

**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session  
Desert Southwest Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
June 12-13, 2020**

**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**

**CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION  
Friday, June 12, 2020  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

The Clergy Session was opened at 9:00 a.m. 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. He acknowledged those retiring and introduced the members joining BOOM. Keller informed the session that Melissa Rynders would be the incoming chair and thanked Pam Wagner, Dan Hurlbert and the Bishop for their support. Keller reminded the group that all things stated in the session were in strict confidentiality.

**Organizational Matters**

Tina Rees, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, moved on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry that the following persons be allowed to attend this session:

- Ministers of other denominations currently serving under appointment within the bounds of Conference under ¶346.2 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* be allowed to be present on the webinar without voice or vote;
- Clergy members of other annual conferences, who are currently serving under appointment within the bounds of Conference under ¶346.1 be allowed to be present with voice but no vote;
- Julie O’Neal, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, be allowed to be present without voice or vote;
- The technicians and interpreters be allowed to be present without voice or vote. **Approved**

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 2020 Journal.*

18. Who constitute:

- a) The Administrative Review Committee (¶636)? (v)

Members: Deits, Bob; Lerner, Deborah; Self-Price, Deanna; Alternates: Bonneau, Ed; Lansberry, Candace **Passed**

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) 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)
- b) Elders **Passed**
38. Who have been received by transfer from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§§347.1, 416.5, 635.2n)? (List alphabetically. Indicate credential. See note preceding Question 27.): (v) **Passed**
41. Who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§416.5)? *For information only*
46. Who have had their conference membership terminated?
- b) By withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office (§360.2, .4)? (v) **Passed**
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**

### Cultural Competency Training

Javier Olivares, Shepherd of the Valley UMC-Phoenix, and Khalif Smith, First UMC-Mesa, lead the clergy in Cultural Competency Training.

### **Announcements**

Azhikakath shared that she would be hosting an Orientation to Ministry, Part 2 training on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

Lynn Bartlow shared the dates of the 2021 Gathering, February 23-25, 2021.

### **LAITY SESSION Friday, June 12, 2020 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

The Bishop opened the session at 1:01 p.m. The Bishop greeted the laity and offered words of encouragement. The Bishop introduced Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader. The Bishop and Lineberry shared a conversation they had recorded earlier. The Bishop shared his and Greta's decision to postpone his retirement feeling that God was calling him to continue to lead the Desert Southwest Conference. Lineberry shared that when no one came forward to be Conference Lay Leader she decided to stay on as Conference Lay Leader.

The Bishop's wish for the Conference was that the Spirit of God would sweep over the body—a Holy Spirit moment to unify the group around their faith.

Lineberry offered three gifts she wished to share with the Conference; that the laity would learn to tell their stories, prayer as Jesus taught us, and offer extravagant hospitality.

The Bishop shared his belief that we have lost the ability to connect in meaningful ways with children and the need to have a spirit of connecting. Taking the church out of the building is where we spread the good news to children. The Bishop stated he has seen laity find new ways to do that in COVID-19, taking the lead in connecting others by calling them. He hoped that the church would continue to connect to the world in ways God is asking us to do.

Lineberry talked about laity empowerment stating that the pastors cannot do everything. She reflected that Jesus used laity that he trained to spread the news and on the role of laity during the Circuit Rider phase of the church history in the United States.

Lineberry asked the Bishop about his passion for song leading. The Bishop shared he has always loved music, playing the ukulele and guitar that he has been stirred by the great hymns of the church. He reminded the laity that in the United Methodist Hymnal, John Wesley instructed to sing lustily. The Bishop took this to heart and began leading song in worship to more fully engage the congregation.

Lineberry introduced Gwen Bortner, lay member of the California-Nevada Annual Conference and currently the Project Manager for the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Bortner presented a workshop entitled, *The Journey of Change—exploring who we, as laity, are called to be in such a time as this*. Throughout the presentation, Lineberry and Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, joined Bortner for discussion on responses and questions presented by the laity during the session.

Bortner asked the following questions:

- “What is the change you are looking to achieve through participation in this laity session?”
- “What do you believe and why?”
- “What assumptions, ideas, beliefs, or behaviors no longer serve us? How might we approach things differently? Who are we being called to be in such a time as this?”

