

Remembering 50 Years
The United Methodist Church in Western Pennsylvania
A Reading from Three Traditions

50 years ago, The United Methodist Church was created by union of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church, and dissolution of the segregated Central Jurisdiction. Many of the events that brought us to that historic moment occurred here in Western Pennsylvania. Local historian W. Guy Smeltzer wrote, “The Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church has as significant an historical record as any Annual Conference of this great denomination.”

At the 1968 constituting General Conference in Dallas, lay people, clergy and bishops joined together in affirming, “Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church, and now in The United Methodist Church.”

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary as United Methodists, we remember and celebrate three distinct streams of our heritage, and share in the affirmation that we are united in Jesus Christ, our Lord:

***Lord of the church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church,
and in the United Methodist Church.***

As United Methodists from the Evangelical United Brethren tradition, we give thanks for our spiritual ancestors, Philip William Otterbein, Martin Boehm and Jacob Albright. We celebrate the founding of Zion Church in Donegal in 1799, and the Organizing Conference of the United Brethren in Mount Pleasant in 1815. We also celebrate the arrival of Evangelical preachers in Hyndman, Elton and Somerset in the early 1800s, and the formation of the Evangelical Association in 1833. From three original preaching circuits – two United Brethren and one Evangelical – we grew to 290 churches organized in 3 conferences at the time of the 1968 merger. We began educational institutions, housing and nursing facilities, orphanages and camps; most notably: Albright College, Otterbein College, United Theological Seminary, Arbutus Park Manor, Camp Findley and Camp Allegheny.

Yet we acknowledge, not all from the EUB tradition came joyfully into The United Methodist Church. 13 of our churches withdrew, and 30% of our delegates voted against the union. We grieved a loss of identity when we joined together with a larger denomination, and we compromised on matters of ordination and episcopacy. Nonetheless, a majority of our members saw a vision of mission and ministry together with our Methodist brothers and sisters, and we brought the best of our history with us.

From our EUB tradition come vivid accounts of the experience of Christian assurance of salvation; unwavering faithfulness to the practice of personal and corporate prayer; the Council on Ministries organizational structure; a longstanding practice of ordination of women; and a firm and unwavering commitment to abolish slavery and end segregation. It was at the insistence of the Evangelical United Brethren that the dissolution of the segregated Central Jurisdiction became a condition for union in 1968. Our pietist roots teach us that to be a Christian is to follow a way of life that affirms and upholds the dignity of all.

As United Methodists from the Evangelical United Brethren tradition, we celebrate our heritage and affirm with you:

***Lord of the church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church,
and in the United Methodist Church.***

As United Methodists from the former Washington Conference of the Central Jurisdiction, we give thanks for our spiritual ancestors Richard Allen and Absalom Jones, who were licensed to preach at the Christmas Conference of 1784. We honor the black members listed on the roles of Western Pennsylvania preaching circuits from 1788 onward. We also celebrate the historically black churches of Western Pennsylvania. The first, Warren, was organized in Pittsburgh in 1883. John Wesley in Washington followed in 1906. These two churches launched four others: Calvary in McKeesport, Trinity-Asbury in Johnstown, Buena Vista in Pittsburgh, and John Wesley in Verona.

We give thanks for Bishop Roy C. Nichols, the first African American bishop elected after the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, who led our Conference from 1968-1980; Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly, whose father pastored Warren Church during her childhood, and who became the first African American woman elected to the episcopacy; and Bishop Warner Brown, Jr. who was ordained and served his early years in ministry in Western Pennsylvania.

Together with others, we established the General Commission on Race and Religion and Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR). Later, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century was added as a national racial-ethnic plan of The United Methodist Church.

We too acknowledge that everyone did not support the merger that formed The United Methodist Church. While we celebrated the end of structural segregation in our church, many challenged the notion that our church was “United” when the AME, AME Zion and CME denominations were not included in the conversation. We also grieved the lack of African American representation on general boards and agencies in the newly formed United Methodist Church.

Yet, we offered the best of ourselves to our shared mission and ministry. From our tradition, we brought our hymnody and spirituals, our passionate worship, and our witness against racism rooted in Biblical teachings of justice and liberation. We came to The United Methodist Church proud of our denominational roots and of our leadership within it. It remains our conviction that our Church must be integrated and truly racially inclusive, reflecting the Kingdom of God.

As United Methodists from the Washington Conference of the Central Jurisdiction, we celebrate our heritage and affirm with you:

***Lord of the church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church,
and in the United Methodist Church.***

As United Methodists from the Methodist tradition, we give thanks for our spiritual ancestors John Wesley, Francis Asbury, and Thomas Coke. We celebrate the first Methodist class meetings west of the Allegheny Mountains, organized in the summer of 1772 near Washington, PA. Those gatherings developed into the Redstone Circuit, formed in 1783, a year before the Christmas Conference that formally established the Methodist Episcopal Church. Francis Asbury first visited the Circuit in 1784 and would return to Western Pennsylvania another 19 times throughout his life. The first Asbury-promoted camp meeting in the Methodist tradition occurred in 1803 on the banks of the Monongahela River.

