

DAY TWO
Friday, June 9, 2017

MORNING SESSION

ORDER - Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the morning session to order at 8:10 AM.

BIBLE STUDY I - Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced Rev. Dr. Dawn Chesser, from Discipleship Ministries, to lead our Bible Studies for the next few days. Rev. Chesser brings greetings from Rev. Junius B. Dotson, the new General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleship Ministries. She then led the body in a study of the 1st chapter of Paul's letter to the Colossians.

OPENING PRAYER - Jim Pond, District Superintendent of the Indiana District, offered an opening prayer before the start of the morning's plenary session. Following the prayer, Bishop Moore-Koikoi asked us to pray for a young man who fell on the steps of a church and hit his head. This is a life or death injury, and silent prayer was observed.

VOTING KEYPAD PRACTICE - Bill Patrick, Floor Manager, asked Alan Morrison, Agenda Coordinator, to lead the conference in a period of practice with the new digital voting system.

CONSENT CALENDAR - Lisa Grant presented the Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendars (Daily Journal pages 617-620). RS401 is an order of the day for Saturday, so it was automatically removed from the Consent Calendar. RS403 and P505 failed to receive a 75% margin, so according to conference rules, they are automatically removed from the Consent Calendar. In addition to these three items, P307 and P611 were both ruled out of order by Bishop Moore-Koikoi.

Keith McIlwain submitted a letter in writing asking for a question of law under ¶51 on Petition 611.

Nathanael Fugate submitted a letter in writing asking for a question of law under ¶51 on Petition 307.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi stated that she will respond to both resolutions within 30 days.

Lisa Grant reminded the body that with 25 signatures, by 9:00 PM Friday evening, an item can be removed from the Consent Calendar.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: BUTLER DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed Joel Garrett as the Superintendent for the Butler District. Joel Garrett then read the new appointments to the District, while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM - Kelly Smith introduced the Conference Anti-Racism Team. She then introduced the concept of implicit bias, and presented a video.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, led the conference through the process of voting on 5 proposed constitutional amendments. Eligible conference members voted on each individual proposal.

BUDGET PRESENTATION - Seth McClymonds, representing the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, offered a report on the proposed budget. Auditors report that as of September, 2016, no issues have been reported.

McClymonds made a motion to elect McCall, Scanlon, & Tice as the 2018 Auditors. The motion carried.

Lori Diehl, Chairperson of the Personnel Team, reported that the team has been examining the staffing of the Annual Conference, including hiring practices. Currently, the team is refining job descriptions, a comprehensive diversity plan, and ensuring consistency. (see the full report beginning on page 250)

McClymonds continued his presentation, highlighting how CF&A has examined different models of how apportionments could be determined for local churches. (see the full report beginning on page 204)

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: CONNELLSVILLE DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi appointed Robert Zilhaver as the Superintendent for the Connellsville District. Robert Zilhaver and Bill Blair read the new appointments to the District, while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS -- Tom Parkinson, representing the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits presented on the state of our benefits. We are blessed because local churches have been faithful (funded or overfunded our pensions, every segment). He explained the change in the health plan where the increased costs will be shared between the churches and the pastors.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: ERIE-MEADVILLE DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed Joe Patterson as the Superintendent for the Erie-Meadville District. Joe Patterson read the new appointments to the District, while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

RECESS -- Following closing comments and announcements, the conference was recessed until 1:00 PM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

ORDER -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the session to order at 1:30 PM.

OPENING PRAYER - Bishop Moore-Koikoi asked Cody Duke, Youth Delegation, to open the afternoon session in prayer.

CONFERENCE POVERTY TEAM - Bill Patrick, Floor Manager, asked Glenna Wilson, chair of the Conference Poverty Team, to offer a presentation. Glenna invited the entire team to come up to the dais, and led the Conference in a guided meditation to highlight the experience of poverty. The Poverty Team thanked the Conference for its budget and time, and ended in prayer.

ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM - Kelly Smith, Floor Manager, introduced a video on reverse racism which was played for the body. She also shared the hashtag #letstalkaboutracewpa.

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS - Bill Patrick, Floor Manager, introduced Scott Shaffer, Chair of the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Shaffer and Jennifer Clayton-Craig immediately launched into a short skit to highlight the benefits of being involved with the Commission.

