

IV. Daily Proceedings
DAILY PROCEEDINGS
“Anchored in Christ”
Erie Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, Pennsylvania
Friday, June 3, 2022

BIBLE STUDY – 8 AM Bishop Moore-Koikoi led the gathered members of Western Pennsylvania and via livestream to the Susquehanna Conference in a time of Bible Study on the *Book of Hebrews*.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Shane Siciliano, secretarial staff, presented the Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendar, (*Daily Journal* pages 467-470). He reminded the body about conference rule 2.3.7.4 which specifies how items are placed on the Consent Calendar. The body was reminded that with 25 signatures by 7:00 PM on Friday evening, an item can be removed from the Consent Calendar.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET/RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING CABINET – Bishop Moore-Koikoi gathered the coordinating cabinet on 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. The Bishop thanked Pat Lenox for his eight years as District Superintendent of the Kane District. She then introduced new Superintendent Sang Kong Choi and his wife Grace. Bishop Moore-Koikoi also introduced Ross Pryor, who has been serving as District Superintendent of the Washington District since January 1, 2022. She announced that Eric Park has been selected as Dean of the Cabinet. The Bishop also introduced Renee Mikell who will be point person to work with churches that discern a path of disaffiliation.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Alfred Lewis reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS – Chris Kindle, Director of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, shared a video presentation on ways our Annual Conference is Developing Principled Christian Leaders.

CELEBRATING ERIE-MEADVILLE DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

– As new Erie-Meadville District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Dennis Swineford led in prayer.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Denton Lester reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND – The body watched a video highlighting the Black College Fund and its ongoing successful ministries throughout the last 50 years.

BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND – It was reported that last night's offering brought in \$3596 for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Michael reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

LEGISLATION: RS 701 ACTIVELY WAITING TASK FORCE – Greg Spencer, on behalf of Section 7, moved concurrence as amended (80-28-5; *Daily Journal* page 471). Katherine Fehl offered an amendment “to strike lines 6 and 7 and replace with “maintain ordination standards pertaining to human sexuality, including prohibition of homosexual practice.” The amendment PASSED. Following Prayer by the section leader, the main motion as amended, was ADOPTED.

LEGISLATION: RS 101 BASE COMPENSATION – Dean Dietrick, on behalf of Section 1, moved concurrence. (49-33-6; *Daily Journal* page 471). Katrina Laude offered an amendment, but it was not approved. Following Prayer by the section leader, the main motion was ADOPTED.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Donna Doult reflected on the way God has led her throughout her years in ministry.

FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS – Rob Wilson, Director of Congregational Development and Revitalization, shared a video presentation on ways we are creating new and renewed congregations throughout our Annual Conference.

CELEBRATING FRANKLIN DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Franklin District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Jodie Smith led in prayer.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Dorothy Foor reflected on the way God has led her throughout her years in ministry.

FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS – Bev Roscoe, chair of the Poverty Team, shared a video presentation on ways our Annual Conference is engaging in ministry with the poor.

CELEBRATING KANE DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Kane District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendents Pat Lenox and Sang Kong Choi led in prayer.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Doug Myers reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

UM COM – Poonam Patodia, Chief Marketing Officer, United Methodist Communications, brought greetings from the General Church and announced that she also came with an award of recognition for Jackie Campbell. Liz Lennox accepted the award in her behalf because Jackie was unable to be present.

PRAYER – From throughout the floor of the body, the Bishop asked for eight people to lead the conference in prayers of healing for Jackie Campbell, Bob Green, and any others who need the healing power of our God in their lives.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Gregory Stiver reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

UMW/UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – Linda Thayer, president of the conference arm of United Methodist Women, reported that the name of the organization is being rebranded as “United Women In Faith” as of this Spring. Thayer then shared a video highlighting the ongoing ministries of the group.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Karen Jacobs reflected on the way God has led her throughout her years in ministry.