Bortner closed the workshop by asking the laity what they would do with what they had learned.

Lineberry thanked Bortner for her work with the Laity Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

**PLENARY SESSION 1**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting Online**

The following clergy requested and received permission to be excused from Annual Conference through their District Superintendent: *for the entire Conference—Active Clergy*: Gerri Bast, Leah Bergstrom, Anthony Dawson, Noni Dye, Jessica Goad, Evy McDonald, Camille Pentsil, Fay Quanstrom, Sherylan Gay Thorson; *Retirees*: David Alberts, Dan Allen, Michael Anderson, Karen Appleby, Kathleen Athey, Jane Baker, Ed Bonneau, Stan Brown, Don Brummet, Gerry Dearing, Jon Flint, Larry Gerber, Sue Getz, Lynn Hamilton, Jon Ierley, Lyle Johnston, Janet Keffer, Michael Keffer, Alexander Mason, Shirley Montoya, Allan Nesbitt, Laura O’Neil, Frank Peters, Fred Trevino, Don Strauch, David Wilkinson.

**Opening of Conference**

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata called to order the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference session at 9:00 a.m. with a replica of the gavel used by John Wesley. He welcomed the Conference to the virtual session. He called the session to order with gavel and introduced Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary.

Lambert welcomed all to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. She reminded the Conference that they had much to cover in the abbreviated time stating that items not completed could be referred to Covenant Council. She stated that all voting members who registered were issued a separate voting ID and gave instructions on how to reach GNTV if voters had issues.

David Wood and Paul Roadarmel, GNTV, led the Conference through two practice votes.

Lambert moved suspension of Conference Rule II.C.3 which states that entire floor of the room where Annual Conference is held will constitute the Official Bar of the Conference. **Approved**

**Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation**

The Bishop thanked the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation for a gift of \$10,000 to help cover the costs of the virtual Annual Conference. Anne Green, Executive Director, explained some of the services the Foundation offer free, including planned giving and estate planning seminars, individual consultations, Charitable Gift Annuities, and assistance establishing church endowments. Green also shared they partner with Wespath Institutional Investments and manage over \$40 million. She invited the Conference to contact her, [agreen@dsumf.org](mailto:agreen@dsumf.org), to learn more.

Lambert moved that the business of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be conducted through the virtual room and that those already granted voting privileges with a unique ID would constitute the bar. **Approved**

### **Spiritual/Stretching Moment**

Pastor Linda Stanley, Zion UMC-North Las Vegas, shared a message of encouragement during this time of uncertainty offering ways to thrive in the new normal.

### **Opening Worship**

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra offered a centering moment from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The opening song, “And Are We Yet Alive (Together Apart)” written and arranged for the Annual Conference was presented by Joshua Elder, Ian Elder, Nick Rizzo, and Rob Fix. Pastor Kimber Govett shared a poem by Rev. Cynthia Langston-Kirk. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 was read in Spanish by Rev. Alma Aguirre-Olivares. Rev. Rula Colvin offered a blessing of time, people, and space while images of those who have passed away were displayed. Those remembered included: Mr. Ben Sarracino, Mrs. Gayla Remp, Mr. John MacVean, Rev. Roger Stressman, Rev. Cynthia Langston-Kirk, Phyllis Ayers Nelson, Pastor Mavae Koli, Rev. Sande Kimbel, and Pastor Dale Jensen. Rev. David Rennick performed a song of reflection he composed, “A Time Like This.” Rev. Kimberly Scott offered a blessing.

### **Bishop’s Address, “For Such a Time as This”**

The Bishop began by stating that theologian Richard Rohr speaks of a sacred space where true transformation takes place as liminal space, described as a time when we are between where we have been and where we want to be. The Bishop continued saying he believes that the Conference is in a liminal space, between what we have been and what God is calling us to become. God is present with us in this liminal space, leading and walking with us. God cheers yet chastises us. God holds us tight, while letting us do our own thing.

