Minutes of the Special Session of Annual Conference
Desert Southwest Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
Gold Canyon United Methodist Church, Gold Canyon, Arizona

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, President
Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Secretary
Carla Whitmire, Associate Secretary for Proceedings

Orders of the Day
Rev. Ann Lyter

Recorders
Dina Reid, Cynthia Holly

PLENARY SESSION 1
Saturday, September 14, 2019
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Gold Canyon United Methodist Church, Sanctuary


Welcome to Special Session
Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata welcomed the Conference to the Special Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference with chimes.

Explanation of Venue
Rev. Fred Steinberg, Gold Canyon UMC, welcomed all to the Special Session. Steinberg provided the Conference with information about the facility and thanked the many volunteers from Gold Canyon UMC.

Opening Worship
Dior DeSormeau, chair of Spiritual Formation Committee, with Alberta Farnsworth, St. Mark’s UMC, led the Conference in a time of worship.

Conference Secretary
Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, welcomed the Conference to the Special Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference and explained the voting process and eligibility. Lambert moved that we call the special session to order. Approved
Lambert moved that those seated in the lower section of the sanctuary be considered the bar. Approved
Lambert moved that the newly licensed local pastors who were not clergy voting members at the 35th Session of Annual Conference but who are now licensed and appointed be given voting privilege at this special session. **Approved**

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; Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader; and Julie O’Neal, Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

**Legislation**

Rev. Mary Klaehn, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, presented the *Moratorium on Complaints* resolution. Klaehn moved the resolution be accepted for consideration. Seconded. The Bishop led the Conference in a vote to allow the resolution to be considered as a part of the agenda of the Special Session. **Approved**

The resolution was added to the agenda.

The Bishop explained the reasons for holding the special session of the annual conference. The Bishop stated that we are working under the premise that there is no disaffiliation process for churches, as the 2019 General Conference vote on disaffiliation was disavowed. He added that resolutions today help us identify who we are and what we believe. He stated the 35th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference passed a resolution saying we will live together with restraint and respect. The Bishop asked for restraint and respect. The Bishop stated he believes Christ is our unity and we live out that call in our lives.

**Resolution: Adoption of Desert Southwest Conference Theological Statement**

Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, presented the *Adoption of Desert Southwest Conference Theological Statement* resolution. Cushman moved the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution. Pastor Nicholas Grainger, First UMC-Winslow and Holbrook UMC, spoke for the resolution. Rev. Jody Topping, Song of Life UMC, pointed out a typographical error in the supporting documentation which was corrected. Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer.

Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith UMC, moved to not use ballots for this vote. Seconded. Randy Boardman, Haven UMC, spoke against the motion. Rev. Jonathan Armriester, Chandler UMC, requested clarification. The Bishop ruled to withdraw the motion and asked that the body vote by written ballot so that people would feel comfortable voting their conscience. Ballots for the *Adoption of Desert Southwest Conference Theological Statement* resolution were distributed. **Approved**

**Resolution: Integrity of Faithfulness**

Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, presented the *Integrity of Faithfulness* resolution. Cushman moved the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution.

Casey Compernolle, St. Mark’s UMC, moved to amend the resolution to strike the words *of like mind*. Seconded. Pastor Robin Lee, Hope UMC, spoke for the amendment. Rev. Tina Rees, First UMC-Gilbert, spoke against the amendment. Judy Riddlesworth, New Song UMC, requested clarification. Christina Maglott, UMC of Green Valley, spoke for the amendment.
Rev. Mary Klaehn, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC-Sun City, asked to see the amended motion. It was displayed.
Vote on Compernolle Amendment to the resolution. Amendment Approved

Rev. Gary Kennedy, Willowbrook UMC, requested clarification.
Wendy Kreider, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, spoke for the resolution.
Cushman made a brief synopsis of the resolution. The Bishop offered a prayer. Ballots for the Integrity of Faithfulness resolution were distributed. Approved

