SPECIAL CALLED SESSION

OCTOBER 29, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Via Zoom

Wesley Gardens, Des Moines, WA

152nd 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.

Welcome & Call to Order

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation to the tech team for making it possible for us to meet this way.

Bishop Cedrick officially called us to order.

Orientation and Introductions

Teri Tobey presented instructions for using captioning and translation. She also reminded everyone to speak slowly and clearly so that all can participate. She instructed everyone to raise their hands if the bishop called for it. Assistance can be sought through the Chat.

Devotional Video

A pre-recorded devotional message was shared. What seemed like not enough becomes more than enough. What administration is really about is stewardship, trust, and worship. We are participating in God's abundance. The mystery of grace that multiplies. The one who blesses will also break and give until all are fed.

Introducing those on the Panel

Shirley DeLarme, Conference Secretary; *Derek Nakano*, Nominations Chair; *Shane Moor*e, Parliamentarian; *David Valera*, Director Connectional Ministries; Brant Henshaw, Treasurer; Sara Goetze, Assistant Treasurer; Eve Parrish and *Melissa Ramming,* Co-chairs of Finance and Administration; Kathy Hogg, Conference Session Coordinator; Tyrone Olds, Teri Tobey, and Ian McNight, Tech Team; Erin Tombaugh and Laura Velonza, District Administrators; Patrick Scriven, Director of Communications; Stephanie Franklin, Board of Ordained Ministry Assistant; and anyone else helping.

Instructions Voting, to Get Recognized, and a Practice Vote

Following instructions on how to get recognized and vote, the practice vote question was: Do you sing in the shower? NO 98, Yes 81

Opening Motions

Shirley DeLarme, PNW Conference Secretary, moved that the program and agenda provided on the Special Session resources page of the Pacific Northwest Conference website shall be the official program and schedule of the Special Session as called by *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth*; that the Registration Procedure for the Special Session be designated as the official roll call for this Special Session of the 152nd Annual Session of the PNW Conference; and that the bar be established as those who, according to their status within and relationship with the PNW Conference, have voting rights and are given passcode access to voting procedures provided by the conference staff. The 180 votes cast were unanimous.

Budget Presentation & Vote

Eve Parrish and *Melissa Ramming* presented the budget using pie charts that aligned with the line-item budget and also identified budget managers & ministry priorities. It included 100% General church apportionments for many years, personnel, building & operations funds, required items by the BOD, and the Conference's program and priorities. A big-picture slide showed the budget by categories and the projected shortfall in receipts. CFA has worked to keep the increase to 3.9% over the 2025 budget while honoring the connectional covenant and the priorities of the PNW Annual Conference. The Committee on Finance and Administration moves to adopt the 2026 apportioned conference budget for $4,592,343, as presented in the pre-conference reports.

Drew Hogan stated that if our budgets are moral documents, they cannot support this—they omit the young people or creation care and justice. Not fully represented missional priorities.

Damien Carruthers asked what the consequences are for financially able churches but choose not to pay their apportionments. *Bishop Cedrick* answered that there are no consequences laid out, only that we limit what we can do collectively. He said clergy in covenant could craft some possibilities for an Annual Conference session to approve. Bishop also encouraged work to find alternative funding sources for ministries.

The votes cast were 157 yes, 33 no, and the budget passed at 82.63% of 190 vo**tes.**

Bishop Cedrick encouraged and invited everyone to engage fully in the Annual Conference process, reminding us that we are the conference.

Sara Goetz gave the Shared Services Presentation.

Anticipating retirements in both the PNW and OI Conferences, the two Conferences have been engaged in a seven-year effort to reimagine what the Finance Office could be. The new shape includes: Director of Human Resources and Benefits Administration, working with the Boards of Pensions, Equitable Compensation, and Personnel Committees; Director of Property Asset Management and Insurance, working with Boards of Trustees, District Boards of Church Locations & Buildings, Archives and History, and

District Extension Societies; and Director of Finance, working with CFA and Faith Foundation, overseeing accounts receivable, accounts payable, bookkeeping, and billing.

Ministry Funding Model Presentation

CFA Chairs Eve Parrish & *Melissa Ramming* gave a presentation

Responding to the Bishop's priorities task group, in collaboration with ethnic ministry leaders and budget stakeholders, CFA is moving to a new funding mechanism that will lower barriers, ensure fairness, and provide a timelier response through a three-times-a-year micro-grant application process. The next step is to create a rubric to allocate and finalize funding and identify mentors to assist those entering the proces**s.**

Report of the Nominations Committee

Derek Nakano reported on nominating a CFA-Ministry Opportunity Fund Team, which will be independent of CFA, small, and flexible, and will collaborate with others to get the resources and information needed to make decisions. A non-disciplinary committee is open to adding new members to the team as stakeholders are identified, thereby advancing missional priorities. With 186 ballots cast, the measure passed 180 to 6, with 96.77% of % vote.

Drew Hogan, re: expanding the team to be as equitable as possible, esp. after some of the conversation at the Q&A, make a note here to ensure our ministry priorities are part of all our ministries, equitable response, people living with disabilities …

Closing Motion PNW

Shirley DeLarme, Conference Secretary, moved the adjournment of this October 29, 2025, Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Special Session following the closing prayer; and that the minutes of this special session be reported as an addendum to the Daily Proceedings of the 2025 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Session, and published in the 2026 Pacific Northwest Conference Journal. With 178 yes votes, the motion was approved at 97.75%.

Prayer & Sending Forth

Bishop Cedrick prayed and sent everyone out in the peace and love of Christ, encouraging us to share all of who we are with all whom God brings into our paths, in peace, until we meet again.