By 1824, forty-three circuits were organized into the Pittsburgh Conference. Through various expressions – Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, and The Methodist Church – we have actively supported educational institutions, care facilities, camps and publishing houses. Among them are The Pittsburgh Christian Advocate publication, Mount Union College, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Jumonville Camp and Retreat Center, Goodwill Industries, Church Union, and the Bradley Center.

North of the Ohio river, the first class meetings were organized by Robert Richford Roberts, who was later elected the Fifth Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Erie Conferences – the first of which was established by General Conference vote in 1836 – reached a peak of 408 churches and started numerous institutions, including Wesbury Retirement Community, Wesley Woods Christian Camp & Conference Center, The Ruth M. Smith Center, Allegheny College and Carrier Seminary, predecessor to Clarion University.

The Erie and Pittsburgh Conferences shared a distinct Methodist heritage shaped by an emphasis on evangelism, stewardship and missionary benevolences. Together we sent Isabella Thoburn, the first female missionary to India through the Women's Foreign Missionary Society; we were early and strong proponents of the Sunday School movement, as embodied by the Methodist House at Chautauqua; and we led the denomination in missionary support giving. From our Methodist tradition comes a sense of ministry as a calling not a career; a connectional structure and ethos; episcopal polity balanced with lay representation; and an emphasis on care for children and training of youth.

As United Methodists from the Methodist tradition, we celebrate our heritage and affirm with you:

*Lord of the church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church,
and in the United Methodist Church.*

United in Christ Jesus, let us pray together:

(prayer will be printed on the screen for congregation to read in unison)

**Almighty God, you have raised up servants
to proclaim the gift of redemption and a life of holiness.
We give you thanks for the place of our rich traditions
among the churches which comprise the Body of Christ.
With your people throughout creation,
give us a new vision, new love, new wisdom, and fresh understanding,
that we may serve you more fully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(CHARLES YRIGOYEN, U.S.A., 20TH CENT., ALT.)

Discontinuance Liturgy 2018

HYMN 117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past, vs. 1-3

INTRODUCTION

In John 12:24, *Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*

Today, we honor congregations who have served their communities faithfully as followers of Jesus, and who have reached the point of death, so that the fruit of the gospel may continue to grow.

Closure can be a faithful choice for communities of faith. We praise God and celebrate the ministries of local churches that have been discontinued in the last year, leaving behind rich legacies of faith.

NAMING OF LOCAL CHURCHES

These congregations have discontinued in the past year:

DuBois: Trinity
Connellsville: East Connellsville
Scottdale: Mount Nebo
Torrance

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

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For the Word of God proclaimed in sacred sanctuaries,

We give you thanks, O God.

For generations who have prayed their prayers and sung your praises,

We give you thanks, O God.

For lives introduced to God's grace at baptismal fonts,

We give you thanks, O God.

For tables where the Lord's Supper and potluck suppers have been shared,

We give you thanks, O God.

For altar rails where we have

Confirmed our youth,
Knelt in confession,
Professed our faith,
Vowed our love, and
Mourned our dead

We give you thanks, O God.

For the many who moved beyond church walls to serve God and our neighbors,

We give you thanks, O God.

As we release these congregations into your keeping and care,

we give you thanks, O God.

For all this, O God, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF CLOSING

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We now declare these congregations, having been chartered and named as United Methodist Churches, to be disbanded. They have been God’s gift for a season, and we are thankful for the ways they have served the mission given the Church by Jesus Christ.

We now release their buildings, property and assets to bless others. We commend their members to other congregations, knowing we all remain part of the Body of Christ together.

Giving thanks for their legacy of faith, we pledge to continue the work of ministry in Western Pennsylvania, so that the word of God may be proclaimed, the sacraments administered, persons nurtured as disciples of Jesus Christ, and communities transformed by the love of God.

PRAYER OF COMMITTAL

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O God, as in the past you have blessed the ministry carried on by these congregations; so, now and in the years to come, we pray that you may greatly bless us to continue the work of ministry.

As your Spirit has always been present in the neighborhoods of Western Pennsylvania, we pray that people will continue to seek and find you in these towns and cities.

