

**The 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church**



THIS I KNOW

LAKEJUNALUSKA, NC
NOVEMBER 2-4, 2022

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 CONSEIL JUDICIAIRE DE L'EGLISE METHODISTE UNIE
 RECHTSHOF DER EVANGELISCH-METHODISTISCHEN KIRCHE
 CONSELHO JUDICIAL DA IGREJA METODISTA UNIDA
 CONSEJO DE LA JUDICATURA DE LA IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA



Report by Bishop on Decision of Law

This form is to be used for (please check one):

- Reporting of decisions of law made by bishops in response to questions of law submitted to them in writing during the regular business of a conference session (§ 56.3 Const. and ¶ 2609.6 *The Book of Discipline 2016*).
- Reporting of episcopal decisions on questions of law when such decisions are appealed by one-fifth of the members of the conference (§ 56.2 Const. and ¶ 2609.7 *The Book of Discipline 2016*).

Name of Bishop: L. Jonathan Holston
 Address: 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 121 City: Columbia
 State/Province: SC ZIP/Postal Code: 29203 Country: USA
 Phone: 803-786-9486 Fax: _____ E-mail: Bishop@umcsc.org
 Annual Conference: Southeastern Jurisdiction Date of session: 11/03/2022 (month/day/year)
 Question(s) of Law: Are the three petitions before us out of order as a matter of law as laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda to the body by Bishop James Swanson and Dale (sic) Holly (sic) which is included in the journal and incorporated herein by reference?

Authorities Cited (indicate paragraph or decision number where applicable):
 Constitution: 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36 Book of Discipline: para. 132, 362.1(g), 603
 Judicial Council Decision(s): 592, 605, 886, 1340

Signature:  Date: 11/22/2022
 Bishop of The United Methodist Church (month/day/year)

- The following must be attached:**
- o Decision of Law, including facts, rationale and ruling
 - o Text of the written request for decision
 - o Minutes of annual conference proceedings
 - o List of names and addresses of interested parties
 - o Other relevant materials (e.g. conference rules, resolutions, policies, reports)
- Thirteen (13) hard copies must be submitted via USPS or other delivery service to:
**UMC Judicial Council, c/o LaNella Smith, Assistant to the J.C. Secretary,
 1215 Shady Lane, Durham, NC 27712**
- Electronic copies in both Word and PDF (with security features disabled) must be submitted to: secretary@umcjudicialcouncil.org.

Facts

During the evening session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference held at Lake Junaluska, NC, on Thursday, November 3, 2022, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area (South Carolina Conference), was presiding. He recognized Rev. Stephen Sparks, Mississippi Conference, who requested a Rule of Law around three petitions that had been submitted to the Agenda Committee and reported on by the Agenda Committee in the Wednesday evening, November 2, session.

Rev. Sparks' written request submitted to the Conference Secretary and to Bishop Holston stated the following:

Are the three petitions before the body out of order as a matter of law as laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda presented to the body by Bishop James Swanson and Del Holley, which is included in the journal and is thereby incorporated herein by reference?

Bishop Holston shared that he would receive the request for Rule of Law but has 30 days to rule on it and will follow up within that time.

Rationale

Following the close of the Conference, Bishop Holston conducted research into the request for a Rule of Law. Time was needed to look into the *Book of Discipline*, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, and previous Judicial Council decisions around the legality of the three Resolutions and their consideration by the SEJ Conference session.

Ruling

Bishop Holston rules the following:

The sole question before me is whether as a matter of law the three petitions which were before the body of the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC were properly before the body. It is my ruling that for the reasons set forth by The Committee on Agenda, that by the adopted Rules of Order of the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Delegates and the applicable sections of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016), these resolutions were not properly before the body.

Therefore, it is my decision of law that the resolutions before me in this case are each in conflict with the Book of Discipline of the UMC (2016), the Rules of the Southeastern Conference of the UMC, and the decisions of the Judicial Council. These resolutions were not properly before this body for consideration.



Exhibits

1. Request for Rule of Law
2. Decision of Law
3. Projected Agenda for Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, November 2-4, 2022
4. Minutes of Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, November 2-4, 2022
5. List of Names and Addresses of Interested Parties
6. Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Exhibit 1 – Request for Rule of Law

Request for ruling of law

Are the three petitions before us out of order as a matter of law as laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda presented to the body by Bishop James Swanson and Dale Holly which is included in the journal and incorporated herein by reference?

Respectfully presented

Stephen Sparks
Mississippi
Clergy

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen Sparks", written in black ink.

November 3, 2022

Exhibit 2 – Bishop’s Decision of Law

Bishop’s Decision of Law

Syllabus

The three petitions ruled out of Order by the Committee on Agenda of the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction were out of order and not properly before the body.

Request for Decision of Law

The request for the Ruling of Law was made verbally and reduced to writing by Stephen Sparks, Clergy, Mississippi Annual Conference, on November 3, 2022. The request for a ruling was: Are the three petitions before us out of order as a matter of law as laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda presented to the body by Bishop James Swanson and Dale (sic) Holly (sic) which is included in the journal and incorporated herein by reference?

Decision of Law

Question 1:

The sole question before me is whether as a matter of law the three petitions which were before the body of the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC were properly before the body. It is my ruling that for the reasons set forth by The Committee on Agenda, that by the adopted Rules of Order of the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Delegates and the applicable sections of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016), these resolutions were not properly before the body.

The Constitution of The United Methodist Church in Section IV, Paragraph 27, Article V sets forth the important, but limited in scope, powers and duties of the jurisdictional conference. These powers and duties are:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.
2. To elect bishops and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.
3. To establish and constitute jurisdictional conference boards as auxiliary to the general boards of the Church as the need may appear and to choose their representatives on the general boards in such manner as the General Conference may determine.
4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.
6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial court.

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction makes it clear in section I.C.1-10 that the purpose of this conference is:

C. Roll Call and Order of Business

The following order of business shall be observed:

1. The secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall call the roll in the following manner:
 - a. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and of the delegates-elect of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference who have died since the adjournment of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.
 - b. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.
 - c. The roll of delegates shall be called by annual conferences. The chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a blank form on which to report in writing the attendance of its members, noting absentees and substitutions, which reports shall be tabulated by the secretary and published in the Daily Christian Advocate. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate by his/her Annual Conference shall meet the requirements set forth in The Book of Discipline 2016 of The United Methodist Church (§§ 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 514). Delegates, including reserves, when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their election. Each Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly seated on a form provided by the Conference Secretary.
2. A majority of the whole number of delegates elected to the Jurisdictional Conference shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business (§ 518, 2012 Discipline). At the conclusion of the roll call, the secretary shall announce whether or not a quorum is present.
3. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, prepared by the Committee on Plan of Organization, shall be submitted to the conference for its action and determination.

4. The College of Bishops shall present a nomination from the clergy or laity membership of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction for secretary designate. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The Agenda Committee shall schedule the time of election. The election, if there are two or more nominees, shall be by ballot with a majority of the votes cast being required for an election. The secretary designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the session, including the preparation, printing, and mailing of the journal, has been completed. The exact date of the transfer or responsibility to the secretary designate shall be determined by the College of Bishops, but shall not be later than six (6) months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. Other details about the Conference Secretary position include:

a. That the Conference Secretary shall be a part-time, paid position.

b. That the Senior Effective Bishop, the CCA Chair, and CCA Vice-Chair serve as the direct supervisors of the Conference Secretary.

c. That the Conference Secretary:

i. Coordinate the considerable functions associated with planning, executing and reporting on the quadrennial session;

ii. Act in executive/administrative role assisting the Committee on Coordination and Accountability as it fulfills its important work; and,

iii. Oversee a communications system to connect jurisdictional constituents.

iv. Respond to the frequent inquiries for information or action that comes from persons located within the Jurisdiction. (Inquires range from complaining about a position of the church, about some media story, about some action by a pastor, district superintendent or Bishop. Also, calls are received from persons who have some desire to purchase abandoned church property.)

5. The College of Bishops shall present nominations for the administrative committees, and such other nominations as are hereinafter committed to them, for election by the conference.

6. Election of Bishop(s) (2016 Discipline, ¶ 27.2).

7. Election of Committee on Episcopacy for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 Discipline, ¶ 50).
8. Election of the Committee on Appeals for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 Discipline, ¶2716.1) and the Committee on Investigation for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 Discipline, ¶ 2703).
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Adjournment.

Any miscellaneous business must be arising out of these stated purposes.

It is my ruling of law that all three of these resolutions are out of order because they violate paragraph 27 of our constitution that limits the powers and duties of the jurisdictional conference:

“To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.”

I concur with the Agenda/Rules Committee of the SEJ that for this reason the resolutions should not have been before the body.

Further, and specifically with regard to the resolution entitled, “Leading with Integrity,” it asks, “all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.”

This is in clear violation of Judicial Council Decision 592 that,

“An Annual Conference may not legislate a requirement that delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences submit a record of their voting in the General and Jurisdictional Conference,”

And further states, “All requirements for qualifications, elections and service that are contained in the Discipline are powers reserved to the General Conference. ... Delegates to General Conference, just as members of an Annual Conference, are bound to do as their conscience dictates what is good for the Church of Jesus Christ, The United Methodist Church in particular, and that only.” See Judicial Council Decision 1403 also.

Pertaining to this same resolution is Judicial Council Decision 605 which states that the creation of a class of persons, “whose rights as delegates would not be equal to all other delegates. This is a violation of the Constitution ¶ 15.14 and such legislation is null and void.”

In addition, the “Leading with Integrity” resolution limits Annual Conferences from electing whomever they choose to Jurisdictional or General Conference in a way that goes beyond the requirements of Constitution paragraphs 34, 35, and 36, and is also stated in the Constitution paragraph 13.2,

“Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences.”

The resolution clearly restricts a “fair and open process” of election.

Further, and specifically with regard to the resolution entitled in part, “Queer Delegate’s Call...” which in multiple places (items 2-5) seeks to encourage disobedience to the BOD, the Judicial Council in decision 886 addressed the power of the Annual Conference to adopt resolutions which were in conflict with the Book of Discipline and concluded:

“The Discipline is the law of the Church which regulates every phase of the life and work of the Church. As such, annual conferences may not legally negate, ignore, or violate provisions of the Discipline with which they disagree, even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious objections to those provisions.”

Further, this ruling was applied to Jurisdictional Conferences by the Judicial Council in decision 1340 which in defining the powers of the Jurisdiction Conference ruled:

“Jurisdictional conferences are free to adopt resolutions that are aspirational in nature, and to express their ideas and opinions so long as they do not attempt to negate, ignore, or contradict The Book of Discipline, 2012. They may not pass resolutions that encourage a violation of Church law or discourage the enforcement of Church law. The Untitled Resolution adopted by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference is contrary to the Constitution and The Discipline and, therefore, null and void. The bishop's Decision of Law is affirmed.” See also Judicial Council Decisions 1111, 1120, and 1262.

Further, the resolution entitled in part, “Queer Delegate’s Call...” is out of order due to its violation of Book of Discipline “Complaint Procedures” paragraph 362.1(g) which defines “abeyance” only in the context of whether, “civil authorities are involved or their involvement is imminent on matters covered by the complaint.” To use the word “abeyance,” which is only defined by the BOD in 362.1(g), in any other way that forestalls adjudication of actions that are clearly in violation of our BOD is completely out of order.

Further, the resolution entitled, “Resolution in Support of a U.S. Regional Conference” violates BOD paragraph 27 of our Constitution that limits the powers of Jurisdictional Conferences to items that are, “evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church.” It also violates BOD Constitution paragraph 16 which states, “The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional...” This resolution usurps the power of the General Conference.

Further, this resolution in favor of a U.S. Regional Conference is out of order because it violates our Connectional Polity as defined in BOD paragraph 132; as well as seeking to instruct Annual

Conferences to “support,” an undefined term, a U.S. Regional Conference which conflicts with BOD Constitution paragraphs 11 and 33, which respectively state that the Annual Conference is the “fundamental,” or “basic body in the church.” In addition, this resolution seeks to force bishops to call special sessions of the ACs which violates their episcopal prerogative as found in BOD paragraph 603.2, “The bishops shall appoint the times for holding the annual conferences,” and their consultative power as enumerated in paragraph 603.5 for special sessions.

Therefore, it is my decision of law that the resolutions before me in this case are each in conflict with the Book of Discipline of the UMC (2016), the Rules of the Southeastern Conference of the UMC, and the decisions of the Judicial Council. These resolutions were not properly before this body for consideration.

Exhibit 3 – Proposed Agenda for SEJ Conference

**Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference
November 2-4, 2022
Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center
Draft Agenda as of October 24, 2022**

Pre-Conference Schedule (Subject to Change—and Additions)

Sunday, October 30, 2022

Throughout Day/Evening Bishops arrive at Lake Junaluska
Committee on Episcopacy arrives at Lake Junaluska

Monday, October 31, 2022

9:00 a.m. Committee on Episcopacy (2016-2022)
Harrell Center, Room 202

9:00 a.m. SEJ College of Bishops Meeting
Location TBD

7:00 p.m. Secretarial Staff Meeting
Terrace Hotel, Room 213

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

9:00 a.m. Committee on Episcopacy
Harrell Center, Room 202

9:00 a.m. SEJ College of Bishops – if needed
Location TBD

12:45 p.m.
seating) Heads of Delegation meeting (receive delegation credentials,

Stuart Auditorium

1:30 p.m. Round Robin Sessions with Episcopal Nominees
Terrace Hotel, Harrell Center, and Stuart Rehearsal Room
Delegates and Reserve Delegates only

4:30 p.m.
Bishops) Rehearsal for Opening Worship and Communion (College of

Stuart Auditorium

- 7:30 p.m. Ballot Tellers Orientation
Stuart Auditorium
- 7:30 p.m. Page Orientation
Stuart Auditorium
- 7:30 p.m. Committee on Episcopacy
Harrell Center, Room 202

First Day of Conference Session
Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Opening Session

All Sessions in Stuart Auditorium

- 9:00 a.m. Opening Worship with Holy Communion – The Mission of The UMC
Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., preaching
Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, celebrant
Bishops will be robed with white stoles and will process
- 10:15 a.m. Transition Break

Bishop James Swanson, Mississippi Area, Presiding

- 10:30 a.m. Opening Business Session
Gathering Hymn
Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Roll Call, Quorum Certification
Secretarial Staff and Agenda Committee Election
Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order
Adoption of Agenda
Welcome to Lake Junaluska
Nominations from COB: Secretary, Associate Secretary, Agenda and
Journal Committees
Balloting Instructions and Testing
Committee on Episcopacy
Centering Hymn and Prayer
Ballot
Reading of three petitions submitted
Results of Ballot
Introduction of any new Nominee(s)
We will continue balloting as time permits until adjournment

Announcements

12:15 p.m.