Resolution: Respecting Cultural Differences
Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity UMC-Phoenix, presented the Respecting Cultural Differences resolution. Govett moved the resolution be approved. The Bishop asked for questions on clarification of the resolution.
Peggy Rambikur, Prescott UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC-Sun City, requested clarification.
Lea Ann Davis, University UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Pam Wagner, Velda Rose UMC, requested clarification.
Cindy Payne, Trinity Heights UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Dave Summers, Paradise Valley UMC, requested clarification.
Wendy Kreider, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, requested clarification.
The Conference discussed the resolution.
Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, provided clarification regarding how the resolution relates to The Book of Discipline 2016.
Rev. Pam Wagner, Velda Rose UMC, spoke against the resolution.
Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, moved a friendly amendment to strike the word General from the resolution. Accepted
Dean Richardson, Red Mountain UMC, offered a prayer. Ballots for the Respecting Cultural Differences resolution were distributed. Approved

Resolution: Preserve Our Connectionalism
Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, presented the Preserve Our Connectionalism resolution. Cushman moved the resolution be approved. The Bishop asked for questions on clarification of the resolution.
Rev. Brooke Isingoma, St. Matthew UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Mary Klaehn, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, requested clarification.
Pastor George Barcus, Parker UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Kimberly Scott, Crossroads UMC, requested clarification.
The Conference discussed the resolution.
Rev. Efrain Zavala, St. Paul’s UMC-Tucson, moved a friendly amendment to replace even with our theological diversity with as a theologically diverse conference. Accepted
Ballots for the Preserve Our Connectionalism resolution were distributed. Approved

Announcement
Rev. Fred Steinberg, Gold Canyon UMC, explained the process for lunch. The Conference was asked to pick up a Way Forward brochure and a copy of the Moratorium on Complaints resolution as they left the Sanctuary. Rev. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, offered a blessing for lunch. The session adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 2
The Bishop called the session to order at 12:49 p.m.

**Legislation (Continued)**

**Resolution: Renouncing Divisive and Destructive Strategies**

Rev. Tom Jelinek, Patagonia UMC, presented the *Renouncing Divisive and Destructive Strategies* resolution. Jelinek moved the resolution be approved.

The Bishop reviewed corrections to the resolution that were not distributed prior to the Special Session.

The Bishop asked for questions on clarification of the resolution.

Squirrel Lovelady, Catalina UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Jimelvia Martin, Calvary UMC, requested clarification.

Pastor Sarah Allen, Payson UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Andrea Andress, retired clergy, and Rev. Kimberly Scott, Crossroads UMC, moved a friendly amendment to add to the *Resolved* ...individual churches and individuals, and new and reforming church movements:” and to add “by the Confessing Movement, Good News, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and any other “renewal” organizations deemed appropriate after future actions to the first resolve.

Accepted

Rev. David Deveraux, Desert Spring UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Fred Baum, Vista de la Montaña UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Hannah Bonner, Wesley Foundation-Tucson, offered clarification on the resolution.

Rev. Sande Kimbel, Willowbrook UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity UMC-Phoenix, offered clarification on the resolution.

Ron Folkwein, Mountain View UMC, moved the resolution be postponed until copies could be printed.

Seconded. Passed

**Way Forward Brochure**

Rev. David Devereaux, Desert Spring UMC, presented a Way Forward brochure created by the Dreaming a New Methodist Movement team. Devereaux; Rev. Sharon Ragland, St. Mark’s UMC; Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Catalina UMC; and Regina Walker, Dayspring UMC, explained the brochure, stating it was for information only.

**Resolution: Dialogue with Central Conference Leaders**

Rev. Dr. George Cushman, Dove of the Desert UMC, presented the *Dialogue with Central Conference Leaders* resolution. Cushman moved the resolution be approved. The Bishop asked for questions on clarification of the resolution.

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

Rev. Jimelvia Martin, Calvary UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Sandy Johnson, Santa Cruz Valley UMC, requested clarification.

The Conference discussed the resolution.

