

**Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**Desert Southwest Annual Conference**  
**The United Methodist Church**  
**June 13-16, 2019**  
**Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona**  
**Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, President**  
**Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Secretary**  
**Carla Whitmire, Associate Secretary for Proceedings**  
**Orders of the Day**  
**Rev. Ann Lyter**  
**Recorders**  
**Rev. Deanna Self-Price, Dina Reid, Cynthia Holly, Gwen Watson**

**OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**PLENARY SESSION 1**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**  
**9:00 a.m.-9:25 a.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

The following clergy requested and received permission to be excused from Annual Conference through their District Superintendent: *for the entire Conference—Active Clergy*: Hannah Bonner, Eric Brown, Daniel Choi, David Felten, Meridith Grandy Jones, Neil Leftwich, Camille Pentsil, Scott Ritchey, Billy Still, Cheri Whisler; *Retirees*: Ed Denham, Jim Ek, Stewart Lewis, Steve Marshall, Madonna Moess, Don Strauch, Marilyn Ware, Marico Wilson; *Partial Time Away*: Ed Brown, Paul Cho, Michael Eaton, Lana Fong, Jessica Goad, Doug Handlong, Terry Kim, Sharon Pajak, Eugene Stouffer.

**Opening of Conference**

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata called to order this Annual Conference session at 9:02 a.m. with a replica of the gavel John Wesley used. The Bishop introduced those at the front table: Marilee Clarke, Conference Chancellor; Rev. Ann Lyter, Agenda and Orders of the Day; Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary; and Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader.

Lambert welcomed all to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. Lambert provided the Conference with information accessing on the DSC App, translation devices, and where the nurse is located. She introduced the Conference Secretary Staff.

**Introduction of Monitors**

Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Chair of Commission on Status and Role of Women, and Rev. Brooke Iningoma, Chair of Commission on Religion & Race, were introduced by the Bishop. The monitors reported that the Constitutional Amendments last year that sought to claim language that both women and men are created in the image of God, that committed our church to work for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, and that sought to assure an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the local church for people regardless of gender, ability, age, or marital status, did not receive the two-thirds necessary aggregate vote. The monitors reminded us to recognize that all human beings are of sacred worth regardless of age, ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ethnicity.

**Introduction of Alyssa Edmondson**

The Bishop introduced Alyssa Edmondson, City Square UMF, a candidate for the Master of Fine Arts at Arizona State University. Edmondson greeted the Conference and shared a brief overview of the Creative Dialogue activities in which the Conference would engage.

### **Introduction of New Venue**

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, welcomed the Conference to the new venue. She shared some logistics of the Mesa Convention Center, as well as directions for traveling to First UMC-Mesa for the Memorial and Ordination worship services. Rambikur explained the prayer stations around the center and the creativity boxes on the tables.

Adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

**LAITY SESSION**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**  
**9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

The Bishop opened the session at 9:34 a.m. The Bishop greeted the laity, shared that he prays regularly for the laity, thanked the laity and led the group in prayer. He introduced Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader. Lineberry shared the three things that laity should do well: extend extravagant hospitality, develop and tell our Christian story, and pray out loud in public with a stranger.

Lineberry introduced Rev. Beth Rambikur, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, Rambikur talked about prayer: breath prayer, the different places we pray, being yourself when you pray, lament in prayer, and everyday moment prayers. The laity practiced different types of prayers and composing prayers alone and together.

Lineberry thanked Rambikur for her work today. Lineberry announced that next year, a conference lay leader will be elected.

Gus Joubert, St. Paul's UMC-Tucson, Pam Poley, Paradise Valley UMC, and Brian Bourgon, Advent UMC, closed the session with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

**CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**  
**9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Palo Verde I, II, and III**

The Clergy Session was opened by Julius Keller, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM), with prayer. Keller recognized the District Committee on Ministries chairs, BOOM members, BOOM secretary, and registrar of BOOM.

### **Point of Privilege**

Tina Rees, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, moved that Julie O'Neal, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, be admitted to the session with voice but no vote. Rees listed those who were invited to be in the clergy session to address the session with announcements. **Approved**

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

Rees reminded the group that all things stated in the session were in strict confidentiality.

The Bishop asked the clergy to reflect on the question, “How is it with your soul?” The Bishop challenged the clergy and laity to be welcoming of one another during the Conference session. He also outlined his Episcopal Address for the Clergy Session.

Dee Dee Azhikakath, Registrar of the Board, presented the Business of the Annual Conference pertaining to ordained ministers and local pastors.

*A complete listing of clergy and church names voted on is listed in the  
Business of the Annual Conference section of the 2019 Journal.*

18. Who constitute:
- a) The Administrative Review Committee (§636)? (v)  
Members: Deits, Bob; Lerner, Deborah; Self-Price, Deanna; Alternates: Bonneau, Ed; Lansberry, CandaceProcter-Murphy **Passed**
19. Who are the certified candidates (§§ 310, 313, 314)?
- a) Who are currently certified as candidates for ordained or licensed ministry? *For information only*
  - b) Who have had their candidacy for ordained or licensed ministry accepted by a District Committee on Ordained Ministry in another annual conference? *For information only*
20. Who have completed the studies for the license as a local pastor, are approved, but are not now appointed? (§315) *For information only*
21. Who are approved and appointed as: (Indicate for each person the first year the license was awarded. Indicate what progress each has made in the course of study or the name of the seminary in which they are enrolled. Indicate with an asterisk those who have completed the five-year course of study or the M.Div. (§319.4). (3/4 v)
- a) Full-time local pastors? (§318.1) **Passed**
  - b) Part-time local pastors? (§318.2) **Passed**
25. What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve appointments or ecumenical ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation (§§331.8, 346.2)? (v) **Passed**
26. Who are affiliate members:
- b) Without vote (§§334.5, 344.4)? (2/3 v) **Passed**
28. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school? (under §§322.4, 324, 325)
- b) 3/4 Provisional Elders under the provisions of §324.4a, b or §324.6 (3/4 v); §322.4 (v 3/4) **Passed**
29. Who are continued as provisional members, in what year were they admitted to provisional membership, and what seminary are they attending, if in school (§326)?
- a) In preparation for ordination as a deacon or elder? (§326) *For information only*
31. What ordained clergy have been received from other Christian denominations (§347.3):
- a) As provisional members (§347.3c)? (v) **Passed**
32. Who are elected as members in full connection? (3/4 v)
- a) Deacons **Passed**
41. Who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§416.5)? *For information only*
50. Who are the provisional, ordained members or associate members on leave of absence and for what number of years consecutively has each held this relation (§353)?
- a) Voluntary?
    - (1) Personal, 5 years or less (§353.2a 3) (v) **Passed**

