

**Minutes of the 38th Session
Desert Southwest Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 8 & 10-11, 2022**

**Bishop Grant Hagiya, President
Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Secretary
Rev. Diamond Pate, Orders of the Day**

**Deanne Handlong, Cynthia Holly and Carla Whitmire,
Conference Secretary Staff**

**LAITY SESSION
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Online**

Alberta Farnsworth, Conference Lay Leader, opened the session at 10:02 a.m. and gave a brief review of the past year. Bishop Grant Hagiya welcomed the laity to the Laity Session. He thanked the laity for their dedication and hard work during the pandemic and faithfully carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. He expressed gratitude for the laity.

Farnsworth shared that the Laity make up most of the Conference and are the reason the Conference exists. They walk with the clergy in the goal of Being a Courageous Church: Loving Like Jesus, Acting for Justice, and United in Hope. The laity are the example of Christianity seen by the public, both in the church and the community. She further shared that Zoom and other virtual mediums have extended outreach beyond local communities. Farnsworth thanked the laity who stretched themselves to accept new additional ways of doing church.

Judy Martin, Chair of the Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, encouraged the laity to serve on a Conference committee or taskforce and demonstrated how to complete the application at <https://dscumc.org/conference-service-and-leadership-application/>.

Susan Bowers, Director of Lay Servant Ministries, talked about the Lay Servant Ministries in the Conference. The program offers classes in a variety of areas providing opportunities for laity to become more proficient in their ministries. Through their classes, laity can become Certified Lay Servants, Certified Lay Speakers, or Certified Lay Ministers. Each district has a director of classes in their district. They are Paul Hewitt, North District; Philip Tesarek, East District; Betty Stewart, West District; and co-directors Kelly Deyoe and Gretchen Lofgren, South District. Available courses available are on the conference website. Bowers invited the laity to participate in Lay Servant Ministries classes across the conference and if they had questions to email them to layservants@dscumc.org.

Deaconess Martha Lundgren, a United Methodist deaconess who responded to a call to provide faithful care to dying persons, presented, "Sacred Breaths: Contemplating Mortality as an Act of Devotion." She offered that from her perspective, each of our breaths are of God's own spirit. Each is sacred. She read Deuteronomy 30:19 and John 10:10 as references for her presentation and asked the question, "What, no matter what, must we have to thrive?" and shared the answer, "Deep breaths of clean, fresh air." She spoke about preparation, anticipation, excitement, and joy surrounding the birth of a child, stating that God must also be excited, filled with joy when a new creation takes its first deep breath of life.

After reading Genesis 1:27, Lundgren highlighted that what God created was good. She added that it was not just good, but BREATHTAKING! She reported the average number of breaths in a lifetime is 642,400,00 by the time someone is 80 years old. Remembering in Genesis that God created all the plants of the earth, Lundgren was fascinated at how complicated our bodies are, how interconnected and interdependent each of our parts are with creation. We need each other to thrive. She stated that one of her favorite physical sensations was how her lungs felt after she really put them to work: both tired and energized.

Lundgren described some breathtaking moments in life and related them to God breathing life into Adam and the creation story. She wondered if those were not breathtaking moments for God. She invited the laity to think of a time when they saw something that took their own breath away and share their feelings in breakout groups.

Lundgren discussed how a few deep breaths help in times of stress and anger during fight or flight moments. Breath is not just to keep us alive, it helps us to think, to focus,

and to use our intellect as well. In Genesis it says that God breathed life into Adam, the word used is the same as the word for spirit, breath and spirit are so closely related. Lundgren offered that when she was worried or began to panic, she would take deep calming breaths and sings "Breathe on Me Breath of God." Lundgren invited the laity to think of a time when they used their breath to their advantage in a stressful situation and to share their feelings in breakout groups.

Offering the simple verse "Jesus wept," Lundgren reminded the laity that they could meditate on God breathing life into them and on the gifts of breaths. She offered a few stories of being in the wrong place at the right time that shaped her call to become a deaconess. As God is in that first spirit breath, God is ready to receive their last. Lundgren shared examples from John Wesley and Jeremy Taylor about the idea of death as a sacred time. She stated that contemplating mortality is a task of humanity and a task of Christian faith; and encouraged the laity to consider their Wesleyan tradition and other Scripture that shed light on what is sacred in birth, in breath, and in death. Lundgren suggested that if John Wesley was a contemporary, he would believe that Christians have a responsibility for doing this kind of work.

Lundgren encouraged the laity to reflect on their birth story, those sacred moments of breath, and consider the responsibility of preparing for death.

Lundgren closed by looking at Jesus' final prayers, considering that Jesus understood these things as completely and fully human and that they were hard for him too. She stated that God appreciates each and every breath and understands the emotions around preparing for dying.

Farnsworth thanked Lundgren and thanked the laity for attending the session. She offered a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Online

The Clergy Session was opened at 10:01 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. Rynders introduced Bishop Grant Hagiya. Hagiya called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

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 to be present without voice or vote.

Approved

Azhikakath, registrar of the Board, lead the clergy in a practice vote. Azhikakath and Rynders 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.

14. Who constitute:
 - a) The Administrative Review Committee (§636)? (v) **Passed**
16. Who have completed the studies for the license as a local pastor, are approved, but are not now appointed (§315) (3/4 v) **Passed**
17. Who are approved and appointed as: (§319.4). (3/4 v)
 - a) Full-time local pastors (§318.1) **Passed**
 - b) Part-time local pastors (§318.2) **Passed**
 - d) Students who have been certified as candidates in your annual conference and are serving as local pastors in another annual conference while enrolled in a school of theology listed by the University Senate (§318.3) **Passed**
21. 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**
22. Who are affiliate members:
 - b) Without vote (§§334.5, 344.4)? (2/3 v) **Passed**
23. Who are elected as associate members? §322 (3/4 v) **Passed**
24. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school? (under §§322.4, 324, 325)
 - a) Provisional Deacons under the provisions of §§ 324.4a, c or §324.5(3/4 v) **Passed**

- b) Provisional Elders under the provisions of ¶324.4a, b or ¶324.6 (3/4 v); ¶322.4 (3/4 v) **Passed**
- 25. 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, ¶327)? (v)
 - a) In preparation for ordination as a deacon or elder? (¶326) *For information only*
- 28. Who are elected as members in full connection? (3/4 v)
 - b) Elders **Passed**
- 30. Who are ordained as elders and what seminary awarded their degree
 - a) After provisional membership (¶335) (3/4 v) **Passed**
- 37. Who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (¶416.5)? *For information only*
- 38. Who are discontinued as provisional members (¶327) (v)
 - b) By voluntary discontinuance (¶ 327.6) (v) **Passed**
- 40. Who have been granted the status of honorable location—retired (¶358.3):
 - a) This year (v) **Passed**
- 41. Who have had their status as honorably located and their orders terminated (¶358.2) (v) **Passed**
- 46. 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**
 - (3) Family, 5 years or less (¶353.2b 3) (v) **Passed**
- 48. Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (¶356)? (v) **Passed**

49. What members in full connection have been retired (§357 (Under §357.1, no vote required; under §357.2, v; under §357.3, 2/3 v)? **Passed**
67. 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)? (2/3 v, after 8 years $\frac{3}{4}$ v)? **Passed**
71. 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 Chair of BOOM

Rynders offered thanks for her time as chair of BOOM, explaining that as she moved into her new role as District Superintendent for the East District, she would be stepping down. Rev. Sharon Ragland would be stepping in as chair of BOOM, and Rynders would continue on BOOM as the District Superintendent assigned.

