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

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

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


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


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

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

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

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

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Received on motion of David Janz, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶322: Sheila Rae Auer and Samuel Johnston Wagner.
PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING – Received on motion of Eric Raygor, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶324: Provisional Elders: Ea Kyoung (Amy) Jun, Loren Andrew McQueen, Valerie Bennett Mize, Samantha Sue Penwell, Joel David Peterson, Lori Michele Walters, Luke Andrew Whipple, and Matthew Edward Williams.

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

RETIREMENTS: ELDERS – On motion of Kelley M. Schanely, according to ¶357: name (years of service) effective date: In Ki Lee (13) 8/31/2016, Kenneth L. Bossart (31) 7/1/2017, Donald R. Brauer (17) 7/1/2017, Emily A. Byrd (39) 1/31/2017, Thomas V. Chacko (20) 7/1/2017, Howard A. Greenfield II (41) 7/1/2017, Beverly M. Gross (18) 7/1/2017, Alfred H. Kimmel (22) 7/1/2017, Bonnie T.F. King (21) 7/1/2017, John V. King (33) 7/1/2017, Penelope F. Lyon (12) 1/1/2017, Joseph P. Martin Jr. (40) 7/1/2017, Kenneth J. Peters (39) 7/1/2017, Craig W. Peterson (30) 7/1/2017, Cynthia K. Schneider

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

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

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

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

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

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

PENSION CREDIT REPORT – No report.

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

COMPREHENSIVE MOTION – Approved on motion of Eric Raygor, members of the Clergy Session approved a comprehensive motion to receive and approve the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
APPROVAL OF CHARACTER OF CLERGY – Bishop Moore-Koikoi, as required by ¶604.4 and ¶605.6, asked “Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and administration?” Alice Weaver Dunn, Dean of the Cabinet, responded representing all the District Superintendents: “other than 1 active complaint, all the clergy in the conference are in good standing.”

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

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

LAITY SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

AFTERNOON SESSION

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

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

EVENING SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, explained the roll call of members. Members were guided through the completion of the attendance card and the seating designation card. Laity 578 in attendance, Clergy 515 in attendance plus 43 excused Clergy. Total 1,136.

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

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RULES - Amy Bentz, Chancellor, made a motion to suspend rule 2.3.8.1.1 to permit the body to receive late reports and legislation. The motion passed. The rules subcommittee had no other recommended rules changes to propose.

ELECTION OF TELLERS - John Wilson, Conference Secretary, nominated tellers to serve during this year’s Annual Conference, as listed in the pre-conference booklet (page 10) with 2 additions -- Janice Davis and Roseann Smith.
WELCOME – Dr. Paul McNulty, President of Grove City College, expressed greetings to the Annual Conference. He expressed hope that the facilities of Grove City College will enable the body to do the work that Christ has called us to do.

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS - Bishop Moore-Koikoi began her address by sharing that since she arrived in September, she has spent time listening to the hopes and concerns of the Conference. “What a blessing to serve Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.” She reminded the Conference that in many, many ways, “We are blessed.” And while there are many ways in which God has blessed us as an Annual Conference, there are also many ways in which we need to confess that we have failed to be the Church that God wants us to be. “We beseech thee O Lord, have mercy on us.” The question of the faithful is: “Is this what we’re called to do?” Once we’re clear on our call, God will provide.

We serve a resurrected Christ - if followers, we are resurrected people. Do you believe God is faithful? God is faithful, great in his faithfulness
CLOSING COMMENTS - Bishop Moore-Koikoi shared some closing comments. The Bishop declared the body in recess until Friday morning. The conference then enjoyed an evening of Penguin hockey.

COSROW Report

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

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

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

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

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.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF ACTION

At a session of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, held in Grove City, Pennsylvania on June 9, 2017, with 767 members present, the following votes were recorded on the various Constitutional Amendments voted by the 2016 General Conference.

