

The North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
BISHOP'S RESPONSE TO REQUEST OF REV. MICHAEL BAUGHMAN FOR A
BISHOP'S DECISION OF LAW

July 14, 2021

SYNOPSIS OF RULING

On June 15, 2021, Bishop McKee made a parliamentary ruling that a proposed resolution was out of order at Annual Conference.

In the alternative, if the Judicial Council does not agree that Bishop McKee's ruling was a parliamentary ruling, a Decision of Law is not appropriate or required because no question was asked to which the bishop could respond. (See BOD ¶ 2609.6)

In the alternative, if the Judicial Council believes that a question was asked that required a Bishop's Decision of Law, the Bishop's Decision of Law is that the resolution is out of order because it violates Judicial Council Decisions 1225 and 1245.

NO JURISDICTION OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Judicial Council has no jurisdiction over parliamentary rulings. (See Judicial Council Decisions 98, 1130, 1131 and Memorandum Nos. 979 and 1295.)

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The 2021 North Texas Annual Conference was held virtually. Motions, questions, and all chats were submitted via a virtual Question and Answer (Q&A) function and chat function on the internet. Bishop McKee's first assistant (Rev. Andy Lewis) and the Chancellor (Pamela H. Liston) had access to the Q&A. Rev. Lewis and Chancellor Liston read out loud to the Bishop and the livestreamed audience the motions, questions, and other comments coming into the Q&A.

Legislative Item #17 was a resolution put forward that Bishop McKee ruled out of order. The resolution is attached as Exhibit A. The resolution requested \$150,000 for the North Texas Delegation to General Conference to be able to hire staff for itself, including staff already employed or elected by the North Texas Annual Conference to perform work and functions for the Annual Conference. (The budget for the North Texas Annual Conference had already been voted, set, and approved earlier in the day.) Bishop McKee's parliamentary ruling was as follows:

So, we're at item number 17. I am going to rule this out of order. And this motion is being pulled; I am removing it; it's out of order. This already exists in the fabric of the Annual Conference, and you've elected those persons to do this job, CF&A, Trustees,

The Board of Pensions, and the Core Leadership Team. Ok, we have concluded that business at this time.

A few moments after Bishop McKee made his parliamentary ruling, Rev. Michael Baughman's initial challenge to the bishop's parliamentary ruling appeared on the Q&A. It read, "I challenge the ruling of the chairperson regarding the ruling out of order." (See Pages 6 and 7 of the minutes of June 15, 2021 business session attached as Exhibit B.)

After Rev. Baughman's statement appeared on the Q&A, a motion appeared on the Q&A from Jessica Vittorio (lay delegate to Annual Conference) as follows, "I'd like to motion to vote to overturn the decision of the chair related to legislative item number 17."

After Ms. Vittorio's motion, Rev. Baughman's second challenge to the bishop's parliamentary ruling appeared on the Q&A. It read, "I, Rev. Michael Baughman, Union Coffee, Metro District challenge the ruling of the chairperson regarding Legislative item #17 being out of order and request that this challenge be reflected in the minutes of the Annual Conference and that the ruling be considering [sic] by the Judicial Council."

After Rev. Baughman's second challenge to the bishop's parliamentary ruling, Ms. Vittorio re-urged her motion on the Q&A. It read, "Motion to vote to overturn the decision of the chair related to the legislative item number 17 out of order."

After Ms. Vittorio's re-urged motion, Rev. Baughman made his third challenge to the bishop's parliamentary ruling. It read, "Rev. Mike Baughman requests a ruling of law from the judicial council regarding the chair's decision to rule legislative item 17 out of order."

Chancellor Liston was assisting Rev. Andy Lewis in monitoring the Q&A for motions and business of the Annual Conference. Chancellor Liston announced the challenge of Rev. Baughman and the motion of Ms. Vittorio. Ms. Vittorio's motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. The motion failed. The vote on the motion was 68% not to overturn the decision of the chair, 26% to overturn the decision of the chair, and 5% abstained.