Words from the Bishop

In addition to thanking members of BOOM for their service, Bishop Hagiya offered a prayer for the list of clergy in memoriam.

Announcements

Passage is the new platform for candidacy replacing UMCARES. There will be training for both candidacy mentors and candidacy advisors beginning in August 2022.

The Gathering will be February 28-March 2, 2023 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona.

BOOM has donated to a scholarship fund. in honor of this year's retirees. Anyone can donate to this fund. BOOM intends for the funds to be available beginning in 2025.

The Clergy Session adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 1
Friday, June 10, 2022
9:00-11:30 a.m.
Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona

The following clergy requested and received permission to be excused from Annual Conference through their District Superintendent: *for the entire Conference—Active Clergy: Ken Bensen, Paul Cho, Matthew Colby, Kathleen Day, Nicholas Grainger, Meredith Grandy, Donna Hughes, Candace Lansberry, Rolly Loomis, Roger Brian Osborn, Jaime Vazquez, Joshua Warner; Retirees: Ivan Burnett, Mark Conrad (partial)*

Opening of Conference

Bishop Grant Hagiya welcomed those attending virtually and in person. He introduced Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary.

Lambert welcomed all to the 38th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. She stated that the Sessions Committee had worked hard to make a hybrid gathering possible and explained to both those in person and online how to be recognized for questions. Lambert thanked the members for making the Annual Conference a priority and reminded the Conference of the Scripture focus.

Lambert called to order the 38th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference session at 9:03 a.m.

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. Lambert led the Conference through two practice votes.

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

United Methodist Men – SAW Announcement

SAWs Southwest is an Affiliate Ministry of United Methodist Men. Tabitha Lyn, a 34-year-old mom lost both of her legs in an accident involving a drunk driver. Before SAWs helped, she was unable to go places without assistance. With the ramp that the SAWs ministry built, Tabitha and her children are now able to get out of the house and go places they want and need to go.

More than 500,000 Arizonans live with ambulatory disabilities and thousands are waiting for the freedom Tabitha and her family are now experiencing. There is a need to build 50 ramps in 2022. They already have more than 20 requests. To help, contact <https://sawssouthwest.org/>.

Lambert moved that the business of the 38th Annual Conference be conducted through the physical room and digital room and that those already granted voting privileges with a unique ID would constitute the bar. **Approved**

Arizona Justice For Our Neighbor Announcement

Alba Jaramillo, Executive Director, AZJFON, stated that the Asylum Caminamos-Juntos-Program was created to provide as many asylum seekers access to immigration attorneys and legal assistance as possible. AZJFON also provides education on immigration law to those who are waiting to start the asylum process. With help, AZJFON can guide them on their journey through this difficult legal process.

The challenges Asylum seekers face are many. Being in a foreign land where they do not understand the language or the law is daunting. Leaving behind their land, home, family, and friends, they are alone without help from anyone who can understand what exactly they went through, what they experienced and why they are afraid. They have very little money for food or board while awaiting the opportunity to be interviewed by Border Patrol. Seeking asylum is a serious matter. It is a life and death decision. Not only do these families run the risk of losing their immigration cases if they do not present enough information, evidence, or abide by the court rules, but their lives depend

on the outcome of their case. If they are denied asylum, they are faced with deportation, which will lead to violence and potentially a death sentences.

It was the committee's hope that those in support of the mission would join a new movement of radical hospitality. They envision this as an opportunity to welcome immigrants the minute they reach our border and ask for asylum. Not only will they welcome immigrants; they want to walk with them. "Because they walk together towards freedom":. "Caminamos juntos hacia la libertad."

Introduction of Monitors

Rev. Khalif Smith, Sr., Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, reported that the Conference would be monitored for inclusivity, gender identity, ethnicity, and age. The monitors for the Conference were Rev. Khalif Smith, Sr.;; Rev. Dr Kristen Hansen;; Laura Land;; Karla Tracy;; Deb Browning;; Billie Fidlin;; and Jess Brown.

Opening Worship

Rev. Sylvia Harris, Wesley UMC, read "When I am Among the Trees" by Mary Oliver. The 2022 Annual Conference Band, made up of musicians from five churches in the Annual Conference, performed, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." Harris read Deuteronomy 30:19. Rev. Dr. Brooke Isingoma, St. Matthew UMC, shared a homily, "Choose Life." The 2022 Annual Conference Band performed "Build Your Kingdom Here." Pastor Gina Pollard, City Square UMF and Primera Iglesia MU, offered a prayer of blessing. Bishop Hagiya thanked the worship team.

Episcopacy Committee

Rev. Paul Cho, Chair of the Episcopacy Committee, recognized Bishop Grant Hagiya as the interim episcopal leader of the Desert Southwest Conference. He asked the Conference to join him in words of affirmation, found in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*, page 729.

Rev. Timote Piukala, member of the Episcopacy Committee, welcomed and presented the Bishop with leis from Hawaii. The committee also presented Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary; Rev. Diamond Pate, Agenda and Orders of the Day; Marilee

Miller Clarke, Conference Chancellor; and Julie O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, each with a lei.

Explanation of Voting and Practice

Lambert explained the process to get recognized during voting.

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 2 – Special Days and Causes
- Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation 3 – Conference Advance and Benevolence Specials
- Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation 4 – Other Recommendations (level 1 exempt compensation, employee expenses, mileage reimbursement rates, and spending within budgets)
- Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation 1 – Annuity Rate and Past Service Obligation
- Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation 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 3 – Resolution Relating to Local Church Funding for the Clergy Retirement Security Program in 2023
- Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Recommendation 4 – Resolution Relating to HealthFlex Exchange Participant Contribution Levels and Church Payment Rate

- Conference Personnel Committee Recommendation 1 – Changes to Exempt Salary Levels
- Conference Personnel Committee Recommendation 2 – Changes to Non-Exempt Wage Levels
- Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation Recommendation – Clergy Minimum Salary Schedule
- Communication Commission Rule Change – Proposed change to Conference rule A.IV.U., as submitted by the Conference Commission on Communications and amended by the Conference Rules Committee
- Sick Leave Definition Rule Change – Proposed change to Conference rule B.V.I.4 on sick leave for Conference employees, as submitted by various individuals and amended by the Conference Personnel Committee and the Conference Rules Committee

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

Salvatierra moved to remove Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation Recommendation – Clergy Minimum Salary Schedule from the Consent Calendar. Seconded. **Passed**

Presentation of the recommendation was tabled until Saturday, June 11, 2022.