LEGISLATION: P34 TO SELECT GROVE CITY COLLEGE SITE – Cyndi Bloise, on behalf of Section 3, moved to Table P34 (52-27-4; *Daily Journal* page 471). Following prayer by the section leader, the motion to Table was ADOPTED.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Keith McGarvey reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS – Lynette Moran, Co-coordinator of the Abundant Health Initiative, shared a video presentation on ways the Annual Conference is Promoting Abundant Health. She also shared a video with Alexis Soohy, Conference Benefits Officer, explaining the new Employee Assistance Program, is available to all of the conference clergy and their families, regardless of their status as full-time or part-time, and even if their clergy family is not covered by our conference health insurance plan.

DEEPLY ROOTED, UPWARD REACHING CAMPAIGN – Through a series of video presentations, members of the conference were updated on the progress of the Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching Campaign designed to help our camping and retreat ministries throughout the Annual Conference. The campaign, now in its fourth year, helps Wesley Woods, Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Olmsted Manor, Healthy Village Learning Institute, and At The Lake Ministries.

CELEBRATING BUTLER DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Butler District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Eric Park led in prayer.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Rebecca Patterson reflected on the way God has led her throughout her years in ministry.

CELEBRATING INDIANA DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Indiana District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendents Jodie Smith and Robert Zilhaver led in prayer.

CREDIT UNION – Members of conference learned, via video, about the Common Roots Federal Credit Union, which serves those connected to our Annual Conference.

RETIREMENT REFLECTION – By video, retiring pastor Thomas Moore reflected on the way God has led him throughout his years in ministry.

GRACE, RECESS, AND LUNCH – Ross Pryor led the body in prayer in preparation for the lunch break, and then the Bishop declared a recess for lunch.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION – Renee Mikell opened with prayer. Joseph Short then led a litany of prayer. Kelley Schanely announced the Class of 2022 retirees present at Annual Conference, while Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi gave each retiree a special certificate. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi offered a closing prayer.

CALL TO ORDER – Following the Retirement Reception, at 1:45 p.m., Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi called the plenary session to order.

DISMANTLING RACISM VIDEO REPORT – Debra Mason reported on efforts to dismantle racism in our Annual Conference. Our districts are doing amazing work of their own. The goals of these efforts are to alter people’s points of view and to encourage them to speak out about race. Renee Mikell featured our new “Meet in the Middle” Podcast. This podcast was created to engage people about race relations, find common ground, and promote love of the community. We have a large podcast audience that includes many people living abroad. There was also video footage of creative performances of Black History from February (Black History Month).

ANNOUNCEMENT – After a litany led by Amy Wagner, Kelly Smith asked us on behalf of Shane Hinderliter, Camping Coordinator to write cards to camp staff this summer.

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – Chair Karen Trask said we are blessed to have such a Spirit-filled deep thinker as our Bishop in Western PA. Our Bishop is determined to move forward because she cares where God is leading. In this spirit, the Annual Conference is giving Bishop Cynthia and her husband, Raphael, a bicycle tour in August. The Episcopacy Committee also presented them with a sculpture of bicycle wheels.

LEGISLATION – RS 201 – Amending Bylaws - Roger Pike, on behalf of Section 2 made a motion for concurrence on RS 201 – Amending Bylaws (95-5-1; *Daily Journal* page 467). After prayer, the resolution was ADOPTED.

LEGISLATION – P 23 – Guidance on Local Church Reporting - The Bishop ruled P 23 out of order. Nathanael Fugate appealed the parliamentary ruling of the chair. After discussion, Katherine Fehl called the question and the APPEAL was PASSED. Roger Pike, on behalf of Section 2 made a motion for concurrence P 23 – Guidance on Local Church Reporting (51-40-6, *Daily Journal* page 471). An amendment was introduced by Gregory Spencer. SPENCER AMENDMENT: “On Page 406 on Line 24, beginning after the word ‘stop,’ DELETE all words through Line 26, ending with the words ‘social principles.’ REPLACE these words with “offering the option of ‘Non-Binary’ as a gender.” The amended text will read, “stop offering the option of ‘Non-Binary’ as a gender.” Debate ended on the amendment and the AMMENDMENT was ADOPTED. After prayer, the MAIN MOTION was ADOPTED.