Lunch Break

12:30 p.m.

Organizational Meeting for Journal Committee
Terrace Business Center (across from front desk)

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Afternoon Session

Bishop Sharma Lewis, Richmond Area, Presiding

2:15 p.m.

Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Music and Prayer
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
Committee on Coordination and Accountability
SEJ Archives and History Update
Committee on Finance and Administration
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.

3:30 p.m.

Break

Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Area and South Georgia Area, Presiding

4:00 p.m.

Gathering Music
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:

Committee on Program and Arrangements
Monitoring Exercise
Proposal to Change Name of Red Bird Missionary Conference
Nominations from the College of Bishops
Recognition of General Agency and Seminary guests present
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.
Unfinished Business

5:15 p.m.

Dinner Break

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Evening Session

Bishop Leonard Fairley, Louisville Area and Raleigh Area, Presiding

- 7:30 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
 Gathering Hymn
 During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
- Monitoring Exercise
 Panel Discussion with Young Adults – Building Toward the Future
 Videos will be shown as time permits in between ballots.
 Unfinished Business
- 8:45 p.m. Evening Recess

Second Day of Conference Session
Thursday, November 3, 2022

Morning Session

- 9:00 a.m. Centering Morning Worship – Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, Preaching

Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson, North Georgia Area, Presiding

- 10:00 a.m. Gathering Hymn
 During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
- Committee on Journal
 Love Offering for At-Large Pages
 Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Remembrance
 Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching
 Bishop Jonathan Holston, Liturgist
- 12:00 noon Break

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area, Presiding

- 12:15 p.m. Gathering Hymn
 During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following report:

Agenda Committee report
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.
Balloting will continue as needed
Unfinished business as needed

1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

Thursday, November 3, 2022
Afternoon Session

2:00 p.m. Committee on Investigation Organized
Terrace Hotel, Room 211

2:15 p.m. Committee on Appeals Organized
Terrace Hotel, Room 213

2:30 p.m. Business Session (If Needed)

Committee meets to complete their work for final reports on Thursday evening.

- Committee on Episcopacy in Harrell Center, Room 202

5:30 p.m. Dinner Break

Thursday, November 3, 2022
Evening Session

Bishop Kenneth Carter, Florida Area, Presiding

7:15 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Hymn
Monitoring Report
Celebration of Retiring Bishops

8:45 p.m. Committee on Episcopacy
Episcopal Assignments for 2023-2024
Adjourning Prayer

9:00 p.m. Area Receptions
(See last page of agenda for locations of receptions)

Third Day of Conference
Friday, November 4, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Consecration of Bishops

Bishop Paul Leeland, Preaching

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Consecrating

Bishops will be robed with red stoles and will process

Exhibit 4 – Daily Minutes of SEJ Conference

Daily Minutes

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Opening Worship

9:00 a.m.

Delegates and guests gathered in Stuart Auditorium on the campus of Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for an opening worship service of Word and Table. Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Mississippi Episcopal Area, was the preacher, and Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, Birmingham and Holston Episcopal Areas, was the celebrant. Active and retired Bishops served the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Opening Session

10:30 a.m.

Bishop Swanson, Presiding

Gathering Hymn: Willie Kitchens and band led the conference in singing “And Are We Yet Alive” for the opening business session.

Presiding: Bishop James Swanson presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Swanson called the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference session to order at 10:39 a.m. Bishop Richard Looney, Retired, offered the opening prayer.

Statement Regarding Covid: Bishop Swanson gave a reminder of the COVID-19 protocol put in place by the Program and Arrangements committee.

Roll Call, Quorum Certification, Setting Bar of Conference: Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis, Conference Secretary, to lead the conference through roll call. Bishop Swanson gave thanks to Anne for serving in the absence of Rev. Dr. Brad Brady due to his unfortunate and unexpected passing.

Anne Travis recognized Bishops as well as delegates who have passed since the 2016 Conference. This was followed by a roll call of Bishops and delegations.

Those Bishops who have died since our last gathering in 2016 are Bishop Bevel L. Jones III, Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, and Bishop Robert H. Spain.

Those members of delegations who have died since their election in 2019 include the following:

Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams from Memphis Conference; Turner Arant from Mississippi Conference; Rev. Dr. Glenn Ethridge from North Georgia Conference; Justice Cornelia “Connie” Clark from Tennessee Conference; Darlene Amon from Virginia Conference.

In addition to these delegates, we remember Rev. Dr. Brad Brady, who assumed the duties of SEJ Conference Secretary in September 2021 and served until his death in February of this year.

The following SEJ Bishops were present:

Bishop Richard Looney	Bishop Al Gwinn
Bishop Kenneth Carder	Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Bishop Joe Pennel	Bishop Paul Leeland
Bishop Charlene Kammerer	Bishop Jonathan Holston
Bishop Lawrence McCleskey	Bishop Ken Carter
Bishop Ray Chamberlain	Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Bishop Larry Goodpaster	Bishop Young Jim Cho
Bishop Michael Watson	Bishop Sharma Lewis
Bishop James King	Bishop David Graves
Bishop Hope Morgan Ward	Bishop Leonard Fairley
Bishop Will Willimon	Bishop Lawson Bryan
Bishop James Swanson	Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Delegation leaders reported the delegate count from each of their Annual Conferences:

Alabama-West Florida – 17

Florida – 32

Holston – 23

Kentucky – 20

Memphis – 8

Mississippi – 19

North Alabama – 15

North Carolina – 30

North Georgia – 44

Red Bird – 4

South Carolina – 32

South Georgia – 11

Tennessee – 14

Virginia – 44

Western North Carolina – 39

Anne Travis certified the presence of a quorum.

Anne Travis moved that the bar of the conference be set as sections 2, 4, 6, and 8, Sections 3 (rows A-I), 5 (rows A-I), 7 (rows A-I), and 9 (rows A-I).

The motion passed. Bishop Swanson expressed that the bar was set.

Secretarial Staff: Anne Travis nominated the following persons to serve as members of the secretarial staff: Deaconess Celeste Eubanks (Minutes), Meredyth Earnest (Balloting), Rev. Otto Harris (Balloting Assistant), Rev. Susan Arnold (Delegate Relations), Jasmine Haynes (Media Relations), Jennifer Davis (Monitoring), Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes (Worship) and Rev. Kathy James

(Worship), Rev. Micheal Selleck (Retirement Celebration), Sybil Davidson (DCA Editor), Becky Hall (Stage Manager), and David Dommissie (Treasurer). The nominees for secretarial staff were elected.

Other persons who are serving in assisting positions this week include the Delegation Pages and the Ballot Tellers. Anne Travis made note of replacement tellers. A motion was made to accept the tellers, and the motion passed.

Adoption of Agenda: Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis to present the projected agenda for adoption. The agenda as presented was adopted by the conference.

Anne Travis reminded delegates to look at the SEJ website each night for updates. The DCA will be posted on the SEJ website daily. A link to the DCA will be emailed to heads of delegation each night and a scannable QR code for the DCA will be posted on the wall in the rear of Stuart Auditorium.

Welcome to Lake Junaluska: Ken Howle, Executive Director of Lake Junaluska, came and brought a welcome to Lake Junaluska.

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order: Rob Martin presented the written report of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, which included recommended changes. One change suggested by the committee was revising the number of members on the nominations committee and the number of tellers. The recommendation is to replace the previous wording of “thirty persons” with the wording of “two persons per annual conference.” Additional recommended editorial changes were shared.

The conference approved the changes.

Nominations from Bishops for Secretary, Secretary Designate, Journal Committee, and Agenda Committee: Bishop Sue Hupert-Johnson, President of the College of Bishops, North Georgia Episcopal Area, presented the slate of nominations originating from the College of Bishops, in accordance with *The Book of Discipline* and our Conference Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. Nominations included Rev. Julie Hager Love (KY) for Conference Secretary; Rev. Kathy James (SC) for Secretary Designate; and the administrative committees that will serve at this Conference: Journal Committee and Agenda Committee. The nominees were elected. (See nominations report.)

Instructions for Balloting and Testing: Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis and Laura Poarch to lead the delegates through balloting and testing using their smartphone, tablet, or devices. Anne Travis offered the orientation, including testing on several sample ballots. GNTV facilitated the voting.

Committee on Episcopacy: Dr. Steve Furr, chair of the Committee on Episcopacy, presented the report on behalf of the committee. He reported the work of the Committee during the last six years (a quadrennium plus two additional years). Recognition was given to Bishops who were set to retire but served two additional years prior to their retirement –Bishop Hope Morgan Ward,

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Bishop Paul Leeland, and Bishop R. Lawson Bryan. Bishop Swanson was also included in this group as he is planning to retire at the end of this year. Dr. Furr asked the Conference to approve these retirements as a part of the COE report. It was shared that Bishop Bill McAlilly, Nashville Episcopal Area, went on medical leave on November 1, 2022. The recommendation from the Committee on Episcopacy was to elect three Bishops. The recommendation and the COE report were accepted by the Conference.

Video: A video from Gulfside Assembly was shown.

Sample Ballot: Another sample ballot was taken to ensure there were no outstanding issues with the voting system.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Kenneth Carder, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot One: Bishop Swanson guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Swanson closed the ballot.

Information Regarding Petitions Submitted (while ballot was being tabulated): Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis to share about petitions received. Anne Travis shared that three petitions were received prior to the deadline. These petitions would be referred to the agenda committee for review per our Plan of Organization Section V.G.3.

Bishop Swanson shared that due to delays caused by write-ins on the first ballot, results would be shared after lunch.

Prayer Before Meal: Rev. Kim Ingram offered a prayer to close the session and bless the meal.

Lunch Recess: The conference was in recess.

Afternoon Session
2:15 p.m.
Bishop Lewis, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Sharma Lewis, Richmond Episcopal Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Lewis called the session to order at 2:15 p.m. Bishop Joseph Pennel, Retired, offered prayer for the session.

Bishop Lewis gave an overview of the schedule for the session, sharing there would be a ballot report and an order of the day at 2:30 p.m. Following the order of the day, voting would continue.

Ballot Results: Bishop Lewis read the results for ballot one.

Number of ballots: 352

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Rev. Tom Berlin, 180; Rev. Ken Nelson, 144; Rev. Connie Shelton, 130; Rev. Iosmar Alvarez, 102; Rev. Edith Gleaves, 102; Rev. Byron Thomas, 96; Rev. Amy Coles, 90; Rev. Sharon Austin, 85; Rev. Sharon Bowers, 58; Rev. Zach Beasley, 27; Rev. Robin Dease, 16; Rev. Rob Martin, 11

Report of Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA): Bishop Lewis offered a prayer for Bishop McAlilly (who appeared via Zoom) prior to him giving his report. Bishop McAlilly asked for a point of personal privilege in which he gave an update on his recovery and shared some additional medical issues. (See CCA report in ADCA, pp. 55-80.) Bishop McAlilly acknowledged the death of Home Missioner Gary Locklear, Rev. Dr. Brad Brady, and Rev. Roger Hopson, all of whom were associated with CCA. Bishop McAlilly shared updates on the work done by this committee during the quadrennium. The SEJ CCA and SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) propose that the work of their two committees be merged into one committee to be known as the Committee on Coordination and Accountability effective at the conclusion of the next 2024 Jurisdictional Conference session. Additionally, Bishop McAlilly shared proposed amendments to the relevant sections of the Jurisdiction's Plan of Organization. Revisions can be found on pages 59-72 of the Advance Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA).

The motion was made to approve these changes. The conference approved the motion.

Introduction of New Episcopal Nominees: Bishop Lewis asked Rev. Beasley, Rev. Dease, and Rev. Martin to each approach the podium to give a 10-minute speech. These individuals were write-ins on the ballot and received at least 10 votes. Each presented in the order previously listed.

1. Rev. Beasley is a clergy delegate from the Mississippi Conference serving two churches in Holly Springs, MS.
2. Rev. Dease is a clergy delegate in the South Carolina Conference serving at St. Andrew By-the-Sea in Hilton Head Island, SC.
3. Rev. Martin is a clergy delegate in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference serving as the Assistant to the Bishop.

Bishop Lewis asked for clarity regarding Rev. Dease's nomination. Rev. Dease shared from the floor that she was, in fact, withdrawing her nomination.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Willie Kitchens and band led the group in a song as adjustments were made to the ballot removing Rev. Dease's name from the ballot.

Ballot Two: Bishop Lewis guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Lewis closed the ballot.

Video: A video about the Hinton Center was shown while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Lewis ruled ballot two invalid.

Willie Kitchens and band led the group in a song as the ballot was reset.

Ballot Three: Bishop Lewis guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Lewis closed the ballot.

