

**Minutes of the 37th Session
Desert Southwest Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 11-13, 2021**

**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**

**LAITY SESSION
Friday, June 11, 2021
9:00-11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting Online**

The Bishop opened the session at 9:01 a.m. He welcomed and offered thanks to the laity for joining virtually. The Bishop shared that this was his last time to greet the laity as the Bishop. He expressed his deep appreciation for all that the laity do supporting the Conference. The Bishop introduced Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader.

Lineberry stated she was honored and humbled to have been chosen to lead the laity for five years. She thanked the laity for their confidence in her. She reminded the laity of the three things she shared that all laity need to be able to do to bring Christ to the unchurched, 1) embrace Southern hospitality, 2) understand our own story of our journey with Christ and be able to share in a non-threatening way; 3) be comfortable praying out loud where and when it is needed. Lineberry discussed the United Methodist Social Principles and read the opening statements about the first principle, The Natural World. She challenged the laity to find and read the Social Principles in the *2016 Book of Discipline* and find one principle to lift up and support. Follow Christ's example: be kind to the lowly, heal the sick, resist evil, feed the hungry, empower the disenfranchised, befriend the outcast, don't judge others, be fair and just, choose good over evil, have an obedient heart, be the light of the world, trust in the goodness of God, be rich of spirit, be faithful to God, settle disputes, turn from sin, be fruitful, nurture relationship with God, do for others with no expectation of payback, save the lost, forgive the sinner, be humble, share what you have, worship God, be compassionate, share the Good News, actively oppose injustice, be a servant to others, love enemies and neighbors. Lineberry thanked the laity for the gift of the last five years.

Regina Walker, Associate Conference Lay Leader, introduced Pastor Gina Pollard, City Square United Methodist Fellowship and Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida. Walker congratulated Pollard on recently becoming a licensed local pastor. Pollard led the laity in a session on "Grief, Loss, Covid, and Life." She shared her personal background and that much of what she was experiencing in her life was related to grief during her childhood. She gave examples of the causes of grief, both tangible and intangible losses. Covid-19 and social-political unrest has brought special circumstances. She responded to comments from the Chat. Pollard gave the laity ideas for a Resilience Building Toolbox. She thanked the laity for the opportunity to share with them.

Judy Martin, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, thanked Pollard for her work with the Laity Session. Martin shared that no nominations have been received for Conference Lay Leader and suggested that the position could be filled by two or more people. Possible names were brought forth, but no nomination was confirmed. Martin moved that the Clergy and Lay Leadership Development Committee fill the Lay Leader role at a later date. Seconded.
 Peggy Rambikur, Prescott UMC, requested clarification.
 Jim Nibbelink, St. Mark's UMC, requested clarification.
 Deb Williams, South District Lay Leader, called the question. Passed
 Martin spoke for the motion. Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION
Friday, June 11, 2021
9:00-11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting Online

The Clergy Session was opened at 9:00 a.m. by Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM), with prayer. Rynders recognized the District Committee on Ministries chairs, BOOM members, BOOM secretary, and registrar of BOOM. She reminded the group that all things stated in the session were in strict confidentiality.

Organizational Matters

Dee Dee Azhikakath, registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, explained the process for voting and being recognized for questions. Sandy Lynn Johnson, 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; (an individual minister of another denomination may be allowed voice upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the session)
- 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**

Azhikakath, registrar of the Board, lead the clergy in a practice vote. Azhikakath 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 2022 Journal.

18. Who constitute:

- a) The Administrative Review Committee (¶636)? (v) **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) **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**
27. Who are elected as associate members? §322 **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*
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)? (v) **Passed**
39. Who are transferred in from other Methodist denominations (§347.2)? (v) **Passed**
41. Who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§416.5)? *For information only*
43. Who are on location?
 a) Who has been granted honorable location (§358.1)? (v) **Passed**
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**
76. What elders (full connection and provisional), associate members, and local pastors are appointed to extension ministries for the ensuing year?
 c) To other valid ministries under the provisions of §344.1d? (v 2/3) **Passed**

Words from the Bishop

Bishop Hoshibata offered words reflecting on his 17 years in the episcopal role and then asked for release from his responsibilities using a service from the *United Methodist Book of Worship*. He requested prayer during this time of transition.

Announcements

The Gathering, February 22-24, 2022, will be at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona.

The Clergy Session adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 1

Friday, June 11, 2021

1:00-5:00 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: Rev. Amy Barron-Gafford (partial), Pastor Ed Brown, Rev. Eric Brown, Rev. Rick Casebolt (partial), Rev. Michael Eaton (partial), Pastor Lana Fong (partial), Pastor Nicholas Grainger, Pastor Kayla Johnson, Pastor Sandy Lee Johnson (partial), Rev. Angela McCarty, Rev. Sharon Pajak, Rev. Carl Peterson (partial), Rev. David Rennick (partial); Retirees: Rev. Ivan Burnett, Rev. Mark Conrad (partial), Rev. Larry Gerber, Rev. Gary Simons, Sr.*

Opening of Conference

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata called to order the 37th Annual Conference session at 1:06 p.m. with a replica of the gavel used by John Wesley and introduced Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary.

Lambert welcomed all to the 37th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. She asked in advance for patience and grace as they navigated worshiping and conducting business through this digital format. She explained the tools that would be used for the meeting. Lambert reminded the Conference that they had much to cover in the limited time. She thanked the members for making Annual Conference a priority.

Lambert stated that all voting members who registered were issued a unique voting ID and gave instructions on how to reach GNTV if voters had issues.

Paul Roadarmel, GNTV, led the Conference through a practice vote.

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**

Lambert moved that the business of the 37th Annual Conference be conducted through the digital room and that those already granted voting privileges with a unique ID would constitute the bar. **Approved**

Introduction of Monitors

Deb Browning, Chair of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, introduced themselves and shared that the Conference would be monitored for inclusivity, gender identity, ethnicity, and age. The monitors for the Conference were Billie Fidlin, Rev. Khalif Smith, Deaconess Maria Hase, Olivares, and Browning.

Opening Worship

Pastor Linda Larsen, Page Community UMC, opened worship reading 1 Peter 3:8-11. The opening song, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” was presented by the Paradise Valley UMC Ignite Worship Band. Pastor Gina Pollard, City Square United Methodist Fellowship and Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida, shared the message titled “Drawn.” Pastor Amy Sue Kalm, White Mountain UMC, offered “The Serenity Prayer” as the closing prayer. The Bishop thanked the worship team.

Episcopal Address

The Bishop began his address, “*Many Gifts, One Spirit,*” stating that we were emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic and this was the 2nd virtual Annual Conference. He shared that history would look back at the last two years and have many things to say about this extraordinary time. He offered we have emerged a different and better church. The Bishop added that we are not yet out of the woods completely, but we have a deep gratitude that we have made it thus far; and a hope as we look to future with optimism, vitality, renewed faith, and a calling by God to forge ahead in ministry and mission for our United Methodist Church. We would not succeed in this mission without a clear understanding that we have been blessed by gifts from God. We are thankful for this giftedness which came in many forms.