Rev. Sharon Pajak, Desert Chapel UMC, moved to amend the resolution by removing *Whereas United States Conferences that support the agenda of the Wesley Covenant Association are the least supportive financially of Central Conference Churches, while those who are more centrist to progressive contribute the greatest financial support; and sharing information with them regarding the sources of their support; and also informing them of the sources of their support.* Seconded.
Martha Lundgren, St. Mark’s UMC, moved a friendly amendment to the amendment to replace sharing information with them regarding the sources of their support with to share with Central Conference leaders and delegates of our desire to continue to be in ministry with them and to see the continued flourishing of the United Methodist Church worldwide in the Resolved 1 and 2. Accepted

David Mosley, First UMC-Glendale, spoke against the amendment.
Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Trinity Heights UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Jimelvia Martin, Calvary UMC, requested clarification.
Barbara Barcus, Spirit of Hope UMC, spoke against the amendment.

Rev. Sarah Allen, Payson UMC, moved to amend the Pajak amendment to create a. and b. (see below) under Resolved 1. Seconded.

a. why the language of the Traditional Plan may well lead to a schism which damages the UMC’s entire stability, and
b. why it may be in everyone’s best interest to give US Jurisdictions the powers that Central Conferences have to change and adapt General Discipline.

Rev. Bob Holliday, Epworth UMC, moved that the resolution with the proposed amendments be distributed to the Conference. Seconded. Not Passed

Jennifer Hammond, First UMC-Eloy, requested clarification.
Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, called the question on all that was before us. Seconded. Passed

Vote on Allen Amendment to Pajak/Lungren Amendment. Not Approved
Vote on Pajak/Lungren Amendment to the resolution. Approved

Chris Aryala, Trinity UMC-Yuma, requested clarification.
Suzanne Shaw, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, offered a prayer. Ballots for the Dialogue with Central Conference Leaders resolution were distributed. Approved

Resolution: Renouncing Divisive and Destructive Strategies (continued)
Updated copies of the resolution were distributed. The Conference discussed the resolution.
Rev. Fred Baum, Vista de la Montaña UMC, spoke against the resolution.
Pastor Ed Brown, First UMC-Eloy, spoke against the resolution.
Tom Rice, First UMC-Phoenix, spoke against the resolution.
Judy Riddlesworth, New Song UMC, spoke against the resolution.
Rev. Jody Topping, Song of Life UMC spoke for the resolution.
Rev. Deanna Self-Price, UMC of Green Valley, spoke for the resolution.
Rev. Hannah Bonner, Wesley Foundation-Tucson, spoke for the resolution.
Rev. Kimberly Scott, Crossroads UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Jelinek made a brief synopsis of the resolution. Andrew Ponder Williams, St. Matthew UMC, offered a prayer. Ballots for the Renouncing Divisive and Destructive Strategies resolution were distributed. Approved

Resolution: Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy
Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, presented part 1 of the Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy resolution. Rynders moved part 1 of the resolution be approved. The Bishop asked for questions on clarification of the resolution. The Conference discussed the resolution.
Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, requested clarification.
Christine Maglott, UMC of Green Valley UMC, moved a friendly amendment to change has in the fourth Whereas to may have. Accepted
Rev. David Deveraux, Desert Spring UMC, requested clarification. 
Brian Bourgon, Advent UMC, requested clarification. 
Ken Zebal, Vista de la Montaña UMC, requested clarification. 
Kelly Deyoe, St. Mark’s UMC, offered a prayer. Ballots for part 1 of the *Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy* resolution were distributed. **Approved**

Andrew Ponder Williams, St. Matthew UMC, presented part 2 of the *Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy* resolution. Ponder Williams moved part 2 of the resolution be approved. The Bishop asked for questions on clarification of the resolution. The Conference discussed the resolution. 
Ellen White, Grace UMC-Mesa, suggested a grammar correction. 
Ann Jarrell, Trinity UMC-Las Vegas, suggested a grammar correction. 

