

IV. Daily Proceedings
WPA Chic
FIRST DAY
Thursday, June 8, 2017
CLERGY SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi called the Clergy Session to order at 9:37 AM.

CALL TO WORSHIP – Bishop Moore-Koikoi led the body in the call to worship. Following the congregational singing of “In Unity We Lift Our Song”, the Bishop opened the session with prayer.

COMPREHENSIVE MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD’S REPORT – David Janz announced that following the presentation of the Report of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, there will be an Omnibus Motion for approval of all matters contained in the Report that have not been specifically voted upon.

COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona, introduced the 2016-2017 Course of Study graduates: Sheila R. Auer, Robert D. Gillgrist, and Samuel J. Wagner.

RESIDENTIAL LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona asked the Fall 2016 Residential Licensing School Graduates to stand and be recognized: Jennifer J. Craig, Rebecca Dunagan, Kim A. Hummel, Patricia A. Lee, Gary L. McGarvey, Pamela C. Ramsey, and Matthew E. Williams.

COMMUTER LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona asked the Spring 2017 Commuter Licensing School Graduates to stand and be recognized: Kimberly S. Betz, John W. Devey, Kathryn K. Dom, Harry E. Ent, Jeffrey D. Foor, Kimberly L. Foes, Lois E. Jackson, Kurtis R. June, Steven C. McIlvaine, Cindy L. Mealey, Joshua M. Nash, Frank M. Philpott, Brenda S. Schall, Matthew C. Scott (summer of 2017), Paul A. Sensebaugh, Shane J. Siciliano, and Melissa S. Smith (summer of 2017).

APPROVAL OF THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE STUDIES FOR THE LICENSE AS A LOCAL PASTOR, ARE APPROVED, BUT ARE NOT NOW APPOINTED – Approved upon motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶315, were the following – Butler District: Sara E. Adkins (2014), Jessica Kennedy (2015) – Connellsville District: none – Erie-Meadville District: John R. Hall (2013) Franklin District: Mary Ann McConnell (2008) – Greensburg District: none – Indiana District: John F. Balliet (2016), Daniel D. Cunkelman (2016), Harry E. Ent (2017), Lois E. Jackson (2017), Thomas L. Krishart (2009), Brenda Sommerville-Schall (2017) – Johnstown District: Kathryn K. Dom (2017), Janet E. MELikant (2016), Matthew C. Scott (2017), Paul A. Sensebaugh (2017) – Kane District: Melissa S. Smith (2017) – Pittsburgh District: Patricia A. Lee (2016), Elizabeth G. Murphy (2001), Diane C. Randolph (2015), Claudia K. Viehland (2008), Shane J. Siciliano (2017) – Washington District: Patricia A. McDaid (2017), Valerie J. Wilson (2016). The motion carried

FULL-TIME LOCAL PASTORS– Approved upon motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶318.1, were the following – Butler District: R. Bailey Allen (2015), Robert D. Gillgrist (2015), Chance Kelosky (2015) – Connellsville District: David A. Klink (1988), E. Robert Nagy (2002), Beverly K. Roscoe (2012), Charles F. Zickefoose, Jr (2012) – Erie-Meadville District: none – Franklin District: Earl A. Butterfield (2008), Douglas M. Brink (2007), R. Jeffrey Canter (2014), Derwood (Bud) B. Davis (2016), Daniel P. Grimes (2003), Robert C. Kifer (2006), Janet R. Pratt (2014), Donald E. Rudge (2004), Gary L. Sheesley (2002) – Greensburg District: Joshua H. Ricketts (2015) – Indiana District: Ernie F. DeLuca (1999), Dawn E. Krishart (2004), Rebecca L. Edwards (2010), Earl A. Butterfield (2008) – Johnstown District: Linda C. Lacovic (2004), Edward I. Wagner (2003) – Kane District: Matthew D.A. Blake Sr (2006), Calvin J Cook (2010), Robert M. Howles Sr (2009), Martin P. Reynolds (2000), Benjamin T. Zimmerman (2013) – Pittsburgh District (Karen L. Burns Hecht (2008), Karen S. Slusser (2012) – Washington District: Richard E. Bowser (2004), Dawn R. Hargraves (2011), Susan M. Hoover (2007), Edwin D. Pope (2002). The motion carried

