to in retirement. The retirees
21 were presented with a certificate and gifts.

22
23 Bishop asked for an additional 15 minutes to the plenary session to allow the Conference to complete the
24 scheduled business.

25 26 **Appointments: South District**

27 The Bishop thanked Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank for her service as the South District Superintendent.
28 The Bishop, Rev. Mark Conrad (incoming South District Superintendent), and Maritza Velazquez (South
29 District Lay Leader), announced the appointments for 2017–18. The Bishop first appointed Conrad as
30 Superintendent of the South District. Conrad then read the names of churches and extended ministries and
31 the Bishop the names of the pastors. When completed, Velazquez then prayed over the appointments in
32 Spanish.

33 34 **Spiritual Formation**

35 Rev. Anthony Tang, Director of Connectional Ministries, shared that the Committee on Spiritual
36 Formation has been working hard to create creative experiences to connect us across our differences as
37 shared members in the body of Christ. Tang shared that the Conference wrote down a fear in their life and
38 added them to the boards available in the hallway of the Renaissance Hotel. He invited the Conference to
39 pray over those fears and to pray for those who have written them, that we may all be filled with the
40 Courage of Christ for the year ahead.

41
42 Tang closed the session in prayer. Adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

43
44
45 **DAY OF LEARNING**
46 **Saturday, June 17, 2017**
47 **1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**

1 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**

2
3 **Call to Order**

4 Bishop Hoshibata called the session to order at 1:02 p.m. He announced the Nominations Report is on the
5 Guidebook App. He asked the Conference to review it and be ready for the vote on Sunday.

6
7 **Day of Learning**

8 Bishop Hoshibata introduced Bishop Robert Schnase, Bishop of the Missouri Conference of the United
9 Methodist Church.

10
11 Bishop Schnase took the stage, and introduced his book, *Just Say Yes: Unleashing People for Ministry*,
12 which was published 18 months ago.

13
14 The first portion of Bishop Schnase’s presentation focused on **You Can’t Do That**, ways churches say no
15 to new ministries or growth opportunities. Bishop Schnase stated that people are not receptive to change
16 and that sometime, church rules block change. There are times when people say no to other people, it
17 stops possible growth or change.

18
19 Bishop Schnase reminded the Conference that church leaders and congregations often rest on the faulty
20 assumption that it is their church. The church is God’s church and ministries should fulfill the mission of
21 the church, not the individual/s interests or wants.

22
23 *Leaders of growing churches say yes to ministries that declining churches say no to.*

24
25 Bishop Schnase shared another way that churches inhibit growth is “Death by Complexity;” churches
26 with a thousand rules, a thousand steps before making changes, churches that cannot make decisions,
27 churches that are micromanaged, and churches that are afraid of taking any kind of risk.

28
29 The second portion of Bishop Schnase’s presentation focused on **Ways to Say Yes**; how to become a
30 permission giving church.

31
32 Bishop Schnase stated that to create an atmosphere for ministry change, we must understand that
33 everyone has unique gifts for ministry. When we receive new members, instead of asking which
34 committee this person might want to serve on, a more fruitful question might be, “What ministry is God
35 calling you to?” Bishop Schnase suggested that churches offer an inventory of spiritual gifts during
36 membership classes. He suggested shifting the focus on members’ and leaders’ strengths instead of
37 weaknesses to multiply these strengths. God calls everyone to service and ministry; it is important to
38 discover where our great gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.

39
40 Bishop Schnase asked that church leaders insure that the church’s mission is outward-focused. As soon as
41 a church looks inward, it starts to decline. He suggested three questions to ask when someone brings a
42 new idea: 1) Does this align with the mission and vision of the church?; 2) Who will do it?; 3) How will it
43 be paid for?

44
45 *The church is a school for love, helping people grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God.*

46
47 *The goal of rethinking congregational systems is to make them more accessible, sensible,*

1 *and effective in accomplishing multiple ministries.*

2
3 Bishop Schnase indicated there are times when it is appropriate to say no, including ministries that do not
4 align with the church's mission or priorities, ministries intended for personal profit, ministries initiated
5 for the wrong reasons, ministries where the leaders refuse accountability, and when the ministry does not
6 bear kingdom fruit.