- (2) Personal, more than 5 years (¶353.2a 3) (2/3 v) **Passed**
- (3) Family, 5 years or less (¶353.2b 3) (v) **Passed**
52. Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (¶356)? (v) **Passed**
53. What members in full connection have been retired (¶357 (Under ¶357.1, no vote required; under ¶357.2, v; under ¶357.3, v 2/3)? **Passed**
72. Who are approved for less than full-time service?
- a) What associate members, provisional, or full elders are approved for appointment to less than full-time service, what is the total number of years for which such approval has been granted to each, and for what fraction of full-time service (in one-quarter increments) is approval granted (for purposes of equitable compensation claim and pension credit) ¶338.2, 342.2, 1506)? (v 2/3, after 8 years v 3/4)? **Passed**
- b) What deacons in full connection and provisional deacons are approved for appointment to less than full-time service (¶331.7)? **Passed**

### **Announcements**

Azhikakath directed the clergy to the Board of Ministry Webpage. She reminded clergy that retirement must be requested 120 days before retirement date. If rescinding a request, clergy need to let BOOM know. Azhikakath also shared information on Ministry Educational Funds available to clergy and upcoming mentor training.

Lynn Bartlow shared the dates of the 2020 Gathering, January 21-23, 2020. Boundaries Training will be included in the Gathering. She led the clergy in a celebration of the joys of our clergy life and our diversity was held.

**OPENING WORSHIP**  
**Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, Preaching**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**  
**1:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

The First UMC-Phoenix Band directed by Joshua Elder provided music for worship. Barbara Davis-Hines, Pastor Diamond Pate, and Rev. Jeri Page assisted as worship leaders. Pastor Linda Stanley, Rev. Ki Yong Lee, Sia Sikalu, Rev. Antonieta Fernandes, Rev. Jaycee M. Salangsang (guest), and Rev. Michael Patzloff read the scripture, Genesis 9:12-16 in various languages. Rev. Timote Piukala read Colossians 3:12-17.

The Bishop shared the Episcopal Address, *“Called Anew to Follow.”*

The Bishop shared his prayer requests for the Annual Conference:

- The community present would pledge to give themselves fully to the Table Talks.
- God’s Holy Spirit will descend on us anew as it did on Pentecost to invigorate and infuse us with passion, excitement, and energy to be in ministry to all the world.
- We will be courageous for Jesus Christ and dedicate this Annual Conference to relationships more than ever before. The Bishop suggested that the Conference set aside the debate on Special General Conference legislation until a special called Annual Conference. The Bishop shared his plan for this one-day Special Annual Conference. He asked the Conference to give themselves the gift of time before voting on these important resolutions.

The Bishop then led the Conference in a remembrance of their baptism.

Ken McKinley shared information about Tumbleweed Homeless Youth, and an offering for Tumbleweed was taken.

The Bishop gave the benediction.

**PLENARY SESSION 2**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

The Bishop called the session to order at 3:17 p.m. The Bishop introduced the Rev. Katie Sexton, director of Arizona Faith Network (AFN). Sexton talked about our partnership with AFN for interfaith dialogue and invited interested parties to join as members.

**Legislation**

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, moved that in accordance with ¶603.5 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, we authorize a special session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference to meet on September 14, 2019 at a United Methodist Church to be named later. The purpose of this special session of the Annual Conference shall be to consider the petitions and resolutions submitted to this current session of Annual Conference as well as any other petitions or resolutions submitted for consideration related to the topics of a response to the 2019 special session of the General Conference and about the future of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and/or The United Methodist Church. Hurlbert further moved that action on all legislative items that are determined by the conference secretary to be a response to the 2019 special session of General Conference and/or about the future of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and/or The United Methodist Church be postponed until the special session. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

Rev. Gary Kennedy, Willowbrook UMC, spoke for the motion.

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Willcox UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity UMC-Phoenix, spoke against the motion.

Rev. Jonathan Hall, Mountain View UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Tina Marie Rees, First UMC-Gilbert, spoke for the motion.

Angel Opiniano, Grace Fil-Am Ministry, spoke for the motion.

Paul Korth, Spirit of Hope UMC, spoke against the motion.

Amy Notbolm, Dayspring UMC, requested clarification and amended the motion to authorize a special session of Desert Southwest Annual Conference to meet on September 14, 2019 at a United Methodist Church to be named later. The purpose of this special session of the Annual Conference shall be to consider all remaining petitions and resolutions submitted to this current June 2019 session of Annual Conference as well as any other petitions or resolutions submitted for consideration related to the topics of a response to the 2019 special session of the General Conference and about the future of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and/or The United Methodist Church, with the exception of Resolution VIII, which is recommended to be considered at this 2019 June Annual Conference. At this June 2019 Annual Conference, we will proceed with legislation as time allows. ~~Hurlbert further moved that action on all legislative items that are determined by the conference secretary to be a response to the 2019 special session of General Conference and/or about the future of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and/or The United Methodist Church be postponed until the special session. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.~~

Rev. Deanna Self-Price, UMC of Green Valley, requested clarification.

Rev. Jimelvia Pettiford Martin, Calvary UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Jerry Haas, retired clergy, requested clarification.  
 Dior DeSormeau, University UMC, Las Vegas, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Fred Baum, Vista de la Montana UMC, suggested First UMC-Mesa for the Special Annual Conference.  
 Ginny Hildebrand, East District Lay Leader, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Jim Wallasky, Green Valley UMC, spoke for the amendment.  
 Rev. Mary Klaehn, St. Francis of the Foothills UMC, spoke against the amendment.  
 Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, spoke for the amendment.  
 Rev. Tom Kiracofe, retired clergy, called the question (amendment).  
 Notbolm spoke for the amendment. The Bishop offered a prayer.

