

# H. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

## 147<sup>th</sup> Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Abbreviations: UMC - United Methodist Church; PNWAC - Pacific Northwest Annual Conference; PCH - Pre-Conference Handbook; BAC - Business of the Annual Conference; GNW - Greater Northwest (our Episcopal Area). Names of ordained clergy are printed in *italics*.

### Essential Business Only, Virtual, One-Day Meeting Thursday, September 17, 2020, 3:32 pm

#### Welcome

Bishop *Elaine Stanovsky* initiated the virtual gathering with a greeting and welcome, followed by an acknowledgement of grief, anger, strife in our world with Covid19 and Black Lives Matter and the movement for a beloved community. She lifted in prayer those affected by wildfires and by tropical storms.

Bishop *Stanovsky* gave a reminder that this is an essential business only Conference, doing that which is necessary to meet the legal requirements of being a Conference. The Clergy Session met in June. She expressed appreciation for all that people are doing locally while buildings are closed and for those working behind the scenes for this Virtual Conference meeting.

#### Opening Worship

Opening Worship was a combination of live and pre-recorded elements from all three Conferences. To begin worship, Bishop *Stanovsky* invited us to greet one another with palms over our hearts and then opened to each other. Scripture came from Luke 3 & 10. Worship introduced the Annual Conference 2020 theme of Do No Harm—Fighting Covid-19, Do Good—Dismantling Racism, Stay in Love with God—Reimagine Life Together. Youth prayed.

#### Call to Order

Bishop *Stanovsky* called to order the 147th Annual Conference Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.

#### Wildfire Update

*Joanne Coleman Campbell*, Seven Rivers Missional District Superintendent, reported the 15 wildfires active in PNW are 70% contained; homes and lives have been lost; impacting ranchers and farmers significantly. We are blessed with the disaster response team led by Jim Truitt, and an initial UMCOR grant of \$10,000 per Conference; many efforts are being made and needs met. Contributions to Advance #352 are accepted. All are invited to “Breathing Smoke, Finding Hope,” a virtual gathering to be held on Sunday.

*David Valera*, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, introduced GNTV

Media Ministry (Lights, Camera, Worship), a United Methodist-related agency that is providing audio, video, recording, and voting. David Wood, from GNTV, provided instructions and practice for voting.

### **Accessibility & Translation**

Sharon Ryder, of the Disability Ministry Committee, celebrated that we expand the tent to permit voices from those who often are unable to participate; live-streaming and recorded worship help those who otherwise have not been able to come.

Spanish Language translation is also provided by Don Reasoner, as arranged by *Cruz Edwin Santos*.

### **Procedural Motion for Virtual Meeting & Electronic Remote Voting**

Conference Secretary *Shirley DeLarme* moved that the previously published Program, the Agenda provided by the Bishop and her cabinet, and Schedule prepared for the meeting be declared the official program of the Conference; that the process used in the registration procedure be designated as the official Roll Call for the 147th Annual Session of the Conference; that the bar of the Conference be established as those who, according to their status within and relationship with the PNW Conference, have voting rights and are thus given passcode access to voting procedures provided by GNTV and conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing, and that the minutes of the daily sessions of the Conference, as kept by the Secretary, when approved and certified by the President and Secretary thereof, together with the reports of the councils, boards, commissions, and committees of the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, be printed in the journal and be the official record of the 147th Annual Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Second by Ann Mayer; adopted by unanimous consent.

### **Motion for Suspension of the Rules**

*Shane Moore*, Chair of the Rules Committee and Parliamentarian for this Conference moved to suspend the rules to allow the petitions presented in the Pre-Conference Handbook to be presented directly to the plenary session without being considered by a focus session. [Rule V, Sec. 4 (b) and (e) (1)]; moved to suspend the rules to allow petitions with financial implications to be presented without 12-hour notice. [Rule V, Sec. 4 (c)]; moved to suspend the rules to limit the time a speaker can speak for no more than 2 minutes. [Rule XXI, Sec. 1 (c)]; moved to suspend the rules to allow petitions 2-3 and 4-7 to be bundled together.

Second by *Joe Kim*; adopted by unanimous consent.