As disciples of the risen Lord, may we remain one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

HYMN 117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past, vs. 4-6

Attendance Card Abbreviations**ETHNIC ID:**

A = Asian
 B = Black / African
 H = Hispanic
 N = Native American
 P = Pacific Islander
 W = White
 M = Multiracial

GENDER:

F = Female
 M = Male

DISTRICT

BU = Butler
 CV = Connellsville
 EM = Erie-Meadville
 FR = Franklin
 GB = Greensburg
 IN = Indiana
 JT = Johnstown
 KA = Kane
 PB = Pittsburgh
 WA = Washington

CLERGY STATUS

FE = Full Elder
 RE = Retired Elder
 OE / OF = Clergy from Other Annual Conferences
 FD / PD = Full Deacon / Provisional Deacon
 PE / RP = Provisional Elder / Retired Probationary Member
 AM / RA = Associate Member / Retired Associate Member
 FL / PL = Full Time Local Pastor / Part-time Local Pastor
 SY / LM = Supply: Hired by District / Certified Lay Minister
 RL = Retired Local Pastor

IV. Daily Proceedings
WPA Chic
Dress in Hope
FIRST DAY
Wednesday, June 6, 2018

EVENING SESSION

CONFERENCE BIBLE STUDY I - Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi called the body to order at 8:04 PM with the singing of "My Hope is Built." She then introduced the Rev. Dr. Shively Smith, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary and Boston University School of Theology.

Dr. Smith shared a message entitled "Re-Imaging Ourselves in the Likeness of God: Source, Connection & Unity."

Comparing this year's Annual Conference session theme of "Dressing in Hope" to the images in Ephesians of Christians "putting on" something, she drew the conference's attention to the most famous of those passages, Ephesians 6:10-18, where Christians are called to "put on" the armor of God. She then highlighted that putting on the armor is not the only image of dressing, or "putting on," found in the letter. Starting with Ephesians 4:22-25, Dr. Smith shared the author's call for Christians to "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" and also to "put off" that which is false. The reason for this is that "we are all members of one body." To be dressed in hope is in part to stop allowing everything to be about the individual self and find our identity and hope in the unity to which Christ calls us.

With an invitation from Bishop Moore-Koikoi to return for part two at 8:00 tomorrow morning, the Bishop dismissed the conference at 9:01 PM.

SECOND DAY
Thursday, June 7, 2018
MORNING SESSION

CONFERENCE BIBLE STUDY II - Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the body to order at 8:04 AM. She invited the body to sing "How Great Thou Art." Rev. Dr. Shively Smith was re-introduced as the Bible study leader.

Dr. Smith began by recalling some of the main points of Wednesday evening's study. She reminded the body of the panoramic shot, which means that we see the life that is around us from one point of view. What makes the church strong, though, is not that we have only one panoramic shot -- but that we have multiple panoramic shots.

The phrase "created in the likeness of God" is actually talking about the origins of our creation. The writer of Ephesians is trying to encourage the Ephesian Christians (and us) to reconnect to the origin of their creation.

The term "hope" is a popular term in the New Testament -- but it is not a term that is used in the Gospels (the story) nor in the Revelation. It is a term that is used in the letters that are engaging the real life of believers. As the church wrestles with what it means to be a collective body, as they are learning to talk to each other, that is where the image of "hope" shows up in the New Testament.

After speaking about some of the images presented in Ephesians, Dr. Smith asked the conference “What do you *imagine* connection looks like?” She then encouraged and allowed the body to be in brief conversation with each other about this question.

Following some announcements by Bishop Moore-Koikoi, the body was dismissed at 9:12 AM.

CLERGY SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi called the Clergy Session to order at 9:34 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 then opened the session with prayer.

COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES – Janet Lord, introduced the 2017-2018 Course of Study graduates: Carol E. Brown, Douglas M. Brink, Cynthia J. Duffee, Carol H. Hickman, Robert M. Howles, Linda C. Freeburg, Beverly K. Roscoe.

RESIDENTIAL LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES – Janet Lord introduced and recognized the Fall 2017 Residential Licensing School Graduates: Nicole M. Crouch, Christy L. Gibas, James A. Graham, Jessica K. Kennedy, Haeseon Lee, Victoria R. Moody, Bethany C. Rosler, Robert M. Schmitt, Laurajane C. Stone, Gary M. Wade.

COMMUTER LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES – Janet Lord introduced and recognized the Spring 2018 Commuter Licensing School Graduates: Kenneth G. Bailey, Jr., Theresa L. Campbell, Joseph C. Caolo, Paul E. Csonka, Paul R. Funk Jr., Drew A. Gordon, Penny S. Helmbold, Jillian E. Jones, William H. Lawler, Scott A.F. Miller, Lynette S Moran, Christopher M. Morris, Carl A. Nicklas, Lanfer C. Simpson.

(20) APPROVAL OF THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE STUDIES FOR THE LICENSE AS A LOCAL PASTOR, ARE APPROVED, BUT ARE NOT NOW APPOINTED – Upon motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶315, those who have completed the studies for the license as a local pastor but not now appointed were approved.

(21a) FULL-TIME LOCAL PASTORS– Upon motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶318.1, the full-time local pastors were approved.

(21b) PART-TIME LOCAL PASTORS – Upon motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶318.2, the part-time local pastors were approved.

