H. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

153RD 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 are pre-recorded, held online via Zoom, and hybrid in-person/online

GNW OPENING SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, AT 3:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME
(PRERECORDED)

Lisa Talbott gave a welcome to all the Greater Northwest Area people and a land acknowledgment, recognizing the indigenous people who have stewarded the lands for millennia. She committed us to learning from those stewards, doing better in our land use, to telling the truth about harm done, and about changing as we move forward.

In celebration of the 70th anniversary of the ordination of women in the UMC, clergywomen take the lead in this opening session. All who are broken or blessed are welcomed to this sacred time. *Rev. Dr. David King's* song "Blessed and Broken" was shared, as were representative prayers of the people.

Greater Northwest Area Reports

Lisa Talbott, Assistant to the Bishop for Equity and Intercultural Competency, tells us we are called to do the hard work of love. She emphasized that loving boldly is not about safety, comfort, or sentimentality, but about telling the truth, practicing holy resistance, and setting aside comfort for transformation. While we can celebrate much progress in equity and cultural competency, there are still griefs to acknowledge and higher goals to reach. More than sharing resources, collaboration is about learning from each other and allowing ourselves to be transformed through relationships.

Shared Services

Brant Henshaw, Sara Goetze, and Katrishca Barker outlined what Shared Services are for three conferences in four states. It includes oversight of administration, financial and human resources, and legal matters. This includes payroll benefits, financial compliance, property stewardship, HR matters, legal coordination, budget planning, and annual audits. The work has been messy. Instead of three parallel systems, expertise has been pooled: two finance offices have merged, software systems have been updated, CFA has been

supported through budget cycle planning, and audits have been completed. Long-tenured staff departed, and new staff came on board. The process is behind schedule, but the work continues with urgency and accountability, operating behind the scenes to accomplish work felt by all ministries of the area.

Circle of Indigenous Ministries

Allen Buck, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, reported that, in ministry together with the Spirit, the Circle is building relationships with tribes and representing the Church. They've worked hard to build trust. Beyond the Area, they have shared the Plan for Indigenous Ministries. While continuing the truth-telling work, they have also moved into repair work. They are developing a board to manage the money, raise up leaders to shape the future, and work with the Committee on Native American Ministries. It is exciting to celebrate a new indigenous leader for Great Spirit UMC.

Episcopal Address

Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, preaching at Faith Church, Issaquah, WA.

The Bishops of the UMC have set forth a new vision for the UMC: to form Disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and in worldwide connections. While this conference season will focus on the "love boldly" part, this is more than a theme; it is a call for formation.

What is forming us? What is shaping our instincts, disciplining our hearts? Is it the gospel or fear, the Holy Spirit, exhaustion, or pressure to keep everyone comfortable? The center of our formation is to love boldly, rooted in the gospel and the news cycle. John Wesley stressed both the personal and the social; the inward and the outward cannot be separated. Worship and witness belong together; piety and public faithfulness belong together.

Consider three questions:

Who are we? We are more than an institution managing decline. We are the church of Jesus Christ in this place and time, called to bear witness to the reign of God. Our identity cannot be grounded in anxiety or nostalgia. We are rooted in grace and sent to embody the love we proclaim. While we know grief, the resurrection still speaks. We are called to form a church that looks and loves like Jesus. There is a difference between professionally polished and spiritually formed, between ecclesial comfort and moral clarity, between admiration for being measured or remembered for being faithful.

What is God calling us to do? Love boldly, which is more than protesting, boycotting, and advocating. We must be able to say why, and what is the gospel imperative that impels us to engage, such as ending harm, stopping participation in practices that degrade God's beloved children, and because the gospel has public implications.

How must we order our shared life to do this vision? Laity must not wait for clergy permission to use their gifts. We must discern, bless, and coach a community where gifts are recognized and released. Unless we are intentional, formation does not happen well. It happens when we refresh our theology, our message, or understanding; when we ask hard questions; when we talk about more than structure, but about the kind of people those structures are forming; whether we are courageous disciples or cautious functionaries; whether we are communities that look and love like Jesus or institutions skilled at protecting themselves; if we are people capable of mercy, truth, repentance and repair—that's why moral clarity matters more than ecclesial comfort.

Bishop Cedrick urges us to leave conference commissioned to show up and move toward one neighbor, instead of circling, moving toward with love, and to take on a cost we have been unwilling to pay. Then we will be loving boldly.