*Daniel Miranda*, in a role special to this Annual Conference Session, presented each petition for action:

### **Petition #1 Advance Specials**

Marilyn Reid, Missions Secretary, available for Q & A. Adopted.

**Video Celebration:** Discipleship Ministries Video

**Budget Presentation**

Jan Kalshian, Chair Conference CF&A, available for Q & A.

Boards and agencies were asked to consider a 30% reduction, twice the usual effort. Correction PCH pg. J9, -11% instead of -17.26%. Questions were deferred to dinner-time Q&A session. Vote will be during the evening.

**Petition #2 Minimum Compensation****Petition #3 Moving Allowance**

Brant Henshaw, Conference Treasurer, available for Q & A.

Taken together with a single vote. Approved.

**Video Celebration:** Camping & Retreat Ministries

**Petition #4 Pension Rate****Petition #5 Retirement Annuity Responsibility****Petition #6 Retirement Grants****Petition #7 Disability Benefits**

Bruce Galvin, Conference Benefits Officer, available for Q & A.

Taken together with a single vote. Approved.

**Video Celebration:** Northwest United Methodist Foundation

Reports that the assets it manages are in a strong position, have recovered from early losses and made modest gains; long-term investors ride out the long term.

**Petition #8 Church Closures**

*Pat Simpson*, Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees

North Mason, Mead, Rosalia and Wallace-Burke buildings continue as houses of worship, either leased or sold to other Christian denominations. Christian ministries and food banks will continue to operate in Mead and Wallace-Burke; South Bend will house a local theater company. The membership rolls of South Bend go to Bay Center, North Mason to Brownsville, Wallace-Burke to Spokane Covenant and other area churches. Many years of ministry were celebrated among these churches: South Bend 149 years, Rosalia 132 years, Mead 130 years, Wallace-Burke 126 years, North Mason 28 years.

**Litany of Remembrance**

While waiting for a tabulation of votes these churches were remembered with prayers, and eulogies by their respective District Superintendents, a litany of Thanksgiving by all, and a prayer of committal.

**Action of closure was approved.**

Some members of the Conference were distressed that the Belfair: North Mason church property is being rented to an LGBTQIA+ non-affirming congregation.

Efforts were made to reconsider the vote for closure, which ultimately failed.

### **Motion to Reconsider**

Failed, 57 yes votes, 276 no votes.

### **Announcements**

Budget Q & A was announced happening during the dinner break.

**Video Celebration:** Camping Meal Blessing

### **Dinner Break**

**Video Celebration:** Claremont School of Theology

Upon returning from break, members picked up a new motion to address the concerns about the usage of property of churches that had been closed.

**Motion:** The Conference Board of Trustees will establish policy before AC 2021 which requires rented closed church facilities be used in manners consistent with the UMC Social Principles *and our PNW Conference Values of inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and dismantling white supremacy, to the extent that we are legally able to do so.*

Motion by *Peter Perry*, second by *Debbie Sperry*. Motion-maker amends initial motion before action taken (*italics*), the second consents.

Amendment (**bold**): *Austin Adkinson*, second by Sarah Culp

Motion by Amanda Tobey vote on current amendment; second by Lisa Beale; amendment adopted.

Move the question on all, *Kathy Neary*, second by Dana Lede; approved as amended.

**Video Celebration:** United Methodists Stand for Justice

### **Board of Ordained Ministry video report of Clergy Status Changes**

The work of the Board highlights milestones, including election to provisional and full membership, licensing, and retirements—316 years of combined ministry. All transitions will be properly celebrated at Annual Conference 2021. Clergy were reminded of continuing education requirements of 20 contact hours and opportunities to meet them, including professional boundaries and cultural competency. Several Board chairpersons have changed for the coming quadrennium. Clergy members who died this past year were remembered with prayer.

**Video Celebration:** Celebrating Retirees

Reminder from Bishop—Clergy must get boundaries training done. Our insurance carrier requires it; failure will be reflected in our premiums for 2021.

### **Laity Address, by video**

Nancy Tam Davis and Angelina Goldwell celebrated many significant works of the laity of the Conference and shared a letter from the Association of Annual Confer-

ence Lay Leaders. Bishop *Stanovsky* offered a prayer.

