

III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A-1 ROLL CALL — MARCH 16, 2019 SESSION

CLERGY (MEMBERS)

Elizabeth Abel, Ebenezer Aduku, Soon Ahn, Gabriel Akinbode, Denise Allen, Mark Allen, Richard Allen, Yuri Ando, Jessica Anschutz, Bruce Anspach, Dale Ashby, David Ball, Oliverio Barrera, Michael Barry, Lynda Bates-Stepe, Stephen Bauman, Tony Beck, Sheila Beckford, Stefanie Bennett, Caroline Berninger, Jennifer Berry, Carol Bloom, John Blossom, Brian Bodt, Melvin Boone, Kimberly Bosley, Lisa Bosworth, Melissa Boyer, Anne Bracket, Elizabeth Braddon, Gertrude Brady, Tisha Branch, John Brandon, Mendis Brown, Karen Burger, John Capen, Thomas Carney, Jacqueline Carter, Noel Chin, Kun Sam Cho, Dong Hyunn Choi, Oon Choi, Young Choi, Inkoo Chung, Michael Cobb, David Collins, John Collins, Karen Cook, Janet Cox, Dorothea Crites, Doug Cunningham, Leo Curry, Matthew Curry, David Czeisel, Alex da Silva Souto, Doris Dalton, T Anne Daniel, Wesley Daniel, Hermon Darden, Delois Davis, Arlene Dawber, R. Randy Day, Lorraine De Armitt, Kathryn Dickinson, Cynthia Dodd, Scharlise Dorsey, Carol Downs, Richard Edwards, Karen Eiler, Robert Emerick, George Christian Engelhardt, Martha Epstein, Jacob Eun, Joseph Ewoodzie, Peggy Fabrizio, Camella Fairweather, Karina Feliz, Carlos Figueroa, Eric Fjeldal, Paul Fleck, Vicki Flippin, Rebekah Forni, Carl Franzen, Eileen Freeman, Kregg Gabor, Penny Gadzini, Laura Galbraith, Lee Gangaware, Rafael Garcia, Michael Gebhard, Caroly Gibson, Cathy Gilliard, David Gilmore, Sara Giron-Ortiz, Thomas Goodhue, Susan Goodman - Chupungco, Kaiyra Greer, Robert Grimm, Roy Grubbs, Enock Gustave, William Hagerty, Albert Hahn, Juhye Hahn, Marena Hamre, Lydia Han, Richard L Hanse, Kristina Hansen, Lori Hartman, Roy Hassel, Adeline Hazzard, David Henry, Lillian Hertel, Robert Hewitt, Paul Hibbard, Peola Hicks, Gregory Higgins, Melissa Hinnen, Kevan Hitch, Janet Hodge, Beverly Hodges-Fairweather, Seung Jin Hong, Jeffrey Hooker, Margaret Schramm Horn, David Houston, Vera Isaacs, Akio Iyoda, Fredric Jackson, Kent Jackson, Roger Jackson, Michael Jenkins, Cedric Johnson, David Johnson, Sabrina Johnson Chandler, Dorett Johnson-Agu, David Jolly, David Kang, Miyoung Kang, K Karpen, Mel Kawakami, Tammie-Rae Keeler, Kenneth Kieffer, Chong Kim, Chongho James Kim, Churl Kim, Jane H Kim, Kwang-il kim, Moonsook Kim, Namsuk Kim, Steve Kim, Suhee Kim, Sungchan Kim, Tom Kim, Younghoon Kim, YoungJu Kim, Yountae Kim, Gloria King, Jack King, Victoria Kittoe, Robert Knebel, Steve Knutsen, Sandy Koppmann, Margaret Laemmel, Sara Lamar-Sterling, Bruce Lamb, Mary Langley, Wayne Lavender, Dorlimar, Lydia Lebrón-Rivera, Dai Hoon Lee, John Lee, Jongbum Lee, Leo Lee, Roslyn Lee, Samuel J. Lee, Sun Joo Lee, Sungmu Lee, Won Tack Lee, YongBo Lee, YongYeun Lee, Robert Leibold, Phyllis Leopold, Donna LeRoy, Christine Lindeberg, Pearlana Lobban, Bernadette Logan, Halley Low, Kirk Lyons, Tom MacLeod, Sandra Mantz, Barbara Marks, Lea Matthews, Paul Meador, Tony Mecca, Ralph Merante, Kathleen Meyerson, James Midgley, Arletha Miles-Boyce, Lori Miller, Robert Milsom, Wendy Modeste, Karen Monk, James Moore, Jose Mora, Ann Morgan, Harold Morris, Jennifer Morrow, Marvin Moss, Delroy Murdock, Gertude Nation, Nelson Ngoy, Willard Nichols, Maxine Nixon, Marjorie Nunes, Dora J. Odarenko, Melanie Ollett, Douglas Osgood, Elizabeth Ott, Gene Ott, Wendy Paige, Constance Pak, John Parille, Hyoungkyu Park, Luke Park,

Julie Faith Parker, Iwy Patel-Yatri, Valerie Paul-Greenaway, Crystal Paul-Watson, Steven Peiffer, Sharon Petgrave-Cundy, William Pfohl, Narcisse Philips, Joseph Piccirillo, Denise Pickett, Allen Pinckney, David Piscatelli, Sharon Pizzo, Parker Prout, Matthew Querns, Morais Quissico, Jason Radmacher, Erik Rasmussen, Angela M Redman, Darlene Resling, Kathleen Reynolds, Timothy Riss, Hector Rivera, Rubin Rivera Martinez, Annette Rodriguez, John Roy, Ken Ruge, Charles Ryu, St Clair Samuel, Debbie San Pablo, Siobhan Sargent, Peggy Ann Sauerhoff, A. Finley Schaef, Matt Schaeffer, Barbara Schaffer, Laurel Scott, Maria-Pia Seirup, John Senkewich, Bill Shillady, Seungho Shin, John Simmons Jr., Heather Sinclair, Carrie Smallwood, William Smartt, Denise Smartt Sears, Paul Smith, Bonnie Snyder, Bette Sohm, Milagros Solorzano, Althea Spencer-Miller, Jody Spiak, Karin Squires, Wendy Steed, Dee Stevens, Jim Stinson, Cecil Stone, YangHee Christine Stopka, Ian Straker, Jennifer Stultz, Scott Summerville, Alpher Sylvester, Rhonda R. Taylor, Kent Terchunian, Heidi Thomas, John Thomason, Robert Thompson-Gee, Ross Topliff, Joseph Upole, Marva Usher-Kerr, Joanne Utley, Chuck Van Houten, James Van Schaick, Ximena (Varas) Diaz, James Veatch, Tom Vencuss, Elisa M Vicioso, Martha E Vink, Stephen Volpe, Robert Walker, Kirtland Watkins, Jeffrey Wells, William Wendler, Traci West, Marcia White-Smith, Linda Willey, John Williams, Julia Winward, John Wood, Claire Wu, Joseph Yang, MinSeok Yang, Enock Yatri, Julia Yeon Hee Yim, Ben Yoo, Hyoungdock Yoo, Christopher Yount, Moshing Yuen, Charlie Yun

CLERGY (NON-MEMBERS)

Onick Bouquet, Egan Bovell, Daniel Cho, Micah Coleman Campbell, Hector Custodio, Ginny Esposito, Bervely Furey, Nelson Garcia, George Hart, Chang Jeong, Kelvin Jones, Joycalyn Jordan, Jae Hyun Kim, Enrique Lebrón, Paul Moller, Arnaldo Sanchez Orta, Cathy Schuyler, Lee Stowe, Elon Sylvester, Yoko Ueda, John Young

LAY MEMBERS

Janice Allen, Karen Allen, Nancy Allen, Randy Alstadt, Joe Andreana, Patricia Archibald, Rebecca Asedillo, Laura Ashby, Daniel Asibuoh Sarpong, Lauriston Avery, Lisa Badore, Jeanette Baker, Doug Barry, Anna L Bates, Joseph Baumgartner, Patricia Bayette, Mary Ann Becraft, Nancy Beisler, Ralph Beisler, Marie Bell, Dianne Benincasa, Dorothee Benz, Bruce Besio, Martha Bishop, Edward Bjork, Susan Blanchard, Monique Blount, Patsy Boisvert, Kery Borchardt, Felicia Bovell, Chalene Brauns-Schindler, Robin Brennan, Mary Brevigleiri, Frederick Brewington, Cheryl Brown, Elaine Bryan, Diane Burkhardt, Michael Butler, Sue Bynum, Beth Capen, Sarah Capers, Debbie Capristo, Dorothea Carson, Ursula Carter, Lois Chenkus, Marla Chisholm, Lois Ciccarelli, George Clark, Margaret Clegg, Deborah J Clifford, Jane Coleman, Sharon Coyner, Mary Crayton-Johnson, Cookie Cross, Al Curtis, Frank Damiano, Margaret Damiano, Mark Davies, Yuka Day, Keisha De Souza, Rosemary Decatur, Samuel Deibler, Marcia Demos, Paul Dengler, Steve Derby, Michele Dexter, Johanny Dickson, Myra Dixon, John Donlon, Cora Doram, Patricia A Doty, Linda Douglas Smith, John Downs, Michele Duggan, Fred Dymek, Dianne Edgerton-Norman, Shelley Eggleton, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Hon Eng, Janet English, Jeff English, Gail Erdie, Jerry Eyster, Nancy Fogg, Tiffany French, Veronica Fulmore-Darby, Sandra Gardinier, Alan Garman, Albert Gayle, Susan Gill, Chan Gillham, John Girschbach, Joseph Gordon, Holly Beth Gorenbergh, Cynthia Grant, Ethel Grant, Carmen Hamilton, Jona Hamilton, Robert Hancock, Jr., Alfred Hanson, Margaret Hanson, Jennifer Harmer, Anthony Harris, Wanda Harris,

Shirley Harrison, Paul Hatch, Diane Hatton, Les Hazelton, Virginia Herbert, Denise Hermon, John Hogarth, Pam Hogarth, Patricia Holder, Diane Hornaday, Karen Hudson, Bonnie Hyatt, Melissa Ives, Denise Jakaitis, Peggy Jerrell, Susan Kalbaugh, Jeanne King, Scott King, Beverley Kirby, Eugene Knoth, Mary Ellen Kris, David Kullgren, Judith Lang, Paul Lang, Lorraine Leak, Heather Leiterman-Su, Susan Levenberg, Sarah Lilly, Fred Lindlaw, Roena Littlejohn, Judith S Loukides, George Love, Rebecca Lowe, John Luck, Basil Mahoney, Maria Maine, Karen Mallgraf, Ruth Manners, Myla Martin, Barbara Mason, Robert Mayette, Cathy McDonough, Judith McRae, Zuhairah McRae, Bruce Meighan, Linda Mellor, Venus Mendez, Marilyn Mendez-Gonzalez, Melodye Merola, Linda Mesuda, Crystal Middleton, Jeremy Mills, Tracy Moore, Sandra Morgan, Dawn Mudry, Louise Mueller, Judy A Muhleman, Charity Mutasa, Caroline Nanton, Benjamin Nelson, Keven Nelson, Arthur Ng, Harold Niver, Patricia Niver, Elizabeth O'Brien, Holly O'Brien, Ohio Oni-Eseleh, Andrea Owen-Boyd, Pamela Pardee, Ryan Pennant, Daniel Pettit, Joshua Pfohl, Dezlin Pitt, Emily Pope, Eric Pottinger, Angela Pratt-Barrett, Chuan Qin, Katie Reimer, Diane Richon, Doris Richter, Robbie Robinson, Charles Samson, Pauline Schreier, Kaye Schrock, Barry Seeman, Eric Shirley, David Sigworth, Pat Silva, Jay Silvester, Robert Silz, Delbert Singleton, Claris Skerritt, Helen Smith, Catherine Snook, Candice Spears, Anita M. Stabler-Hussey, John Stanforth, Barbara Stinson, Michael Stisi, Barbara Stone, Nancy Strickland, Michelle Stuart, Marjorie Suttle, Daisy Tavarez, Marianne D. Terchunian, Susan Thayer, Linda Thompson, Paul Thompson, Mitchell Underwood, Sal Vaccaro, Leslie Vachon, Dale Van Etten, Mary VanSteenburg, Antoinette Vessey, Carol Ann Voeks, Katarina Von Kuhn, Richard Wade, Jane Wakeman, Ruth Warfield, Paul Weisman, Pamela Wetherbee, Jacquelyn White-Garman, Erastus Wieh, Robert Woo, Robert S. Wood

STAFF/MUSICIANS

Jasmine Albert, Brooke Bradley, Beverly Early, Barbara K. Eastman, Janelle Gayle, Margaret Howe, Ellen Knudsen, Larry Macdonald, Amiyrá Mason, Lawrence McCaughey, Debbie Mecca, Carol Merante, Diana Moore, Mariyam Muhammad, Cassandra Negri, Erika Panzarino, Stephanie Parsons, Beth Patkus, Jerome Roberts, Joseph Roberts, Nikki Rose, Daniel Servelli, Raymond Trapp, Moises Varas, Arslly Vasquez, Ian Wharton, Ross Williams, Karen Yostpille

VISITORS/GUESTS

Benjamin Abankwa, Mary Agostino, Shigeko Akimoto, Grace Akinbode, Jennifer Alexander, George Ansa, Marilou Arendt, Douglas Ashbrook, Curtis Au, Rebecca Baker, Joseph Baldwin, Lorna Baptiste, Kenneth Barr, Merle Bartley, Bud Behlman, Jo Ann Behlman, Marcia Bent, Akilah Bixler, Brooke Bixler, Marcia Blake-Davey, Alexander Boakye Ansa, A.J. Bosco, Jeff Boyce, Minnie Brandon, Thomas Brennan, Carolyn Browender, Kent Brown, Mickey Brown, John Brubaker, Rhonda Brubaker, Grace Bryant, Ben Caldwell, Mary Calhoun, Maggie Carr, Wayne Carty, Marvin Chandler, Mary Cheng, Sue Cirillo, Victoria Clark, Wayne Coleman, Kiren Coleman Campbell, Karen Collins, Wendy Cooper, Anne Corneck, Joan Cox, Theodora M. Cross, Doris Crowder, Sharon Cutts, Carol D'Amico-Cinetti, Judith Darak, Marlene Davis, John Detzel, Rebecca DeWeese, Eulogia Diaz, Willie Dixon, Beverly Downing, Paul Downing, Eileen Doyle, Robbie Dulaney, Patricia Dymek, Nikki Edleman, E. Patricia Eshun, Bennie Ewoodzie, Lisa Farrell, Rebecca Ferguson, Isaiah Fish, Tom Fisher, William Flipse Jr, Charlene Floyd, Jessie Floyd, Jane Freeman, John Fritz, Yeram Fuentes-Rodriguez, Marilyn Fuller,

Diane Giughiano, Jo Goodson, John Gouthier, Janet Griebert, Peggy Griffin-Jackman, Naiya Haggood, Denise Hamilton, Rick Hanse Sr., Stanley Hartman, Jeffrey Hassel, William Hayden, Peter Hoernes, Jim Hohenstein, Elaine Holder, Christie House, Gregory Hullstrung, Lynn Iredell, Sharon Jenkins, Hal Johansen, Linda Johansen, Julie Johns, Jenna Johnson, Cleolene Jones, JoAnne Jones, Richard Jones, Harry Karpen, Linda Kenneson, Heather Kent, Nancy Kenworthy, Kyung Ok Kim, Jan King, William King, Don Kirby, Paul Kozlowski, Tim Krauss, Jackie Landler, Stella Law, Carol Lee, Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, Danielle Levine, Canny C Lin, Daryl Lindholm, Everette Linton, Aldith Llewellyn, Jorge Lockward, Elisa Lundy, Susan Maddox, Christine Mahoney, Benita Malloy, Donald McCann, Michael McClelland, Nancy McClelland, Vana McClure, Hazel McIntosh, Iris Mead, Joan Meade, Douglas Medlor, Nicole Meeker, James Melchiorre, Nancy C Meyers, Alicia Miller Pitterson, Jorge Montanez, Daniel Mpoyo, Rynn Naylor, Lily Ng, Deborah Odell, Carol Osgood, Henry Owen, Pollyann Owne, Sharon Palatucci, Hea Young Park, Sheryl Parkinson, Sheila Peiffer, Angela Perez, Martha Peterson, Robert Pollsen, Karen Prudente, John Putorti, Patricia Ramsey, Donald Reasoner, Leslie Reyman, Priscilla Rivera, Yvonne Rivera, Marilyn Robinson, Jessica Rodriguez-Colon, Sharon Roth, Susan Samuel, John San Pablo, Cindy Savoie, Nancy E.K. Schaefer, Carol Scott, Karen Seyfert, Doris Sharp, Renata Smith, Glenn Sohm, Andre Spears, Terry Spencer, Mark Stafford, Mary Stoppenbach, Claude Stuart, James Stuhlman, Stacy Suttle, Mark Tacinelli, John Tiedeman, Gail Tilton, Amy Tompkins, Julia Tulloch, Nancy Tumey, Susan Ulrich, Astor Val-Hackett, Laura Veatch, Wendy Vencuss, Becky Virgalla, Bob Virgalla, Marilyn Wakefield, Rosemarie Walker, Rashid Warner, Doc Watson, Jolaine Watson, Mara Weed, George Weiss, Kathy Weiss, Clement Westney, Dorothy Wienecke, David Wildman, Cherry Williams, Nancy Williams, Cecille Wilson, Clyde Wint, Margaret Wise, Mei Po Wong, Doreen Wood, Elaine Wood, Marilyn Wymabn, Aya Yabe-Duruz, Yang Yang

Press: Lana Bellamy, Times-Herald Record; Linda Bloom, United Methodist News Service

CLERGY MEMBERS EXCUSED

Anne Annin, Ken Bohler, Linda Bohs, Barbara Brand James, Adrienne Brewington, Gennifer Brooks, Leonard Buxton, Virginia Carle, Bruce Carlson, Susan Chadwick, Trudy Codd, Eleanor Cresson, Jody Cross-Hansen, Steed Davidson, Jim Davis, Mark DelGiudice, Leslie Duroseau, Gordon Edwards, John Esposito, Chuck Ferrara, Vicky Flemming, Sara Goold, Ivan (Toby) Gould, Walter Haff, Phil Hardt, Timothy Hare, Richard Hayes, Lynn Hazel, Arthur Hewitt, KP Hong, Ed Horne, David Jefferson, Elizabeth Jones, Mark Kim, Donald Kimmelman, Chermain Lashley, Simeon Law, Bridgette LeConey, Michelle Lewis, Skip L'Heureux, David Lull, barbara Meltzer, Jung Ung Moon, Beverly Morris, Liz Mortlock, Margaret Mouzon, Sung Moy, Kevin Mulqueen, Sandra Myers, Gerald Norris, Bobby Outteron-Murphy, Austin Park, Anne Pearson, Andrew Peck-McClain, Emily Peck-McClain, Terry Pfeiffer, Luonne Rouse, Jordan Scruggs, Susan Stallings, Linda Stein, Wes Villezon, Joyce Wilkerson, Christopher Yi

LAY MEMBERS EXCUSED

Denise Bethel, Anne Craig, Lyle Cubberly, Gail Douglas-Boykin, Myong-Cha Ferrara, Michael Fram, Robert Hale, Omar Hall, Linda Mandracchion, Bobby Pinckney