70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination

Lisa Talbott named a slew of firsts for women in leadership of ministries in American Methodism, noting how far we have come, and how much further we still have to go.

In May 2025, bishops released a vision statement designed to help the church live into the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through thirty thousand sibling congregations built around loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.

Offering: *Yvonne Agduyeng* and *Bishop Patrick Streiff* led the appeal to support endowing United Methodist Theological Education for 500 new students annually in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Quality theological education, shaped by the Wesleyan mindset, is greatly needed and hard to find.

PNW FOCUS SESSION 1

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026, 6:00-7:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME

PETITIONS 1-10, 15, 16

Recommendations include:

Consent Calendar: concurrence recommended for petitions #1 – 6, and #9

Items for Individual Action: concurrence recommended for petitions #7, #8, and #16

Petition #15 was tabled with a request for more information by June 19.

Petition #10 was referred to CF&A by 56.03%; time to consider during plenary will be provided

PNW FOCUS SESSION 2

CONNECTING IN MISSIONS

VIA ZOOM

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026, 6:00-7:30 P.M. PACIFIC TIME

PETITION 11-14

Recommendations include:

Consent Calendar: concurrence recommended for petitions #12 and #14

Items for Individual Action: concurrence for Petition #11, non-concurrence for Petition #13

CLERGY SESSION

VIA ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1-4 P.M. PACIFIC TIME

Recommendations include:

Ordination: Joe Lee, Mele ʻAho, Kate Crisci, Drew Hogan, Catherine Lyle

Commissioned: Wilma Reyes

Retirement: *Jim Carter, Mark Johnson, Brook McBride, Paula McCutcheon, Daniel Miranda, Sheila Miranda, Sue Ostrom, Sandy Ward, Mark Williams*

Deaths Mourned: *Chester Aumua, David Braun, Pharis Harvey, Sharon Laraene, David Lura, Kathryn Neary, Earl Rice*, Marta Schellberg, *David Tinney*, Jale Tuirotuma, *Keat Yeoh.*

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LIVESTREAMING AND IN-PERSON

SPOKANE VALLEY, WA

JUNE 23-25, 2026, BEGINNING 9:00 A.M. PACIFIC TIME

Opening Worship, Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Allen Buck opened worship by acknowledging the indigenous people of the Spokane region as the traditional and historic stewards of the land, and by inviting all to honor the elders, the land, and the traditions of the people.

Bishop Cedrick set the tone for the 2026 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference with a word both unflinching and pastoral. *Bishop Cedrick* called the gathered church to something more demanding than cleverness: a love bold enough to take public form with moral clarity in a season that calls for courage.

Love may be the boldest thing the church can do, because fear is loud, cruelty is organized, greed is dressed up as wisdom, truth is treated like a threat, and too many public forms of religion have become more concerned about erasure than that they coddle the privileged. The church cannot love boldly while the church is making peace with the sin of racism. Loving boldly means real partnership. Loving boldly means looking like Jesus of Nazareth has been here. This is not a time for a timid church.

Offering: Mission Community Outreach Center, a barrier-free nonprofit organization that provides its clients with clothing, basic household goods, hygiene items, and diapers. More than 25,000 people are served, including 2,480 kids, in a one-day school giving that includes shoes for all.

Opening Plenary

Welcome was extended by retiring District Superintendent *Daniel Miranda* of the Inland and Seven Rivers Districts. Margie Manfred, director of hospitality at Spokane Valley UMC, expanded the church's welcome, which has served the valley since 1939. They are proud of their outreach with 25 organizations. Pastor of Spokane Valley, *Alissa Amestoy* added her welcome.

New Connections UMC video report

Four churches in the Lewiston Clarkston Valley, under the leadership of Pastor Cody Stauffer, have merged to form New Connections UMC. The four churches that voted to merge on April 27, 2025, include Asotin, Clarkston, Lewiston First, and Lewiston Orchards UMCs.

Accessibility

Angela Molloy informed the body about available services and accommodations and where help may be sought.