### **Episcopal Address**

Bishop *Elaine Stanovsky* presented three areas of focus, plus an additional one raised by recent events. 1) Covid19. Do not expect churches to move quickly out of restrictions; Christian people cannot lighten up restrictions that protect the people of our society. Do more than hunker down spiritually but deepen and tap into deep reservoirs. 2) Dismantle Racism. The Bishop is doing anti-racism work and calls the local churches to examine their lives, figure out how to be hospitable. 3) Attend to the Urgent Matters of United Methodism. Bishop *Stanovsky* will convene conversations re: a) How does Alaska become part of PNW; b) What is the future of Greater NW area—merge conferences or not; c) What is the future of United Methodism--what does split look like, who makes the decisions, what are the values? 4) Responding to wildfires across the area

**Video Celebration:** Grassroots Video—I am still a United Methodist because...

### **Petition #9 CF&A Recommendations**

Jan Kalshian, Chair, Conference CF&A

Reported receiving a letter signed by a large number of clergy/lay from across the Episcopal Area with specific concerns and discussions regarding the Innovation Vitality Team's budget, requesting transparency, clarification of mission, results, and approximately 20 questions and talking points they wish to have addressed. The primary contact is *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler*. Request answers within 6 months. Jan Kalshian commits to first steps begun in 30 days—reconvene to get an understanding and make a plan. Brant Henshaw notes since the letter is an area-wide request, answers will necessitate pulling resources from across the area. The letter will be entered in the CF&A reports of the Pre-Conference Handbook.

**Motion:** Budget, with commitment to respond the to letter that is addendum to CF&A Report. Adopted.

**Video Celebration:** 2019 ERT Missions

**Motion:** *Shane Moore*, Rules Committee

That we extend agenda to 9:45. Second by Patricia Gerdes, approved.

### **Nominations Report & Recognition of Interim Officers**

*Derek Nakano*, SeaTac Missional District Superintendent. We are seeking stability by asking all chairs and board members to extend their service for an extra year. The flexibility given by our Rule 6.2a permits us to wait until after GC2020 which has not yet met; and Rule 6.2b permits those serving to continue until successor is named; and Rule 6.2d those filling interim vacancy not count in the 8-year maximum service. Boards may fill vacancies ad interim, to be elected in the next AC to continue serving the quadrennium if they choose. Thank you to those who have served and must depart. Welcome to ad interims, including Committee on Episcopacy chair Megan Kilpatrick.

Recognizing the new life-transforming, death-producing, concerns all around us, Nominations is looking for people unwilling to embrace tradition for tradition's sake, people who believe that upsetting the equilibrium of the status quo will lead to a hard road, but the right road that will open up for us the kinds of new possibilities and opportunities that will lead us to the preferred future that God desires. A survey is coming to pastors in the fall to recommend people: independent thinkers, team players, those grounded in church; Missional Districts will work from these recommendations in the spring to nominate for Annual Conference.

**General Conference Delegation video report** by *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler* and Skylar Bihl. General Conference to be held August 29-September 7, 2021 in Minneapolis; Western Jurisdictional Conference November 10-12, 2021 in Mountain Sky Conference.

Work of the delegation was paused in the spring of 2020. Priorities were clarified over the summer of 2020.

**Video Celebration:** Hispanic Ministries

### **Affirmation of Appointments**

Moment of prayer by Bishop *Stanovsky*

### **Closing Worship Prayer and sending with Song**

### **Closing Motion**

Conference Secretary *Shirley DeLarme* moved adjournment of this 147th PNW Annual Conference session following the setting of dates and location for the 148th session of PNW Annual Conference session, meeting together with the Annual Conference sessions of Alaska and Oregon-Idaho.

*Elizabeth Ingram Schindler* gives second, approved.

### **Invitation to Annual Conference 2021**

*Kathleen Weber*, Crest to Coast Missional District Superintendent, invited the Conference to Puyallup in June 10-13, 2021, in Puyallup, as it is safe to do so. Approved.

**Video Celebration:** Appointments of Clergy

**Video Celebration:** Credits

### **Adjournment**