SEJ Archives and History Update: Mike Feely gave an update on the SEJ Archives and History, sharing about upcoming activities related to the SEJ Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska. He shared that Nancy Watkins will be retiring in 2023. As a result of her pending retirement, the decision has been made to move the archives to Emory to the Candler Pitts Library.

Video: A video about Lake Junaluska was shown as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Lewis called for a break until 4:05 p.m.

**Late Afternoon Session
4:00 p.m.
Bishop Graves Presiding**

Presiding: Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Area and South Georgia Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Graves called the session to order at 4:05 p.m. Bishop Will Willimon, Retired, offered a prayer for the session.

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot three.

Number of ballots: 351

Number of valid ballots: 351

Needed to elect: 211

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Berlin, 210; Shelton, 185; Nelson, 166; Gleaves, 106; Alvarez, 96; Thomas, 92; Coles, 63; Austin, 53; Beasley, 32; Bowers, 22; Martin, 20

Ballot Four: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Bishop Lawrence McCleskey, Retired, led the Conference in prayer after the close of the ballot.

Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA): Frank Dunnewind presented the report of the SEJ CFA. He gave thanks to the committee members for serving during this extended period. As a result of the pandemic, CFA provided some benefits to annual conferences to aid in financially difficult times. They also provided COVID-19 grant relief to several agencies and also gave grants to agencies who requested funds to enhance their media presence. A detailed proposed budget can be found on ADCA pp. 83-84. CFA recommends a \$1,500,000 (15% reduction) budget. Frank Dunnewind moved the continuation of David Dommissie as SEJ Treasurer and extended thanks to David Dommissie for his service. Mr. Dunnewind also acknowledged the death of Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams, who was serving as the secretary of SEJ CFA.

The Conference approved this report.

Red Bird Missionary Conference name change: Rev. Karen Stigall, District Superintendent in the Red Bird Missionary Conference, presented a resolution (ADCA, p. 85) to request a name change from Red Bird Missionary Conference to Central Appalachian Missionary Conference. She also announced the move of the conference center and a change to the structure to be more missionally focused. These requests have already been accepted by the annual conference but must now come before the jurisdiction. A video was shown highlighting this work. The Conference approved the Resolution.

Bishop Graves invited Bishop Leonard Fairley, Louisville Episcopal Area (which includes Central Appalachian Missionary Conference) and Raleigh Episcopal Area, to come forward and pray for the vision of this newly renamed Conference.

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot four.

Number of ballots: 346

Number of valid ballots: 346

Needed to elect: 208

Election – Tom Berlin was elected with 213 ballots. He was escorted to the stage with members of his family and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:

Berlin, 213; Shelton, 201; Nelson, 161; Gleaves, 131; Alvarez, 94; Thomas, 83; Coles, 58; Austin, 43; Beasley, 21; Bowers, 18; Martin, 13

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Five: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Nominations from College of Bishops for Administrative Committees and Disciplinary Committees and incoming Committee on Episcopacy (COE): Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson presented the remaining nominations report found in the DCA this morning. (COE nominations were shown on the screen as they were not included in the DCA.) There were some corrections that Bishop Hauptert-Johnson noted to the delegates were to be made to the Committee on

Episcopacy. North Carolina: North Georgia – Rev. Byron Thomas is the Clergy Nominee (correct name from Bryon Nelson to Byron Thomas); Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference – Josh Shaw should be the Lay Nominee; additional spelling corrections were noted and are in the report. (See report.)

Rule of Law: Bishop Graves recognized Jim Allen, lay delegate, legacy Tennessee Conference, who requested a ruling on a question of law, as follows:

I am Jim Allen. I was the first-elected lay delegate from the Tennessee Conference. As you notice, there is a Tennessee Conference and a Mississippi Conference that are represented here – excuse me, a Tennessee Conference and a Memphis Conference that have their names on the seats here – we all make mistakes, sorry [laughter]. The Tennessee and Memphis Conference delegations in 2019 and subsequently named their nominees to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy pursuant to Para. 50 and Para. 524 of the Discipline. Those names have been submitted. I see they were not included in the list, but they have been submitted. In October, Bishop McAlilly requested us to elect two people from the combined, uh, representing the combined Conference, and those were the two names that were on the screen. The problem is, is that the Plan of Union for the Tennessee and Memphis Conference which was approved by the Southeast Jurisdiction last year specifically says that the delegates will continue to serve, so there is no Tennessee-Western Kentucky delegation who could nominate members to the SEJ COE. As a result, sorry for the long wind-up, request for the ruling of law is that the original nominees from the legacy Memphis and Tennessee delegations be presented to the Southeast Jurisdiction for election for the rest of the quadrennium the coming two years pursuant to Para. 50 and Para. 524 and Judicial Council decision 302 and further we would suggest that to effectuate the ruling that both sets of nominees be elected in the alternative so that there are persons representing the Nashville episcopal area until this works its way through the process and we have a ruling of the Judicial Council.

Bishop Graves: OK. We are a ... let me ask a couple of questions. I've got three questions I want to ask and then we'll see where we go.

So you reference Paragraph 50 in the Book of Discipline, which very clearly says that an annual conference can have only two representatives to the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee, one lay, one clergy, so that is Disciplinary. The Tennessee, the Memphis and Tennessee Conference was ratified last July 2021 as one annual conference, which you read the Book of Discipline, Judicial Council rulings, says that you should only have one lay, one clergy. So do you still want to ask for a Rule of Law?

Jim Allen: I believe it would be instructive to look at Judicial Council 302, which addresses the issue from 1968 when there were many mergers of Annual Conferences between the 1968 uniting conference and the first General Conference in 1970, and they specifically said the original legacy conferences people would serve, delegates would serve unless the Annual Conference chose to elect a new delegation. In this case, the decision – and I think it was based on that 302 ruling – the decision was made that we would not choose new delegations so there is no delegation who could have named it and therefore the original nominees would still be in line, so, yes, I would still ask for a Ruling of Law.

Bishop Graves: OK

Jim Allen: And just to be clear, we need help. We don't know. We discussed it with Anne Travis and with others and nobody knew, so that is why we are putting it in your hands. [Laughter.]

Bishop Graves: Thank you, sir. I will want to give you a great deal of thanks, Jim, for sending this in probably a week or 10 days ago. That's very helpful, so I thank you for that.

So let me give you a Rule of Law, and remember this Rule of Law will go to the Judicial Council and we will go from there. Let's give it a ... that's why we have the checks and balances ... This is how I would rule on this Resolution:

Under Para. 50, the Committee on Episcopacy consists of "one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference on nomination of the annual conference delegation." Therefore, the Ruling of Law is that the merged annual conference may only submit one clergy, one lay delegate, and it would be out of order to elect legacy nominees either as the primary nominees or as an alternate for the Judicial Council to rule upon. The annual conference, and remember the annual conference really has great oversight in all of this, can only nominate one clergy and one lay delegate and anything else is contrary to Paragraph 50.

So that is my ruling. We will send it on, have Judicial Council look at it. They will either concur or they will do whatever they're going to do.

Alright? But thank you for raising it, thank you for the integrity in which you raised it, and you've heard my ruling, and we will pass it along and see what happens. You will have a chance to send in briefs, as well. I know all too well how the process works. But thank you, Jim, I appreciate it.

Here is the text of the printed Request for Rule of Law that was submitted by Jim Allen,

Request for a Ruling of Law Concerning the Eligible Nominees to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy from the Nashville Episcopal Area:

The Presiding Bishop is asked to rule that the original four nominees from the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences are properly before the Jurisdictional Conference for election to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy pursuant to ¶50 and ¶524.1 of the Discipline.

To effectuate this ruling, the Presiding Bishop is requested to allow the SEJ to elect both sets of nominees in the alternative with the expectation that the final Judicial Council decision will ratify either the legacy nominees or the new nominees

[SPEAK]

The Delegations from the former Tennessee and Memphis Annual Conference met together on Monday, October 24, 2022 and ratified four nominees and elected in the alternative two additional nominees to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy: four from the

Tennessee and Memphis legacy conferences, and two from the new Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

Tennessee nominees: Harriet Bryan (clergy), Jim Allen (lay)
Memphis nominees: Rob Martin (clergy), David Reed (lay)

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE

Tennessee-Western Kentucky nominees: Harriet Bryan (clergy), Josh Shaw (lay)

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Allen
Lay Delegate to 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference
Elected by Tennessee Annual Conference

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared that with this ruling, the nominations report was properly before the body. The report was approved by the Conference. (See Report of Nominations.)

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot five .

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 176; Nelson, 150; Gleaves, 132; Alvarez, 87; Thomas, 56; Coles, 41; Austin, 34;
Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10; Martin, <10

Rev. Martin, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, shared his appreciation for being nominated but withdrew his name from consideration for bishop.

Ballot Six: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Committee on Program and Arrangements: Stephanie Hand presented the report for this committee. (See ADCA pp. 42-44 for full report.) Special thanks was given to Bishop Ward, Bishop Swanson, and Anne Travis for their work with this committee.

Recognition of Visitors: Bishop Graves made special introductions of guests from seminaries, SEJ ministries, and general agencies.

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot six.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 181; Gleaves, 153; Nelson, 152; Alvarez, 90; Thomas, 47; Austin, 36; Coles, 32; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

Rev. Byron Thomas, clergy delegate from North Georgia, gave appreciation for his nomination from North Georgia, but respectfully withdrew his name.

Ballot Seven: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for 2 persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Bishop Graves declared ballot seven invalid and requested that the ballot be reset.

Willie Kitchens and band shared music with the conference while the ballot was reset.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Mike Watson, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the presentation of the ballot.

Ballot Eight: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Announcements: Anne Travis gave announcements.

Bishop Graves expressed special thanks to Anne Travis and once again acknowledged the untimely passing of Rev. Dr. Brad Brady.

Blessing for Dinner Meal: Rev. Dedric Cowser, North Alabama Conference, gave a blessing over the meal.

Night Session
7:30 p.m.
Bishop Fairley, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Fairley presided.

Presiding: Bishop Fairley called the session to order at 7:32 p.m. Bishop Al Gwinn, Retired, offered a prayer for the session.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot eight

Number of ballots: 348

Number of valid ballots: 348

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Gleaves, 187; Shelton, 179; Nelson, 160; Alvarez, 85; Austin, 43; Coles, 33; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

Bishop Fairley called on Bishop Swanson to give a report from the Agenda Committee.

Agenda Committee Report on Resolutions: Bishop Fairley recognized Bishop Swanson to represent the report of the Agenda Committee.

Bishop Swanson: Thank you, Bishop Fairley. My sisters and brothers, I am here to represent the Agenda Committee. Just in case you are not very familiar with the Agenda Committee, whenever there are what we would call petitions and resolutions that are presented, the Jurisdictional Conference does not have within her structure a petitions and resolutions committee, so that when petitions and resolutions are presented, they must go before what is called the Agenda Committee, and the Agenda Committee for the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference you voted to organize that Committee this morning. As a result of it, the Resolutions that were presented were only looked at during the lunch period because we had no Agenda Committee until you voted this morning (are you following me?) to organize that Committee, and so we started looking at those Resolutions this morning. Because the Agenda Committee is tasked with the responsibility of determining whether or not the resolutions are presented, whether or not they should come before the Jurisdictional Conference, and so we had to look at them and examine them and see whether or not they dealt with the business that is before – properly before – the Jurisdictional Conference, and so in order for us to do that, we had to go through all of those steps to get to this particular point. There are five members of the Jurisdictional Committee – of the Agenda Committee – with the Senior Effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary and then three other persons that are nominated by the College of Bishops, which you elected this morning. So we met during the lunch period to make that happen, and we met again during dinner. I'm going to call on Del Holley, one of your delegates, to come. He is from the Holston Conference, and he will explain to you what we did with these Resolutions, what we are recommending that you would do with these Resolutions at this particular time. So, Del, if you will, please come and make that presentation for us.

Del Holley: Thank you, Bishop Swanson. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my Bishop, Bishop Wallace-Padgett, for the distinct opportunity to serve as a member of the Agenda Committee, and I also thank Bishop Swanson for the opportunity to present a portion of our report.

Bishops, delegates, guests, the work of the Jurisdictional Conference Agenda Committee is outlined, identified, and authorized by Section V.G.3 of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Plan of Organization. [NOTE: with changes approved to the Plan of Organization, this reference is now Section V.F.3.] You can find that in your ADCA if you want to look at those words for yourself. The responsibility of – or one of the responsibilities of the Agenda Committee is to see that all items of business that are required by the Discipline are brought to the attention of the Jurisdictional Conference. Any items that have been offered for consideration by the Jurisdictional Conference which do not clearly refer to the business of the Jurisdictional Conference are the responsibility of the Agenda Committee to determine whether those matters will be presented to the Conference for its consideration. Therein lies the issue that Bishop Swanson identified that the Agenda Committee has the responsibility of considering general petitions or resolutions that don't relate to the specific work of the Jurisdictional Conference or one of its Standing or Administrative Committees. Further, the Plan of Organization states that the Agenda Committee has the obligation to report the disposition of matters that it considered to

the Jurisdictional Conference, and that is the purpose of our report tonight. The Agenda Committee received by referral three Resolutions that had been offered in a timely fashion that met the deadline required prior to our gathering this week. As we looked at those Resolutions, we reviewed the language of Rule V.G.3 [now Rule V.F.3] in the Plan of Organization about what our responsibilities, duties, and obligations were. We also reviewed Paragraph 27 of the Book of Discipline, which sets forth the powers and duties of the Jurisdictional Conference. After a discussion of the Resolutions that were offered, we determined that all three of the Resolutions either violated a Jurisdictional Conference rule or process or exceeded the authority granted to the Jurisdictional Conference by Para. 27. Specifically, one of the Resolutions we considered called on all Bishops of the Church to take action that was not authorized by the Book of Discipline. A second Resolution called on the Jurisdictional Conference to support and endorse episcopal nominees who were willing to make certain commitments. We determined that would be a violation of our Conference rules around our elections, particularly the rule that says there can be no speeches advocating on behalf of a particular episcopal nominee while the election process is ongoing. The third Resolution that was offered we determined called on the Jurisdictional Conference to take a position that exceeded the powers and duties of the Jurisdictional Conference as defined in Para. 27 of the Book of Discipline. So as a result of our deliberation over these Resolutions, we are not recommending that the Resolutions be distributed to delegates or published in the DCA or placed on the Agenda for consideration. We, in an effort to fulfill our additional obligations under Para. V.G.3 [now V.F.3], during the dinner hour we met with the authors of all three Resolutions and explained to them the process that we had gone through, the decision that we had reached, and what we anticipated we would be reporting at this time so that they would be aware of the decisions that we had made and could take steps to protect their interest if they decided they wanted to do that. Thank you.