Safety and Security Protocols

Safety Advocate Teri Tobey outlined safety and security protocols designed to help us respond with care, calm, and clarity in the event of emergencies, such as medical incidents, threats, or immigration enforcement actions. The Safety Team includes Alan Rogstad, Kathy Bryson, *David Valera*, *Daniel Miranda*, *Alissa Amestoy*, *Cruz Edwin Santos*, and the church's greeting team. Assistance is available at the Connection Desk and from Kathy Hogg. Conference nurses are Rhonda Cordill and Linda Hansen. In the case of evacuation, the assembly area is in Balfour Park. Most doors will remain locked intentionally

and are not to be propped open. Nametags are the security credentials for participants.

VPoll Instructions & Test Voice

Teri Tobey gave instructions on how to get recognized and how to vote and led the body in a test vote.

2026 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 153rd annual session of the PNW Annual Conference; that the process used in the registration procedure be designated as the official roll call for the 153rd 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 have been duly given passcode access to voting procedures provided by the conference; (side note: voting members must be in the Sanctuary or online because that is where microphones and cameras are located) 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 153rd Annual Session of the PNWAC of The United Methodist Church. After receiving a second, 265 votes were cast, 133 needed, 100% approved.

Rules Committee Report

Stephanie Henry reported that the Rules Committee reviewed the petitions to ensure they met submission requirements and flagged those with financial implications for proper referral. The petitions before the Conference are in good order.

Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering

Conference Lay Leader Falisha Hola reported on the upcoming Leadership Gathering, which will take place on October 20, 2026, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She invited everyone into what the Holy Spirit is doing among us, and for our partnership in prayer and imagination. Following a renewed vision set by the Council of Bishops to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously, the gathering will address the theme Emboldened by the Spirit, Imagining the Church Yet to Be. The gathering is widely representative and especially inclusive of youth and young adults. It will address the questions: how are we teaching; how will we become a people who consistently live this vision; what will we do structurally and missionally to live this out as a church; how do we support this in stewardship and resources; and what is our accountability for why we do this? The gathering will be informed by conversations already conducted in three webinars, which ask the questions: what does it mean to Love Boldly—Wesleyan theology and identity; Serve Joyfully—Wesleyan missiology and decolonial mission; and Lead Courageously—reimagining ecclesiology and connectionalism. At the gathering in Calgary, the representatives

will be organized into covenant groups that align with key expressions of connectional life: discipleship, leadership, impact, stewardship, and accountability. Each group will work through three critical lenses: engaging younger generations, deepening disciple formation, and elevating global and connectional voices. Reports will name key realities, articulate a new spirit-breath vision, and identify bold experiments to test in the next two to three years. A powerful image to help with the process, from Psalm 78: becoming good ancestors. All of us are heirs in the faith and ancestors in the making. Our own Stephanie Henry is co-convenor of the gathering.

2027 Budget Presentation

Council on Finance and Administration co-chairs Eve Parrish and *Melissa Ramming* presented the budget. Per the Book of Discipline, the budget-setting directions were followed, but ministry choices were determined by the Connectional Table. Cost pressures include health care, cost-of-living increases, the expanded Circle of Indigenous ministries' leadership positions, inflation, and the Ministry Opportunity Grant program. Notably, the Board of Pensions will subsidize the cost of benefits for Conference Staff. CF&A prays the budget is received in faith and hope.

Welcome to Guests

David Valera and *Cruz Edwin Santos* welcomed individuals from across the connection and from general agencies, including Circle of Indigenous ministries, *Allen Buck,* Assistant to the Bishop, *Lisa Talbott*, mission engagement liaison Janice Lee from GBGM WJ liaison, Mutolo Jamara Ford from GBOD, Home Missioner Jeff Fuller from GBGM, *Jenny Phillips* from GBGM, and Peter Ang from Wespath.

Nominations Committee Report

Derek Nakano presented the 2026-2027 nominations report for consideration and a later vote. The hope is to tap into new visionary and energetic leadership that can heighten effectiveness, expand reach, and give birth to new ways of being in ministry together. Thanks to Jeff Johnson, who has served on the Board of Pensions for 16 years and is now stepping down. Thanks to Bruce Galvin, who has been serving as Conference Benefits officer for 51 years. *Allen Buck* gathered individuals from the three conferences to participate in establishing and extending ministries with indigenous neighbors. There is a new Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave.