Chancellor Liston then attempted to discern the three challenges of Rev. Baughman as they may relate to the Book of Discipline and its procedures. In the heat of the battle, and in her attempt to be helpful, Chancellor Liston surmised that what Rev. Baughman was describing was a request for a Decision of Law. (See transcript which is attached as Exhibit C). Chancellor Liston did not recognize at that time that none of Rev. Baughman's statements were "questions" that would give rise to a Decision of Law.

RATIONALE

Bishop McKee's ruling that the resolution was out of order was a parliamentary ruling. As such, the Judicial Council has no jurisdiction to review the parliamentary ruling. (See Judicial Council Memorandum No. 979.)

If, however, the Judicial Council believes that Rev. Baughman posed a Question of Law which the Bishop was bound to answer by rendering a Decision of Law, Bishop McKee shows the following.

1. A Delegation to General Conference has no powers assigned to it under the Book of Discipline (BOD) other than to vote at General Conference. For the Delegation to create powers via a resolution is out of order and outside of the BOD.
2. The budget of the North Texas Annual Conference had been moved, voted, approved, and set by the North Texas Annual Conference prior to consideration of Legislative Item No. 17 containing the resolution in question. No motions to amend the budget came forward. No amount of money had been pulled out and set aside for the Delegation to General Conference by the Council of Finance and Administration.
3. The resolution in question was and is moot. The budget had been set. At this point, the business of the North Texas Annual Conference is concluded and has been concluded since June 15, 2021. There is no means to consider the resolution.
4. In 2011, the North Texas Annual Conference adopted an amendment to its standing rules to allow Annual Conference functions provided for in the BOD to be restructured and carried out in ways not provided by the BOD. The Judicial Council ruled that such re-allocation or reorganization of functions and duties did not fulfill disciplinary requirements. Subsequently, the North Texas Annual Conference successfully returned the structure, functions, and duties of the Annual Conference to those outlined and specified under the BOD, which the Judicial Council upheld in 2013. (See Judicial Council Decisions 1225 and 1245). The resolution which is the subject of this writing sought to provide an alternate structure of Annual Conference duties that is outside of the BOD. The resolution asked for \$150,000 to be provided to the North Texas Delegation to General Conference to hire its own attorneys, consultants, and other hired staff that would report to a sub-committee as determined by the Delegation to General Conference. The Delegation to General Conference is not a separate entity. The Delegation represents the Annual Conference. The BOD gives the Delegation to Annual Conference no authority as would be implemented to it via the resolution in question. Likewise, there is no corollary or structures for this type of parallel activity in the BOD, and the Annual Conference already has within it the staff and functions requested in the resolution. The Annual Conference has an elected Chancellor (attorney); Council on Finance and Administration, Trustees, Core Leadership Team, Board of Pensions (consultants); and Director of Connectional Resources (staff) to support the Delegation to General Conference. For these reasons, the resolution was out of order.
5. The parliamentary ruling of Bishop McKee that the resolution in question was out of order was appealed by Jessica Vittorio via a motion to overturn. The Annual Conference body upheld Bishop McKee's ruling. (See Pages 6 and 7 of the minutes of June 15, 2021 business session attached as Exhibit B.)

RULING

Bishop McKee ruled the resolution which was the subject of Legislative Item #17 out of order. It was a parliamentary ruling. The Judicial Council does not affirm or overturn parliamentary rulings of bishops. The Judicial Council has specifically held that it does not have jurisdiction over such matters.

Furthermore, Rev. Baughman's challenge was not a question as is required by ¶2609.6 to precede a Bishop's Decision of Law. When a motion to overturn the bishop's ruling was considered by the body of the Annual Conference, it failed. Bishop McKee's parliamentary ruling was affirmed. Therefore, the Judicial Council should rule this matter out of order and uphold Bishop McKee's ruling.

Finally, if the Judicial Council takes jurisdiction of this matter and renders a decision on the merits of Rev. Baughman's challenge, Bishop McKee's ruling should be upheld. For the reasons stated above, the resolution in question violates the Book of Discipline and previous rulings of the Judicial Council.