The Bishop shared in this liminal time we have not dealt a death to racism. The murder of George Floyd and other persons of color, and resulting unrest and protest confirmed we do not know our future. The Bishop reminded the Conference of their baptism vows to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin, to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

In responses, the Bishop asked the Conference to say NO MORE to the kind of behavior that hurts, injures, destroys lives and communities; that racism is evil and when unchecked results in death and destruction; that racism is rooted in the way we are and not just in what we do; that racism has no part in The United Methodist Church or in the life of anyone who follows Jesus; that racism can fester in a person’s heart and soul; that white privilege is evil and among other things, results in harming others because of the color of their skin or the country of their birth and imbeds the way we are; and that white privilege exists in the human soul.

The Bishop stated that the Conference must embark on an initiative to eradicate racism and to dismantle white privilege. He asked the Conference to learn, to build relationships, to repent, to commit, to rejoice, and to pray together. He called the Church to meet up with the reality of racism and white privilege that we have lived with far too long. He stated that God is calling us to act today and shared that the Conference Commission on Religion and Race, chaired by Rev. Javier Olivares, and the Conference

Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, chaired by Rev. Khalif Smith, are ready to move with support and help from the Conference.

The Bishop asked the Conference to vote to stand with him and lead their congregations in prayer, reflection, and action to bring an end to the evil and injustice of racism and white privilege. The Conference overwhelmingly voted to stand with the Bishop.

### **Racism and Multicultural**

Rev. Khalif Smith, First UMC-Mesa, reminded the Conference of their baptismal covenant and challenged them to reject the sin of systemic racism. He also challenged them to make a video showing their support.

The Bishop asked the Conference to participate in a public protest against racism, a simple protest that would be safe in this time of COVID-19 pandemic. He asked that the Conference members make a video to share on Facebook, using a statement that the Bishop provided condemning racism and stating that we can no longer be silent in the face of the racism we have witnessed so graphically in the last couple weeks.

### **Appointive Cabinet Statement**

Rev. N. Susan Brims, Dean of the Appointive Cabinet, shared a statement on behalf of the cabinet, denouncing the sin of systemic racism and committing the Appointive Cabinet to take action to end of the culture of white privilege in our society and church, committing to walk more fully in the vows of baptism. The Appointive Cabinet committed to following the guidance from the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) and the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee (ELCC); participate in the Implicit Bias course offered through General Commission on Religion and Race; complete the Intercultural Development Inventory; engage in intentional listening sessions with pastors of color; and to study books relating to racism. Further, the Appointive Cabinet committed to affirm and support the development of a conference initiative to end racism led by a coalition of CCORR, ELCC, and the Conference Board of Church and Society; to implement the process presented in the *Learning from Strangers* and *Meeting God at the Boundaries* curriculum; to develop more effective ways to enable persons of color to move into places of leadership as pastors in our churches; to partner with CCORR and ELCC, following their lead in a three-year process to impact the culture in the Desert Southwest Conference; and to participating in the Conference campaign to flood social media with a common message denouncing the sin of systemic racism.

### **Consent Calendar**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, moved approval of the Consent Calendar. The following items were recommended for inclusion on the Consent Calendar:

- Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation No. 2—Special Days and Causes
- Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation No. 3—Conference Advance and Benevolence Specials
- Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation No. 4—Other Recommendations (level 1 exempt compensation, employee expenses, mileage reimbursement rates, and spending within budgets)
- Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation No. 1—Annuity Rate and Past Service Obligation

- Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation No. 2—Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowance for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Desert Southwest Conference
- Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation No. 3—Resolution Relating to Local Church Funding for the Clergy Retirement Security Program in 2021

**All Approved**

### **Wesley Frontera Campus Ministry**

Blake Cooper, incoming Vice President of Wesley Frontera at the University of Arizona, stated the importance of being able to listen to those impacted by racism. As a member of the LGBTQ community, he shared the need to be an advocate for himself as well as those who are different from him.

The question was asked if churches could use the virtual voting of other meetings. The Bishop replied that Sessions Committee would do some research.

### **Conference Nominations**

Julie Yarrow, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, stated that the committee was eager to work with the DSC Way Forward teams to equip and engage leaders at every level of the conference and connectional church. She announced the new chair as Keith Sobrasky. Yarrow referenced the 2020 nominations report in the pre-conference materials. Since there were no corrections or additions to this document, Yarrow moved that the report be approved reminding the Conference that the process allows for changes to be made throughout the year through Rev. David McPherson, Director of New & Vital Faith Ministries..