- Creativity - Congregations welcomed new pastors last July and learned how to share their love in new and creative ways.
- Technology and learning - Pastors faced empty pews and learned to tape or live stream a worship service.
- New ideas - Faithful worshipers worshiped in front of a computer screen, or by telephone, or with a written manuscript of the sermon received in the mail.
- Courage - Caring persons girded themselves with protective gear as they reached out to those in need.
- Generosity - Many received stimulus checks and willingly gave them to those in need.
- Calling, inspiration, and commitment - Front line workers in grocery stores, hospitals, clinics, schools, churches kept serving others.
- Profound faith in God - Followers of Jesus Christ found ways of coming together virtually in Bible studies, Sunday School, and committee meetings to continue ministry in our communities and world.

The Bishop thanked God for never abandoning us and for being our companion. He anticipated that we would not let these gifts go to waste and expected a firm commitment to use the gifts that God has given us.

One of the gifts the Bishop experienced was the gift of time. By not attending meetings, commuting to the office, and traveling; he was able to church hop all over the Conference, read a book, watch a video, or listen to a podcast. He joined the DSC RACE Coalition 21-Day Racial Equality Habit Building Challenge and shared his learnings from the challenge including a YouTube video of Bryan Stevenson, a civil rights attorney known for his work for justice for the poor and people of color. In a commencement speech Stevenson made to the 2018 graduating class of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, he encouraged all to work to make a positive difference in the world and outlined four steps.

1. Find ways to get in proximity to people who are suffering. By doing so, you will begin a journey toward changing the world.
2. Change the narrative. Change the tune that has been sung for centuries upon centuries. Using a narrative that every one of God’s family is valuable changes the world and makes the world a more just place.

3. Stay hopeful. We cannot change the world if we allow ourselves to wallow in despair. Hopelessness is the enemy of justice. God rejoices when we do not allow ourselves to lose hope.
4. Do things that are inconvenient and uncomfortable. Sometimes following Jesus is far from convenient and far from comfortable. Jesus asks us to push out at the margins, take a risk and reach out to others. Jesus teaches us to love others, even when the other may be difficult to love. As we engage in this love that Jesus himself offered to us, we find ourselves engaging in a new effort to love others, even as we are being loved.

The Bishop felt Jesus would be pleased if we took these four steps that lead us down a path to making the world a place where all persons are loved, where the depth of love is like the profound love of Jesus Christ himself.

First Corinthians reminds us in a powerful way: “There are a variety of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are a variety of services, but the same Lord. And there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (NRSV). The Bishop reminded the Conference that we are called by God to use our gifts. As we move boldly back into the world equipped with new learnings and many gifts, we engage in the life-giving acts of ministry and mission in the world in the name and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, many gifts, one spirit. The Bishop closed the message with prayer.

Consent Calendar

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, explained the Consent Calendar’s purpose. Lambert 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
 - Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation No. 4 – Resolution Relating to HealthFlex Exchange Participant Contribution Levels and Church Payment Rate
 - Conference Personnel Committee Recommendation No. 1 – Changes to Exempt Salary Levels
 - Conference Personnel Committee Recommendation No. 2 – Changes to Non-Exempt Wage Levels
- All Approved**

Humanitarian Relief and Recovery

The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) provided a video demonstrating the humanitarian relief and recover at the core of their work. Founded 80 years ago, their efforts include disaster response, support of refugees and migrants, efforts to increase environmental sustainability, decrease food

insecurity. These ministries serve all in need regardless of nationality, race, faith, or status.

Conference Finance & Administration Overview

Rev. Steve Ziegler, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CFA), referenced the proposed 2022 Conference budget in the preconference materials. Ziegler thanked the local churches for maintaining their giving in 2020 which allowed the Conference to pay one month of each local church's apportionment payments for 2021. Ziegler stated that the budget reflected increases in the Hispanic Ministries program area, as well as for Higher Education & Campus Ministries, but the overall budget proposed for 2022 is the same as 2021. He invited the Conference to review the proposed 2022 budget before the Saturday session. The Bishop thanked Ziegler and expressed gratitude to the Council on Finance & Administration.

Equitable Compensation

David Decker, Chair of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, referred the Conference to the report in the preconference materials. Decker moved the adoption of the recommendation—Base Cash Compensation and Housing—2022.

Approved

Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation

Anne Green, Executive Director of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation, reported that the Foundation has been serving the churches of the Conference since 1986. Their mission is to provide educational, investment, and consulting services to churches, agencies, or boards of the Conference. Green shared how they can assist churches in these services. The Foundation has grown with a new office in Goodyear, Arizona and have added staff.

Nominations/Leadership

Judy Martin, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, stated that the committee met monthly via Zoom and assigned liaisons to each committee to improve connection and service. Martin indicated the Nominations report available in the preconference materials has four distinct lists (Conference Committees, Exempt Committees, District Committees, and Taskforces). She invited people to submit an application to serve on a committee through the conference website. Martin indicated that changes and/or corrections needed to be submitted by Saturday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m. The Clergy and Lay Leadership Development Committee would offer monthly, one-hour virtual sessions hosted by one of the team members. The Committee would review leadership books, talks, and videos. The list of recommendations and schedule would be posted to the Conference website.

Commission on Religion and Race

Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair of Commission on Religion and Race, shared that the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) worked in partnership with Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) to address racism and Cross Culture competency in the Conference. In August of 2020, the DSC RACE Coalition (Reflection, Action, Courageous Dialog, Engagement) was formed and later a support group called Action Team was created. Olivares thanked God and the team for the hard work. The CORR team members are Rev. Javier Olivares (chair), Rev. Khalif Smith, Pastor Sylvia Harris, Julie O'Neal, Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete, Rev. Hannah Bonner, Susan Hebert, Karla Tracy, Deborah Williams, Billie Fidlin (Staff), and Rev. Dan Morley (Cabinet Representative).

The team met with Dr. Grace Pak, consultant from Shalom I.D.E.A. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Antiracism) resulting in a Cross Racial-Cross Cultural (CRCC) Strategy Consultation with the objective

to help us facilitate a process to create an effective and sustainable system/structure to increase cultural competency and support a CRCC ministry for the sake of the mission of making disciples for Christ that is inclusive of all people. For this, an Inclusion & Diversity Task Force was created, with 15 people in key positions of leadership in our Conference and from the four districts. The group identified three goals.

1. Provide learning opportunities to increase Intercultural Competency (ICC) at all levels of the Conference.
2. Increase diversity in leadership at all levels of the Conference.
3. Promote equity through reviewing & adjusting policies, procedures, and practices throughout the Conference with focus on power dynamics.

The training would consist of five modules: Intercultural Competency, Implicit/Unconscious Bias, History of Racism in the United States, Privilege, and I.D.E.A. Discipleship. The modules would build on each other. There would be one module per year starting August 5-7, 2021. Fifteen people would be trained to offer the module to the Conference clergy and laity. In 2022, the second module would begin with fifteen different trainers. The training would:

- Build a Biblical and Theological foundation for the I.D.E.A. work.
- Foster lifelong learning and critical self-reflection throughout the Conference.
- Be a catalyst for recognizing and changing power imbalances.
- Promote personal and institutional accountability.
- Give common language for the Conference and church.

Olivares presented the *Resolution from the Commission on Religion and Race* and moved the resolution be approved. Seconded.

Mark Hrabe, St. Mark's UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Laura Land, First UMC-Tempe, moved to amend the resolution to add *persons with disabilities* after LGBTQIA+. Seconded.