General Conference Nominations from the Floor

Clergy nominees include *DJ del Rosario, Kathleen Weber, Mary Stanton-Nurse, Elizabeth Schindler, Shane Moore,* and *Nico Reins.*

Lay nominees include Nica Sy, Sophia Agtarap, Joey Lopez, Molly Faletufuga, Taylor Justo, Julie Brown, Marcy Leviollet, and John Townsend.

Prayer for Lunch

Alan Rogstad prayed for lunch and for the first week of summer church camp.

Welcome to Guests

Bishop Cedrick introduced *Bishop Muyombo* of the North Katanga Area. Kristi Durham, Katrishcha Baker, and Sara Goetz from GNW Shared Services, as well as Heather Blue of UM Communications.

One Matters Award

Matoe Yamada-Foor, on behalf of the Board of Discipleship, presented the One Matters Award to the leadership of Blaine Memorial UMC and their pastor, *Karen Yokota-Love*, for adding one new member by profession of faith. The award was created in 2015.

Disciple Ministries video report

Executive director and stakeholder relationships detailing resources available to help local churches put the new vision Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously into practice.

Disability Report

Angela Molloy celebrated six churches this year that prioritized physical, liturgical, and attitudinal accessibility in their ministries. There has been a 15% increase in audit completions.

Silver "Satisfactory" Badges were presented to Des Moines and Bremerton UMCs, which, while not fully accessible, showed improvements. Gold "Above and Beyond" Badges were presented to Wenatchee First for changes in building accessibility, worship practices, and congregational attitudes; Wesley Yakima for going beyond ADA physical requirements and for transforming attitudes; Ronald for website improvements, sensory-friendly practices, community partnership, and intentional worship practices; and Coeur d' Alene Community for being neurodivergent welcoming.

Disaster Response, video report

In the beautiful Pacific Northwest, the forces that sustain life sometimes remind us of their power. Then everything changes with wildfires and floods. But even as those disasters spread, the community responds with support and assistance. Air cleaner kits, flood buckets, disaster assistance centers, volunteers, and a response that lasts for months and years of recovery. In 2026, $1 million in recovery grants was awarded to the PNW Conference for use in the 16 affected counties and tribal nations. Even as recovery continues, preparations for future responses also progress, including kit assembly, partnership development, training, and technological advances to assist with the response. These are not stories about water and fire, but about people who survived and continued. Together

we respond, recover, and bring hope.

Kathy Bryson, coordinator with Dana Bryson, also reported on the response to the nearby wildfire the previous week and on Spokane Valley UMC's role as a host site for evacuees.

Commission on Environmental Stewardship

Sophia Agtarap reported that the 2024 session of the Annual Conference established the Commission on Environmental Stewardship. Ann Mayer, from the Empowering Team, reported that 50% of churches replied in the Annual Reports by completing the energy audits. *Drew Hogan* and *Jenny Phillips* are part of the commission.

Eric Walker and Julia Frisbee from the Resource Team announced the recipients of $3.5 million in grants to help us achieve the 2023 goal of reducing our carbon footprint by 50% by 2030. Receiving solar and battery storage assistance were Federal Way, Methow Valley, Edmonds, Vashon Island, Kent, Langley, Blaine Memorial, Vancouver First, Snohomish, Seattle First, and Marysville. Receiving heat pumps and electric appliances for parsonages were Camas, Prosser, Coupeville, Edmonds, United in Grace Monroe, Pioneer Walla Walla, Snohomish, Orchards in Vancouver, Longview, Tumwater, Leavenworth, Highline, Burien, Shoreline, Haller Lake, Queen Anne, Morton Brownsville, Camp Indianola, and Ocean Park Camp. Receiving free or subsidized energy audits were Community Coeur d'Alene, Cheney, Pioneer Walla Walla, Trinity Port Townsend, Browns Point, Kalevaria, Kent, and Edmonds. Funding is on the horizon for solar panels, heat pumps, and church buildings.

Jackie Celin reported from the Environmental Justice Team, which focuses on public-facing work, advocacy, and building just partnerships with communities beyond local congregations, especially people affected by climate change. She encouraged participation in composting and the use of reusable water bottles.

Paul Mitchell spoke about the commission's work to find a way into routines and to meet requirements, aligning meetings, goals, and deadlines throughout the year, and establishing a rhythm of participation in the commission that allows new voices to enter the conversation by rolling people off.