**Passed  
Amendment Approved**

Discussion continued on the amended motion.  
 Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity UMC-Phoenix requested clarification.  
 Pastor George Barcus, Parker UMC, requested clarification.  
 Rev. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, spoke against the motion.  
 Pastor Stuart Salvatierra, St Mark's UMC, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Beth Rambikur, City Square UMF, requested clarification on who was eligible to vote.  
 Rev. Bev Ritland, Liberty UMC, personal privilege.  
 Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, Chandler UMC, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, provided instruction of who was eligible to vote.  
 Rev. Jimelvia Pettiford Martin, Calvary UMC, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC-Sun City, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, requested clarification.  
 Rev. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Mary Klaehn, St. Francis of the Foothills, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Joyce Steiner, First UMC-Gilbert, requested clarification.  
 Roy Peters, Grace UMC-Douglas, requested clarification.  
 Rev. Dan Hurlbert spoke for the amended motion. Laurie Lineberry offered prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

### **Opening and Introduction to Creative Dialogue**

Alyssa Edmondson led us in a benediction that was an example of the creative dialogue to be used during table talks. Edmondson introduced those on the Table Talk Team: Rev. Mary Klaehn, Rev. John Fairchild, Rev. Katherine Tang, Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Rev. Efrain Zavala, Rev. Joshua Warner, Rev. Kimberly Scott, Rev. Beth Rambikur, Rev. Brooke Isingoma, and Gretchen Hegeman

The Bishop invited the Conference to the Memorial Service at First UMC-Mesa. The session adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

### **A SERVICE OF MEMORIAL**

**Rev. Paul Cho, Preaching**

**Thursday, June 13, 2019**

**7:00-8:00 p.m.**

**First UMC, Mesa**

Before the service, the Bishop met with the families and presented each family with a blessing bowl in remembrance of their loved one.

Karen Taylor, organist, and Suzanne Lansford, violinist, provided music for worship. Rev. Efrain Zavala assisted as worship leader. Amy Kalm read the scriptures, Genesis 9:12-16. Rev. Paul Cho shared the message, “*Resurrect Anew.*”

Rev. Melissa Rynders spoke briefly about the bowls and then read the bowl blessing. Rev. Melissa Rynders and Rev. Khalif Smith led the reading of the names to be remembered. As each name was read, photographs were shown, and a brief statement was read about the deceased. Those remembered included: Pastor Joseph F. Brown, Rev. Wayne Brown, Rev. Michael Brunk, Mrs. Lana Burch, Rev. Harold Cowart, Rev. Ida Easley, Mr. Brian Fong, Mrs. Rosamond Blockinger Osman, Mrs. Lusila Anau Piukala, Rev. Dennis D. Ramsey, Mrs. Phyllis Stressman, and Mrs. Betty Zimmerman.

Rev. Nancy Cushman shared information about UMCOR Disaster Response, an offering for UMCOR was taken. The Bishop gave the benediction.

**PLENARY SESSION 3**  
**Friday, June 14, 2019**  
**8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

**Call to Order**

The Bishop called the session to order at 8:39 a.m. and led the Conference in prayer.

**Welcome to Mesa**

Mesa Mayor John Giles welcomed the conference to Mesa, Arizona. He expressed gratitude for the ministry the Desert Southwest Conference brings to the community, especially for the Asylum Seeker ministry. The Bishop thanked Giles for his stalwart assistance to combat discrimination.

**Centering Moment**

Rev. Mary Dotson, First UMC-Safford, led the Conference in centering prayer.

**Monitoring Report**

Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen and Rev. Brooke Isingoma shared insights from yesterday’s meeting. They led the Conference in an activity to consider population demographics in the communities of Arizona and Nevada.

**Table Talk: Listening and Values**

Alyssa Edmonson led the Conference in discussions using creative dialogues focusing on the following questions: 1) What does it mean to be a United Methodist?; 2) Why are you still a United Methodist?; 3) What are some of the values that we hold in this conference that are unspoken but enacted?

**Announcement**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, announced that everyone needs to be registered for the Annual Conference to be eligible to vote. She instructed those who have not registered to register with Lori Davalos or Cynthia Satchel.

**Nominations**

Julie Yarrow, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, shared that nominations were done through an online survey this year. Those wishing to serve on a committee were offered the opportunity to

complete the survey. Yarrow shared the nominations report was available on the DSC App, and changes were sent to Rev. Beth Rambikur. An invitation was made to complete the Leadership Survey if interested in service on a Conference Committee. Rev. Anthony Tang and Julie O'Neal, second elected delegates to the 2020 General Conference, shared the importance of serving on committees at local, conference, and jurisdictional level. The Bishop thanked Yarrow. The conference was also invited to participate in the DSC Way Forward teams.

### **Legislation**

#### **Motion for a Called Special Annual Conference**

The Bishop stated that because of confusion surrounding the vote on the amended motion calling for a special session of the Annual Conference. The vote taken yesterday was declared invalid. The Bishop requested that Rev. Dan Hurlbert, the originator of the motion, and Amy Notbohm, the amendment maker, meet with Trinity Donovan, legislative coordinator, to develop clarity around the amended motion.

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, requested clarification.

John McNeice, UMC of Green Valley, requested clarification.

Ginny Hildebrand, East District Lay Leader, shared her concern and made a motion to strike the language of the amendment and rewrite for clarification. **Motion passed**

#### **Petition: Amend 2016 Book of Discipline Paragraph 511.4.c**

Paul Gomez, Red Mountain UMC, presented the *Amend Paragraph 511.4.c* petition. Gomez moved the petition be approved. The Conference discussed the petition at the tables.

Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Paradise Valley UMC, called the question. **Passed**

Gomez spoke for the petition. Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, offered a prayer. **Approved**

#### **Resolution: Affirm Our Covenant**

Rev. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, presented the *Affirm Our Covenant* resolution.