PRAYER – Paul Taylor led the body in a prayer of blessing on the ongoing ministries of our local pastors.

(22) LOCAL PASTORS DISCONTINUED – Terry G. Shaffer reported local pastors who have exited or been discontinued, according to ¶320.1: Melody J. Polisky, Diane E. Marshall, Donald R. Hullenbaugh, Keith D. Diehl, Vicki S. Lynch, Eric J. Diewald.

(24) CLERGY FROM OTHER CONFERENCES SERVING IN WPA – Terry G. Shaffer reported the names of clergy from other Annual Conferences serving in Western Pennsylvania (§§331.8, 346.1): David S. Dempsey (RE) Upper New York, Arnold G. Husk (RE) from West Virginia, Carole J. Bergman (RE) from California/Nevada, Andrew D. Sutton (FE) from Louisiana, Robert W. Kirby (RE) from Peninsula Delaware, and Dawn M. Hand (FE) Western North Carolina.

(25) 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): Bethany C. Rosler (FE) from Free Methodist, Roseanne D. Oliver (FE) from AME.

(26) AFFILIATE MEMBERS IN ANOTHER UM ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Terry G. Shaffer moved on those who are affiliate members while a member in another Annual Conference. Those without vote (§§334.5, §344.4): Jane Ellen Nickell (West Virginia). The motion was approved.

(27) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Received on motion of Janet Lord according to §322: Matthew D. A. Blake, Rebecca L. Edwards, Carol H. Hickman, Beverly K. Roscoe. The motion was approved.

(28a) PROVISIONAL DEACONS – Received on motion of Terry G. Shaffer those who are in preparation for ordination as a deacon according to §326 (and seminary, if in school): commissioned in 2017: Nicole M. Crouch (Wesley), Lynette S. Moran (Boston). The motion was approved.

(28b) PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING – Received on motion of Terry Shaffer according to §324: Provisional Elders: Kendra L. Balliet, Jeremy W. Barkley, Tai S. Courtemanche, Adam T. Dotts, Victoria R. Heath, John M. Heckman, Craig R. Lindahl, Clint T. Phillips, Shane J. Sicilliano. The motion was approved.

(29) PROVISIONAL ELDERS – Terry G. Shaffer called to the body's attention those who are in preparation for ordination as an elder according to §326.

(38) RECEIVED BY TRANSFER FROM OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Eric Raygor announced those who were received into membership according to §347.1, 416.5, 635.2n: Timothy Reichard (FE) [Eastern PA] (6/7/2018).

(42) DISCONTINUED AS PROVISIONAL MEMBERS – David Janz reported, by expiration of eight year limit by voluntary discontinuance (§327.6): James T. Roberts (12/14/2017).

(46) WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORDAINED MINISTERIAL OFFICE – Eric Raygor reported on those who withdrew to unite with another denomination according to ¶360.1, .4: David J. Henderson Sr (7/17/2017).

Eric Raygor reported on those who were withdrawn by trial according to ¶2713: Rodney E. Smith (11/27/2017).

PRAYER - Brad Lauster offered prayers for God's mercy and grace to be upon these lives.

(48) THE HONORED DEAD – Terry G. Shaffer read the names of those clergy who have died since Annual Conference 2017.

PRAYER – Bishop prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the lives and ministries of these colleagues who have died.

(49) APPOINTED TO SERVE IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶331.8, 346: Tracey L. Henderson (FD, West Ohio), Gary W. Jones (FD, East Ohio), Ralph P. Cotten (FE, Florida), Richard O. Feagin (FE, Pacific Northwest), Timothy C. McConville (FE, Alaska Missionary Conference), Rebekah R. Clapp (PD, West Ohio), Debra L. Pisor (FD, South Carolina), Leah R. Bergstrom (RE, Desert Southwest), Bruce W. Griffith Jr. (FE, North Georgia), Kevin J. Rea (FE, Great Plains), Nicole M. Crouch (PD, New Mexico), Matthew F. Howe (PD, Minnesota), and Nathan W. Carlson (FE, Florida).

(50-A) ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY – Terry G. Shaffer read the names of those who have requested voluntary leave of absence according to ¶353: Anthony R.C. Hita (1st year), Eric M. Oliver (1st year), Samantha S. Penwell (1st year), and Jason E. Schweinberg (2nd year).

(50-A1) ABSENCE, PERSONAL – Terry G. Shaffer read the names of those on voluntary leave of absence (personal) according to ¶353.2a 3: R. Duane Thompson (2nd year).

(50-A2) LEAVE OF ABSENCE, PERSONAL (AFTER 5 YEARS) – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.2a 3: Ronald E. Thomas (16th year), David R. Lewis (19th year), Stephen A. Tiffany (8th year), and Chul Park (9th year). The motion was approved.