CELEBRATING JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Johnstown District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Sung Chung led in prayer.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM PRESENTATION – Our Conference Youth showed up dressed as pirates! Everyone together said, “Aargh!” Pearl Russell presented about Uth 4 Missions 2022. Malorie Landman presented about SPARK. The youth made the case that they are not just the future of the church, but part of church today. Some youth are voting members, others are pages, all are an essential part of ministry.

NOMINATIONS REPORT – Alyce Weaver Dunn presented the Nominations Report starting on Page 301 of the *Daily Journal*. Alyce also referenced the page 466 in the *Daily Journal* an addendum, saying that the Intentional Missional Alignment Process Task Force was part of our vote. After presentation, she moved the Nominations Report for approval. The Nominations Report was ADOPTED.

CELEBRATING PITTSBURGH DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Pittsburgh District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Deborah Ackley-Killian led in prayer.

BOARD OF PENSIONS VIDEO REPORT – Dara Sterling presented on the work of our Board of Pensions. She then recognized our three Wellness Champions: Ed Saxman, Jim Gascoine, and Cyndi Bloise.

LEGISLATION – RS 401 – 2023 Connectional Budget - Rick Nelson, convener of Section 4, moved concurrence on RS 401 – 2023 Connectional Budget (60-18-1, *Daily Journal* page 471). The budget was ADOPTED.

CELEBRATING WASHINGTON DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Washington District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Ross Pryor led in prayer.

CELEBRATING GREENSBURG DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Greensburg District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Paul Ritchie led in prayer.

VIDEO FROM ALLEGHENY COLLEGE – Jane Ellen Nickell, chaplain at Allegheny College, mentioned that the relationship between the College and the United Methodist Church has been changing. Allegheny College is hosting a symposium to explore this relationship called “Meeting the Moment,” to be held March 17-18, 2023. The college welcomes members of the Annual Conference to submit papers, with proposals due June 30, 2022.

CELEBRATING CONNELLSVILLE DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS – As new Connellsville District pastoral appointments scrolled on the screen, pastors that will newly serve there on July 1st stood, and District Superintendent Robert Zilhaver led in prayer.

SETTING OF THE APPOINTMENTS AND PRAYER FOR CLERGY AND LAITY – The Bishop announced that the appointments are fixed in the name of Jesus and our new Conference Lay Leader, Paul Huey, offered prayer.

LAITY SESSION – Laity Session was led by David Teal, Laity and Spiritual Leadership Director from Discipleship Ministries. David Teal gave a tour of umcdiscipleship.org, discussed #SEEALLTHEPEOPLE, and provided the 2022 catalog for Lay Servant Ministries. Every lay person present was provided with a copy of the book, *How to Have a Courageous Conversation.*”

CLERGY SESSION – The Bishop started the Clergy Session by explaining its intent. This clergy session was held so the laity can have a session during that time. The bishop directed the clergy to take advantage of this time to pray for one another. The gathered clergy moved into groups of 3 or 4. Each clergy person shared their concerns and prayer needs, and then the group prayed over them. The clergy were in prayer for 30-45 minutes.

EVENSONG WORSHIP – Following the separate sessions, the conference gathered. Vicki Stahlman, Ross Pryor, Amy Wagner, and others led Evensong Worship with prayers, songs, and a responsive sung psalm.

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Erie Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, Pennsylvania
Saturday, June 4, 2022

BIBLE STUDY – During Bible Study, Bishop Moore-Koikoi related the first few chapters of the *Book of Hebrews* to our United Methodist Doctrinal Standards. She discussed both the Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church and the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. No changes can be made to our Doctrinal Standards or new standards established that are contrary by anybody or any body of the church. The Bishop showed how the *Book of Hebrews* lays this out by showing who Jesus is, our great High Priest.

CALL TO ORDER – Following Bible Study, at 9:00 a.m., Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi called the plenary session to order.

