

## H. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

### 150<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*.

*Meetings in person and online via Zoom*

**GNW OPENING SESSION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP CEDRICK BRIDGEFORTH  
MAY 20, 2023,  
ALDRSGATE UMC, JUNEAU, AK  
VIA LIVESTREAMING  
3:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME**

Hosted by Rev. Kristi McGuire and Aldersgate UMC, worship began with the Juneau String Ensemble, a word of welcome and thanks, a land acknowledgement, and a confession of complicity in past harms done. Liturgy and scripture were offered in English, Spanish, Korean and Tagalog. Kristina Gonzalez, Director of Innovation and Vitality, introduced *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth*; Jo Anne Hayden, Alaska Delegation to General Conference and Megan Kilpatrick, PNW Committee on Episcopacy, certified his election, consecration, and assignment to the GNW area; Laurie Day, Director of Connectional Ministries in the Oregon-Idaho Conference named the work of the bishop and initiated the installation rituals. Signs and symbols of the office of bishop were presented including: Pastoral staff, bible, water to renew baptism, bread and cup for communion, towel and basin to serve, stole as symbol of pastor, preacher, teacher; *Book of Discipline* and gavel for presiding. Bishop *Cedrick D. Bridgeforth* “gladly assumes, with and among [us], the ministries of word, sacrament, and order.”

Go and Do Likewise is the conference theme and five-part sermon series using the scripture text of Luke 10:30-37. Bishop Cedrick encouraged the GNW to “pray with our feet, heal with our words, love with our resources” and “get to neighboring” as he laid out the M.I.L.E. of his sermon series: Ministry that Matters, Itinerary and Location, Lay Enhancement, and Eliminating Racism, each of which would be addressed at individual annual conference opening worship services and the GNW closing worship.

The offering for the Service of Installation, benefiting the Circle of Indigenous Ministries, was introduced by *Rev. Dr. Allen Buck*, Circle of Indigenous Ministries, and raised \$745.00. Holy Communion was celebrated.

**Call to Order**

*Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* formally called to order the Annual Conference sessions of the AK, OR-ID, and PNW Annual Conferences by celebrating active ministries and seeing how we are already neighboring. He named losses and griefs. He called us to look in the mirror, be honest about ourselves, and acknowledge that God is not finished with any of us. Three ministries were specifically celebrated:

Disaster Response Team, via video report; the needs are no longer seasonal, but more frequently year-round, and with increased devastation, especially for people of color. Innovation projects birthed in 2018 found their way during the pandemic: Every Nation UMC delivered meals during pandemic; Storydwelling and ReVillage in Bend, OR engaged in partnership with First Presbyterian and others to advocate for and provide affordable childcare; First UMC of Canada expanded to serve Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Squamish, and Burnaby fellowships, consisting of mostly Filipino-Canadian UMC families, with contextual and cultural awareness and innovation.

Ola Toe Fuataina UMC celebrated its chartering in Anchorage, AK. It is the newest congregation in Greater Northwest Area.

**PNW CLERGY SESSION JUNE 24, 2023, 2:00-5:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

Actions and results are reported in the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) 2023, Journal Section I.

**PNW FOCUS SESSION 1, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT  
JUNE 2, 2023, 6:00-8:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

Addressed petitions #1-11 and #16

Petitions 1,2,3,4,5, and 6 were placed on the consent calendar

Petitions 7,8,9,10,11, and 12 were addressed individually in plenary session.

**PNW FOCUS SESSION 2, CONNECTING IN MISSIONS  
JUNE 3, 2023, 6:00-9:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

Addressed petitions #12-15 and #17

Petitions 14 and 17 were placed on the consent calendar.

Petitions 12 and 13 were each split into parts a and b, then along with petition 15, were addressed as five individual petitions in plenary session.

**ALASKA CONFERENCE OPENING WORSHIP****JUNE 4, 2023****M.I.L.E. – MINISTRY THAT MATTERS***Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, preaching*

We are called to narrow our focus so we can have an impact in our area—which is not just in our building. God will speak to each of us about where, why, and how we are to go forward. This will be unique to each community. To be part of what God wants to happen, our direction and focus will be where we can have the greatest impact, experience unity, and listen for God as we do our window work. He focused on itineracy and location, where we are located in our ministries and where we go in our ministries.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST OPENING WORSHIP****JUNE 13, 2024****M.I.L.E. – LAY ENHANCEMENT***Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, preaching***Opening Worship with Holy Communion**

Jesus challenges the lawyer to move beyond mirror talk to do some window work, to expand his understanding of who is our neighbor. Are we interested in and showing interest in our neighbors? We need to equip and train laity and support them with funding and staffing as much as we do clergy, supporting the idea of the priesthood of all believers, or everyone is called. When we do window work, we gain a better sense of who we see in the mirror.