EXHIBIT A

A RESOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, in Luke 14:28, Jesus advises his disciples to “count the cost” in preparation for a significant undertaking and

WHEREAS, the organizational and financial future of the United Methodist Church is uncertain and

WHEREAS, the North Texas Annual Conference has a long story of fraternity, service, and fidelity to the gospel of Jesus Christ that we want to continue into future generations and

WHEREAS, matters of church discipline, federal law, and non-profit governance may require significant expertise to navigate and

WHEREAS, our General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation (GC/JCD) is representative of the North Texas Annual Conference as duly elected clergy and lay persons.

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Texas Annual Conference charge its GC/JCD with the responsibility to research, report and make recommendations regarding the possibility of forming an entity or entities that connect churches across North Texas in the Methodist tradition as the United Methodist Church moves into an uncertain future. The GC/JCD shall report at scheduled meetings of the Core Leadership Team, at Cabinet meetings as requested and to the North Texas Annual Conference gatherings in 2022 and 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Texas Annual Conference budget \$150,000 to be used by the North Texas Annual Conference Delegation to General Conference with the following guidelines.

- Funds will be tracked and disbursed by the Center for Connectional Resources according to a budget approved by simple majority of the GC/JCD.
- Any attorneys, consultants or hired staff will report to a sub committee determined by the Delegation.
- The Delegation may convene a working group that extends to Annual Conference members who are not on the GC/JCD with attention to expertise, diversity, and equity.
- Funds will be made available to the Delegation by August 1st and must be used in 2021 and 2022. Any unused funds will be divided evenly among the North Texas Annual Conference centers to be used in fulfillment of their respective missions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Annual Conference gathering dedicate at least 30 minutes for the GC/JCD to report on their findings to this matter as well as present any resolutions they deem appropriate.

Rev. Rachel Baughman, Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
Rev. Mitchell Boone, White Rock United Methodist Church

EXHIBIT B

2021 Annual Conference
North Texas Annual Conference
Tuesday Afternoon Business Session

1:15 Gathering Music

Opening Prayer Rev Mauricio Orozco from First UMC Denton offered the opening prayer in both Spanish and English praising God and asked God to lead and guide the Church through the Holy Spirit to effectively serve God's people with humility and faith.

Rev Andy Lewis introduced the General Board of Global Ministries video featuring Patrick Booth, a GBGM missionary serving Cambodia who was inspired and called into Global missions through a ministry at FUMC Lewisville to a refugee community from Myanmar.

Patrick Booth addressed the Conference via video presenting Project ARK which helps individual break free from human trafficking and equips them with skills that enables them to keep from falling back into human trafficking.

General and Jurisdiction Delegation report, from NTC Delegation leaders (Lay) Kelly Carpenter and (Clergy) Clayton Oliphint. Kelly Carpenter announced some changes in the delegation. Daniel Solace, a lay alternate had to resign due to health concern and then pursued ministry as a Local Pastor, and Kerry Lynn Lucas was commissioned as an elder in 2020. Linda Parks was the first reserve Lay Delegate and will move to join the Jurisdictional Delegation as a lay delegate.

The postponed 2020 General Conference is scheduled August 29-September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis MN. There are still many arrangements being addressed by the Commission on General Conference and other areas of the Denomination including global Vaccination access and acquiring Visas for Members of the General Conference.

The delegation has continued to meet during the period of delay. Plans such as the Protocol and the Christmas Covenant and other things will be on the docket in 2022 as well as the legislation originally presented to the General Conference for 2020. The Delegation is grateful for the support of the North Texas Conference.

Bishop McKee asked to have the dates and repeated emphasized how hard the North Texas Delegation works and how challenging the General Conference will be considering all the legislation in the limited number of days for the session. Clayton Oliphint noted the challenge before the Delegation and General Conference.

Clayton Oliphint stated that the NTC delegation will be the best prepared delegation attending, and shared that the delegation is not of one mind on all issues and reflected the difficulty of answering the question "what is going to happen?" Oliphint challenged the Annual Conference to not be afraid of General Conference but focus on the greater mission of the UMC, the NTC, and individual congregations. He reminded the Annual Conference that challenging conversations can happen and challenged churches to have those conversations. He also challenged the NTC to have a 100 year look at what we need to do now, and that doing the work of Christ as the mission of the Church and Christ will take away such fear and anxiety.