Passed

Deaconess Maria Hase, Dayspring UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Dot Saunders-Perez, appointed to school, requested clarification. Olivares spoke for the resolution.

Approved

Rev. Dan Morley, North District Superintendent, reported on the recent fire near Potosi Pines Camp that resulted in evacuation of the camp. Morley prayed for all those affected by the fire.

Ethnic Local Church Concerns

Rev. Khalif Smith, Chair of Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC), reported that the ethnic disparity revealed due to the pandemic, as well as the systemic racism brought to light in the wake of the George Floyd killing, inspired the collaborative ministries of Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) and the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR). The ELCC contacted and checked in with ethnic churches throughout the annual conference assisting with transportation, food, clothing, and storage needs. The committee also collaborated with CORR to plan a strategy for providing critical racial equity training to the leadership and local churches of the annual conference. Smith shared that the DSC RACE Coalition provided webinars, educational materials, worship materials, online resources, and open forum conversations. They hosted Frances Causey, Miguel De la Torre, and Rudy Rasmus and provided several other projects throughout the year. The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) material added to the 21-Day Challenge material included an interview with the Bishop. The coalition offered a 21-Day Race and Equity Challenge to the Conference and facilitated workshops at The Gathering and RIM (Residency in Ministry).

Future Planning includes:

- ELCC work with CORR to assist the AC by creating Inclusion and Diversity training opportunities.
- The DSC RACE Coalition's creation of an Action Team - those interested in joining the ministry of racial equity, equality, and justice.
- ELCC planned meetings with the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee (WJIECC).

The DSC RACE Coalition team consisted of Rev. Khalif Smith (Co-chair), Rev. Javier Olivares (Co-chair), Rev. Kimberly Scott, Pastor Diamond Pate, Rev. Efrain Zavala, Pastor Christopher Wurpts, Julie O'Neal, Rev. Timote Piukala, Christina Dillabough, Deb Williams, Billie Fidlin (Staff), and Rev. Dan Morley (Cabinet Representative).

Rev. Kimberly Scott, Crossroads UMC, shared about Rev. Chenda Lee from the Virginia Annual Conference who received anonymous letters criticizing her appearance and Lee's "Do No Harm" initiative which asked for several measures to combat racism:

1. Publicly acknowledge the harm churches are perpetuating against clergy of color by highlighting clergy stories as a call to repentance and accountability. In the same manner that clergy are held accountable for abusing their pastoral authority, congregations should also be held accountable for the harm inflicted on pastoral leaders.
2. Conduct an annual anti-racist and diversity training for members of the cabinet. Many of Lee's colleagues of color have shared stories of the lack of support they receive from their District Superintendents. Often, clergy are consecutively reappointed to churches to their emotional, mental, and even physical detriment. Most clergy simply want to use their gifts for ministry, not climb the "corporate" church ladder. Pastors are called to be servant leaders among the people of God, not to be targets for assault and abuse.
3. Establish a Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministry Task Force to lead mandatory anti-racist and diversity training workshops for local churches receiving cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments immediately and a plan to offer workshops in all local congregations by 2024. This task force should include both clergy and lay members. Diversity trainings should not only be the responsibility of the clergy. It is time to bridge the gap so that the laity is included as part of this important work.
4. Create a Conference staff position that focuses on diversity, inclusion, and equity training for the Annual Conference. Diversity and inclusion training is becoming the norm in many institutions, yet the Church lags in this trend. This can no longer be the case because the lives of persons of color are at risk daily. This position should work closely with the Cross-Cultural Task Force in conducting mandatory training for local churches and districts. Additionally, this office will hold the Conference accountable to its commitment of dismantling white supremacy and creating healthy work environments for all clergy.

Scott reported a response from the Bishop to Lee, which included sharing the Conference commitment to meet or exceed the requests as well as gratitude for the partnership in ministry efforts to "Do No Harm." Scott invited the Conference to sign the petition initiated by Lee.

Appointments – North District

The Bishop, Rev. Dan Morley (District Superintendent), and Phyllis Murray (Lay Leader) announced the appointments for the North District for 2021-2022. The Bishop appointed Morley as the North District

Superintendent. When appointments were completed, Murray prayed over the appointments.

Covenant Council

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Chair of the Covenant Council, stated that Covenant Council was like a local Church Council. Membership is made up of the chairs or representatives of working groups within the Conference. Hurlbert reported that the Covenant Council had not met for several years because other groups did the work and the current Conference Rules for the Covenant Council membership had become outdated. Hurlbert directed the Conference to the Covenant Council Rule Change in the preconference materials. The rule change articulated the mission and vision roles of the Covenant Council, as well as the membership structure of the council itself for representation, diversity, and nimbleness. He added the Council discussed the details in this rule change over several months. They unanimously approved forwarding it to the Annual Conference, believing that it is the best way for the Council to move forward in assisting the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference. Hurlbert moved acceptance of the rule change as it appears in the preconference materials. Seconded.

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, moved to amend the resolution to add *who is not Conference Staff after one representative from the ministry areas listed below*. Seconded.

Rev. Jimelvia Pettiford Martin, North Alabama Conference, called the question on the amendment. Seconded.

Passed

The Conference voted on the Tang amendment.

Passed

Rev. Dr. Kristen Hansen, Desert Foothills UMC, moved to amend the resolution to include the Health and Caring Committee in the membership. Seconded.

Passed

Joel Huffman, St. Matthew UMC, spoke against the rule change.

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, spoke for the rule change.

Kelly Deyoe, St. Mark's UMC, called the question. Seconded.

Passed

Hurlbert made a brief synopsis of the rule change.

Approved

Billie Fidlin, Director of Outreach and Justice Ministries, offered a prayer for the many who were not sheltered from the heat and the displaced persons on the streets trying to survive.

Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, offered a prayer for those involved in the Miami-Globe fires.

General Board of Church and Society

The Global Board of Church and Society provided a video highlighting five program priorities to live out personal and social holiness. These include healing of the planet so all can share in creation, advocating for healthcare for all, working for legislation to welcome the immigrant, promote peace with justice, and a just economy so all may thrive. Racial justice guides these priorities.

General Commission on United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men provided a video featuring a history of United Methodist Men which began in 1908. United Methodist Men has continued to be in ministry challenged by restrictions of the pandemic. United Methodist Men leaders and National staff gathered virtually each week to pray for each other. Bishops and conference leaders of United Methodist Men joined for national days of prayer for the frontline workers. In the aftermath of George Floyd's death, days of prayer were held in jurisdictions to pray for justice and unity. New Year's Eve marked the first virtual Watch Night prayer service. Men in

the local churches continued to meet virtually, and mission and outreach continued.

United Methodist Women Response to the Challenges of Our Times

The United Methodist Women provided a video featuring the work of United Methodist Women and how they have responded to the global pandemic. They continue to foster spiritual growth, develop leaders, and advocate for justice by modifying outreach and programs. The video demonstrated ways United Methodist Women continued to put faith, hope, and love in to action.