A-2 ROLL CALL — JUNE 6-9, 2019 SESSION

CLERGY MEMBERS

Angel Abakah, Elizabeth Abel, Glenn Adone, Ebenezer Aduku, Soon Ahn, Gabriel Akinbode, Denise Allen, Mark Allen, Richard E. Allen, Richard N. Allen, Esther Amartey-Amarh, Jessica Anschutz, Bruce A Anspach, Samuel A. Arhin, Dale Ashby, Daniel Asibuoh-Sarpong, David Ball, Oliverio Barrera, Delores Barrett, Michael Barry, Lynda Bates-Stepe, Stephen Bauman, Sheila Beckford, Stefanie Bennett, Caroline Berninger, Jennifer Berry, Akilah Bixler, Carol Bloom, John Blossom, Brian Bodt, Kenneth Bohler, Melvin Boone, Kim Bosley, Lisa Bosworth, Onick Bouquet, Egan Bovell, Melissa Boyer, Elizabeth Braddon, Tisha Branch, John Brandon, Adrienne Brewington, Gennifer Brooks, Mendis Brown, Karen Burger, John Capen, Thomas P. Carney, Jacqueline Carter, Johnny Ceasar, Sejin Cha, Noel Chin, Kun Sam Cho, Young Chuel Cho, Dong Hyun Choi, Oon Choi, Young Choi, Steve Chu, Inkoo Chung, Patricia Chuppe, Susan Chupungco, David Clegg, Deborah J Clifford, Michael Cobb, Ken Coddington, John Cole, David Collins, Karen Cook, Dyanne Corey, Mickey Correa, Janet Cox, Dorothea Crites, Joseph Crockett, Bronco H. Crooke, Doug Cunningham, Leo Curry, Matthew Curry, Hector Custodio, David Czeisel, Alex da Silva Souto, Doris Dalton, T Anne Daniel, Wesley Daniel, Hermon Darden, Eileen Daunt, Arlene Dawber, R.Randy Day, Ed Dayton, Lorraine De Armitt, Jacob Dharmaraj, Kathryn Dickinson, Cynthia Dodd, Prince Donkor, Scharlise Dorsey, Carol Downs, Larry Dunlap, Leslie Duroseau, Nikki Edleman, Gordon A R Edwards, Richard Edwards, Karen Eiler, Robert Emerick, Martha Epstein, Stephen Ernst, Jacob Eun, Joseph Ewoodzie, Peggy Fabrizio, Karina Feliz, Charles Ferrara, Carlos Figueroa, Eric Fjeldal, Paul Fleck, Vicky Fleming, Vicki Flippin, Rebekah Forni, Carl Franson, Eileen Freeman, Kregg Gabor, Penny Gadzini, Laura Galbraith, Lee Gangaware, Rafael Garcia, Herron Keyon Gaston, Michael Gebhard, John Gerlach, Cathy Gilliard, David Gilmore, Sara Giron-Ortiz, Tom Goodhue, Sara Goold, Esau Greene, Kai Greer, Robert Grimm, Roy Grubbs, Walter Haff, Emily Hall, Gia Hall, Hugh Hamilton, Mareta Hamre, Lydia Han, Richard L Hanse, Kristina Hansen, Philip Hardt, Lori Hartman, Richard Hayes, Lynn Hazel, Adeline Hazzard, Huibing He, Huibing He, David Henry, Lillian Hertel, Robert Hewitt, Peola Hicks, Gregory Higgins, Melissa Hinnen, Kevan Hitch, Janet Hodge, Beverly Hodges-Fairweather, Seung Hong, Jeffrey L. Hooker, Margaret Schramm Horn, Edward Horne, Marion Hubbard, Vera Isaacs, Akio Iyoda, Fredric Jackson, Kent Jackson, Roger Jackson, Roy E. Jacobsen, Michael Jenkins, Sonia Jermin, Wongee Joh, Dorett Johnson-Agu, Cedric Johnson, Sabrina Johnson Chandler, David Jolly, Kwangwon Jung, David Kang, Miyeong Kang, K Karpen, Mel Kawakami, Tammie-Rae Keeler, Kenneth Kieffer, Chong Kim, Chongho James Kim, Churl Kim, Jane Kim, Jay Kim, Jin Kim, Jinwoo Kim, Kwang-il kim, Moonsook Kim, Steve Kim, Steven Kim, Suhee Kim, Sungchan Kim, Tom Kim, Younghoon Kim, Gloria King, Jack King, Victoria Kittoe, Robert Knebel, Eugene Knoth, Steven Knutsen, Cecile Koppmann, Margaret Laemmel, Sara Lamar-Sterling, Bruce Lamb, Chermain Lashley, Wayne Lavender, James Law, Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé, Lydia Lebrón-Rivera, Bridgette LeConey, Dai Lee, John Lee, Jongbum Lee, Roslyn Lee, Samuel J. Lee, Simon Lee, Sun Joo Lee, Sungmu Lee, Won Tack Lee, YongBo Lee, Yongyeun Lee, Robert Leibold, Phyllis J. Leopold, Donna LeRoy, Christine Lindeberg, Bernadette Logan, Hal Low, Kirk Lyons, Thomas Macleod, Douglas Madlon, George Mangan, David Mantz, Sandra Mantz, Lea Matthews,

George McClain, Paul Meador, Anthony Mecca, Ralph Merante, Kathleen Meyerson, James Midgley, Arletha (Lisa) Miles-Boyce, Clayton Miller, Lori Miller, Robert Milsom, Wendy Modeste, Karen Monk, Jung Moon, James Moore, Jose Mora-Gil, Ann Morgan, Harold Morris, MaryBeverly Morris, Dorothy Morris, Marvin Moss, Patricia Mott-Intermaggio, Kevin Mulqueen, Delroy Murdock, Gertude V Nation, Will Nichols, Maxine Nixon, Marjorie Nunes, Dora J. Odarenko, Melanie Ollett, Douglas Osgood, Betsy Ott, Gene Ott, Randy Paige, Wendy Paige, Constance Pak, Austin Park, Hyoungkyu Park, Luke Park, Iwy Patel-Yatri, Crystal Paul-Watson, Andrew Peck-McClain, Emily Peck-McClain, Steven Peiffer, Zhaodeng Peng, Patrick Perrin, Sharon Petgrave-Cundy, William Pfohl, Narcisse Philips, Jennifer Pick, Todd Pick, Denise Pickett, Allen N. Pinckney, David Piscatelli, Sharon Pizzo, Shari Ponder, Parker Prout, Matthew Querns, Morais Quissico, Jason Radmacher, Erik Rasmussen, Angela Redman, Darlene Resling, Kathleen Reynolds, Timothy Riss, Hector Rivera, John Roy, Agnes C. Saffoury, St. Clair Samuel, Debra San Pablo, Siobhan Sargent, Peggy Ann Sauerhoff, Matt Schaeffer, Jerri Schwarz, Laurel Scott, Jordan Scruggs, Maria Pia Seirup, John Senkewich, Bill Shillady, Seungho Shin, John Simmons Jr, Robert Simpson, Heather Sinclair, Carrie Smallwood, William Smartt, Denise Smartt Sears, Andrea Smith, Paul Smith, Bette Sohm, Milagros Solorzano, Michael Sparrow, Jody Spiak, Karin Squires, James Stinson, Cecil Stone, YangHee Christine Stopka, Lee Stowe, Ian Straker, Jennifer Stultz, Alpher Sylvester, Elon Sylvester, Rhonda Taylor, Kent Terchunian, Heidi Thomas, John Thomason, Robert Thompson-Gee, Ross Topliff, Godfrey Uche, Joseph Upole, Marva Usher-Kerr, Joanne Utley, Chuck Van Houten, James Van Schaick, Ximena (Varas) Diaz, James Veatch, Tom Vencuss, Elisa M. Vicioso, Martha E Vink, Stephen Volpe, Robert Walker, Kirtland Watkins, Derrick Watson, Jeff Wells, William Wendler, Marcia White-Smith, Linda Willey, Claire Wu, Min Seok Yang, Seung Kwon Yang, Julia YeonHee Yim, Ben Yoo, Hyoungdock Yoo, Christopher Yount, Charlie Yun

CLERGY NON-MEMBERS

Hyunduk Choi, John Esposito, Nelson Garcia, Chang Jeong, Kelvin Jones, Joycalyn Jordan, Dong Kim, Jae Hyun Kim, Enrique Lebrón, Nelson Ngoy, Bobby Outtersom-Murphy, Valerie Paul, Ruben Rivera-Martinez, Annette Rodriguez, Arnaldo Sanchez, Catherine Schuyler, John Young

LAY MEMBERS

Benjamin Abankwah, Greg Adams, Sydney Alexander, Betsy Allen, Janice Allen, Karen Allen, Nancy Allen, Stephen Allen, Randy Altstadt, Beverly Anderson, Claudia Anderson, Joe Andreana, George Ansah, Patricia Archibald, Gary Armstead, Douglas Ashbrook, Laura Ashby, Gilberto Atkinson, Lauriston Avery, Lisa Badore, Jeanette Baker, Christine Baptiste-McCalla, Douglas Barry, Anna Bates, Robert Batson, Joseph Baumgartner, Patricia Bayette, Mary Ann Becraft, Nancy Beisler, Ralph Beisler, Howard Bell, Marie Bell, Dianne Benincasa, Dorothee Benz, Iris Berry, Edward Bjork, Phillipa Blake, Monique Blount, Patsy Boisvert, Shirley Bollin, Kerry Borchardt, Cecelia Boswell, Felicia Bovell, Charlene Brauns-Schindler, Frederick Brewington, Elaine Bryan, Diane Burkhardt, Michael Butler, Amelia Byer, Susan Bynum, Donna Campbell, Beth Capen, Sarah Capers, Debbie Capristo, Sharon Carley, Dorothea Carson, Ursula Carter, Wayne Carty, Dennis Castiglia, Lois Chenkus, Marla Chisholm, Margaret Clegg, Donna Coddington, Leeann Coffin, Jane Coleman, Frank Contrera, Glenn Cooper, Sharon Coyner, Ann Craig,

Mary Crayton-Johnson, Theodora M. Cross, Billy Crowder, Alfred Curtis, Stephanie Curtiss, Frank Damiano, Peggy Damiano, Mark Davies, Yukari Day, Patty Dayton, Keisha De Souza, Samuel Deibler, Debra Demeritt, Marcia Demos, Paul Dengler, Jane Depaolo, Angella Depass, Steve Derby, Michele Dexter, Eulogia Diaz, Olga Diaz, Johanny Dickson, Junior Dixon, Marcia Dixon, Myra Dixon, Susan Dolce, John Donlon, Cora Doram, Patricia Doty, Gail Douglas-Boykin, Linda Douglas-Smith, John Downs, Colleen Dresser, George Dresser, Michele Duggan, Fred Dymek, Dianne Edgerton-Norman, Hon Eng, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Janet English, Jeff English, Gail Erdie, Jennifer Esposito, Jerry Eyster, Myong-Cha Ferrara, Meredith Fichtel, William Flipse Jr, Dorothy J. Flournoy, Nancy Fogg, Tiffany French Goffe, Veronica Fulmore-Darby, Antonia Galdamez, Betty Gannon, Sue Gannon, Sandra Gardinier, Alan Garman, Betty Gastelua, Danny Gastelua, Susan Gill, Chan Gillham, John Girrbach, Anthony Gittens, Diane Giugliano, Cindy Glover, Gale Godwin, Gary Gomes, Holly Beth Gorenbergh, Cynthia Grant, Ethel Grant, Janet Griebert, Gina Grubbs, Rebecca Grudzina, Megan Hale, Joanne Hall, Malcolm Hall, Denise Hamilton, Dorothy Hamilton, Carmen Hamilton, Robert Hancock, Jr., Horace Hanniford, Kathy Hanse, Patricia Hansen, Alfred Hanson, Margaret Hanson, Jennifer Harmer, Anthony Harris, Faye Harris, Shirley Harrison, Paul Hatch, Diane Hatton, Janet Heaney, Denise Herman, Gwendolyn Higgins, Cassandra Hinnen, Patricia Holder, Diane Hornaday, Margaret Howe, Karen Hudson, Robert Hunsinger, Kimberly Huppert, Bonnie Hyatt, Melissa Ives, Lori Janson, Peggy Jerrell, Cynthia Johnson, Les Johnson, Harriet Jonquiere, Susan Kalbaugh, Jacqueline Kayata, Arlene Kelly, Jaewon Kim, Thea Kindos, Janet King, William King, Beverly Kirby, Mary Ellen Kris, Catherine Kubik, David Kullgren, Jenny Lambert, Judith Lang, Paul Lang, Frances Langley, Joan Langton, Traci Larson, Lorraine Leak, Donald Lee, Sanghyub Lee, Sung-Ok Lee, Susan Levenberg, Evana Lewis, Robert Lewis, Sarah Lilly, Fred Lindlaw, Roena Littlejohn, Gladis I. Lobato, Linda Loglisci, Judith Loukides, George Love, Rebecca Lowe, John Luck, Kit Mace, Ed Mackey, Basil Mahoney, Maria Maine, Karen Mallgraf, Linda Mandracchia, Evangeline Manjares, Hope D Mann, Ruth Manners, Sharon Martelack, Myla Martin, Robert Mayette, Catherine Mcdonough, Judith Mcrae, Zuhairah Mcrae, Joan Meade, Leonard Mecca, Bruce Meighan, Ken Mello, Melodye Merola, Derek Miller, Sylvia Miller, Jeremy Mills, Marquette Moore, Tracy Moore, Sandra Morgan, Dawn Mudry, Louise Mueller, Caroline Nanton, Benjamin Nelson, Samuel Newman, Patricia Newton, Arthur Ng, Richard Nicodemus, Harold Niver, Patricia Niver, Daryl Norman, Jaime Novesteras, Sarah O'Brien, Francis Okwan, Alice Olosunde, Ohio Oni-Eseleh, Sarah Outterson-Murphy, Andrea Owen-Boyd, Pamela Pardee, Hemlata S. Parmar, Anita Pavels, Ryan Pennant, Christina Pershing, Ingrid Peters, Daniel Pettit, Sally Pike, Dezlin Pitt, Emily Pope, Eric Pottinger, Angela Pratt, Zamzam Quraishy, Raymond J. Ramezzana Jr., Patricia Ramsey-Harewood, Wayne Redman, Katie Reimer, Majorie Richards, Diane Richon, Doris Richter, Lyle Robertson, Robbie Robinson, Sharon Roth, Amy Royal, Kevin Rushlo, Marion Sachdeva, Frank Sarpong, Esther Saud, Pauline Schreier, Kathleen Schrock, Barry Seeman, Anthony Sellers, Virginia Shaw, Eric Shirley, Vanesta Shoy, Patricia Silva, Jay Silvester, Robert Silz, Sandra Skyers, Scott Slobodnyak, Helen Smith, Andre Spears, Candice Spears, Anita M Stabler-Hussey, John Stanforth, Michelle Stanley, Barbara Stinson, Michael Stisi, Barbara Stone, Michelle Stuart, Heather Su, Kristina Sumpter, Daisy Tavarez, Lamont Taylor, Joyce Teed, Marianne Terchunian, Susan Thayer, Linda Thompson, Diane Timmoney, Patricia Tripp, Joan Ubertini, Mitchell Underwood, Leslie Vachon, Dale Van Etten, Antoinette Vessey, Carol Ann Voeks, Richard Wade, Jane Wakeman, Gino Warasila, Ruth Warfield, Rashid Warner, Doc Watson,

Paul Weisman, Richard Wells, Clement Westney, Pamela Wetherbee, Jacquelyn White-Garman, Erastus Wieh, Cecelia Williams, Ross Williams, James Willis, Christopher Wilson, Mei-Po Wong, Robert Wood, Cynthia Wright

STAFF/MUSICIANS

Jasmine Albert, Susan Allard, Richard Becker, Pamela Bowe-Tabbs, Brooke Bradley, Francine Collins, Trudy Creary, Cara Jaye Dekelbaum, Beverly Early, Barbara Eastman, Caitlin Featherstone, Janelle Gayle, Skye Hamilton-Carranza, Tymera Jackson, Alexandra Johnson, Gail Kamerman, Larry Macdonald, Carolyn L. Mc Nair, Lawrence McGaughey, Debbie Mecca, Linda Mellor, Carol Merante, Diana Moore, Mariyam Muhammad, Cassandra Negri, Sharon Palatucci, Erika Panzarino, Stephanie Parsons, Beth Patkus, Jerome Roberts, Joseph Roberts, Nikki Rose, Daniel Servelli, Ann Shifman-Deibler, Glenn Sohm, Raymond Trapp, Sally Truglia, Moises Varas, Susana Vasquez Uribe, Wendy Vencuss, Jason Vitelli, Judy Walters, Ian Wharton, David White, Jill Wilson, Karen Yostpille

VISITORS/GUESTS

Grace Akinbode, Sharon Austin, Ekow Banson, Celeste Bernhardt, Sharon Betts, Thomas Bickerton, Marcia Blake-Davey, Catherine Bogert, Jefferson Boyce, Minnie Brandon, Michelle Bromfield, Stephane Brooks, Jack Brunt, Rachel Brunt, Sue Cirillo, WillieLee Cooper, John Detzel, Glory Dharmaraj, Willie Dixon, Robbie Dulaney, Mavis English, Nathalie Ernst, John Fritz, Laurie Gagne, Carol Galloway, Polly Gangaware, Cedric Gayle, Joseph Gordon, Donna Graham, Paul Hamann, Gloria Harris, Stanley Hartman, Janice Holleny, Janice Holleny, Lynn Iredell, JoAnne Jones, Donald Kirby, Ellen Knudsen, Gloria Laemmel, Joseph Lalanne, Stella Law, Daniel Levine, Jun Lim, Shirley Luck, Hazel Mc Intosh, Margaret McLeod-Graham, Christian Menzi, Alicia Miller Pitterson, Joan Murray, Soleh Nagbe-Greene, Elizabeth O'Brien, Carol Osgood, May Ott, Rebecca Parsons, Sheila Peiffer, Angela Perez, RoseMarie Perry, Hannah Reasoner, Leslie Reyman, Yvonne Rivera, Ximena Ruales, Cindy Savoie, Patricia A. Sawyerr, Dalila Seixas, Claris Skerritt, Okeema Smith, Peter Snell, Giselle Stanley, Claude Stuart, Maria Sultana, Mark Tacinelli, Dorothy Townsend, Leola Uche, Laura Veatch, Marisa Villarreal, Barbara Whitlow

CLERGY MEMBERS EXCUSED

Code: T- Thursday, F – Friday, Sa – Saturday, Su – Sunday

Romana Abelova; Jessica Anschutz: F; Brain Bodt: Sa, Su; Anne Bracket; Tisha Branch: Th; John Calhoun; Bruce Carlson; Jody Cross-Hansen; Steed Davidson; James Davis; Mark DelGiudice; Frank Denton; Cheryl Driscoll; Walter Everett; Walter Everett; Penny Gadzini: Su; William Hagerty; Albert Hahn; Juhye Hahn; Roy Hassel; Arthur Hewitt; Seung Jin Hong; John Horesco; David Jefferson; Sonia Jermin: Th; Elizabeth Jones; Mark Kim; Yountae Kim; Mary Langley; Simion Law; Michelle Lewis; Kathleen Loughlin; David Lull; Victoria Luna; Walter Mellerop; Barbara Melzer; Anne Morgan: Th; Jennifer Morrow; Elizabeth Mortlock; Sung Moy; Ralph Mueckenheim; Howard Newton; Gerald Norris ; Carmen Ortiz; John Parille: Sa, Su; Woo Young Park; Joseph Picarillo; Robert Reines; Kenneth Ruge; Gunshik Shim; Susan Outlaw Stallings; Dee Stevens; John Thomason: Su; Russell Waldmann; Pauline Wardell-Sankoh; Joseph Washinton; Ruth Widmann; Joyce Wilkerson; Enock Yatri; Christopher Yi

LAY MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mary Breviglieri, Jeanne Christiana, Elizabeth Cross, Lyle Cubberly, Shelley Eggleton, Sandra Flynn, Robert Hale, Christine Hoff, Denise Jakaitis, Debb Judisky, Lillian Leary, Minelis Acevedo Lopez, Marilyn Mendez-Gonzalez, Margaret Mouzon, Holly O'Brien, Bobby Pinckney, Paul Thompson

**B-1. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

March 16, 2019

Pathways & Possibilities – Journeying Together

**The Performing Arts Center
Purchase College, Purchase, NY**

**Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop, New York Area, Presiding**

OPENING

Gathering music began at 9:30am.

Words of Welcome Bishop welcomed us and shared that he wanted to make sure that we had a time to be in the same place at the same time to hear the same thing so that we all understand. NO motions, No decisions will be made. This will be a time for information and conversation. Statements will be made and decisions made that we will all have a choice. This will be a tight day because we need to vacate by 3pm and not all questions might be addressed. But we will have time in the coming days about direction and discernment. I would encourage all of you to just breathe.

Today's meeting is just a kick off of conversation that will initiate conversations in weeks to come.

Call to Worship – led by Rev. Kristina Hansen

Opening Hymn – “Creator of the Intertwined”

Prayer for Illumination – led by Rev. Tim Riss

Psalm Reading – 121, Assurance of God's Protection –
Read by Rev. Alex da Silva Souto

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:13-31

SERMON – BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON

I. One of the interesting facets of scripture is that it not only provides a picture of the ideal with words of hope and inspiration, it also speaks out of a particular context that gave rise to those words being thought of, inspired by God, and ultimately spoken.

One of those clear places where an event in history gave rise to certain words being spoken is Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Ancient Corinth was a place of diversity of

thought and action. It was kind of the Las Vegas of the ancient world. It was a city noted for sexual promiscuity and great discord. And, true to form, the new church that emerged there was also filled with conflict and confusion. There were fights among people who thought that they should be the leaders, issues of incest, prostitution, idolatry, chaos in worship, individualism, and “my way or no way” determinism. You name it, Corinth had it. It was not a place of peace and harmony.

