

**THIRD DAY**  
**Friday, June 8, 2018**

**MORNING SESSION**

**CONFERENCE BIBLE STUDY III** -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the conference to come to order at 8:05 AM.

Rev. Dr. Shively Smith presented her final Bible Study on “Re-Imagining Ourselves in the Likeness of God: Source, Connection & Unity.” Smith proclaimed that the epistle of Ephesians invites us to a time of theological play -- to imagine “what if”. Ephesians invites us to explore a more expansive vision of what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians gives us the entryway of Church as family (3:14-15), the entryway of Church as household (2:19, 22), the entryway of Church as body (4:12, 16), and the entryway of Church as the temple of God (2:20-21).

Smith expanded on the meaning of the image of a Church. In Ephesians, the image of church is that it demands unity – not uniformity. How can we be connected even in the midst of our differences?

Ephesians proclaims boldly that even though you might not yet see it, God is at work uniting the people of God.

Following the Bible study, the conference was in brief recess.

**ORDER** -- Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi called the Conference back to order at 9:24 AM.

**SETTING THE BAR OF THE CONFERENCE** -- John Wilson, Conference Secretary, moved that the bar of the conference to 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT CALENDAR** -- Kelly Wild, secretarial staff, presented the Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendar, (Daily Journal pages 623-625). RS104 and RS105 have already been pulled from the Consent Calendar. She reminded the body about conference rule 2.3.7.4 which speaks about how items are placed on the Consent Calendar. The body was reminded that with 25 signatures by 7:45 PM on Friday evening, an item can be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**READING OF APPOINTMENTS: WASHINGTON DISTRICT** - Bishop Moore-Koikoi invited Bradford L. Lauster, Superintendent, to come to the platform. He and Louise Patterson, District lay leader, then read the new appointments to the District while

all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer for all the pastors of the Washington District.

**VOTING KEYPAD INSTRUCTIONS** -- John Wilson and Jenna Clous, Padgett Communications, led the conference in a period of practice with the digital voting system. The conference practiced with a test question.

**ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM** – Debra Mason, chair, reminded the body of the ongoing work of the Conference in combating racism. She then introduced an ally in this work, the Eric Park, who shared a personal reflection written in light of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the Martin Luther King, Jr.

**COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS** – Scott Shaffer, chair, introduced the body to the work of this commission. He highlighted five things each member of this conference can do “right now”: (1) Pray, (2) Support local ecumenical organizations, (3) Make disciples for Jesus Christ through ecumenical partnerships, (4) Branch out into interfaith relationships, and (5) Join this commission and thus help strengthen our conference and our local congregations in this work!

Shaffer also announced that this year’s Ecumenical Achievement Award was presented to Seneca UMC in the Franklin District, “because of the exemplary way their congregation is making disciples through ecumenical partnerships.”

**CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA (C.A.S.P.)** – Liddy Barlow, Executive Director of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, used the initials of C. A. S. P. to highlight the interfaith and ecumenical ministries we are able to be a part of as one of the twenty-eight faith communities involved with C.A.S.P.

**UNITED METHODIST ADVOCACY** – Dai Morgan, Director, shared how United Methodists throughout the Commonwealth are able to work together through UM Advocacy in seeking and promoting justice.

**PA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** – Sandy Strauss, Director of (P.C.C.) Advocacy, highlighted recent activities the Council has initiated to better support their ongoing ministries in areas of criminal justice reform, better access to education, and strengthening families.

**READING OF APPOINTMENTS: PITTSBURGH DISTRICT** - Bishop Moore-Koikoi invited Paul Taylor, Superintendent, to come to the platform. He, Dawn Hand, incoming superintendent, and Shannon Shaffer, District Lay Leader, then read the new appointments to the District while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Sharon Gregory offered a prayer for all the pastors of the Pittsburgh District.

**BREAD FOR THE WORLD** -- Jeanna-Mar Simmons and Liddy Barlow were invited to talk about the need and the work that is being done to help to eliminate poverty.

Worldwide, extreme poverty has been cut in half over the past 25 years, but it is rising again. Nearly 815 million people in the world are hungry. In the United States, one in eight lives are at risk of hunger, including 13 million children.

**UMCOR/DISASTER RELIEF** - Sandra Matoushaya reminded the body that our God is a missionary God and the Bible is a missionary book. From hurricanes to tornadoes, fires to floods, The United Methodist Church is present to provide help and assistance. Our connectional system is working.