PART-TIME LOCAL PASTORS – Approved upon motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶318.2, were the following – Butler District: David A. Alleman (2004), Floyd H. Barnhart (2014), Joshua P. Demi (2014), Donna N. Douitt (2016), Janice M. Davis (2016), Mary J. Gould (2016), Harriet E. Hutton (2010), Kenneth R. Jacobs (2009), Daniel C. Miller (2016), Jerrold J. Pawloski (2005), Susan M. Pickering (2004), Rebecca L. Rosengarth (2015), Bonnie C. Rupp-Fisher (1999), R. Wayne Schar (2001) – Connellsville District: Timothy R. Auer (2012), Christine M. Doren (2015), Sandra E. Fitzgibbons (2015), Rose E. Granato (2015), Douglas A. Johnson (2009), Kimberly M. King (2006), Debra L. Lambert (2015), Leona R. Logan (2015), Samuel R. McClintock (2014), Allen T. McKeown (2014), Diane B. Olson, Frank M. Philpott (2016), Jeri A. Penrod (2014), Robert L. Rabenstein (2010), Barry K. Ritenour (2002), Michael A. Shaffer, Thomas C. Shirer (2003), Mark A. Sholtis (2004), Valerie D. Stark (2014), Edward F. Sutton Jr. (2014), Mardiann I. Vincent (2015), Vann A. Walchok (2014) – Erie-Meadville District: Denny R. Belknap Sr. (2016), Harold W. Blair (2010), Terry T. Brown (2011), Dean P. Cooney (2009), Jennifer J. Craig (2016), Shirley N. Deemer (2013), John L. Donner (2003), Barbara J. English (1997), Donald R. Hullenbaugh (2015), Audrey I. Lovewell (2003), Janet R. Sill (2015), Mary C. Stewart (2008), Bryon F. Switala (2014), Frank J. Weingard (2008), Ryan D. Weingard (2016), Harry S. Zurasky (2014) – Franklin District: Giles L. Bailey, Jr (1999), Carol E. Brown (2010), Richard N. Carlson (2001), Keith D. Diehl (2013), Cynthia J. Duffee (2010), Earl R. Dykes (2002), Kenneth E. Hughes (2006), Gene A. Lenk II (2013), William J. Locke (2013), Denise L. Mains (2010), Paul O. Mitchell (1986), Theresa A. Robison (2013) – Greensburg District: Bruce A. Anthony (2005), Pamela S. Armstrong, Gregory D. Butler (2016), Jill M. Croushore (2016), Tammy L. Falcsik (2014), Robert W. Green (2015), D. Bruce Keen (2010), Beth A. Meier (2015), Herbert D. Phar, Pamela C. Ramsey (2016), Sharon S. Waltenbaugh (2011), William P. Weppelman, Timothy R. Williams (2007), Chandler D. Wolf – Indiana District: Lila M. Bachelier, Kendra L. Balliet (2014), Leon S. Blose (2011), Janet L. Chiplis (2015), Ann M. Dixon (2015), Joel T. Fugate (2014), Randy J. Hall (2009), J. Mark Heckman (2016), Colbert E. Jones (2016), Melissa D. Kraus (2012), Craig R. Lindahl (2008), Deborah D. Marshall (2013), Dennis L. Marshall (2008), Kathy J. Mihoerck (2010), Clint T. Phillips (2014), Timothy C.