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Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Presiding Bishop

Rev. John R. Wilson, Secretary of the Annual Conference

Please forward this certificate to:
Council of Bishops
Executive Secretary
100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 320
Washington, DC 20002
Fax: (202) 547-6272
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 in Chapter 12 WPAUMC Conference Staff Study)

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 in Chapter 12 Apportionment Review)

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 Lay 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), Lintonburg 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 – RS 403 Annual Conference Registration Fee
Jeff Sterling, representing Section Four, moved concurrence as amended by the section (Daily Journal, page 463, line 12 – Delete $80 and insert $100. (Section vote: 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 Bob Lewis for and supported (612-91).
Following a prayer by the Bishop, the amendment was defeated (221-485). The motion as amended by section was then supported (510-167). The registration fee beginning in 2018 will be $100.

**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 Lori M. Walters.


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.

DAY THREE
Saturday, June 10, 2017

MORNING SESSION

BIBLE STUDY II -- The Annual Conference gathered at 8:00 AM. Rev. Dr. Dawn Chesser, Discipleship Ministries, lead the body in a study of Colossians 2 & 3.

ORDER - Alyce Weaver Dunn, Dean of the Cabinet, called the conference to order at 9:15 AM. Alyce Weaver Dunn asked Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, to open the morning session in prayer.

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES - The camping presentation began with Bishop Moore-Koikoi rappelling from the balcony, dropping (literally) to the floor of the Annual Conference. She spoke about the importance of the Conference’s camping and retreat ministries which provide spiritual help and nourishment. Through various speakers, the conference was reminded of how the camping program relates to the five areas of focus: Developing Principled Christian Leaders (Jude Urso), Creating New and Renewed Congregations (Sarah Cox), Engaging in Ministry with the Poor (Keith Murphy), Improving Health Globally (Nate Greenway), and Dismantling Racism (Dennis Tawney).

Bishop Moore-Koikoi then spoke about the importance of the Camping and Retreat ministries, and she unveiled her plan to begin a $5 million initiative during the next 4 years to support the camping program. Part of her vision (and challenge) was to allow every child in the Annual Conference to go to camp at least one time without charge. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit was evident in the response of the Annual Conference with a spontaneous offering for the new camping initiative.

JOINT STAFF REPORT - “There’s a Staff for That!” -- Greg Cox, Director of Connectional Ministries, and other staff members spoke about the various needs within local churches. For each of the needs, “There is a Staff for That!” The conference has staff for Clergy Leadership Development, Communications, Camping, Young People’s Ministry, Diversity Development, Missions, Multimedia, Discipleship & Spiritual Formation, Zimbabwe Partnership, Clergy Excellence, and Congregational Development & Revitalization. Local churches are encouraged to use the resources of the Annual Conference to help address their needs.

MOMENT OF PRIVILEGE -- Nancy Denardo shared some very important concerns about the proper way to dispose of used medical sharps.
READING OF APPOINTMENTS: INDIANA DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed James N. Pond as the Superintendent for the Indiana District. James Pond introduced Corona McKee, his “miracle” 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 pastors of the District.

CONSENT CALENDAR ADOPTION - Mark Goswick, Secretarial Staff, announced that as of 9:00 PM last evening, no items were removed from the Consent Calendar (Daily Journal pages 617-620). He then moved for the adoption of the consent calendar. The motion carried (858-13).

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES - Mark Goswick, Secretarial Staff, moved the adoption of the minutes for Thursday and Friday’s proceedings (Daily Journal pages 621-639). The motion carried (869-15). He then asked for the grace of the Annual Conference to be extended to the Secretarial Staff to record, edit, perfect, print, publish, and approve the minutes of today’s (Saturday, June 10th) and tomorrow’s (Sunday, June 11th) sessions. The motion carried with a voice vote.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed Alyce Weaver Dunn as the Superintendent for the Johnstown District. Alyce Weaver Dunn read the new appointments to the District, while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Sharon Gregory offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM -- A video was launched featuring Dianne Glave and others. #letstalkaboutracewpa

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - Diane Miller shared contact information, programs, and other important items as related to the United Methodist Women.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND – Diane Miller then introduced Jessica Love (see UMW page for more on her bio). Jessica Love spoke about the benefits that she has received from the Black College Fund, and encouraged the conference to continue their 100% support of this important fund.