Laura Baumgartener, per tradition, invited the participation of the conference by instructing everyone to look in the pew copies of The Faith We Sing to find a winning ticket for preview copies of the Feast of Creation Worship Series, a new feast day entered the ecumenical revised common lectionary for September 2026, with the theme Salt, Soil, Seawater. Three churches are awarded advance copies.

Laity Session

Falisha Hola greeted everyone and invited Sanoah Smith to open the session with prayer.

Lay Servant Ministries

John Townsend, conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, mentioned Conference staff member *Sheila Miranda*, who has a passion for this ministry, and then invited members to consider being trained in Lay Servant Ministries. Such training will help answer a call to leadership, to better discipleship, to lead prayer in public settings, to participate productively in contentious conversations, and more.

Introduction of the Table

Falisha Hola introduced the people seated at the table with her, including Erin Tombaugh, District Administrator, and Andy O'Donnell, Associate Conference Lay Leader.

General Conference Nominees

Nominees on the list in the PCH include Julia Frisbie, Patrick Scriven, Jeff Fuller, Falisha Hola, Andy O'Donnell, and Erin Tombaugh. Each is given 2 minutes to introduce themselves.

Nominations from the floor included Sophia Agtarap, Joey Lopez, Molly Faletufuga, Taylor Justo, Julie Brown, John Townsend, Brina Garrett, and Marcy LaViollette.

A request was made that nominees' names be displayed by district, gender, and age; if possible, in the time available, it will be done**.**

Election of Associate Conference Lay Leader

The role was described as a backup to the Lay Leader, serving on a few committees, and handling other ministry tasks as identified by the individual serving, including church visitations and support for lay leaders. Nominees were Sophia Agtarap and incumbent Andy O'Donnell. Elected: Sophia Agtarap, Deaconess.

Small Group Conversations

Questions for table conversations: How can district leadership better serve you? What does your ideal organizational structure look like (How do you see the new superintendency model best serving your congregation? What does it look like for you to be supported by the district? What works and doesn't work for you?) How can the district better communicate with local churches? (e.g., are newsletters helpful? How do you feel about church visitations?)

Clergy Orders Gathering (held in the gym)

Plenary Session, continued

Welcome to our guests:Andy Hendren, General Secretary and CEO of Wespath.

Focus Session #1 Administrative Support, Report

Damian Carruthers

Petitions #1-6, and 9 form the Consent Calendar; the focus session recommends concurrence. 255 votes cast, 253 yes, 99.22% approved

The liturgy of the good, faithful work done by churches that must now close was followed by storytelling about the churches. Aberdeen First UMC formally closed on Dec. 31, 2024, after 140 years of ministry. Formerly known as Bethel Methodist Episcopal, Magnolia Methodist Church served for more than 120 years, sharing its last worship service on June 21, 2026.

Petition #7 First UMC of Aberdeen Closure, recommends concurrence276 cast, 139 needed, 261 yes, 94.57% approved

Petition #8 Magnolia UMC Closure, recommends concurrence

276 cast, 139 needed, 203 yes, 73.55% approved

Following a shared ballot with two questions, a litany of thanksgiving was shared.

Petition #16 Funding Request for the Church Council of Greater Seattle, as amended at the Focus Session, and presented on the Annual Conference website.

275 votes cast, 138 needed, 216 yes, 78.55% approved

Instructions were given on how delegate elections would proceed, alternating between clergy and lay ballots. The first clergy ballot lists all eligible clergy and their candidate identification numbers (published on the website); after the first election, subsequent clergy ballots would contain only those names that received votes. Laity ballots would include all official nominees. For both clergy and laity ballots, a simple majority is required for election.

Rev. Rick Shewell asked to pray.

Clergy Ballot #1

No election (114 votes cast)

Laity Ballot #1

No election (160 votes cast)

Circle of Indigenous Ministries

Allen Buck, Director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries, presented a report. He welcomed Dolino Soluskin and his wife Philomena, of the Yakama Nation, and friends

who came to witness the Truth Telling. After referring to his video report and a written report, *Buck* stated that we are in year 2 of a 10-year plan. Last year, we witnessed about Camp Indianola. This year, the witness will be about Father Wilbur. The whole plan is about repair, but truth-telling is an important part of being both liberating and liberated, loving boldly, building friendships, and being in relationship. We need to right-size and demythologize and repair, but also to develop Native American leaders and be self-determining, and invest in the priorities of the indigenous people, the church, and the Creator. Ten percent of the proceeds from the sale of closed churches is being given to the Circle of Indigenous Ministries. It's not about how much money; it's about having any money when they never have. They are creating an official board to do the work. All are invited to be part of the truth-telling.