**Approved**

### **Campus Ministry**

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, shared an Arizona State University Sun Devil story in a video.

Rev. Lynn Bartlow offered a prayer for the people elected.

### **North District Appointment**

The Bishop appointed Rev. Dan Morley as North District Superintendent. A video was shown displaying the North District Appointments.

### **Equitable Compensation**

David Decker, Chair of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, referred the Conference to the report in the pre-conference materials. He announced that a new form for mission churches was created. Decker moved the adoption of the recommendation—Base Cash Compensation and Housing—2021.

**Approved**

### **Racism and Multicultural Appointments**

Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair of Commission on Religion and Race, raised the Conference's attention to the recent murders of Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd; to hate crimes and xenophobia against our Asian communities; and to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in Black, Native American, and Latino communities. Olivares shared that there is power in unity and that God has given us an opportunity to oppose isolation. He offered ways to address racism including talking about it even when it is uncomfortable; attending webinars or joining local organizations that are working to change systems and more just racial policies; and using their privilege to amplify the voices of people of color.

### **Pension and Health Benefits**

Mickey Price, Chair of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB), referenced the Pension and Health Benefit report in the pre-conference materials. He expressed gratitude for those leaving the board, and appreciation to Randy Bowman and Cynthia Satchel for their contribution. Price moved to adopt the recommendation No. 4—Resolution Relating to HealthFlex Exchange Participant Contribution Levels and Church Payment Rate.

Rev. Tina Marie Rees, First UMC-Gilbert, spoke against the recommendation.

**Approved**

### **Resources for Reopening Churches during COVID-19**

Rev. Tom Mattick, Disaster Response Coordinator, shared about the importance of preparing a plan for reopening facilities for approval by the district superintendent. Mattick has been working closely with the Cabinet in preparation for re-opening the Conference and the churches. He stated the conference website has resources to help develop re-opening plans.

### **Conference Finance & Administration**

Rev. Matt Ashley, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CFA), referenced the financial overview, proposed 2021 Conference budget, and other recommendations that were provided in the pre-conference materials. Ashley moved the adoption of the recommendation No. 1—2021 Apportioned Conference Budget. Randy Bowman, Conference Treasurer, was available for clarification.

Kathy Schock, First UMC-Tempe, requested clarification.

Rev. Mary Klaehn, St. Francis of the Foothills UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Dot Saunders-Perez, Dayspring UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, requested clarification.

Rev. Jonathan Hall, Mountain View UMC-Cottonwood, moved to refer the budget to the Covenant Council for re-prioritizing with specific input from Council on Religion and Race, taking care to get input from the Council. Seconded.

Ashley spoke against the motion.

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra, St. Mark's UMC-Tucson, requested clarification.

Ginny Hildebrand, East District Lay Leader, spoke for the motion.

Shirley Maddox, St Paul's UMC-Tucson, spoke for the motion.

Rev. Lois Hedden, First UMC-Sun City UMC, spoke against the motion.

Pastor Robin Lee, Hope UMC-Bullhead City, spoke against the motion.

Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Catalina UMC-Tucson, spoke for the motion.

Rev. Dr. Jimelvia Martin, Calvary UMC, called the question. Seconded.

Hall spoke to the motion.

**Passed  
Hall Motion Approved**

### **Spiritual/Stretching Moment**

Rev. Dulce Vargas, Menlo Park UMC-Tucson, shared that the Mexican culture has a deep appreciation for laughter, and included the following quote from Thomas Aquinas, "It is a requisite for the relaxation of the mind that we make use, from time to time, of playful deeds and jokes." She then shared a joke with the Conference.

### **Spiritual/Stretching Moment**

Rev. Timote Piukala, Tongan UMC-Mesa, shared a prayer taught to him by a Native American colleague at Claremont School of Theology.

Rev. Mark Conrad, South District Superintendent, offered a prayer for retired Rev. Peter Vaught's mother-in-law who fell. Laura Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader, offered a blessing for the lunch break. Session adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

**PLENARY SESSION 2**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2020**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

The Bishop called the session to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Personnel Committee**

Rev. Jim Wallasky, Chair of the Conference Personnel Committee, referenced the information in the Conference to the Personnel Committee report in the pre-conference materials. Wallasky moved the adoption of the recommendation No. 1—Changes to Exempt Salary Levels

Ken Zebal, Vista de la Montaña UMC-Tucson, requested clarification.