Rev. Fred Baum, Vista de la Montaña UMC, moved to amend part 2 of the resolution to add a second **Resolved**, that if the Desert Southwest Annual Conference splits, we seek to sell all Annual Conference assets to meet our 22 million dollar unfunded clergy liability. **Seconded.**

Anita Lange, First UMC-Tucson, requested clarification. 
Randy Bowman, Conference Treasurer, offered clarification on the amendment and moved a friendly amendment to strike the dollar amount. **Accepted**

Rev. Jonathan Hall, Mountain View UMC, spoke against the amendment. 
Rev. Efrain Zavala, St. Paul’s UMC-Tucson, requested clarification. 
Martha Lundgren, St Mark’s UMC, spoke against the amendment. 
Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith UMC, called the question. **Seconded.**

Vote on Baum Amendment to part 2 of the resolution. **Passed**

Judy Riddlesworth, New Song UMC, called the question. **Seconded.**

Ponder Williams made a brief synopsis of the resolution. Jennifer Hammond, First UMC-Eloy, offered a prayer. Ballots for part 2 of the *Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy* resolution were distributed. **Approved**

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, Chandler UMC, presented part 3 of the *Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy* resolution. Arnpriester moved part 3 of the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution.

Rev. Mary Klaehn, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, moved to replace the second **Resolved** with the **Desert Southwest Conference:**

1. Do good by reaffirming its commitment found in our Baptismal Covenant; to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms, and toward all people and further, to build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities; and, 
2. Follow the call of John Wesley to do good and not do harm by requesting an immediate and indefinite moratorium on complaints, investigations, and trials against self-avowed practicing LGBTQIA+ clergy (Elders, Deacons, Licensed Local Pastors) as well as any clergy officiating same-gender weddings, in The United Methodist Church as a whole and specifically within this Annual Conference as we move into the future of The United Methodist Church. **Seconded.**

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, Rev. Melissa Rynders, and Andrew Ponder Williams spoke against the amendment. 
Myra Davis, Boulder City UMC, spoke against the amendment. 

The Bishop asked if the Conference was willing to extend the time of the session by 15 minutes.
Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Trinity Heights UMC, reminded the Bishop of childcare and the long drive for a number of the conference members.
Brian Kemp-Schlemmer, City Square UMF, spoke for the amendment.
Rev. Brooke Isingoma, St. Matthew UMC, spoke against the amendment.
Rev. Jim O’Neal, retired clergy, called the question. Seconded.
Vote on Klaehn amendment to part 3 of the resolution.

Passed
Not Approved

Rev. Bob Holliday, Epworth UMC, called the question. Seconded.
Paul Martin, Red Mountain UMC, offered a prayer. Ballots for part 3 of the Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy resolution were distributed.

Approved

Resolution: Moratorium on Complaints

Rev. Mary Klaehn, Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC, presented the Moratorium on Complaints resolution. Klaehn moved the resolution be approved. The Conference discussed the resolution.
Judy Riddlesworth, New Song UMC, offered a friendly amendment to replace indefinite moratorium to definite halt.
Lea Ann Davis, University UMC, called the question. Seconded.

Not Accepted
Passed

Klaehn made a brief synopsis of the resolution. Joel Huffman, St. Matthew UMC, offered a prayer.
Ballots for the Moratorium on Complaints resolution were distributed.

Approved

Closing Remarks

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, recognized the Sessions Committee, the Conference staff, and the ushers for their work for the Special Session. She stated the minutes would be posted electronically for review on the Conference website by 5 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2019. Corrections were to be submitted to her by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Lambert stated the legislation, in its final version, including the legislation passed at the June 2019 Session of Annual Conference, would be available on the Conference website after September 18, 2019. Lambert invited the Conference to the 36th Annual Conference June 2020 in Mesa.

Lambert moved that the Special Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference stand adjourned following closing worship.

Approved

The Bishop thanked the Conference for their work today. He shared the importance of the work so we can proclaim who we are across the denomination and in our community, “This is who we are. This is what we believe. You are loved, and we will welcome you as you are.” He declared his sense of pride and gratitude in serving as the Bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference.

The session adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

WORSHIP
Gold Canyon United Methodist Church, Sanctuary

Dior DeSormeau, chair of Spiritual Formation Committee; Alberta Farnsworth, St. Mark’s UMC; Paul Gomez, Red Mountain UMC; and Brian Bourgon, Advent UMC, led the Conference in a time of worship.

DeSormeau gave the benediction.

*The correct dates for Annual Conference 2020 are June 11-14, 2020.*