Shindledecker (2015), Sara J. Wrona (2006) – Johnstown District: Jeremy W. Barkley (2014), Joy A. Blackburn (1994), Thomas A. Blackburn (2003), Cleo A. Carr (2008), Valerie J. Conrad-Dembinsky (1997), Paul A. Demi (2000), Adam T. Dotts (2014), Leonard J. Findley (2011), Phyllis R. Gramling (2001), Gustaz C. Hautz (2016), Carol H. Hickman (2010), W. John Hickman (2002), Preston L. Hutchins (2012), Kurtis R. June (2017), Terry L. Knipple (2011), Gary L. McGarvey (2016), Ruth A. Moore (2001), Thomas W. Moore (1997), Daryl R. Penrod (2014), Melody M. Polisky (2015), Gregory M. Stiver (1989), William M. Warrick (2015), Michael L. Watts (2015) – Kane District: Andrew C. Blystone (2013), Ralph K. Culp (1997), Jeffrey D. Foor (2017), Sandra D. Howles (2015), Janice E. Reynolds (2014), Bethany C. Rosler (2017), W. Craig Smith (1993), Karen J. Trask (2013) – Pittsburgh District: Dennis L. Bouch (2012), John Devey (2017), Thomas W. Fodor (2015), Jeffrey J. Lukacs (2011), Dai D. Morgan (2007), Laura L. Powell (2016), David P. Pogany (2012) – Washington District: Michael B. Airgood (2011), Michael P. Arnold (2014), Monica L. Calvert (2014), Brian M. Carroll (2009), Jonathan M. Cordle (2016), Sandra K. Conti (2013), Cynthia L. Deter (2009), Edward B. Hanley (2012), Karen L. Jacobs (2012), Jacob C. Judy (2014), James D. Lewis Sr. (1998), Debra L. Mason (2013), Dale W. Roddy Jr. (2013), Monte R. Turner (2013). The motion carried.

LOCAL PASTORS DISCONTINUED – Terry G. Shaffer reported local pastors who have exited or been discontinued, according to ¶320.1: Mary I. DuVall, John R. Koblosky, Wendy L. Henderson, Vickie S. Lynch, Rhea Summit, Andrew J. Flower, Dennis M. Williams, Eric J. Diewald, Bryan S. Aul, and Keith A. Martin.

LOCAL PASTOR REINSTATED – Terry G. Shaffer announced that according to ¶320.4, Linda G. Harrison has been reinstated.

CLERGY FROM OTHER CONFERENCES SERVING IN WPA – Terry G. Shaffer reported the clergy from other Annual Conferences serving in Western Pennsylvania (¶¶331.8, 346.1) name (credentials) AC membership: David S. Dempsey (RE) from Upper New York AC, Arnold G. Husk (RE) from West Virginia AC, Jay C. Sowers III (FD) from Missouri AC, Carole J. Bergman (RE) from California/Nevada AC, and Dirk A. Wooten (PE) from Virginia (AC).

CLERGY FROM OTHER METHODIST DENOMINATIONS SERVING IN WPA – Terry G. Shaffer reported the clergy from other Annual Conferences serving in Western Pennsylvania (¶¶331.8, 346.1) name (credentials) membership: Bethany C. Rosler (FE) from Free Methodist Church.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS IN ANOTHER UM ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Approved upon motion of Terry G. Shaffer, with vote (¶586.4): none. Without vote (¶334.5, ¶344.4): Jane Ellen Nickell (West Virginia)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Received on motion of David Janz, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶322: Sheila Rae Auer and Samuel Johnston Wagner.

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING – Received on motion of Eric Raygor, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶324: Provisional Elders: Ea Kyoung (Amy) Jun, Loren Andrew McQueen, Valerie Bennett Mize, Samantha Sue Penwell, Joel David Peterson, Lori Michele Walters, Luke Andrew Whipple, and Matthew Edward Williams.

PROVISIONAL DEACONS – David Janz read the names of those who are in preparation for ordination as a deacon according to ¶326 (and seminary, if in school): commissioned in 2016: Rebekah R. Clapp (MTSO), Matthew F. Howe (Asbury), Anias L. Hussian (Claremont), and Sean R. Lewis (PTS).