PA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES -- Sandra Strauss, Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach with the PA Council of Churches, spoke about the Council's work in our Conference. She shared about an anti-bullying program for youth, a campground ministry, and a recent event that hosted Shane Claiborne as the keynote speaker. In the future, the Council hopes to foster more unity between ecumenical partners, explore possibilities for sanctuary churches, and to explore new ideas and partnerships.

UNITED METHODIST ADVOCACY -- Dai Morgan, Coordinator of United Methodist Advocacy in PA, works with all three conferences and bishops. He offered an open invitation for every church to contact him about advocacy.

DREW SEMINARY -- Javier Viera, Dean of Drew Seminary, spoke about the school's 150th anniversary. Drew Seminary hopes to use training rooted in the Gospel story to produce innovative and courageous leaders.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: FRANKLIN DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi appointed Jodie Smith as District Superintendent of the Franklin District. Allan Brooks and Jodie Smith alternated the reading of new appointments to the Franklin District while all current Franklin District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION - Bill Patrick, Floor Manager, introduced Kasi Devinney, CEO, of Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union. The Credit Union can stay connected with its members wherever they go. The smartphone app allows remote deposits. The new VISA program allows reward programs to be customized, including options to support many charities. The credit union presented \$1,000 gift to the conference from its own earnings to be used to support the conference's camping ministries.

UM FOUNDATION -- Ed Bailey, Executive Director of the UM Foundation of Western PA talked about the foundations offer of education, affordable consultants for capital campaigns, grants, and trainings. Bailey, on behalf of the board, thanked the Conference for its investments.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: GREENSBURG DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed Patricia Nelson as District Superintendent of the Greensburg District. Nelson read the new appointments to the District, while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONCERNS - Kelly Smith, Floor Manager, introduced Anais Hussian, Chair of the Committee on Disability Concerns. The Committee gets to equip and resource churches who seek training for clergy and laity to create spaces of belonging. The Committee also hosts Disability Awareness Weekend at Olmstead Manor.

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA - Liddy Barlow, Executive Director of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, shared that this group brings ecumenical partners to a common table in order to work together. She also shared ways that people can become involved with Christian Associates.

BOARD OF LAITY REPORT - Bill Patrick introduced Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader. She opened with prayer, and then presented the Board of Laity report. She highlighted some of the events of the year 2016-2017, including the awarding of \$11,100 in lay scholarships

“UNSTOPPABLE” -- Kelly Smith, Floor Manager, introduced Denise Stone to talk about “Unstoppable.” Smith answered the questions of What is Unstoppable? -- When is Unstoppable? -- and Why is Unstoppable?

EASTBROOK MISSION BARN -- Bill Patrick introduced Katie Peterson, deaconess and director of the Eastbrook Mission Barn. She presented the bishop with a t-shirt and a car magnet from Eastbrook Mission Barn. She thanked the conference for donations of monetary supplies and kit donations

PRAYER -- Bill Blair offered a prayer, and the conference was in recess for 10 minutes.

ORDER -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the house to order at 3:45 PM

CABINET REPORT -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced Alyce Weaver Dunn, Dean of the Cabinet. Alyce invited the cabinet to join her on the dais. The Cabinet is responsible to assist churches in various stages of their journey, including closings. Joel Garrett read a list of those congregations that have closed during the past year, including: Taylortown UMC (Washington District – 06/27/16), Tidioute: First UMC (Kane District – 08/28/16), Strangford UMC (Indiana District – merger with Black Lick UMC 08/28/16), Castle Shannon UMC (Pittsburgh District – merger with Fairhaven UMC 10/11/16), Johnstown: Trinity-Asbury UMC (Johnstown District – 10/16/16), Grandview UMC (Washington District – 11/04/16), Bear Lake UMC (Kane District – 11/13/16), Listonburg UMC (Connellsville District – 12/9/16), Hooversville UMC (Connellsville District – merger with Stoystown: Otterbein – 01/22/17), Jeannette: First UMC (Greensburg District – merger with Charter Oak UMC -- 01/01/17), Wallaceville UMC (Franklin District – 04/30/17), Penn's Woods UMC (Greensburg District – merger with North Huntingdon: Christ UMC – 06/25/17), and East McKeesport: First UMC (Greensburg District – 06/25/17). Paul Taylor lead in a liturgy for these closed congregations.

Alyce Weaver Dunn then highlighted some of the activities of the cabinet. Bradford L. Lauster led the Conference in prayer -- and then in prayer for Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Raphael Koikoi.