The Bishop addressed a question that was asked via Zoom regarding the consensus of the delegation regarding the Protocol of Reconciliation, Grace Through Separation? Oliphint stated the delegation has endorsed the Christmas Covenant which embraces regionalization of decision making. The Protocol has

some issues, but he believes there is a general feeling of affirmation for some of the aspects of The Protocol, but the Christmas Covenant is preferred. Clayton urged all members of the NTC to read the actual legislation rather than what people say on social media and other places about the legislation.

The Bishop shared that there will be opportunities for conversations about the actual legislation with the delegation. Clayton affirmed that there will be listening opportunities and ways to share information with and listen to the NTC. Clayton announced that the Jurisdictional Conference will be held in November 2-5, 2022, with the election and assignment of new Bishops who will begin their positions on January 1, 2023, meaning the NTC will be blessed to have Bishop McKee until throughout 2022.

The Bishop asked for the NTC to remember and pray for the delegation as they continue to work for the future of the NTC.

Owen Ross presented the report for the Center for Church Development via video where he defined "resilience" as the "ability to respond in positive manner in adverse conditions."

In adverse conditions the Center for Church Development in partnership with members of the NTC showed resilience in addressing the challenges of the pandemic by developing innovative discipleship, evangelism, and worship. In a world increasingly isolated and frightened the people of the NTC reached out with passion, compassion and professionalism.

Over one third of the churches in the NTC received grants from the CCD to help improve equipment and their online presence. We are now entering a new season in which people are hungering for community. The CCD has revamped the New Faces and New Spaces website, www.ntcumc.org/new-faces where training is available for new spaces. The Genesis Cohort and a 2 day New Start 101 that would be held June 17-18.

Amid the unfortunate closings of churches in the NTC, the Accelerated Church Expansion Program (ACE) leverages legacy funds so that land for new churches can be purchased and first phase building constructed thereby allowing churches to enter the mission field quicker. The congregations then repay the ACE funds through re-financing. The first ACE church was Melissa UMC. Through the ACE Program and in partnership with its sending church FUMC McKinney, Melissa UMC showed resilience in building and launching worship in their new building in May. ACE funds also purchased land in West Prosper and East Aubrey for Grace Chapel UMC. Soon after purchasing the land a strip of land was sold to the Denton ISD for a new middle school which will be across the street from the new church.

A look at demographics of the NTC and the North Texas area show the NTC has work to do to close the gaps between percentage of populations among African American (2 fold gap), Asian Americans (3 fold), Hispanic/Latinx (9 fold) and membership percentages of the conference. The CCD has committed additional resources to those churches that are making disciples within those communities.

The Black Church Initiative has been working in the NTC since 2017 to enhance preaching and leadership and assessing how churches ministering to the African American mission field could be strengthened. Six churches are participating in the program. The Village United Methodist Church showed resiliency in the pandemic by accomplishing its dream of moving out of its strip center location and into a new facility built on 12 acres of land in Desoto given previously to the NTC. The CCD assisted with a matching grant of \$200,000.

In order to better reach the Asian American mission fields NTC constituted its first mission congregation, the Immanuel Korean congregation and The CCD worked with the Metro District and the North Central District and the Center for Connectional Resources to move First Korean UMC to a closed church in Fairview. To better begin ministering to the 100,000 Asian Indians living within the NTC, the CCD and

recruited Rev Sumesh Jacob from India to come to the North Texas Conference. When appointed by Bishop McKee to serve as an associate pastor at First UMC Coppell, Rev. Jacob became the first full-time Asian Indian elder to serve in the NTC.

The CCD has invested additional resources in ministries to Hispanic/Latinx congregations. The CCD has initiated a 2-year LatinX Lay Fellowship whose graduates are working to plant or strengthen existing ministries within the NTC. With assistance from the CCD, the Center for Connectional Resources, and the Metro District Walnut Hill UMC deeded all of its property to Lovers Lane UMC and LLUMC adopted the WHUMC congregation.

Nine of the seventeen initiatives receiving new church funding are working to reach the Hispanic/Latinx Mission field. One of the churches is Jahweh Rafa moved from meeting at FUMC Rowlett to a closed non-denominational church in Balch Springs, becoming the first UMC presence in that town of 25,000.