(50-A3) LEAVE OF ABSENCE, FAMILY – Terry G. Shaffer read the names of those on voluntary leave of absence (family) according to ¶353.2a 3: Patricia A. Fuller (5th year) and Beth A. Cooper (3rd year).

(50-A4) LEAVE OF ABSENCE, FAMILY (AFTER 5 YEARS) – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.2a 3: Barbara A. Turpish (15th year). The motion was approved.

(50-A5) LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY, TRANSITIONAL – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.2c: Bethany L. Gordon Wooten (FE) 1st year (7/1/2018 to 7/31/2018). The motion was approved.

(50-C) MATERNITY/PATERNITY LEAVE – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶355: Adam J. Stump (2/2/2018), Kelly J. Smith (2/8/2018), and Keith C. Kaufold (8/1/2018). The motion was approved.

(50-D) RETURNED TO ACTIVE STATUS FROM VOLUNTARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE – Granted on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶353.11: Laura A. Saffell (formerly Puleo). The motion was approved.

(52) ACTIONS CONCERNING MEDICAL LEAVE OF MEMBERS - Continued medical leave granted by motion of Terry Shaffer, according to ¶356.1: Mark A. DeBaise (FE) 03/01/1996, Shawn L. Goodwin (FE) (without benefits) 5/1/2012, Debra Anne Groeger (FE) 2/1/1997, Floyd A. Hall (FE) 7/1/2007, Connie B. Hoeke (FE) (without benefits) 7/1/2000, Austin P. Hornyak (FE) (without benefits) 5/1/2012, Thomas J. Michalko (FE) 3/16/2007, Stanley D. Nixon (AM) 2/1/2005, Susan E. Sphar-Calhoun (FE) 11/23/2009, David K. Means (AM) (without benefits) 12/1/2012, Jay R. Polowsky (FE) 1/2/2017, Pamela S. Armstrong (FE) 7/1/2017.

PRAYER – Adam J. Stump led the body in prayer for healing for all on medical leave of absence.

(53) RETIREMENTS: ELDERS – Terry G. Shaffer read the names of elders who are entering the a retired relationship according to ¶357: Emmett L. Anderson Jr. (32) 7/1/2018, Brock R. Beveridge (35) 7/1/2018, La Mar E. Carlson (42) 7/1/2018, John E. Ciampa (47) 7/1/2018, John P. Colatch (40), 1/1/2018, Donald W. Dotterer (40) 7/1/2018, Dennis A. Fetter (38) 7/1/2018, Joel S. Garrett (39) 7/1/2018, Robert L. Goodnough (21) 7/1/2018, Kurtis A. Knobel (38) 12/31/2017, Sandra K. Marsh-McClain (25) 7/1/2018, Frederick M. Monk (37) 7/1/2018, Barbara J. Moore (32) 7/1/2018, Joseph W. Patterson III (40) 7/1/2018, Rita S. Platt (31) 7/1/2018, Christine E. Rogan (23) 9/15/2017, John W. Seth (40) 7/1/2018, Rodney E. Smith (40) 7/1/2017, Harry R. Speakman (39) 7/1/2018, David R. Stains (45) 7/1/2018, Lois F. Swestyn (17) 1/1/2018, Paul D. Taylor (17) 7/1/2018, Nancy G. Zahn (24) 1/1/2018.

(56) RETIREMENTS: LOCAL PASTORS – Terry G Shaffer read the names of local pastors who are entering a retired relationship according to ¶320.5: Allen T. McKeown (5) 7/1/2018, Linda Freeburg (6) 7/1/2018, Robert M. Howles (8) 7/1/2018, Sandra D. Howles (3) 7/1/2018, Frank M. Philpott (1) 7/1/2018, Edwin D. Pope (15) 7/1/2018.

PRAYER – A prayer for the retirees was offered by Tai Courtemanche.

(59) CERTIFIED IN SPECIALIZED MINISTRY – Terry G Shaffer read the names of those who are certified in specialized ministries: Patricia M. Nelson (Older Adult Ministries), Janet F. Lord (Music Ministry), Gary W. Jones (Youth and Camping and

Camping & Retreat Ministries, Christian Education), Deborah A. Dennick-Ream (Christian Education).

(72A) 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), Harold J. Dangel (AM - ¾ time), Todd M. Davis (FE - ½ time), Sharon M. Hamley (FE - ¾ time), J. Mark Hurst (FE - ¾ time), Tina G. Keller (FE - ¾ time), John R. Wilson (FE - ¾ time), Joe K. Samalenge (FE - ¾ time), K. David Chin (FE - ¾ time), Barbara J. Stoehr (FE - ½ time), Joni K. Williams (AM - ¾ time), Sheila R. Auer (AM - ¾ time), Joel D. Peterson (PE - ¾ time), Carol H. Hickman (AM - ¾ time). The motion was approved.

DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION AND PROBATIONAL (PROVISIONAL) DEACONS APPROVED FOR APPOINTMENT TO LESS THAN FULL-TIME SERVICE - Approved on motion by Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶331.7: Debra L. Pisor (½ time), Nicole M. Crouch (¾ time). The motion was approved.

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

PENSION CREDIT REPORT – On motion of Tom Parkinson, according to ¶357.2; credit for time served as Student Pastors shall be granted to Linda Dinger, Jeff Sterling, and Rich Pearson. The motion was approved.

COMPREHENSIVE MOTION – Approved on motion of David Janz, members of the Clergy Session approved a comprehensive motion to receive and approve the report of the Board of Ministry, including approval of all matters contained in the report that had not been specifically voted upon.

(17) APPROVAL OF CHARACTER OF CLERGY – Bishop Moore-Koikoi asked “Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and administration?” (¶¶604.4, 605.6). Alyce Weaver-Dunn, Dean, representing the cabinet, responded that all were blameless and faithful with the exception of one matter pending against a clergy member.

(18) APPROVAL OF COMMITTEES – Bishop Moore-Koikoi presented the Committee on Investigation (¶2703), the Administrative Review Committee (¶636), and the [Diaconal Ministers] Committee on Investigation (¶2703.2b). These were all approved as printed.

COMMENTS BY THE BISHOP – Bishop Moore-Koikoi thanked the clergy present for their work “on the front lines of ministry.” She offered encouragement in the ongoing work of representing Jesus Christ in the local churches. She then prayed for those present as they go forth to share their gifts with boldness.

CLOSING – The closing was led by David Janz and Eric Park, co-chairpersons of the Conference Board of Ministry. All joined together in the Covenant Prayer, followed by the hymn “Go To The World.” Bishop Moore-KoiKoi closed the Clergy Session with a final blessing based on Ephesians 3:20.

RECESS – The clergy session was recessed at 10:40 AM.

LAITY SESSION

Jerry Rechtenwald, District Lay Leader from the Butler District welcomed over 500 conference laity to the second consecutive Laity-only session at the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and provided the opening remarks. Paul Huey, District Lay Leader from the Greensburg District offered the opening prayer for the session.

Bill Patrick, Lay Member to Annual Conference from Oakland in the Johnstown District and Conference Floor Manager, presented *Annual Conference 101*, an overview of what new attendees at Annual Conference may expect as well as suggestions on ways to be active in legislative section meetings. In addition, he provided tips on compiling and presenting delegate reports back to our local congregations.

Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, introduced the Rev. Dr. Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, who presented an enthusiastic message on *Making, Shaping and Engaging Passionate Disciples* (#See All The People). Dr. Dotson stressed that discipleship begins with me”. *See All the People* is not about fixing churches but rather developing relationships. Discipleship needs to be intentional. He used a baseball analogy to stress that if you miss first base, then nothing you do after that matters. If we miss discipleship (first base), we miss the rest. Discipleship is not a class we graduate from, but it is a lifelong journey. He referenced Colossians 2:6-7.

Other items he shared included: we need to equip and feed people so they grow on their own; and healthy people develop healthy congregations while healthy congregations develop healthy people (Vital Congregations).

Dr. Dotson posed three questions to the group that can be used back in the local church to assess our status on discipleship: (1) How have you grown in your faith this year? (2) What spiritual discipline/practice has been most helpful? (3) What is your plan for spiritual growth this upcoming year?

Various resource websites were provided and several videos were shown that supplemented the powerful and energetic presentation. A resource table is also located in the display area for all to visit.

At the conclusion, Sharon Gregory challenged the laity to “GET UP...GET OUT...#SEE ALL THE PEOPLE”. To assist with this, the Board of Laity provided luggage tags for our travels as well as sunglasses in case our travels take us to sunny climates. Now, we all need to get up and get going!

AFTERNOON SESSION

CALL TO ORDER -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the body to order at 1:07 PM. Sharon Gregory led the body in prayer. Bishop Moore-Koikoi welcomed the body and reported briefly on the morning laity and clergy session.

INTRODUCTION OF FLOOR MANAGERS-- Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced Bill Patrick and Kelly Smith, the floor managers for the Annual Conference.

WELCOME TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE -- Vickie Stallman, chair of the Conference Sessions Committee, highlighted logistical information and new changes for this year.

SETTING THE BAR OF THE CONFERENCE -- John Wilson, Conference Secretary, moved that the bar of the conference be set to include “those seated on this side of the skirted barrier.” The motion to set the bar was APPROVED.