Approved, excluding the Commission on Equitable Compensation Recommendation

Cokesbury Announcement

Rachel Hagewood, Amplify Engagement Manager at United Methodist Publishing House, presented a streaming service from Cokesbury that would change the way Bible Study is resourced in the church. Amplify, a part of Cokesbury, is a library of video resources that meets people where they are individually and helps them grow in their faith formation and discipleship. One subscription provides access to stream videos anytime, anywhere to each person in a church. For more information, go to [https://
amplifymedia.com/](https://amplifymedia.com/).

Conference Finance & Administration Overview

Scott Whitmire, Chair of the Council on Finance & Administration (CFA), referenced the proposed 2023 Conference budget in the preconference materials. He invited the Conference to review the proposed 2023 budget before the Saturday session. Whitmire offered some highlights from the Finance & Administration preconference report. The Bishop thanked Whitmire and expressed gratitude to the Council on Finance & Administration. Trinity Donovan, Dayspring UMC, pointed out a typo in the budget which was corrected in the preconference material.

Trustees Recommendation

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, President of the Board of Trustees, referred the Conference to the report in the preconference materials regarding the sale of the Conference office. Arnpriester moved the Board of Trustees recommendation be approved.

Pastor Janet Culbertson, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, requested clarification.

Chis Shafer, Sanctuary UMC, requested clarification.

Kellie Konrad, First UMC-Safford, spoke for the recommendation.

Deontez Wimbley, Crossroads UMC, requested clarification and spoke for the recommendation.

Rev. Dave Summers, Lakeview UMC, spoke for the recommendation.

Rev. Timote Piukala, Tongan UMC, requested clarification. **Approved**

Camp and Retreat Ministries Announcement

Cat Holbert, the Executive Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries stated that in 2021, over 1/3 of the campers from Mingus Mountain and Potosi Pines were offered full or partial scholarships, thanks to the efforts of the Board, staff and the community.

Holbert shared a story of a camper who attended in 2021 for the first-time last year.

“At first, he was sort of reserved, and he had a hard time fitting in with the other campers. He confessed that he was really kind of overwhelmed because he went from the isolation of COVID to being surrounded by other people at camp. It was hard on him.

Now one of our really gifted Counselor Interns took him under his wing, and he made sure to check on him multiple times a day. He engaged him with other campers, he found out what he liked and what he was into. And he encouraged him to participate so before you know it, by the end of the week, it was common to see the camper playing and laughing, and even leading the other campers.”

Holbert stated that children’s and youth ministry is alive and well at camps. She added that the Board has launched a Congregational Connection Initiative and are looking to identify one person from each church to serve as a liaison between churches and camps.

Nominations/Leadership

Judy Martin, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, introduced the members of the committee. She explained that in the past year, the committee reviewed and updated the nomination list, filled the Conference Lay Leader position, assigned liaisons to committees to improve connection and service, worked on committee descriptions, and hosted Leadership Talks—leadership development opportunity virtual sessions. Recorded Sessions are available at <https://dscumc.org/leadership-talk-recordings/>.

Martin indicated the Nominations report was available in the preconference materials, and is comprised of 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 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Episcopal Nominations

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, moved suspension of the rule regarding the reception of names for episcopal nominations. This request was due to the unusual circumstances of postponed jurisdictional and General conferences. **Approved**

Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation Update

Anne Green, executive director, presented an update on the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation. The Foundation has been serving the churches and organizations within the Desert Southwest Annual Conference since its inception in 1986 and is dedicated to providing the highest quality of investment, education and growth development programs for individuals and churches, delivered with transparency, sincerity and professionalism.

Some new things at the Foundation:

- Judi Smith, new Gift Planning Officer. Judi has over 30 years of experience in the non-profit arena and has enjoyed doing Planned Giving and Estate Planning presentations for a few of our local churches already.
- A newly updated website.
- Two additional investment options: a more conservative Fixed Income Fund which is 80% Fixed Income and 20% Inflation Protection and a more aggressive Equity Growth Fund, which is 70% US equities and 30% International Equities. These two new options complement our 'multiple asset fund' which had been the only investment option for our customers. This gives customers more freedom and choice and the desired flexibility some seek, while continuing to assure that our sustainable investment strategies are in alignment with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.
- A new partnership with the Wesleyan Investive, which used to be known as the United Methodist Development Fund. They will facilitate and partner with churches and organizations who may be seeking a loan and do their best to make the process as easy as possible.
- Expanding grants and scholarship program. They will be making changes to our application and subsequently will be offering some more opportunities for grants and scholarships. One new opportunity for seminary students is a new partnership with the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. The Foundation is now a contributing organization to their 'Dollars for Scholars' program. This program involves matching support from a student's church, the UM Higher Education Foundation, partnering UM related schools and

participating conference foundations. An award may total up to \$4,000. They have already had their first applicant!

Green asked that churches contact her for more information about how they can “do more good” with Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation!

The Bishop announced that the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation has supported the Conference with clergy coaching and scholarships for C2 (ongoing clergy coaching).

General Conference/Western Jurisdiction Report

Rev. Daniel Hurlbert, head of the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation, greeted and introduced the other members of the delegation—Lay people: Paul Gomez, Julie O’Neal, Trinity Donovan, Carla Whitmire, Jess Brown, and Matthew Harris. Clergy: Anthony Tang, Beth Rambikur, Dee Dee Azhikakath, Mary Klaehn, Javier Olivares, and Timote Piukala.

Hurlbert explained the jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy (COE) was changing the way bishops would be elected in the Western Jurisdiction to make the process less political, less intimidating, and more accessible to all.

Hurlbert felt it might be better to compare the episcopal discernment process to examining candidates at the beginning of their ministry. In examining candidates for ministry in our conference, he had never heard of anyone being disparaged regarding their call nor was someone’s call questioned. Yet if someone expressed a calling to be a bishop, they would become a target. While examination is appropriate in the process, a default setting of “no,” laughter, the rolling of eyes, or other general snarking responses were not appropriate and or helpful in the election process. He stated the new process would be a discernment process rather than a multi-tiered election process that focused on those who knew best how to navigate the system.

Hurlbert outlined the new Western Jurisdiction process. The jurisdiction posted a Google doc for people to forward a name for a potential bishop. Next, each person whose name was forwarded would be invited to a virtual discernment retreat to learn what the job entails and engage in the Quaker discernment practice of a clearness committee. Hurlbert stated September 1, 2022 would be the deadline for those intending to participate in the election by submitting the “Western Jurisdiction Call for

Discernment” form. Heads of the delegation would be informed of the submissions. Delegations could then choose to interview nominees. Names would be forwarded to the Director of Communications for publication. Hurlbert reminded the Conference that because of jurisdictional conference rules, there is also the possibility of people entering the election process at the jurisdictional conference by receiving five votes in the qualifying ballot.

Hurlbert announced the next jurisdictional conference would meet November 2-5 in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they would elect three people to be bishops. Those elected would be consecrated at the end of the jurisdictional conference and episcopal assignments would be made. These assignments would begin January 1, 2023.

Finally, Hurlbert said it was unknown what 2024 would bring, but he thanked everyone for their confidence in him over the last seven years. The 2018 elected delegation promised a more transparent preparation process, and believed that had been accomplished. Hurlbert and the delegation provided multiple reports to the Conference over the years, as well as providing updates at conference, district, and local church events. Regardless of what would come next for the 2020 delegation, they were pleased to have opened up their process to several others and hope future delegations will follow their example of including the good and interested folks of the Desert Southwest Conference in the process of preparing for General and Western Jurisdictional conferences.