The entire staff and team of the CCD asks for prayers from the NTC. The CCD established a new prayer ministry called The Orison (Prayer / Petition to God). Each month The Orison presents 7 petitions for God to assist God to assist the NTC to reach the mission field. Members of the Conference may subscribe to receive the petitions at www.ntcumc.org/orison.

Bishop McKee shared appreciation for all the creative initiatives for the CCD. The Bishop introduced Andy Lewis, Director for the Center for Missional Outreach report.

Andy Lewis presented the CMO report. The mission of the CMO is to help local churches make disciples through ministry with discussed their neighbors, particularly with the poor and marginalized. The CMO invests in and supports local congregations in being a catalyst for creative and fruitful connections. Amid the challenges brought by Covid and the winter storm there has been a temptation for churches to circle the wagons and focus on self-preservation. Yet many, many churches have resisted and continued to focus on their core purpose of loving God and loving neighbors.

The CMO's report continued via a video highlighting the work of the Center to with communities after the pandemic disrupted economic health, employment and food security. These challenges as well as the threats to health and life also created significant increases in grief, stress and other mental health challenges. Communities of color were particularly impacted. The CMO responded with webinars to spark ideas for ministries and help church leaders support one another.

CMO also developed 2 Covid disaster response grant opportunities. The Racial Equity Response Grant sought to amplify churches serving in contexts that allowed them to be in ministry with Persons of Color communities. Successful applications included relief work as well as advocacy work which aimed to build more racially just communities in the wake of Covid19.

The Rural Response Grant sought to support churches with less than 150 people in average worship attendance and strengthen their ministry with their neighbors during this time of challenge. Rev. Tim Marks spoke about the ministry of encouragement of Calvary UMC in Paris to send notes of thanks and gift cards for essential workers in the Paris area. Other community organizations joined in the program of supporting local essential workers.

Blood Donations, particularly from those from African ancestors used to treat those with sickle cell anemia became critically short during the pandemic because of health concerns. Rev. Geoffrey Moore St. Stephen shared about the ministry of the church in helping increasing donations to the Red Cross. The Red Cross is partnering with UMC churches to not only receive donations but to provide other support as well.

The CMO offered support following the unprecedented winter storm that impacted North Texas communities already been strained by 11 months of the Covid pandemic. 60 UMC churches were damaged by burst pipes. The CMO responded by supplying timely information about resources and possible case management efforts in targeted communities. The CMO also created Winter Storm Grant opportunity to support churches needing financial assistance to resume their ministry as well as to initiate church efforts to be in ministry to neighbors who were suffering from the effects of the storm. Rev Bryant Phelps and the Church of the Disciple in Desoto received a grant to achieve both goals. The church was greatly damaged by flooding and the grant helped defray deductible costs. The second allowed for ministering to the needs of neighbors.

Following the experience and needs of the winter storm, and in anticipation of future needs, the CMO sought to renew the investment in the capacity of the NTC to respond to widespread disasters. The CMO took advantage of a staff opening to add Rev. Jeremy Basset, a recently retired elder from the Oklahoma Conference who has fifteen years' experience coordinating conference responses to disasters.

The CMO continues support development of disciples who are courageously committed to opposing racism. The CMO has supported the work of the Journey Toward Racial Justice efforts of the NTC.

After many years of cultivating ministries dedicated to building racial justice and equity, the CMO received 14 applications and granted \$50,000 to 9 churches and ministries. Rev. Flor Granillo, Associate Pastor FUMC Sherman received a grant to open the Vecinos Community Center in Sherman. The CMO continues to invest in the churches of the NTC by telling stories of creative cutting edge ministry with neighbors, connecting and equipping church laity and clergy to assist them to live out their call to love God and neighbors.

The Bishop recognized a motion by Jessica Vittorio to amend the conference schedule to allow for consideration of legislation, and that reports of Boards and Agencies be emailed to conference members. The motion was seconded by Hannah Phillips and a vote was taken on webinar by raising a hand. The vote carried with 473 votes in favor. Votes opposed was not announced.

Kim Brannon presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Adult Laity Award to Dana Philipps a member of Trietsche Memorial for her use of social media during Covid 19 that allowed her to encourage others and introduce people to Jesus and empower faith development.