Bishop Fairley thanked the team for their work on that and their prayerful conversations that they had on that during the supper time, and he asked if we wanted any discussion on that.

Carlene Johnson, lay delegate, Florida Conference. I would like to recommend not approving what the Agenda Committee has put before us. Respectfully, those Resolutions were submitted in a timely manner. If the concern is about any Resolutions impacting the elections, schedule it for after we are done with elections. Resolutions by nature are aspirational. They do not require us to do anything. It is very different than a petition so I think not having us do this work does an injustice to our Jurisdiction. These Resolutions were also submitted to all of the other Jurisdictions, they are in order there, they will be discussed at every other Jurisdictional Conference, and what does it say about the Southeast if we won't even talk about them.

Bishop Fairley asked Carlene Johnson to remain at the mic to help him out. He asked if she was asking for us to appeal the recommendation made by the Committee. Carlene Johnson said that is correct. The request for appeal was seconded. Bishop Fairley asked if others would like to share on this appeal.

Helen Ryde, Lay Delegate, Western North Carolina. Respectfully, I believe we followed all the process and procedures in order to have these Resolutions properly before the Jurisdiction. I understand there was some delay in appointing the Agenda Committee, which meant that we've now entered a short window of time in order for these to be considered. However, I believe that

we did act in good faith in all these things. They are aspirational, and the elements that were presented as if we were trying to steer people to certain candidates or make them – these are not true. These are clearly aspirational Resolutions. We understand that, and they are being presented at all the other Jurisdictions. This is – to not, to not allow us to vote on these Resolutions would silence the voices of all these delegates from the Southeast Jurisdiction, and when the story is told on Monday morning about these Resolutions in other places, our voices aren't going to be included, and you know we've all worked very hard as delegates over these last years, meeting together and staying up to date with everything that is going on, waiting for the time and the moment where we would be able to share our voice and have a vote. We are doing that obviously in electing our episcopal candidates, and we have an opportunity to also use our voice by debating and voting on these resolutions, which, by the way, I have no idea how people are going to feel about them, but we do have copies, there are paper copies available, they could be distributed, people could have an opportunity to read them tonight, and we could debate them and vote on them tomorrow, and I would respectfully ask that the body would vote to appeal the decision of the Agenda Committee and override – I don't think the word is overrule – but basically change the decision.

Bishop Fairley thanked Helen. He asked if there were others to speak.

Vaughn Stafford, Lay Delegate, North Alabama. There is an irony to me in the two lovely ladies who have spoken – to the two other delegates who have spoken (I'm just trying to be appropriate here). There is an irony here that the request is to let the voices be heard when one of the Resolutions is to silence the voices of many of us who are here. I think that's sad; I just find it ironic. I agree with the decision that has been reached by the Committee.

Bishop Fairley thanked him and thanked them for understanding as the body tried to help him. Bishop Fairley asked if there were others. He stated what we are actually going to be voting on at this moment – we have had speeches for it, and we're going to vote on the appeal; that is, to appeal the Committee on Agenda recommendation.

Matthew Sink, Western North Carolina, asked for a point of clarity on what would be the process if the appeal passed. Bishop Fairley stated that the Resolutions would be in front of the body, and the body would be allowed to discuss those tomorrow.

Bishop Fairley said the body is ready to vote and asked if the Agenda Committee had a word to share before the vote.

Del Holley spoke for the Agenda Committee: Thank you, Bishop. I would like to briefly respond to a couple of things that were said. With respect to the fact that the Resolutions that we considered today have been offered in the other Jurisdictional Conferences and may be considered by those Conferences, that is a matter that we discussed with the authors of the Resolutions this evening, and we pointed out to them that every Jurisdictional Conference operates under its own Standing Rules, Plan of Organization, and Rules of Order, and that in the Southeastern Jurisdiction the Agenda Committee elected by this Jurisdictional Conference was seeking to fulfill its duties, obligations, and responsibilities pursuant to our Rules and our Plan of Organization, and we couldn't speak to how other Jurisdictions rules might be different or how

they might respond differently. The other thing that I would point out is that we also discussed with the authors of the Resolutions that we understood that these Resolutions are aspirational in nature. They don't mandate any particular action or conduct. However, we did feel like the particular language of the Resolutions expressed an aspiration that found itself in conflict with the language of the Book of Discipline and the language of our Plan of Organization and Rules in the Southeast and our election process that we have adopted and are following in the Southeast, and those are the reasons why the Agenda Committee is not recommending that these matters be placed on the agenda or that the Resolutions be distributed for consideration by the delegates. Thank you.

Vote on the appeal: Bishop Fairley said that we would go ahead and vote; we have had the speeches and he has had the last word. Bishop Fairley stated that he was going to try to do this by hand vote, and if he sees that it is close, then we will go with an electronic vote. Bishop Fairley guided the conference through a hand vote on the matter. With a close vote, the decision was made to use the electronic devices. Bishop Fairley asked the body to allow time for the ballot to be set.

Bishop Fairley opened the ballot and then closed it once all votes were submitted. The vote passed to support the appeal of the Agenda Committee with 222 Yes votes and 128 No votes. The resolutions will be dealt with on Thursday. Pages handed out copies of the three resolutions to delegation heads to distribute to their delegation members.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop James King, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Nine: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Video: A video about the Intentional Growth Center was shown.

Young Adult Panel: Rev. Lisa Yebuah, clergy delegate from NC Conference, moderated a panel discussion of young adults. The young adult panelists were delegates Maggie Taylor (Memphis), Darryl Dayson (Western NC), Bethany Harting (Kentucky), and Sam England (Holston).

Bishop Fairley paused the panel discussion to share results of ballot nine.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot nine.

Number of ballots: 352

Number of valid ballots: 352

Needed to elect: 212

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 198; Gleaves, 174; Nelson, 150; Austin, 62; Alvarez, 57; Coles, 41; Cruz, 11; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10;

Introduction of New Nominee: Bishop Fairley called Rev. Rodrigo Cruz to approach the podium to give a 10-minute speech. Rodrigo Cruz serves a multiethnic church in the North Georgia Conference. Rev. Cruz expressed appreciation for the nomination but respectfully declined the nomination.

Ballot Ten: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Young Adult Panel: The panel resumed discussion as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Fairley paused the panel to share ballot results and take another ballot.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot ten

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 197; Gleaves, 178; Nelson, 148; Austin, 74; Alvarez, 52; Coles, 43; Bowers, <10;

Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Tom Lee, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Eleven: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Young Adult Panel: The panel discussion resumed. Rev. Yebuah ended the panel discussion with a blessing over the four panelists. Bishop Fairley spoke about the work of the panelists, even though we were starting and stopping as we voted, the Holy Spirit was in our midst as we heard from the Young Adults.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot eleven.

Number of ballots cast: 350

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 206; Gleaves, 176; Nelson, 139; Austin, 77; Coles, 50; Alvarez, 42; Bowers, <10;

Beasley, <10

Monitoring Exercise: Bishop Fairley invited Jennifer Davis to share the monitoring exercise. Jennifer Davis introduced the monitoring team working with her this week. She led the delegates through seven questions in this exercise of self-monitoring.

Ballot Prayer: Cynthia Davis, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twelve: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Video: Videos about Gammon Theological Seminary and Duke Divinity School were shown as ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot twelve.

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

Election – Connie Shelton was elected with 213 ballots. She was escorted to the stage with members of her family and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 213; Gleaves, 173; Nelson, 128; Austin, 78; Coles, 52; Alvarez, 41; Bowers, <10;

Beasley, <10

Announcements: Anne Travis gave announcements.

Closing Prayer: Christine Dodson, North Carolina Conference, gave a closing prayer for the session.

Adjourn: The session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Daily Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2022
Centering Worship
9:00 a.m.

Delegates and guests gathered in Stuart Auditorium on the campus of Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for centering worship. Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, Retired, was the preacher.

Morning Session
10:00 a.m.
Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, North Georgia Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called the session to order at 10:22 a.m. Bishop Young Jin Cho, Retired, offered the opening prayer.

Statement from Conference Secretary: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called on Anne Travis to make an announcement. Appreciation was expressed to the young adult panel participants and additional thoughts were shared regarding the panel. Some delegates had expressed concern that the panel presentation was interrupted for voting; Anne Travis explained that this was arranged ahead of time and panelists knew we would be working in this manner, which allowed more overall time for the panel discussion.

Committee on Journal: Carlene Johnson presented the report from the Committee on the Journal. The Journal Committee certified that the minutes of Wednesday's session are correct. The Conference received the report.

Ballot Prayer: Will Malambri, South Carolina Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Thirteen: We are now ready to take our vote. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson declared ballot thirteen open when someone asked to be recognized.

Rev. Isomar Alvarez, Kentucky Conference, expressed his appreciation for being nominated but officially withdrew his name from the ballot.

Ballot Thirteen: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ruled the ballot invalid and asked that the ballot be reset removing Rev. Alvarez's name from the ballot.

Video: A video tribute from Mississippi Conference for Bishop Hope Morgan Ward's retirement was shown while the ballot was reset.

Ballot Fourteen: Bishop Haupt-Johnson began ballot fourteen but then ruled the ballot invalid and asked that the ballot be reset to correct an issue on number of votes accepted on the ballot, which had been brought to Bishop Haupt-Johnson's attention by Rev. Alaina Harrison, clergy delegate, South Georgia Conference. She asked delegates to take a breath and asked to have the problem with the ballots fixed before we take another vote.

Video: A video tribute from Holston Conference for Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.'s, retirement was shown while the ballot was reset/corrected.

Love Offering for At-Large Pages: A collection was received for those serving the SEJ Conference in a volunteer capacity as pages. This offering will help defray costs incurred as a result of volunteering to serve.

Video: A video tribute from Holston Conference for Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's retirement was played as the offering was collected.

Ballot Fifteen: Bishop Haupt-Johnson guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Haupt-Johnson closed the ballot.

Bishop Haupt-Johnson called the session to break until the start of the Service of Remembrance.

Service of Remembrance 11:00 a.m.

The conference gathered for worship to remember the lives and ministries of Bishops and Bishops' spouses who died during the last quadrennium (2016-2020 as well as 2021 and 2022).

Bishops remembered included Bishop Bevel L. Jones, III, Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, and Bishop Robert Spain.

Bishops' Spouses remembered were Thelma H. Newman, Dorothy S. Lee, Jean Stockton, Mary Ann Hunt, Linda Carder, and Rose King.

Bishop Jonathan Holston, South Carolina Conference, led in the naming of the honored dead. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Retired, was the preacher for the service.

Recess: The conference was in recess until the 2:00 p.m. afternoon business session.

Afternoon Session 2:00 p.m. Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area, presided.

Willie Kitchens and band provided gathering music prior to the start of the session.

Call to Order: Bishop Holston called the session to order at 2:00 p.m.

Prayer: Deaconess Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, Florida Conference, offered both an opening prayer for the session and a prayer for the ballot.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot fifteen.

Number of ballots: 351

Number of valid ballots: 351

Needed to elect: 211

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 123; Austin, 48; Dease, 44; Thomas, 27; Coles, 10; Bowers, <10; Gleaves, <10; Beasley, <10

Rev. Amy Coles, Western North Carolina Conference, extended her appreciation for her nomination but asked that her name be withdrawn from the ballot.

Rev. Sharon Bowers, Holston Conference, gave her thanks for the support and appreciation during the process but conceded after expressing her concern for the lack of inclusivity in this process.

Rev. Byron Thomas, North Georgia Conference, gave a reminder of the Principles Agreement sent out to all candidates by the Committee on Episcopacy (COE). He spoke to acts contrary to the Principles Agreement that have contaminated the episcopal election process. He called on individuals to not pass on false and malicious information about nominees.

Ballot Sixteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Video: A video tribute from Alabama-West Florida Conference for Bishop Paul Leeland's retirement was shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band provided music as the ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot sixteen.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 347

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 132; Gleaves, 84; Dease, 65; Austin, 35; Thomas, 28; Beasley, <10;

Rev. Thomas formally withdrew his name from the ballot.

Video: A video about Candler School of Theology was shown while the ballot was being reset.

Rev. Sharon Austin, Florida Conference, expressed her gratitude to the Florida Conference and expressed the unfortunate experience this process has been for persons of color. She shared that the process can be degrading and humiliating to individuals. She humbly withdrew her name from the ballot.

Ballot Seventeen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Amy King, North Georgia Conference, raised a question about the validity of the previous ballot. Bishop Holston shared that the ballot was in fact valid.

Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi Conference, asked questions around point of order on the resolutions and standing rules. Bishop Holston shared that we were not yet addressing the resolutions and asked that he return to the microphone with his question at the appropriate time.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as the ballot was reset.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot seventeen.