**Laity Session** was hosted by Conference Lay Leader Nancy Tam Davis and Associate Lay Leader Andy O'Donnell, who conducted a time of question and answers between the laity and *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth*. *Bishop Cedrick* finished with a question for all to ask themselves: How can I use the best of who I am to reach those who are in the ditch and make a difference, to transform the community?

**Gathering of the Orders** met in a separate space where clergy enjoyed a time of announcements, prayer, small-group conversation, and hymn singing.

**PNW PLENARY SESSION #1****JUNE 13, 2023, 9:00 A.M. PACIFIC TIME****HYBRID: IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM****UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL, TACOMA, WA**

**Plenary Session #1 work began at 1:30 P.M. PST**

Work began with a time of welcoming and testing with GNTV to ensure all could access the “get recognized” and balloting features, and sorting ways to work around limited bandwidth in the auditorium.

**Opening Motion**

Conference secretary *Shirley DeLarme* moved that the program and schedule provided on the PNW Conference website shall be the official program and schedule of the conference; that the process used in the registration procedure be designated as the official roll call for the 150th annual session of the PNW 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 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 published and be the official record of the 150th Annual Session of the PNWAC of The United Methodist Church. The motion was 2nded and approved.

**Accessibility Report**

Issues of accessibility for this Conference at both venues, University of Puget Sound and Mason UMC, were addressed by *Kristen Ellison Oslin*, who named the accommodations being provided and requested people be sensitive regarding using scents. Petitions #8 & #9, the closure of Bonney Lake Foothills UMC and the 2023 CFA Budget Recommendations, respectively, were affirmed above the 90% threshold and will proceed to the plenary session in accordance with Conference Rules.

**Preliminary Report of the Rules Committee**

Jim Odiorne, chair, noted that there were no concerns or edits needed at this time on either petitions before this conference or in general. Beginning in August the Rules Committee will begin a thorough review of the Conference Rules, with recommendations to come to the 2024 session.

**Delegation to General Conference Report**

Skylar Marston-Bihl, first elect lay delegate and employee at University of Puget Sound, invited everyone to participate in a UPS practice, which is to name our own pronouns and to invite others to be their true selves.

First real action since elected was to elect bishops in November 2023. The following meetings are planned: 2020 General Conference April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC; Western Jurisdictional Conference July 10-13, 2024, in Spokane, WA. The elected

delegation stands for the next General Conference. For the delegation, Covid has provided the silver lining of the gift of time to develop relationships within our own and other delegations.

### **Committee on Episcopacy (COE) Report**

*Gregg Sealey* reported. Generally, the committee is made up of 1st elect lay and clergy from each delegation in the Jurisdiction. One of their roles is to support episcopal leaders. COE also has a role in shaping the process for the next episcopal elections which are scheduled for next July, and for conferences to prepare to hold elections for two episcopal openings. The process will be a combination of previous processes with other adjustments expected.

### **Safety Advocate Report**

Brant Henshaw announced that if anyone needs assistance creating safe space, or support when a boundary has been crossed, the following people are available as advocates: *Jeffrey Mullinix, Kathy Hartgraves, Nancy Tam Davis, Teri Tobey, Brant Henshaw.*

### **Reading of Appointments for Crest to Coast District Clergy Appointments**

Read by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* and District Superintendent *Kathleen Weber*, welcomed and blessed by co-Lay Leader *Kelly Andrews*.

### **Innovation Vitality Report**

*Kristina Gonzalez*, GNW Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality lifted one of the three projects named in the opening worship, including the PNW project of First UMC of Canada with *Norman Feliciano*, pastoring one church in four locations in the greater Vancouver area. In the past year, the Vitality team has focused a lot on administrative work, clearing administrative inconsistencies across the conferences and rebuilding relationships with the planters. In 2022, the GNW had 32 active projects, 17 of which were in PNW, some of which have completed their funding cycle, chosen not to continue, or are changing appointments. In 2023-2024 22 projects are anticipated. It is important to recognize this hard and high-risk work. During the next year a focus will be on programming and providing resources for established local churches so they can learn the practices of inclusion, innovation, and multiplication and learn from the planters. She thanked those on the team and encouraged everyone in our future work of living into our Wesleyan Theology. *Zulma Tifre*, a planter, was invited to give a prayer of thanksgiving, which was done in Spanish with translation.