The Denman Award for Youth was presented to Haven Emery, a member of Lovers Lane UMC. Haven serves in as many positions as she can and volunteers 150 hours each year at LLUMC's Ray of Light Respite as well as leading and serving on many other ministries at the church. Haven is also active in the CCYM and will be attending Asbury University.

Cammy Gaston presented the The Denman Award for Clergy to Derek Jacobs pastor of The Village UMC. The Village has been ministering to the community for 9 years and has used social ministry throughout the history of the Church. The church recently moved into a new facility and during the pandemic used social media to continue to reach people locally, and beyond the metroplex.

Cammy presented the One Matters Award to Melissa Hatch, pastor of Button Memorial UMC whose professions of faith went from zero to nine confirmants. The One Matters Award is presented by Discipleship Ministries and includes a \$1000 gift for the Church.

Sheryl Murphy, Chair of the Commission on Christian Unity and Christian Concerns presented the Bishop William B Oden Ecumenical Award to Richie Butler, founder of Project Unity and creator of Together We Test. These teams worked to provide Covid testing and vaccinations in 5 churches and shopping centers to underserved communities during the pandemic. Kerry Smith and Greenland Hills

UMC partnered with a local Lutheran Church that impacted their neighborhood with programs for groceries for families, breakfasts for neighbors without housing, and assisting with vaccinations. Both ministries have faithfully served neighbors by working with others and impacting communities.

Chancellor Pamela Liston offered clarification following the vote to suspend reports. Remaining reports that did not require action by the conference were removed, however items labeled as reports but requiring action by the conference will be presented.

Andy Lewis and Kim Brannon presented the Nominations Committee Report as presented in the Conference Workbook on page 35 with new nominations appearing in bold, and with the following changes, Campus Paris JC Wesley Foundation, Andrew Dodd died following the printing and should be removed. Two members of the Board of Ordained Ministry should be removed, Jack Soper 2024, Cassie Wade 2028. Under the Nominating Committee there are two errors in ethnic racial designations, Debra Hobbs Mason should be listed C/A and Edlen Cowley should be B/A. Lewis encouraged conference members to encourage strong and trusted leaders in congregations to submit profile sheets.

Prior to the vote of the Nominations Report, Bishop McKee asked for a report regarding ethnicity.

Kim Brannon addressed the ethnicity, gender, clergy/laity breakdowns of the 300 positions of the Nominations Report. District memberships of the nominations were also reported. Slides of each were presented.

The report was approved 98%, in favor, 1% opposed, 1% abstain

CF&A Larry Womack and Christy Drenner presented the CFA report.

Womack moved for selection of Treasurer, Christy Drenner and the selection of Ratliff and Associates to continue as Auditor, and the 2022 apportionment budget recommendation \$10,877,316.

Stan Copeland asked if the NTC received PPP funds. Drenner said it had and they had been fully forgiven.

All three motions passed with Approval of Ratliff and Associates as auditor 99% in favor, Christy Drenner as Treasurer 99% in favor, and the Apportionment Budget was approved with 98% in favor, 1% opposed and 1% abstaining.

Bishop McKee read from Jessica Vittorio, (Lay Member FUMC Dallas, Metro District) I motion to extend the time allotted for annual conference for one hour to accommodate proper debate, amendment, and consideration of all legislative items before the conference, The motion was seconded by Courtney Mitchell. The motion vote was conducted by Poll. The Motion passed with 473 votes in favor. The motion required two thirds approval and passed with 75 % for, 23% against, and 2% abstained.

Bishop McKee announced that Motion 16 was formally withdrawn.

Motion to table the motions 15 16(withdrawn) 17 was made by John McLarty Clergy FUMC Wichita Falls and seconded (not captured from Webinar) NTC Chancellor responded to a point of order that the motion was made after the vote to extend so it is a valid motion. The motion passed by poll 51% in favor, 45% opposed.

North Texas Chancellor Pamela Liston announced that a motion to remove from the table Legislative Items 15,16(withdrawn),17 had been made but needed a second.