Becky Parsons was introduced to the body. She began by talking about global health. She encouraged the churches to be informed, support, and serve through Global Ministries. She also outlined several areas of missions in which The United Methodist Church is involved.

**BLACK COLLEGE FUND** – Diane Miller, President of the Conference United Methodist Women, introduced Rochelle Givens, a recent graduate of Bennett College of Greensboro, NC, and currently an intern with the Black College Fund. She shared the prophet’s promise of rest and renewed vigor for the tired, weary, and those who HOPE in the Lord! (Isaiah 40:28-31) The Black College Fund is one of those ways that God has encouraged and strengthened young scholars who might not have been able to continue on without that help.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)** – Diane Miller shared the history and faith filled ministries of this 150 year old organization. She also reported that in 2017 over \$175,000 was raised through our conference’s local UMW groups for its ongoing mission work.

**CABINET REPORT** – Using the imagery of an eye exam and how it can help one better focus, Alyce Weaver Dunn, Dean of the Cabinet, introduced a review of how the Coordinating Cabinet along with the Bishop has been examining the ways they have worked in the past year in each of the five ministry areas of focus established by the Annual Conference in recent years.

**YOUTH REPORT** – Kiersten Kennedy told the conference a story about a medieval fantasy kingdom (complete with a unicorn!). Through the story, the Youth Ministry Team highlighted their various ministries: the 2019 SPARK youth retreat (January 11-13, 2019), the summer “Uth for Mission” work camp (this year at Jumonville, July 16-20, 2018), the denominational Youth Service Fund, and serving as pages and youth delegates each year at Annual Conference. They also announced that two Western PA youth have been elected to positions in the Northeastern Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministries: Mollie Landman, President, and Ally Benn, Youth Service Fund Coordinator. Other participants in the presentation were Molly Landman, Vivian Somes, Sarah Speedy, and Wiley Bozada.

**RECESS** - Following closing comments and announcements, the conference was recessed until 1:30 PM.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

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

**ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM II** - Debra Mason, representing the Anti-Racism Ministry Team, shared a video entitled “Don’t Put People in Boxes.”

**READING OF APPOINTMENTS: KANE DISTRICT** - Bishop Moore-Koikoi invited J. Patrick Lenox, superintendent, to come to the platform. He and Mark Schwanke, District Lay Leader, then read the new appointments to the District while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, offered a prayer for all the pastors of the Kane District.

**COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONCERNS** - Anais L. Hussian, chair of the Committee on Disability Concerns, shared the impact our words have on people. One in five Americans has some sort of disability, so our words DO matter. She also shared a video “This Is Me.”

**“UNSTOPPABLE”** - Denise-Nicole Stone presented the “Unstoppable” program which is designed for leadership development in young women. “Unstoppable is dedicated to creating an environment in which young women ages 14-25 can learn the issues, find their voice, and change the world while deepening their faith and forming lasting friendships.” She challenged the body to send young women to their retreat this summer at Olmsted Manor July 6-8, 2018.

**MISSION U PRESENTATION** - Barbara Hess, drew the conference’s attention to this summer’s “Mission U” event at California University of PA July 12-15, 2018. Sponsored by the conference United Methodist Women, classes and activities will be offered that expand knowledge and awareness of missional topics. A “Youth Mission U” will run from July 10-15 at the same place.

**MISSION AMBASSADOR INTRODUCTIONS** - Cindy Bloise shared her experience as a Mission Ambassador. She offered her service to share her story with local churches throughout the conference. Jodale Barnhart introduced this Fall’s new Mission Ambassador program - “Is God speaking to you?”

**KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** - Kasi Devinney, CEO, announced that the Credit Union is now 65 years old. She shared some of the services that the Credit Union offers to individuals and churches.

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION** - Ed Bailey, Executive Director, presented the Bishop with Hershey Kisses and a UM Foundation T-shirt. Pages distributed T-shirts to some lucky conference members who were good at catching. He explained the way that the Foundation supports local churches who want to be able to invest their monies while still staying true to the guidelines established by The United Methodist Church.

**EASTBROOK MISSION BARN** - Katie Peterson, Director of the Eastbrook Mission Barn, informed the body that this mission effort started ten years ago with a project to build ramps. She shared a video following the development and ministry of Eastbrook Mission Barn.