Truth-telling team: *Drew Hogan*, Ronda Cordill, *Paul Mitchell*

Drew Hogan celebrates four years of participating in relationally centered service and learning trips with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and of teaching one of the 12 Yakama virtues. Today's word is K'wyáatimt, Honesty, being Truthful. To be honest and truthful in talking about yourself and your opinions, to avoid any behavior that could even appear to harm the honor of yourself or your family by being dishonest.

Paul Mitchell, pastor at Walla Walla Pioneer Church, named the Treaty of 1855, which resulted in the surrender of land by 14 Yakama bands, including the land on which Pioneer stands. Methodist Rev. James Wilbur's missionary work included a policy of forced Christianization and a doctrine of Bible and plow. The current mythology of the man excuses his efforts to dismantle the economy, lifestyle, and culture of the indigenous peoples he encountered and controlled. That mythology also minimizes the violence he perpetrated and institutionalized on behalf of both church and state. Wilbur and his admirers saw a noble gesture to prepare people they saw as childlike heathens for what they believed was the inevitable manifest destiny of white Christian culture. While the treaty of 1855 was ostensibly to protect the indigenous, it failed through the rape and murder of women and children, the initiation of wars, the construction of jails, and the use of whipping trees. Great harm was done at the Fort Simcoe Indian Boarding School, where students were forcefully assimilated, had their names changed, language silenced, families removed, and culture erased.

When James Wilber became an Indian agent appointed by Abraham Lincoln, he built concentration camps, which were admired by Ulysses Grant and replicated across the US. The Grant administration assigned every indigenous reservation to a church denomination to administer and control. Wilbur and the Methodists were given control of the Yakama reservation.

Ronda Cordill urges us to call out and denounce white Christian nationalism today. Wilbur abused his authority and power. He controlled access to food, supplies, and resources guaranteed by treaty. On multiple accounts, he was investigated for his refusal to distrib-

ute resources, but the Methodists serving in the government protected him. He abducted children from villages along the Columbia that weren't part of the Yakama nation and brought them to the reservation. He siphoned off cattle children raised for their own profits and families. He withheld commodity goods and money and distributed supplies by privileging those who were part of the church. Wilbur's church membership was 682 members, three times larger than any other church in the region. That church gave significantly more in apportionments than any other. At his death, he was worth more than $2 million.

We lament the harm Wilbur did in our name. We bear responsibility to lament and to repair. May this be our K'wyáamtimt.

Bishop Cedrick invites us to hear these reports as an invitation to do our own work.

Prayer for dinner

Drew Hogan

Memorial Worship

Clergy, clergy spouses, and lay members who entered the Church Triumphant during the past conference year were honored and remembered. Led by *Bishops Cedrick Bridgeforth* and *Dottie Escobedo-Frank*, the service wove together scripture, music, prayer, and the reading of names, offering space to grieve, give thanks, and celebrate lives of faithful service. Together, the conference affirmed the hope of the resurrection and found comfort in God's abiding love as they remembered the saints who have gone before us.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank,of the California-Pacific Conference, offered a message of comfort, hope, and enduring faith for all who mourn. Drawing from personal experiences of grief and the promise of Hebrews 12, she reminded the conference that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who encourage us to persevere, trusting that God holds every tear and never leaves us alone. Even in seasons of profound loss, she invited worshipers to live with hope, sustained by Christ's presence and the promise that joy will come again.

Day Two: Wednesday, June 24, Plenary Session

Filipino and Hispanic music blessed the time of devotions. *Lisa Talbott* led a reflection about the women of scripture who were the forerunners of today's women in ministry, now ordained in the UMC for 70 years. We are the daughters of Miriam, Sarah, Rehab, Esther, Shipra, Puah, Eve, and so many others, ancestors and affinity ancestors whose gifts and examples live on through us.

More Introductions

Associate Lay Leader Andy O'Donnell

Kim Poor, to pray for balloting

Clergy Ballot #2

No election

Laity Ballot #2

No election

Focus Session #1 Administrative Support, continued

Stephanie Henry

Petition #10, Focus session moved to refer to CF&A. It was 56% supported in the Focus Session.