CONSENT CALENDAR – After the 10-hour window lapsed, two pieces of legislation were pulled, RS 201 and P 73. RS 201 was adopted Friday and P 73 was scheduled for discussion shortly. Shane Siciliano moved the Consent Calendar for concurrence without RS 201 and P 73 included. The Consent Calendar was ADOPTED.

LEGISLATION – P 73 – For Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant to ¶2553 – W. Stephen Morse, on behalf of Section 7, moved concurrence for P 73 (93-9-3, *Daily Journal* page 469). Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi responded that P 73 is not properly before us, giving a Ruling of the Chair on this item as a Decision of Law:

This petition takes away the authority given to the Board of Trustees under ¶2553 to determine if ¶2553 and conference policies have been complied with before the annual conference votes to approve or deny the request to disaffiliate.

Further, this petition takes away the authority of the Board of Trustees, cabinet, annual conference benefits officer, the director of connectional ministries, and the annual conference chancellor given to them by ¶2553. And (it limits their ability to perform) their duty as officers of the denomination to preserve the safeguard and

protect the interests and rights of the annual conference; to maintain the resources related to the annual conference's interests and those of The United Methodist Church. (The implication of ¶2553.4a is that the Board of Trustees is acting on behalf of GCFA to ensure that the provisions of ¶807.9 are protected in any Disaffiliation Agreement.)

The only right of a local church to disaffiliate is in ¶2553, and this is a limited right. ¶2548.2 does not provide a right to a local congregation to disaffiliate, and the deeding of property pursuant to ¶2548.2 relates only to property and not to the disaffiliation or separation of the church itself. In addition, ¶2548.2 does not address any issues of pension liability, (therefore it's inclusion in this petition is inappropriate).

This petition negates the authority of the Board of Trustees to add additional standard terms to any agreement. Each of those agreements must be ratified by the annual conference.

The designation of "over" and "fully" funded pension is a technical term, not simply a balance sheet total. It is a determination that is made by the Board of Pensions, CFA, and Wespath pursuant to ¶1504.8a and ¶1506.6.

This petition violates ¶2553.4a and ¶1504.23 (in allowing for the option of a \$1 pension liability).

The petition negates the Board of Pensions ability to carry out ¶2512.4.

Further ¶2553 sets the parameters for the effective date of disaffiliation based on the conditions that must be met for disaffiliate as spelled out in ¶2553.

This Decision of Law will be automatically appealed to the Judicial Council as per ¶2609.6. The Bishop then gave a pastoral response to the Annual Conference reconciling her ruling with the needs of local churches.

LEGISLATION – P 14 – End Degrading Behavior Against Female Athletes – Dan Miller, on behalf of Section 1, moved concurrence for P 14 (33-24-0, *Daily Journal* page 472). B.T. Gilligan moved to Table the motion until September 20 at 2:30pm. The motion to Table was not adopted. Katherine Fehl motioned to extend the time to allow for 15 more minutes of discussion. The motion to extend the time was not adopted. Time having

elapsed, a vote was called on the main motion. Concurrence was ADOPTED.

LAITY ADDRESS – Sharon Gregory, outgoing Conference Lay Leader, and Paul Huey, incoming Conference Lay Leader, jointly gave the Laity Address. Sharon thanked the Conference for all of the support she received over the years. Paul shared about himself so we might get to know him.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT – After closing announcements, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi adjourned Annual Conference 2022 at 10:40 a.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND CLOSING WORSHIP – Sharon Gregory opened worship. After song and prayer, Kendra Balliet read the names of clergy, laity, and other individuals who passed away since our last meeting, leading everyone in the Prayer of the Saints. Sung Chung and Jodie Smith prayed and read the names of churches who have closed since our last meeting. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi prayed for closed churches and released their assets to bless others. Mary Urso and another youth read from Scripture. Rob Wilson preached about anchoring in Christ’s love from personal experience growing up in a family of commercial fishermen. Dean Ziegler introduced the offering, benefiting the Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching Camping Campaign. Bishop Cynthia closed worship by commending the Conference for adopting the commitments of Actively Waiting Task Force, where we must honor our differences and support one another. Worship ended with a Wesley covenant prayer.