7
8 The last portion of Bishop Schnase's presentation focused on **The Ministry of Encouragement**. Bishop
9 Schnase explained that permission giving leaders trust that God is at work through the people. These
10 leaders shift their thinking from, "you ought to" to "I will," leading by example. Permission giving
11 leaders are responsible risk takers, they grow churches by multiplication rather than addition, they
12 understand that forward motion comes in small steps, and they are able to say yes, even to people they
13 don't agree with. These leaders are willing to make mistakes.

14
15 Bishop Hoshibata thanked Bishop Schnase for his presentation, directed the Conference to a book signing
16 in the hallway, and led a word of prayer. The session ended at 4:58 p.m.

17
18 **A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**
19 **Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, Preaching**
20 **Saturday, June 17, 2017**
21 **7:00–8:30 p.m.**
22 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**
23 **Theme: Justice**
24

25 During the processional music, the Desert Southwest Conference clergy processed in followed by an
26 acolyte with the cross, the Board of Ordained Ministry, those commissioned, those ordained, those having
27 their orders recognized, Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, an acolyte with the Bible, and Bishop Hoshibata.

28
29 The Bishop greeted those in worship, and then offered recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation
30 of baptism. Those being commissioned and ordained led worship and read the scripture from Psalm
31 139:1-18, Isaiah 61:1-3, and John 5:2-13. The message was shared by Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer. The
32 offering was taken to benefit Fort Yuma United Methodist Church.

33
34 The Act of Commissioning and Ordination followed with Laurie Lineberry and Rev. Sarai Case
35 recommending those to be commissioned and ordained. Lineberry and Case presented Joshua Louis
36 Warner to be commissioned for the work of a provisional deacon; Lineberry and Case presented Alma
37 Lilian Aguirre-Olivares, Kimberly Scott, and Efrain Zalava to be commissioned for the work of an elder;
38 Lineberry and Rev. Ruth Bloom presented Patricia Bowman Blackwood and Brenda Joy Smith to be
39 ordained as deacons; Lineberry and Rev. Lynn Bartlow presented Maria Antonieta Fernandes, Court M.
40 Fischer, and Susan Holden to be ordained as elders; and Lineberry and Bartlow presented Joel Bullock
41 and Kristin D. Hansen for Recognition of Orders in The United Methodist Church.

42
43 The Bishop examined the candidates for commissioning followed by A Charge Before Commissioning
44 and the Prayer of Commissioning with Laying on of Hands for each candidate. The Bishop examined the
45 deacons to be ordained followed by the Laying on of Hands and Prayer for the Deacons for each
46 candidate. Each ordained deacon was given a stole, a pitcher, a bowl, and a towel. The Bishop examined
47 the elders to be ordained followed by the Laying on of Hands and Prayer for the Elders for each

1 candidate. Each ordained elder was given a stole, a chalice, and a plate. The Bishop examined the elders
2 transferring from another denomination and recognized them as full members. Each transferring elder was
3 given a 2016 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* and a United Methodist *Book of Worship*.
4

5 The Bishop invited those present to respond to God’s call to Christian service and ordained ministry.
6 Following the benediction those on the stage recessed in the order listed; an acolyte with the cross, the
7 Board of Ordained Ministry, those commissioned, those ordained, those having their orders recognized,
8 Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, an acolyte with the Bible, and Bishop Hoshibata.
9

10
11 **PLENARY SESSION 5**
12 **Sunday, June 18, 2017**
13 **8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**
14 **Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Media Center**
15

16 **Call to Order**

17 Bishop Hoshibata called the session to order with prayer at 8:31 a.m.
18

19 **Monitoring Report**

20 Diana Volere, via Zoom, and Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen presented the monitors report. Volere reminded the
21 Conference to use a variety of Bible translations and apologized that the version she used in her previous
22 report was not more inclusive. Hansen thanked the monitors for helping us become self-aware of in our
23 conversations and actions. She shared that we were very encouraged using words and language to build
24 up God's church. Hansen offered Stars of Inclusivity to Bishop Hoshibata for calling us back to the table
25 of Grace again and again; to the staff who, through appointment or employment, plan for our time
26 together each year so that we come to this place, not in pieces, but as a whole. Hansen encouraged the
27 Conference to work toward greater inclusion efforts for differently-abled persons. Hansen prayed for the
28 Conference to experience the world as those who are different from them.
29