In the midst of this mess, the Apostle Paul spoke out. He founded the church there and cared deeply for the people. His hope was that the people could find a way together so that the gospel could be spread to the people. The beautiful words about the connectedness of the body that I read to you from I Corinthians 12 were not the reality of life in Corinth. Instead, they were the words of hope that Paul longed for among the people of Corinth. They were reminders, words of encouragement, a goal to shoot for. They were stated in the midst of great division and dissension.

They were the model, the ideal, the hoped-for outcome that, with God’s help, might somehow become the reality. Listen to the concepts Paul spoke about:

- We were all baptized into one body and made to drink of one Spirit.
- The body is not one idea but many.
- Everyone’s gifts are valued.
- There are many members but one body.
- We need each other.
- God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.
- If one member suffers, all suffer together with it.
- You are the body of Christ.
- There are varieties of gifts and not everyone has all that it takes to make the body of Christ function.
- Strive the greater gifts and I will show you a better way than how you are currently living.

These are great words for us. Needed words for us. But, like Corinth, they are not words of reality. Instead, they are aspirational words of what a true beloved community can and show look like.

II. When I was in Junior High, I grew six inches between my 8th & 9th grade years. I became tall, lanky, and very uncoordinated. I always had an aspiration to play sports but because of my rather late and sudden growth spurt, I was not a good athlete. But I wanted to be.

One day in gym class, I was trying to prove to myself and to everyone else that I could play basketball. In a slick move, I stole the ball off of the opposing player and began to drive the ball to the basket. But, about halfway there I bounced the ball off of my growing feet, leaving me in a mad scramble with the opposing player for the ball. When the skirmish ended, I got up off the floor and noticed something was wrong. My hand was separated from my wrist. I went over to the bench and said, “Coach, there’s something wrong with my arm.” The coach said, “Yep, there is. Bickerton, you’ve broken your arm.” What took place then for the remainder of that day was nothing short of agony. I had to wait for my mom to come to school to pick me up. It took forever. And then, for six hours I sat in the waiting room of the ER waiting for a doctor to come and cast my arm. And, with every passing hour, the pain got worse and worse

and worse. The throbbing became intense. If I could have fixed my arm, I would have. But I couldn't and I had to wait for someone to intervene who could cast my arm and begin the healing process. I thought it would never happen.

III. It's a simple illustration. Not very profound. Not extremely impactful. But it does describe how I feel today. I feel like we, as a church, are sitting in an Emergency Room. We are broken. A part of our body is separated from the rest of it. We are not together. The pain is getting worse with every passing day. The throbbing is becoming more intense. We need healing and it feels as if it's never going to happen. If we could fix it ourselves, we would. But we need help.

It's very much like Paul's words to Corinth. They are aspirational words. Words that should be the goal to which we work: healing, taking care of one another, fixing and uniting a broken body. They are the ideal of how a group of Christian people should behave together.

But here's the reality. Currently, we are not the body of Christ as it is described in Corinthians.

Here is what we know today.

1. We are divided.

There is no semblance of unity in the body of Christ called United Methodism today. The line in the sand that has been drawn over the issues we are facing is not a line at all. It is a canyon. It is so deep and so wide that we cannot see the bottom. Nor can we see the other side. The lack of respect and the degree of distrust is at an unbelievable place.

The vote on the floor of the General Conference was ultimately decided by 27 votes. If 27 people had voted a different way, the outcome would have been different. 27 votes impacted the lives of 12 million people. I don't know about you, but when I have been in local church meetings where the numbers were that close, I didn't go home believing that we had made a decision as much as I went home trying to figure out how to address the deep division that issue had caused.

No one should be claiming victory in this story. While the halls of congress and the world of sports can talk about winners and losers, this is not acceptable language in the life of the church. With such a close vote, there are no winners, and perhaps it is a better representation to say that maybe we are all losers.

Still, there is a side claiming victory. And there is a side that feels very clearly that they have lost. The body is fractured and divided. And if that story wasn't bad enough, the New York Times investigative report that came out on Thursday revealed that there was impropriety in the actual votes taken, causing even those slim margins of victory to be thrown into deep question. That investigation is not complete even today and the credible decision of the Commission on the General Conference to work with the New York Times in finding the facts to this story, that many of us had assumed was true for years, only reveals that the division we feel is a division that is real. Some will do anything to get their way, even at the cost of the credibility of the process. This is not an example of the ideal behavior found in the body of Christ.

We are divided. That reality is more real here in New York than many want to admit. There are some in this room who are breathing a sigh of relief that a Traditional Plan was approved and there are some in this room who are devastated by the very same decision. Strong cultural drivers come into play as many here embrace a traditional value. If you doubt it, come with me to most of the Long Island West District. Or come with me to the interior parts of Connecticut or to some pockets of the Catskills. On

the other side is a strong progressive voice of advocacy and inclusion. There are lay and clergy members of this annual conference who have taken bold stances against injustice, inequality, and discrimination for years. We have positions that have been taken in recent years by our Annual Conference and our Board of Ordained Ministry that have stated our clear position on who we see ourselves to be as an inclusive body of Christ. If nothing else happened in St. Louis the decision of the General Conference has only reinforced those deep convictions with renewed strength.

But for anyone to say that New York is a place of one theological perspective or is in one agreement about the matters before us only reveals that they do not understand the depth of the division that exists here.

We are not the body of Christ as Paul describes. What we are resembles the actual state of the church in ancient Corinth more than the ideal put forth by the Apostle. And as a result, we run the real risk of beating each other up for the sake of our position. And, because the pain is so deep, we are even turning on people of like mind. It gets to the point where no one can say anything that is right because we are unable to hear clearly, or to love gently, or forgive even the smallest of mistakes.

When I was a local church pastor, every year I would stand in front of my congregation and say the same thing during the service to celebrate my reappointment to the congregation. These were the words I would say,

“During this next year as your pastor, I will do something that will disappoint you. I will say something that will unintentionally hurt you. I will at some point let you down. Please know that I acknowledge my humanness and my shortcomings. Please know too that it was not my intent. And when those things happen, I would ask that you forgive me. But know this as well. During this next year, you will do something that will disappoint me. You will say something that will unintentionally hurt me. You will, at some point, let me down. We are all human and filled with shortcomings. And when that happens, please know that I will be praying that I can find the Christ within me to forgive you.”

Friends, this is a very tender and yet a very critical time for us as a church and as an Annual Conference. Decisions that have been made are today being questioned and examined. The division between us is significant and I wonder, both as a denomination and as an Annual Conference, if we can find a way together moving forward.

There was a plan before the General Conference called the “One Church Plan.” It was flawed, just like all the other plans before us. But one of the things that gave me hope about it was the reality that this plan has been operational within the bounds of the New York Annual Conference for years. Traditional viewpoints and styles were operational in the midst of progressive viewpoints and expressions. I said to many who were doubtful of whether such a plan could work, “Just come to New York. We’ve been doing it for years.” But there has been across the spectrum of United Methodists, a segment of 5 people who have wanted extreme conformity rather than contextual freedom. That was the vote that was narrowly approved. But legislation does not convert the heart. Just because the vote went a certain way, we cannot expect conformity to follow. There are different ways that you do ministry here in New York. Urban, suburban, & rural. Conservative, moderate, and liberal. The list goes on. Conformity to one way of doing things cannot happen. It won’t. I don’t expect it to and I won’t be working for it to happen. It isn’t the ideal we strive for and is not the dream the Apostle Paul longed for when he simply said, “There are many members,

yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

I must admit, in all honesty, that I have lost faith in the ability of the church to deal with our differences in a legislative process. We have given it the "old college try" for 47 years now and it hasn't worked. The scenario is the same: every four years petitions are drawn up and faithful people go to the General Conference hoping for a change. The change doesn't happen. Some go away happy and others are told, "Too bad. Come back in four years and try again." They do and the same scenario unfolds. Some are happy and others are told to try again in four years. And every four years the pain gets deeper, and the frustration gets higher to the point that, now, the culture has raced past the church and we have lost relevancy in reaching people for Christ.

A conservative friend of mine said to me the other day, "What am I missing here. We are a part of a club. There are those who want to change the rules of the club. But the club doesn't want to change the rules. There has to be a point where the club says, we are not going to change the rules so you're going to have to find another club. What am I missing here?"

My reply is simple: We are not a club. We are the body of Christ, and we are called to make sure that everyone has a place in our church. But I went further: I told him that there are any number of historical clubs that are now lying on the roadside dead because they could not adapt to changing times. One strong club, the Rotary Club, used to mandate that you had to attend their lunch meetings 3 out of every 4 weeks in a month or you would be removed. They altered their rules at one point and allowed for people traveling out of town to attend makeup meetings there. And then they relaxed their rules when it became apparent that they wouldn't survive if they didn't relate to the needs of their members. They reached the point where they discovered, we either adapt or we die. If we continue to insist on conformity without an appreciation for contextual diversity, we too will die.

But as it stands today, we are divided.

Here is what we know.

2. There is deep hurt within the body.

My dear friend and New York native, Bishop Karen Olevito, has shared with me that the difference this year than in previous years is the widening spectrum of people that have been affected by the decisions of the General Conference. Remember, 2/3rd of the U.S. delegates voted for a change in the church's direction. The circle is widening in this country for a change. Here's what we know:

- Shortly after returning home from St. Louis, Bishop Oliveto received a visit from 25 members of a centrist congregation in Colorado who presented her with their membership certificates and announced that they could no longer be United Methodist.
- A college classmate of mine who is an Old Testament seminary professor has declared that he is struggling with a decision of whether or not he will remain a United Methodist.
- The largest donor at one of our most progressive congregations announced last Sunday that this would be his family's last Sunday as a United Methodist. The pain is just too deep.
- There is a family in another local church that announced that they no longer could be United Methodist. The father said to the pastor, "I have two daughters.

One is heterosexual. The other is homosexual. They both are getting married. For one, the church celebrates her marriage. For the other, the church refuses to celebrate her marriage. How can my family be a part of a church that says yes to one of my daughters and no to the other? The church is dividing my family and we can no longer be a part of it.”

- Since St. Louis, nearly every day in my office I have received at least one letter from a person or family that have announced that they no longer will be a part of the United Methodist Church.

The pain is deep and widespread.

I don't know about you, but this is not what I signed on for when I accepted my own call. My calling has not had anything to do with spreading heartache and pain. It has been, quite honestly, the opposite. It has broken my heart to see and experience the church I love create such hurt among people.

There is no one that has experienced this pain and hurt more than the LGBTQIA community. We can sing songs about a place at the table and talk glowingly about how we welcome people with open hearts, open minds and open doors, but the reality is we don't. We gathered at the table in St. Louis, in large measure, to talk about the LGBTQIA community and did not invite them to the table to be a part of the conversation. Except for New York! But in spite of that presence, we as a church, once again invalidated your callings and deemed you to be less than the rest of us.

It is one thing to say that we cannot abide by a decision that, for the most part was ruled unconstitutional and has been approved by a body where there is proven evidence of impropriety in the voting. But it's another thing to declare that we can no longer be a body that is literally killing itself by imposing hurt and pain on any of God's children. We can no longer be that kind of body.

And this is how the world is viewing us. Our public witness is, in large measure, gone because we cannot find a way to love one another and embrace the validity of one another's calling from God to share the love of Jesus Christ with the world. It's hurtful and embarrassing.

While we were in St. Louis, in less than a half day after the decision was initially made, over 15,000 young people from around the world came together to sign a letter of support for the LGBTQIA community. They were from Africa, Europe, the Philippines and the United States. They said, “We are not of one mind when it comes to the inclusion of our LGBTQIA siblings in Christ. And yet, through sharing stories, and worshiping side by side we have seen each other's gifts and fruits for ministry. We have witnessed the incredible ways that God is working through each of us in our own unique contexts. We believe that if we are truly a body we need each other. We need one another in all of our diversity to fulfill our call to be the body of Christ. We as the church need to stop the harm that is done when we debate one another's humanity and worth, and focus on our shared mission to live into our primary identity as God's children.”

It was a beautiful. It was something once again demonstrated the leadership of our young people. They are calling us, like Paul called Corinth, to be the body of Christ.

It is my calling to you as well.

As your leader, I will provide an unwavering, undying support for the LGBTQIA community here in New York. We must continue to work for full inclusion and make our words turn into actions that demonstrate our support. I will do everything I can to support and authenticate your calling and your ministry. During my time with you

here in New York, I have been blessed and amazed by your gifts for ministry, your dedication to Christ, your love for the church. Pastors, you have hard work to do as you attempt to bring a relevant gospel of grace, love and inclusion to the communities where you are serving. I will do everything I can to support you and be behind you in that hard and faithful work that you are called to do.

In Germany, the church there has said, “We want to stay together as a church where people of differing opinions can live with each other. We don’t want to let go of each other and we don’t want to separate from each other, but we want to hold on to each other and to be there for each other. For we are convinced that Jesus wants to use us and our gifts jointly and together.”

Don’t you? Don’t we?

I do. I want to be a church that finds ways to fall in love with each other rather than one that creates categories that alienate us from one another.

The widening gap that exists in our church has been created by alienating our LGBTQIA pastors, laity, friends and supporters. I believe that we must be supportive and work tirelessly so that we can be the inclusive and affirming conference that we say we are.

Pastors, you have hard work to do on the front lines of this challenge. You minister to LGBTQIA persons and their families. And the difficulty in holding them close to our hearts has grown more challenging. I simply say to you: Love your people and demonstrate to them what love, respect, and dignity look like.

We have demonstrated in the last couple of weeks that we cannot legislate the change. I have also come to wonder whether or not we can continue as a global church. But we can model what the change looks like and live into it with faithfulness and love. And we need to do so now in the midst of great pain and hurt.

Here is the third thing we know.

3. We are called to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Hear these words from Colossians 3:12-17:

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ[b] dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.[c] 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

These are extremely hurtful times. And when we get hurt we are so tempted to return hurt with hurt. I am truly afraid that we will turn on one another, even those who are supportive, and consume one another with hatred and pain.

These words from Colossians are so simple, yet so powerful. We are chosen from God. And as chosen ones, we are called to be compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient with one another. We are called to bear with one another and forgive one another. We called to love and to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

There is a phrase that the church adopted in 1972 that began this 47-year struggle over human sexuality. The phrase was “incompatible with Christian teaching.” But I want to take that phrase in a different direction. I honestly believe that if we do not embody compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love for one another, especially in these days of great pain and heartache, then we will begin to demonstrate a life and a work that truly is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

In recent days I have had sleepless night after sleepless night wondering about what I could do and how I could lead. And in my dark nights of the soul, there is only one answer. I’m going to love. And when it doesn’t work, I’m going to love again. And when it isn’t popular or trendy or innovate or provocative enough, I’m going to try to love instead. My mission, as it has always been, and I pray always will be, is to love.

But today, I must be honest, I really wonder if we can. I really wonder if we can. I want us to be together. But I truly wonder if it’s possible.

There are many efforts underway throughout the church exploring what options are before us. Some of those, quite honestly, are discussions about us not being together any more. Some of those, quite honestly, are about purging the church of those who are not desirable to some. And I fear, that some of those conversations believe that 9 somehow the decisions of the recent General Conference have given permission to some to further racism, gender bias, and white privilege.

Some of the conversations out there are looking for compliance. Some of those conversations are looking for prophecy. But compliance without grace is cruel, and prophecies without a strategy for implementation are only shallow words that have no end result. It’s complicated, to be sure. But interwoven into our pain and interspersed into our conversations God calls us to be compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient with one another.

But today, I wonder if we truly can.

IV. These last couple of weeks have been so difficult for me personally. I have not ached one bit over offering a consistent and intentional support to the LGBTQIA community. I have not ached over supporting our pastors and laity as they lead with grace and make decisions that will require my support and encouragement. I’ve not ached over offering support for our churches of many cultures and ethnicities who are attempting to reach out in their context to offer the gospel to others.

My heartache has been over the sadness I feel over my church potentially falling apart at the expense of a mission to offer the world hope, promise, possibility, love and joy. In recent days I have been reading Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6 You desire truth in the inward being;[a] therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right[b] spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing[c] spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God[d] is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

A broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart. That says it. That's what I have, a broken and contrite heart. And that's what many of you have. A broken spirit. But, it's what God truly wants from us. God does not want false sacrifice or shallow attempts to "declare" that we are faithful. God wants more.

I have a broken spirit and a broken heart over the pain and hurt my church is inflicting on others. I'm weary that the LGBTQIA community does not have an inclusive place at the table of the church. I'm tired of sitting in a cabinet meeting hearing a superintendent report that a church does not want to accept a person of color as their pastor. I'm weary of hearing another superintendent state that the leadership of a local church does not want a woman pastor. I'm tired of us inflicting heartache and pain. I'm just tired of it. It causes a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart.

For 40 years I have joyfully stood in a pulpit Sunday after Sunday, some days with a good sermon and sometimes with a poor one. But every Sunday I have stood there with a word of hope and promise for the church I was serving. But honestly, today, for the first time I can remember, I don't have a word of hope. I have a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart.

But I was ministered to the other day by a colleague of mine who simply said, "You know, Tom, it seems to me that God has plenty of experience dealing with broken and contrite hearts." Everywhere you turn in the Bible there is someone with a broken heart or a broken spirit and there is a subsequent story that in effect says, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Isn't that the truth?

When we don't have it, God does. When we can't muster up a word of hope in the midst of our brokenness, God can. How appropriate that we find ourselves here in the Season of Lent. A time of inner examination and renewed spiritual discipline. A time when we either shed ourselves of some bad habits or take some new ones on as a part of a Lenten journey of sacrifice and reflection.

And how good it is to know that when a human system that wants to double down on punishment of people of sacred worth, and their families and friends, we worship a God system that says there we can be better than that and there is something more.

V. At the General Conference there are reports that are offered and voted on. The General Conference voted to continue to block an open door for full inclusion. It was the vote of the majority.

But when someone disagrees with the action of the body at General Conference, they have the right to file a “minority report” which is, an alternative to consider.

Here is my “Minority Report.”

To quote Rev. Paul Purdue, the pastor at Belmont UMC in Nashville, TN:

Let us be bold but not rash. We need time with God and each other in order to heal, weigh, and plan our best response. We need the wilderness spiritual testing ground so that in our resistance to evil, we do not become overcome by the practices we deplore. But hear this my LBGTQIA friends, you are made in the image of God!

Here is my Minority Report. When you feel hatred coming your way, return it with love. When you see someone with whom you disagree do not judge but love. In all things do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God. Breathe, just breathe, and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts so that you can love and, as Micah said, “Do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”

And remember, always remember, that while today might feel like Good Friday, thanks be to God, Sunday is coming and while we may have lost faith in ourselves we can maintain faith in a God who is truly able!

It’s like my broken arm. The doctor came. My hand was put back in place and casted. And it healed.

With God’s help, so can we.

I’m trying to remind myself of these things. I hope you can too.

Let us pray.

Hymn – “Grace Alone”

Prayers of the People – Various readers led in prayers of the people.

Transitional Song – “O Spirit, Grant Us Courage”

PRESENTATION BY BISHOP BICKERTON

Bishop Bickerton acknowledged the band here today and for their spirit-led ministry in St. Louis.

Bishop called for the body to share the Peace of Christ. Band played “Lean on Me”

Legislation Results PowerPoint shared by Bishop Bickerton

Foundational Issues to Remember:

Traditional plan passed by only 54 votes. If 27 delegates had voted otherwise, the outcome would have been different.

- This has resulted in deep and significant divisions.
- The Plan has already been ruled largely unconstitutional.
- The confirmed report of impropriety in voting has added an additional layer of uncertainty and concern.
- The Judicial Council will be reviewing the Traditional Plan to determine its constitutionality (both in part and as a whole) in April 2019

- Items ruled “constitutional” will take effect on January 1, 2020.
- The Judicial Council has used the following principles in their previous rulings:
 - The principle of “legality.” Everyone is to be equally bound by church law and forbids any selective or partial enforcement.
 - The essential component of “fair and due process” which is a right privilege extended to everyone.

Petitions passed and currently ruled constitutional:

- An Expanded definition of “Self-avowed Practicing Homosexual.”
- This is an amendment to the footnote for Paragraph 304.3 of the *Book of Discipline*

Expanded definition:

The definition of “Self-avowed Practicing Homosexual – is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that they person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in the same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states that he or she is a practicing homosexual.”

Episcopal Responsibilities:

- Bishops are prohibited from consecrating new bishop who are “self-avowed practicing homosexual” even if they are elected.
- Bishops are prohibited from ordaining “self-avowed homosexuals” or candidates that have not been fully examined by the “disciplinary mandate.”
- Failure of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) to certify that is carried out the full examination requires the bishop not to ordain even if the BOOM and the Clergy Session approves them.