Hurlbert expressed thanks for Paul Gómez, first-elect lay member to General Conference. Gómez updated the Annual Conference on General Conference’s postponement until 2024. He added that Judicial Council Decision Number 1429 stated that “The deadlines for petitions submission in ¶507 are based on the date of the postponed General Conference and reset with each postponement.” Gómez encouraged the Conference to read a piece in the United Methodist News titled “Protocol’s Day Has Passed, Some Negotiators Say” by Heather Hahn, as well as the statement from the drafters at <https://www.protocolresponse.com/>. He believed that the Protocol was a piece of legislation that was written for a specific time and place in United Methodist history. , However that day had passed and the world had fundamentally changed. The Desert Southwest delegation thanked the Conference for their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Julie O’Neal and Rev. Anthony Tang, representatives from the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Nominations, invited lay and clergy to consider applying for leadership positions in The United Methodist Church. They directed people to complete the form on

the conference website, <https://dscumc.org/annualconference>. They explained that the nominations would be for 2024.

Hurlbert closed thanking his peers for electing him for this role, the honor of a lifetime.

Prayer

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra, St. Mark's UMC, offered a prayer. The session adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 2
Friday, June 10, 2022
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona

Prayer

The Bishop called the Conference to order at 1:01 p.m. Deontez Wimbley, Crossroads UMC, opened the session with a prayer.

Greeting from Claremont School of Theology

Rev. Steve Horswill-Johnson, Executive Vice President of Claremont School of Theology, brought greetings from president Rev. Dr. Jeffery Kuan. Horswill-Johnson reported how the school was changing. Hybrid learning had become the norm and was thriving. He stated that the excess acreage of the school had become a burden. The seminary had been in litigation regarding the sale of the campus. This litigation helped them realize that property is not as important as the mission. Claremont School of Theology, a cutting-edge theological school, still had 250 students enrolled and graduated more than 60 students in May 2022. The plan for the future was to better equip more students to serve as agents of compassion, justice, and equality. Horswill-Johnson thanked the Conference for their continued support. The Conference watched a video highlighting Claremont School of Theology.

Culture Task Force Report

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Conference Culture Task Force and Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, introduced the other members: Rev. Anthony Tang, representative elected by those who signed the legislation; Rev. Susan Brims, Dean of the Appointive Cabinet; Terri Wicker, lay person with HR experience; Deb Browning, Chair of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women; Rev. Joshua Warner, representative elected by those who signed the legislation; Rev. Khalif Smith, Sr., Chair of Committee on Religion and Race; Pastor Wendy Swanson, representative of Licensed Local Pastors; Bishop Grant Hagiya; Caitlin Congdon, Consultant from the General Council on Finance and Administration; Elaine Moy, Consultant from the General Commission on Religion and Race; Rev. Sharon Ragland, incoming chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry). The Task force met four times between November 2021 and May 2022 to implement the resolution that was passed at Annual Conference 2021 to address conference culture. The committee formed a two-pronged approach.

Smith shared the first prong: building a culture of trust within the task force. In order to expect trust within the Conference, the task force felt it important to build trust amongst themselves. They spent time exploring differing communication, relationship, and leadership styles which helped to honor the gifts and skills that everyone brought to this work.

Tang shared the second prong: an audit and assessment of the current policies, procedures, and practices within the Conference. The task force contracted with the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) and the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) as third-party agencies to provide an outside and impartial assessment of the state of the Conference's culture.

Caitlin Congdon, Chief Officer of Human Resources at the General Council of Finance and Administration, is working with the Healing Conference Culture Task Force. Last year, the Conference voted to heal the current culture of the Conference. The culture of the Conference is the collective behavior of all the people. She noted a willingness to do the work to heal the Conference and improve the culture. Congdon stated that the next process would be questionnaires and in-person meetings with clergy, committee members and laity. She added she would be hosting listening sessions with the clergy in each district and the Conference staff. Congdon explained that this was not a quick or easy journey, but she was committed to walking alongside the Conference. She invited those with questions to email her at ccongdon@gcfa.org.

Wicker explained they plan to further explore the culture of the Conference. She affirmed confidentiality; neither the Cabinet nor the Task Force would have any

identifying information. She stated that healing the culture is a process and they were committed to continuing this important work necessary for transformation.

Appointments: West District

The Bishop appointed Rev. Javier Olivares as West District Superintendent. The Bishop and Olivares announced the appointments for 2022-2023.

Legislation

Resolution Concerning Guns at Annual Conference

Rev. Tom Jelinek, First UMC- Glendale, and Gerry Hills, Chair of Board of Church and Society, presented the *Resolution Concerning Guns at Annual Conference*. Jelinek moved the resolution be approved. **Approved**

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Announcement

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) exists to challenge The United Methodist Church for equal responsibility and participation of clergywomen and laywomen at all levels of life and mission of the church. Dawn Wiggins Hare, General Secretary of the General Commission, Beckey Posey Williams, Senior Director of Sexual Ethics and Advocacy, and Juyeon Jeon, Board Member presented the update. CSROW was involved in helping to navigate a congregation's resistance to a woman pastor, preventing sexual harassment within the church, and addressing the lack of representation and wage inequality in positions of power through educational resources, tools for analyzing conduct and inclusivity at gatherings, leadership development trainings, and guiding the church in the prevention and response to sexual misconduct.

Resolution Supporting Central Conference Leadership and the Christmas Covenant

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, announced the resolution Supporting Central Conference Leadership and the Christmas Covenant had been withdrawn by the authors.

Lambert polled the Conference for first-time attendees under 50 years of age and members who had attended 40 or more Annual Conferences. Those attendees received t-shirts.

Presentation on Church Closures, North District

Rev. Daniel Morley, North District Superintendent, moved the Korean United Methodist Church of Las Vegas, Nevada be discontinued effective June 30, 2022, and that any remaining property and assets be transferred to the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church. **Passed**

Iliff Seminary Announcement

Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe, President & CEO of Iliff Seminary, gave a brief introduction of the institution, a leading theological school in the nation. Iliff offered a progressive and diverse learning environment that was supportive, inclusive, and transformative in nature. The student population included people from 44 states and from international locations. Iliff Seminary was intentional about bringing education outside the walls into the community. Their goal was to help the community better understand how religion shapes politics and how people see themselves.

Presentation on Church Closure, East District

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent moved (i) Aldersgate United Methodist Church be declared formally closed effective June 30, 2022. The title to all of the real, personal, tangible and intangible property and assets of Aldersgate United

Methodist Church, however titled, including but not limited to in the name of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and the Trustees of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, would be transferred to Dayspring United Methodist Church, pursuant to Section 2541 of the *2016 Book of Discipline* and subject to any restrictions thereon; (ii) Aldersgate Foundation, Inc., be formally closed and the assets be transferred to Dayspring for management by its Permanent Endowment and Planned Giving Committee, subject to any restrictions on the investments, funds, and other assets held therein, including but not limited to restrictions placed by an original donor of a fund; and (iii) the memberships of Aldersgate United Methodist Church be transferred to Dayspring United Methodist Church or such other United Methodist congregations as the members select.