30 **Nominations Elections**

31 Julie Yarrow, Chair of Nominations, presented the nominees for the 2018 Committees of the Desert
32 Southwest Conference. The nominees were elected. Bishop Hoshibata thanked the Nomination
33 Committee.
34

35 **Annual Conference Mission Project**

36 Billie Fidlin, Conference Director of Outreach, shared that our mission projects extended the faithful and
37 generous hand of the Desert Southwest Conference to a variety of people in need. Fidlin shared that over
38 300 members to Annual Conference loaded their glue guns to make IV bag covers, carried furniture to
39 help establish a home for a refugee family new to this country, said thank you to police and firefighters
40 who serve in this immediate area to keep people and their property safe, sorted paper towels and more for
41 families who experience financial insecurity and need help with items not covered by state benefits
42 programs, and brought the gift of song & conversation to seniors in a care facility. She thanked the project
43 leaders; Lita Johnson, Mara Klein, Dave Hepburn, Barbara Lewkowitz, Rev. Louie Lyon, and all those
44 who participated. Fidlin shared that thanks to the generosity of the conference the team who visited the
45 police and fire stations was able to give multiple gift cards in addition to saving 50 gift cards to be given
46 to the firefighters who fought the Zion UMC fire on June 6, 2017.
47

1 Fidlin noted that our urban ministries – UMOM, TMM, Justa Center, Wesley Community Center and
2 Golden Gate Community Center– end up serving people from all over the state of Arizona as many
3 vulnerable people travel from rural areas to the urban centers where optimum services are available. The
4 mission projects provided examples of ministry programming that can be duplicated in the community.
5

6 The Conference watched a video of the activities for the mission projects. Fidlin thanked the
7 photographers and the Communications team who helped make the video possible.
8

9 **Conference Finance & Administration Recommendations**

10 Rev. Matt Ashley presented the Conference Finance and Administration Recommendations, item C.4.e. in
11 the Preconference Report.

12 Recommendation No. 1–2018 apportioned Conference Budget **Approved**

13 Recommendation No. 2–Special Days and Causes **Approved**

14 Recommendation No. 3–Conference Advance and Benevolence Specials **Approved**

15 Recommendation No. 4–Other Recommendations **Approved**

16 Ashley thanked Randy Bowman, Conference Treasurer, and the Conference Finance staff for their
17 support of the Conference Finance and Administration Committee.
18

19 While photos of the former Los Arcos UMC were displayed, Ashley celebrated the legacy and ministry of
20 Los Arcos UMC and the Los Arcos United Methodist Building Corporation. Ashley shared that in 2015
21 the Board of the Los Arcos United Methodist Building Corporation sold the Hacienda complex; then in
22 March 2017, they selected 14 non-profit organizations to receive grants totaling over \$6,000,000. Ashley
23 thanked John Lester, Board President, members of the board, and members of Los Arcos UMC for their
24 legacy.
25

26 **Licenses to New Local Pastors**

27 Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, South District Superintendent, introduced the new Licensed Local
28 Pastors serving in the Desert Southwest Conference. The Bishop presented licenses to the following who
29 have completed their course of study to be a local pastor: Jamie Booth (not present), Terry Kim, Stuart
30 Salvatierra, Patricia Magyar, and Michelle Kelley. The Bishop prayed for the local pastors.
31

32 **Commission on a Way Forward**

33 Bishop Hoshibata introduced a video explaining that the Commission on a Way Forward is a committee
34 appointed by the Council of Bishops to lead The United Methodist Church on a way forward. The video
35 shared stories from members of the commission as they shared their hopes and dreams and
36 accomplishments.
37

38 The Bishop shared that as we engaged in Holy Huddles on the Unity of the Church (17 across the Annual
39 Conference) he discovered as we talked with one another that although we have people on all points of
40 the theological spectrum in our congregations in the Desert Southwest Conference, by far, people were
41 saying, “Let’s find a way to live together despite our theological difference.” The Bishop shared that as
42 the video demonstrated, the Commission is finding that it is possible as we focus on our mission and
43 ministry in Jesus Christ.
44

45 The Bishop shared some findings that he took away from the Holy Huddles on the Unity of the Church.
46 People were thankful that we could even talk about such an issue with strangers they had just meet.
47 Others shared they hoped to take the conversation into their local churches. The Bishop encouraged the