### **Disaster Response Team Report**

Coordinators *Kathy* and *Dana Bryson*, *Jenny Phillips*, technical advisor for environmental sustainability with the Board of Global Ministries. This is WA State smoke-ready week, the need for which disproportionately affects certain populations. They encouraged us to

build and distribute cleaner air kits powered by solar power kits and power batteries; open churches as cooling or clean air respite center; and UMCOR cleaning buckets, hygiene kits, and kits for smoke cleaning. A video report highlighted some of the projects done in disaster response and prevention across the nation.

### Focus Session #1 Administrative Support

Stephanie Henry, chair

Consent Calendar, reports #1-6 move concurrence: 99.6%

264 total, 133 needed, 263 yes, 1 no

Included concurrence with the following petitions:

Petition #1 - Conference Advance Specials

Petition #2 - Minimum Compensation

Petition #4 - Past Service Pension Rate

Petition #5 - Retirement Annuity Responsibility

Petition #6 - Retirement Grants

Petition #7 - Disability Benefits

Petition #3 - Moving Allowance, as amended in Focus Session, move concurrence: 98.9% 279 total, 140 needed, 276 yes, 3 no. The petition was amended to add: "G. Inter-Conference moves from within the Greater Northwest Area to the Pacific Northwest Conference shall use the same rate as seminary students (E) or \$1600 if the mileage is less than \$500."

Petition #11 - Amend Conference Rules, move concurrence 95.7% 278 voting, 140 needed, 266 yes, 12 no. The petition was amended to read: amend Conference Rule II Membership, Section 3. Lay, subsection (a), by adding the title "Home Missioner," before the words "commissioned missionaries" as the petition was originally submitted. (Page F-5 of the 2022 Journal)

Petition #16 - Proposed Study to Examine the PNWAC's Practice Regarding Separation Pay for Clergy Ordained in Another Denomination, move concurrence, 83.0% 289 voting, 145 needed, 240 yes, 49 no

Petition #10, Apportioned Budget, *Cara Scriven*, CFA chair Council on Finance and Administration Recommendations, move concurrence. Presentation only, vote on Thursday.

## Treasurer's Report

Brant Henshaw, Conference Treasurer, reporting.

Boy Scout of America bankruptcy settlement was approved by the courts. The UMC denomination is prepared to pay the full \$30 billion by October 1, 2023, so the victims can begin their healing work. PNW allocation is \$370,000 to be shared by the Trustees for the now closed churches, and by all the churches in the conference; a recommendation to CFA will be for local churches to have through December 2024 to pay their allocation.

On the Jurisdiction level, Claremont School of Theology, perpetually underfunded, has been trying to sell their campus to help with cash flow. PNW has been providing bridge loans to help with cash flow.

With insurance companies pulling out of whole markets it is possible local churches will see differences in our insurance policies and premiums beginning in January, either a reduction in coverage or increase in cost; all this is related to real climate change.

Two long-time employees have retired: Anna Conklin and Pam Kaiser. New staff members include Erin Tombaugh, District Service Center and Liz Gough, Conference Accountant.

The Conference is working to align accounting systems across the GNW and use newly available features. Online payments for apportionments and fire & liability will roll out at the end of June; there will be a webinar and instructions; doing benefits in that manner is already happening. Churches that move all their payments to ACH will be offered \$250 credit on fire and liability insurance.

Disaffiliations have taken quite a bit of time for Treasurer's office staff, CFA and Trustees. As the 2023 apportioned budget was drafted, they tried not to strain the remaining churches. Churches still interested in disaffiliation or questioning if they want to disaffiliate must talk with District Superintendent by August 15 in order to have a first vote then sufficient time to do due diligence before fall charge conferences.

Those wanting more detail and transparency on the budget will find it easiest to look at the most recent audit which will be posted online. We have a 4.4 million apportioned budget, but total operations are closer to \$10 million, majority of which is pensions.

The WA-Cares long-term care insurance payroll deduction begins July 1; neither churches nor clergy are exempt. More information can be found on state of WA website.

## Focus Session #1 Administrative Support, continued

Petition #8 - Pe Ell UMC closure, move concurrence, 98.5%.

*Kathleen Weber* gave testimony to a faithful completion of ministry. 272 voting, 137 needed, 268 yes, 4 no.

Petition #9 - East Wenatchee UMC closure, move concurrence, 97%

*Daniel Miranda* gave testimony to a faithful completion of ministry.