The Bishop announced the motion to take from the table Legislative Items 15, 16 (withdrawn) 17 was made by Ben David Hensley, seconded Anita Bassinger. Chancellor Pamela Liston spoke to a question

regarding the timing of the motion to table and the motion to extend time. The motion to table was made following the motion to extend time.

The vote was taken by poll and passed 52% in favor, 44% opposed.

The Bishop announced that Legislative Item 15 was before the conference.

Michael Baughman asked that Dimitria McCain, a member of St. Luke UMC but not a member of the Annual Conference be allowed to address the Annual Conference. Bishop McKee ruled to allow her to speak. Ms. McCain spoke to legislative item 15 by speaking to the need of the NTC regarding the difference between actions and inactions.

Michael Baughman moved the Item 15 be approved.

Jay Cousino Oak Grove UMC (Decatur) Northwest District offered an Amendment to add Wise County to the list of counties to contact. The Motion was seconded by Ben David Hensley The motion accepted by the Michael Baughman.

An additional amendment to include all counties in the NTC was offered from the webinar and accepted by Michael Baughman.

David Piekarski of Copeville offered a Motion to amend Legislative Item 15, to strike lines 8,9,10 on page 33 of the Journal. The motion was seconded and a poll vote was held. The amendment failed 291 for 295 opposed.

The Chancellor and Bishop reminded persons making amendments to state their name on the webinar. The motion as written was voted on and passed 82% yes 15% no.

Clayton Oliphint invited the conference to meet at First United Methodist Church Richardson June 5-7, 2022. The Bishop declared the invitation to FUMC Richardson accepted to which there was no question.

The Bishop offered thanks on behalf of the NTC to the Staff and congregation of ST Andrew UMC for hosting the 2021 Annual Conference, and all of the extra challenges of the last 2 virtual Annual Conferences.

Bishop McKee ruled legislative action 17 out of order as the work described in Item 17 already exists in the fabric of the Annual Conference and the Conference has elected persons to do this job by the CFA Trustees, Board of Pensions, and the Core Leadership Team. This concludes this business at this time.

Bishop introduced the new members of the cabinet, DS Edlen Cowley, Metro District Superintendent, Debra Hobbs Mason as the new North Central District Superintendent, and Cassie Wade as the new East District Superintendent.

Kenny Dickson announced an urgent need of blood donations and asked all churches to participate in helping to replenish the supply.

The Bishop fixed the appointments as posted on the website.

Conference Chancellor Liston announced a challenge to the Bishop's ruling regarding Legislative Item 17 made by Michael who asked that the challenge be reflected in the minutes of the Annual Conference and that the ruling be considered by the Judicial Council for a request on a determination on a decision of law.

The Conference Chancellor announced a motion to overturn the decision of the Chair ruling Legislative Item 17 out of order by Jessica Vittorio Lay Member FUMC Dallas, Metro District and seconded by

William Gavitt. The vote requires a 2/3 vote in order to overturn the ruling of the Chair. The vote to overturn was 68% no 26% yes, 5% abstained. The motion failed.

The Bishop thanked everyone who worked extremely hard so that the 2021 Annual Conference could be conducted successfully.

The Conference closed with a singing of the Hymn "Go Make of All Disciples."

I, Kenneth R. Dickson, Conference Secretary for the North Texas Annual Conference, do hereby sign these minutes of the Tuesday afternoon session, June 15th 2021, as a true and accurate recording of the events of annual conference.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth R. Dickson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kenneth R. Dickson, Conference Secretary North Texas Annual Conference

EXHIBIT C

Legislative Item 17 Transcript:

From Video of the Tuesday Afternoon Business Session
Tuesday June 15, 2021

Bishop McKee: "So we're at item number 17. I am going to rule this out of order. And this motion is being pulled, I am removing, it's out of order. This already exists in the fabric of the Annual Conference, and you've elected those persons to do this job, CF&A, Trustees, The Board of Pensions, and the Core Leadership Team. Ok, we have concluded that business at this time." (Video Time: 2:18:40-2:19:14)

Bishop introduced the new members of the cabinet, DS Edlen Cowley, Metro District Superintendent, Debra Hobbs Mason as the new North Central District Superintendent, and Cassie Wade as the new East District Superintendent.