PROVISIONAL ELDERS – David Janz read the names of those who are in preparation for ordination as an elder according to ¶326 (and seminary, if in school): commissioned in 2014: Randolph K. Landman (Asbury). Commissioned in 2015: John D. Mize (United). Commissioned in 2016: Megan Y. Berkebile (MTSO), Angelique O. Bradford (Wesley), Robert V. Ellson (PTS), Nathanael J. Fugate (PTS), James T. Golla III (PTS), Paul A. Harman III (MTSO), Jonathan J. Hartland (PTS), Melody L. Kimmel (MTSO), Hannah M. Loughman (PTS), Keith T. McGarvey (Asbury), C. Drew Myers (PTS), Eric M. Oliver (PTS), Derek R. Platt (PTS), Angela M. Rishell (PTS), James T. Roberts (PTS), Thomas R. Scott (Asbury), and Adam J. Stump (PTS).

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Jonathan Bell, according to ¶335: David Andrew Bell, Jr.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Eric Raygor, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Doug Andrew Dyson.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of David Janz, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Brittany Lynn Gordon Wooten.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of John Phipps, according to ¶335: Benjamin Andrew Phipps.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of David Janz, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: James Robert Sands.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Eric Raygor, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Jean Ann Smith.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of David Janz, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Jack L. Tickle, III.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Eric Raygor, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Erica Beth Wellner.

DISCONTINUED AS PROVISIONAL MEMBERS – On motion of Terry G. Shaffer, by expiration of eight year limit (¶327): Linda G. Harrison and Laurajane LaVerde Stone.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORDAINED MINISTERIAL OFFICE – On motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶360.2, .4: Michael A. Pacelli III (2016).

THE HONORED DEAD – Terry G. Shaffer read the names of those who have passed into the church triumphant during the past year -- Associate Members: Roger Applebee, John F. Dallape – Active Elders: David S. Hampson – Retired Elders: Vincent L. Rothwell, Richard Hawke, Dean E. Hughes, William H. Hiles, Carleton P. McKita, Hoyt Leon Hickman, Harry C. Sherry, Robert L. Critchlow, Richard W. Shields, David A. Bell, Jack L. Hemskey, Victor L. Brown, Frank A. Bodnar, Horace B. Pollock, Jane M. Myers, John Sass Jr, Robert N. Janacek – Retired Local Pastors: Wilma G. Horner, James M. Nelson, Robert E. Matthews. Bishop Moore-KoiKoi offered a prayer of comfort.

ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY, PERSONAL – Granted according to ¶353.2a 3: R. Duane Thompson (FE) 1st year.

ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY, PERSONAL – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.2a 3: S. Bruce Mould (FE) 6th year, Ronald E. Thomas (FE) 15th year, David R. Lewis (FE) 18th year, Stephen A. Tiffany (FE) 7th year, and Chul S. Park (FE) 8th year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY, FAMILY – Granted according to ¶353.2b 3: Patricia A. Fuller (FD) 4th year, Laura A. Puleo 4th year, Nathan W. Carlson (FE) 2nd year, Beth A. Cooper 2nd year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY, FAMILY – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.2b 3: Barbara A. Turpish (FE) 14th year (07/01/2004), and Deborah A. Ackley-Killian (FE) 20th year (effective 2/10/1997).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY, TRANSITIONAL – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.2c: David J. Henderson (FE) 1 year (effective 3/5/2017) and Rodney E. Smith (FE) 1 year (effective 2/24/2017).