264 votes, 133 needed, 256 yes, 8 no

Litanies of Thanksgiving and Remembrance were led by *Daniel Miranda, Kathleen Weber,* and *Mark Galang.*

### Video Reports Given

**Twinlow Camp** – The delightfulness of summer camp--preparing for summer so campers will have the best summer ever.

**Global Ministries**—trains, commissions, assigns and supports missionaries who share God's love around the world in partnership with 60 countries.

**Camp Indianola**—go outside, it's great therapy to embrace creation.

**Global Ministries**—Humanitarian Relief and Recovery for where disaster strikes, and homes and lives are destroyed. UMCOR provides hope for more than 80 years by serving all who need help.

**Lazy F Camp**—celebrating gifts of \$325,000 that helped to pay down the mortgage early, thus saving \$150,000. They are focusing on outdoor education with 8 weeks of school groups coming. Overnight camp is available, and a school bus will bring day campers.

### Introductions to Guests for Session #1

*Elizabeth Ingram Schindler* introduced Dan and Courtney Randall, Mission Advocates for the Western Jurisdiction, and their family, who are being sent to Ireland to be a circuit pastor and pastor of congregational development, respectively. *Shalom Agtarap* prayed for the family.

*Elizabeth Ingram Schindler* introduced Reagan Page, a Global Mission Fellow serving in Seattle with the NW immigrant project. She and her cohort of 30 of 20–30-year-olds are focused on social justice ministry.

*Bishop Cedrick* introduced Laurie Day, Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop and Crater Lake District Superintendent *John Tucker*, both from OR-ID Conference.

### Reading of Appointments for Inland District Clergy Appointments

Read by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* and District Superintendent *Daniel Miranda*, welcomed and blessed by District Lay Leader John Townsend.

James Potts, lay member from Queen Anne UMC, offered a prayer before we adjourned for dinner.



**DINNER BREAK****Memorial Worship Service & Reception**

The service was held at Mason UMC. Sue McGrath preached a message encouraging all to weep and wail as a part of the grieving process, for the loss of loved ones, the losses of the pandemic, the battle ground which our nation has become. Communal lament is long overdue and reminds us we are not alone; it stitches us to our neighbors and awakens our hearts to their pains.

**PNW PLENARY SESSION #2****JUNE 14, 2023, 9:00 A.M. PACIFIC TIME****HYBRID: IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM****UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL, TACOMA, WA**

Devotions were led by *John Tucker*, District Superintendent of Crater Lake District, OR-ID Conference. Stop doing otherwise so you can go and do likewise.

**Focus Session #2 Connecting for Missions International**

*Mary Stanton-Nurse*, chair of the session, reported.

Consent Calendar, reporting petitions #14 & #7 move concurrence 98.2%.

227 voting, 114 needed, 223 yes, 4 no.

Included concurrence with the following petitions:

Petition #14 – A Call to General Conference to Add Fossil Fuels to United Methodist Investment Screens

Petition #17 – Solidarity with the Filipino People

Petition #12 Encourage Divestment for Local Churches and Northwest Foundation was split and addressed as two petitions.

Petition #12a encourage the Foundation to Divest from fossil fuels, move concurrence, 86%.

271 voting, 136 needed, 233 yes, 38 no.

Petition #12b invite local churches to consider divesting, move concurrence, 90.5%.

275 voting, 138 needed, 249 yes, 26 no.

Petition #13 was split and addressed as two petitions, in the following order:

Petition #13b, move concurrence.

272 voting, 137 needed, 262 yes, 10 no.

Petition #13a, motion to refer (discussion act of referral) lines 27-42.

Since language on ballot did not match what was on screen the results were scratched and a revote was taken, with the instructions: Regardless of what it says on ballot, vote for this now.

Referred 53.7% 268 voting, 135 needed, 144 yes, 124 no.

Petition #15 Greenhouse Emissions, concurrence was recommended. The petition was amended to change the year 2050 to 2040 and 30% to 50% and was approved as amended. 279 voting, 140 needed, 250 yes, 29 no.

*Kathy Neary*, small church consultant for the PNW conference, led a celebration for those who serve among us as deaconesses, diaconal ministers, home missionaries, certified lay ministers, Hispanic Lay Missioners, Hispanic Certified Lay Ministers, and Licensed Local Pastors—66 folks in the conference who have answered the call.