Minimum Penalties

- If convicted in a church trial, the fist violation comes with a one-year suspension without pay.
- If convicted a second time, there is a mandatory termination of conference membership of orders.

Changes in the complaint process

- A thorough explanation as to why a complaint is being dismissed must be submitted.
- Adds the language that a complaint cannot be dismissed unless it has been determined that there is “no basis in law or fact.”

Revision of the Just Resolution Process

- All identified “harms” must be listed and how they will be addressed.
- Must be a commitment to not repeat the offense.
- Requires that “every effort shall be made” to have the complainant agree with the Just Resolution.

Central Conference Implementation Time

- Central Conferences are given eighteen (18) months after the close of the General Conference for the implementation of decisions made.

Wespath Pension Decisions

- A requirement that local churches pay their share of the unfunded pension liability when they are either closed, abandoned, or released from the Trust Clause in order to leave the denomination.
- Allows Annual Conferences to collect other funds based on obligations owed to the Annual Conference.
- Exited clergy are fully vested in the pension fund. Balances will be invested in the UMPIP account.

Petitions Passed but are Questionable

- Will be reviewed by the Judicial Council for constitutionality

Board of Ordained Ministry & Bishop Certification

- Requires all clergypersons nominated for membership on the BOOM to “certify” that they will “uphold, enforce, and maintain” the *Book of Discipline* in its entirety, including but not limited to all qualifications for ordination.
- Requires the bishop to “certify” that she/he has only nominated persons who will “uphold, enforce, & maintain” the *Book of Discipline*.

Right to an Appeal

- Gives the church the ability to appeal the verdict of trial court to the Committee on Appeals and the Judicial Council in cases where it has been determined that there have been “egregious errors of Church law or administration.”

Disaffiliation

- Allows churches to leave the denomination over issues of human sexuality.
- Time limit: December 31, 2023.
- Requires 2/3 vote of Church Conference
- Approvals/conditions set by Annual Conference Board of Trustees
- Requires current and past year payment of apportionments.
- Allows the church to keep property.
- Requires pro rata payment of pension liabilities.
- Requires payment of liabilities owed to the Annual Conference.
- Churches can continue to sponsor employee health benefit plans.
- Release the church from the Trust Clause conditions are met.

These things share are only a-part of the Traditional Plan. The items that are not before you today have already been ruled unconstitutional. Some are subtle in nature; some are complicated and some will require some very hard thinking as we find a way to respond.

What’s Next?

- Convening of a “Round Table” conversation around the potential impact on the NYAC with potential next steps/report/legislation coming to AC 2019.
- The Judicial Council meets (late April, 2019)
- Annual Conference 2019, Hofstra University (June 6-9)
- January 1, 2020 implication of all constitutional legislations form CG 2019
- “Holy Huddles” out in the districts – solicit the Holy Spirit to guide conversations. Pray for one another, listen more than we speak and to absorb the feelings people have.

PRESENTATION & RESPONSES

Statement prepared by Rev. Lea Matthews and Rev. K Karpen

Bishop led us in statement:

The vote at the United Methodist General Conference in St. Louis caused great harm and spiritual violence to the LGBTQIA + community. The New York Annual Conference grieves this hurt. We pledge to continue to affirm the lives, ministries and families of our LGBTQIA siblings. We pledge to continue to love and serve all people.

We are the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We believe...

Love is love

All personas are of sacred worth

Black Lives matter

Climate Change is real

No human being is illegal

All genders are whole, holy and in the image of God

Women's rights are human rights

Colonialism is white supremacy in action

To devalue one person is to devalue all people

We affirm the truth as written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

We are The New York Annual Conference.

We are working towards God's justice.

We will only get there if we work towards it together.

This statement will be released to the public on Monday, March 18, 2019.

BISHOP BICKERTON LEAD IN COMMUNION LITURGY

Adapted from the *Book of Worship* by Rev. Kerry Greenhill c. 2017 and revised by Rev. Heather Sinclair – 2019

Lunch with Communion and Table Conversations

Instructions for working lunch:

Questions card: 1) Write one question, 2) include your name and church, 3) place in baskets at lunch time

Lunch: Proceed to the upper lobby (if able) and take the box lunch indicated on your name tag

Table Conversations: Questions are provided on your lunch table. Share leadership around the table and prayerfully enter into Holy Conferencing. Three chimes: 1) Close conversation, 2) Serve one another Communion, 3) return to auditorium.

DELEGATE INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction of NYAC delegation. Each delegate gave a brief of themselves many included ethnicity, gender, and orientation.

Rev. Sheila Beckford began with sharing her experience at GC. Landmark Dred Scott case was heard and decided in the court across from where GC was held. Delegation Chaplains Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé and Adrienne Brewington.

Rev. Vicki Flippin shared about Devotion shared by chaplains. Unhindered. Last word in *Book of Acts*. Whatever hindrances we might encounter, the Gospel cannot be hindered.

Karen Prudente shared about the interactions within GC. Gave thanks to Erin Hawkins, and several other people they met. They met and trained as if they were preparing for a trial with Fred Brewington.

Tiffany French – rigorous conversation. To envision and enable and live into a broad vision of the UMC. To use our unique place as a queer led delegation, to be the change they want to see in the world. Emphasizing self-giving love which means there has to be a place for everyone at the table. Their commitment is to combat the harm that was done.

Rev. Martha Vink – shared about prayers that began the work at GC. We welcomed this time of centering at first. Holy Conferencing was in jeopardy. No one spoke about praying for the LGBTQIA persons. Jorge Lockward and another delegate from another conference asked Bishops why there was no prayer for LGBTQIA. And after lunch a prayer was lifted by a bishop including LGBTQIA. The NYAC delegation led to pray and sing out “I Need You to Survive.” After this the top priorities were set: Pension, Traditionalist Plan and Exit Strategy. Large witness of observers was heard and seen in support. Thank you for those who were there in body and spirit. Physical set up was hard. Main delegates were seated up in front and reserve alternates were in the bleachers with visitors. This made it hard for us to communicate with one another. Felt that the UMC that they love was being torn apart one amendment at a time.

Fred Brewington – Legislation was presented to GC even though the Traditionalist plan was largely unconstitutional. The implementation portion of the Traditional Plan did not survive scrutiny of the group designed to look at deficiencies. When matters of pension and property were listed, it was clear that was the priority of the GC. The one church plan was listed as 5th priority. Immediately determine that the taint of the voting irregularities that were evident and allowing the votes to stand would be unjust and immoral.

Rev. Alex da Silva Souto – Delegates from African conferences were used and in some cases, some people of color were not allowed in meetings. Our conference is standing firm to rectify this harm to LGBTQIA. We chose not to be complicit when we heard a WCA say, “We did so much for you and it is time for you to do your part.” Not calling out these wrongs makes us complicit in being sinful. As Rev. Martin Luther King said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Jorge Lockward – Jesus’ prayer that they may be one as we are one. Traditionalist plan seeks a forced, graceless, policed unity sustained by threat. Current structure was born from colonialism and racism. Our jurisdictional structure is a direct product of our racial fears. GC gave us a gift that calls us to dream something different. That separate us from the shameful compromises that are evident in our history.

Rev. Kristina Hansen – Invited everyone to offer our gratitude to the delegation. Thanks to Sheila, Adrienne, Dorlimar in putting together this presentation together. We learned that we all have a lot of work to do if we are to become authentically the church that Jesus is calling us to be. Gospel is like a river, utterly unhindered and unstoppable.

Bishop asked us to keep the delegation in prayer. Restoration of soul and body. Thanked them for all they offer to the church.

There is much that has happened and much that wasn't all shared. Many moving parts. Conversation about how do we provide opportunities to live out our mission and ministries that offer the gifts and graces of everyone. Bishop invited us to exercise this opportunity to breathe. Allow us to bring credible possibilities as we move forward.

In the midst of all the moving parts, we do give God thanks for those things that will continue to happen, Bible Studies, engagements about fresh expressions of ministry.

PRESENTATIONS AND RESPONSES CONTINUED

Bishop invited Conference Lay Leader: Ms. Roena Littlejohn.

As she thinks of what is the outcome, she listed the possibilities before us. Where do we go from here? Roena encouraged laity to put effort into covenant & discipleship group. This is an opportunity for laity to join hands with clergy to create safe places of worship. Where do we go from here? We can join hands and move forward and follow Jesus. Do the work of making disciples of Jesus.

What about Financial Support – Conference Treasurer, Ross Williams began to share about his work as taking care of financial needs of the conference. Just because the church is in conflict, people are still in need.

Disruption from the floor, singing Wade in the Water – calling for questions written by people here today and turned in before lunch. Several from the audience screaming people over presentations. The bishop addressed – we will not be able to get to all the questions.

Bishop agreed and began a Q& A time with Rev. Denise Smartt Sears. Reports from Mission & Ministry in NYAC – Rev. David Gilmore & Rev. Matt Curry were postponed for another time and way. Possibly a video might be created.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

What makes up the Judicial Council?

One of the decision making branches – made up of 9 people elected at GC every 4 years. These are lay and clergy persons across the conferences. Group from all over the world. Beth Capen, of our own NYAC members is on the group.

What is the unfunded pension liability as it relates to Clergy?

Bill Shillady shared that future market gains and losses that could occur as a guarantee to our clergy. Fund the full value of our pensions going forward. Unfunded liability for the current Medicare for our retired clergy.

What would be your response be to one who is in the process and answering call to ministry?

Bishop said that there is an upheaval happening to folks in our seminaries. They are examining whether or not UMC is the place they want to me. We want to acknowledge their struggles and understand their concerns. I need brave, courageous, entrepreneurial

leaders in our church. Most of our conversation is about a different Methodism. We can no longer be part of something that continues to beat people up. We have to enable folks so that they can feel like they have gifts and graces to be used for God.

I'd like to be able to say that the whole denomination will walk with you. My interest is authenticating a person's call to ministry. I want those people called to ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ and make this world a better place. I do believe that the current format/structure will have to change. I believe that we can provide a way forward.

How can I convince my daughter to believe in The United Methodist Church?

Bishop Bickerton said other than stocking shelves in freshmen year, he has always worked in the UMC. Grace, unconditional love, prevenient grace, justifying grace, sanctifying grace – Theology of the UMC has been about this grace. One of the crisis in Methodism is that we have stopped talking about theology, the movement of the Holy Spirit, mystery of faith, how God works among people who were unlikely. These are the kinds of things he feels are crumbling around his feet. These are the things that he would use to share with young people.

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors – Bishop was a part of that group as they worked on this slogan. What will you do when someone walks through the doors. It's not about the slogan but the behavior. Will they experience it when they walk in the door? We only have one chance today to see if they will come back through our doors.

It may not always be the thing to invite them to worship, but to walk with them on the street, go to coffee or listen to them in a conversation.

Understandably, the issue of Sexuality has dominated headlines. How about racism? Will we put our focus on this concern?

Unanimously embraced “Call to Action” – AC’s of Northeast to come around issues of racism. Not only to acknowledge the issue but to develop and implement programs and trainings how to dismantle racism. We are working on creating a framework how to address this. But if this training does not find its way in the pew, then it goes nowhere.

It is not acceptable for people to pass on training. All hands need to be on deck so that all are trained. We need to be equipped to address it.

What will become of UMCOR if we split?

Bishop Bickerton is the head of UMCOR and sits on the board of Global Ministries. Bishop things we will see monies drop for global ministry. Just the talk of churches already pulling funding in Africa because of GC. We do not return hurt for hurt. UMCOR has been in place since WWII, to care for the health and practical needs of people. We are often the first on the scene and the last to leave. If we find an expression that we can all come together the hope is that UMCOR will still remain. In conversations of possible different models and UMCOR is one of those things that the conversations want to preserve.

Can an Annual Conference withdrawal?

The current *Book of Discipline* has a way for local churches to pull out of a conference and if many of those churches come together and pull out, it would be possible for a conference to do so. NYAC has been very faithful in giving. We are not very sustainable with 138 of 432 churches who worship under 30 we are not sustainable. It would not be wise for NYAC to pull out and try to do something on our own, but in relationship with other conferences possibly.

We have no time to waste – May of 2020 is right around the corner as that is our next General Conference. The Bishop has lost faith that we can legislate the change. He thinks we are better than that – we have to be honest that the way we are going about it is not the way to do it. Returning hurt to those who inflict hurt is not right. As long as we do that we will stay where we are. Bishop stated, he is honest when he says that he doesn't know if we can all stay together, but he does not want a victim along side the road. Hold on, please breathe, Bishop believes we can get there – let's walk together.

CLOSING TIME OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Just to feel the touch of someone who says “in the name of the father, son and holy spirit” be blessed today. As we close our time together today, there will be persons outside, if you need that touch, that reminder, that someone is with you through the journey, someone will anoint you and minister with you.

B-2. MINUTES OF THE 220TH SESSION OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 6 – 9, 2019

Pathways & Possibilities – Journeying Together

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Resident Bishop, New York Area, Presiding

JUNE 6 | THURSDAY AFTERNOON

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The 220th Session of the New York Annual Conference began with gathering music with Raymond Trapp and the Music Team. “I Believe” by Mark Miller was sung as Bishop, Cabinet and those participating in the Opening Worship processed onto the stage.

Liturgical Dance, “You Say” performed by Spirit Builders Praise Dance Team.

Scripture Reading from Isaiah 25:7-9 read by Rev. Daniel Cho.

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS

Offered by Bishop Bickerton. Bishop asked us to do two important things as we begin our time together: Worship and break bread together.

It is important to remember that much has happened since we last met. We will read names of saints and servants who have gone before us. He invited us to remember those we have lost with the Service of Remembrance. Today is the Anniversary of D-Day and Bishop invited those who were veterans to stand so that we could remember them. As they stood, we applauded and gave thanks for their service.

Welcome from the Shinnecock Nation given by Rev. Dr. Holly Haile Davis

Call To Worship offered by Rev. Kathy Dickinson

Hymn: “For All the Saints”

Opening Prayer led by Rev. Sandy Mantz

Hymn: “Hymn of Promise”

Call to Remembrance read by Margaret Howe

Litany of Remembrance led by Rev. Roslyn Lee, Roena Littlejohn and Omar Hall

REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

Names read by Margaret Howe. People were invited to rise in silence when the name of someone they knew was read.

Clergy: Matthew Labriola, Kenneth Baldwin, Walter Schenck, Barbara Knox, Jean Arthur, William Siktberg, Donald Collier, Carole Paynter, Barbara Mungin, Richard Thornburg, Randolph Jones, E. Burton Davison, Susan DeSousa, Charles Straut, Jr., Richard Hewitt, Floyd George, III, Arthur Bloom, Robert Johnson, Rosemary Smith, William “Fred” Loving, Donald W. Sneller, Herbert G. Day, Jr., Delois Davis, Paul M. Ewing, Louis E. Rowley

Special Remembrance: Bishop C. Dale White

Deaconess: Cheryetta Williams

Spouses Of Clergy: Helen B. Villazon, Cheryl Pyne, Launa Y. Forde, Beatrice B. Capen, Raymond Johnson, Mary Law Moody, Jenny A. Schrock, Myrna Rodgers

Widows and Widowers of Clergy: Ann Snyder, Gayle Weyand, Marguerite Jenkins, Bernice Ford, Elsa Meyers, Elizabeth Cady, Felice Lewis, Margaret Beaumont, Margaret T. Saunders, Geraldine Klein, Barbara Bauer

Children Of Clergy: Gregory Y. Halbrook

Music offered by Conference Music Team

Prayers of the People led by Rev. Martha Vink And Rev. Ximena A. (Varas) Diaz

Hymn: “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

Scripture Readings by Rev. Heather Sinclair, Rev. Matt Curry and Moises Varas

SERMON: “WHAT ARE YOU STANDING ON?”

Bishop Bickerton Preaching

Summary: Began with prayer. Bishop started by reflecting that recently a clergy said to him, “Oh, I wish I was a pastor in the 50’s and 60’s.” Bishop reminded us just what was happening in the 50’s and 60’s. We tend to glamorize history. The reality is that women were not ordained, there was a civil rights fight, and let’s not forget the Vietnam War.

Recently he saw a movie about war. And a couple came out of the movie shaking, remarking that it was the most realistic reflection of the experience of war. The reading from Philippians is from a tough setting. The prison conditions were dark, prisoners were not guaranteed food and fear was real and constant. It was in this environment that Apostle Paul wrote these words. “I give thanks to God for you... this is my prayer... that your love may abound more and more... you may discern what is best... that you may be blameless before God.” In talking about the imprisonment, what does it matter. Only Christ be proclaimed. It’s amazing to hear these powerful words, faith, courage in the midst of such a hard environment. It’s amazing to see such faith.

Today Bishop Bickerton had a hard time coming up with the right words in the midst of shooting, people going hungry and hurting by its very government. Bishop struggled after the Special General Conference because there was much hatred and it was disappointing to see how we hurt one another. With a cloud of uncertainty hanging over us, it's hard to find joy and the right words. 2019 does not compare with the reality of Paul's prison in the first century.

Bishop struggles to find where he stands in the midst of all that is going on today. The church is all that he has known — as a child, youth, young adult and clergy, D.S. and bishop. These memories are real. Church was a refuge from the storm. But now, the church is the storm. How will we survive, what is next? Bishop used to stand on the solid ground that his church would be standing. Now, he does not know.

In his last local church, there was stained-glass-window door. He was preaching about how the church welcomes people. Just at that moment, a scraggly transient man walked in and sat in the front pew. After worship, he spoke with the man who said that he had just moved here and was in need of some help. The congregation also spoke with the man and gave him money to help him as he shared his needs. Today, if a scraggly transient man walked in, most likely we would worry about whether he would shoot us. Things are different today.

Now, grace has been replaced with judgment. When bishop was elected to conference he beamed. He has been going since 1976, when he was elected as youth, clergy, D.S. and now as bishop. Good things and good people he met at General Conference. But now, it's different; it is mean and there is backbiting. Bishop has been called, "Mr. Malaria" for his work with UMCOR to combat this epidemic. He loves it. But now, he wonders how we can remain a global church. UMCOR giving is down 50% from this time last year. He used to stand confidently on that ground but cannot stand on that anymore. It's a hard reality, it stinks and there is no joy. That is why he admires Paul all the more, who was in the worst of situations yet who proclaimed joy and hope. Paul never lost sight of what God has done for us. He was never far from the Damascus road. We also need a Damascus road experience – we need to put aside everything and put Christ in the middle of everything.

Bishop's father broke three vertebra in his back. At 83, he said, "Every so often I throw myself a pity party, but I stop myself and give thanks to God for what I do have." How does one say that in their circumstances? How does Paul proclaim hope when things you relied on seem to be disappearing around you? We cannot stand anymore on the ground of our history. On the firm ground that Christian people will actually act like Christians. We can't stand on the ground of any assurance that we will remain a global church. As we face such a reality, we cry out, "Where am I supposed to stand, God?" Bishop spoke the words of the hymn: "Standing on the promises of Christ, my King... Standing on the promises, I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call... Standing on the promises of God, my Savior." Everyone stood as we sang together, "Standing on the Promises." By the grace of God, may it be so. Amen.

Offering: Bishops Partners in Mission

Prayer of Dedication offered by Rev. Karen Monk

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Bishop Bickerton presiding with Rev. Doris Dalton

Communion Hymns: “Let us Break Bread Together,” “For Everyone Born,” “Magnify”

Prayer After Communion offered by Rev. Doris Dalton

Sending Forth: Bishop Bickerton

Recessional Hymn: “And Are We Yet Alive”

Postlude offered by Conference Music Team

OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Bickerton called 220th Session to Order at 3:23pm

Opening Prayer by Rev. Chongho Kim

Bishop talked about the setup of the conference and invited us to thank the worship team. There is a plumb line over the baptismal water font. The stained glass are reminders of God’s presence.

Reading from Colossians 3: 1-3, “As God’s beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion...”

GUIDELINES AND REMINDERS ABOUT HOLY CONFERENCING

Greetings & Introductions

Stephen J. Allen, Chair Commission on Conference Sessions

Began by sharing story of his Uncle Charles, who was part of the war. Stephen invited us to come find the quiet center from where we could lead and be free in the midst of the war that is surrounding us today. Sang the hymn, “Come to find the Quiet Center.” You are welcome, each and every one is welcome here.

Committee on Episcopacy

Rev. Bette Johnson Sohm shared the job of the committee. They are similar to the SPR/PPR in the local church. Bette asked us to keep the Bishop and Sally Bickerton in our daily prayers. It’s been a hard year and a hard one to come. Bette asked specific prayers for Sally as she supports and stands with the bishop. We are thankful to have the bishop and Sally with us. Bette asked us to also thank Pamela Bowe-Tabbs, who also supports the bishop.