Calvin Cook, Disaster Response Coordinator for the conference, announced the purchase of a ministry trailer that can be deployed in times of crisis and disaster. Bishop Moore-Koikoi prayed for God's blessing on the trailer and the people who will use it in ministry and those who receive that outreach in times of need.

**READING OF APPOINTMENTS: JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT** - Bishop Moore-Koikoi invited Alyce Weaver Dunn, superintendent, to come to the platform. She and Sung Shik Chung, incoming superintendent, 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 the pastors of the Johnstown District.

**GCFA 100% APPORTIONMENT RECOGNITION** - Moses Kumar, General Secretary, General Conference Board of Finance and Administration, presented the Bishop with a certificate and plaque recognizing the conference's achievement of 100% giving to all General Church Requested Giving.

**BOARD OF LAITY/CONFERENCE LAY LEADER** - Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, once again graced the Annual Conference with her words and her loving spirit. "Once again we are entering into a new conference year. This is a good time to pause and reflect on our response to Christ who knocks at the door of our hearts and calls us to get up." She talked about some of the difficulties of "door knocking." She also talked about some of the possibilities of what lies on the other side of doors.

"We have been called to go out, to knock, and to tell others about the faith we have in Jesus, and the second chances, and new beginnings he is always giving us." We need to gently, but persistently strive to open doors in the walls of racism, prejudice, fear, loneliness, sickness, and hunger.

Gregory ended her presentation by saying "Yes beautiful people, we are recipients of the blessings that came when that door was opened so long ago ... and that door can be opened today by anyone who will open it." She then offered a prayer and reminded the body of the words of the old hymn, "This rock is Jesus, yes he's the one This rock is Jesus, the only one. Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the solid rock."

**THE WAY FORWARD** - Mark Hecht introduced the other members of the leadership team of the Order of the Elders -- Kelly Smith, Renee Mickell, Tom Strandburg. The goal

of the leadership team was to initiate some healthy conversation about the topic of human sexuality. He talked about the goal of the fall gatherings of the order of the Elder.

Kelly Smith shared about the training in which the leadership team initially engage in to preparation for the fall training events. They attended a seminar entitled "Circles of Grace." This allowed them to lay the groundwork for the agenda for gatherings.

Renee Mikell talked about the actual implementation of the gatherings. 467 people participated in these gatherings -- from October 2017 until May 2018. In addition to conversations, they continually gave updates on the work of the Commission on the Way Forward.

Tom Strandburg shared some of the feedback that was received following these gatherings. The discussions were lively and not everyone was in agreement. Western Pennsylvania Elders reflect a microcosm of the denomination as a whole. The officers were encouraged by the number of Elders who gave of their time for these dialogues. Many of the discussion groups voiced a need for the church to continue to pray for the future of the church.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi addressed this issue by mentioning that she has had some similar conversations with the Order of Deacons and the local pastors & associate pastors. She then outlined some of the process of the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops has elected to recommend to the Special Called General Conference in 2019 the "One Church Model" - and then she outlined some of the reasons for this recommendation

Bishop Moore-Koikoi announced a task force that will be formed to begin some conversations as we approach the Special Called General Conference: Bob Zilhaver, Alyce Weaver Dunn, Jake Judy, Hannah Loughman, Renee Mikell, Sharon Gregory, Shanon Schaffer, Denise Nicole Stone, Tom Hallman, Roger White, Richard Thomas, Noah Manalo. The assignment of the task force is to put together a process in which accurate information is shared and there will be conversation about the recommendation.

Whatever happens in February 2019, the denomination will not be the same. As we all prepare, Bishop Moore-Koikoi has asked that we all do three things: (1) surrender some of the work that we have been doing to God, (2) value the blessing that comes through diversity, and (3) put this issue into proper context.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi then closed the presentation by sharing a video of a conversation that she had with the Judy family.

**RECESS** - The conference was recessed until 3:55 PM.

**CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES** - Sharon Gregory called the body to order following the recess. The Camping and Retreat Ministries began by with the body singing "Days of Elijah." Jessica Gamache introduced the summer staffs from our conference camps and retreat center. Martha Blackstone outlined some of the benefits of camping and retreat settings. Various summer staff members from Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, and Wesley Woods briefly told about their personal experiences and values of camping. A video featuring several of our conference members was shown that outlined the ministries of Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, At the Lake Ministries, Healthy Village Learning Center, and Olmsted Manor.