Passed

The Conference watched a video highlighting the 71 years of ministry at Aldersgate UMC. Brims offered a prayer for Aldersgate UMC and the new Dayspring Arcadia Campus.

Poor People's Campaign Announcement

The Conference watched a video promoting the Mass Poor People's and Low-wage Workers' Assembly moral march held in Washington, DC on June 18, 2022.

Appointments – North District

The Bishop appointed Rev. Daniel Morley as the North District Superintendent. The Bishop and Morley announced the appointments for the North District for 2022-2023.

Recognition of Retirees

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry, led the Conference in the Retirement and Recognition Celebration. Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, read First Kings 19:19-21. Rynders introduced those retiring and Rev. Louie Lyon, representative for the Associate of Retired Ministers (ARMS) presented each with a pin. For each retiree, \$100 had been donated in their name to the new scholarship fund. Those retiring included Nancy Susan Brims, Deborah Lerner,

Jonathan Massey, Lyndon Mason, David McPherson, Donna Morley, Deborah Schauer, Richard Smith, Stephanie Soon, and Jamie Vazquez.

The Bishop offered words of affirmation and thanksgiving, as well as words of hope and challenge. A representative of the retiring class, Rev. N. Susan Brims, and a representative of the new full member class, Rev. Dr. Brooke Isingoma, faced each other. Brims removed her stole (mantle) and placed the stole on Isingoma signifying the passing of the mantle. The Bishop offered a benediction.

Prayer

Rev. Dulce Vargas, Parker UMC, offered a prayer to close the session. The session adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

A SERVICE OF MEMORIAL
Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner, Preaching
Friday, June 10, 2022
7:00-8:00 p.m.
First UMC, Mesa, Arizona

Dr. Ashley Strawser, Organist and Musical Director, provided music for worship and the opening hymn, "For All the Saints." Rev. Louie Lyon and Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank assisted as worship leaders. The Scripture was Isaiah 61:1-4, 9. The anthems, "Be Thou My Vision" and "Hymn of Promise" were performed by the Annual Conference Worship musicians. Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner shared the message, "*Planted by the Lord.*"

The Bishop, Escobedo-Frank, and Lyon led the Act of Remembrance. The Bishop read the names of honored dead of the Council of Bishops: Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, Bishop Beverly J. Shamana, Jeffrey Joe Swenson, Dania Soriano, Jack D. Middleton, Bishop Wilbur Choy, Marjorie "Marji" Tuell, and Margaret Rose King.

Escobedo-Frank and Lyon read the names of the honored dead of the Desert Southwest Conference: Pastor Lenore Renfro, Mrs. Gladys (Rickey) Wise, Pastor Sefo Jeffrey Fata-Misionare, Mrs. Joanne "Betty" Mathis, Rev. William "Bill" Denlinger, Rev.

John "Jack" Wise, Rev. Robert "Bob" Peale, Rev. Dr. Bert Lewis, Rev. Michael Chamness, Mrs. Aud Gundersen, Rev. J. Lloyd Ewart Jr., Rev. Paul Self-Price, Rev. Roy Ludlow, Pastor Avis J. Emerson Black, Rev. Lee Hirt, Mrs. Kimberly Parrott, Mrs. Judith Bobbitt, Rev. Allan Nesbitt, Mrs. Sandra Gladding, and Mr. Benjamin Bealor.

Lyon offered a prayer for the saints and faithfully departed followed by the hymn, "Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above." Adair Bonner gave the benediction.

The service ended at 8:56 pm.

PLENARY SESSION 3
Saturday, June 11, 2022
9:00-11:30 a.m.
Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona

Call to Order

The Bishop called the session to order at 9:00 a.m. He thanked First UMC-Mesa for their hospitality throughout the Annual Conference.

Worship

Rev. Eve Williams, Advent UMC, read "Breathe" by Susan Oguche. The 2022 Annual Conference Band performed "The Lord is My Shepherd." Williams read the Scripture, John 10:10. Deontez Wimply, Crossroads UMC, offered a homily, "Rest." Rev. Dr. Kristin Hansen, Desert Foothills UMC, offered a prayer of blessing. Worship closed with "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" by the 2022 Annual Conference Band.

Monitor's Report

Rev. Khalif Smith, Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, explained that the work on monitoring included the Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Plenary Sessions:

Ethnic representation among the leadership and speakers was varied and included White, Asian American, Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islanders. No Native American presenters were noted. No significant gender imbalance was seen. All the musicians during the morning worship video were White. Inclusivity and good representation of diversity was evident in the videos shown by Cokesbury, The Poor People's Campaign, Claremont School of Theology, and Iliff School of Theology. Many attended the Annual Conference through Zoom and the Communications staff was especially helpful in directing online chat questions to appropriate technical or other resources. For hearing impaired in person attendees, no live captioning was available. Closed captioning was available online and was automatic through the Zoom application. Smith stated the Conference was doing a phenomenal job, but that there was always room for improvement.

Bishop's Awards

The Bishop introduced the Bishop's awards and invited the families, friends, pastors and District Superintendents to the stage.

The Bishop invited Rev. Hannah Bonner, Director of Wesley Foundation-University of Arizona; Rev. Susan Holden, Desert Skies UMC; Rev. Matthew Ashley, South District Superintendent; and Stephanie Beverage to the podium. Holden shared that Beverage was a member of Desert Skies UMC and had been instrumental in developing the Children's Ministry. Bonner stated that Beverage was a long-time supporter of the Campus Ministry at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College, serving as chair of the Wesley Foundation board. The Bishop offered congratulations and presented a medallion to Beverage. Beverage thanked the Conference and shared about the Wesley Foundation campus ministries. She encouraged the Conference to learn more about the campus ministry in their area. Beverage introduced her family.

The Bishop invited Billie Fidlin, Director of Justice and Outreach; Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent; and Gerry Hills to the podium. Fidlin introduced Hills, a member of Paradise Valley UMC, who was a strong advocate for gun violence prevention, founding Arizonans for Gun Safety in 1995. Hills had received many honors for her work, chaired the Board of Church & Society and led the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. as the founding chair. The Bishop offered congratulations and presented a medallion to Hills. Hills thanked all the members of the Gun Violence Task

Force. She challenged the Conference, stating that the work was not done. She encouraged the Conference to call legislators and reach out to those who were survivors of gun violence. Hills introduced her supporters from her congregation.

The Bishop invited Rev. Daniel Morley, North District Superintendent, and Phyllis Murray to the podium. Morley reported that Murray had been active in the Conference for more than 30 years and served as the Lay Person Assigned with Pahrump Valley UMC. Murray reflected on the beginnings of her ministry at Potosi Pines Camp. In retirement, she served as West District Conference Lay Leader. Murray encouraged all people to have an active prayer life. The Bishop offered congratulations and presented a medallion to Murray. Murray thanked her “posse,” since her family was scattered around the world.