Organizational Motions

Margaret Howe, Conference Secretary, noted that the packet received at registration includes Organizational Resolutions. The rules are clear. If you are voting, you must be seated within the bar of conference — either on the floor or in the center three sections of the bleachers. The integrity of our work is important and we need to follow procedure. If you do not sit in the bar or are not wearing your credentials, you will not be able to vote or enter the clergy session.

Bishop noted that delegates will be elected for Jurisdictional and General Conference. We are electing 3 clergy and 3 laity for General Conference; 3 clergy and 3 laity for Jurisdictional Conference, and 3 clergy and 3 laity for alternates.

Organizational Resolutions

Margaret Howe, Conference Secretary

Reviewed the Organization Resolutions

Conference Rules Committee

Rev. Gennifer Brooks, Chair

Invited us to turn to the Preliminary Reports, Petitions & Resolutions; the committee recommends the following change to Rule 47: P. 92, bottom, between 102 and 103.

By virtue of their positions within the New York Conference, the following persons, if lay and if they have not been elected by a local charge or district, shall be members of conference: the conference secretary, the director of connectional ministries, the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, the president of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and the leaders of the program and administrative sub committees of the Commission on Conference Sessions.

Vote The change is before us and Bishop called for a vote and it passed by asking for the green cards to signal approval.

Bishop also asked for approval of all the rules as noted and recommended by the Conference Rules Committee. Approval was given.

VOTING PROCEDURE FOR ELECTIONS OF GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL DELEGATES

Bishop invited folks to stand who are eligible to vote for the clergy delegates to General Conference.

- Full-time and part-time local pastors, finished course of study or M.Div., and have served two years as a pastor
- Associate Clergy members
- Provisional Clergy members
- Clergy members in full connection

Melanie Ollett, Local Pastor, asked for clarification if it is to be two years of appointment as local pastor in this conference. The answer is yes.

Clergy Ballot (GC) #1: Ballots were passed out to eligible clergy.

Video shown of Bishop Park, who prayed before voting and ballots were collected.

2019 Laity Delegate Candidates for 2020 General Conference

Bishop invited them to come on stage: Fred Brewington, Wayne Carty, Ann Craig, Gail Douglas-Boykin, William J. Flipse, Jr., Jorge Lockward, Roena Littlejohn, Tiffany French Goffe, Karen Prudente, Marianne Terchunian, Rashid Warner

Nominations from the Floor

Bishop asked the question and the following names were offered:

- Dorothee Benz nominated Katie Reimer, #12
- Carolyn Engelhardt nominated Daisy Tavarez, #13
- David Wildman, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, #14

Laity Ballot (GC) #1: Ballots were passed out, a prayer was offered and the ballots were collected.

NOMINATIONS OF CONFERENCE TRUSTEES

Rev. David Henry presented the candidates for NYAC Trustees as listed: Brian Bodt, TIFFANY FRENCH GOFFE, Angela Redman, COLETTE H. STANFORD, CLAUDE N. STUART

Rev. Henry asked for nominations from floor. There were none.

The people nominated were elected Trustees by vote of the Annual Conference.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Ms. Roena Littlejohn

Started with reading the first verse of the hymn, “A Charge to Keep I have.” God’s grace is available to all. How would we describe a picture-perfect world? Roena invited us to recall the Methodist beginnings. Things have changed. But we are here to support our laity. The NYAC will host the Northeastern Jurisdiction Annual Association of Lay Leaders this year. Time has come to recall the call to lay ministry. Authors Blake and Kay in their book note that the church likely rises and falls with the missional investment of laity. Association for Annual Conference Laity event will be September 27-29th. As we journey together, we have a charge to keep. She is committed to the charge and invited others to join her.

Recently, she attended the UM Forward event. There was a sense of welcome and radical hospitality. She felt safe, welcomed and accepted. The summit focused on persons of color, queer and transgender people. She appreciated the conversation about the intersectionality of church.

She shared a glimpse of her role as Conference Lay Leader so that we may see how the pathways and possibilities and journey together.

READING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Catskill Hudson District Superintendent, Rev. Tim Riss and Rev. Karen Monk

Pastors of the Catskill Hudson District were invited to come to the front and take their place.

Bishop thanked Rev. Riss for his work as D.S. of the district and appointed Rev. Karen Monk as the new D.S. of the Catskill Hudson. As names of the new pastors were read, they were invited to come forward and join the group.

Bishop reminded the clergy that they are not being appointed to a church but to community, to a larger network of people. Walk the streets, visit in the hospital, befriend the people in the margins. I appoint you to the communities. There will be buildings you will work out of but they are temporary landing places. Let’s transform the Catskill Hudson area.

REPORT OF CABINET

Rev. Denise Smartt Sears, Dean of Cabinet

Rev. Sears remarked on the idea of Cooperative Parishes. Cooperative Parishes will be groups of churches whose clergy will work together in a cooperative manner. 8-year

project of “Restoration” was identified in *The Book of Discipline* 2016. Groups were started and a pilot group was started. Create space to consciously pause and reset. When we receive letter from Bishop Bickerton to be part of the “Restoration group,” please receive it with open hearts. The pilot group was identified and they received a gift.

The Cabinet then moved to center stage wearing their masks reflecting their different characters from the Wizard of Oz. Like the Wiz, they had to journey on a path to find themselves. We have encountered racism, heterosexism and many “isms” but we will not be deterred from the path. We will ease on down the road.

NYCT – we have talked about being at crossroads. And what that means for us to follow God’s path.

CT – We trust in the Lord and live in security in that knowledge. We have collaborated in ministry so that our younger pastors can connect with older pastors.

LIW – How much are you giving as a tip at restaurant? Rev. Kim reminded us that God asks for 10% for his storehouse. If we do, he will open windows of heaven and pour out blessings.

LIE – Be strong and courageous and the Lord will be with you. They have mobilized the youth and 75 youth gathered together. Lay ministries have been supported. We give thanks to God for God’s presence with us.

CH – If my people hear my voice and pray, I will hear them. Churches are earnestly in prayer to hear God’s voice and seek God’s face. District is earnestly turning to God for direction.

Bishop invited us to give thanks for the Cabinet and their work.

Cabinet ended with the song, “I’ll Be There.”

Announcements

Margaret Howe invited us to take out the quiz in the packets and have the folks at the various tables sign it. Give paper to Carol Merante and you will receive something.

Bishop invited Rev. Doris Dalton to give the closing prayer and grace.

JUNE 6 | THURSDAY EVENING

CLERGY SESSION

Clergy session began with words of welcome by Rev. Lydia Lebrón-Rivera.

Opening prayer was led by Rev. Samuel Arhin & Rev. Denise Smartt Sears.

Hymn: “We Are Called”

Bishop Bickerton Remarks

Bishop Bickerton began with the Wesley Covenant Prayer. It’s direct in making it clear to put aside our own agendas and live in a sacrificial way focusing on God. He has been moved by the prayer. In particular, when he was ordained, his own version of the prayer raced in his head. I am no longer mine but yours... I will do what you want me to do... I put myself in the hands of the system... I will follow you... And it was a vivid reminder of what is involved in this call to ministry and responsibility that is ours. It is filled with reminders of covenant and connection. Bishop wants us to focus on it and let it sit with us.

I am no longer my own, but thine
 Put me to who thou wilt, rank me with who thou wilt
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee
 Exalted for thee or brought low for thee
 Let me be full, let me be empty
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing
 I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
 Now I am thine, and thou are mine. So be it. Let the covenant I made on earth be ratified on heaven.

Usually this prayer is said with joy but it has taken a new direction with all that has been happening around us. When challenges come, how willing I am to yield all things to God.

This has been one of the hardest appointment seasons with a dozen or so churches moving from having a full-time pastor to a part-time pastor. The dramatic unwillingness for people to move. His style has been not to send anyone where they did not want to go. But that has been tempting to change this year.

The landscape has changed because the church is not as relevant anymore. Thank you for being faithful in leading your churches, your people.

Since the special session of the Annual Conference, Bishop Bickerton has traveled far and wide and has heard all people. After the General Conference, the statement from the Council of Bishops was inadequate but one word that Bishop Bickerton feels describes the situation: untenable. We are in an untenable situation. It cannot be held, it cannot be occupied and remain the way it is. Bishop has been in various conversations where there has been hope, ideas and possibilities. But at some point they need to find cohesion and clarity so that we can find a way forward.

There are some who are waiting for legislation to change the reality. But that cannot be the way forward. He believes that it is time for a new model and a fresh way. It should provide a pathway that allows for traditional views and also for progressive views to be honored. That work has begun. Bishop hopes that as soon as next year, these pathways will emerge. You heard this morning about Cluster/Cooperative groups. We are going to be training leaders to have deeper conversations about how we move forward in the NYAC. Bishop is committed to meeting with the 40 groups. Beginning next week, he will be meeting with 35 people with different theological viewpoints with the focus on how do we build non-judgmental, pathways that honor. There is an emerging vision of what can be in the future. Bishop believes a pathway is possible. Something that will stop the hurt we are inflicting on each other in such an untenable situation. We are a diverse place with various viewpoints. Just because we don't agree with or appreciate the gifts on the other side, it doesn't mean they will go away. We need to go about our work in our Annual Conference, in our church with civility and grace knowing that in the not so distant future there is a pathway ahead. We need to be civil and show grace to one another for the sake of the mission and it will restore our purpose and practice.

Two weeks ago, Bishop Bickerton preached at three different churches. There was joy as they worshiped together. The work on the reframing of the denomination will continue in the days to come so that there will be new and separate directions. Let us love and respect one another in the meantime. While that work unfolds, do the job in your assigned churches, preach the Gospel, love the people, bless them and show them

we have the capacity to love God and love each other. Do not lead your people with anything less than the love Christ has shown to us. I pledge to do the same. Bishop read a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Christ builds the church. Forgive each other from the bottom of your hearts.

BISHOP'S WELCOME AND OPENING OF CLERGY SESSION

Bishop opened with prayer. He shared his appreciation for each one of us. Bishop talked about the fact that we are all called to ministry. Building relationships is important.

Bishop asked those to stand who are not eligible to vote by listing the categories: local pastors, provisional members, Associate members

Bishop asked those to stand who are eligible to vote: Associate members on BOOM, laity on BOOM, Elder in full connection

Comprehensive Motion for Approval of Board Report – Rev. Bette Sohm read the motion as printed in the Clergy Session booklet.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

#18 Rev. Lydia Lebrón-Rivera reviewed, listing those who constitute the various committees:

- a. The Administrative Review Committee
- b. The Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry
- c. The Committee on Investigation

#19 – 23, and #26 – Rev. Eileen Daunt presented questions before the session.

Rev. Tim Riss asked for amendment by deletion in 21b. Name Seung Jin Hong – change by putting him in 21a as he has been serving full time. Rev. Riss will submit the information needed.

#24, 25 presented by Rev. Craig Fitzsimmons

Rev. Iwy Patel-Yatri read the Scripture reading

We sang, “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Rev. Dale Ashby offered prayer for those to be elected as associate members, provisional members and deacons and elders in full connection.

#27 – Rev. Daunt read question regarding those elected as associate members

#28 – Rev. Patel-Yatri read question regarding provisional deacons and elders. As names were called they came up on stage and were greeted by the bishop.

Bishop Bickerton asked for a vote to affirm the listed candidates. Vote carried.

Rev. Samuel Arhin offered prayer for those to be commissioned.

#29 – Rev. Ashby read question listing those who are continuing as provisional deacons and elders.

#30-32a – Rev. Ashby read questions regarding those to be elected as members in full connection.

As the names of the deacons were called, they came up on stage and were greeted by the bishop.

Rev. Steve Knutsen remarked that he does not want to stand in the way of any celebrations, but that he wants to be noted that we are not in line with *The Book of Discipline* as we are currently proceeding.

Bishop asked Rev. Lebrón-Rivera if the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) did their due diligence in examining the candidates?

Rev. Lebrón-Rivera replied “yes” and the bishop was satisfied that BOOM has done their due diligence.

Bishop asked for a vote to affirm the listed candidates for ordained ministry. Vote carried.

Rev. Ashby offered prayer for those to be ordained and received into full membership.

#33-34 – Names were read

Song of celebration was sung, “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

#35-41 – Names were presented by Rev. Fitzsimmons, Conference Relations Committee Chair

(Order is intentionally changed so that #49 is first)

#49 – Rev. Fitzsimmons presented names as listed of provisional and elders who have received appointments in other annual conferences of the UMC while retaining their membership in this annual conference.

#42- #47 – Names were presented by Rev. Fitzsimmons as listed in the Business of the Annual Conference.

#48-49 – Remembering the Saints: Ms. Margaret Howe offered prayer and noted that the listed people were remembered during the Service of Remembrance.

#50-#52 – Names of those taking leave presented by Rev. Fitzsimmons. Also, persons seeking voluntary leave of absence.

Bishop asked for vote and it passed.

Rev. Arhin offered prayer for those facing transition in their lives

#53-#56 – Names presented by Rev. Jessica Anschutz for information and people were invited to come forward as names were called.

#54 – Rev. Tim Riss noted that we need to add Dora Odarenko to the list of retired associates members.

Bishop offered prayer

#58-59 – Certification in Specialized Ministry. Gail Douglas-Boykin noted that the names are listed for information

#60-#62 – There were no names to be presented

#63 – Ximena (Varas) Diaz noted that names were listed of those certified as lay ministers

#64-70 – Gail Douglas-Boykin noted there are no names to be presented

#71 - Gail read name of Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt who will be retired this year. It was approved.

Gail Douglas-Boykin offered prayer for those who are serving as lay and diaconal ministers.

#73-76 – Rev. Denise Smartt Sears noted the appointments of those serving as less-than- full-time interim pastors and the changes in the appointment since last year as listed in the Business of Annual Conference booklet.

Rev. YangHee Christine Stopka remarked that she has been serving full time as a chaplain since 2016. Change should be made to the BAC booklet.

Rev. Smartt Sears offered a prayer for those in less-than-full-time service.

Rev. Robert Knebel offered prayer for those serving in extension ministries

#17 – The district superintendents came forward to present their respective districts before the bishop as blameless in life and official administration.

Bishop invited the Cabinet members to stand. Bishop thanked God for the joy to be able to work with the group of the people. Bishop finds no complaint and no charges to be brought before this body.

Bishop shared that he is grateful to be here. His wife, Sally Bickerton, noted the other day that they are happy to be here. Does the conference know this?

Rev. Smartt Sears offered prayer for the clergy of the NYAC.

Rev. Lydia Lebrón-Rivera invited us to read “Our Covenant Prayer” as printed in booklet.

Bishop led us in the Wesley Covenant Prayer together.

Hymn sung, “Go, Make of all Disciples”

Bishop sent us forth with blessing.

LAITY SESSION

Roena Littlejohn, Conference Lay Leader introduced the evening. She highlighted events of the six districts, acknowledged the lay leadership of the districts, and introduced the guest speaker.

Fred Brewington, one of our own laity was the guest presenter at the Laity Session. Fred was a lay member of the NYAC Delegation to the Special General Conference. He presented an enlightened PowerPoint presentation of the events. How these events impact the laity of the NYAC and what can the laity do in response. Mr. Brewington’s presentation is on the NYAC Web Site under AC19 Sermons, Videos and Presentations (<https://www.nyac.com/newsdetail/ac19-sermons-episcopal-address-presentations-available-12836306>).

JUNE 7 | FRIDAY MORNING

Music played as we began worship: “It’s a Long and Winding Road” and “May you Run and Not Be Weary”

Readings by Cabinet: 12 Readers

Song: “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Opening Session at 8:45am

Retiree Videos: Rev. John Simmons, Rev. Enrique Lebrón, Rev. Robert Grimm, Rev. Tom Carney

RESULTS OF LAITY BALLOT (GC) #1 – 282 Cast, 280 Valid Ballots, 2 Invalid Ballots, 141 Votes needed, Voting for 3 delegates to GC.

ELECTION: 195 Votes for Fred Brewington

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Fred.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Laity Ballot (GC) #2: Ballots were passed out and prayer video shown of Bishop Bickerton before voting.

Results of Clergy Ballot (GC) #1: 252 Ballots Cast, 251 Valid, 1 Invalid Vote

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results

Clergy Ballot (GC) #2: Ballots were passed out, prayer by Fred Brewington

STATE OF THE CHURCH EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Summary

Bishop began with prayer. There is a trip to England, specifically following the life of John Wesley, which the bishop takes every year with deacon and elder candidates. Bishop is convinced that more than ever, we need to look at John Wesley's life. Yes, he was not the most exemplary person but he was a person of contrast. High and low in life. John was methodical, connectional, a person of contrasts, a resistor.

Soon we will baptize children and celebrate confirmands and I will ask question about resistance. The question I ask is, "Will you resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?" It is important to understand this question.

- Are you willing "To withstand the force or effect of something."
- A question for parents of the baptized, for a confirmand and for an ordinand.
- It is a question for us.

The struggle for personal and social holiness. John Wesley and us – our roots are in this understanding. It is how we structure our mission for outreach, and social justice. The duality of personal and social holiness.

John Wesley struggled with his own personal holiness. He had to struggle with his human tendencies in his spiritual and personal life. His marriage was a failure and the missionary trip to Georgia was a desire to prove something to himself rather than a mission driven trip.

- He had to resist the temptation to respond to his own desires.
- He had to resist his own hesitations to give his life completely to God.
- He had to resist conforming to the criticism from outside.
- He had to resist practices of his church in order to proclaim the Gospel.
- He had to resist the call to conform in order to give birth to a new movement.

We know that Wesley struggled but was influenced by Boehler and Moravians. John had to resist his own desires. He also had to resist the patterns of religious institutions. The Anglican Church was dying because it had grown stale, exclusive and rigid. They had practices that were so ingrained that they resisted proclaim the Gospel in any other settings other than the buildings.

Yet Wesley was called to preach to the marginalized coal miners, workers so that they may hear the Gospel. It was considered vile. The Anglican Bishop wrote a letter,

telling him to leave town. John responded, “I look upon the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation.” – June 1739

John stood on his father’s grave because his church would not let him inside and so he had to resist the call to conform to the regular practices.

1748 – John established a “new room” which had movable benches so that space could be used for worship, education, medical dispensary and for the needs. “New Room” became a shining example of resistance, where personal holiness yoked up with social holiness when the doors opened. John Wesley had to resist oppression, evil and injustice in his church. This led to the movement of Methodist to travel to America. The Methodists in America asked Wesley to send ordained clergy to administer sacraments. John Wesley resisted for two years. But then Wesley ordained Coke and Asbury to send them as bishops. The Anglican church collapsed in America. Then as Wesley searched the scriptures, prayerfully Wesley stepped out in faith to ordain presbyters like Coke and Asbury as superintendents, eventually as bishop.

If we trace back our ordinations, we were ordained by someone who was ordained tracing all the way to Thomas Coke or Francis Asbury. Wesley had to resist business as usual to allow Methodism to flourish. What does all this have anything to do with us in 2019? Bishop argues that it has everything to do with us. John would have been amazed by the growth of Methodism today. Wesley was imperfect but God still used him. We are experiencing our own version of crisis of personal holiness.

I have had four significant conversions in my life. At least two have been about investing my whole self to the whole institution. Yet, I need to nurture myself in a God who makes all things new. I have placed myself in the hands of the institution instead of God. I am not alone. We have invested in the tangible practice of “how” of ministry instead of “why?” We need to surrender ourselves to the will and direction of God’s guidance.

- The need for a NEW Conversion
- An investment in “human systems”
- Working out our own salvation.
- A miss-appropriated allegiance.
- An overinvestment on legislation

We are patterned after the government system and that creates two sides; winners and losers. We are beating each other up. We are making Wesley’s following prophecy true:

Wesley said, “I am not afraid that people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or American. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this will undoubtedly be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit and discipline with which they first set out.” –John Wesley

We need a conversion from the things that are converting us instead of God converting us.

The Crisis of Social Holiness: A Missional Crisis

- The Resistance to Change
There are those who are resistant to doctrinal change, to hold onto scriptural truth
- The Resistance to Conformity
There are those who are resistant to exclude, for church to change with time

- The Resistance to Conflict
There are those who are resistant to chaos, conflict and the argument.

It will not go away. We build a narrative for 2020, but it won't matter. Relationships will be further damaged, crafted rumors will circulate, conspiracy theories will abound and any remaining trust receptors will be fried. – Rev. Shane Bishop

The Council of Bishops was inadequate in the statement they released after the Special General Conference. But there was one word that is accurate, "Untenable." We cannot hold the reality as we have now.

1. Our differences are real and irreconcilable.
2. Our present situation is unsustainable.
3. Our dysfunction is ingrained and has become the norm.
4. There is no middle ground.
5. Fear, coercion and legal threats are not function ways to hold us together.
6. We gave failed in our attempts to effectively stay together.