Alyce Weaver Dunn spoke about the clergy aspect of the Deeply Rooted Upward Reaching campaign. To date, there has been a commitment of \$671,000 from the clergy to the campaign.

Eric Leonard spoke about the beauty and the ministry of Olmstead Manor.

Keith Murphy spoke about the ministries of the Healthy Village Learning Institute.

Diane Randolph spoke about the Millvale church as an urban pilot church in the Deeply Rooted Upward Reaching campaign . In the six months they have been working on this, they have already collected \$912. In the three year campaign period, they have made commitments to collect an additional \$3,315.

Sue Strohm spoke about some of the local church details of the campaign. Each Conference Member is encouraged to (1) complete a form to schedule a visit between July and October 2018, (2) If your church chooses to be a part of the campaign, a lay person will be trained, assisted, and equipped for the campaign in your local church in January 2019, (3) set a campaign goal for your local church.

Jonathan Bell spoke representing a rural church that was a part of the pilot program. He spoke about some of the current things the church is doing, and his family's personal commitment to the program. He then shared that the Good Shepherd UMC set a goal of \$18,750. Following the campaign, the church actually set a goal of \$37,821.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi pointed us to look at what God is doing through God's people. She reminded the body of some of the ways that individuals and churches can be involved and supported of this initiative. "We know the how, and we know the why, now let's get to the job of doing."

The presentation ended with the singing of "Go, Tell It On the Mountain."

**EAST GERMAN INITIATIVE** - Mary Garber, East German Initiative, issued some opening remarks and then introduced Katrin Bonitz from East Germany. Bonitz brought greetings from the East German conference and she told of some of the work of the church in her homeland. We are connected in our faith, prayer, and mission.

**READING OF APPOINTMENTS: INDIANA DISTRICT** - Bishop Moore-Koikoi invited James M. Pond, Superintendent to come to the platform. He and Corona McKee, District Lay Leader, 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 the pastors of the Indiana District.

**GBHEM Scholarship Program** - Susan Moudry introduced a video which outlined the work and the programs of the GBHEM Scholarship Program. She then talked about how scholarships and grants are impacting the lives of some of the United Methodist Students in our conference.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT** - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, led the conference through the process of voting on 1 constitutional amendment. Eligible conference members voted on the amendment.

**RECESS** - Bill Patrick offered some closing comments and announcements. Pat Lenox then shared a prayer, and the conference was recessed until 7:00 PM.

### **EVENING SESSION**

**WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF RETIRING CLASS** - The conference gathered at 7:00 PM for the Worship & Celebration of the Retiring Class. Paul Taylor preached a sermon entitled "This is the Time" based on Acts 2:17-24. The following retirees were recognized and thanked for their years of service: Emmett L. Anderson Jr. (32), Brock R. Beveridge (35), LaMar E Carlson (42), John E. Ciampa (47), John P. Colatch (40), Donald W. Dotterer (40), Dennis A. Fetter (38), Joel S. Garrett (39), Robert L. Goodnough (21), Kurtis A. Knobel (38), Sandra K. Marsh-McClain (25), Frederick M. Monk (37), Barbara J. Moore (32), Joseph W. Patterson III (40), Rita S. Platt (31), Christine E. Rogan (23), John W. Seth (40), Harry R. Speakman (39), David R. Stains (45), Lois F. Swestyn (17), Paul D. Taylor (17), Nancy G. Zahn (24), Linda Freeburg (6), Robert M. Howles (9), Sandra D. Howles (3), Edwin D. Pope (16).

An offering was received for the Bishop's Camping Initiative: Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching.

Bob Zilhaver gave the history of the WPAUMC Conference Cane. The WPAUMC Conference Cane has long been called the Thoburn Cane because it is believed to have been carried by Bishop Thoburn. This cane is traditionally given to the elder member of the Conference with the most years of service.

Brad Lauster shared with the conference some of the biography Harold L. "Sammy" Knappenberger Jr. His first local church appointment began in 1948. He entered the retired relationship in 1990, however he continued to serve appointments until 2013. Knappenberger has served the church for 67 years.

Knappenberger was unable to attend the service. He was attending the wedding celebration of one of his grandchildren. In his absence, Hannah M. Loughman, Houston United Methodist Church, received the cane and spoke words of compassion and respect for Knappenberger.

The Conference Praise Band, Paul Taylor, Martha Blackstone, Jessica Gamache, and Mitchell Stecker were participants in the service.