MOMENT OF PRIVILEGE – Bishop Moore-Koikoi announced that $9,251 was collected during the spontaneous offering for the Camp Initiative. The conference celebrated this wonderful beginning.

GCFA -- 100% APPORTIONMENT RECOGNITION -- Jodi Chadwell, Shared Services of GCFA, addressed the body, thanking us for our faithful obedience to the General Church. The conference has been at the 100% level since 2011. She presented a certificate to the Bishop in recognition of another year of 100% support (2016).
READING OF APPOINTMENTS: KANE DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed J. Patrick Lenox as the Superintendent for the Kane District. J. Patrick Lenox read the new appointments to the District, while all current District pastors welcomed and greeted each other. Sharon Gregory offered a prayer for all pastors of the District.

MOMENT OF PRIVILEGE - Bishop Moore-Koikoi announced that in addition to the spontaneous offering, the youth had already presented her a check in the amount of $1,985 for the Camp Initiative at the pizza party.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA - NICARAGUA PARTNERSHIP -- Richard Schall spoke about his beginnings with the Nicaragua Partnership. David Stains thanked the conference for our relief during crisis. David Stains then introduced Rev. Reuben Zeldon, the new President of the Methodist Evangelical Conference of Nicaragua and Margorie, his wife. Rev. Zeldon (through Rebecca Clapp, translating) expressed his hope for the future of the church community in Nicaragua. He said, “A man is greater on his knees than standing up.” Bishop Moore-Koikoi prayed for the President and his wife. Appropriate gifts were exchanged.

YOUTH PRESENTATION – The Youth Caucus shared a very creative presentation based on “Back to the Future.” Grant Shoffstall, president of Youth Ministry Team (aka Doc Brown) talked about helping youth to get excited for the future -- not a future of hover boards – but the amazing future that God has planned for them. Various members of the YMT informed the conference members about the significant ministry outreaches of the team, such as S.P.A.R.K. (Seeking and Preparing for A Renewed Kingdom) and Y.S.F. (Youth Service Fund). They also reminded the body that the annual Pineapple Award was presented to earlier this week to Sharon Gregory.

RECESS – Following closing comments and announcements, the conference was recessed at 11:40 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

MINISTER'S CHOIR CONCERT – At 1:00 PM, the Minister’s Choir shared several songs with the gathering body.

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the conference to order at 3:00 PM.

OPENING PRAYER - Corona McKee, Indiana District Lay Leader, opened the afternoon session in prayer.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: PITTSBURGH DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed Paul Taylor as the Superintendent for the Pittsburgh District. Paul Taylor 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.

EAST GERMAN INITIATIVE -- Mary Garber brought greetings from the East German Conference with Joe Stains, and Richard Russell who told of the many changes, blessings, and challenges that are occurring in East Germany.

THE WAY FORWARD -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi talked about the work of the Council of Bishops’ Commission on The Way Forward. She then outlined her vision for the Annual Conference Order of Elders declaring the diverse voices represented in Western Pennsylvania to the Commission. She shared her optimism that God has already worked out a way forward. God is simply waiting for us to follow the plan.

RS401 FUNDING FOR MINISTRY FOR 2018 -- Seth McClymonds, Chair, made some opening remarks on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration. Jeff Sterling representing Section Four moved concurrence of the petition (100-0-0). Following prayer, the motion for concurrence from the section was adopted (702-71).

LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT & NOMINATION TEAM -- Ken Miller presented and moved adoption of the Nominations and Leadership Recruitment Report (Daily Journal, pages 543-571). Following prayer, the motion carried (727-28).

P505 DECLARATORY DECISION ON CALCULATION OF THE DENOMINATIONAL AVERAGE COMPENSATION FOR PENSION AND BENEFIT PROGRAMS -- Jim Kimmel representing Section Five moved non-concurrence of the petition (25-66-10). Following discussion and prayer, the motion for non-concurrence from the section was sustained (529-196).