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 Daryl Mains as head teller. The motion to elect tellers was APPROVED.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA -- Alan Morrison, Agenda Coordinator moved for the setting of our published agenda as printed on pages 604-605 in the Daily Journal. The motion to adopt the agenda was APPROVED.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RULES -- Amy Bentz, Chancellor, announced that there was no late legislation this year. The rules committee has no changes for question. There was a motion to suspend rule # 2.3.8.1.1 in order to consider the General Church proposed constitutional amendment. The motion to suspend the rule was ADOPTED.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TREASURER -- Seth McClymonds moved the election of Roger White as the conference treasurer as of July 1, 2018 and that in the interim, should it be necessary, he is authorized to act as Conference Treasurer if Larry Bridge is unavailable. The motion was ADOPTED.

McClymonds then moved that McCall, Scanion & Tice be elected as auditors for 2019. The motion was APPROVED.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi then asked McClymonds to offer a word of prayer.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET/RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING CABINET -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi asked for Joel Garrett, Paul Taylor, and Joseph Patterson to come to the platform. She thanked them for their service to the cabinet and the conference. She then offered a prayer of thanksgiving for their gifts and graces.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi then asked Alyce Weaver-Dunn and Greg Cox to come to the platform. She thanked them for their service and the diversity of gifts that they offer to the cabinet and the conference. She then offered a word of prayer for them as they go into new areas of ministry.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi introduced Jodie Smith, Bob Zilhaver, Jim Pond, Brad Lauster, Pat Nelson, Pat Lennox, Eric Park, Sung Chung, Dennis Swineford, and Dawn Hand. She also introduced Renee Mikell, Amy Wagner, Sharon Gregory, Jackie Campbell and Roger White. She announced that this is the coordinating cabinet.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi mentioned that Jim Pond will serve as the cabinet secretary, Pat Nelson will serve as the cabinet treasurer, and Pat Lennox will serve as the dean. Seth McPherson was invited to the platform to offer prayer for the coordinating cabinet.

WELCOME FROM GROVE CITY COLLEGE -- Lee Wishing, Vice President of Student Recruitment at Grove City College, enthusiastically welcomed the conference on behalf of the college.

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi announced that The United Methodist Church in Western Pennsylvania is doing well and “each day going on to be perfected in love.” In Western Pennsylvania, “God is still on the throne, and the name of Jesus still works here.” Because of what she has witnessed, Bishop Moore-Koikoi is dressed in hope. Following her introductory statements, she outlined our five areas of focus.

As we develop principled Christian leaders, we need to be aware of the lack of support and participation on Conference level boards and agencies. There are United Methodist pastors and laity that do not know what it is to be a United Methodist. Yet there is hope -- we are standing on solid rock -- and Bishop Moore-Koikoi shared the stories of several churches that are working diligently at developing principled Christian leaders.

As we develop new and renewed congregations, the bishop outlined that there is despair as many of our cities and towns are declining in population. However, in the midst of this despair, there is hope, because for the first time in decades, there is a projected increase in population in Western Pennsylvania.

People in our conference are engaged in ministries with the poor, as in the work done through the Church Union, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Erie United Methodist Alliance, and Johnstown United Methodist Human Services. Several other local ministries were outlined and celebrated. A reality of our culture is that it is going to become increasingly impossible to fund outreach ministries through tithes and offerings. There is hope, though, as these ministries are looking toward other avenues of funding.

For decades, we have been working hard to promote global health. But while we have had success around the world, we struggle with health issues in Western Pennsylvania. There are signs of hope, though, through churches that are working at ministries that will help people who are battling chemical addictions.

Our numbers are discouraging in terms of an attempt to dismantle racism. However, there are signs of hope. As of July 1, 2018, the cabinet will increase the number of racial inclusion by 2 people. There are churches that are developing camping programs for children of color.

Steven Morris led the conference in singing “We Are Called.”

During the State of the Church address, prayers were offered by Adam Stump, Chris Kindle, Donna Ziegler, Jaye Beatty, Richard Thomas, and Sharon Gregory.

CLOSING COMMENTS -- Bill Patrick and Kelly Smith gave some closing comments. The conference recessed to Legislative sections at 3:02 PM.

EVENING SESSION

ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE -- The conference gathered at 7:00 PM for the Service of Word and Table for Commissioning of Provisional Members and Recognition of Associate Members. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi preached a sermon entitled "WPA Chic: Dressed in Hope" based on Jeremiah 29:1-11. Participants in the service were Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, the Conference Praise Band, Pearl Russell, Andy Hewitt, Renee Mikell, David Janz, Eric Raygor, Paul Huey, Wanda Ross, Greg Cox, and Bryan Sable.

Elder Candidates were Kendra Lovelace Balliet, Jeremy Wayne Barkley, Tai Symington Courtemanche, Adam Troy Dotts, Victoria Ruth Heath, J. Mark Heckman, Craig Ronald Lindahl, Clint Thomas Phillips, and Shane Joseph Siciliano. Deacon Candidates were Nicole Marie Crouch and Lynette Sklar Moran. Associate Members were Matthew Blake Sr, Rebecca Lynn Edwards, Carol Hamil Hickman, and Beverly Kay Roscoe.