### **Retirement Service**

*Karen Yokota Love* preached. Congratulations that you made it and are ready to start the rest of your lives. Your attitude is more important than your abilities, and doing is essential. But you must love yourself enough to take care of yourself so you can be a Good Samaritan. Your ministry is not done. Rest and renew yourselves and know that your call is not over, and God is not done with you. *Bishop Cedrick* led a litany of blessing. The retirees offered reflections on the role of the neighbor and encouraged all to go and do likewise. The offering was designated for S.L.A.M. trips, Students Learning About Mission by serving with indigenous people, learning culture, and building relationships, on the Yakama reservation. The offering raised \$1125.00. The 2023 retirees are: *Steve E. Baber, Querubin “Bing” Canlas, James “Jim” Clarke, Matt Gorman, Richard “Rich” Lang, Karen Martin Tichenor.*

### **Passing of the Mantle**

*Danielle Estelle Ramsay* re-told the story of Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha in 2 Kings. *Bishop Cedrick* draped a symbolic mantle on *Bing Canlas*, who passed it to *Yvonne Agduyeng* who would be ordained later this conference session. *Agduyeng* received the mantle while asking for a double share of the spirit of those who retire.

Joey Lopez offered a prayer before we broke for lunch.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

### **Nominations Report**

*Derek Nakano* celebrated that the 8-year quadrennium is drawing to a close and that new elections are scheduled for Annual Conference 2024.

## Reading of Appointments for SeaTac District Clergy Appointments

Read by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* and District Superintendent *Derek Nakano*, welcomed and blessed by interim Lay Leader, J.D. Drollinger.

## Board of Ordained Ministry Report

*Geoff Helton* reported highlights from the year's work, including: updating and expanding the inclusion statement to recognize that candidates and clergy come from and carry multiple identities; developing resources for the District Committees on Ordained Ministry including a Handbook to guide their work and fall training for our DCOMS to support them; adjusting and improving the interviews for provisional and full membership that allow for more interaction between our team and those we're interviewing while asking for less of a time commitment from candidates; supporting the work of existing pastoral leaders by offering training and workshops, including Advanced Boundaries Training, Wellness Webinars, a workshop on Leading with Renewed Energy and Joy with Beth Estock; starting a new Clergy Reflective Support Program that offers one-on-one coaching for pastoral leaders; broadening formation grants so that they can be used more widely; continuing safe harbor program for those who cannot serve effectively in their current setting because of who they are or who they love or because of their willingness to include the same. Future work intends to provide better and more frequent opportunities for healthy boundaries training and cultural competency; provide training and resources to help us confront racism in ourselves, our churches, our conference, our work including upstander and bystander training and implicit bias training; improving the mentoring provided to candidates, Certified Lay Ministers, and Licensed Local Pastors.

Those being presented for consecration and ordination this year include Vangie Rand, Ashley Skinner-Creek, Yvonne Agduyeng, Murray Crooks, Drew Frisbee, April Hall (online), Laura Holmes, Danielle Estelle Ramsay, Dirk Wooten, Mary Stanton-Nurse.

## Historic Questions

*Bishop Mary Ann Swenson* spoke a word to the candidates before asking the historic questions and blessing the candidates.

## Archives and History Reports

Wesley's Take the Web is an amusing spoof in which John & Charles ask their computerized Susana about the work of Archives and History.

*Bo Bryan* named and celebrated the 50th anniversary of ordination for *Thomas Albright & Richard Coghill*, and the 60th anniversary for *Donald Cramer*. Fern Prairie UMC received a plaque in celebration of 150 years of ministry.

## Reading of Appointments for Puget Sound District Clergy Appointments

Read by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* and District Superintendent *Mark Galang*, welcomed and blessed by Lay Leader Keith Skore.

**Volunteers in Mission Report**

Cheryl Reagan encouraged everyone to give yourself a Ted Talk, turn the mirror around, open a window—you can do something.

**Hispanic Ministry Report**

Zulma Tifre was featured as an example of how elevating a lay volunteer's status, and providing more support, empowers them to grow in their abilities and the reach of their ministry. *Christopher Gudger-Raines* shares ministry with her at Mt. Vernon.

**Video Reports Given**

**COSROW The Power of One Voice** - women who support women to answer the call, develop their leadership, and receive prayers, mentorship, and encouragement to serve.

**Ocean Park Camping** - it's a beautiful beach and so much is happening.

**Global Ministries** - health initiatives strengthen, build, educate, and support vulnerable communities and help eradicate disease.

**Global Ministries** - evangelism and church revitalization through planting churches, nurturing them, along with addressing systemic racial, ethnic, and economic injustice.