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: WASHINGTON DISTRICT - Bishop Moore-Koikoi reappointed Bradford L. Lauster as the Superintendent for the Washington District. Brad Lauster 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.
PRAYER -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi invited the members in extension ministries to stand and she prayed for them. Following that prayer, she then led the conference in a another time of prayer for all of the pastors of the Annual Conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS RECOGNITION -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi called attention to the pamphlet on the “2017 Annual Conference Awards.” She explained that the awards were presented earlier in other settings.

COSROW MONITORING REPORT -- Peggy Ward, Barb Hess, Bonnie Wilson presented the monitoring report. They cited not only statistics of what transpired in terms of race and gender, but they also offered many suggestions about accessibility concerns to improve participation. Encouraging efforts for inclusion by section leaders were celebrated.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS – Kelly Smith made several announcements, including the announcement that there was not a need for an evening session.

RECESS -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi offered praise and glory to God for what God has done. After recognizing the hard work and preparations for this Annual Conference along with some closing comments and announcements, the conference was recessed at 5:00 PM.

DAY FOUR
Sunday, June 11, 2017

MORNING SESSION
ORDINATION --The conference gathered at 9:00 AM for The Service of Word and Table for the Ordination of Elders, the Recognition of Orders, and the Recognition of Associate Members. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi preached a sermon entitled “Don’t Stop Singing” based on Exodus 15:19-24. Participants in the service were Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Sharon Gregory, Jessica Gamache, David Janz, Eric Raygor, Kelly Schanely, Kevin Latshaw, Debbie Airgood, and Kevin Haley.

Received as Full Members and ordained as Elders: David Andrew Bell Jr, Doug Andrew Dyson, Benjamin Andrew Phipps, Jean A. Smith, James R. Sands, Jack L. Tickle III, Erica Beth Wellner, and Brittany L. Wooten.

Received as Associate Members: Sheila Rae Auer, and Samuel J. Wagner.

ADJOURNMENT -- Following the worship service, upon motion by Peggy Osborne, the conference was officially adjourned at 10:56 AM.
CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
President

Rev. John R. Wilson
Secretary
CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING

This is to certify that on Friday, June 9, 2017 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I received as Probationary Members and Commissioned as Ministers:

Ea (Amy) Kyoung Jun, Loren Andrew McQueen, Valerie Bennett Mize, Samantha Sue Penwell, Joel David Peterson, Luke Andrew Whipple, Lori Michele Walters, Matthew Edward Williams

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Resident Bishop
CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

Tis is to certify that on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I Received as Associate Members:

Sheila Rae Auer, Samuel Johnston Wagner

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Resident Bishop
CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I Ordained as ELDERS:

David Andrew Bell Jr, Doug Andrew Dyson, Benjamin Andrew Phipps, James Robert Sands, Jean Ann Smith, Jack L. Tickle III, Erica Beth Wellner, Brittany Lynn Wooten

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Resident Bishop
ELDERS CLASS 2017

David A Bell Jr

Doug A Dyson

Benjamin A Phipps

James R Sands

Jean A Smith

Jack L Tickle III

Erica B Wellner

Brittany L Wooten

Permission for photos should be sent to Jackie.Campbell@wpaumc.org or 1-800-886-3382 x 229
Associate Members

Sheila R Auer

Samuel J Wagner

Passing the Mantle
David Vaughn, Erica Wellner, Bishop Moore-Koikoi

Graduates
Course of Study

Left to Right: Sheila R Auer, Samuel J Wagner, Robert D Gillgrist
PROVISIONAL MEMBERS 2017

Back Row Left to Right: Luke Andrew Whipple, Lori Michele Walters, Loren Andrew McQueen, Matthew Edward Williams, Joel David Peterson
Front L-R: Ea (Amy) Kyoung Jun, Valerie Bennett Mize, Samantha Sue Penwell

Laying on of Hands During Ordination
Our Family Tree by Denomination in Western Pennsylvania