Cushman moved the resolution be approved.

Rev. Jody Topping, Song of Life UMC, requested clarification.

David Mosley, First UMC-Glendale, requested clarification.

The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, requested a friendly amendment to change agree to aspire throughout the resolutions. **Accepted**

Emerson Joubert, St. Paul's UMC, requested a friendly amendment to remove the word honestly.

#### **Accepted**

Barbara Barcus, Spirit of Hope UMC, requested a friendly amendment to add the word faith to the end of item 4. **Accepted**

Rev. Duane Combs, retired clergy, requested a friendly amendment. **Accepted**

Martha Lundgren, St. Mark's UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Rev. Janessa Chastain, Grace UMC-Mesa, spoke against the resolution.

Cushman made a brief synopsis of the resolution. Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer. **Approved**

#### **Motion for a Called Special Annual Conference**

Amy Notbohm, Dayspring UMC, and Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, read the amended motion. Rev. Ann Lyter, Scottsdale UMC, offered a prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

#### **Resolution: Disavowal of Traditional Plan**



Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith UMC, presented the *Disavowal of Traditional Plan* resolution and amended wording. Patzloff moved the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

Rev. Sandy Johnson, Boulder City UMC, requested clarification.

Peggy Rambikur, Prescott Valley, UMC, requested clarification.

The Bishop requested the resolution be paused for lunch.

Dior DeSormeau, University UMC, offered a prayer as the Conference adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

**PLENARY SESSION 4**  
**Friday, June 14, 2019**  
**1:30–5:15 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

**Call to Order**

The Bishop called the session to order at 1:39 p.m.

**Motion for a Called Special Annual Conference**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared the results of the ballot. **Approved**

**Honoring Retirees**

Rev. Julius Keller, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry, invited those retiring to the stage. Those retiring included: Beverly Worden Devine, Brian Green, L. Michael Kelley, C. Jean Newell, Terry Reid, David Patterson. Keller presented a video honoring the retirees, sharing their calls to ministry, highlights of their ministry, what they would say to their younger self, and what they were looking forward to in retirement. The retirees were presented with a certificate and gifts. Rev. Judy Boroto, retired clergy, offered a prayer. The Bishop thanked the retirees for their service.

**Resolution: Disavowal of Traditional Plan**

Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith UMC, discussed the *Disavowal of Traditional Plan* resolution and moved the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

Rev. Doug Handlong, Central UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Kent Zebal, Vista de la Montana UMC, spoke against the resolution.

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, Chandler UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Casey Compernelle, St Mark's UMC, requested clarification.

Shirley Maddox, St Paul's UMC-Tucson, called the question. **Passed**

The Bishop offered a prayer. **Approved**

**Table Talk: Values, Lessons, and Hope**

Alyssa Edmonson led the Conference in the following Table Talk discussions: 1) What have we gained and what have we learned?; 2) What have we lost and what is our fear? Rev. Katherine Tang, City Square UMF, led a meditation followed by more Table Talk discussions: 1) What are you willing to let go of and leave behind?; 2) What do you want to bring with you and what is your hope?

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, presented a petition for a Declaratory Decision from Judicial Council on the Constitutionality of Book of Discipline Paragraph 362.1.e.1 and 413.3.d.i. Tang shared a brief explanation of reasoning behind the legislation.

Rev. Kimberly Scott, Crossroads UMC, presented a petition to Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene a Special Western Jurisdictional Conference.

The Bishop gave a preview of the Friday evening Plenary Session.

**PLENARY SESSION 5**  
**Friday, June 14, 2019**  
**7:00–9:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

**Call to Order**

The Bishop called the session to order at 7:16 p.m. Rev. Mark Conrad, South District Superintendent, requested prayer for Kearny, AZ and UMC of the Good Shepherd due to three wildfires in the area. Rev. Michael Eaton, UMC of the Good Shepherd and St. Paul's UMC-Globe, offered prayer.

**Appointments - North**

The Bishop, Rev. Dan Morley (District Superintendent), and Phyllis Murray (Lay Leader) announced the appointments for the North District for 2019-2020. The Bishop first appointed Morley as Superintendent of the North District, then explained that Morley was stepping down as Dean of the Cabinet and thanked Morley for the time he served as Dean of the Cabinet. When appointments were completed, Murray prayed over the appointments.

**Appointments: East District**

The Bishop, Rev. N. Susan Brims (District Superintendent), Ginny Hildebrand (Lay Leader), and Trinity Donovan (Associate Lay Leader) announced the appointments for 2019-2020. The Bishop first appointed Brims as Superintendent of the East District and invited Brims to serve as the Dean of the Cabinet. When appointments were completed, Hildebrand prayed over the appointments.

**Appointments – South District**

The Bishop, Rev. Mark Conrad (District Superintendent), and Maritza Velazquez (Lay Leader), announced the appointments for 2019-2020. The Bishop first appointed Conrad as Superintendent of the South District. When appointments were completed, Velazquez prayed over the appointments in English and then in Spanish.

**Appointments: West District**

The Bishop, Rev. Nancy Cushman (District Superintendent), Sandra Kerr (Associate Lay Leader), and Bill Merle (Associate Lay Leader) announced the appointments for the West District for 2019-2020. The Bishop first appointed Cushman as Superintendent of the West District. When appointments were completed, Kerr prayed over the appointments.

**Announcement**

Jennifer Barber, Conference Archivist, shared that in 2020, the Conference will celebrate 150 years of Methodism in Arizona and 115 years in Nevada. Two churches, Prescott UMC and Central UMC, will celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in 2020. Four churches will celebrate milestones in 2019.

10 years – Grace Fil-Am Ministry, Las Vegas, Nevada

10 years – First Tongan United Methodist Fellowship, Las Vegas, Nevada

125 years – First UMC-Glendale

125 years – First UMC-Safford

### **Licenses to Local Pastors**

Rev. N. Susan Brims, with the other District Superintendents, called to the stage the local pastors who received their Local Pastor License mid-year: Nicholas Grainger, Janis Barton, Kimber Govett, Katharine Keller, and Christopher Wurpts. Local Pastor Licenses were presented to Amanda Corella, Gary Williams, and Sarah Allen. The Bishop offered a prayer.