RETIREMENTS: ELDERS – On motion of Kelley M. Schanely, according to ¶357: name (years of service) effective date: In Ki Lee 8/31/2016, Kenneth L. Bossart (31) 7/1/2017, Donald R. Brauer (17) 7/1/2017, Emily A. Byrd (39) 1/31/2017, Thomas V. Chacko (20) 7/1/2017, Howard A. Greenfield II (41) 7/1/2017, Beverly M. Gross (18) 7/1/2017, Alfred H. Kimmel (22) 7/1/2017, Bonnie T.F. King (21) 7/1/2017, John V. King (33) 7/1/2017, Penelope F. Lyon (12) 1/1/2017, Joseph P. Martin Jr. (40) 7/1/2017, Kenneth J. Peters (39) 7/1/2017, Craig W. Peterson (30) 7/1/2017, Cynthia K. Schneider

(11) 7/1/2017, John H. Snyder (33) 7/1/2017, Thomas F. St. Clair (38) 7/1/2017, William J. Starr (41) 7/1/2017, David R. Vaughn (37) 7/1/2017, Barry L. Weyant (28) 7/1/2017, Carlton D. White (20) 7/1/2017, Dorothy L. Yeso (7) 7/1/2017, and Dennis L. Zimmerman (26) 7/1/2017.

RETIREMENTS: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – On motion of Kelley M. Schanely, according to ¶357: name (years of service) effective date: Randall W. Headley (26) 7/1/2017.

RETIREMENTS: LOCAL PASTORS – On motion of Kelley M. Schanely, according to ¶320.5: name (years of service) effective date: Melvin E Bendig (10) 7/1/2017, R. Max Miller (22) 7/1/2017, Diane B. Olson (14) 7/1/2017, Kathryn A. (Reitz) Karaba (11) 7/1/2017, Jon M. Swart (3) 7/1/2017.

PRAYER – A prayer for the retirees was offered by Bishop Moore-KoiKoi.

LESS THAN FULL-TIME SERVICE – Approved on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶338.2, ¶342.2, ¶1506, and ¶331.7: Willard C. Adkins (AM ¼ time year 15), Ralph P. Cotton (FE ¾ time year 7), Harold J. Dangel (AM ¾ time year 7), Todd M Davis (FE ½ time year 4), Sharon M. Hamley (FE ¾ time year 9), J. Mark Hurst (FE ¾ time year 4), Tina G. Keller (FE ¾ time year 9), John R. Wilson (FE ¾ time year 24), Joe K Samalenge (FE ¾ time year 4), K. David Chin (FE ¾ time year 2), Barbara J. Stoehr (FE ½ time year 2), Pamela S. Armstrong (FE ½ time year 2), Joni K. Williams (AM ¾ time year 2), Sheila R. Auer (AM ¾ time year 1), Debra L. Pisor (FD ½ time year 2)

APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – Terry G. Shaffer reported that Anthony R. C. Hita has been appointed to attend school according to ¶416.6.

DIACONAL MINISTER APPOINTED – Terry G. Shaffer reported that Nancy T. Foltz has been appointed to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary & Consultant according to ¶310.

PENSION CREDIT REPORT – No report.

OTHER BUSINESS – David Janz and Jim Pond shared various highlights of the new Annual Evaluation of Pastoral and Congregational Performance. The evaluation has been designed to foster and promote conversation between the pastor and the SPRC. It is recommended that the evaluation be shared with the SPRC in the fall of the year “and used as an instrument to increase focus on required/desired outcomes in the ministry of the church, and considered throughout the year as a frame of reference for the performance of the pastor and the church.

COMPREHENSIVE MOTION – Approved on motion of Eric Raygor, members of the Clergy Session approved a comprehensive motion to receive and approve the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

APPROVAL OF CHARACTER OF CLERGY – Bishop Moore-Koikoi, as required by ¶604.4 and ¶605.6. asked “Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and administration?” Alice Weaver Dunn, Dean of the Cabinet, responded representing all the District Superintendents: “other than 1 active complaint, all the clergy in the conference are in good standing.”

CLOSING – The co-chairpersons of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy, and Bishop Moore-Koikoi joined together in the Covenant Prayer, followed by the hymn “Go to the World.” Bishop Moore-KoiKoi offered the final blessing based on Ephesians 3:20.

RECESS – The clergy session was recessed at 11:12 am.