General Conference/Western Jurisdiction Delegation

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, head of the Desert Southwest Conference delegation, presented his report. The members of the Desert Southwest Conference delegation are Clergy: Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Rev. Anthony Tang, Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Rev. Beth Rambikur, and Rev. Mary Klaehn; Laity: Paul Gómez, Julie O’Neal, Trinity Donovan, Carla Whitmire, and Jess Brown. The reserves are Rev. Javier Olivares, Rev. Timote Piukala, Matthew Harris, and Marjie Hrabe. There have been two resignations: Rev. Gary Kennedy and Glenda Hill. Hurlbert detailed the delegates’ process for preparing for the 2020 General Conference before the pandemic, which included a review of the General Conference legislation with help from others with expertise or special interest in an area of the legislation. This work will continue beginning in 2022.

Hurlbert provided a timeline for General Conference/Western Jurisdictional Conference events.

- July 17, 2021 – Special Jurisdictional Conference session to approve Bishop Hoshibata’s retirement, receive reports from five jurisdictional teams, and determine the number of episcopal leaders in the Western Jurisdiction.
- September 30, 2021 – Bishop Hoshibata enters retirement (pending approval of the Jurisdiction).
- October 1, 2021 – Bishop Grant Hagiya will be assigned to Desert Southwest Conference as interim bishop. The Desert Southwest Conference will not be absorbed by the California Pacific Annual Conference. Bishop Hagiya will supervise two separate conferences.
- January 2022 – Conference delegation restarts legislative preparation.
- August 30, 2022 – General Conference is scheduled to start in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- November 2022 – Jurisdictional Conferences are scheduled (with the election of new bishops).
- January 1, 2023 – Non-interim bishop begins assignment in Desert Southwest Conference.

Hurlbert added that there was still the possibility of changes to the schedule based on vaccines, virus, visa, or other issues and asked for prayers for the delegates and the worldwide church. He invited the Conference to contact members of the delegation if they would like to help or to learn more about the church on the global level.

Vote to Receive Episcopal Nominations

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, reminded the Conference that at the 2020 Annual Conference it was decided to receive episcopal nominations, however Covid-19 has led to many postponements. Lambert moved to suspend the rule for receiving nominations this year.

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, Chandler UMC, requested clarification.

Approved

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, offered a prayer for Rev. Javier Olivares on his birthday.

Lambert explained that according to Conference Rules (A.II.L.1.a) and in accordance with *The Book of*

Discipline (§416), the Conference needed to ballot on a question related to Episcopal elections to prepare for the 2022 Annual Conference. Lambert asked, “Shall the Conference Secretary distribute forms for the nomination of Episcopal candidates to the lay and clergy members of next year's Annual Conference, provided there is to be an Episcopal election?” **Approved**

Evangelism and Church Revitalization

The General Board of Global Ministries provided a video that offered ideas for evangelism and church revitalization.

Appointments: East District

The Bishop, Rev. N. Susan Brims (District Superintendent), and Trinity Donovan (Lay Leader) announced the appointments for 2021-2022. The Bishop appointed Brims as East District Superintendent and invited her to serve as the Dean of the Cabinet. When appointments were completed, Donovan prayed over the appointments.

Committee on Episcopacy

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, member of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, reported Bishop Hoshibata intends to retire beginning October 1, 2021. The Bishop has been the Conference's bishop for nine years after having previously served Oregon Idaho Annual Conference. He was the first native-born Hawaiian bishop to be elected. During the last five years of his service, the Bishop has led the Conference during one of the most turbulent seasons in the history of The United Methodist Church. In the uncertainty after the 2016 General Conference, the Bishop led us in holy huddles in preparation for a way forward. In the midst of the devastation of the 2019 Special Session, he stayed the course of inclusion. In the wake of racially motivated injustice, mass shootings, and other intolerable acts, he called the Conference to be proactive in building a more just society and world. In the midst of the global pandemic which delayed his scheduled retirement, he led our Conference with patience and ingenuity, emboldening our churches to take the next steps for themselves. On behalf of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy and the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, Hurlbert offered gratitude for the Bishop's leadership. In lieu of a gift to Bishop Hoshibata, the Committee on Episcopacy requested donations to the Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata scholarship fund at the Claremont School of Theology. Hurlbert extended thanks for the Bishop and his family. Hurlbert offered prayers for God's blessing on the Hoshibatas as they begin their retired relationship. The Bishop thanked the Conference for their gift of scholarships for those entering ministry.

Bishop's Award

The Bishop presented Randy Bowman with the Bishop's Award for 2021, an award for outstanding leadership by a lay person of the Desert Southwest Conference. The award was presented in a Zoom meeting with his family, friends, and colleagues. He shared that Bowman impacted the Bishop's life and ministry in many ways and served with distinction as the Conference Treasurer. Bowman has oversight for apportionments, other income, and investments, ensuring growth and vitality. Bowman serves on the Covid-19 Response Team, adding wisdom and advice. He tends to the stewardship and financial needs of all the churches of the Conference like a shepherd, giving his best in all he does. Churches and clergy expressed deep appreciation for the giving of his time and energy. Bowman cares for the Conference Center, always looking for and taking care of any damage and trash without complaint and with a generous heart. He demonstrates the true meaning of teamwork, serving on numerous committees with a willing spirit and pinpoint accuracy. He is an active partner in his spouse's work as a pastor and superintendent and has been active at Dove of the Desert UMC and First UMC-Phoenix. Bowman

cherishes his family, demonstrated especially in caring for his ailing father and mother. He works long hours ensuring that every phone call and email is addressed.

Bowman expressed a few words of thanks. Rev. Dave McPherson, Director of New Faith and Vital Faith, prayed for Bowman and his service to the Conference.

Memorial Service

The Bishop opened the Memorial Service by reading the poem “Afterglow” by Helen Lowrie Marshall. Pastor Linda Stanley, Zion UMC, read Lamentations 3:22-26 and 31-33. Those remembered in a prepared video included Rev. Kelly Bender, Pastor Fred Jameson, Rev. Lori Martin Dewitt, Pastor James (Jimmy) Nelson, Jr., Rev. J. Michael Pearson, Rev. F. Gary Prichard, Rev. Scott Ritchey, Pastor Evelyn Roberts, Rev. Harry Ryan, Mrs. Shirley Strivings, Rev. William (Bill) Usher, Mr. Robert (Bob) Wagner, and Mr. Russel C. Wells. The Bishop offered a prayer following the end of the video.

Pastor Kim Ogle, St. Mark’s UMC, offered a prayer. Session adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION 2
Saturday, June 12, 2021
9:00-11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting Online

Call to Order

The Bishop called the session to order at 9:02 a.m. using chimes that were given to the Conference by Laurie Lineberry, Conference Lay Leader.

Announcement

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, informed the Conference that the *Resolution to Address Conflict of Interest and Separation of Powers* had been withdrawn following the decisive approval of the Covenant Council Rule Change.

Worship

Worship began with “There Will Be a Day” performed by the Paradise Valley UMC Ignite Worship Band and written by Jeremy Camp. Pastor Gary Williams, Journey United Methodist Fellowship-Maricopa, read Matthew 5:23-34. A homily titled, “Offering” was shared by Pastor Daniel Gómez, Velda Rose UMC.

Monitor’s Report

Deb Browning, Chair of Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, shared the following report.

Laity Session Friday Morning

Except for the Bishop, all presenters were females, middle age or older, and either White or African American. *

Clergy Session Friday Morning

A gender balance and inclusive language were reported. White and Asian American, Hispanic Latino ethnicities were represented among those speaking and candidates for provisional and ordination.