What does it mean to bless and send rather than fight and rend? We need to look at this seriously. I have been involved in 9 different conversations. They are hopeful, energizing but they are still in formulation stage. The conversations have to come together and we need cohesion and clarity so that we can move together. There are those who are putting eggs in basket of legislation to move us forward. We are putting our emotional and spiritual lives in a system that is broken.

We need to build relationships because they will personalize who the decisions will help and who they will hurt. If legislation that is passed that is stricter and punitive and if legislation that changes the current position will leave victims lying on the side of the road. It is time for a new model and fresh way. It must be a pathway for those who would like a more traditional way and for those who want a more exclusive form a ministry. We need to bless one another and send each other on that pathway.

Cooperative Parish Clusters

We are forming clusters in every district. Training leaders and engaging in deeper conversations about a way forward. We are not forcing accountability on groups but want people to have deeper and honest conversations. We are trying to create not a top down but bottom up about how folks can better align themselves that represents the people in their midst. We are forming new groups and build models of support and intimate conversations need to be held as we move forward.

Beginning next week, Bishop will be holding a meeting and have conversations about how we can live out our realities. If we are going to see a new and fresh expressions of Methodism, then we need to talk with people who think differently. It has to come from the ground up and then will move its way out to the larger group.

Other Ways to Move Forward

In addition, we need to align ourselves with other conferences. NYAC is relatively small and we only have 434 churches. If we split into various alignments then we will not have sustainability. I hope that you will be pray and participating and willing.

A pathway "for the sake of the mission?" What do we do in the meantime? The struggle between "How?" and "Why?"

- Deep listening and care for one another
- Maintaining a vision of a new day in the not too distant future

- Taking deep breaths and finding a calming center
- Working for the “sake of the mission.”

How will we do this? How will we survive? How do we revitalize? How do we sustain?

What about our “Why?” It is why we focus on our mission:

We need to find ways to live out our mission, vision and core values in the context and communities we find ourselves in. We are together until we are not. We need to have deep care and sensitivity towards one another. We have various expressions and are diverse.

Sally and I love and cherish you. There are so many gifts present and callings evident. We need to recognize that each side has gifts. That civility and grace combined with deep breathing and a calming center.

I went to churches after the General Conference; I applaud how you are ministering in the local churches. Keep focused on the mission and remain calm.

Life out of death: The root of Jesse – Isaiah 11:1-9

Proclaim in the midst of discouragement that God will prevail and hope will endure. The work of the reframing will continue. But let’s try our best to settle down and love each other in the meantime. Go back to your local churches and do the job of nurturing disciples on the journey and do not forget that in every place, where there is an expression of Methodism that there are people hungry for the Gospel, for hope in the midst of their despair. Over the course of the next year, somebody will need you. Love your people, bless them, show them that we have the capacity to love God and love others so deeply that not even the discord of our church will not deter us. Stir them up with the possibility of a better life, better church and new life in Christ.

Ended from a final word: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though... We cannot see whether God is building or pulling down... It may be that the time which from a human point are great times for the church are times when it’s pulled down. Forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.” May it be so. Amen.

Results of Clergy Ballot (GC) #2: 216 Ballots Cast, 213 Valid Ballots,
3 Invalid Ballots

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Clergy Ballot (GC) #3: Ballots were passed out. Video prayer offered by Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Conference. Ballots were collected.

Prior to prayer and voting – Rev. Doris Dalton asked to withdraw name – vote for LGTBTQ and anti-racism candidate.

Prior to prayer and voting – Rev. Martha Vink asked to withdraw name for same reasons and asked to be considered for Jurisdictional Conference.

Clergy voting for 3.

Results Laity Ballot (GC) #2: 181 Ballots Cast, 181 Ballots Valid, 91 Needed to Elect

Election: 94 votes for Jorge Lockward

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Jorge.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Laity Ballot (GC) #3: Ballots were passed out. Clayton Miller prayed for candidates. Voting for 1 candidate.

READING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Connecticut District Superintendent, Rev. Alpher Sylvester

Pastors of the Connecticut District were invited to come to the front and take their place.

Bishop Bickerton thanked Rev. Sylvester for his work as D.S. of the district. As names of the new pastors were read, they were invited to come forward and join the group.

Bishop reminded the clergy that they are not being appointed to a church but to community, to a larger network of people. Walk the streets, visit in the hospital, befriend the people in the margins. I appoint you to the communities. There will be buildings you will work out of but they are temporary landing places. Let's transform the Connecticut area.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND

Veronica Darby invited Christian Minzy, recent graduate of Rust College to speak.

Greetings on behalf of the Black College Fund administrators, students and supporters. Christian spoke about the importance of the Black Colleges, in particular his college experience at Rust College. He found a new social strength when he started in 2015. He grew rich in the experience and spoke about how it is a family. Every student is known by name. They are grateful for our support.

Offering Received for Black College Fund

Prayer was offered by Elaine Nelson

HEALING PRAYER SERVICE WITH ANOINTING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Prelude –“Blessings” – Music Team

Greetings – Jackie White-Garman

Hymn – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Scripture – Psalm 91:1-3, 14-16 and Matthew 11:28-30 read by Sharon Betts

Confession and Pardon – led by Bishop Bickerton

Scripture – James 5:14-16

Blessing of the Oil

The laity teams were blessed by Bishop Bickerton to anoint and pray for the people.

Hymn – “Spirit Song”

Music during the Administration of Oil and Laying on of Hands included:

“Show Me Your Way,” “You Are My All in All,” “Gracefully Broken,” “Into My Heart,” “He Touched Me,” “I Won’t Go Back,” “Anointing Oil Fall on Me”

Closing Hymn – “When There Is No Star to Guide You”

Dismissal With Blessing – Bishop Bickerton

Announcements and Lunch Break

JUNE 7 | FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Bishop Bickerton called session to order.

Retiree Videos: Moonsook Kim, Victoria Kittoe, Godfrey Uche

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report given by Rev. David Henry

Rev. Henry thanked those on the committee. He noted that the members serve as liaisons to the other committees. Rev. Henry noted that the slate is before us. In the document there is a blue sheet (errata sheet). For the sake of time, if there is a mistake that needs to be corrected, please fill out the sheet and give it to Margaret Howe or himself.

Bishop asked if we approve the report of the Nominations. It passed by a show of hands.

Results Laity Ballot (GC) #3: 179 Ballots Cast, 177 Ballots Valid, 2 Invalid Ballots, 89 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Laity Ballot (GC) #4: Ballots were passed out. Rev. Julia Yim prayed for candidates. Voting for 1 candidate

Results of Clergy Ballot (GC) #3: 222 Ballots Cast, 221 Valid Ballots, 1 Invalid Ballot, 111 Needed to Elect

Election: 118 Votes for Noel Chin

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Noel.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the clergy results.

Clergy Ballot (GC) #4: Clergy Ballots were passed out and after below comments Rev. Noel Chin offered prayer.

Kristina Hansen – Wanted to thank everyone who voted for her, she is in favor for her votes to go to another anti-racism and LGBTQ ally with more votes.

Ed Horne – wanted to remind the body that Vicki Flippin requested her votes go to another person; that is 6 wasted votes.

Lea Matthews – in keeping with others, please use the votes she received to go to another candidate with anti-racism and LGBTQ support.

READING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

New York/Connecticut District Superintendent, Rev. Betsy Ott and Rev. Timothy Riss

Bishop Bickerton read a letter on the occasion of Betsy’s retirement and announcement of Rev. Timothy Riss as superintendent of the New York/Connecticut District.

Pastors of the New York/Connecticut District were invited to come to the front and take their place.

Bishop thanked Rev. Ott for her work as D.S. of the district. As names of the new pastors were read, they were invited to come forward and join the group.

Bishop reminded the clergy that they are not being appointed to a church but to community, to a larger network of people. Walk the streets, visit in the hospital, befriend the people in the margins. I appoint you to the communities. There will be buildings you will work out of but they are temporary landing places. Let's transform the New York/Connecticut area.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Report given by Jerry Eyster

Review 2020 Conference Budget Guide. Comparison chart about increase/decrease since 2011. It was felt that a 10 or even a 3% increase would be acceptable by the body. The budget is a 0-increase budget. The budget aligns with the conference Mission, Vision and Core Values.

88% collected rate on assigned apportionments. Budgets are the result of trade-offs among priorities. Budgets generally do not provide everyone with what they ask. Budgets are constrained by what funding is available, primarily through Apportionments.

Jerry thanked the finance team under Ross Williams and those on the CF&A committee.

Bishop ask the body to thank Ross Williams for his deep commitment. Jerry has faced a challenging year within his family – and the bishop asked the body to thank Jerry for his continued work during these challenging times.

REPORT OF BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Report given by Jefferson Boyce

Mission:

- Provide pension benefits to retirees, spouses and survivors
- Provide retiree medicare supplemental program
- Provide retirement program, disability and death benefits of active clergy and lay employees of the NYAC

Guiding Principles are Financial Sustainability, Transparency and Fairness

Headwinds:

- Longevity – we are living longer
- Medical costs continue to escalate
- Wellness challenges
- State of healthcare environment remains uncertain

Implications:

- Longevity: longer payout periods of pension benefits
- Rising medical cost – places increasing cost pressure on churches and pastors
- Wellness challenges: plans cost challenges on healthcare premiums

Healthcare Benefits Update:

- NYAC adopted Wespath's HealthFlex Exchange
- Wespath's HealthFlex Exchange program is a defined contribution program

- Offer more healthcare plan options to clergy
- Allows clergy and local churches to manage and control costs
- Provides transparency of actual healthcare costs to clergy

Action:

- Rollout was very successful
- Rollout tools to clergy to assist in deciding the appropriate healthcare plan
- Contact Sally Truglia (Benefits Coordinator) for additional questions and assistance

Healthcare Benefits Update

NYAC provides a fixed amount of “spending dollars” to clergy. \$750 for single, \$1,531 for plus one, and \$2,150 for family.

The uniform rate that will be billed each church will be \$18,240

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Report given by James Perkins

Jim Perkins presented report. Guiding principle is the quote by John Wesley, “One of the principal rules of religion is to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since God is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve God and our neighbor...”

Report is on p. 109 in Booklet of Preliminary Reports, Petitions and Resolutions. Two new trustees were received this year, Al Hanson and Rev. Bill Pfohl.

Jim introduced the trustees, encouraged folks to get to know the trustees. This year the trustees welcomed Daniel Servelli as property manager. This year there will be no large projects tackled. Trustees continue to deal with closed churches and how to transition church buildings to still have a Methodist presence in various areas.

Conference advisors were listed: Bishop Bickerton, Lawrence McGaughey, Ross Williams, David Servelli, Rev. Denise Smartt Sears.

Recent activity

Church properties in transition:

- Transfer of 48 St. Marks place to First UMC Flushing
- Sale of Summitville UMC Building, Summitville, NY
- Sale and repurposing of Newburgh First UMC building for historical preservation and community services, Newburgh, NY

Trust Funds

Assets: \$9,862,739

Recently Active Funds:

- Young Clergy Debt Assistance Fund
- Dorothea H. and Raymond Dier Trust
- Black College Scholarships
- Shinnecock Tribe in Montauk, Long Island

Work of the trustees is done as best we can with faithful folks. “The best of all, God is with us. Farewell!” - John Wesley

JUNE 7 | FRIDAY EVENING

Bishop Bickerton called evening session to order.

Retiree Videos: Kathleen LaCamera Loughlin, Johnny L. Ceasar,
Robert Thompson-Gee, Patrick Perrin

Remembering Bishop C. Dale White: Bishop Bickerton asked those who were ordained by Bishop White to stand as well as those who attended a conference where Bishop White presided. A prophetic leader and unafraid; we remember this great leader, a great friend to many. A prayer of thanks was offered by Bishop Bickerton.

Results of Clergy Ballot (GC) #4: 213 Ballots Cast, 206 Valid Ballots, 11 Invalid Ballots, 118 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Paul Fleck asked to be taken out of the running and that his votes would go to a LGBTQIA candidate and he be considered for Jurisdictional Delegate.

Clergy Ballot (GC) #5: Clergy Ballots were passed out. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Western Pennsylvania Conference prayed.

Results of Laity Ballot (GC) #4: 226 Ballots, 223 Valid Ballots, 3 Invalid Ballots, 124 Needed to Elect

Election: 148 Votes for Gail Douglas-Boykin

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Gail.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #1:

Bishop gave directions to laity to vote for 3 delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. Do not vote for those who have been chosen for General Conference.

Laity Ballots were passed out and Gail Douglas-Boykin offered the prayer

Jim Willis, Newtown UMC Laity – noted that David Wildman’s name was not on the ballot but is noted on the screen. Bishop said that the name could be written in by hand on the ballot.

MISSION PRESENTATION

Rev. Tom Vencuss with Hannah Reasoner, Global Mission Fellow

Bishop thanked Tom for his passion for mission. Tom thanked the bishop for his words. Tom highlight the four foci of mission: Abundant Health, Disaster Response, Global Ministries and Local Outreach. Mission is about serving God’s people everywhere. On behalf of those who have been served, Tom wants to thank everyone for their support.

Jill Wilson, Conference Secretary on Mission, introduced Becky Parsons and Hannah Reasoner.

Becky Parsons serves as our Global Missionary in residence for Northeastern Jurisdiction. Hannah Reasoner serves as a NYAC Home Missioner, part of church.

Becky brought greetings from GBGM and shared about her experience in ministry. Currently she serves as the Mission Advocate for NYAC. Jill Wilson’s card is on the table

and Becky encouraged us to contact Jill Wilson if we want to have a missionary visit us. On the local church level, Becky is available to come and speak at local churches.

Video shown about Global Mission – celebrating 200 years in ministry.

Hannah Reasoner shared that for the past two years, she has been the young adult Global Mission Fellow in Colombia. Big emphasis on being in mission with the people. They use arts and media to talk about human rights with women and children.

Video was shown about the work in which Hannah is involved in Colombia. Using creative arts, they help kids learn about human rights, equality and justice. Testimonies of young children were shown.

Hannah said that our support makes it possible for youth to learn and helping them see new possibilities to serve God in a new way.

Offering – JFON – Bishop invited Rev. Paul Fleck to speak about JFON – Justice for Our Neighbors. Paul introduced Rev. Marjorie Nunez who offered prayer for the offering.

Bishop Bickerton recognized Peter Cook, Director of National Council of Churches, which certifies and supplies chaplains to prisons. Come talk to Peter Cook if you are interested in being a chaplain, there's a shortage. The NCC are about social holiness and are trying to live that out in Albany. May we all work together to do justice that all our hearts may be strangely warm.

PRESENTATION BY REV. DR. KENDA CREASY DEAN

Rev. David Gilmore, Director of Congregational Development introduced Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, author of "Almost Christian." The book helped him to understand teenagers, to listen to them. Tonight, we have with us someone who is a "shero" to me (David). Kenda Creasy Dean is helping us where we are lacking. She wrote a book "Almost Christian" and that transformed David's life and ministry. At the same time David was struggling with a teenager – from the book David got that we don't do a good job listening. When teens talk, they are saying something so shocking that we shut them down. Kenda comes to talk about a mission innovative that we are hoping to start here in NY.

Summary: Kenda opened her time in prayer. In 1909, the American Blacksmith Union had a decline. An invite went out and the Union increased. But within a decade the union was gone. Ford introduced the Model T and the leadership of the union didn't change. Leaders need to learn to adapt.

Most of us in the UMC have had a "Houston, We Have a Problem" moment. We are in a season of hacking. Learning to use things that we have never used before to find a fix. How much of the church as we know it are we willing to let go of in order to follow Jesus?

Redemptive Innovation: Gregory Doyle, "Tattoos on the Heart." That's how "Homeboy Industries" started. "Love Heals." (Rev. Becca Stevens) Magdalene House and Thistle Farms

"Maison Shalom" Maggie create a place where kids can be loved. Her horrific experience of violence where she worked as a secretary and many were killed in front of her, emboldened her to provide care for kids. She adopted 7 kids, cared for 25 more and then worked to create a space of hope where there been so much death.

Christian social imagination is important. Big ideas will not save the church. Only Jesus Christ can save the church. Do it for love or do not do it at all.

The New Economy: Abundance, not scarcity; collaboration, not competition; mutuality, not individuality; create value for people and communities (not just profit).

Churches were leading the way for hospitals, schools, mills to help people. If you ever asked someone in the Middle Ages, how you want to make a difference in the world, the answer would be the church. Today, the answer is “Tom’s Shoes.”

“Social entrepreneurship emerged in business schools in part because of the decline of interest by the church.”

20-Somethings: Aspirational Entrepreneurs

90% consider themselves “entrepreneurial”

- Want to start my own business (50% millennials, 64% Latinos, 63% African Americans)
- 24% have started a side business
- 90% “will take risks”
- 40% will invent something that will change the world

Some examples of “entrepreneurial” experiences/opportunities came from the floor:

- Campus ministry and community outreach
- The Feed Truck, Kingston UMC (NJ)
- The New Sincerity: “Where Millennials, Utopian World and Activism Collide.”
- Millennials confidence in social institutions have positive impact on society
- 86% Small Business, 55% church
- The Immanent Frame- Charles Taylor, “The Secular Age”

Young people sense that the frame they are in is too small. They sense there is something beyond the unease that there is something bigger that we are supposed to be about. That stretches the canvas of their current frame. When love is the overriding factor, then you will build upon killing fields.

The church is open now more than ever because of desperation. We are not called to have great ideas. We are called to have great love.

It involves risk. Maison Shalom is built at the possible cost of her life. Maggie met the assassins at the door who came to kill her. She built the movie theater. Don’t quit your day job. Most things take time. This needs patience and cultivation. Innovation does not throw out all things. Use past to innovate. We remember our future.

We are like the lobster. We are bloated with bureaucracy and cracking. We need to let go of the shell and it is at this time that we become vulnerable.

Hatch-A-Thon: October 11-13th – Dr. Kenda will be coming back to help us to brainstorm with youth. Next Gen Hatch-a-thon. New and innovative love-filled ideas to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

10 teams with at least 5 people on the team. At least one has to be a teenager. Every teen that enters and every church that enters gets \$500. 3rd place: \$2,500, 2nd place: \$5,000, 1st place: \$7,500.

Hatch-a-thon turns hare-brained ideas into a viable exciting new ministry.

In about 48 hours, you are going to discern: WHO is God is calling you to love? Learn about WHAT? What does sustainable social innovation look like their community? How

God led you to this point? Sketch out 7 points. Talk about 12 systems, Pitch the idea, Drink Coffee and discover like-minded friends in ministry you didn't know you had. Bishop Bickerton introduced Beth Capen, a representative of the Judicial Council.

REPORT OF UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY

Report given by Rev. Bill Shillady, Executive Director

Invited the members of City Society to stand.

Under the direction of Allison King, director of Anchor House, we are now able to bill medicare and social services for the services we provide. We received \$19 million grant for building more beds and provide outpatient services at site.

Olmsted Center – Retreat center is being used by our Methodist connection. Church groups and/or not-for-profit groups. Camp Olmsted. July 29-August 4th.

Bethel Home – Unit being built for senior citizens (previously incarcerated) using the former area of Trinity Church which closed.

As congregations die or as congregations are merged, the City Society invests in the other congregations in the community.

- \$1M endowment for Metropolitan Community UMC from the sale of Madison Avenue
- Once the Cuyler-Warren Street building is sold an endowment of 10% of the net of the sale will go to Immanuel — First Spanish
- Partnership with the NYAC on the Bronx and Brooklyn Plan

Awarded \$16 M in mission and ministry since 2008. Average grants: (2008- \$11,353) (2018 - \$17,000)

Society founded in 1838 and future looks bright. To boldly go and make disciples to transform the universe.

Results of Clergy Ballot (GC) #5: 202 Ballots Cast, 202 Valid Ballots; 102 Votes Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results

Clergy Ballot (GC) #6: Ballots were passed out. Prayer from Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, West Virginia Conference.

Results Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #1: 258 Ballots Cast, 250 Valid Ballots, 8 Invalid Ballots – 126 Needed to Elect

Election: 135 Votes for Tiffany French Goffe

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Tiffany.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #2: Ballots were passed out and Bishop Bickerton offered a prayer

JUNE 8 | SATURDAY MORNING

Opening Prayer Service Led by Rev. Laurel Scott, Newman Memorial UMC and members of the United Methodist Women. Rev. Scott praised and congratulated the UMW on 150 years.

Prayers of the People Prayer Team (The prayers of the people were collected Friday evening and woven into this inclusive prayer.)

Hymn – “Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise”

Bishop Called Saturday Session to Order

Bishop shared his memories of UMW. When he was a student and did not have any money after paying bills, he is grateful for the financial support of the UMW.