Solidarity with the Filipino People

**United Women in Faith** - What does it mean to belong? All Access Membership.

**Mission U** - a transformative experience that helps one recharge, refocus, and bring justice for the world.

**Church and Society** - personal piety is not separated from acts of justice; United Methodists stand for Justice. Let's put our words into action.

**Discipleship Ministries** - design, develop, and assess ministry plans for spiritual growth and vitality.

**The Future of the UMC: Reclaim, Revive, Renew #BeUMC**

*Jenny Phillips*, GBGM reported on Environmental and Sustainability concerns, plus video report.

**Reading of Appointments for Seven Rivers District Clergy Appointments**

Read by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* and District Superintendent *Daniel Miranda* and welcomed and blessed by Lay Leader *Billie Fitzsimmons*.

### Conference Board of Church and Society Report

*David Wright* reported the board has done much work with the ongoing themes of poverty, climate change and care, health, peace, racism, civil and human rights, and acknowledged the partnerships they have with Faith Action Network and United Women in Faith. The board requests that each congregation name a member to serve as its social justice advocate and as a contact person for ongoing work. Peace with justice awards of \$1000 each were announced for Pioneer United Women in Faith for their Last Resort Assistance Program; to Vitalize Kitsap for their Island Time program that providing community and connection for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and for Suquamish tribal and Camp Indianola collaboration on creating an art and information display honoring sacred land of the Suquamish people. The MLK Award is presented to Dori Peralta Baker, a layperson at Yakima Wesley, for her exceptional work on the front lines of social justice in Yakima.

*Bishop Cedrick* announced that today (June 14) is *Bishop Talbert's* birthday.

*Bishop Cedrick* identified the Bucket of Grace on the table, full of with bubble wands, and shared a story about leading a “remembering your baptism” event.

### Vitality Commission Report

*Katie Ladd* posed the question: What is the Status of the IV Team: who is on it and what are they doing? *Kristina Gonzalez*, Executive Director answered. Day-to-day *Kristina* is the Executive Director. *Jess Bielman*, Associate Director of Innovation for an engaged church resigned. *Patrick Ferguson* does the administrative work. There were 6.5 FTE at one time, but now only 2 FTE and a consultant. More recently *Kristina* has been leaning into administration and relationships; bringing into alignment some of the processes over the three parts of the Greater Northwest Area; building relationships with planters; and moving into a model where there is more human resources support. Also, there are plans to move into a more programmatic approach by bringing the learnings of the team into the local churches. Sustainable Innovation Vitality needs to be by every lay and clergy in local churches doing the outreach into the communities. Otherwise, we will fail.

### Introductions to Guests for Session #2

*Jenny Phillips*, General Board of Global Ministries.

*Cynthia Dopke*, Conference Relations Manager from Wespath.

*Amos Nascimento*, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Assoc. Gen. Secretary.

*Martin Saunders*, of the University of WA Wesley Club, announced the 100th anniversary of the UW Club, and 100 years of the Conference doing campus ministries.

**Announcing:**

Academy for Spiritual Formation will meet April 21-Friday noon, 2024 with the theme of “Welcoming the Wilderness”.

**PNW PLENARY SESSION #3**  
**JUNE 15, 2023, 9:00 A.M. PACIFIC TIME**  
**HYBRID: IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM**  
**SANCTUARY, MASON UMC, TACOMA, WA**

*Bishop Bridgeforth* asked *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler* to open with prayer. Explanations were given for both the glass art on the pulpit and the fabric on the piano, both of which were on display in the previous plenary setting this week. The glass art is part of a larger installation crafted for the bishop’s service of installation, and a portion of the installation was carried to each of the three annual conference sessions, ending with PNW. The glass art was created by Alaska Native artist Rachel Juzeler and is inspired by nature in SE Alaska and constructed of mostly discarded items. The woven rainbow cloth was created by *Lisa Talbot*, Director of Connectional Ministries of the Alaska Conference.

**Budget report & Money Questions Answered**

*Cara Scriven* began by answering questions brought to her. Were the line items dependent on endowments and investments for funds? Yes, some supplement for some, such as the pension board funds and the assistant treasurer’s compensation (when that position is filled). The Board of Ordained Ministry has some which they manage, and thus only part of their funds are in the apportioned budget. Projects such as the Innovation Vitality Team are supported from funds from investments from the sale of closed churches managed by the Board of Trustees. District Superintendent housing allowances are partially funded from rental income and investments from the sales of District Superintendent “parsonages”. What is in the Petition #10 budget is only the apportioned part of the budget.