There was participation by two young adults who are part of the Board of Ordained Ministry

(BOOM).

Plenary Session Friday Afternoon

An equal number of females and males spoke and positive, inclusive language was used. A balance of clergy and lay members was seen onscreen. White, African American, and Asian American, and one Hispanic Latino were represented. No Pacific Islanders, Native Americans or young adults spoke. Worship was led primarily by clergy, as were prayers offered during voting.

Differently Abled Issues

Difficulty with closed captioning using Chromebook was reported. GNTV Media reports the closed captioning is automatic through the Zoom application.

The time window between a ballot opening and closing was too short. To write in the forms was a slow process. For older people, those with sight issues, or those for whom English is a second language, it was difficult to work fast enough to get into the legislation. On more than one occasion it was necessary for individuals to log out and back into GNTV Media to load a ballot, which also takes additional time.

*Unless a broader population of laity have the ability and desire to volunteer significant time to the Conference, lay leadership will most likely continue to be reflected by this demographic.

Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Superintendent, offered a prayer for Pastor Kayla Johnson, San Pedro Valley UMC, who entered the hospital with a difficult pregnancy.

Voting Procedure and Practice

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, reviewed the voting procedure and led the Conference in practice ballots.

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Christ Church UM, requested information. Marilee Miller Clark, Conference Parliamentarian, referred to Robert's Rules and stated the preamble is always considered last.

Legislation

Resolution to Address Term Limits

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, presented the *Resolution to Address Term Limits*. Tang moved the resolution be approved. Seconded.

Deb Browning, Desert Foothills UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, requested clarification.

Tang provided a brief synopsis of the resolution.

Rev. George Cushman, retired, raised a point of order after the voting began but prior to the results being reported. The Bishop requested clarification by the Parliamentarian. Because a point of order takes precedence, it needed to be addressed. Cushman stated that this was really a rule change, although it was phrased as a resolution and did not meet the February 28, 2021 deadline. Lambert stated it was submitted as a resolution by the April 30 deadline and as she was only allowed to provide formatting edits, it was her responsibility to provide the resolution as submitted for consideration by the Conference. Following sidebar discussions with Clark and Lambert, the Bishop ruled the results would not be announced because the submission did not meet the requirements for a rule change. Although it was called a resolution, it did not arrive prior to the February 28 deadline. Second, the rule change must go to the Rules Committee for a vetting process before it comes to the Conference.

The Bishop ruled that the resolution be sent to the Rules Committee as a rule change and that the Rules Committee would conduct the standard vetting process and then decide how to proceed. He stated that the Rules Committee could receive the recommendation for adoption and implementation in the 2022 Annual Conference session as a rule change. If the Rules Committee does not believe it should be brought forward in 2022, it could be resubmitted by the February 28, 2022 deadline. He clarified that in either case, the provisions of the rule change could still be implemented by the proposed July 1, 2022 deadline.

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, raised concerns that the Nominations Report lists the Rules Committee but has no members. The Bishop stated the Clergy and Lay Leadership Development would continue to work to fill the committee, which had two members. Judy Martin, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, added that they were in the process of filling positions on the Rules Committee.

Rev. Tom Mattick, Disaster Response Coordinator, shared that the Conference had received an invitation from the Bishop of the Louisiana Conference to deploy teams to assist with flooding in the area, and that teams would be deployed in July. Mattick offered a prayer for the teams and for those affected in Louisiana.

Rev. Efrain Zavala, Prescott UMC, offered thoughts on his call to ministry. He retold the story of a rabbi who passed a well. The rabbi observed the consistent effect of water drops falling on a rock, eventually changing the shape of the rock. In a similar manner, Zavala shared his hope of being transformed by Jesus so that that he could make a difference in other people's lives.

Resolution to Address Conference Culture

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, presented the *Resolution to Address Conference Culture*. Tang moved the resolution be approved. Seconded.

Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Desert Foothills UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Deb Browning, Desert Foothills UMC, spoke for the resolution.

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, moved to amend the resolution to add *chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry* after *chairperson of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race*. Seconded.

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, spoke for the amendment.

Wendy Kreider, St. Francis of the Foothills UMC, spoke for the amendment.

Passed

Rev. David Devereaux, Desert Spring UMC, moved the resolution be deferred to the Clergy Session of Annual Conference. Seconded.

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Christ Church UM, requested clarification.

Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Catalina UMC, spoke against the motion.

Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Desert Foothills UMC, requested clarification.

Kimulet Winzer, Wesley UMC, spoke against the motion.

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

Squirrel Lovelady, Catalina UMC, spoke against the motion.

Rev. Lois Hedden, retired, spoke for the motion.

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

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

Passed

Devereaux spoke to the motion.

Not Passed

Pastor Noni Dye, Shepherd of Pines UMC, requested an amendment to the resolution to add *a representative of the local pastors* after *chairperson on the Board of Ordained Ministry*. Seconded.

Rev. Lois Hedden, retired, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Willcox UMC, spoke for the amendment.

Rev. Judy Borato, retired, spoke for the amendment.

Passed

Rev. Jamie Booth, First UMC-Tempe and Wesley Foundation at Arizona State University, reflected on her call to ministry, stating she became United Methodist by circumstance, but intentionally remained. Booth shared how her call had unfolded through her life experiences.

Global Health

The General Board of Global Ministries highlighted the United Methodist response to global health issues in a brief video.

Missionaries of General Board of Global Ministries

The work of missionaries in The United Methodist Church was highlighted in another video provided by the General Board of Global Ministries.

Music Presentation

The Conference watched a music video, “Perfect Peace,” performed by Rachel Delgado, Rabel Aviles, and EJ Delgado, written by Laura Story.

Pastor Robin Lee, Hope UMC, offered a prayer giving thanks for all that God has given us. Session adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 3

Saturday, June 12, 2021

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Online

Call to Order

The Bishop called the session to order at 1:01 p.m. Pastor Kimber Govett, Sunrise UMC, offered a time of centering acknowledging each person’s unique gifts as described in 1 Corinthians. Govett, with her guitar, played and sang a part of the song “We Are Many Parts” by Marty Haugen. She invited the Conference to explore new gifts to share with others.

Bishop’s Award

The Bishop presented Marilee Miller Clark with the Bishop’s Award for 2021, an award for outstanding service by a lay person of the Desert Southwest Conference. In a previously recorded Zoom meeting with her family, friends, and colleagues, Bishop Hoshibata offered thanks for the blessing of Clark for him, as well as the Conference. She has offered her expertise, leadership, and faith in many ways to the Conference. Clark has served as the Parliamentarian at Annual Conference, advising the Conference in the matters of Robert’s Rules and Conference Rules. She helps in interpretation of the *Book of Discipline* and how it applies to the work of the Conference. The Bishop observed that Clark has provided calm and steady guidance as Conference Chancellor. Clark also has assisted congregations in legal issues helping to protect and defend the churches and the clergy in challenging moments. Clark has assisted the Conference in the defense of The United Methodist Church Trust Clause. The Bishop congratulated Clark, who will be serving on the Executive Committee of the United Methodist Chancellors’ group, adding that she currently serves as a member of Covid-19 Response Team. Clark is an active participant at Paradise

Valley UMC, sings in the choir, and has been a member there for 40 years. The Bishop also shared that Clark was a loving spouse and parent, a patron of the arts, and a strong supporter of her family and their adventures together.