LAITY SESSION

Conference Lay Leader, Sharon Gregory, welcomed attendees to the first-ever Laity-Only session at the Annual Conference of the Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Church. She introduced Liz Lennox, new Communications and Social Media Coordinator and Larry Bridges, Conference Treasurer. Bill Patrick, Conference Floor Manager from the Johnstown District; distributed a helpful four-page document he developed, which details the role and responsibilities of lay members to Annual Conference, anticipates the questions of a new attendee, suggests ways to be active participants in legislative sessions, and describes reporting back to their congregations in the weeks following Annual Conference.

The second emphasis of the Laity session was Discipleship. An entertaining video, produced by ChuckKnowsChurch.com, was shown which featured a church committee trying to define Discipleship and develop a “Discipleship System,” which they called H-O-P-E.

Paul Huey, Greensburg District Lay Leader; Jenny Gordon and Corona McKee, Indiana District Lay Leaders, then discussed the concepts of Hospitality, Opportunity, Purpose, and Engagement, as applied to Discipleship in the local church: Hospitality – “Reaching out and receiving new people”; Opportunity – “Offering the opportunity to make a commitment to Christ”; Purpose – “Growing in faith through participation in the means of grace”; and Engagement – “Sending persons into the world.”

Two web sites were recommended for Discipleship Resources: The UM Facebook “See All the People”; and www.UMCDiscipleship.org/laity.

A “Moment of Privilege” was granted to the Conference Youth, who presented the Pineapple Award for outstanding service to youth to Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader.

AFTERNOON SESSION

OPENING WORSHIP – At 12:45 pm, the Conference Praise Band shared some pre-service music. The Conference then lifted praise to God by singing “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”, “And Are We Yet Alive”, and “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”. An offering was received for the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund. Bishop Moore-KoiKoi preached a sermon entitled “Dressed in Love: WPA Chic” based on Colossians 3:12-17. The sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated. Participants in the service included Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Kevin Latshaw and the Crossroads Worship Team, Jerry Rectenwald, Wanda Ross, Donald Blystone, Barb Port, Paul Huey, Corona McKee, Nancy Demi, Mark Schwanke, Alecia Gibbs, and Louis Patterson.

LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS – The Annual Conference divided into Legislative Sections at 3:00 pm.

EVENING SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the conference to order at 7:00 pm. Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, was introduced and asked to offer an opening prayer.

INTRODUCTION OF FLOOR MANAGERS - Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced Bill Patrick and Kelly Smith, Floor Managers.

WELCOME TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Vicki Stahlman, chair of the Conference Sessions Committee, highlighted logistical information and new changes this year, including electronic voting, site updates, and our new bishop.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - John Wilson took a moment of personal privilege to thank the Annual Conference for their prayers during his illness last year.

SETTING THE BAR OF THE CONFERENCE - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, moved that the bar of the conference be set to include “members who are seated at the tables within the plenary hall.” The motion to set the bar was APPROVED.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, explained the roll call of members. Members were guided through the completion of the attendance card and the seating designation card. Laity -- in attendance, Clergy -- in attendance plus -- excused Clergy. Total --.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - Alan Morrison, Agenda Coordinator, moved for the setting of our published agenda as printed on pages 14 & 15 in the pre-conference Journal. The motion to adopt the agenda was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RULES - Amy Bentz, Chancellor, made a motion to suspend rule 2.3.8.1.1 to permit the body to receive late reports and legislation.

The motion passed. The rules subcommittee had no other recommended rules changes to propose.

ELECTION OF TELLERS - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, nominated tellers to serve during this year's Annual Conference, as listed in the pre-conference booklet (page 10) with 2 additions -- Janice Davis and Roseann Smith.

WELCOME – Dr. Paul McNulty, President of Grove City College, expressed greetings to the Annual Conference. He expressed hope that the facilities of Grove City College will enable the body to do the work that Christ has called us to do.

COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY – Matt Judd, Episcopacy Committee Chair, invited all Committee members to join him on the platform. The Conference welcomed Bishop Moore-KoiKoi. Bishop Moore-KoiKoi is the President of Just Peace, a member of the missional engagement team (GBGM), a representative on the 2020 General Conference worship committee, a member of the Call to Action Task Force, and a liaison for the active Ebony Bishops to the Black Methodists for Church Renewal.