Office of Connectional Ministries line-item questions: 80% of \$860,000 is for program staff. Other money is for OCM expenses, youth, young adults, media center, etc., including meetings; 5% for Transitions Retreat and discretionary money used for new programs, etc. We are trying to get back to the pre-pandemic programming and the budget to support that. Specific salaries for staff are not shared because staff were targeted in the past, but you can see the District Superintendent and Conference Treasurer wages. In most cases we have tried, somewhat unsuccessfully, to remain competitive with the market. Seattle CPI went up 28.4% since 2015, but support staff has only increased 14.86% and executive staff 9.86%. Some OCM budget is to help bridge the gap. The goal in the next year is to re-work the budget to improve transparency. The BSA settlement and allocation costs will be shared among churches that had Boy Scout groups; allocations will be a few

hundreds to one thousand dollars. The minimum salary for the clergy is calculated using a formula averaging Seattle CPI and average increase of clergy in previous two years; also open for study for a better picture of how the whole compensation package fits in the marketplace for both clergy and conference staff.

Budget Ballot, move concurrence 95.2% - 248 voting, 125 needed, 236 yes, 12 no

**Disaster Response**—providing supply centers and teams to respond to natural disasters of many types. Jim Truitt, leader, and organizer for many years, is stepping down.

### **A Call to Action for Indigenous People**

Personal privilege, Julia Eckberg, Lay member from Edmonds UMC

Calls the annual conference to collaborate and consult with the Circle of Indigenous Ministries to initiate a process of repentance and reconciliation with the Yakama Nation and make necessary reparations. Named our complicity with the actions of the boarding school at Fort Simcoe, that sanctioned violence, separation of families, stripping of language and culture, and dehumanization of native children. We must build relationships that remember the history, weep and wail at the harms caused and the bias seeded; we must offer reparations, compassion, and healing work. The conference acknowledged the presence of *Alan Buck*, director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries. *Lisa Talbot* offered a prayer response.

### **Faith Foundation NW Report**

Tom Wilson, Exec Dir Faith Foundation NW, who is retiring June 30. As of the end of May 2023 \$82,000,000 are under the Foundation's management. The audit is completed. After a nation-wide search, our own Julia Frisbie has been selected as the incoming Executive Director, a long-time United Methodist, Stanford Graduate, clergy spouse, parent, and smart person. A video report was included.

**Bishop's Award** to Tom Wilson, *Bishop Cedrick's* first such award given. Nancy Tam Davis, Lay Leader and Barbara Dadd Shaffer, board of Trustees for the Foundation, both offered words of gratitude and celebration for Tom's leadership.

### **Reading of Appointments for Extension Ministry Clergy Appointments**

Read by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* and OCM Director *David Valera*; blessing was given by Conference Lay Leader Nancy Tam Davis.

### **Setting Dates & Location for Annual Conference 2024**

*Bishop Cedrick* set the dates for the next annual conference session for June 13-16, 2024, in the Seven Rivers District, *Daniel Miranda* hosting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

*Shirley DeLarme* moved the closing of this 150th session of the Annual Conference

following the service of ordination and commission and the shared closing worship, a shared session with the Greater Northwest Area. 2nd and Approved 97.4%. 189 voting, 95 needed, 184 yes, 5 no.

### Ordination Worship Service

*Bishop Mary Ann Swenson*, preaching, on the 50th anniversary of her own ordination in this conference. Referencing an earlier part of Luke 10, *Swenson* emphasizes that Jesus says go, not where, but go, unconcerned about where or to whom. Go with nothing, not to a place, but to a way of seeing as God sees, a harvest filled with the family of God, full of hope, healing, compassion, and a passion for justice and love. The harvest of love is plentiful.

### Other Notes

Greeting Seattle Pacific Seminary by Rev. Dr. Brian Lugioyo.

Kaylissa Beale named her pain that young adults and pages are not present because of the dates and days of the annual conference schedule.

*Justin White* thanked Joe Lee (PD candidate) Nashville, Pat Gerdes of Port Orchard, Dorothy Grether, *Mark Haberman* organist, *Jennifer Stewart* all things altar related, Ashley Skinner Creek memorial service, *Beryl Ingram* retirement service, *Yvonne Agduy-eng* and *Danielle Estelle Ramsay* opening worship, Sue McGrath memorial, *Amanda Nicol* memorial, Ella Dedeaux spiritual guide and behind the scenes, *Alissa Amestoy* ordination & commissioning, *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler*, *David Valera*, *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth*, *Karen Yokota Love* retirement.