Clark offered a few words of thanks. Rev. Dave Summer, Paradise Valley UMC, prayed for Clark and her service to the Conference.

Appointments: South District

The Bishop, Rev. Matt Ashley (District Superintendent), and Deborah Williams (Lay Leader) announced the appointments for 2021-2022. The Bishop appointed Ashley as South District Superintendent. When appointments were completed, Williams prayed over the appointments.

Dream Team Presentation

Regina Walker, Associate Conference Lay Leader, stated that the purpose of the team was to dream about what a new Methodist movement could be if future General Conference actions were to result in an opportunity for a new denomination to be born. Interest in the team was initially overwhelming as 96 people signed up to be a part of the dreaming. At the time of the report, the team had five active members: Rev. David Devereaux, Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Rev. Sharon Ragland, Rev. Jonathan Hall, and herself. The initial report was a brochure offered at the Special Session of Annual Conference in the fall of 2019. The team participated in a three-day Western Jurisdiction Fresh Summit in Los Angeles, California in November 2019. At the end of the Summit, a diverse “Team of Ten” (including Escobedo-Frank and Walker) were elected to build upon the work of the Summit and envision a possible future for the Western Jurisdiction and for the denomination. This team met weekly to continue the work, submitting a final report to the Executive Committee of the Western Jurisdiction Mission Cabinet.

Escobedo-Frank shared that their work was an offering to the Conference to be prepared for possible changes in The United Methodist Church and an invitation to the Conference to be involved in dreaming of something better. She stated that The United Methodist Church was on the precipice of transformation and there were other groups dreaming as well. She added that the Team of Ten and the Conference Dream Team were forwarding the reports to the Western Jurisdiction delegates and Mission Cabinet. Escobedo-Frank asked the members to receive the report as a “Dream for a Future with Hope, Courage, and the Ability to be the Church in a New Day.”

The team members shared their four priorities for a new Methodist movement.

Rev. David Devereaux, Desert Spring UMC, presented.

Objective 1: A fully inclusive church, encouraging full participation of all Methodist Christians, regardless of race, gender identification, orientation, culture, or socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, culture, disability, or citizenship status.

Rationale:

- Since the earliest days of the United Methodist Church (and its predecessor denominations), we have struggled for full inclusion of all people. Throughout our history, we have disagreed, even to the point of splitting our denomination.
- Discrimination has been woven into the fabric of our current denominational systems, causing pain for many people.
- Our discriminatory practices have also resulted in the UMC being deemed irrelevant by many people, threatening our viability as a denomination moving forward.

- The Dream Team recommends an intersectionality approach to inclusivity that realizes the uniqueness of every person.

Strategy:

- Removal of all discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline.
- Local church and local ministry leadership to reflect diversity.
- Conference leadership to reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the territory of our Conference. (See appendix 1. for resources)
- Create processes that lead to mutual relationships and walking alongside one another in ministry.

Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Catalina UMC, presented.

Objective 2: The local church becomes the primary hub for mission and ministry. The Annual Conference becomes supportive of local church and local mission and ministry.

Rationale:

- Local church and local ministries are the primary place where discipleship occurs and where mission and ministry are developed. In the local context, people are drawn into the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Changing to a local church-centered structure would better support local ministries and congregations.
- Annual Conferences can connect local churches with resources and with UMC mission around the world.

Strategy:

Annual Conference focuses on resourcing local church mission and ministry by...

- Assisting in connecting churches with common mission and ministry objectives
- Training and equipping clergy in church growth, leadership, and preaching strategies to maximize likelihood of successful local church ministry.
- Annual conference prioritizes resourcing and training for local congregations. (see appendix 2 for training example)
- Align measurement matrixes with local/church mission and ministry objectives.
- 10% apportionment figure for Annual and General Conference support, requiring a streamlined Annual Conference structure and staff.

Rev. Jonathan Hall, Mountain View UMC, presented.

Objective 3: Adapt Episcopal appointment process.

Rationale:

With the local church as the primary unit of mission and ministry, changes to how appointments are made becomes necessary. In addition, clergy trust and morale are often connected to the appointive process. Adapting the collaborative process is needed to accomplish the second objective (above) while addressing clergy trust and morale.

Strategy:

- Work with Conference Episcopacy Committee to assure appointment of Bishops open to collaborative appointment making.
- Posting Appointment opportunities allowing clergy to express interest
- Creating annual cluster listening sessions during which clergy share appointment ideas.
- Provide greater appointment protection for Local Pastors.

Rev. Sharon Ragland, St. Mark's UMC, presented.

Objective 4: Change the role and number of District Superintendents.

Rationale:

- Our current model for District Superintendents is designed with the Conference as the primary unit for mission and ministry. As such, Superintendents must focus upon the needs of the Conference in their supervision of churches.
- Our current model of Supervision is costly.
- Our current model of Supervision removes effective pastors from serving local congregations.
- Those who serve as District Superintendents report that their experience made them better pastors upon returning to the local church.
- The new model would allow many people to gain experience as both superintendents and local church pastors, strengthening them for ministry in both areas.

Strategy:

- Create cluster Superintendents, replacing District Superintendents.
- The number of Superintendents increases from 4 to 12.
- Each Superintendent works 2/3 time in a local church and 1/3 time as a Cluster Superintendent.
- Cluster Superintendents represent the needs and goals of the clergy and local churches in their cluster during the Appointment process.
- Cluster Superintendents serve a four-year Superintendent term.

Appendix

1. To support achieving our goals we are proposing that we use three charts as a data point: (These charts were used by The Inclusion & Diversity Force this year to support their presentation to the CRCC ministry in the DSW to be lived into for the next 3-5 years.)
 - a. Racial and Ethnic demographics of the region that falls within the borders of our Conference.
 - b. Racial and ethnic demographics of the members of the DSW Annual Conference.
 - c. Racial and ethnic demographics of the members of the Cabinet, Clergy, Laity, and Conference boards and agencies.
 - d. We have achieved our goal when all three charts match.
2. The Conference supports the administering and training of clergy, laity and local church staff in the use of the Intercultural Diversity Inventory (IDI) to assess and develop knowledge, skills, and leadership capacity.

Ragland thanked the Conference for allowing the Dream Team to share their four priorities for a new Methodist movement. Walker added that they offered the report in preparation for “Our Way Forward” after Annual Conference, envisioning the next steps to include many conversations. The Connectional Ministries Team, Laity and Clergy Team, the Inclusion and Diversity Taskforce members, and the Western Jurisdiction Stakeholders will need to engage in refining the dreams with the hope that the Desert Southwest Conference would be well prepared for whatever the future brings.