### **DSC Way Forward Teams**

The Bishop introduced the Way Forward Teams. He explained that one of the tasks was to name two co-facilitators if the team is large enough. The co-facilitators will meet on Saturday with the extended cabinet at lunch. The teams and locations were announced. The Way Forward Teams include: Dreaming A New Methodism, Spiritual Team, Theological Team, Amicable Separation, Communications, Connections, Legal, Disaffiliation, Finance, and Conversations.

The Bishop offered a prayer and dismissed teams to the various areas at 8:18 p.m.

## **PLENARY SESSION 6**

**Saturday, June 15, 2019**

**8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

### **Call to Order**

The Bishop called the session to order at 8:40 a.m. He shared concerns for members who left Annual Conference early for health issues; Pastor Eugene and Nancy Stouffer, Mohave Valley UMC; and Pastor Lana Fong and Barb Baker, Pahrump Valley UMC. The Bishop offered a prayer.

### **Centering Moment**

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Willcox UMC, led the Conference in a centering moment, inviting the Conference to center with one another and set aside our differences. Cutlipp offered a prayer.

### **Monitoring Report**

Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen and Rev. Brooke Isingoma shared insights from yesterday's meeting. They shared the Annual Conference registration demographics.

### **Conference Finance & Administration Overview**

Rev. Matt Ashley, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CFA), reported that the Desert Southwest Conference remains on solid financial footing in 2019. Sixty-eight percent of the churches were able to contribute 100% of their apportionment goals. The churches contributed 86.0% of their 2018 apportionment goals. The Desert Southwest Conference was able to pay 100% of last year's general church apportionments, and generated an operating surplus of \$10,000 in 2018. As of December 31, 2018, there was over \$1.1 million in available cash reserves.

Ashley continued that the 2019 apportionment giving year to date had dipped significantly and shared some projections of the CFA and the Treasurer's Office. The CFA projected an overall year-end apportionment contribution percentage of between 79%-83%. CFA will continue to monitor the financial standing and make adjustments.

Ashley reported that many are distressed by the actions of the 2019 General Conference. Ashley acknowledged how important apportionment giving is for funding vital ministries both here in the Desert Southwest Conference and in the global church; withholding or redirecting apportionment giving would

have the unintended consequence of harming important ministries that give people new life and new hope. CFA has set a target of paying 80% general church apportionments for 2019 and will monitor cash reserves and possible budget reductions.

Ashley asked the Conference to review the CFA recommendations including the 2020 budget. Recommendations from the CFA would be presented on Sunday.

### **Bishop's Award**

The Bishop's Award was presented to Robins Collins, Green Valley UMC, and Barbara Paulsen, Boulder City UMC, for their work with Nevadans for the Common Good. This work led to the passing of Senate Bill 201 in Nevada to protect consumers from usury payday loans practices. The Bishop presented both recipients with a medal. Collins and Paulsen both spoke in acceptance of the award. Rev. Dan Morley, North District Superintendent, offered a prayer.

### **Personnel Committee**

Rev. Jim Wallasky, Chair of the Conference Personnel Committee, referred the Conference to the Personnel Committee's report in the Preconference Report and presented the following personnel recommendations:

Recommendation No. 1—2.3% increase in 2020 salary ranges for exempt conference employees. **Approved**

Recommendation No. 2—2.3% increase in 2020 salary ranges for non-exempt conference employees. **Approved**

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Willcox UMC, shared a statement from the Hispanic Caucus.

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, requested a response to Cutlipp's statement from Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair of the Hispanic Ministries Committee. The Conference voted to allow representatives to respond. Rev. Javier Olivares, Nuevo Pacto UMF; Rev. Efrain Zavala, Santa Cruz Valley UMC; and Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Catalina UMC, responded to the statement.

The Bishop offered a prayer for understanding and unity of spirit.

### **Petition: Concerning Immigration**

Rev. Tom Jelinek, Patagonia UMC, presented the *Concerning Immigration* petition. Jelinek moved that the petition be approved.

Angel Opiniano, Grace Fil-Am Ministry, spoke for the petition.

Rev. Judy Boroto, retired clergy, requested clarification.

Suzanne Shaw, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, offered an amendment to the first item 1 in the resolved section,

1. All children who have been separated from their families in the United States be reunited with their families if they wish as soon as possible;

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, spoke against amendment.

Pastor Nicholas Grainger, First UMC-Winslow and Holbrook UMC, spoke against the amendment.

Rev. Sherry Brady, First UMC-Safford, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Duane Combs, retired clergy, called question on amendment and the petition. **Passed**

Voted on the amendment. **Not Approved**

Jelinek spoke for the petition. Voted on the petition. **Approved**

### **Bishop's Award**

The Bishop's Award was presented to Gretchen Helena Lopez, First UMC-Tucson, for her work with The Inn, a shelter in Tucson, Arizona offering Christian hospitality to families requesting asylum in the United States. The Bishop presented Lopez with a medal. Lopez spoke in acceptance of the award. Rev. Mark Conrad, South District Superintendent, offered a prayer.

### **Petition: Declaratory Decision from Judicial Council**

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, presented the *Declaratory Decision from Judicial Council* petition. Tang moved that the petition be approved. The Conference discussed the petition at their tables. Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, requested clarification from Marilee Clark, Conference Chancellor. Clark responded.

Mel Jameson, Green Valley UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Duane Combs, retired clergy, requested clarification from Clark who responded.

Maeve Harper, St. Paul's UMC-Tucson, called the question. **Passed**

The Bishop offered a prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

### **Petition: Amend 2016 Book of Discipline Paragraph 362**

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, presented the *Amend 2016 Book of Discipline Paragraph 362* petition. Hurlbert moved that the petition be approved. The Conference discussed the petition at their tables.

Rev. Pam Wagner, Velda Rose UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Ron Bartlow, Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries, requested clarification.