MISSION AMBASSADOR INTRODUCTIONS - Pamela Gardner & Cyndi Bloise, 2017-18 Mission Ambassadors to the Missionary Conferences (Red Bird & Alaska with a future trip scheduled to Oklahoma Indian), addressed the conference. For next 2 years, they will be teaching at Mission U. They offered Bishop Moore-Koikoi a blessing.

RUTH M. SMITH HOME - Bill Patrick, Floor Manager, introduced Mary J Buzard & Mara Tinsley. The purpose of the Ruth M. Smith Center is to minister to the social, educational, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of dependent children, youth, adults and families regardless of race, religion or national origin.

MISSION U PRESENTATION -- Kelly Smith, Floor Coordinator, introduced Barbara Hess, Dean of Mission U, and Kenneth Haines. During Mission U, one can do hands on mission project while learning about mission. Youth and adults may both enroll.

COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM -- Bill Patrick, Floor Manager, invited Paul Morelli, Chair of Conference Evangelism Team to address the conference. Morelli shared that there are 6 styles of evangelism. For the next six years, they are going to sponsor an event that emphasizes each of these styles.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES VIDEO – A video on Global Ministries was shown to the body.

LEGISLATION – Jeff Sterling, representing Section Four, moved concurrence as amended by the section (Daily Journal, page 463, line 12 – Delete \$80 and insert \$100) 69-32-2.

Cheryl Spengler proposed an amendment to change language back to \$80 as originally submitted.

The question on all that was before the body was called for and supported.

Following a prayer by the Bishop, the amendment was defeated (221-485). The amended motion was then supported (510-167).

RECESS -- Following closing comments and announcements, the conference was recessed until 7:00 PM.

EVENING SESSION

WORSHIP SERVICE -- The conference gathered at 7:00 PM for the Commissioning Service & Celebration of 2017 Retirees. The following retirees were recognized and thanked for their years of service: In Ki Lee, Kenneth L. Bossart (31), Donald R. Brauer (17), Emily A. Byrd (39), Thomas V. Chacko (20), Howard A. Greenfield II (41), Beverly M. Gross (18), Alfred H. Kimmel (22), Bonnie T.F. King (21), John V. King (33), Penelope F. Lyon (12), Joseph P. Martin Jr (40), Kenneth J. Peters (39), Craig W. Peterson (30), Cynthia K. Schneider (11), John H. Snyder (33), Thomas F. St. Clair (38), William J. Starr (41), David R. Vaughn (37), Barry L. Weyant (28), Carlton D. White (20), Dorothy L. Yeso (7), Dennis L. Zimmerman (26), Randall W. Headley (26), Melvin E. Bendig (10), R. Max Miller (22), Diane B. Olson (14), Kathryn A. Karaba (11), and Jon M. Swart (3).

The following Provisional Members were presented to the body for examination: Ea (Amy) Kyoung Jun, Loren Andrew McQueen, Valerie Bennett Mize, Samantha Sue Penwell, Joel David Peterson, Luke Andrew Whipple, Matthew Edward Williams, and Laurie M. Walters.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi preached a sermon entitled “The Blessing of a Hand Me Down” based on I Kings 19:9b-21.

Following the sermon, a prayer of commissioning and laying on of hands was offered for each of the candidates.

RECESS – At 8:19 PM, the conference was recessed until Saturday morning.

**COSROW
Report Day 2**

Yesterday we reported about the historic opening of Annual Conference by a female bishop of color. That does not mean that the work on racism and sexism in Western PA is finished. These statistics from legislative sections show that we still have a lot of work to do so that all session attendees feel safe and confident to talk during legislative sections during Annual Conference.

There were a total of 733 persons who participated in legislative sections. Of this 733 about 49% were female and 50% were male. About 29% of persons attending Annual Conference spoke during legislative sections about 65% of this 29% were male. Clergy as a whole spoke 50% of the time. Of the clergy that spoke, 83% of them were male. This means they spoke about five times more often than female clergy. Of those persons that spoke, those that spoke most often were male clergy at 42%, followed by female laity at 26%, then male laity at 19% with female clergy speaking the least at 17%. This order has been fairly consistent over the years as well as the spread in the differences. Female clergy were most active in sections 2 and 6. In section 2, 49% of the participants spoke during the section. Only 0.9% of the persons attending legislative sections were persons of color. Only 1% of these persons spoke.

So tomorrow when we have plenary session we need to be mindful of who is being heard and who is not. Only when we are all dressed in love and power can we say that our work with racism and sexism is accomplished.