Bishop’s Award

The Bishop presented Julie O’Neal with the Bishop’s Award for 2021, an award for outstanding service by a lay person of the Desert Southwest Conference. In a previously recorded Zoom meeting with her family, friends, and colleagues. The Bishop shared that O’Neal was there when he first arrived at the Conference Center in 2012 and they have continued to worked together. O’Neal is a joy to work with and an extraordinary person who has given generously of her time, talents, wisdom, and faith. She has supported the Bishop’s ministry with loyalty. She defines what it means to multitask, while working with excellence. She has an uncanny ability to look ahead and help others to see things they might not have

anticipated. O’Neal has a deep faith in Jesus Christ and continues to live out that faith in her life. She serves on several important teams offering faith. Clergy and laity appreciate who she is, as evident by her election as the Lay Delegate to General Conference. The Bishop gave credit to O’Neal’s parents, Rev. Jim and Chris O’Neal, for their good work in raising a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Bishop thanked O’Neal for her grace-filled support of him and the Episcopal office. She is an active member of Dayspring UMC participating in worship, serving on the local Church and Society Committee, co-facilitating studies on white privilege, and leading the congregation in a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge. For the DSC Race Coalition, O’Neal helped create five Asian American and Pacific Islanders heritage moments for May 2021. She offered her faith, experience, and passion for social justice by telling her own story of racism and her courageous response. O’Neal has overcome moments of discrimination by turning them into opportunities for learning; She demonstrates that the church and community can become places of hope, not despair; places of love and acceptance instead of hatred and discrimination. The Bishop shared that O’Neal also has a love for the created world and helps other learn and care for God’s creation. She served as the Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society in Washington D.C., supporting ministry of the Global Church in the promotion of social justice. The Bishop first became aware of O’Neal in 1996 when he served on a national search committee for the Church’s general boards’ leadership. Her name was brought forward as one of the best, brightest, young, ethnic leaders. He has since had the pleasure to call her his Executive Assistant, his partner in the ministry of the Episcopal office and his friend.

O’Neal thanked the Bishop for the joy of working with him. She stated it was a privilege and honor to be among those who have received the Bishop’s Award. Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring UMC, prayed for O’Neal, expressing gratitude from The United Methodist Church, the Conference, and the local church for the lives she has touched.

Kathy Schock, First UMC-Tempe, shared concerns about violence against ethnic communities and then prayed for those on the fringes, and for those affected by ethnic violence. Shock led a prayer protecting diverse and vulnerable groups.

Legislation

Resolution to Address Conference Culture

The Conference continued discussion.

Kimulet Winzer, Wesley UMC, moved to amend the resolution to remove item number four from the *Resolution*. Seconded.

Rev. Stuart Salvaterra, St. Mark’s UMC, spoke against the amendment.

Jennifer Hammond, First UMC-Eloy, spoke against the amendment.

Joshua Smith, St. Mark’s UMC, spoke against the amendment.

Rev. Pam Wagner, retired, spoke for the amendment.

Not Passed

Rev. Ron Bartlow, First UMC-Winslow, spoke for the resolution.

Rev. Beth Rambikur, Christ Church UM, called the question. Seconded

Passed

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, offered a brief synopsis of the resolution.

Approved

Humanitarian Relief and Recovery

The General Board of Global Ministries reported on the humanitarian relief and recovery, which is at the core of their work through a video. Founded 80 years ago, their efforts include disaster response, support of refugees and migrants, increasing environmental sustainability, and decreasing food insecurity. They serve all in need regardless of nationality, race, faith, or status.

Music Presentation

The Conference watched a music video, “Awaken,” performed by Rachel Delgado, Rabel Aviles, and EJ Delgado, written by Jeremy Bose, Sarah Hart, and Sarah Reeves.

Rev. Ann Lyter, Scottsdale UMC, offered a prayer for the resolutions before the Conference.

UMOM New Day Center

Jackson Fonder, CEO of UMOM New Day Center, thanked the Bishop for the invitation. He stated that the deep partnership between UMOM and the Desert Southwest Conference dates back almost 60 years. Expanded to largest emergency shelter in Arizona, UMOM New Day Center serves 16,000 people to help end homelessness. Three things they are working on: 1) making UMOM a great place to work; 2) equity, diversity, and inclusion; 3) focusing on client support and ways to eliminate the waitlist. He expressed appreciation for Pastor Patricia Magyar and her work at UMOM. Fonder asked the members of the Conference to help provide welcome basket to families upon arrival at UMOM, move out kits, and financial donations. Fonder thanked the Conference for their support of UMOM.

Appointments: West District

The Bishop thanked Rev. Nancy Cushman for serving as West District Superintendent. Cushman thanked the Bishop for the honor and privilege to serve the West District and for being her bishop, pastor, mentor, and coach. She shared a story from Exodus 17. She thanked those who partnered with her and supported her in her ministry. Jeannie Ward, District Lay Leader, offered a prayer for Cushman. The Bishop, Rev. Javier Olivares (District Superintendent), and Ward announced the appointments for 2021-2022. The Bishop appointed Olivares as West District Superintendent. When appointments were completed, Ward prayed over the appointments.

Presentation of Local Pastor Licenses

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the persons receiving a local pastor license for the first time. They included Lauren Tupper Coffman, Daisy Saulai Ho, Kevin Kristian Lester, and Regina Deloris Pollard. She gave thanks for each of them. Delia Gómez, Velda Rose UMC, offered a blessing for their ministries.

Conference Finance & Administration

Rev. Steve Ziegler, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CFA), referenced the proposed 2022 Conference budget in the preconference materials. Ziegler moved the adoption of the Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation No. 1–2022 Apportioned Conference Budget.

Approved

Regina Walker, Associate Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer for open hearts and open minds.

Recognition of Retirees

Rev. Louie Lyon, Chair of Annual Conference Retirees Group (ARMS), congratulated those retiring and invited them to join the ARMS group. The Conference was encouraged to watch a video featuring the retirees on the Conference website. The retirees for 2021 were Rev. Rosemary Anderson, Rev. Geraldine Bast (2020), Rev. Patricia Blackwood, Rev. Nancy Cushman, Rev. John Fairchild, Rev. Eun Jin La, Pastor Bob Lind, Rev. Oskar Ontanyon, Rev. Sharon Ragland, Pastor Linda Stanley, and Rev. Joyce Steiner.

Conference Nominations

Judy Martin, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, recognized those serving on the upcoming Clergy and Lay Leadership Development committee. She thanked those leaving the committee: Sheryl McKinney, Julie Yarrow, Phyllis Murray, Laurie Lineberry, and Rev. Nancy Cushman. Martin referenced the Nominations List in the preconference materials.

The Bishop asked the Conference to vote to consider the Lay Leader nomination separately from the rest of the Nominations report. **Passed**

Martin moved that the Nominations report be accepted. Seconded.
Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC, requested clarification.
Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Desert Foothills UMC, requested clarification. **Approved**

Martin discussed the motion from the Laity session on Friday, June 11, 2021, to allow Clergy and Lay Leadership Development to fill the position of the Conference Lay Leader at a later date. She moved that the Conference approve the action of the Laity Session. Seconded.
Rev. Beth Rambikur, Christ Church UM, requested clarification based on *The Book of Discipline* ¶607.9. Rambikur spoke against the motion.
Rev. Jimelvia Pettiford Martin, North Alabama Conference, requested clarification.
Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent, spoke for the motion.
Jayne Knoche, Sierra Vista UMC, requested clarification.
Deb Browning, Desert Foothills UMC, spoke for the motion.
Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, called the question. Seconded. **Passed**
Martin asked that anyone interested in the Lay Leader position or any other vacancies contact her or someone on Clergy and Lay Leadership Development. **Approved**

Regina Walker, Associate Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer for the outgoing Conference Lay Leader, Laurie Lineberry.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Historic Questions