Rev. Jonathan Hall, Mountain View UMC, offered a friendly amendment. **Accepted**

Pastor Stuart Salvatierra, Catalina UMC, requested clarification.

Jim Nibbelink, St. Mark's UMC, offered a friendly amendment to add the word living. **Accepted**

Judy Wingert, Catalina UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Galene Boyett, Trinity UMC-Yuma, requested clarification.

### **Bishop's Award**

The Bishop's Award was presented to Betty Keith Mathis, retired, for almost 25 years of service as Executive Director of Wesley Community Center and CEO of the Wesley Health Center. The Bishop presented Mathis with a medal. Mathis spoke in acceptance of the award. Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, offered a prayer.

### **Episcopacy Committee**

Rev. Gary Kennedy, Chair of the Episcopacy Committee, invited the Episcopacy Committee to the stage. Kennedy explained that the committee serves as a Staff Parish Relations Committee for the Bishop. Rev. Dave Summers, Paradise Valley UMC, thanked Julie O'Neal, executive assistant to the Bishop, and presented her with a gift. Summers also thanked the Bishop and his wife, Greta and presented the Bishop with a gift. The Bishop thanked the committee members and shared thanks from Greta he received via text.

### **Cabinet Report**

The District Superintendents Rev. Dan Morley, North; Rev. N. Susan Brims, East; Rev. Mark Conrad, South; and Rev. Nancy Cushman, West, presented the Cabinet Report focusing on questions they have heard in the districts.

*How do we respond to the decisions of the 2019 General Conference?*

Morley shared that Boulder City UMC, a Reconciling Congregation, continued to be welcoming and inclusive. The church put out a statement to clarify their continuing commitment and practice of dignity and respect for all persons. Morley also shared that First UMC-Winslow has opened thoughtful and respectful conversations in their small town. Their worship attendance has increased by over 50%

*How to reach people with the love and grace of Jesus Christ?*

Brimms shared that CrossRoads UMC has struggled with questions of how to stop worrying about what used to be and figure out how to make connections with new people, living in the surrounding area? The congregation decided to open their doors and their hearts to the people in the surrounding area who are often excluded from their families, and from communities of faith embracing members of the LGBTQIA community. The church has discovered a new purpose and is seeing growth.

*What type of connections need to be strengthened when a church is growing, flourishing in every way imaginable?*

Brimms shared that Sun Lakes UMC connected with another smaller congregation that had lost volunteer bookkeepers to illness by providing assistance and support to the struggling fellowship, allowing the fellowship to gain stability. Brimms also shared that connections are being made as the lead pastor has invited other pastors of large and smaller churches to meet to discuss how the larger churches could provide support and encouragement for the smaller churches.

*Who are we in the midst of the changes in our denomination?*

Cushman shared that the southern and middle part of the West District has seen an influx of asylum seekers. West District churches responded by extending the hospitality of Christ to those moving through the legal process. City Square UMF and Trinity UMC-Phoenix opened their doors to house people released from detention. People from East, West and South District churches have volunteered, donated items, and helped coordinate travel arrangements. The Yuma area churches have offered hospitality in partnership with the Salvation Army of Yuma. First UMC-Yuma and Trinity UMC-Yuma volunteered and donated supplies.

*Are there any creative solutions when a small church can't afford a pastor?*

Conrad shared that Huachuca UMC is the parent church to Sierra Vista UMC. Sierra Vista UMC is now the larger church. When Huachuca UMC found they could not afford a pastor, Sierra Vista UMC provided Lay Servant Ministers who rotate worship leadership at Huachuca UMC. Members of Huachuca UMC are also a part of the worship leadership increasing their attendance. First UMC-Safford, and Duncan UMC had a similar situation and Willcox UMC is offering leadership for Community UMC in Bowie.

*Are there any ways to deepen diversity in our churches?*

Conrad shared that First UMC-Tucson and Korean UMF both have long histories. Two years ago, they started the process of considering a merger. On May 19, 2019 at a Called All-Church Conference they voted for the merger to happen effective July 1, 2019. Their name will be the First United Methodist Church spelled in both English and Korean.

Cushman invited the Conference to celebrate special occasions in their lives with each other on the DSC App.

Brimms shared the Cabinet believes that God is calling them to lead church conferences in a way that reflects the holiness of this time between the 2019 General Conference and the 2020 General Conference. The Cabinet is working with the Rev. Gina Campbell to plan the agenda. They will share the information as it becomes finalized. Written instructions on how churches will handle the business of the charge

conference that the *2016 Book of Discipline* requires will be sent to the clergy. The Cabinet's prayer is that when they are with the churches, it will be a time to discuss what is before all of us in a faith-filled manner.

**Petition: Amend 2016 Book of Discipline Paragraph 362**

Laura Land, First UMC-Tempe, called the question. **Passed**

Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader, offered prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

**Petition: Declaratory Decision from Judicial Council**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared the results of the ballot. **Approved**

Agnes Fahina, Trinity UMC-Phoenix, offer a musical prayer. Adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

**PLENARY SESSION 7**  
**Saturday, June 15, 2019**  
**1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

**Call to Order**

The Bishop called the session to order at 1:40 p.m.

**Point of Personal Privilege**

The Bishop took a moment of personal privilege to address the Conference and offered prayer for the Conference as it continues the work of the Conference to give us grace and grant us forgiveness.

**Courageous Church Award**

Pastor Wendy Swanson, Chair of the Vital Faith Team, presented the Courageous Church Award. The award recognizes churches who are living into the mission of the Conference in courageous ways. City Square UMF was presented with the 2019 Courageous Church Award. Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, City Square Church, and Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, joined Swanson on the stage. Swanson stated that City Square UMF “works for the transformation of Phoenix as a compassionate, inclusive, creative, and thoughtful place to explore and grow in relationship with Christ,” that they courageously love like Jesus, act for justice and believe that building.

**Pension and Health Benefits**

Mickey Price, Chair of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB), stated that the Pension and Health Benefit report could be found in the Preconference Report.