1 Conference to have the courage to engage in conversation and shared his hopes and prayers that we will
2 find a way to all live in the big tent, or the house with many rooms, that we believe Jesus has prepared for
3 us as we strive to be followers of His.
4

5 The Bishop stated that begins to show how the Commission on a Way Forward is moving as they prepare
6 to report to the Special Session of General Conference in the Spring of 2019. The Commission's work
7 will be concluded at that time and there may be some action that the denomination may take.
8

9 The Bishop asked the Conference to hold the Commission in prayer. He led the Conference in prayer for
10 the members on the Commission on the Way Forward.
11

12 **Holy Huddle #5 – Courageous Church: United in Hope**

13 Rev. Dave Summers and Rev. Rob Rynders shared what it means to be united in hope. They stated that
14 Jesus' hope and prayer for the church is that it follows his call to participate in the building of God's
15 kingdom. It is not always easy to be hopeful, let alone united. God has called the church to be a beacon
16 of hope despite the uncertainty. They added that the inability to hope is rooted in fear and division, but
17 despite these fears and differences, we do not need to look far to see what unites us.
18

19 They shared that through communion, we unite around God's table. We also unite around mission and
20 service.
21

22 John Wesley knew it was ultimately God's great love and the promise of eternal life in Jesus that could
23 bring us together, change our hearts, and help us lean into God's future. Wesley felt that hearts striving
24 together in perfecting love were more important than minds united in doctrinal agreement. That would
25 seem more consistent with the way UMC's live our faith.
26

27 We can easily focus on our differences, but Jesus calls us to be one - to transcend all that separates us.
28 Jesus calls us to unite in hope.
29

30 We are more easily united and one when there is trust between us. When we value relationship and
31 collaboration we are moving closer together as God would want. Hope is grounded in courageous things.
32 It's not an easy path but the path God calls us on. It is the only way we get there. This is a robust hope,
33 maybe edgy, willing to take some risks, willing to stand with others, willing to take chances that just
34 maybe, God has a different future for us. Summers and Rynders asked that the Conference take some time
35 to imagine what that future looks like and feels like, so that we may begin to unite together for the
36 building of that future.
37

38 Summers and Rynders led the conference in a guided meditation about our future and our vision. Then
39 they led the Conference in a Holy Huddle based on the questions:
40

41 "What does it feel like when your church is courageously loving like Jesus and acting for Justice? What
42 does it feel like to you, as this is happening?"
43

44 "How do we act in the present? How do you/your church come together and live into this hope together
45 so it can begin to happen, so your church can move in this direction?"
46

1 “How will you help the leaders in your church experience what you just experienced and share it when
2 get back?”

3
4 They encouraged the Conference to share this experience with their churches at home and to let it unite
5 them.

6 7 **Point of Privilege**

8 Rev. Jessica Goad, member of the Convergence Team thanked Rev. Rob Rynders and Rev. Beth
9 Rambikur who were not members of the Convergence Team but stepped in to assist with the Holy
10 Huddles. Goad also thanked the District Superintendents who are not members of the Team; Rev. N.
11 Susan Brims (East District), Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank (South District), and Rev. Neil Leftwich
12 (West District) for their work with the Team and the Holy Huddles they brought to the Conference. Goad
13 acknowledged Rev. Sharon Ragland, member of the Convergence Team who was not able to be at Annual
14 Conference.

15
16 Bishop Hoshibata thanked the Conference for their work in the Holy Huddles at this session of Annual
17 Conference. The Bishop indicated that the Conference input would be used as we to move forward in to
18 Phase Two. The second phase will take the vision and develop ways to help connect with local churches.
19 The Bishop shared that our vision is unique to the Desert Southwest Conference. Phase Two will
20 coordinate with opportunities in the Conference and beyond to create ways to inspire leaders in local
21 church to implement the vision in the local churches. The Bishop announced that Laurie Lineberry, Paul
22 Browning, Jerry McGuire, Dee Hicks, Nan Lawson, Patty Simon, Rev. Beth Rambikur, Rev. Paul Cho,
23 Rev. N. Susan Brims, Rev. Khalif Smith, Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Rev. Tony Dawson, Rev. Rick Casebolt,
24 Rev. John Fairchild, and Rev. Dave McPherson would serve on the Implementation Team.