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented those to be commissioned, ordained, and transferring membership to the Conference. Elder Full Member: Jamie L. Booth and Efrain Zavala; Recognized Ordination (transferring membership): Oskar Ontanyon. The Bishop asked the Historic Questions of Jamie Booth, Oskar Ontanyon, Efrain Zavala. Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Chair of the Order of Elders, offered a prayer for the ordinands. Rynders invited the Conference to the Ordination Service on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

Legislation

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, moved suspension of the Conference Rules to re-open the vote on the *Resolution to Address Term Limits*. Seconded. The Parliamentarian ruled that a motion to suspend the Conference Rules is not debatable. A 2/3 vote is necessary for this. **Passed**

Resolution to Address Term Limits

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, presented the *Resolution to Address Term Limits*. Tang moved the resolution be approved. Seconded. **Approved**

Claremont School of Theology

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, President of Claremont School of Theology (CST), provided some updates with the Conference. The school, dating back to 1885, is located in Claremont, California and Salem, Oregon. Despite financial challenges, the school has continued to innovate and develop new strategies for success. They welcomed two new faculty in the spring and will welcome two more in the fall. Operating costs were reduced by sharing space with other institutions. Kuan shared that Claremont was the first seminary to work toward an endowed chair in Pacific and Asian American Theology. The student body was more diverse than ever, fully LGBTQIA inclusive, and nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the students were enrolled in hybrid-online programs. Kuan invited the Conference to continue the journey with Claremont School of Theology.

Annual Conference Mission Project

Rev. Jamie Booth, Wesley Foundation-Arizona State University, thanked the Conference for the missional giving on behalf of the campus ministries of the Conference to help meet the needs of hungry students. Booth shared that the students in campus ministries were hungry for community with other students, for Christian learning, and for food. She reflected on the story of the feeding of the five thousand in John and how they provided for the spiritual and physical needs of the people.

Billie Fidlin, Director of Outreach and Justice Ministries, thanked Booth for her message. She shared that the campus ministries serving our young people are important - they feed the spiritual needs and thanks to the Conference, continue the important work of providing needed resources for food. This is an ongoing challenge that Fidlin hopes the Conference will continue to support throughout the year. Fidlin shared that to date - the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference have donated \$13,855.32 in support of the mission project. She also provided an update on the 2020 Annual Conference mission project which centered on water relief for the Navajo Nation. The project continued to receive donations after the 2020 Annual Conference for a grand total of \$121,526.31. Fidlin shared she was honored to serve under the Bishop's leadership. The Bishop thanked Fidlin.

Point of Privilege

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Prescott UMC, reported that this year is the 25th anniversary of the Order of the Deacons. He has been blessed by the ministry of three Deacons and acknowledged the work of all the Deacons.

Acknowledgements

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, requested a moment of personal privilege. She thanked the Bishop for the gift of serving as his Conference Secretary and recognized the Sessions Committee and many staff who worked behind the scenes. Lambert thanked Rev. Ann Lyter, Agenda Chair, for her years of service. Lyter introduced Rev. Diamond Pate as the incoming Agenda Chair for 2022.

Lambert thanked the Conference for their grace and understanding. Lambert stated that the Conference minutes would be available on the Conference website by Wednesday, June 16, 2021, and reminded the Conference that editorial corrections must be received by the Conference Secretary, jlambert@dscumc.org within 15 days. All items to be included in the 2021 Conference Journal must be received by Cynthia Satchel, csatchel@dscumc.org, by July 1, 2021. Lambert shared that Jennifer Barber, Conference Archivist, created a Historical Journal. The last Historical Journal was published in 1981. The Historical Journal is an addition to the Annual Journal. She stated that the Historical Journal, as well as the 2021 Journal, would be available to download or purchase later.

Closing Motions

Lambert moved that all written reports that have appeared in the preconference materials on the conference website, the reports presented during this 2021 Annual Conference, and the Daily Proceedings with any corrections be adopted. **Approved**

Lambert moved that the 37th session stand adjourned. **Approved**

Invitation to 2022 Annual Conference

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, invited the Conference to the 38th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference on June 9-12, 2022. It was her hope that it would be at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

Bishop shared “An Order of Farewell to a Pastor,” his final thoughts on his time as the Bishop, and a closing prayer of gratitude to the Conference.

Worship

Worship began with “Great is Your Love, O Lord” performed by the Paradise Valley UMC Ignite Worship Band and written by Andria Fennig and Greg Germann. Pastor Bob Klein, Trinity UMC-Yuma and Fort Yuma UMC, read 1 Corinthians 12:4-8. A message titled “Gifts” was shared by Pastor Lauren Coffman. The closing song was “Doxology/Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” performed by the Paradise Valley UMC Ignite Worship Band and written by Thomas Ken.

Conference adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

Rev. Ki Yong Lee, Preaching

Sunday, June 13, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting Online

Closing Worship

Worship began with Desert Spring Choir featuring soloist Tiffanie Quinn singing “We Shall Overcome.” Marion Bell, liturgist, offered an opening prayer. The song “My Feet Are on the Rock”, written by I AM THEY, was presented by Gary Fowler. Bell read the scriptures readings from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 1 Peter 3:8-11, Matthew 5:21-24, and John 21:15-17. Rev. Ki Yong Lee, A Grain of Mustard Seed United Methodist Fellowship, shared the message “Feed My Sheep.” Desert Spring Choir featuring soloist Jake Skarin presented “Love thy Neighbor” written by Christopher Sieber.

The Bishop offered words of welcome and thanked Prescott UMC for hosting the Ordination. Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, welcomed the candidates, their families, and those watching from their homes and churches.

The Act of Commissioning and Ordination followed with Dan Blackwood and Rev. Melissa Rynders recommending those to be commissioned and ordained, as well as those who had orders recognized in The United Methodist Church. Blackwood and Rynders presented Class of 2020: Amanda Julia Corella and Stuart Matthew Salvatierra; Class of 2021: Osias Alberto Segura-Guzmán and Diamond Antoinette

Pate to be commissioned for the work of an elder. Blackwood and Rynders presented Class of 2020: Alma Lilian Aguirre-Olivares and Kimberly Omeka Scott; Class of 2021 Jamie L. Booth and Efrain Zavala to be ordained as elder.

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 elders to be ordained followed by the Laying on of Hands and Prayer for the Elders for each candidate.

The Bishop affirmed James Leonard Nelson, Jr.'s call to ministry and recognized his status as an Associate Member of our Annual Conference, remembering his passing on May 27, 2021. Nelson was posthumously awarded associate membership in the Desert Southwest Conference. The Bishop invited a moment of silence in remembrance and prayer for Nelson's life and ministry.

Rynders presented Class of 2020: David Earl Wasson; Class of 2021: Oskar Antonino Ontanyon for recognition of orders in The United Methodist Church. The Bishop welcomed Wasson and Ontanyon as elders in The United Methodist Church.

Those commissioned received a wooden cross made by Rev. Bob Stanley. Each ordinand and those transferring to the Conference received a red stole made by local artisans in Bethlehem. The 2020 ordinands also received a stole made by Rev. Anna Bell from the Conference. Those ordained received a chalice and paten. The 2020 ordinands received the last chalice and paten made by Rev. J. Michael Pearson.

The closing song was "Rattle" performed by Desert Spring Choir, written by Elevation Worship.