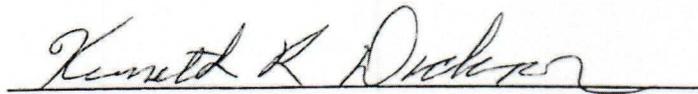
Kenny Dickson announced an urgent need of blood donations and asked all churches to participate in helping to replenish the supply.

The Bishop fixed the appointments as posted on the website.

Conference Chancellor Liston announced a challenge to the Bishop's ruling regarding Legislative Item 17: "So there was a couple of things that came in, and the first one did not, I did not know how to interpret it because it just used the word 'challenge,' but then the person uh, it's Michael Baughman, clarified that he wants to make a request that the challenge be reflected in the minutes of the Annual Conference. The Challenge is to the Bishop ruling item 17 out of order, and that that challenge would be reflected in the minutes of the Annual Conference, and that the ruling be considered by the Judicial Council. What that is, is a request for a decision of law, and that can happen, during um, an Annual Conference session, so we'll, we'll accommodate that, of course. We'll do that. We will send it up as a request for a determination on decision of law." (2:24:38-25:35)

Bishop: Ok, Thank you, so that is done. (2:25:35-37)

I, Kenneth R. Dickson, Conference Secretary for the North Texas Annual Conference, do hereby sign this portion of minutes relevant to the challenge of Rev. Michael Baughman related to Legislative Item 17 during the Tuesday afternoon session, June 15th 2021 as a true and accurate recording of the events of annual conference.



Kenneth R. Dickson, Conference Secretary North Texas Annual Conference

EXHIBIT D

From The Q&A Re: Legislative Item 17

#85: Jessica Vittorio I motion to extend the time allotted for annual conference for one hour to accommodate proper debate, amendment, and consideration of all legislative items before the conference.

#92: Jessica Vittorio I motion (again) to extend the time allotted for annual conference for one hour to accommodate proper debate, amendment, and consideration of all legislative items before the conference.

#204 Michael Baughman: I challenge the ruling of the chairperson regarding the ruling out of order

#213 Jessica Vittorio: I'd like to motion to vote to overturn the decision of the chair related to legislative item number 17

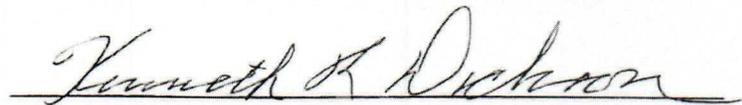
#216 Michael Baughman To clarify: I, Rev. Michael Baughman, Union Coffee, Metro District challenge the ruling of the chairperson regarding Legislative item #17 being out of order and request that this challenge be reflected in the minutes of the Annual Conference and that the ruling be considering by the Judicial Council.

#224 Jessica Vittorio Motion to vote to overturn the decision of the chair related to the legislative item number 17 out of order

#231 Michael Baughman: to further clarify (thank you for all you are doing). Rev Mike Baughman requests a ruling of law from the judicial council regarding the chair's decision to rule legislative item 17 out of order

#241 Jessica Vittorio This question isn't correct - the motion isn't to appeal the decision, it is to overturn the decision.

I, Kenneth R. Dickson, Conference Secretary for the North Texas Annual Conference, do hereby sign this portion of minutes relevant to the challenge of Rev. Michael Baughman related to Legislative Item 17 during the Tuesday afternoon session, June 15th 2021 as a true and accurate recording of the events of annual conference.



Kenneth R. Dickson, Conference Secretary North Texas Annual Conference

1021-18

**INTERESTED PARTIES/PERSONS
TO WHOM COPIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED
North Texas Annual Conference**

Rev. Kenneth R. Dickson

Annual Conference Secretary

500 Maplelawn Drive
Plano Texas 75075-5739
972-526-5000
Dicksons11@yahoo.com

Reverend Michael Baughman

Asked the Questions

baughman31@gmail.com

Bishop Michael Mckee

Resident Bishop, Presiding

500 Maplelawn Drive
Plano, Texas 75075-5739
972-526-5015
bishop@ntcumc.org

Pamela H. Liston, Esq.

Conference Chancellor

pamela.liston@listonlaw.net