Price reported that the retiree health plan under Via Benefits continues to provide retirees with a subsidy to pay for premiums or out-of-pocket medical costs. He also reported that health insurance is provided to active participants through Wespath's Healthflex plan and continues to experience reasonably modest claim costs, particularly through the Consumer Driven Health Plan and High Deductible Health Plan. Price indicated that benefits are safe with Wespath after decisions of 2019 General Conference. The board continues to look for ways to reduce cost while maintaining benefits.

CBOPHB acknowledged Terry Shoemaker, Wespath conference liaison; Randy Bowman; and Cynthia Satchel.

Price moved that adoption of:

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

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

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

Recommendation No. 4—relating to HealthFlex Exchange participation **Approved**

Rule Change—Health Insurance for Clergy on Disability Leave **Approved**

Rule Change—Health Insurance for Part-Time Lay Employees **Approved**

### **Equitable Compensation**

David Decker, Chair of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, was introduced. Decker referred the Conference to the report and recommendations in the Preconference Report.

Decker moved that adoption of:

Recommendation —2.3% increase in minimum pastor salaries for 2020.

Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, moved to amendment that the lines for full-service years 21 through 40 or more be deleted from the minimum cash compensation schedule proposed by the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation for this year.

Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Paradise Valley UMC, spoke against the amendment.

Brandon Pitt, Trinity UMC-Bisbee, spoke for the amendment.

Cushman spoke for the amendment. The Bishop offered prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

### **Nominations Elections**

Julie Yarrow, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, reported that additions and corrections to the nominations report have been posted to the DSC App. Yarrow stated that online surveys will be posted to the report in the next two weeks. The Clergy and Lay Leadership Development committee moved that the report be accepted for approval. **Approved**

The Bishop offered a prayer for those taking on leadership in the Desert Southwest Conference.

### **Question**

Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC-Sun City, asked when the Daily Proceedings would be published to the DSC App. The Bishop responded that they were being edited.

### **Petition: Amend 2016 Book of Discipline Paragraph 362**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared the results of the ballot. **Approved**

### **Board of Ordained Ministry**

The Bishop introduced Rev. Julius Keller, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Keller recognized and thanked the Board of Ordained Ministry Committee members. He invited the Conference to the Ordination Service. Keller introduced Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Registrar for the Board and UMCARES. Azhikakath invited those to be commissioned and ordained to come forward. She read the names of those to be commissioned or ordained with a brief introduction of each. Provisional Elder: Jamie Booth and Tim Hunsinger; Deacon Full Member: Joshua Warner. The Bishop asked the Historic Questions of the ordinand.

### **Equitable Compensation Recommendation**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared the results of the amendment ballot. **Not Approved**

The Conference continued discussion of the recommendation.

Pastor Clare Sullivan, Dove of the Desert UMC, spoke against the recommendation.

Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity UMC-Phoenix, requested clarification.



Betty Wiley, First Henderson UMC, spoke against the recommendation.

Lisa Rammelt, Trinity UMC-Yuma, spoke for the recommendation.

David James, The Fountains, A UMC, spoke for the recommendation. The Bishop offered prayer.

**Approved**

### **Claremont School of Theology**

The Bishop introduced Rev. Dr. Jeffery Kuan, President of Claremont School of Theology (CST). Kuan affirmed that CST will continue to recognize the gifts of all of God's people. Kuan stated that CST signed an affiliation agreement with Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. The transition to Oregon will be in the fall. This year CST graduated 106, the largest and most diverse class in their history. CST seeks to be diverse because the world is diverse.

Kuan invited Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Catalina UMC, to the stage. Kuan presented the Bishop with a Doctor of Divinity Honorary Degree from Claremont School of Theology. Escobedo placed a doctorate hood on the Bishop. Kuan presented Rev. Dr. Bishop Robert Tsugio Hoshibata. The Bishop shared words of gratitude.

The Conference watched a video highlighting Claremont School of Theology.

### **Petition: Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdictional Conference**

Rev. Kimberly Scott, CrossRoads UMC, presented the *Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdictional Conference* petition. Scott moved that the petition be approved. The Conference discussed the petition at their tables.

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Sandy Johnson, Boulder City UMC, requested clarification.

Kent Zebal, Vista de la Montana UMC, spoke against the petition and made an amendment to limit the spending of the Desert Southwest Conference to \$15,000.

Rev. Louis Lyon, retired clergy, spoke against the amendment.

Squirrel Lovelady, Catalina UMC, requested clarification. The Conference voted on the amendment. **Not**

**Approved**

Pastor Ed Brown, First UMC-Eloy, requested clarification.

Rev. Candace Lansberry, Desert Skies UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, spoke for the petition.

Rev. David Deveraux, Desert Spring UMC, spoke for the petition.

The Bishop offered a prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

### **Resolution: Source of Complaints**

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, presented the *Source of Complaints* resolution. Hurlbert moved that the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution at their tables.

Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Trinity Heights UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. John Fairchild, Lakeview UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC-Sun City, requested clarification.

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Willcox UMC, requested clarification.

Squirrel Lovelady, Catalina UMC, requested clarification.

Hurlbert spoke for the amendment. Laura Land, First UMC-Tempe, offered prayer. Ushers distributed and collected ballots.

**Petition: Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdictional Conference**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared the results of the petition. **Approved**

**DSC Way Forward**

The Bishop invited the facilitators selected for the Way Forward Teams to come forward. The teams included: Dreaming A New Methodism, Spiritual Team, Theological Team, Amicable Separation, Communications, Connections, Legal, Disaffiliation, Finance, and Conversations. The Bishop offered a prayer for the facilitators and the members of the DSC Way Forward Teams.

**Spiritual Formation**

Martiza Aguilar, El Mesias UMC, led the Conference in a moment of spiritual formation and followed with prayer.

Don McCravy, Trinity UMC-Yuma, offered prayer for adjournment and dinner. Adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

**A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**

**Rev. Sharon Ragland, Preaching**

**Saturday, June 15, 2019**

**7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**First UMC, Mesa**

Karen Taylor and Dave Coolidge provided music for the opening hymn. During the processional music, the Desert Southwest Conference clergy and those participating in the ordination service processed in.