Results Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #2: 180 Ballots Cast, 171 Valid Ballots, 9 Invalid Ballots, 86 Needed to Elect

Election: 117 Votes for Ann Craig

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Ann.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #3: Ballots were passed out. Prayer was offered by Bishop Mark Webb, Upper New York Conference.

Results Clergy Ballot (GC) #6: 177 Ballots Cast, 174 Valid Ballots, 3 Invalid Ballots, 88 Needed to Elect

Election: 99 votes for Denise Smartt Sears and 88 votes for Timothy Riss

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Denise and Tim

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #1: Ballots were passed out. Ann Craig offered a prayer.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

New York Education Society

Rev. Sandy Mantz

Emily Bartolotta, University of Buffalo, Accounting, Hicksville UMC, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Nunes

Timothy Bosco, SUNY Purchase, BFA Dance Performance, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Courtney Chantale Celestin, New York University, Bachelors of Arts in Psychology, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Chelsea Christian, Will be studying Nursing, Hicksville UMC, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Nunes

Brian Eichenaur, BS Biomedical Engineering, Hicksville UMC, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Nunes

Rebecca Ferguson, Mercyhurst University, Bachelor in Music Therapy and Special Education, Vail’s Gate UMC, Rev. Julia Winward

Jessie Floyd, Bard College Bachelor Spanish Studies: Major Gender Sexuality Studies Concentration, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Rowan Grieb, New England College, Bachelors of Arts in Elementary and Special Education, East Meadow UMC, Rev. Dorett Johnson–Agu

Josianne Hamilton, University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science in Biology, North UMC, Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton

Skye Noe Hamilton-Carranza, The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, Bachelors Music Performance, Musical Studies: Composition, Hicksville UMC, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Nunes

Annah Mae Heckman, Union Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Noah Christopher Heckman, Temple University - Japan Campus, BS Economics, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Adam Jackson, Western Connecticut State University Bachelor in Music Education, UMC of Branford, Rev. Kent Jackson

Julie Jeong, Statue University at Albany, NY, Bachelor in Social Work, Christ Korean UMC, Rev. Chang Hoon Jeong

Isis Larias, Hofstra University, Bachelors, Psychology, Hicksville UMC, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Nunes

Harold Karpen, SUNY Binghamton, Bachelors, Engineering, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Ikgang Jin, Drew University Theological, Master of Arts, General Theology, Korean Methodist Church & Institute, Rev. Dr. YongBo Lee

Chanju Kim, Queensborough Community College, Associate in Psychology, Long Island Korean UMC, Rev. Jae Hyun Kim

Steve (Young Dong) Kim, Boston University, Doctor of Ministry, UMC of Huntington-Cold Spring Harbor

Emily Mantz, Boston University, B/S DPT Physical Therapy, UMC of Waterbury, Rev. Sandra Mantz

Christopher Moore, Houghton College, B. S Media Arts Communication, Ghana Wesley UMC, Rev. Angel A. Abakah

Cameron Neiblum, Allegheny College, Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Environmental Science and Sustainability, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Logan Ortiz, Georgetown University, Government and American Studies, Minor in Economics, Setauket UMC, Rev. Steven Kim

Crystal Paul Watson, M.Div., Drew University

Katie Reimer, Union Theological Seminary, Masters of Divinity, Concentration: Interreligious Engagement, Church of the Village, Rev. Jeffrey Wells.

Rebecca Ritter, University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, New Life UMC, Rev. Chris Yount

Stacia Robinson, Drew Theological School, Master of Divinity, Crawford Memorial UMC, Rev. Janet Hodge

Yeram Z. Fuentes-Rodriquez, SUNY Purchase, MFA Film, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UM, Rev. K Karpen

Laura Joy Tiedman, Vanderbilt University, Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC, Rev. K Karpen

Allison Nicole VanDerlyn, Southern Connecticut State University, Bachelors Early Childhood Educating and Interdisciplinary Studies with concentration in Family, Community Studies and Psychology, Watertown UMC, Rev. David Mantz

Rev. William James Family Scholarship

Presented by family (Ms. Jade Sharpe James & family)

Presented to Onick Boquet, Sharif Redon, Courtney Lucas

Gloster B. Current Scholarship

Aurora Lynelle Celestin, Columbia College, Columbia University, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC, Rev. K Karpen

Tyler Jenkins, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, First UMC, Torrington, CT, Rev. Mike Jenkins

UM City Society Urban Ministries

Scholarship presented by Ms. Mary Ellen Kris: Rev. Dr. Hector Custodio (Pastor Benny) & Katerina Van Curran

Harry Denman Evangelism Awards

Rev. Tom McLeod and People of the North Fork UMC

Rev. Dr. Keith Muhleman Ministry Grants

Presented by Ms. Ellen Knudsen, Exec Dir, UM Frontier Foundation

- Worship Without Walls, Poughkeepsie UMC
- Higganum, CT – Coffeehouse Ministry
- Derby UMC, Valley Breakfast

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Report presented by Rev. Dr. Denise Smartt Sears. She thanked everyone for generous giving and that Africa University was funded at 100%.

SHIRLEY PARRIS SERVICE AWARD

Presented by Ms. Roena Littlejohn to Fred Brewington. Fred was the Speaker at the Laity Session. The Shirley Parris Award was established in 2011 and presented to laity person for service on local, district, annual, jurisdictional and general church level. Information on Shirley Parris is on the NYAC website.

READING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Metropolitan District Superintendent Rev. Denise Smartt Sears who has served 7 years and being appointed for another year.

Pastors of the Metropolitan District were invited to come to the front and take their place.

Bishop thanked Rev. Smartt Sears for her work as D.S. of the district. As names of the new pastors were read, they were invited to come forward and join the group.

Bishop reminded the clergy that they are not being appointed to a church but to community, to a larger network of people. Walk the streets, visit in the hospital, befriend the people in the margins. I appoint you to the communities. There will be buildings you will work out of but they are temporary landing places. Let's transform the Metropolitan district.

BISHOP BICKERTON RECOGNIZED REV. RANDY DAY

Rev. Day served as a former GBGM Secretary. Bishop read a letter from Thomas Kemper, GBGM Secretary to Randy Day for his work with mission and work on malaria. Rev. Day is retiring.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

Ross Williams introduced staff in alphabetical order. Ross also acknowledged Barbara Eastman who is retiring as a full-time employee. Bishop Bickerton acknowledged the conference staff and how deeply blessed he is to work with this group of people.

Results of Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #3: 241 Ballots Cast, 240 Valid Ballots, 1 Invalid Ballot, 121 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #4: Ballots were passed out. Rev. Denise Smartt Sears offered a prayer.

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #1: 192 Ballots Cast, 188 Valid Ballots, 4 Invalid Ballots, 95 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #2: Ballots were passed out. Roena Littlejohn offered a prayer.

Vicki Flippin asked that her votes go to someone who is anti-racism and LGBTQI friendly and she be considered for an alternate.

A CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY: COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS, RECOGNITION OF LOCAL PASTORS AND CELEBRATION OF RETIREMENT

Gathering Music provided by Music Team and the Dance Ministry from Grace UMC, St. Albans, NY

Processional Hymns – “We Are Called” and “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Bishop Bickerton introduced and welcomed Claris Skerritt, retiring deaconess, Bishop Alfred Johnson and Ms. Erin Hawkins, General Secretary for the Commission on Religion & Race

Call to Worship

Hymn: “Here I Am, Lord”

Scripture – I Corinthians 12:12-27 read in Spanish – Pastor Hector Custodio

Scripture – Exodus 3:7-15 read by Rev. Sejin Cha

Sermon – Ms. Erin Hawkins, General Secretary for the Commission on Religion and Race

Summary: A great time to be in the church even in the midst of trouble. A celebration that people are still answering the call. And for this we should always say thanks. To say “yes” always takes courage.

Two scriptures were read. In Exodus – God is commissioning Moses. God is calling Moses because God has been sparked – he hears the cries of the Israelites. It wasn’t just slavery that held them back – even after they left Egypt they still have problems. Moses, “why me.” God, “I got you.” In conversation with Moses, God says his name has always been his name. The Israelites cried out but this ancient story is not so ancient in today’s world. Today we see people enslaved to poverty, illness, loneliness, and he list goes on.

Erin’s office is in the Methodist Building in the center of Washington DC. On any given day a protest is happening. Are we for it, are we against it. The cries of the suffering show up in public speech. Do we have the ears to hear it? Do we roll our eyes because we are affected by it, or do we lean in to hear? We don’t like to be uncomfortable – but the suffering are suffering and have a story which needs to be listened to. The cries of human suffering reach the ears of God.

In the midst of the pain and uncertainty God meets us where we are. In lonely places or on mountain tops. God calls us to be agents of change, to help pardon those who have been enslaved.

Moses pleads his lack of skills and ability. God says, I will be with you. You can be who you are, God will use you and find a place for you to be you, and use you as you are. Moses turned from questioning his identity; he questions God’s identity. God responds I am who I am. God is saying, don’t box me in. Perhaps God is trying to say that we won’t know who God truly is until we are in the places where God truly resides.

Where does God be? In the world is where God is. To be in ministry is a full-contact sport. God said I am the homeless, undocumented, black and brown, queer, trans women, all the people we step over to get to the building we think where God is.

We have to step out of those building and be out in the world so we can see God in each other. God has been awakened by the cries of those who are hurting. We must be willing to follow God out into the world.

We celebrate the folks today who are stepping into the call of God no matter where they are on their journey – the first step or even in retirement.

God places gifts in all of us – then God calls us to use those gifts in many places. Never doubt, never doubt, never doubt, that God is calling you to a purpose. That call is always unfolding, convicting us, it’s not one shot it’s always calling us to be closer to where Christ is, in the world.

Today we are more polarized and isolated than we have ever been with the technology we have. But, God is still calling, the cry is still going out. The same God that was with slaves on slave ships; the God who was with the Native Americans when their land was taken is with us; the God who loved us so much that he gave up his own Son is still with us now. SO, trust in the power of that God.

Hold on to that God, we are called for a purpose. God’s great testimony to the people – I will be peace, shelter, I will be peace. I will call my agents to be in all places. Amen.

Prayers for the Church and for the World – Rev. Enrique Lebrón

Hymn: “The Church Has Here Commissioned Us”

Introduction to Recognition and Commissioning

Recognition of New Licensed Local Pastors:

Daniel Asibuoh-Sarpong, Egan Bovell, Onick Bouquet, Hector B. Custodio,
Stephen Ernst, Seung Jin Hong, Eugene Knoth, Shari Fleming Ponder,
Lee A. Stowe, Jennifer Stultz

The district superintendent of the new licensed local pastors placed the scapular on each.

Sung Response: “Reamo Legogoa – We Give Our Thanks”

Presentation of Persons to be Commissioned

The General Examination of the People

Commissioning of Provisional Members:

Angel Anthony Abakah, Akilah Bixler, John Jackson Blossom, Jacqueline Carter,
Sejin Cha, Steve Eugene Chu, Deborah J. Clifford, Mickey Correa,
Nikki Lynn Edleman, Zhaodeng Peng, Debra San Pablo

The Prayer of Commissioning with Laying on of Hands

Sung Response: “Children, Go Where I Send Thee”

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY / RECOGNITION OF 2019 RETIREES

Laura Bender, Thomas Carney, Johnny Ceasar, Eleanor Cresson, R. Randy Day,
Sara Goid, Robert Grimm, Kyong Hee Kim, Moonsook Kim, Victoria Kittoe,
Kathleen LaCamera Loughlin, Mary Ann Langley, Enrique Lebrón,
Edward Norman, Elizabeth Ott, Patrick Perrin, A. Erik Rasmussen,
John T. Simmons, Jr., Dee Carol Stevens, Robert J. Thompson-Gee,
Godfrey A Uche, Kirtland M. Watkins

Greeting

Order of Farewell

Words of Thanksgiving

Prayer

Passing The Mantle

Altar Call

Bishop Bickerton invited all those who feel a call to ministry to renew their commitment to ministry.

Offering: Mozambique Cyclone Response

Bishop Bickerton introduced Bishop Johnson who asked for a moment of personal privilege. Bishop Johnson would like to introduce a research professor and director of ministry at New York Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. LaKeesah Walrond, the new president of NY Theological. Dr. Walrond is the first female president of 119 years strong NYTS. The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Hammond, President of the NYTS Board of Trustees was also introduced.

Benediction

JUNE 8 | SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Retirement Video #4: Leo Curry, Betsy Ott, R. Randy Day

Results Laity Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #4: 263 Ballots Cast, 256 Valid Ballots, 7 Invalid Ballots, 129 Needed to Elect

Election: 145 votes for Karen Prudente

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Karen.

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the laity results.

Next set of Laity Votes would be for Alternates. Rule 83 of our Conference Rules state that one final ballot after elections are made to take the top 3 as Alternates.

Laity Ballot (Alternates) #5: Ballots were passed out. Prayer video from Bishop John Schol, Greater New Jersey Conference.

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #2: 220 Ballots Cast, 216 Valid Ballots, 4 Invalid Ballots, 109 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #3: Ballots were passed out. Bishop Bickerton offered prayer.

Matt Curry appreciates all six who voted for him, please requests that the votes go to an anti-racism and LGBTQI candidate. Doris Dalton, Vicki Flippin, Sheila Beckford, also asked the same. Cherie Philips also ask to be removed.

YongBo Lee also wants to be removed from the list and suggested his votes go to a Korean American.

CONVERSATION LED BY GENERAL SECRETARY ERIN HAWKINS

Summary: How you live together as a diverse multicultural multilingual body of faith here in New York, and how that will live out in whatever new expression comes about.

Erin shared Acts 2:5-10 – The beginning of the church – supernatural act of the Holy Spirit swept through the body were able to tell the works of God in their own language. This is the vision of the church – where people can show up speaking their own language being who they are. Diversity was at the center of the group at Pentecost.

Christianity and oppression go hand in hand. The western church has a connection with oppression and Christianity. Even the Methodist movement; we can see it in our life together. Once of the first groups John Wesley wanted to encounter were Native American. He called them savage – he wanted them to know Christ, but they already did.

1844 – Church split over the question of slavery. 1939 – Reunified, but were segregated outside the body. 1968 – Come back together to say we're United. We cheered because we thought we had done it; we had beat segregation. 2019 – Special Called Session of General Conference – We thought we could live together as one people but we can't.

Othering – a generalized set of common practices that denies a person's full humanity, because they don't conform to the preferred or dominate ways of thinking, being or doing. – John Powell

All the ways we label the other – sexism, ageism, ableism, heterosexism, trans and queer phobia, classism, colorism– meaning from above.

Culture is nothing more than how a group coheres and lives its life together. Social groups have a particular culture. Passed along – but through the norms. Gives us an opportunity to identify how we are in community.

Table Work – Share your name – clergy or laity – your story of othering in the church, and your hope. There is a lot beyond us, beyond our appearance.

In our country, racism has been used to other – issues against women, against LGBTQI persons, and others. This is not a new story. The dynamic of whiteness. We are not talking about people. We are talking about an ideology. A system that runs through this church and this world.

Whiteness - A multidimensional, systemic and systematic social construct set to establish and maintain what's normal, acceptable, preferable and ideal. Tools of whiteness – invisibility and ignorance. Agenda of whiteness – power, privilege and proceeds. Where have you seen the agenda of whiteness at play in the NYAC? Where has consolidating, withholding or segregating power triumphed over sharing power, empowering others and or giving power away? What privileges does whiteness protect in NYAC and for whom? Who gets to remain ignorant without consequences? Who gets to exercise power without others noticing? What decisions have been made in the conference that cause pain for some while enriching others? Who benefits from the oppression, erasure, or discounting of those outside of the construct of whiteness.

Sharing from the floor:

Daisy Tavarez – Small poor church and one of my concerns is an upper-middle-class UMC – but they are really in ministry with the poor. Not able to do ministry with the poor. Not all the money goes back to do the ministry that is needed. It's not crumbs that we want – but the UMC can find money to help the poor little church. Resources are needed. When we sell the buildings and do these transactions we need to bring it back to the community.

Crystal Paul Watson - In cross-cultural appointments – those who are white get put into churches that are not struggling and have resources vs. those who are black get put in a struggling church, with old buildings, and few members. When you put black clergy in struggling neighborhoods – it's hard to get programs starting again.

Carol Bloom – sat at a table with her sisters of color. The question was turned around and said when have they not seen whiteness in the NYAC? We live in a house together that was built out of the white construct. We may have to tear it down.

Dorothee Benz – role of secrecy in backroom conversation. When someone in a room says, “we will take care of that, don't tell anyone.” The opposite happened and someone stood up and took care of the issues and brought-in resources.

Sharing time closed.

Erin: We can imagine a place where people are free to live, like the Pentecost church, the way we are, who we are. Toward the vision of co-liberation in the next expressions of Methodism - Ending harm - Support the bonding - Invest in the bridging

Where do you see the possibilities and pathways of working toward the co-liberating of people marginalized by whiteness in this conference?

Where can we stop the harm that whiteness does in the racial/ethnic realm and then duplicates with other? What are the steps that if enacted with regard to race and ethnicity will lift the burdens off of other communities as well?

How can we support those who, because of racism, feel the need to continue working toward wholeness in their community while still holding of a vision of intercultural unity?

What steps toward bridge building will lead us to not reproduce the harms of the past as we move toward new expressions?

Rev. Janet, from the floor – how do we do this relationship building when we get back from conference? Do we take the conversation outside and to our local congregation?

Jenn Berry and others – We would like to see us disrupt the labels. Black lives vs. blue lives. When we pit the poor against the power. We live in cultural ghettos. How?

Melvin Boone – Question why do we use the term “whiteness” when a lot of people do not even identify with. Need to hear about the Holy Spirit and God in all of this. We need to exist in the oneness.

Unknown Speaker – Need to have breakthroughs in our conversation. Need to have communication/active listening to be mindful of what we need.

Unknown – Comes from a white privilege community that doesn’t trust the church and young who don’t trust the church – white and youth. We were too anchored to our buildings and history and not listening to our young people – we aren’t getting anywhere.

Unknown – There was an artist that wrote a song – “Strange Fruit Hanging from a Tree.” It’s time for the church to be human again. Jesus came and said they will know us by our love. But there is no love. We still sit behind our TV’s and still watch people being killed. God is calling an end to this. You can be whatever you want, but the love of God has to restore humanity and needs to start with the church.

Marion Hubbard – Rely on the Holy Spirit which can help us. Step out in faith.

Eric Rasmussen – the serious need to hear each other’s stories. We are going to our separate corners – with people like us. How is it that we listen to the stories? The real challenge is when we leave here to find a way and a place to talk to each other?

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #3: 188 Ballots Cast, 182 Valid Ballots, 6 Invalid Ballots, 92 Needed to Elect

Election: 97 votes for Alex da Silva Souto and 93 votes for Sungchan Kim

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Alex and Sungchan

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the clergy results.

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #4: Ballots passed out. Video prayer from Bishop Peggy Johnson, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Kristina Hansen asked to remove her name from ballot in favor of anti-racism and LGBTQ folks who are receiving more votes.

Announcements (Conference Secretary) – If you are part of communion tomorrow please see Doris or Ximena at 6:30 PM tonight. All ministry tables must be taken down tonight. Lost and found has many items go and see if you lost anything. Dismissed for dinner.

JUNE 8 | SATURDAY EVENING

Bishop Bickerton called us to order.

United Methodist Video was shown

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #4: 198 Ballots Cast, 197 Valid Ballots, 1 Invalid Ballot, 99 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #5: Ballots were passed out. Karen Prudente offered prayer.

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR

Report given by Lawrence McGaughey

No new cases this year.

Settlement reached in Epworth Case. Settlement was covered by insurance.

Don't wait to report an incident! Usually within 30 days per policy.

Pineda v. NYAC – We will be indemnified by the group, and we believe within insurance limits.

New York opens “window” for sexual abuse claims. For one year beginning in August, 2019, any victim of sexual abuse in New York will be able to sue even if statute of limitations was over. Old claims are nearly impossible to defend against.

Sexual abuse claims: As you might be aware New York State opened a window for sexual abuse claims. Be prepared. Appoint a task force to prepare! Assemble all your old insurance policies. Identify an attorney who can represent you. Be available immediately if a claim is made. Decide who will be spokesperson. Prepare a script – NOT “We have no comment.” or “We know nothing and will investigate.” Risk Management. Institute basic Safe Sanctuaries practices in your church; go to www.nyac.com/safe-sanctuaries for more information. Protect victims – kids and adults – first and foremost! Background checks on all workers – both with the church's and outside groups' children and youth programs renting the church building. Include in all leases that tenant's program will conduct background checks and carry adequate sexual misconduct insurance. Your church must protect itself, its pastor and volunteers, as well as any victims, by carrying adequate sexual misconduct insurance. Extra converge must be purchased. The conference minimum insurance requirements can be found here: www.nyac.com/insurance. Get referred by any member of the Extended Cabinet.