Matt Judd encouraging the Conference to celebrate with the Bishop and Raphael tonight at the ice cream social during Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals. The Bishop was presented a gift card for the purchase of her custom-designed ring, and Rev. Raphael received a gift card to Jos. A. Bank.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET / RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING CABINET - Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced the Coordinating Cabinet to the body. She invited Bill Blair, Alan Brooks, and William Meekins Jr. to come to the lectern so that she could thank them for the services that they have given to the conference. In each case, she released them to do the work to which God has called them.

Bishop Moore-KoiKoi then invited Bob Zilhaver, Jodi Smith, and Renee Mikell to the lectern. She spoke about each of their gifts and graces, and she welcomed them to the table.

Bishop Moore-KoiKoi announced that Alyce Weaver-Dunn will continue as Dean of the Cabinet, Joel Garrett will continue as Secretary of the Cabinet, and Joe Patterson will continue as the Treasurer of the Cabinet. Brad Lauster will serve as the Spiritual Director.

Bishop Moore-KoiKoi then introduced Jackie Campbell, Sharon Gregory, and Amy Wagner and talked of their ongoing responsibilities.

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS - Bishop Moore-Koikoi began her address by sharing that since she arrived in September, she has spent time listening to the hopes and concerns of the Conference. “What a blessing to serve Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.” She reminded the Conference that in many, many ways, **“We are blessed.”** And while there are many ways in which God has blessed us as an Annual Conference, there are also many ways in which we need to confess that we have failed to be the Church

that God wants us to be. “We beseech thee O Lord, have mercy on us.” The question of the faithful is: “Is this what we’re called to do?” Once we’re clear on our call, God will provide.

We serve a resurrected Christ - if followers, we are resurrected people Do you believe God is faithful? God is faithful, great in his faithfulness

CLOSING COMMENTS - Bishop Moore-Koikoi shared some closing comments. The Bishop declared the body in recess until Friday morning. The conference then enjoyed an evening of Penguin hockey.

COSROW Report

Today, June 8, 2017 marked an historic event in WPA Conference of the United Methodist Church history. Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi, the first female African American bishop in Western PA opened up our Annual Conference with worship. Bishop Moore-KoiKoi's first official act of Annual Conference was to declare Grove City College a Love Zone in line with the theme of this year's Annual Conference, WPA Chic, Dressed in Love. During her first opening worship sermon Bishop Moore-KoiKoi stressed that our dress is critical, it gives us the power to work in harmony, the ability to discern God's work and to respect one another in differing of opinions. Annual Conference participants were told that all clothing of love could be found free of charge in the Prayer Room. This message comes at a time that is history making for our denomination as we prepare for a called General Conference that can determine whether we remain United or separate. We continue to be faced with racism, sexism and ableism. Being dressed in Love is what will help us be in conversation during this time.

WPA Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is sponsoring 1 Conference, 1 book. The book selection is, *We Shall Not Be Moved: Methodists Debate Race, Gender and Homosexuality* by Jane Ellen Nickell. This book "looks at the United Methodist Church's conversations about the issue [whether or not to ordain gays and lesbians], in light of Methodism's historic contests over the leadership of African Americans and women, to see what can be learned from these earlier periods of change" The book uses the actual floor debates of General Conference. We encourage everyone to read this book to help us understand this moment in history. Read in groups and discuss, COSROW will also sponsor events, please watch for more details.

The opening worship reflected a mood of refreshing change in the WPA Annual Conference. The participants reflected a well- balanced level of gender. However, as observed throughout the service, WPA may still need to work on diversity of ethnicity to include all ethnicities found in our Annual Conference , including diversity of music and worship styles

Our Bishop has challenged us to take on difficult issues and do so Dressed in Love. Let us take on the challenge. Let us not only take on that challenge here at Annual Conference but to our local congregations across our Western PA Conference.