Number of ballots: 348

Number of valid ballots: 348

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 123; Dease, 107; Gleaves, 103; Beasley, 14

Ballot Eighteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Videos: Videos about Africa University and Florida Disaster Response were shown while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot eighteen.

Number of ballots: 342

Number of valid ballots: 342

Needed to elect: 206

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 128; Dease, 118; Gleaves, 92; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Scott Hagan, South Georgia Conference, led the conference in a prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Nineteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Bishop Holston invited Bishop Ken Carter, Charlotte Episcopal Area and Florida Episcopal Area, to offer a prayer following the showing of the Florida Disaster Response video. Bishop Carter acknowledged a few people prior to giving the prayer.

Video: A video about Kentucky Disaster Response was shown as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Holston invited Bishop Fairley to offer a prayer following the showing of the Kentucky Disaster Response video.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot nineteen.

Number of ballots: 347

Number of valid ballots: 347

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 135; Dease, 132; Gleaves, 77; Beasley, <10

Bishop Holston recused himself from presiding as there were now two persons from the South Carolina conference on the ballot. Bishop Holston turned over presiding to Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett.

Bishop Debra Wallace Padgett, Presiding

Bishop Wallace-Padgett recognized someone at microphone 2.

Motion: Steve McAlilly, Mississippi Conference, shared that we are at an impasse that grieves him deeply. He moved to reconsider the recommendation to elect three bishops and to consider instead electing four to correct harm done to persons of color.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett paused to ensure that she was interpreting correctly a recommendation to reconsider,

Bishop Wallace-Padgett confirmed that Steve McAlilly had in fact voted in favor of electing three bishops. He confirmed that he did and was allowed to present his recommendation. His motion was to elect four bishops rather than three. There was a second to the motion. Steve McAlilly spoke to his motion.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett noted that was a speech for the motion. Bishop Wallace-Padgett reminded the body there is no limit on the number of speeches for or against the motion, but there is a three-minute limit for each person to speak to this.

Robert Grizzard, Florida Conference, spoke against the motion sharing that he thought it was out of order because we have voted many times. If we were to consider three, it should have been done earlier when the election for three was first done. He raised the point of order that this motion was not in order.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called for a break until 3:57 p.m.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called the session back to order at 3:57 p.m.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave an update on where the session was and shared the rules again about limits on speeches for or against. The recommendation for reconsideration would be dealt with first.

Miles Baker Hunt, North Carolina Conference, requested a point of information. He requested that the COE provide the cost of electing an additional bishop over the next time period of election. Dr. Steve Furr, Alabama-West Florida Conference, chair of COE, shared that it could be \$1 million (\$250,000 per year). Bishop Wallace-Padgett clarified that this cost was \$1 million for a quadrennium or \$250,000 per year.

Rev. Kelly McClendon, Kentucky Conference, spoke for the motion to reconsider on the condition that we allow everyone who has withdrawn to come back into the voting, which is the only way he believes to be fair.

Helen Ryde, Western North Carolina Conference, requested a point of inquiry asking for clarification as to whether we will have to start from the beginning if we vote to elect four bishops, to which no response was immediately given.

Robert Grizzard, Florida Conference, appealed the motion and suggested it should be ruled out of order because the vote had already been made to elect three. Bishop Wallace-Padgett responded that the motion is not out of order.

Kathy FitzJefferies, Western North Carolina Conference, shared that while she appreciated the concern around where this motion came from, she does not think it would be a wise financial decision. She did say that this issue around harm to persons of color in the election process needs to be addressed.

Robert Grizzard, Florida Conference, again appealed the rule of the chair that the motion is out of order because we have had 18 votes already and would need to go back to the beginning and begin again.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett read Rule #27, gave clarity to this appeal to the ruling of the chair, and put forth a hand vote. If you agree with the ruling of the chair, that the motion

on the floor was in order, vote “yes,” and if you disagree with the ruling, vote “no.” Bishop Wallace-Padgett proceeded with conducting an electronic ballot and requested the ballot be prepared.

Rev. Constance Barnes, South Carolina Conference, ask for a point of inquiry and requested clarity around the rule Bishop Wallace-Padgett read.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett clarified that we are voting on the appeal of her ruling. The ruling of the chair was upheld. 343 ballots were cast with 227 voting yes and 116 voting no.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett said we have had two speeches for and two against.

Sam England, Holston Conference, called for the question. The body voted in favor of voting on Steve McAlilly’s motion.

Rev. Rob Martin, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, posed a question about the money needed now but the question had already been called.

Rev. Amanda Hartmann Westmoreland, Memphis Conference, asked for a point of information to get clarity about whether the conference will have to start from the beginning electing episcopal candidates if this recommendation passes. Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared that the body has elected two bishops, and they cannot be un-elected.

Lee Rodio, North Carolina Conference, had a parliamentary inquiry and/or point of information and Bishop Wallace-Padgett responded clarifying what was being voted on - whether to reconsider the motion that passed from the COE yesterday to elect three bishops. This is the only motion before the body. If the vote is “yes,” then the recommendation from the COE to elect three bishops yesterday will be before the body and there would then be the opportunity for amendments.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called for the vote upon reconsideration of the recommendation from the COE. The vote to reconsider did not pass.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett thanked Steve McAlilly for his motion.

Ballot Prayer: David Beckley, Mississippi Conference, led the conference in a prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Video: Videos about the #BeUMC campaign and Global Ministries were shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty.

Number of ballots: 342

Number of valid ballots: 342

Needed to elect: 206

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 139; Dease, 138; Gleaves, 63; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Vicki Walker, Florida Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-one: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett expressed appreciation to the tellers for all their work with balloting.

Videos: An Abundant Health video was shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-one.

Number of ballots: 346

Number of valid ballots: 346

Needed to elect: 208

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 158; Nelson, 148; Gleaves, 38; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Donna Mosby, Holston Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Rev. Edith Gleaves expressed thanks for the nomination and expressed grief for how this election has gone. She spoke of the racism and sexism that is still a part of The United Methodist church, this sin, this evil, the injustice that is still part of who we are and how that grieves her. She withdrew her name in an effort to move forward to a better day and time.

Rev. Byron Thomas, North Georgia Conference, asked that we consider freeing ourselves from jurisdictionalism. He asked if there are any efforts to deconstruct the jurisdictional system. Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared there is legislation they are anticipating for the next General Conference, and the Connectional Table is working on this. Rev. Thomas asked for a more thorough response to the questions. Bishop Wallace-Padgett asked anyone on the Connectional Table to contact Anne Travis during the dinner break.

Ballot Twenty-two: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett invited Bishop Swanson, Sr., to answer Rev. Thomas' question wanting more specifics around legislation going to General Conference and the work of the Connectional Table. Bishop Swanson shared about the work being done by Connectional Table around Rev. Thomas's question related to jurisdictionalism. Following his response, in a moment of personal privilege, Bishop Swanson pointed out that doing away with this system is not going to do away with the history that brought that into being.

Date for 2024 SEJ Conference: Bishop Wallace-Padgett announced that the next Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 10-13, 2024, which was received today.

Motion: Rev. Jeremy Troxler, Western North Carolina Conference, made a motion that the conference would ask the Committee on Episcopacy to create a task force to study the impact of racial bias in the process of selection of episcopal candidates and recommend to the COE potential reforms to the process that might reduce the harmful effects of racial bias in the nomination and selection process for episcopal candidate. Furthermore, he moved that such a task force be composed of greater than 50% representation from under-represented groups and that the task force interview recent and past episcopal candidates to hear their experiences and solicit their input. The motion received a second, and Rev. Troxler spoke to the motion.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett heard a second and requested a copy of the motion in writing. Jeremy Troxler spoke to the motion.

Rev. Esther Rodriguez-Perez, Florida Conference, asked for an amendment to the motion to request compensation for those groups doing this work. Bishop Wallace-Padgett asked that she come back to the microphone once the motion is received in writing and properly before us.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-two.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 186; Nelson, 155; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Kelly McClendon, Kentucky Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-three: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Announcements: Bishop Wallace-Padgett invited Anne Travis to make announcements. After her announcements were made, Bishop Wallace-Padgett extended thanks to Anne Travis and Julie Hager Love.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-three.

Number of ballots: 345

Number of valid ballots: 345

Needed to elect: 207

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 195; Nelson, 144; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Ashley Davis, Alabama-West Florida Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot and gave a blessing over the meal.

Ballot Twenty-four: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave time for people to socialize as the ballot was tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-four.

Number of ballots: 341

Number of valid ballots: 341

Needed to elect: 205

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 200; Nelson, 137; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-five: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave time for people to socialize as the ballot was tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-five

Number of ballots: 343

Number of valid ballots: 343

Needed to elect: 206

Election – Robin Dease was elected with 206 ballots. She was escorted to the stage and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:
Dease, 206; Nelson, 133; Beasley, <10

Adjourn: Bishop Wallace-Padgett turned the session over to Anne Travis for announcements. The session was in recess until 7:45p.m.

Evening Session
7:45 p.m.
Bishop Jonathon Holston, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Holston called the session to order at 7:53 p.m.

Prayer: Marshall Bailey, Virginia Conference, offered an opening prayer for the session.

Motion: Bishop Holston revisited the motion previously presented by Rev. Troxler. The written motion was placed on the screen:

I move that the SEJ ask the Committee on Episcopacy to create a task force to study the impact of racial bias in the process of selection of episcopal candidates, and to recommend to the Episcopacy Committee potential reforms to the process that might reduce the harmful effects of racial bias in the nomination and selection process for episcopal candidates; furthermore, that such a task force be composed of greater than 50% representation from under-represented groups; and that the task force interview recent and past episcopal candidates to hear of their experiences and to solicit their input.

There was a second.

Rev. Esther Rodriguez-Perez, Florida Conference, proposed an amendment to the motion stating: The mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual burden of supremacy culture is disproportionately felt by marginalized populations and when it's time to work toward equity and justice, the undue burden is placed on these persons without consideration of this immeasurable toll or compensation. Understanding that there is funding available from the jurisdictional Committee on Coordination and Accountability special project task forces, we ask that the selected participants on this special project task force be given an honorarium and reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred during their work toward identifying and ending systemic racism and exclusion within the episcopacy process. This will move us in the direction of equity which by definition requires repair and change on how our systems operate and a consideration of different experiences and needs when working toward fairness." The motion was seconded. Rev. Rodriguez-Perez spoke to the amendment.

Bishop Holston clarified that the amendment included both honorarium and compensation for travel expenses.

The amendment was approved by show of hands and was therefore added to the original motion. However, because it is asking for a financial component, it must be referred to SEJ CFA.

Derrick Scott, Florida Conference, gave a point of information and shared that the COE may be able to include this in their budget. However, Bishop Holston shared that because of the financial component, it must be referred to SEJ CFA and will come back to us tomorrow.

Stephen Sparks, Mississippi Conference, requested a ruling of law: “Are the three petitions before the body out of order as a matter of law as laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda presented to the body by Bishop James Swanson and Del Holley, which is included in the journal and is thereby incorporated herein by reference.”

Bishop Holston shared that he would receive the request for Rule of Law but has 30 days to rule on it and will follow up within that time.

Resolutions: Bishop Holston shared that the three resolutions presented last night are now before the body due to the body voting in favor of the appeal of the agenda committee’s recommendation to the body to not consider the resolutions. That being the case, Bishop Holston invited the authors of each of the resolutions to speak to the resolutions before the body.

Leading with Integrity Resolution: Tom Lee, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, spoke on behalf of Jim Allen (currently in Committee on Episcopacy meeting), the author of the “Leading with Integrity” resolution that was presented to the body. (See resolution for details.) Mr. Lee spoke for the resolution.

Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi Conference, spoke against the amendment sharing that anyone who opposes the Book of Discipline should not be allowed to hold office.

Leigh Highsmith, North Georgia Conference, spoke in favor of the amendment expressing that the resolution offers a way to see things differently and more clearly.

Bishop Holston asked whether this resolution moved past being aspirational and into requiring an action. Tom Lee confirmed that it is aspirational and not mandatory or directive.

Michael Cheatham, South Carolina Conference, spoke against the amendment by stating the resolution violates the Book of Discipline.

The question was called.

Rev. Lovett, Mississippi Conference, made a point of clarification and clarified that he was not speaking against the motion when he first spoke but was trying to make an amendment to the resolution in paragraph 8.

Bishop Holston apologized and said he thought Rev. Lovett was making a speech and allowed the amendment to be made. Rev. Lovett stated on the third “Be it resolved,” that it be revised by addition: “Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Jurisdiction ask all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church *and those who intentionally plan to violate the Book of Discipline* to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.” There was a second to the amendment. Rev. Lovett spoke to his proposed amendment.

Lee Rodio, North Carolina Conference, moved to postpone indefinitely Rev. Lovett’s amendment to the resolution. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion and the motion passed.

The house called for the question. The body was in favor of calling the question.

Bishop Holston took the vote by show of hands. The resolution passed.

Bishop Holston invited the author of the Queer Delegates resolution to speak.

Queer Delegates Resolution: Helen Ryde, Western North Carolina, one of the authors of the queer delegates resolution, spoke in favor of the resolution. (See resolution for details.)

Bishop Holston ruled this resolution out of order based on Judicial Council ruling 866.

After being approached by one author of the resolution, Bishop Holston called for a 15-minute recess to confer with authors of the resolution and other counsel.

Matt Dailey, Florida Conference, made a motion to amend point six of the resolution to say “aspires” as opposed to “commits,” thus making the resolution aspirational.

Carter Ellis, Western North Carolina Conference, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Bishop Holston took a vote by show of hands, and the motion to amend the resolution passed.

The body was ready to call the question. The call for question was approved by show of hands.