In this NYAC 220th Conference Session – Larry McGaughey has served as our chancellor for 24 years. This session 2019 to 2020 will be his last year. Thank you for your service.

CHURCH CLOSURES

Bill Shillady moved that we go into corporate session. Approved.

First UMC, Newburgh – Approved – Rev. Betsy Ott shared that First UMC, Newburgh has met and voted to close. Bishop asked for vote and it passed.

Dover Plains UMC – Approved – Rev. Betsy Ott shared that Dover Plains UMC has met and voted to close. Bishop asked for vote and it passed.

Pleasantville, NY UMC – Approved – Rev. Denise Smartt Sears shared that Pleasantville UMC voted to close and join with Aldersgate UMC, Dobbs Ferry, NY. Bishop asked for vote and it passed.

Bishop asked for vote to adjourn corporate session. Passed.

READING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Long Island East District Superintendent Rev. Julia Yeon-Hee Yim is being appointed for the 4th year.

Pastors of the Long Island East District were invited to come to the front and take their place.

Bishop thanked Rev. Yim for her work as D.S. of the district. As names of the new pastors were read, they were invited to come forward and join the group.

Bishop reminded the clergy that they are not being appointed to a church but to community, to a larger network of people. Walk the streets, visit in the hospital, befriend the people in the margins. I appoint you to the communities. There will be buildings you will work out of but they are temporary landing places. Let's transform the Long Island East district.

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #5: 183 Ballots Cast, 183 Valid Ballots, 2 Invalid Ballots, 92 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Clergy Ballot #6 (Jurisdictional Conference): Ballots were passed out. Jerry Eyster prayed for the clergy.

LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS

Rev. Ian Straker and Rev. Margaret Laemmel

Rev. Straker invited the section leaders forward and thanked everyone for their service.

Rev. Laemmel presented the consent calendar. All items achieved consensus except 4007 (Petition 2019 AC#402 - Truly Open Doors, 5005 (Petition 2019 AC#501 – Eliminate Annual Conference Fixed Costs from Registration Fees) and the 2020 budget. Motion made to approve all items – carried.

Richard Nicodemus, lay member from UMC of Wappingers Falls made a motion to refer to Conference Board of Church and Society issues of opioid addiction. A second received. Rich spoke about the opioid crisis - would the UMC address this issue. Proposing that the Board of Church and Society would look for ways to help with the opioid crisis. Beth Capen suggested that General Board of Church and Society

has information on this issue and possible other agency boards as well. John Blossom reported that clergy association is working to address this in the CT area.

Body voted. Approved to refer opioid epidemic to Conference Board of Church and Society.

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #6: 192 Ballots Cast, 190 Valid Ballots, 2 Invalid Ballots, 96 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #7: Ballots passed out. Rev. Milagros Solorzano offered a prayer.

Peggy Ann Sauerhoff made a motion to reconsider our action to approved putting everything on the consent calendar. A second received. Motion to pull 5008 from the consent calendar. Peggy Ann feels it will impact women, and ethnic minorities. Bishop ask the body if they were in favor to pull 5008 – approved.

Items 5008 (Commission on Equitable Compensation), 4007 (Petition 2019 AC#402 - Truly Open Doors), 5005 (Petition 2019 AC#501 – Eliminate Annual Conference Fixed Costs from Registration Fees) and the budget were not approved; all other items were approved by the body.”

Item 4007 Page 60 – Rev. Lynda Bates-Steppe noted that it passed with 97% support from the committee. Rev. Jennifer Berry spoke in support – there is I room for all – God uses our discomfort for growth. Bishop asked for vote. It passed.

Item 5005 Page 85 – Section is in favor on non-concurrence. Speeches to the issue.

Steve Allen: against non-concurrence.

Andrew Peck McClain: against non-concurrence

Jerry Eyster, president of CF&A: for non-concurrence; said that they took a look at this request, which would mean \$135,000 added to apportionments. They took it seriously at CF&A meetings and provided scholarships for folks to attend.

David Mantz: for non-concurrence.

Bill Shillady moved to refer back to Conference Sessions to study why laity and clergy do not attend. A second received. Needs an overall study to see why clergy, laity and youth are not here.

Ann Craig: against referral, not about why people are not attending – but level the playing field should be done.

Joseph Gordon: for referral – no depth as to why people do not come to annual conference.

Rebekah Forni: against referral – difference between charity and justice.

Angela Redman: for referral – a time of uncertainty, need to be rational in what we are doing even though this is a matter of justice.

Bernadette Logan: for referral – need to find out why people are not coming

Bette Sohm: against referral – when making decisions on fear, then we are not living into our beliefs.

Bishop asked for a vote – Vote to refer back to Sessions Committee.

Result Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #6: 191 Ballots Cast, 191 Valid Ballots, 96 Needed to Elect

No Election

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read results.

Rev. Paul Fleck withdrew and asked for us to vote for a woman in the delegation

Rev. Rob Hewitt also asked that we vote for a woman in the delegation

Rev. Sandy Mantz asked that we vote for person with orthodox views, whether they be male or female

Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #7: Ballots were passed out. Rev. Penny Gadzini offered a prayer for the clergy.

Item 5008 – Passed 77% - Recommend adoption

Rev. Martha Vink: against concurrence. Been in ministry 30-some years and still at minimum salary.

Vote – petition 5008 failed.

Kent Jackson: motion to refer back to Equitable Compensation Committee.

Gennifer Brooks: move that the plan that is in place from 2018 be used in 2019. A second received.

Rob Hewitt: speech in favor

Bill Pfohl: is there a freeze for the coming year? Bishop – Yes

Karen Cook: motion we use 2019 schedule and add cost of living to it 2.2%. A second received

Cathy Schuyler: Clarification – 2019 schedule and add 2.2% from Item 5008

Kent noted that they do not change the base figures on the chart every year. You can count on the year of service changing. After 25 years of service there is a cap.

Ann Morgan: speech against, issues with language.

Vote for amendment: approved

Vote for 2019 schedule as amended (2.2% increase) – approved.

Bill Shillady: move that we adapt the accountable reimbursement and the housing exclusion of the failed document line 26 – Page 4 line 12. A second received. Vote – approved.

Bill Shillady: move to approve paragraph 119 and 120 page 64 of 2019 Preliminary Reports, Petitions and resolutions. A second received. Vote – approved.

Bishop called for vote and it was approved.

Conference Budget: Kent Jackson moved for the adoption of the 2020 Conference Budget. It was seconded and approved.

Archives and History Video – “Jesse Lee” shown. Voices were many of our conference personnel.

Results Clergy Ballot (Jurisdictional Conference) #7: 193 Ballots Cast, 193 Valid Ballots, 97 Needed to Elect

Election: 102 Votes for Adrienne Brewington

Bishop Bickerton anointed with oil and prayed over Adrienne

Conference Secretary Margaret Howe read the clergy results.

Clergy Ballot (Alternates): Per Conference Rule the top three votes will become the Alternates. Ballots were passed out and Rev. Iwy Patel-Yatri shared a prayer.

READING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Long Island West District Superintendent Rev. Sungchan Kim is being appointed for the 6th year.

Pastors of the Long Island West District were invited to come to the front and take their place.

Bishop thanked Rev. Kim for his work as D.S. of the district. As names of the new pastors were read, they were invited to come forward and join the group.

Bishop reminded the clergy that they are not being appointed to a church but to community, to a larger network of people. Walk the streets, visit in the hospital, befriend the people in the margins. I appoint you to the communities. There will be buildings you will work out of but they are temporary landing places. Let's transform the Long Island West district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take everything you own with you as the arena will be transformed for Ordination.

District-at-large lay member from Catskill Hudson Sharon Roth's son died today after a year-long battle with cancer.

Tony Rodham, Hillary Rodham Clinton's brother died yesterday.

Bishop offered a prayer.

Bishop thanked those who remained for the work done here.

Bishop will announce the 3 lay and 3 clergy alternates tomorrow and introduce the whole delegation. Good night.

JUNE 9 | SUNDAY MORNING

THE SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE FOR BAPTISM, THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS AND RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Prelude: "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" by the Music Team

Processional Hymns: "O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing," "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," and "Soul on Fire"

Dance Call to Worship: "I Feel the Spirit"

GREETING AND PRAYER AND WELCOME OFFERED BY BISHOP

BICKERTON

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21 read by Rev. Karina Feliz, Rev. Carol Bloom, Rev. Dora Odarenko

PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE BAPTIZED

Conference Lay Leader Roena Littlejohn presented Holden James Carrubba and Grayson Allen Goodman Chupungco. Bishop Bickerton introduced the children and their families. Holden is the grandson of Bishop Bickerton and Grayson is the son of Rev. Susan Chupungco.

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Commendation and Welcome

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Bishop reminded us of our Baptism and with evergreens, sprinkled water on everyone to remember their baptisms.

Sung Response: “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME OF CONFIRMANDS

Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory”

PRESENTATIONS OF PERSONS TO BE ORDAINED OR ORGANIZED

Conference Lay Leader Roena Littlejohn; Board of Ordained Ministry Chair Rev. Lydia Lebrón-Rivera, and Registrar for Ordinands Rev. Dale Ashby presented the following:

For Ordination as Elders: Carol A. Bloom, Susan F. Goodman Chupungco, Karina Feliz, Matthew Allen Querns, Jody L. Spiak, Elon Sylvester

For Ordination as Deacons: Janet L. Cox, Lea A. Matthews, Arletha (Lisa) Miles Boyce

For Recognition as Associate Members: Gregory K. Higgins, Kevin J. Mulqueen, Dora Janeway Odarenko

THE GENERAL EXAMINATION

Bishop Bickerton asks the candidates as series of Wesleyan historical questions and a series general examination questions. Did they understand what they are expected to know and to do as members of the United Methodist Church. Did they understand that they were called to serve and profess the Christian faith.

Music Ministry: “Total Praise:

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Sermon: “The Divine Progression” – Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Summary: Bishop opened in prayer. Today is about the claim of God on our life. Today is that day – Baptism, reaffirming Baptism, Ordination. God has a claim on your life – a claim that says you matter, you are important, you are valued, a claim that says you are needed.

As he reads the Old Testament, sometimes he shakes his head. At some point, the Chosen people of God were on the verge on going into the Promised Land. When they

sent spies into the land, they were afraid of the giants. So, God said, “go and wander” I’ll get back to you. God was disappointed in us. But then he helped us. In Christ, he brought us back. He used the disciples, imperfect as they were. Jesus made a place for the children. But we messed up and crucified Jesus. God could have given up on us but he didn’t. Jesus rises, reminds and blesses us. That should have made an impact. But it wasn’t all. God sends the Holy Spirit to empower, do miracles and be part of his work.

God chose us before the world was created. It’s a thing we struggle with – it is called Prevenient Grace. Ephesians 2:7, Paul says that God did all this so that he might show the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us. All this after all our missteps in the wilderness, with Jesus and others I won’t name but you know them. These are awesome gifts of God’s grace which is extended to us. This is the Divine Progression of God’s grace. Our job is to show this world this grace in the midst of the principalities and powers. I would like to say that the church has made an impact on the culture instead of the culture making an impact on us. It would be great that others could see a difference in us: What is it about us that makes us love others, even those we disagree with.

Paul says to us in the scriptures: I beg you to live a life worthy of the calling that you were called to in the beginning. There is one body, one God, one faith, one calling. Our job is to own up to this call as a servant of Christ. The calling of God has a demand on our lives. How do you live out this calling? Humble, gentle, patient, loving, cooperative, desiring of unity. Paul says I beg you to do it. This is how to do it. We have been given these gifts and grace.

If I were to interview the two baptized today – Holden and Grayson – about Prevenient Grace or doctrine – all he would get is blub-blub-blub-mama-dada. We do not baptize them because they can answer on their own – we baptize babies but because God has already claimed them in the family of God.

They are not just precious to us but to God. The God who claims us as God’s own. Before they can say “I love you God.” God has said to them, “I love you Grayson, I love you Holden.” I write a letter to those I baptize. I describe how grace is at work in their lives. Do not open till August 18, 2036 – 18th birthday. The grace that was present when you were baptized is the same grace that is present when they go through significant changes in their lives.

Shannon Blosser was the first person I baptized when I got out of seminary. He was an active young child to say the least. At some point in his life, God called him. Shannon took a letter that some tall preacher wrote to him in 1983 when he was baptized. Shannon used that letter to remind him in his life that God was calling him and claimed him. That is the divine progression. Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination are ways in which God works in our life. A conversion is a life-time progression. Doors being opened, courage being found, it’s about saying “yes” to God over and over. That is why I enjoy splashing you with water. We need to remember our baptism, every day. We need that reminder when we feel that God has given up on us. We need to wade in the water and allow God to lead us.

In my ministry, I knew the Harringtons, whose calling was to adopt kids in the system. It was hard and they would face many issues – drugs, sex, stealing. I talked to Dennis in my office as he came to me seeking someone to listen and encourage. Dennis and Donna were called and I did my best to encourage them. I specifically encouraged Dennis to share his story with others. In that church, we usually had joys and concerns. At my last church, on my last Sunday, as I heard the testimonies at the very end,

Dennis Harrington stood up. He said that before you leave, I need to tell others about my faith in Jesus Christ. It was simple and short and one of the most beautiful things I heard. It was a baptism, confirmation day, ordination day, an acceptance of calling DAY. There was more in him that he needed to find out about. There is more in you that you need to find out. I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling that you have been called, with all humility, gentleness, patience. I beg you, bear with one another, love one another, make every effort to maintain the unity of spirit in the peace. It's hard to admit it, but I'm getting old. It's humbling how quick life passes. I miss my mother and when my grandson was put in my arms that same year, it was all I could do to promise to help that little guy know that there is goodness in the world. It's a messed up world. I've never felt more compelled to get people to love one another, see the good in one another. Agreeing is not the requirement, loving is.

I admire these confirmands and ordinands because you are saying "yes" to a church that doesn't have its act together. I admire you because you said "yes." Have you said "yes" to a caravan that tries to find its way in the wilderness? Your faith, your witness is a divine progression, a gift of grace. I beg you to live a life worthy of the calling that you have been called. If you do that right, someday, Grayson might hold up that letter and remember that grace. Amen.

Music Ministry: "I Still Have a Praise Inside of Me"

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS, DEACONS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Bishop invited the elders to stand and examined them with the questions written in the order of worship.

Laying on of Hands and Prayer for Elders

Bishop Bickerton offered prayers of the people and laying on of hands for each of those individuals being ordained Elder. Each was greeted and a stole placed on them.

Sung Response "Let my Life Be a Worship"

Laying on of Hands and Prayer for Deacons

Bishop Bickerton offered prayers of the people and laying on of hands for each of those individuals being ordained Elder. Each was greeted and a stole placed on them

Sung Response "I Just Want to Praise You"

RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Bishop Bickerton offered prayers of the people and laying on of hands for each of those individuals being recognized as associate members. Each was greeted and a stole placed on them.

Sung Response "We Give our Thanks to You"

Offering Young Clergy Debt Assistance

The Young Clergy Debt Assistance fund was the creation of Bishop Martin D. McLee who had a profound desire to provide financial assistance to clergy age 40 and younger serving in the New York Annual Conference.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

All received the invitation to the Table and Peace, Confession and Pardon.

Song: “Make Me a Servant.”

The Great Thanksgiving.

Song: “There Is Room” – Rev. Michael Johnson.

The Lord’s Prayer was sung; arrangement by Mark A. Miller.

The Breaking of Bread and Giving of Cup.

As people received communion, they were given red and/or orange ribbons in celebration of Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit. Hymns during Communion included “Grace Greater than Our Sin”; “For Everyone Born”; “What A Beautiful Name It Is” (Español); “Waymaker: (Español); “You Are My Strength.”

Prayer after Receiving the Bread and the Cup was given by Conference Lay Leader Roena Littlejohn.

Dismissal with Thanksgiving by Bishop Bickerton

Closing Hymn “We’ll Understand It Better By and By”

Bishop thanked Stephanie Parsons and Linda Mellor for their work on the stained glass and all worship arts and worship centers.

Bishop also thanked Raymond Trapp for his gift of music at this conference and also for his work in the General Conference. Bishop anointed Raymond for his service for General Conference.

Results Clergy Ballot – Alternates:

Election: Paul Fleck, Chongho James Kim, Marjorie Nunes

Results Laity Ballot – Alternates:

Election: Roena Littlejohn, Katie Reimer, Daisy Tavarez

RESULTS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE AND JURISDICTIONAL ELECTIONS

Clergy Delegates:

General Conference: Noel Chin, Denise Smartt Sears, Timothy Riss

Jurisdictional Conference: Alex da Silva Souto, Sungchan Kim,
Adrienne Brewington

Alternates: Paul Fleck, Chongho James Kim, Marjorie Nunes

Laity Delegates:

General Conference: Fred Brewington, Jorge Lockward, Gail Douglas-Boykin

Jurisdictional: Tiffany French Goffe, Ann Craig, Karen Prudente

Alternates: Roena Littlejohn, Katie Reimer, Daisy Tavarez

Bishop thanked the Worship Team – Heather Sinclair and Ximena (Varas) Diaz.
Bishop thanked GNTV.

Thanks were given to Sally Bickerton. She was presented with flowers from Betsy Ott and Denise Smartt Sears.

**CLOSING OF THE 220TH SESSION OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

Motion made to adjourn the 220th Session of the New York Annual Conference at 1:22 PM. Postlude by the Music Team.

C. NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES

CERTIFICATE OF PRESIDING BISHOP & SECRETARY

This is to certify that the foregoing minutes are a complete and accurate rendering of the proceedings of the 220th session of the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (the fifty-first session of The United Methodist Church and the fifty-fifth since reunion with the New York East Conference after 115 years of separate existence), held at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, June 6-9, 2019, and, as such, the printed records with related data incorporated by reference have been adopted by the Annual Conference as its official record.



Thomas J. Bickerton
Presiding Bishop



Margaret Howe
Conference Secretary

CERTIFICATES OF CONSECRATION

This is to certify that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Saturday, June 8, pursuant to the election of the New York Annual Conference, I commissioned as follows:

COMMISSIONED AS PROVISIONAL MEMBERS, ELDER TRACK

Angel Anthony Abakah
Akilah Bixler
John Jackson Blossom
Jacqueline F. Carter
Sejin Cha

Steve Eugene Chu
Mickey Correa
Nikki Lynn Edleman
Debra A. San Pablo
Zhaodeng Peng

COMMISSIONED AS PROVISIONAL MEMBER, DEACON TRACK

Deborah J. Clifford

COMMISSIONED AS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Gregory K. Higgins
Kevin J. Mulqueen
Dora Janeway Odarenko

RECEIVED LICENSE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

Daniel Asibuoh-Sarpong
Hector B. Custodio
Stephen Ernst
Seung Jin Hong

Eugene Knoth
Lee A. Stowe
Jennifer Stultz



Presiding Bishop
Thomas J. Bickerton
Hempstead, New York
June 8, 2019

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Sunday, June 9, 2019, pursuant to the election of the New York Annual Conference, I ordained, as follows:

ELDER'S ORDERS AND FULL MEMBERSHIP

Carol A. Bloom
Karina Feliz
Susan F. Goodman Chupungco
Matthew Allan Querns
Jody L. Spiak
Elon Sylvester

DEACON'S ORDERS AND FULL MEMBERSHIP

Janet L. Cox
Lea A. Matthews
Arletha Miles-Boyce



Thomas J. Bickerton
Presiding Bishop
Hempstead, New York
June 9, 2019



2019 NYAC Ordination

Back Row: Elon Sylvester, Susan F. Goodman Chupungco, Bishop Bickerton, Jody L. Spiak; Front Row: Carol A. Bloom, Karina Feliz, Arletha (Lisa) Miles-Boyce, Matthew Allan Querns, Lea A. Matthews, Janet L. Cox

CERTIFICATES



2019 NYAC Commissioning Class

Debra A. San Pablo, Zhaodeng Peng, Nikki Lynn Edleman, Mickey Correa, Deborah J. Clifford, Steve Eugene Chu, Sejin Cha, Jacqueline F. Carter, John Jackson Blossom, Akilah Bixler, Angel Anthony Abakah



2019 NYAC Local Pastors

Stephen Ernst, Egan Bovell, Jennifer Stultz, Lee A. Stowe, Bishop Bickerton, Shari Fleming Ponder, Daniel Asibuoh-Sarpong, Onick Bouquet, Eugene Knoth
(Not shown: Hector B.Custodio, Seung Jin Hong)



2019 NYAC Associate Members

Kevin J. Mulqueen, Dora Janeway Odarenko,
Gregory K. Higgins; Bishop Bickerton in rear