25
26 The Bishop introduced Dr. Jeffery Kuan, President, Claremont School of Theology. Kuan expressed
27 appreciation to be at the Conference. He was especially pleased during the Ordination to see the growth.
28 Kuan reported that the 2016 entering class was the largest in 35 years; in 2017 Claremont had the largest
29 graduation class ever, and the number of United Methodists attending Claremont has grown by 50%.
30 Kuan shared that Claremont School of Theology has some challenges and decisions to make to help
31 Claremont to continue to be a school of theology meeting the needs of the church. Kuan concluded by
32 thanking those from the Conference who served on Claremont’s Board of Trustees; Bishop Hoshibata;
33 Marilee Clark, Conference Chancellor; Rev. Dan Hurlbert; and Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank.

34 35 **Pension and Health Benefits**

36 Pastor Bob Klein, Chair of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, reviewed the Pension and Health
37 Benefit report in the Preconference Journal. Klein highlighted that the liability for the health insurance
38 benefits for our retired clergy and their spouses is now fully funded!

39
40 The board again recommended continuance of the HealthFlex Exchange program for 2018 with a
41 premium rate increase of 4%. The Board recommended that the Conference pay 4% more, the churches
42 pay 4% more, and the participants (if their church is not covering those costs for them) pay 4% more. In
43 2018, each church will be billed a blended rate of \$14,676. Klein stated that the Board will offer financial
44 assistance grants of up to \$1,165 for participants paying their portion of health insurance premiums.

45
46 Klein reported that the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan was submitted and approved by Wespath.
47 This Funding Plan addresses the financial viability and sustainability of all pension, health insurance, and

1 other benefit plans for our conference. The Plan was approved by the Conference Board on May 18th and
2 will be included in the 2017 Journal. The board is recommending churches be billed 13% of
3 compensation for clergy pensions.
4

5 Klein thanked Barbara Hora, Conference Liaison to Wespeth for 20 years, for her knowledge and insight.
6 Hora retired in May 2017. Klein announced Wespeth's Clergy Benefits Academy will be held August 7-
7 9, 2017 in Tempe, Arizona. He encouraged clergy of all ages to take advantage of this important
8 opportunity and stated the Board would reimburse 75% of the early-bird registration fee.
9

10 Klein thanked Randy Bowman and Cynthia Satchel who serve as Conference staff to the Board.
11

12 Recommendation No. 1—annuity rate and past service obligation **Approved**

13 Recommendation No. 2—relating to rental/housing allowance **Approved**

14 Recommendation No. 3—relating to local church funding **Approved**

15 Recommendation No. 4—relating to HealthFlex Exchange participation

16 Rev. Beth Rambikur, First UMC-Tucson, asked that the Pension and Health Benefits Committee consider
17 visiting churches to help educate local church finance committees on the Conference's process of
18 determining rates and increases on Health Insurance. **Approved**
19

20 **Personnel**

21 Rev. Jim Wallasky, Chair of the Conference Personnel Committee, presented the following personnel
22 recommendations:
23

24 Recommendation No. 1—1.5% increase in 2018 salary ranges for exempt conference employees

Approved

26 Recommendation No. 2—1.5% increase in 2018 salary ranges for non-exempt conference employees

Approved
27
28

29 Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, presented two proposed Rule Changes related to
30 vacation. Brims shared the purpose of both proposed rule changes is to allow clergy and conference lay
31 employees to take vacation in their first year of ministry rather than having to wait until year 2.
32

33 Rule Change D.1.d. Exempt Personnel and Clergy Vacation **Approved**

34 Rule Change D.1.e. Non-Exempt Personnel and Clergy Vacation **Approved**
35

36 **Moment of Personal Privilege**

37 Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, thanked the childcare staff for their support of Annual
38 Conference.
39

40 **Acceptance of Reports**

41 Rev. Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary, moved that all written reports that have appeared in the
42 Preconference Journal on the Guidebook App, the reports presented during this Annual Conference, and
43 the Daily Proceedings with corrections be adopted. **Approved**
44

45 Cushman directed the Conference to the *Reporting Guide to Take Information Back to Your Church* in the
46 Preconference Reports on the Guidebook App. She encouraged the Conference to use the guide to help in
47 planning how they would report to their church. Cushman reported the attendance at this Annual

1 Conference was 226 clergy members, 320 lay members, and 137 guests for a total of 546 persons. She
2 shared some additional statistics regarding the attendance at the Annual Conference.