Bishop Holston took a vote by show of hands, and the resolution as amended was approved.

U.S. Regional Conference Resolution: Rev. Lisa Yebuah, North Carolina Conference, author of the U.S. Regional resolution, spoke to the resolution on behalf of Martha Stokes, also an author of the resolution. (See resolution for details.) There was a second to the resolution.

Tiwirai Kufarimai, North Alabama Conference, spoke against the resolution.

Magrey deVega, Florida Conference, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Odell Horne, North Georgia Conference, spoke against the resolution.

The body called the question by show of hands.

Bishop Holston put the resolution to vote by hand but moved to an electronic vote. Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Rev. Doug Forester, Virginia Conference, asked for prayer for Conference Treasurer David Domnisse as his wife, Carol, has been put on hospice. Bishop Holston asked if Mr. Forester would offer the prayer.

U.S. Regional Conference Resolution: The U.S. Regional Conference resolution passed with a vote of 203 votes yes and 115 votes no.

Bishop Holston expressed gratitude to the delegates for their work and transitioned the conference from the business session to the retirement celebration.

Retirement Celebration Bishop Ken Carter, Presiding

Bishop Ken Carter presided over the service of retirement celebrating those Bishops who have retired since 2016 – Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Bishop Paul Leeland, and Bishop Lawson Bryan – as well as Bishop James Swanson, who will retire at the end of this year. Spouses were present on the stage with those Bishops who are retiring. The service included litany, prayer, and expressions of thanksgiving and videos recognizing these Bishops for their years of service.

Announcements: Anne Travis shared the schedule for Friday's session.

Bishop Carter asked that all be in prayer for the Committee on Episcopacy as they do their work this evening. He offered a closing prayer for our work.

Daily Minutes

Friday, November 4, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Bishop Ken Carter, Presiding

Call to Order: Bishop Ken Carter called the session to order at 9:01 a.m.

Bishop Carter gave special thanks to lay delegates and shared an overview of the morning's schedule. Bishop Carter then gave an opening prayer.

Troxler Motion: Bishop Carter called on Frank Dunnewind, Chair of SEJ CFA, to give a report from SEJ CFA related to the amendment proposed, which required funding. Dunnewind shared the following points: (1) CFA believes there are funds available in the COE budget line to fulfill this amendment and (2) funding generally is available for 2021-2024. (3) He did clarify that compensation is only available to employees, but honorariums and reimbursements are allowable for volunteers. (4) For clarification, there are no budgeted funds for unnamed special projects. (See budget on p. 83 in ADCA). The CFA is in support of this amendment to the motion.

Rev. Rodriguez-Perez and Rev. Troxler expressed support of this.

The body approved the motion as amended with the response from SEJ CFA.

Committee on Journal: Carlene Johnson, Florida Conference, presented the report from the Committee on the Journal after first giving special acknowledgement to Celeste Eubanks for her work as recording secretary during the conference. The Journal Committee certified that the minutes of Thursday's session were correct. The conference received the report.

Monitoring: Bishop Carter invited Jennifer Davis, Western North Carolina, to share the monitoring report. Jennifer led the group through seven additional questions by way of electronic ballot. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Carter declared the ballot closed and shared that the results of this poll would be in the journal. Jennifer shared that other comments and recommendations shared with the monitoring committee would also be published in the journal.

Bishop Carter offered thanks to Jennifer Davis and her team for the work they had done.

Videos: Video tributes for Bishop Leeland's retirement and Bishop Taylor's retirement were shown again.

Bishop Carter expressed gratitude to GNTV, the Lake Junaluska staff, the worship team, and the secretarial staff.

Bishop invited Anne Travis to make announcements. Anne shared the amounts collected for the two offerings during the conference.

Report of Committee on Episcopacy: Dr. Steve Furr, Alabama-West Florida Conference delegate and Chair of the COE, shared the committee’s suggestions for assignments for the Bishops, effective January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024. He presented the following report:

Alabama-West Florida Episcopal Area– Bishop David Graves
Florida Episcopal Area – Bishop Tom Berlin
Knoxville Episcopal Area (Holston Conference) – Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Louisville Episcopal Area (Kentucky Conference) – Bishop Leonard Fairley
Mississippi Episcopal Area – Bishop Sharma Lewis
Birmingham Episcopal Area (North Alabama Conference) – Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Raleigh Episcopal Area (North Carolina Conference) – Bishop Connie Shelton
North Georgia Episcopal Area – Bishop Robin Dease
Columbia Episcopal Area (South Carolina Conference) – Bishop Jonathan Holston
South Georgia Episcopal Area – Bishop David Graves
Nashville Episcopal Area (Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference) – Bishop Bill McAlilly
Richmond Episcopal Area (Virginia Conference) – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
Charlotte Episcopal Area (Western North Carolina Conference) – Bishop Ken Carter

The COE made this motion and recommended its acceptance. Bishop Carter called for a vote. The motion was approved with a “yes” vote. Dr. Furr gave special thanks to the COE for their work.

Bishop Carter offered a blessing upon the Bishops to close the business session and adjourned following the Service of Consecration.

The Conference was in recess until the Service of Consecration at 10:30 a.m.

Exhibit 5 – List of Names and Addresses of Interested Parties

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
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Bishop Thomas Bickerton
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Mrs. Anne Travis
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Rev. Julie Hager Love
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Exhibit 6 – Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the SEJ Conference

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION *(As adopted by 2022 SEJ Conference)*

I. OPENING SESSION

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church shall assemble according to the provisions of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (§¶ 24, 26, 27) (or *Book of Discipline* as it may hereafter be amended) and the law of the Church at a place within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

A. Presiding Bishop

Following the administration of Holy Communion by the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the conference shall be called to order by a Bishop of the Southeastern Jurisdiction as determined by the College of Bishops; this Bishop shall preside during the first session of the same.

B. Seating of Special Groups

Members of the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church residing within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be seated on the platform of the Jurisdictional Conference and allowed the same Per Diem and travel as elected delegates, and they shall be without vote.

The general or executive secretaries of the general boards and agencies of the church who are members of the annual conferences within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and who are not elected members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be seated within the area of the conference and shall have the privileges of the floor on matters affecting the interests of their boards and agencies, but without vote, and at the expense of their respective boards and agencies.

C. Roll Call and Order of Business

The following order of business shall be observed:

1. The secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall call the roll in the following manner:
 - a. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and of the delegates-elect of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference who have died since the adjournment of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.
 - b. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

c. The roll of delegates shall be called by annual conferences. The chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a blank form on which to report in writing the attendance of its members, noting absentees and substitutions, which reports shall be tabulated by the secretary and published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate by his/her Annual Conference shall meet the requirements set forth in *The Book of Discipline 2016* of The United Methodist Church (§§ 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 514). Delegates, including reserves, when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their election. Each Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly seated on a form provided by the Conference Secretary.

2. A majority of the whole number of delegates elected to the Jurisdictional Conference shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business (§ 518, 2012 *Discipline*). At the conclusion of the roll call, the secretary shall announce whether or not a quorum is present.

3. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, prepared by the Committee on Plan of Organization, shall be submitted to the conference for its action and determination.

4. The College of Bishops shall present a nomination from the clergy or laity membership of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction for secretary designate. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The Agenda Committee shall schedule the time of election. The election, if there are two or more nominees, shall be by ballot with a majority of the votes cast being required for an election. The secretary designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the session, including the preparation, printing, and mailing of the journal, has been completed. The exact date of the transfer or responsibility to the secretary designate shall be determined by the College of Bishops, but shall not be later than six (6) months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. Other details about the Conference Secretary position include:

a. That the Conference Secretary shall be a part-time, paid position.

b. That the Senior Effective Bishop, the CCA Chair, and CCA Vice-Chair serve as the direct supervisors of the Conference Secretary.

c. That the Conference Secretary:

i. Coordinate the considerable functions associated with planning, executing and reporting on the quadrennial session;

ii. Act in executive/administrative role assisting the Committee on Coordination and Accountability as it fulfills its important work; and,

iii. Oversee a communications system to connect jurisdictional constituents.

iv. Respond to the frequent inquiries for information or action that comes from persons located within the Jurisdiction. (Inquires range from complaining about a position of the church, about some media story, about

some action by a pastor, district superintendent or Bishop. Also, calls are received from persons who have some desire to purchase abandoned church property.)

5. The College of Bishops shall present nominations for the administrative committees, and such other nominations as are hereinafter committed to them, for election by the conference.
6. Election of Bishop(s) (2016 *Discipline*, ¶ 27.2).
7. Election of Committee on Episcopacy for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 *Discipline*, ¶ 50).
8. Election of the Committee on Appeals for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 *Discipline*, ¶2716.1) and the Committee on Investigation for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 *Discipline*, ¶ 2703).
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Adjournment.

II. EPISCOPAL MESSAGE

The College of Bishops and the Program/Arrangements Committee may schedule the hearing of the quadrennial message of the College of Bishops.

III. LAITY ADDRESS

The Program/Arrangements Committee may schedule a Laity Address for the quadrennial session. When scheduled, the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Lay Leaders will designate the presenter(s) for the address.

IV. PRESIDING OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAL STAFF

- A. The effective Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall preside over the sessions of the conference in an order determined by the College of Bishops.
- B. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference as elected shall serve as herein provided.
- C. The conference shall elect, upon the nomination of the secretary, such assistant secretaries from the clergy or laity membership of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction, as it may deem wise.
- D. If in the interim of the Quadrennial Sessions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the office of secretary shall for any reason be vacated, the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall elect a successor.

V. COMMITTEES

A. The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability

The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability (also known as CCA) is assigned the task of overseeing the work and ministry of the United Methodist Church across the jurisdiction (*Book of Discipline*, ¶530). The responsibilities and function of the committee will include:

1. Having limited power, but with authority, to act between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference on matters such as ratifying the election of Trustees or Directors for entities requiring such action (e.g., Emory University Trustees and SEJ Agencies and ongoing ministries) and ratifying By-Laws changes of SEJ Agencies and Ongoing Ministries;
2. Being the legal body of the Jurisdiction and guardian of the SEJ title and logo;
3. Focusing on the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church within the Jurisdiction;
4. Coordinating and/or confirming the program of the General Agencies within the Jurisdiction (*Book of Discipline*, ¶529);
5. Providing financial oversight of the Jurisdiction and its ministries. The CCA will form a subcommittee from within its membership to work directly with the Jurisdictional Treasurer in carrying out this aspect of its work, with CCA receiving full reporting and maintaining responsibility for any decision-making not reserved by the Jurisdictional Conference. (See subcommittee on Finance duties);
6. Receiving regular reports from the subcommittee on Finance, the SEJ Agencies, and jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry; and
7. Relating to and holding accountable groups mandated by *The Book of Discipline*, Jurisdictional Agencies, Networking Groups, Monitoring Groups, and Existing Groups organized and functioning within the Jurisdiction (See below, “Definitions”) and maintaining Covenant Agreements with the Jurisdictional Agencies and Existing Ministries.

MEMBERSHIP: There shall be one representative from each Annual Conference. The membership shall be comprised of the following positional representation:

- 2 Bishops
- 2 Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries or equivalents
- 2 Conference Lay Leaders
- 2 Annual Conference Treasurers
- 6 At-large members with expertise and for inclusiveness

(The SEJ Nominating Committee shall work to achieve balance in representation, as far as possible, by considering lay/clergy, female/male, and ethnic participation. Additionally, clergy representation from local church settings is encouraged.)

All members shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the SEJ Nominating Committee in consultation with the Bishops, Directors of Connectional Ministries, Lay Leaders, and Conference Treasurers, to identify their representatives and ensure that each annual conference be represented on the committee. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the College of Bishops.

The Jurisdictional secretary and the Jurisdictional treasurer shall be ex-officio members, without vote, on the CCA. The secretary shall be the staff person assigned duties for and on behalf of the committee. The treasurer shall manage the Jurisdictional treasurer's office, carry out accounting duties necessary for the Jurisdiction, and assist CCA and the subcommittee on Finance in providing general oversight of its financial duties found below.

The Executive Directors of the Jurisdictional Agencies, Disciplinary Groups, and Ongoing Groups (Ministries) may be invited to attend meetings of the CCA for connections, accountability, and information sharing (voice but without vote).

The Committee shall elect its own officers. Either a Bishop or lay leader shall serve as the chairperson on a rotating basis for a two-year term. (For example, if a lay leader is chairperson for two years, a Bishop will serve as vice-chairperson, with the next two-year term reversed.) The Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall arrange an organizational meeting at a time and place determined by the President of the SEJ College of Bishops, who shall be or shall name the convener of the meeting.

The committee shall meet at least annually, with called meetings held as necessary. Telephone conference meetings and audio/video-conferencing are acceptable. Those present at a duly announced meeting will constitute a quorum, provided at least one-third of the CCA membership is present.

Subcommittee on Finance and Administration

Guidelines for the CCA and its subcommittee on Finance shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The ministry of the jurisdiction requires a unified budget with one Treasurer's office, which will serve as the primary place for receipts and disbursement of funds. The subcommittee on Finance shall receive and review audits of the Agencies and Jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry and any other matters approved in the Covenant Agreements. Finally, the Treasurer's office will work with the subcommittee on Finance to propose a quadrennial jurisdictional budget and will provide for the operations and financial expenses for the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.

- a. The subcommittee on Finance shall be composed of three (3) members from CCA; one of whom shall be laity, one of whom shall be clergy, and one shall be a Conference Treasurer. The SEJ Conference Treasurer will be an ex officio member of this subcommittee.

b. It is recommended that the CCA consider ethnic background, the place of both men and women, the place of adults and youth, and that ability and experience be recognized when appointing this subcommittee. The subcommittee will elect its own chair.

c. CCA shall nominate to the Jurisdictional Conference currently in session a treasurer who, on being duly elected by the conference, shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee. If for any reason the office of treasurer shall become vacant during the interim of the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the Committee shall elect a treasurer, following due consultation with the College of Bishops. The Committee may at any time remove the treasurer from office for cause.