Rev. Ross Parrott, Lakeview UMC-Sun City, requested clarification.

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, requested clarification.

Rev. Tom Mattick, retired, requested clarification.

Rev. Mary Klaehn, St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, requested clarification.

Jennifer Hammond, First UMC-Eloy, requested clarification.

Rev. Misty Howick, Prescott UMC, requested clarification.

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

Pastor Jimmy Nelson, UMC of the Good Shepherd-Kearny, requested clarification.

**Approved**

**East District Appointment**

The Bishop appointed Rev. Susan Brims as the East District Superintendent. A video was shown displaying the East District Appointments.

Wallasky moved the adoption of recommendation No. 2—Changes to Non-Exempt Salary Levels

Rev. Dot Saunders-Perez, attending school, moved a friendly amendment to amend levels to a minimum hourly rate for IV and V to be set at \$15.00 per hour.

**Accepted**

Randy Boardman, Haven UMC-Jerome, requested clarification.

Esther Lloyd, Willowbrook UMC - Sun City, requested clarification.

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra, St. Mark's UMC-Tucson, requested clarification.

Jennifer Hammond, First UMC-Eloy, requested clarification.

Robert Burwell, Velda Rose UMC – Mesa, requested clarification.

**Approved**

Rev. Julius Keller offered prayer for Rev. Evelene Sombrero Navarrete and her family.

**Board of Trustees**

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, President of the Conference Board of Trustees, informed the Conference that the work in relationship to the church in Camp Verde is completed. He indicated that the parsonage has been sold and the church property is on the market. He thanked all those who helped to resolve the situation. He moved the adoption of the recommendation—Master Insurance Program 2021-2024.

Ken Zebal, Vista de la Montaña UMC-Tucson, spoke against the recommendation.

Rev. Louie Lyon, Dove of the Desert UMC, spoke for the recommendation.

Ginny Hildebrand, East District Lay Leader, requested clarification.

Tom Rice, First UMC-Phoenix, spoke for the recommendation.

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Director of Connectional Ministries, called the question. Seconded.

**Passed  
Approved**

### **Resources for Reopening Churches during COVID-19**

Rev. Tom Mattick, Disaster Response Coordinator, stated there is no one template for reopening facilities. He shared that he and the district superintendents would offer a Re-Opening webinar on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. The webinar would present essentials for reopening our campuses.

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, moved Resolution to Address the Conference Budget by the Covenant Council. The Bishop stated that any legislation the body would like to be on the upcoming Covenant Council calendar would need to be submitted to Trinity Donovan, Legislation Coordinator.

### **Churches Closing**

The Conference viewed a video remembering the churches closing, Camp Verde UMC and Youngtown UMC. Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, offered a prayer.

### **South District Appointment**

The Bishop appointed Rev. Matt Ashley as the South District Superintendent. A video was shown displaying the South District Appointments.

### **West District Appointment**

The Bishop appointed Rev. Nancy Cushman as the West District Superintendent. A video was shown displaying the West District Appointments.

### **Fixing of Appointments**

The Bishop fixed the appointments for the 2020-2021 appointment season. Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer for those being appointed.

### **Endorsement Process for Episcopal Candidate**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, shared that according to the Conference Rules and in accordance with ¶ 415 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, a ballot on a question related to Episcopal elections was necessary to prepare for Annual Conference 2021. Lambert asked the Conference to determine if they would receive episcopal nominations next year, 2021.

**Approved**

### **Increasing Worship Attendance Online**

Rev. John Fairchild, Lakeview UMC-Sun City, shared about the online ministry at Lakeview UMC. He introduced Glade Kynaston, Lakeview UMC Media Arts Director. Kynaston spoke about the keys to successful online ministry including delivering top-quality videos that are discovered by search engines, and the need to distribute videos through all means.