The Bishop invited Jeannie Ward, West District Lay Leader; Rev. Javier Olivares, West District Superintendent; and Betty Stewart to the podium. Ward shared Stewart has served as the West District Director of Lay Servant Ministries since July 1, 2020 and continued to offer classes, creating a new model for online classes when meeting in person was not viable. Stewart served as a Gold Star Wives Chaplain, a Stephen Minister, and on the Administrative Board at Lakeview UMC. The Bishop offered congratulations and presented a medallion to Stewart. Stewart thanked the Bishop and stated that the award belonged to the clergy and laity who helped make the classes a success. She acknowledged her supporters that joined her on stage.

Presentation of Local Pastor Licenses

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, and Rev. Javier Oliver, West District Superintendent, presented the persons receiving local pastor licenses for the first time: Christine Jones, Manuel Jimenez, and Deontez Wimbley. Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, gave thanks for all the Conference Licensed Local Pastors.

Deaconess Recognition

Rev. Matthew Ashley, South District Superintendent, rejoiced that Pennie Jean Nickels Hughes responded to God’s call to be a servant in ministry as a deaconess of The

United Methodist Church. Ashley explained the Office of Deaconess. He reminded Hughes of her commitment to engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service; to assume its responsibilities led by the Spirit of God; to be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities she serves, and in all other means of grace available to her; to earnestly seek to carry forward her ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church; to accept responsibility for participation in the mutually supportive deaconess and home missioner covenant community; and to offer a lifetime of loving and supporting her sisters and brothers as part of the world diaconate. Hughes affirmed these declarations. The Bishop commissioned Pennie Jean Nickels Hughes to the appointed ministry of Pastoral Associate at Sanctuary UMC on behalf of The United Methodist Church. The bishop offered a prayer for Hughes and her ministry. Alberta Farnsworth, Conference Lay Leader introduced Hughes to the Conference.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Historic Questions

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reported that 31 years ago, the Florida Board of Ordained Ministry noticed that white men were having no problem passing executive session, whereas women and people of color were being denied membership. As a result, the Florida Board of Ordained Ministry began voting on provisional and full members as a slate. Up until 2022, the executive session had approved those slates exactly as the Board of Ordained Ministry had recommended them. The Desert Southwest Conference Board of Ordained Ministry recognized those candidates for commissioning as provisional members in the Florida Annual Conference. She stated they had been called by God, they had done the work, and had been recommended by the Florida Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for commissioning and provisional membership. However, the Executive Session of the Florida Annual Conference did not support the work of their colleagues on the Board of Ordained Ministry and did not approve the entire slate of 16 candidates for provisional membership because two of the candidates identify as LGBTQIA. The Desert Southwest Conference Board of Ordained Ministry stood with the candidates and the Board of Ordained Ministry in Florida and acknowledged and accepted their call to serve as commissioned clergy. Rynders stated the Desert Southwest Conference, along with the rest of the Western Jurisdiction, would continue to be a Safe Harbor to any candidate or clergy who sought it. The Desert Southwest Board of Ordained Ministry stood with the Florida 16.

Rynders and Azhikakath presented those to be commissioned, ordained, and recognized as associate members into the Conference. Full Member: Brooke Burriss Isingoma; Provisional Members: Sylvia Marie Harris, Karen Meredith Joubert, Michael Wilkerson, Christopher John Carlson Wurpts; Associate Member: Linda Beth Larsen. The Bishop invited the Conference to the Ordination Service on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at First UMC-Mesa. The Bishop asked the Historic Questions of the commissionees and ordinands.

Voting Practice

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, led the Conference in a practice vote.

Prison Reform Task Force Announcement

Sr. Helen Prejean invited the Conference to a Book Study on her book, “River of Fire” in the Fall of 2022.

Equitable Compensation

Dave Decker, chair of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, referred the Conference to the Commission on Equitable Compensation Recommendation – Clergy Minimum Salary Schedule for 2023 from the preconference materials. He moved the adoption of the recommendation.

Rev. Louie Lyon, First UMC-Sun City, spoke for the recommendation.

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra, St. Mark’s UMC, requested clarification.

Decker reminded the Conference that Equitable Compensation is available to local churches.

Suzanne Shaw, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, spoke against the recommendation.

Rev. Misty Howick, Spirit Song UMF, spoke against the recommendation.

Rev. Stephen Govett, University UMC, spoke for the recommendation.

Kellie Konrad, First UMC-Safford, requested clarification.

Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith UMC, offered a point of clarification.

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

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Community UMC-Bowie, spoke for the recommendation.

Rev. Joel Arvizu, Maryvale Bridge UMC, spoke for the recommendation.

The question was called and seconded. **Passed**

Decker reminder the Conference of the application process for Equitable Compensation. **Approved**

United Methodist Women Announcement

The purpose of United Methodist Women is to put love in action. The current brand did not embody the spirit of what United Methodist Women wanted to project. United Methodist Women was developing new ways to join and updating programming to nourish souls. Their hope was to make events more engaging, to be more inclusive, and to invite younger women to join in this important work. Development of an updated brand and new website with fresh tools and content for members would demonstrate, "Together We Can Do More."

Conference Finance & Administration

Scott Whitmire, Chair of the Council on Finance & Administration (CFA), referenced the proposed 2023 Conference budget in the preconference materials. Whitmire moved the adoption of the Council on Finance and Administration Recommendation No. 1–2023 Apportioned Conference Budget. **Approved**

Conference Nominations

Judy Martin, Chair of Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, reminded the Conference that nominations occur all year and shared the process for submitting a nomination. On behalf of the committee, Martin presented the Nominations List for approval. **Approved**

Tongan Relief Update

Rev. Dr. Siosaia F. Tu'itahi gave thanks for the prayers and donations to the task force. The Tongan Relief task force included three phases. The first phase sent a container of water from New Zealand and a completed grant from UMCOR. Phase Two provided individual families with 55-gallon drums of water. Phase Three would focus on rebuilding and reconstruction in the area. For more information, go to <https://dscumc.org/tonga>.

Prayer

Rev. Sherry Brady, Duncan UMC, offered a prayer. The session adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION 4
Saturday, June 11, 2022
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona

Announcement

The Bishop recognized members who had birthdays during Annual Conference. Rev. Timote Piukala, Tongan UMC, led the Conference in singing "Happy Birthday."

Prayer

Rev. Jaycee Salangsang, Grace Fil-Am Ministry, opened the session with a prayer at 1:00 p.m.

Mission Project Update

Billie Fidlin, Director of Justice and Outreach, reported receipt of \$ 7,740.51 to date for the Conference mission project concentrating on scholarship dollars for DACA and immigrant students, "The Long Journey." The offering would assist students in need as they pursued their university education. After Annual Conference, a group would be working with Anne Green, Director of the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation and would establish guidelines and the application process. Fidlin also shared that \$ 10,511.57 to date had been raised to reach out to our churches to help Tonga following further devastation from a historic volcanic eruption on January 15, 2022. The grand total for the mission projects was \$18,252.08. Fidlin thanked the Conference for their generous support.

Ella Rawls, co-founder and the Legal Director of Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors, thanked the Conference for their support and stated that the donations would make that long journey of education a little bit easier and make a difference in the lives of many.