3 4 **Acknowledgements**

5 Cushman recognized the Sessions Committee, the Conference Secretary Staff, and the Conference Staff.
6 Cushman thanked fathers, and those who act like fathers. She thanked Cynthia Satchel, Christina
7 Dillabough, Carla Whitmire, and Julie O’Neal for their hard work during the Annual Conference. She
8 thanked the Conference for their prayers for the family from her church who lost their son in London. He
9 was found and is safe. Cushman reminded the Conference that Rev. Jimelvia Pettiford Martin asked that
10 we care for the homeless during the coming week of record heat. She encouraged churches to partner with
11 local agencies to address the needs. Factsheets from the Maricopa Association of Governments and the
12 City of Phoenix related to Heat Relief had been added to the Guidebook App under the Documents and
13 Procedures section under Frequently Asking Question. She encouraged churches outside the area to
14 connect with their own local governments.

15
16 She thanked the Bishop for his grace-filled leadership. Cushman directed the Conference to the evaluation
17 survey online. Cushman shared that all the communion bread in the closing worship is gluten free.

18
19 Cushman reminded the Conference of a couple deadlines. Minutes will be posted on the Conference
20 website and the Conference has 15 days to submit corrections to her, NCushman@dscumc.org. She also
21 reminded the Conference that items for the 2017 Journal were to be submitted to Cynthia Satchel,
22 Csatchel@dscumc.org, no later than July 1, 2017.

23 24 **Invitation to Annual Conference 2018**

25 The Bishop invited Rev. Neil Leftwich and Rev. N. Susan Brims to the stage. Leftwich invited the
26 Conference to the next year’s Annual Conference on June 14-17, 2018 at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel
27 & Spa. Brims announced that the 2019-2022 Annual Conferences would be in Mesa, Arizona.

28
29 The Bishop thanked the Conference Parliamentarian Marilee Miller Clark, Agenda Chair Rev. Ann
30 Thomas, Conference Secretary Rev. Nancy Cushman, and Conference Lay Leader Laurie Lineberry. The
31 Bishop also thanked Julie O’Neal, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, and the Conference Staff
32 including the District Superintendents. He thanked Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank for her service as
33 South District Superintendent and Rev. Anthony Tang for his service as the Director of Connectional
34 Ministries.

35 36 **Closing Motions**

37 Cushman moved that this 33rd Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference stand adjourned
38 following closing worship.

Approved

39 40 **A SERVICE OF SENDING FORTH**

41 **Bishop Hoshibata preaching**

42 **Theme: Hope**

43
44 The District Superintendents; Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Rev. Dan Morley, Rev. Neil Leftwich,
45 and Rev. N. Susan Brims, with Rev. Mark Conrad and Kate Lower led the worship service. The scripture
46 was Colossians 1:1-10. Bishop Hoshibata’s message challenged the Conference to be Colossian
47 Christians, to hear God’s call to recapture a love for all persons. The Bishop shared that God is calling us

1 to be “A Courageous Church: Loving Like Jesus, Acting for Justice, United in Hope.” The Bishop shared
2 his prayer for the Conference from Colossians 1) that we would pray without ceasing; 2) that we would
3 lead lives worthy of God; 3) that we would bear fruit; and 4) that we would pray to grow in our
4 knowledge of God.

5
6 The Bishop made a commitment to lift up the churches, pastors, and members of Desert Southwest
7 Annual Conference in his personal prayers. He asked that the members covenant to bring God’s vision to
8 fruition in the Conference. Bishop asked the ushers to distribute crosses donated by Vicky Lerdahl. Each
9 person received a commitment card and two wooden crosses from the Holy Land made from pruned olive
10 trees. One of the crosses is for the person, the other is to be shared in their local church. The Bishop led
11 the Conference in a covenant to intentionally and actively be a part of future conversations and to
12 continually use the Vision Statement in their daily prayers for their church, this Annual Conference, and
13 their personal discipleship.

14
15 The offering was taken to benefit the After-School Program at Winslow UMC. Bishop Hoshibata led the
16 Conference in the sacrament of communion. A blessing was offered after communion, followed by the
17 benediction.

18
19 The 33rd Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference was adjourned following worship at 12:08
20 p.m.