The Bishop greeted those in worship and offered recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism. Those being commissioned and ordained led worship and read the scripture. The message, *For a Time Like This*, was shared by Rev. Sharon Ragland. The offering was taken to benefit Huachuca UMC.

The Act of Commissioning and Ordination followed with Laurie Lineberry and Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath recommending those to be commissioned and ordained. Lineberry and Azhikakath presented Jamie Booth and Timothy Robert Hunsinger to be commissioned for the work of an elder; Rev. Ruth Blum presented Joshua Louis Warner to be ordained as a deacon.

The Bishop examined the candidates for commissioning followed by A Charge Before Commissioning and the Prayer of Commissioning with Laying on of Hands for each candidate. The Bishop examined the deacon to be ordained followed by the Laying on of Hands and Prayer for the Deacon. The ordained deacon was given a stole, a pitcher, a bowl, and a towel.

The Bishop invited those present to respond to God's call to Christian service and ordained ministry.

Following the benediction those on the stage recessed.

**PLENARY SESSION 8**

**Sunday, June 16**

**8:30-10:00 a.m.**

**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

**Call to Order**

The Bishop opened the session at 8:35 a.m. and offered a prayer.

### **Monitoring Report**

Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen and Rev. Brooke Isingoma recognized the need for forgiveness and ways that we may have harmed another. They encouraged us, as we make our way back to the churches, to make new connections and be allies to others.

### **AC Mission Project**

Billie Fidlin, Conference Director of Outreach, spoke about this year's three mission projects and reported preliminary funds received for each project, including collecting funds for homeless youth and young adults, Huachuca UMC fire recovery, and US disaster assistance. Local church constituency and members to Annual Conference gave generously to these projects.

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Rev. Javier Olivares, Nuevo Pacto UMF, acknowledged that we do not always agree but our love is stronger and asked to read a statement. Pastor Maribel Mojica-Calvo, Duncan UMC, read the response in Spanish. Olivares read the response in English. The Bishop offered a prayer.

### **Table Talk: Imagine If ...**

Alyssa Edmondson opened the segment with a short play, illustrating the support of God. She stated that the Conference would make a survivor pack, providing information and suggesting steps for the Way Forward Teams. Tables discussed the following questions and put suggestions in the appropriate Way Forward Team baskets. 1) What steps do we need to take?; 2) How do we clarify this process and make it transparent?; 3) What will reignite our fire?; 4) What do we need to consider and who do we need to include?

The Bishop shared that the ideas put in the baskets will be used to craft the Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward. He used the image of an umbrella as the picture as a symbol of finding a way to connect all the work of the teams to move forward quickly. Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, encouraged the Conference to continue sharing information on the DSC App.

Edmondson thanked the table facilitators, planning team, and creativity team.

### **Conference Finance & Administration Recommendations**

Rev. Matt Ashley presented the Conference Finance and Administration Recommendations available in the Preconference Report.

Ashley moved that adoption of:

Recommendation No. 1—2020 apportioned Conference Budget **Approved**

Recommendation No. 2—2020 Special Days and Causes **Approved**

Recommendation No. 3—Conference Advance and Benevolence Specials **Approved**

Recommendation No. 4—Other Recommendations **Approved**

Rule Change—Change Moving Expense Policy

Rev. Joyce Steiner, First UMC-Gilbert, requested clarification.

Rev. Susan Holden, University UMC, requested clarification. **Approved**

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Rev. Jim Wiltbank, St. Francis of the Foothills UMC, thanked the Conference for their prayers since the 2018 Annual Conference for his son following an accident.

Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring UMC, asked the Conference to remember Julian Rush, Bishop Mel Wheatley, and others how have helped us become the church of tomorrow.

The Bishop asked the Conference to show their appreciation to Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, for her work on the planning and organizing this Annual Conference. The Bishop also thanked Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader; Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary; Rev. Ann Lyter, Agenda Chair; Marilee Clarke, Conference Chancellor; and Julie O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

### **Acknowledgments**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared demographics of the attendance at the Conference. She moved that all written reports that have appeared in the Preconference Reports on the DSC App, the reports presented during this 2019 Annual Conference, and the Daily Proceedings with any corrections be adopted. **Passed**

Lambert requested a moment of personal privilege to recognize and thank the Sessions Committee and her staff, as well as the Conference Staff. Lambert noted that evaluation surveys were available on the DSC App. She continued that the Conference minutes would be available on the DSC App by Wednesday, June 19, 2019 and reminded the Conference that editorial corrections must be received by the Conference Secretary, [jlambert@dscumc.org](mailto:jlambert@dscumc.org) within 15 days. All items to be included in the 2019 Conference Journal must be received by Cynthia Satchel, [csatchel@dscumc.org](mailto:csatchel@dscumc.org), by July 1, 2019.

Lambert stated that details regarding the approved special session of the Annual Conference in September would be forthcoming.

### **Invitation to Annual Conference 2020**

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, invited the Conference to return to the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona on June 11-14, 2020 for the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

The Bishop thanked Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, and Rev. Khalif Smith, Trinity UMC-Las Vegas, who have shepherded worship at the Annual Conference.

The Bishop introduced Dr. Luther Smith, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Church and Community at Candler School of Theology, who will be the guest preacher for closing worship. Luther offered greetings and expressed appreciation for Bishop Hoshibata's leadership.

### **Closing Motion**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, moved the 35<sup>th</sup> session be adjourned following worship. **Approved**

**A Service of Sending Forth**  
**Dr. Luther Smith, Jr., Preaching**  
**Sunday, June 16, 2019**  
**10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.**  
**Mesa Convention Center, Centennial Hall**

Rend Collective, Sanctuary UMC Praise Band, provided music for worship. The Appointed Cabinet assisted in worship. Dr. Luther Smith, Jr. shared the message, *Called Anew*.

Rev. Brian Kemp-Schlemmer shared information about the Asylum Project of Phoenix an offering for the Asylum Project was taken.

The Bishop led the Conference in Communion. He offered the benediction and adjourned the Annual Conference at 12:22 p.m.