Rev. Timote Piukala, Tongan UMC, expressed his appreciation and shared an update about Tongan recovery. Piukala reminded us that this was not the first time that the Conference had supported Tonga. Piukala described the effects of the January 15, 2022 volcanic eruption and thanked the Conference for the gift of two shipping containers full of supplies for the island. He stated that Tonga was in the rebuilding stage. He informed the Conference that the funds would be forwarded to a Western Jurisdiction task force to provide relief.

Appointments: South District

The Bishop appointed Rev. Matthew Ashley as South District Superintendent. The Bishop and Ashley announced the appointments for 2022-2023.

Motion to Endorse a Statement

Rev. Stephen Govett, University UMC, moved that the Desert Southwest Conference endorse a statement in support of the Florida 16. Seconded.

Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith UMC, spoken for the motion and made a friendly amendment to include support for the queer members of the Desert Southwest Conference. **Accepted**

Rev. Misty Howick, Spirit Song UMF, made a friendly amendment to include the names of the Florida 16 in the statement. **Accepted**

Suzanne Shaw, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, spoke for the motion.

Rev. Sylvia Harris, Wesley UMC, requested clarification.

Rev. Melissa Rynders, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, stated that the names of the Florida 16 will be recognized in the Ordination Service.

Rev. Dave Summers, Lakeview UMC, made a friendly amendment to send the endorsement to the Florida Board of Ordained Ministry and the candidates. **Not Accepted**

Gerrie Wall, First UMC-Sun City, requested clarification.

Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications, informed the Conference that the statement would be included in the Annual Conference report. **Passed**

A Moment of Personal Privilege

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM), requested a moment of personal privilege. She relayed a message from one of the Florida 16, "...They have been so very gracious, loving, and supportive. BOOM, the cabinet, and every other group who could do anything began working immediately to do whatever they could to help us. It has been beautiful to feel the support of our clergy brothers and sisters across our connection. This is the church in action."

United Women in Faith Announcement

For United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), acting boldly meant adapting to change, to not be afraid, to do the right thing, to reach out to people, and to reach inside themselves. Acting boldly meant having the strength, faith, and grace to change the world. United Women in Faith was up to the challenge of putting love into action and invited bold, spiritual women to join them.

EM 360 Presentation

The District Superintendents of the Desert Southwest Conference introduced the EM 360, a pastoral assessment tool.

Rev. Dan Morley, West District Superintendent, presented details about EM 360, an online instrument for pastors to increase effectiveness in ministry through their local church. A strengths-focused growth program, EM 360 was designed to uncover new ways to lead the church, engage in the community, and better serve the ministry and mission of the church. EM 360 would help the Cabinet assess a leader's unique strengths and growth opportunities, provide the Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry with insight on needed Conference-wide pastoral growth opportunities, and help identify clergy skills and gifts for possible leadership in conference connectional ministries.

Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Superintendent explained how EM360 would benefit the Conference and the pastors:

- It is a tool for individual Pastoral Reflection & Growth.
- It reveals insights to craft a growth plan for pastors based on the four Common Qualities of Effective Leadership: inspired, connected, agile & rooted.
- It is qualitative feedback, not simply metrics.
- It is designed specifically for UM Clergy based on years of research by workplace assessment professionals and experts on UM clergy development.

Rev. Javier Olivares, West District Superintendent, talked about the role of the pastor and the role of the SPRC in the assessment process. The assessment team would be

the SPRC or the Single Board Governance. The assessment team would be expected to complete an assessment every three years.

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, explained how the report generated from the data received using the Johari Window Report Model would highlight feedback in four quadrants: aligned strengths, hidden strengths, blind spots, and aligned growth areas.

Rev. Daniel Morley, North District Superintendent, summarized the intent for using EM 360:

- Increased consistency and transparency in the pastoral assessment process
- Less subjectivity
- Greater alignment with a pastor's strengths in appointment making
- Providing pastors with a clear understanding of their potential development goals

Rev. Anthony Tang, Desert Mission UMC, asked if the Bishop and Level 1 clergy conference staff would be participating in the program. Brims responded that district superintendents were only charged with assessment of the clergy in the local church. The Bishop responded that he all clergy under appointment, including Level 1 clergy staff would participate in an assessment. Bishop Hagiya stated he also used a 360 assessment. Tang asked if the Conference would be voting on participation in the program. The Bishop responded that it was the purview of the Cabinet to establish assessment tools for clergy.

A Moment of Personal Privilege

Rev. Khalif Smith, Sr., First UMC-Mesa, asked for a moment of personal privilege to offer a prayer for the Holy Spirit's presence. Smith offered a correction to the Monitor's Report regarding the diversity of the 2022 Annual Conference Band.

Report on Diversity and Inclusion

Rev. Khalif Smith, Sr., Chair of the Commission on Religion & Race (CORR), explained the mission of the commission. He stated that it was accomplished through monitoring, training, educating, and consulting with the Conference boards, agencies, districts, and local congregations by providing awareness and opportunities for inclusion and by reviewing practices and policies that could create barriers to the promotion of diversity and inclusiveness. Smith provided a summary of the commission's activities in the past year.

Learning Opportunities - Began Intercultural Competency training with the Conference.

Increase Diversity - Continued to engage in conference nominations and oversight to increase diversity at all levels of Conference work.

Promote Equity - Began with new Conference work that engaged in work around policies, procedures, and practices throughout the conference, focusing on power dynamics.

Wesley UMC - Funded revitalization work initiative at Wesley UMC in Phoenix, Arizona.

Diversity Table - Assisted funding the Diversity Table in the North District, a collaboration between Advent UMC and Zion UMC in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tongan Relief - Assisted with the Conference task force for Tongan relief to provide supplies and transpiration to assist those devastated by the tsunami that hit Tonga in late 2021.

Rev. Sylvia Harris, member of the Commission on Religion & Race (CORR), stated that CORR planned to offer Intercultural Competency training with districts and local churches; that the trainings would be offered as 3–4-hour, in-person sessions, designed for 10-30 participants. CORR would be seeking trainers for the next round of Intercultural Training. Harris led the Conference in a “Getting to Know You” exercise. Harris also led the Conference in a conversation around Biblical Reflection Amidst Diversity. She indicated local churches or district clusters could request Intercultural training on the website, <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/>.

Rev. Mary Klaehn, St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, thanked the Commission on Religion and Race for the work they have done and asked the Conference to expand to include other areas of diversity. Smith responded that the Commission on Religion and Race was responding to the request from the 2021 Annual Conference to address race, but that they would be open to having conversations with any group to expand future training.

Appointments: East District

The Bishop thanked Rev. N. Susan Brims for serving as East District Superintendent for six years and appointed Rev. Melissa Rynders as East District Superintendent. The Bishop and Rynders announced the appointments for 2022-2023.

Communication Grand Prize

Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications, invited the Conference to join the weekly Tuesday Talks. Dillabough announced the winners of the photo contest.