2. The CCA shall have general oversight of all funds included in the Jurisdictional Conference budget. The treasurer shall render to the CCA and/or its subcommittee on Finance quarterly statements of receipts and expenditures and a quadrennial report to each succeeding quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference covering in detail receipts and expenditures for the quadrennium preceding. The treasurer shall be bonded through a suitable bond of a surety company of recognized standing and in an amount fixed by the subcommittee.

3. The subcommittee on Finance shall meet at least annually, or on the call of the chairperson of CCA or the chairperson of the subcommittee, or of a majority of the members thereof. Telephone conference meeting and audio/video-conferencing are acceptable.

4. No member or employee of any group or any trustee or employee of any institution, which is a beneficiary of the Jurisdictional Conference budget, shall be eligible for membership on the Committee. The expense of the Committee shall be paid out of the Jurisdictional Conference Expense Budget.

5. It shall be the duty of the subcommittee to make a careful study of the expense of administration and the causes that may properly be included in the annual Jurisdictional Conference budget, and to recommend to each succeeding quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference for its action and determination an annual budget, showing the share of each Annual Conference in the total. The budget as adopted shall be the Jurisdictional Conference budget for the ensuing quadrennium, including annual budgeted amounts for the ensuing quadrennium, and the apportionment to each Annual Conference as finally determined by the Jurisdictional Conference shall be its annual share in the said budget. Only such items as are distinctly related to the work of the jurisdiction shall be included in the Jurisdictional budget. The jurisdictional treasurer shall transmit annually to the treasurer of each Annual Conference, not less than 120 days prior to the regular annual meeting of each Annual Conference, a statement of the amount apportioned such Annual Conference for Jurisdictional causes. The Annual Conference shall apportion the same among the charges of the conference in such manner as it may

determine. The Annual Conference treasurer shall remit each month to the treasurer of the jurisdiction the amount on hand for Jurisdictional causes.

6. The fiscal year of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall be January 1 through December 31. All jurisdictional financial accounts shall be kept accordingly.

7. The CCA may give authority to its treasurer to borrow funds from any reputable bank or trust company to meet any obligation of the Jurisdictional Conference duly authorized in the regular annual budget of the conference; provided, the outstanding indebtedness shall at no time exceed twenty-five percent of the annual budget. The Conference treasurer and/or Conference secretary are authorized to sign previously approved banking or loan documents on behalf of CCA.

8. Should any urgent and pressing need arise that had not been anticipated in fixing the jurisdictional budget, and in the judgment of the subcommittee is an emergency, the CCA may alter the percentage allowance or grant to any or all committees or agencies receiving funds from Jurisdictional Conference apportionments, or may increase the apportionments to the several annual conferences of the jurisdiction to meet the emergency, provided such action is approved by a three-fourths vote of the Committee.

9. The CCA shall include in the proposed Jurisdictional budget recommended to the Jurisdictional Conference for its actions and determination the following items:

a. The Jurisdictional Conference Expense Budget, which shall provide for the expense of the quadrennial meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, or any called meetings of the same, and the expense incurred in the preparation of such meeting.

b. The Jurisdictional Operating Budget, which shall make provision for the expense of the Jurisdictional personnel in the performance of the stated duties and for the expense of meetings of the committees of the Jurisdiction as defined in Section V. Items in the Administrative Committee budget for salaries and other administrative costs shall be a prior claim against the jurisdictional fund each month.

c. Other items which in the judgment of the CCA should be included in the annual Jurisdictional Operating Fund.

Definitions

A number of groups, committees, and councils across the jurisdiction will be related to and accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference through the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability. These groups fall into one of five categories.

1. Disciplinary Groups – Two primary groups and/or events are mandated by *The Book of Discipline*: there “shall be” a jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, and

there “may be” a jurisdictional Ministries with Young People Convocation. A system for regularly reporting, coordinating, and overseeing their work will be developed in consultation with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

There are also jurisdictional organizations for United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. However, according to *The Book of Discipline*, these two entities are directly accountable to the national United Methodist Women and the General Commission on United Methodist Men, respectively.

2. Agencies—Three agencies shall be located within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction: (1) Lake Junaluska Assembly; (2) Hinton Rural Life Center; and, (3) Gulfside Assembly. Each one of these three agencies own property within the bounds of the Jurisdiction and will maintain its own Board of Directors (ratified by SEJ Conference and – between sessions – by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability) that will function as trustees of the property and the ministry. Each Board of Directors will determine the plan of organization and structure for the work and the mission of the agency and will follow all reporting requirements of the jurisdiction. By-Laws changes are to be reviewed and ratified once per quadrennium by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

In this jurisdictional plan, each of the three agencies will have its own Executive Director. Working with the Board of Directors, this person will assist in determining and hiring the appropriate number of staff persons, along with determining the necessary position descriptions. Ultimately, each agency – through its Board of Directors – will be accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference through the Committee on Coordination and Accountability and shall file a quadrennial report, including a budget, a business plan, a ministry plan, and Board of Directors for the upcoming quadrennium to be ratified by the Jurisdictional Conference. When requested by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, these Agencies shall also file an annual report of the same information.

The three Agencies shall be asked to maintain a Covenant Agreement with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability for mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities.

3. Monitoring Groups – The Book of Discipline requires a jurisdictional organization for both the Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and requires a Jurisdictional connection with these two General Commissions.

Lines of accountability and oversight of their monitoring work will be through the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability. In addition, it is expected and requested that the monitoring function also be applied to SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability, both in its membership and participation.

4. Networking Groups – These informal, ad-hoc groups arise among conference leaders and staff. They share common interests, concerns, and ministry-related areas. These groups may gather periodically to benefit from interaction with peers, to develop

contacts, and to exchange information. The understanding is that all Annual Conferences will be invited to participate but doing so will be strictly voluntary. Funding for travel and expenses shall be the responsibility of each participating Annual Conference. Each Networking Group will be responsible for its own life and will have no jurisdictional staff persons assigned.

5. Existing, Established, Ongoing Ministries – Several groups and organizations provide much needed ministry, training and outreach within the jurisdiction. There are currently two established ministries: (1) Intentional Growth Center and (2) UVMIM. These ministries will be accountable to the Jurisdiction through the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. Each ministry will have its own Board of Directors and/or Advisors, which will be reviewed and ratified annually by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. By-Laws are to be reviewed and ratified once per quadrennium by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. Each group will be self-supporting and will file annual reports on the ministry, vision, and results of their programming with the Committee on Coordination and Accountability and a quadrennial report to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference..

B. Nominating Committee

There shall be a committee who will serve as a Nominating Committee to consider nominations for the general boards and agencies and designated Jurisdictional Committees. There shall be two persons from each conference, one of whom shall be a lay delegate and one of whom shall be a clergy delegate, elected to this committee by the Annual Conference delegation. At least two weeks prior to the conference, the members of the Nominating Committee shall be provided with:

1. A list of the names of the persons being offered by each Annual Conference to the Jurisdictional pool for consideration as members of the respective program boards, commissions, councils, and agencies. These shall be listed by categories on a form prescribed by the General Conference Secretary. Each person's ethnic background shall be indicated (e.g., Native American, Asian, African-American, etc.). An asterisk shall be placed by the name of any person who is an incumbent and who is eligible for re-election, together with the name of the agency on which he/she is serving.
2. A recommendation of procedure to be followed by the Nominating Committee.
3. A reminder that the Nominating Committee shall not only seek to maintain insofar as possible the recommendations of the *Book of Discipline* for having one-third representation each of clergy, lay women, and lay men on general church agencies, with attention given to including youth, young adults, older adults, racial and ethnic persons, persons with handicapping conditions, and persons from small-membership churches, but that these same provisions shall be applicable to the total number of nominations made from each Annual Conference to the agencies of the general church.

4. A list of the total number of nominees to which each Annual Conference is entitled to the agencies of the general church other than those which the Discipline specifically mandates. These numbers shall correspond to the percentage of members, rounded off to the nearest whole, which each Annual Conference has of the total members of the jurisdiction; notwithstanding the above, the Red Bird Missionary Conference shall be represented in the nominations. In compiling this list, the following nominations shall not be included: those which come from recommendation of the United Women in Faith for the General Board of Global Ministries, those for the National Council of Churches, and those which come from another agency or group and are only reported by the Nominating Committee. The information from the annual conferences shall be in the hands of the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary no later than June 20. The members of the committee shall bring preference sheets and biographical data for prospective nominees to the first meeting of the committee from the respective conferences. The Nominating Committee shall be convened for organizational purposes at the site of the conference by the president of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction at 2:00 p.m. three days prior to the opening of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Per Diem expenses for the Nominating Committee shall be provided for the extra days. Nominations shall be in the hands of the conference at a minimum of three hours before being presented for election.

C. Committee on Episcopacy

The membership of the Committee on Episcopacy shall consist of one clergy and one lay delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference from each Annual Conference elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination of their respective Annual Conference delegations (§524.1 of *The Book of Discipline*). Each quadrennium, the Committee shall be officially constituted with the election of officers and begin its work at the conclusion of the previous quadrennium's jurisdictional conference session. The committee will continue its work through the conclusion of the following jurisdictional conference when the new committee is constituted.

The sitting Committee on Episcopacy shall report to the conference the church membership statistics of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the number of Bishops to which the Jurisdiction is entitled on the basis of church membership and shall recommend to the conference the number of Bishops to be elected and the process and manner of their election (cf. Rule 17). The committee shall perform such other duties as are set forth in §§406.1, 524 of *The Discipline*.

The Committee will recommend minimum housing guidelines for every episcopal residence committee in the Jurisdiction.

D. Committee on Appeals

There shall be a Committee on Appeals elected in accordance with §2716.1 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

E. Committee on Investigation

There shall be a Committee on Investigation elected in accordance with ¶2703 of *The Book of Discipline*.

F. Administrative Committees

Nominations to the administrative committees shall be printed in the first edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.

1. Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

There shall be a committee of five, known as the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, of which the secretary and treasurer of the conference shall be ex-officio members. The committee shall be convened by the conference secretary or designee until a chairperson is elected. To this committee shall be referred any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (see Rule 38). This committee shall restudy the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference and, after making such needed changes and adaptations therein as in their judgment are necessary, shall present them to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for consideration and final action. Any recommendation by the committee as to the organization of the standing committees, their names, number, and responsibilities (except the Committee on the Episcopacy) shall be transmitted to the secretary prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference. The secretary shall notify the head of each delegation the standing committees as recommended by the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order so that delegates may make their choice of committee assignments. The committee shall have the authority to consult with various persons and agencies in the exercise of this authority. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, thus adopted and published in the journal, shall be the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order until they have been altered or amended by the action of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

2. Committee on Journal

There shall be a committee of three, known as the Committee on Journal, which shall examine the record of the secretary daily during the session. Any error subsequently discovered in a section of the journal materials, which has been verified, shall be corrected.

3. Agenda Committee

There shall be a committee of five, known as the Agenda Committee. The senior effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary shall be two of the committee members. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to see that all items of business required by The Discipline of the church are brought to the attention of the Jurisdictional Conference. Any consideration, proposal, resolution, or communication, which does not clearly refer

to the business of the Jurisdictional Conference, as prescribed in the Discipline shall be referred to the Agenda Committee, which shall determine whether or not it shall be presented to the conference and also whether it shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate. The Agenda Committee shall report to the Jurisdictional Conference the disposition made of all matters, which have been referred to the Committee. The Agenda Committee shall consult with the Committee of Chairpersons regarding the inclusion of standing committee reports on the agenda of the conference.

No petition shall be assigned to any Jurisdictional Conference committee unless it comes from some organization, clergy person, or member of The United Methodist Church and contains information essential to the verification of the alleged facts concerning its origin. All petitions shall be presented to the Conference Secretary. Each should deal with only one general subject. All petitions requiring funding shall be so designated and the amount to be specified. Petitions with financial implications shall be referred to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Coordination and Accountability for their review and recommendation to the conference. All petitions shall be in the hands of the secretary of the conference no later than fourteen days prior to the opening of the conference.

The Agenda committee shall receive all petitions dealing with the regular business of the conference and, after ascertaining that they meet the requirements herein specified, shall distribute them among the several committees according to their respective responsibilities. It may also withhold from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper, promptly advising the author or authors thereof of its action in order that an appeal may be made to the conference, if desired.

When the Agenda committee determines that the particular item of business does not naturally flow toward an existing committee, it shall authorize the creation of an ad hoc committee to deal with this particular item. Upon authorization, the Conference Secretary will contact each delegation leader with a description of the business item and a meeting time and place for the committee (including the possibility of a conference call prior to the convening of conference). The delegation leader will be asked to designate one delegate to represent his/her annual conference on the ad hoc committee. The Conference Secretary or designee shall convene the meeting until a chairperson is elected. The ad hoc committee will consider the item of business and prepare a recommended action for conference's consideration.