### **Board of Ordained Ministry Summary**

Rev. Julius Keller, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented those to be commissioned, ordained, and transferring membership to the Conference with a brief introduction of each. Provisional

Elder: Amanda Corella and Stuart Salvatierra; Elder Full Member: Alma Aguirre-Olivares and Kimberly Scott; Transfer of membership from within The United Methodist Church: Mary Dotson and Jonathan Hall; Transfer or Membership from another denomination: David Wasson. The Bishop asked the Historic Questions of Aguirre-Olivares, Scott, and Wasson. Rev. Ki Yong Lee, A Grain of Mustard Seed UMF-Las Vegas, offered a prayer in Korean followed by a song of reflection, “Take My Life and Let It Be,” performed by Jessica and Joshua Elder, First UMC-Phoenix.

### **Recognition of Retirees**

Rev. Julius Keller, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry, recognized those retiring and thanked them for their service: Michael Bryant, Mark Conrad, Rula Colvin, Valerie Fairchild, Kim Gladding, Lois Hedden, Julius Keller, Billy Martin, Bev Ritland, Deanna Self-Price, SHERALYN Gay Thorson, and James Wallasky. Keller invited the Conference to watch videos of the retirees posted on the Conference website. Keller took a moment of personal privilege to thank Rev. Michael Pearson, retired, who recruited him from the West Ohio Conference. He also thanked the Conference Staff and GNTV for making this virtual conference possible. Keller offered a prayer. The Bishop thanked Keller.

### **Legislation**

Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath Lombardi, Paradise Valley UMC, moved any legislation the body is not able to discuss and vote on today, including legislation that is submitted to Trinity before 5:00 p.m. today, be referred to Covenant Council to be addressed, discussed and voted on. Seconded by Rev. Tom Jelinek, Patagonia UMC.

Rev. Tom Mattick, retired, requested clarification.

Randy Bowman, Conference Treasurer, stated that all recommendations voted on today stand unless the covenant council needs to address them.

Rev. Mary Klaehn, St. Francis in the Foothills UMC-Tucson, requested clarification.

The Bishop asked to extend the time to 6:00 p.m.

**Passed  
Motion Approved**

Rev. Sharon Ragland, St. Mark’s UMC-Tucson, offered prayer for those effected by the Bighorn fire.

### **Annual Conference Mission Project**

Billie Fidlin, Director of Outreach and Justice Ministries, spoke about this year’s mission project and reported the preliminary fund received. She shared that the Navajo reservation continues to have the highest COVID-19 infection rates per capita in our country and thanked local church constituency and members to Annual Conference for generously giving during this pandemic. Fidlin shared a message of gratitude for the monetary donations from Mel M. Rodis, Principle Attorney for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice at the Navajo COVID-19 Command Center. The Bishop offered a prayer for the Annual Conference Mission Project.

### **Closing Worship**

A Native American Blessing was offered as a centering moment. The song, “God of All People,” was presented by Grey Waldrop (lead vocals), Adam Black, Jennifer Schwarz, Adam Armijo, Nick Rizzo, Rob Fix, and Joshua Elder. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 was read by Rev. Amanda Corella. Rev. Khalif Smith offered a blessing for when we cannot be together. Rev. Efrain Zavala, Colby Rynders, Rev. Amy Barron-Gafford, and Rev. Michael Patzloff offered images of the candle, Bible, water, and bread. Jessica Elder performed a song of reflection, “You Speak.” Rev. David Wasson offered a prayer of response. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 was read in Tongan by Rev. Timote Piukala. The Bishop gave the sending forth with a spirit of hope and faith with the love of God and the peace of Christ.

**Closing Motions and Acknowledgements**

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, requested a moment of personal privilege to recognize and thank the Sessions Committee and her staff, the Conference Staff, and GNTV for helping with the details involved in moving to a virtual meeting. She continued, stating that the Conference minutes would be available on the Conference website by Wednesday, June 16, 2020 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 2020 Conference Journal must be received by Cynthia Satchel, [csatchel@dscumc.org](mailto:csatchel@dscumc.org), by July 1, 2020. Lambert reminded the Conference of the upcoming Covenant Council meeting.

Lambert moved that all written reports that have appeared in the Pre-Conference materials on the conference website, the reports presented during this 2020 Annual Conference, and the Daily Proceedings with any corrections be adopted. **Approved**

Lambert moved that the 36<sup>th</sup> session stand adjourned. **Approved**

**Conference adjourned at 4:55pm.**