*David Valera* thanked Good NewsTV, David Woods GNTV team leader, *Susan Boegli* & Emma Kelly and congregation of Mason UMC, staff etc. at UPS, tech team, Teri Tobey, Ronnie Estoque, Karen Biggers, Pete Olds, Patrick Ferguson, Nadine Miyahara, Erin Tombaugh, Laura Velonza, *Kathy Neary*, *Pam Osborne*, Kathy Hogg, Rhondalei Gabuat, *Shane Moore*, *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler*, and *Shirley DeLarme*. *Bishop Cedrick* was thanked for his first AC and celebrated with the Bishop's Hymn.

**Announcements:** One positive COVID test.

*Bishop Cedrick* expressed gratitude to *David Valera*. Later during worship *David Valera* expressed gratitude to *Justin White*.



**GREATER NORTHWEST CLOSING SESSION****JUNE 15, 2023,****MASON UMC, TACOMA, WA****VIA LIVESTREAMING****5:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME**

Closing session was hosted by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth*, with musical interludes provided by *Justin White* and Joe Lee.

**Summary Reports**

Conference Secretaries gave summary reports of the works of each of their conferences, *Shirley DeLarme* for Pacific Northwest, *Nico Reijns* for Alaska, and *Laura Jaquith Bartlett* for Oregon-Idaho.

**Vitality Commission**

*Bishop Cedrick* thanked the members of the Vitality Commission for both their agreement to serve and for the work they did. It is time to move forward while building trust and healing ruptures, and are supported fully by both the bishop, the cabinet, and the staff. Wonderful and insightful recommendations to be in ministry with more people, and with diversity, in this place we call home. Congregational Development is near and dear to the bishop's heart. Support can look like connecting planters and projects with the systems that helps them flourish, but not at the expense of doing anything else.

*Bishop Cedrick* stated that he sees the need for innovation projects as something new, but not always something that takes place outside of the established system. If any of our ministries without endowments, who worship fewer than 250 people, and an ever-diversifying demographic all around us, if we're going to do more than hold steady, we must ideate with emerging realities in mind. That is innovation. And if we want vitality we must innovate. It is obvious we have a system that privileges some and holds others hostage. We focus on our properties and our proceeds far more than we focus on people. We need to and can do more, but must do so with support, without penalizing disappointments, and we must hear and heal.

Next steps will be happening soon with innovators beginning actions on the recommendations and a promise of more information shared. *Bishop Cedrick* thanked the Vitality Commission for their work and then released the team.

**Disaster Response**

*David Valera* recounted his introduction to Jim Truitt and the beginnings of significant disaster response preparedness so we can "go help some people." Jim was known for using these words regularly. Jim is stepping down, retiring from this volunteer ministry. A thank

you and celebration video was shared and *Bishop Cedrick* gave a prayer of thanksgiving.

### **Claremont School of Theology**

*Bishop Grant Hagiya* explained the financial situation of the school, then requested prayers and significant financial support.

### **Closing Worship & Sermon**

*Bishop Cedrick Bishop*, preaching. We have journeyed together from Juneau, Fairbanks, Meridian, and Tacoma. He reviewed the overview of the M.I.L.E. that will be a guide for the years ahead: Ministry that Matters, Itineracy and Location, Lay Enhancement, and now the Elimination of Racism. E is last because that's how we spell mile, but it is critical for its own sake. We have been about spreading love and being neighbor for a M.I.L.E.

Connections across the area are not what he had thought. There are varieties of cultures and levels of trust that factor into every decision that is made. Regionalism within each conference is astounding meaning there are more opportunities to share the gospel and the M.I.L.E. Ministry that matters, zeroes in on housing and health, which includes climate care. As for young people, they have a spirituality, and are finding and making community that looks nothing like what worked for us but are serving and part of organizations that are out churching the church. Itineracy and Location is about getting pastoral leaders where they can thrive, getting the churches the leaders, the churches need to reflect the best they can be in the emerging contexts of ministry where the needs of the context are higher than the needs of the congregation. Lay Ministry Enhancement means celebrating and supporting every call to serve, beginning with prayer. Elimination of racism by examining our policies, our structures, and our behaviors that perpetuate racism so that we can make the changes and reparations that are necessary to move us toward a just and equitable space and reality where all are included. Be as anti-racist as we can. Doing some serious work with the assistance of a consultant, cohorts, and active steps beginning in the fall.