The Bishop concluded the service with an altar call to ministry. The Conference recessed at 9:10 PM.

**Consent Calendar
Concurrence – Non-Concurrence -- Abstain**

Section 1

RS 101 Solitary Confinement 401
82 – 9 – 0

Page 401 Line 7, delete the words “the Great Commission”
Page 402 Line 19, after the word “solitary confinement.” Changing His to This add “This emphasizes his desire for continued work to reduce the need for administrative segregation/restricted housing.”

RS 102 Gerrymandering..... 404
47 – 8 – 0

Page 406 Line 17, delete phrase between hyphens “free of politicians and felons”

RS 103 Sexual Harassment 407
55 – 3 – 0

Page 407 Line 30, the period becomes a comma, add the words “under an office of compliance account.”

Page 409 Line 6, after the word victim, add the words “or witness” to read “victim or witness of sexual abuse.”

Section 2

RS 201 Young Adult Ministry 412
103 – 4 – 2

RS 202 Vacation Policy 412
86– 12– 7

RS 203 Global Partnership Assessment and Renewal legislation 413
103 – 0 – 2

Section 3

RS 301 Conference Evangelist: Ken Wilson..... 414
104 – 0 – 1

RS 302 Conference Evangelist: Christine Zimmerman 415
106 – 0 – 0

RS 303 General Evangelist: John Zimmerman 415
106 – 0 – 1

RS 304 Conference Evangelist: Luella Krieger 416
105 – 0 – 0

RS 305 Base Cash Compensation For Pastors 416
105 – 4 – 0

RS 306 Accountable Reimbursement Account	417
109 – 0 – 0	
RS 307 Clergy Housing Allowance Resolution	418
109 – 0 – 0	
RS 308 Arrearage Policy of WPAUMC.....	419
106 – 0 – 1	
Section 4	
RS 402 Funding For Ministry 2019 Endowment & Other Income Disbursal Directives.....	437
90 – 1 – 0	
Section 5	
RS 501 2019 Rental/Housing Allowance for Retired Clergy and/ Disabled Clergy	455
97 – 0 – 0	
RS 502 Clergy Retirement Security Program & Comprehensive Protection Plan	456
97 – 0 – 0	
RS 503 CRSP Future Liabilities & Benefit Reserve Fund	458
100 – 0 – 0	
RS 504 2019 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary.....	459
98 – 0 – 1	
RS 505 Health Insurance Program	463
98 – 1 – 2	
Section 6	
RS 601 Disability Awareness Weekend (Feb)	471
87 – 1 – 1	
RS 602 Golden Cross/Red Stocking Weekend (May/Dec)	471
87 – 1 – 1	
RS 603 Rural Life Weekend (Aug).....	471
87 – 1 – 1	
RS 604 Retired Clergy Weekend (Sept).....	472
87 – 1 – 1	
RS 605 Christian Education Weekend (Sept)	472
87 – 1 – 1	
RS 606 Camping Weekend (Oct).....	472
87 – 1 – 1	

Page 472 Line 45, delete the word “even”

Page 473 Line 12, change “2018” to “2019”

Daily Journal **625**

RS 607 Volunteers in Mission Recognition & Awareness Weekend (Oct) 473
87 – 1 – 1

RS 608 Youth Service Fund Weekend (Nov) 474
87 – 1 – 1

RS 609 Doorways to Hope at Home Weekend (Dec) 474
87 – 1 – 1

RS 610 Funding for WPAUMC Regional Ministries..... 475
87 – 1 – 1

Section 7

RS 701 Camp Allegheny Nominations 475
106 – 0 – 0

RS 702 Jumonville Nominations..... 476
108 – 0 – 0

RS 703 Olmsted Manor Nominations 476
107 – 0 – 0

RS 704 Wesley Woods Nominations 476
106 – 0 – 0

RS 705A Healthy Village Learning Institute 477
104 – 0 – 0

Editor’s Note: the section divided the question.

RS 705B Healthy Village Learning Institute..... 478
99 – 1 – 3

RS 705C Healthy Village Learning Institute Board of Directors..... Below
92 – 4 – 2

Healthy Village Learning Institute Board of Directors
President: Mustafa Musa
Vice President: Marty Allen
Treasurer: Willamae Raglin
Secretary: Shadasia Robinson
Member: M. Gino Brogdon, Sr.
Member: Major A. Mason III
Member: Lance Cash, Sr.
Ex. Officio: Keith Murphy, Executive Director
 Jessica Gamache’, Conference Representative
 Pat Nelson, Cabinet Representative

Non-Consent Calendar

Section 4

RS 401 Funding For Ministry 2019 Conference Budget..... 420
89 – 2 – 0

Section 1

RS 104 Protecting the Children..... 410
71 – 32 – 7

RS 105 Child Incarceration 411
68 – 25 – 9