- Ministry in Your Community – Rachel Mosher, St. Mark's UMC
- See God on Each Face – Rev. Sandy Lynn Johnson, Santa Cruz Valley UMC
- Diversity of God's People – Rev. Diamond Pate, First UMC-Gilbert
- Doing God's Work – Judy Wingert, Catalina UMC

Desert Southwest Thriving

The Conference watched video highlights of some of the thriving churches in the Conference. Churches highlighted were Christ Community UMC, Desert Skies UMC, Desert Spring UMC, First UMC of Yuma, Grace Fil-Am Ministry Huachuca UMC, Mohave Valley UMC, Pahrump UMC, Sierra Vista UMC, St. James UMC, Wesley UMC, and White Mountain UMC.

The Bishop's Closing Remarks

The Bishop acknowledged the challenges churches faced over the past several years and thanked the churches for all they had done. He thanked members for attending the Annual Conference in person and online. The Bishop thanked those on the stage: Marilee Miller Clarke, Rev. Diamond Pate, Rev. Jennifer Lambert, and Julie O'Neal. He expressed gratitude for the Sessions Committee: Rev. Michael Patzloff, Rev. Melissa Rynders, Rev. Christopher Wurpts, Rev. N. Susan Brims, Randy Bowman, Dina Reid, Lori Davalos, Trinity Donovan, Rev. Louie Lyon, RoseAnn Chapman, Christina Dillabough, Billie Fidlin, and Alberta Farnsworth. He thanked the GNTV staff: David Wood, Paul Roadarmel and Tech Assistants; the translators: Rev. Jungrea Chung and Marisol Harriss, First UMC-Mesa: Rev. Khalif Smith, Sr., Nikki Smith, and the staff of the church; Conference staff: Matt Kuss, Cynthia Holly, and Carla Whitmire; Delta hotel staff; Mesa Convention Center staff; retiring Appointive Cabinet members, Rev. N. Susan Brims and Rev. Dave McPherson; and the worship leaders and participants.

Rev. Christopher Wurpts thanked the musicians of the Annual Conference worship: Adam Black, Kate Smith, Mario Mendivil, Joshua Elder, Andria Fennig, Derek Everett, Li Ma, Dr. Nina Garguilo, Ty Chiko, Jessica Elder, Bille Bruley, Dr. Beth Youngblood, Li Ma, Jack Bannon, Greg Lloyd, Brad Seagraves, Lisa Lizanec Chappell, Jeff Martin, and Dr. Ashley Strawser.

Acknowledgements

Rev. Jennifer Lambert, Conference Secretary, requested a moment of personal privilege. Lambert thanked the young adult staff, Katherine Lower and Jeffrey Handlong; EMT Wayne Deterding for being on site for emergencies; and her staff Deanne Handlong, Cynthia Holly, and Carla Whitmire; and recognized the work of the Sessions Committee. Lambert asked those present to join her in thanking Carla Whitmire for her service and support, as she was retiring from her role as Conference Secretary Assistant.

Lambert thanked the Conference for their grace and understanding during the hybrid gathering. Lambert stated that the Conference minutes would be available on the Conference website by Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 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 2022 Conference Journal must be received by July 1, 2022.

Closing Motions

Rev. Jennifer Lambert moved that all written reports that appeared in the preconference materials on the conference website, the reports presented during this 2022 Annual Conference, other reports received prior to 2022 Annual Conference, and the Daily Proceedings with any corrections be adopted. **Approved**

United Methodist Men Announcement

Greg Arnold, the General Secretary and CEO of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, presented the vision for the direction of men's ministry and scouting ministries inside the church.

The vision included a partnership with a Live Bold App for Christian men, the number one Christian men's app in the world. Arnold demonstrated a small group app for men called Adventure Men which includes everything a group might need to get started and stay connected featuring leader guides.

He announced a new way to connect to the Commission on United Methodist Men called United, an annual subscription which contained training and materials on how to start, grow and sustain effective men's ministry within the local church.

United Methodist Men was broadening their program to open wide the doors, to reimagine how we connect to every local congregation, in the U.S., and worldwide; and creating connections with scouting ministries. Arnold invited the Conference to visit <https://unitedmensministry.com/> for more information.

Lambert moved the 38th session stand adjourned. **Approved**

Closing Prayer

Rev. Maria Antonieta Fernandes, Christ Community UMC, offered a prayer.

Conference adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION
Bishop Grant Hagiya, Preaching
Saturday, June 11, 2022
7:00-8:30 p.m.
First UMC, Mesa, Arizona

Dr. Ashley Strawser, organist and musical director, provided music for worship and the opening hymn, "Praise to the Lord, The Almighty." During the processional music, the Desert Southwest Conference clergy and those participating in the ordination service processed.

Bishop Grant Hagiya greeted those in worship and led the congregation in an opening prayer. He offered recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism followed by the hymn, "God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian."

The Act of Commissioning and Ordination followed with Rev. Dee Dee Azhikakath, Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Chair, Order for Elders, recommending those to be commissioned and ordained. Azhikakath and Bartlow presented Brooke Burris Isingoma to be ordained for the work of an elder; Sylvia Marie Harris, Michael Wilkerson, and Christopher John Carlson Wurpts for commissioning as provisional members; Karen Meredith Joubert, preparing for ordained ministry as a deacon and Linda Beth Larsen for recognition as an associate member. Rev. Melissa Rynders, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, recognized the 16 candidates from the Florida Annual Conference who were not approved by the Florida Executive Session: Carlene Barbeau, Tim Jones Barton, Lucas Bonates, Paola Bustillos, Mary Jackson, William Kendust, Shawn Klein, Gary Logan, Clark McClain, Kipp Nelson, Carey Stevens, Sherlain Stevens, Anna Swygert, Kaylee Vida, Erin Wagner, and Sarah Wise. There was a moment of silence. The Bishop examined the Desert Southwest Annual Conference candidates for commissioning, ordination, and recognition.

Rev. Tina Marie Rees, Chair, Order for Deacons, read Matthew 25:31-46. The sermon, "*Remember to Whom You Belong*," was delivered by the Bishop. The hymn, "O God Beyond All Praising," followed the sermon. Rev. Timote Piukala, Tongan UMC, gave an invitation for the offering, The offering was designated for Tongan Relief.

The Bishop commissioned Sylvia Marie Harris, Karen Meredith Joubert, Michael Wilkerson, and Christopher John Carlson Wurpts, with the Prayer of Commissioning and Laying on of Hands for each candidate. Those commissioned were each presented with a wooden cross and flame created by Rev. Robert Stanley and a certificate.

The Bishop ordained Brooke Burris Isingoma an elder, with the Examination of Elders and Laying on of Hands. Isingoma was presented with a stole, paten and chalice, and a certificate.

The Bishop recognized Linda Larsen as associate member of the Conference. Larsen was presented with a wooden cross and flame created by Rev. Robert Stanley, a pocket *Book of Worship*, and a certificate.

The Annual Conference Worship musicians presented the anthem, "We Believe" by Dan Forrest. The Bishop offered the sending forth prayer and the congregation sang, "Lord, You Give the Great Commission." Following the benediction, those on the stage recessed to Fantasia in G Major "'Pièce d'orgue" BWV 572" by J.S. Bach.