4. Committee on Program and Arrangements

There shall be a Jurisdictional Conference Program and Arrangements Committee composed of one Bishop, who shall be chairperson; a district superintendent designated by the Bishop; the Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference; the Treasurer of the Jurisdictional Conference; the chairperson Committee on Coordination and Accountability; the president of the jurisdiction United Women in Faith or designee; the president of the jurisdiction United Methodist Men or designee; and the chairperson of the Jurisdictional Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders or designee; the chairperson of the sitting Committee on Episcopacy or designee; and five (5) others who

may be selected to insure inclusivity and expertise. The Bishop serving on this committee shall be selected in the order of seniority from the effective Bishops of the jurisdiction. The duties of the committee shall be to arrange the program and logistics for the Jurisdictional Conference, other than that covered by the Plan of Organization. It shall be established policy of the Southeastern Jurisdiction to have a program that will present to the conference a challenge on behalf of the work of the church in its worldwide mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Conference Secretary will organize a team to execute the program planned and the logistical needs of the conference following the guidance of the Committee on Program and Arrangements. Members of this team will be invited to Committee meetings as determined by the senior Bishop and Conference Secretary.

5. Committee on Chairpersons

There may be one or more meetings of all committee chairpersons as determined by the Agenda committee. Such meetings may seek to coordinate and streamline the business of the conference or seek to resolve inter-committee disagreements or difficulty. The secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall convene the Committee of Chairpersons.

6. Tellers

There shall be a committee to act as tellers for the purpose of assisting with the ballots ordered by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The committee shall be composed of one clergy and one laity delegate from each of the annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. For purposes of this committee only, reserve delegates may be nominated by their delegation and elected as balloting tellers. The committee shall be divided into two groups of fifteen each. In case of emergency, additional tellers may be drafted into service from among the delegation membership.

G. Financial Implications

The SEJ Conference shall submit any petition or proposal requiring funding from committees, organizations or individuals to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA) for study and recommendations prior to consideration. Submissions shall be made no later than 6:00 PM of the day prior to the CCA report.

VI. DELEGATES' EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

A. The report of the Delegation Head shall be the basis for settlement with principal and reserve delegates for their Per Diem allowance.

B. Travel expense for delegates and first lay and clergy reserve to the conference shall be reimbursed as directed by the conference upon recommendation of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. The total travel expense shall be payable to the principal

delegate if he/she be present and seated. If during the session of the conference a reserve beyond the first lay or clergy reserve must be seated in his/her place, he/she shall adjust the travel expense with such reserve on the basis of the time served by each.

VII. EDITORIAL CHANGES

The Conference Secretary may make editorial changes to the Plan of Organization or Rules of Order whenever there is a need to update Disciplinary references or law, or to clarify language without changing the meaning or intent. Any proposed editorial changes must be approved by two-thirds of the Rules Committee.

RULES OF ORDER

I. AGENDA

Rule 1. Agenda.

- (1) The senior effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary, in consultation with the College of Bishops and the Program/Arrangements Committee, will develop the agenda.
- (2) The proposed agenda will be published in pre-conference materials and placed before the conference for adoption in the opening session.
- (3) Once adopted, the Agenda Committee may propose modifications as circumstances may dictate. The conference will be notified of foreseen adjustments in as timely as fashion as possible.

Rule 2: Worship. Each quadrennial session will begin with an opening worship service. Additional worship experiences will be conducted periodically during the session.

II. PRESIDING OFFICERS

Rule 3. The Bishop presiding shall be legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference. He/she shall decide points of order raised by the members as he/she deems necessary to conform to these Jurisdictional Conference Rules of Order, subject to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate; except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of his/her position. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the chair. When any member raises a point of order, he/she shall cite by number the rule he/she adjudges to have been violated. The Bishop presiding when the committee is created, unless otherwise directed by the conference, or as directed by the plan of organization, shall name the members of any special committee. (See Rule 38.)

Rule 4. When the chairperson stands in his/her place and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.

III. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves. No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise, from being present, shall be absent himself/herself from the sessions of the conference without permission of the conference, and all absentees shall be reported by the chairperson of the several Annual Conference delegations to the Conference Secretary. Reserve delegates will be seated as necessary. Each Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly seated on a form provided by the Conference Secretary (Plan of Organization, I. C. (1) c).

Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Floor. When a delegate desires to speak to the conference, he/she shall arise at his/her seat, respectfully address the presiding officer, and, after recognition, proceed to the speaker's platform or to the nearest microphone, where, before speaking, he/she shall state his/her name and the Annual Conference from which he/she comes.

Rule 7. Interrupting the Speaker. No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a breach of order, or misrepresentation, or to direct the attention of the conference to the fact that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

Rule 8. Speaking More Than Once. No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, nor more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, nor longer than three minutes unless his/her time shall be extended by the conference, except as provided in Rule 37. This three-minute limit may be reduced by a majority vote of the conference at any time, and for any period of duration. Note: Any eligible elder, who is not a nominee in the episcopal election process and who receives 10 or more votes on any ballot, will be permitted to address the conference for no more than 10 minutes.

Rule 9. Question of High Privilege. A member claiming the floor at any time for what he/she believes is a very urgent question of high privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question, as if it be adjudged by the chair to be such he/she may proceed at his/her pleasure, or until the chair judges that he/she has exhausted the privilege.

Rule 10. Voting Area of Conference. Only delegates within the area of the conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. All delegates within the area at the time a question is put shall vote, except such as have been excused for special reasons by the conference.

Rule 11. Method of Voting. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise ordered by the conference. An "Aye" and "No" vote by written ballot or a count vote may be ordered on call of any member and supported by one-third of the members present and voting. Ballots and count votes will be taken by electronic voting device when available at the conference session. No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken, or when the previous question has been called, until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the secretaries on a count vote, or an "Aye" and "No" vote (see Rule 26 (2)). When a count vote is ordered, and electronic voting devices are unavailable, the count shall be made by the chairperson of the delegation, who shall report to the secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference the number of those in the delegation voting for and voting against a motion or a report.

Rule 12. Division of Question. Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as he/she indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is an objection the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

IV. BUSINESS PROCEDURE

Rule 13. Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary. Whenever a report of a committee, signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof, or a resolution signed by two or more members of the conference shall be presented to the conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the conference without the formality of a motion to adopt and a second thereto.

Rule 14. Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions, and Amendments. All resolutions and committee reports shall be presented in triplicate and electronically, and when requested by the secretary, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.

Rule 15. Reading of Reports and Resolutions. All resolutions, committee reports, and communications of the conference may be read by the secretary, if determined by the conference, except as otherwise provided in Rule 31.

Rule 16. Alteration of Motions, Etc. When a motion is made and seconded and stated by the chair, or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is made or is published in the Daily Christian Advocate, it shall be deemed in possession of the conference and may not be altered except by action of the conference (see Rule 31). Introductory, accompanying, or explanatory material shall not be subject to debate or amendment, nor be considered to have been acted upon by the conference upon adoption of the motion or proposal itself, unless accompanied by a specific motion that such material is included in the action of the conference.

Rule 17. Episcopal Election Process

(1) The sitting Committee on Episcopacy has oversight of the election process for that quadrennium. Specifically, the Committee on Episcopacy will determine and oversee the processes, policies, and covenants related to the declaring of nominees and the familiarization with nominees from the various conferences and groups. The Program/Arrangements Committee, in consultation with the Committee on Episcopacy and the College of Bishops, will determine the balloting process and logistics. Once balloting begins, the presiding Bishop shall certify the fairness of the balloting process. Once the balloting process (beginning with the first ballot and concluding with the election of the final bishop) has begun, neither committees nor persons who are not nominees shall be allowed to make reports or speeches designed to influence the balloting.

(2) An elder is elected a Bishop when that elder has received the votes of 60% of the delegates casting valid ballots in the jurisdictional conference.

Rule 18. Non-debatable Motions. The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally.
- (2) To suspend a rule or rules or any provisions of the Rules of Order.
- (3) To lie on the table, except as provided in Rule 35.
- (4) To take from the table.
- (5) To call for the previous question.
- (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion.
- (7) To limit or extend the limits of debate.
- (8) To call for the orders of the day.

Rule 19. Rights of the Main Question. The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: To adopt, to commit, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 11. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing parliamentary situation.

Rule 20. Precedence of Secondary Motions. If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

- (1) To fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid on the table.)
- (2) To adjourn.
- (3) To take recess.
- (4) To raise a question of privilege.
- (5) To call for the orders of the day.
- (6) To lie on the table.
- (7) To order the previous question.
- (8) To limit or extend the limits of debate.
- (9) To postpone to a given time.
- (10) To refer.
- (11) To amend or substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment).
- (12) To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 21. Tabling Related Motions. No motion, which adheres to another motion, or has another adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere, or which adhere to them.

Rule 22. Referring a Section of Report. It shall be in order for the conference to refer to a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the conference for consideration or any amendment offered thereunto.

Rule 23. Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes. When a resolution or committee report is properly before the conference for consideration and action, even if amendments thereto are

pending, a delegate may offer a substitute for the resolution or report under consideration. The substitute must be an alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main motion.

The conference will first consider the substitution/alternative before the body. Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be considered during this period of initial consideration. Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will occur. If the motion to substitute prevails by majority vote, the substitute motion becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to receive a majority vote, the original main motion remains on the floor for consideration. Debate, including the offering of amendments, moves forward on the main motion as per the rules of procedure.

The previous question may not be put on the adoption of the report or resolution, or making the proposed substitution, until two members (including the chairperson of the committee presenting the report and the member presenting the substitute) shall have spoken.

Rule 24. Previous Question (see Rules 18 (5), 23, 25, 35). When any member moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending), he/she shall indicate to what he/she intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If he/she does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question.

This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate, except as provided in Rule 35.

Rule 25. Unlawful Motion after Speech. It shall not be in order for a member immediately after discussing a pending question, and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

Rule 26. Exceptions to Majority Vote. A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions with the following exceptions:

- (1) A tie vote sustains the chair, if an appeal is made from his/her decision (Rule 3).
- (2) One third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for an "Aye" and "No" vote or a count vote (Rule 11).
- (3) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend or amend a rule or rules or any provision of the Rules of Order (Rules 37, 38); to sustain a motion for the previous question (Rule 24); to set aside a motion for the previous question (Rule 24); to set aside a special order; to consider a special order before the time therefore; or any motion whose adoption would limit debate.

Rule 27. Reconsideration. A motion to reconsider an action of the conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed for reconsideration is non-debatable, then the motion under reconsideration may not be debated.

Rule 28. Motion to Adjourn in Order, Except. The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except

- (1) When a delegate has the floor.
- (2) When a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken, and before it is finally decided.
- (3) When the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending.
- (4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened.
- (5) When a motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending. The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the conference.

V. COMMITTEES: DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES

Rule 29. Preparation and Presentation of Committee Reports. Every committee of the Jurisdictional Conference is hereby authorized to delegate to the chairperson and secretary of the committee the duty of preparing and presenting to the Jurisdictional Conference the action taken by the committee on any given subject, and every committee is authorized to grant to a minority of the committee the right to draft and to present to the Jurisdictional Conference a minority report without reading the same before the full committee, providing the substance of the said minority report has been stated to the committee.

Rule 30. Alterations in Restrictive Rules. Reports from committees and all other papers which propose an alteration in the restrictive rules of the church shall state that alteration proposed to be made, and the form of the motion shall be: "Will the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference recommend to the General and Annual Conferences the change indicated above?"

Rule 31. Published Reports in Possession of Conference. A report of any committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof shall be regarded as in possession of the conference when posted to the conference website, published in the Daily Christian Advocate, or distributed on the floor of conference. The business shall be in order for consideration at the pleasure of the conference anytime thereafter. The same rule shall apply to a report of a minority of any committee signed by one tenth of the members of the committee or by ten members thereof (see Rule 16 and Rule 23).

Rule 32. Preparation and Printing of Reports. Reports of the standing committees shall be posted to the conference website and distributed in the Daily Christian Advocate with as much advance notice as possible given the abbreviated duration of conference prior to being presented for consideration by the conference, and they shall not be read unless by its order. Reports of minorities of committees adopted by them with a view to their being offered as substitutes for committee reports shall likewise conform to this rule so far as it is applicable, indicating clearly

to what committee the respective minorities belong and for what report or reports, by serial numbers, etc., they propose the respective substitutes.

Rule 33. Committee on Chairperson Not in Harmony with Report. When a chairperson of a committee is not in harmony with a report adopted by the committee, it shall be his/her duty to state the fact to the committee, which shall elect one of its members to represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such report.

Rule 34. Presentation of Report of Minority. A member selected by the signers of a minority report of a committee to present the same shall have the same rights and privileges in relation thereto which belong to the chairperson in the presentation of the regular (majority) report of the committee.

Rule 35. Speakers For and Against. When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to ascertain which side a speaker proposes to speak. The speaker shall not be granted the floor to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any member desires to speak on the other side. Except for non-debatable motions, no report shall be adopted or question relation to the same decided without opportunity having been given for a least one speech for and one against the said proposal, provided this right is claimed before the chairperson or duly authorized member representing the committee's report, of the minority report if there be such, is present to close the debate. When all have spoken who desire to do so, or when (and after) the previous question has been ordered, the chairperson and/or duly authorized member or members presenting the committee's report (and the minority report, if there be one) shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. This right of the chairperson and/or other member or members to close the debate shall prevail in like manner to a limit of three minutes when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, to lay on the table, or any other motion whose adoption would vitally affect the report under consideration, provided that this five minute limit shall not apply to a motion to substitute a minority report for a regular (majority) report of a committee.

Rule 36. Legal Enactment. All actions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church shall become effective upon the adjournment of the present session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, unless otherwise specified.

VI. SUSPENDING, AMENDING, AND SUPPLEMENTING

Rule 37. Suspension of Rules. The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization or the Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the conference (see Rule 26 (3)).

Rule 38. Amending Rules. The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by two-thirds vote of the conference, provided the proposed change or amendment has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, which committee shall report thereon not later than the day following (see Rule 26 (3)).

Rule 39. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised: Supplemental Authority. In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by this Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its actions by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised

*Submitted by
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SEJ Conference Secretary
11/25/2022*