CFA co-chair *Melissa Ramming* & petition writer *Joe Kim* both speak in favor of referring.

275 votes cast, 263 yes, 95.64% approved

Focus Session #2 Connecting for Mission, report

Keith Skore

Consent Calendar #12 & 14, recommends concurrence

260 votes cast, 259 yes, 99.62% approved

Petition #11 Prioritizing Deaconesses and Home Missioners

Recommends concurrence

Rhonda Cordill requested an amendment, which was seconded, but upon the chair's advice, she backtracked and offered a substitute motion instead, since it affects a different rule than originally proposed; it was also seconded.

Sec. 3. Lay(a)Lay members elected by each charge; the diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and home missioners who are recognized by the Office of Deaconesses and Home Missioners, commissioned missionaries, conference presidents of UWF…

Ballot for motion to substitute petition

283 votes cast, 261 yes, 92.23% substitution approved

Petition #11 as substituted

275 votes cast, 262 yes, 95.27% approved

Janice Lee, to pray for balloting

Clergy Ballot #3

Elected: *Kathleen Weber* 70 votes

113 votes cast, 57 needed, 70 yes, 61.95% elected

Laity Ballot #3

Julia Frisbee

162 votes cast, 82 needed, 87 yes, 53.7%

Introduce the team! Julia Frisbie and *Kathleen Weber*. Julia Frisbie, as lay delegate, is the delegation lead by tradition since the lead for the previous General Conference delegation was clergy.

Petition #13 Solidarity with War-Affected Communities

Recommendation is non-concurrence

Non-debatable

Yvonne Agduyeng, motion to re-open for debate, seconded, non-debatable

276 votes cast, 139 needed, 206 yes, 74.64% to re-open

Yvonne declines now to speak before the next motion.

Nica Sy, motion to substitute the petition; seconded

272, 137 needed, 242 yes, 88.97% substitution approved, 30 no votes

After speeches for the petition, votes were cast.

278 votes cast, 140 needed, 259 yes, 93.17% approved

Deaconesses and Home Missioners, Video Report

Board of Pensions & Health Benefits

Shane Moore shared a little about what the board does. In 2027, they will provide $1.8 million to offset health and benefits costs for our conference and many special benefits for clergy, spouses, and families. Jeff Johnson, chair for the last 16 years, is stepping down. Conference Benefits Officer Bruce Galvin is retiring after 51 years of service.

Shane Moore introduced Andy Hendren, General Secretary and CEO of Wespath. Hendren acknowledged *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler* serves on the Wespath Board on the

Principles Committee, and gave a nod to Northwest Foundation, which handles some Wespath investments.

Hendren reported that the Wespath staff liked Bruce Galvin. He is an incredible partner. He cares deeply about the Conference and the employees. He has a lot of knowledge, and he shares it. He took the time to personally ensure that clergy at this annual conference were maximizing their retirement benefits, so this conference has the highest rate in the country. He gets credit for sharing ideas to improve the overall investment plans. He stayed ahead of regulatory changes, tracking what they would mean for clergy almost before they were released. Bruce retires having affected so many lives!

As an economics major in college, he understood the law of compound interest, which is critical. He also pointed out that he did an anomalous thing when he wrote the PCH report on pg. 68. He's been to one-third of the annual conferences in the history of this Conference, and he named all the locations he remembers going to. He is on contract, part-time, to the Conference for a few things.

Transitions in Ministry Service

D. Ramsey announced that children who are visiting conference will come to sit with us for as long as it works for them, as we celebrate those who are retiring, and the many stages in between.

The service honored retiring clergy with thanks to God for their years of ministry and recognized the connection between their work and that of the clergy about to be ordained, as the mantle was passed. Thanks were given to God as we recognized the varied ways the ministries of those serving have evolved over time. The retirees and ordinands were blessed. Our common call to ministry was affirmed, and we witnessed the setting of appointments for the next year.

Board of Ministry & Historic Questions

Janelle Kurtz gave an overview of the committee's work, which credentials and supports clergy for ministry in local churches and extension ministry settings. The board accompanies clergy through a lifetime of ministry, supported by orders chairs, the formation team, and the conference relations committee. See the written report on PCH pages L25-26, which also includes information on the three required quadrennial trainings due in 2028, clergy formation grants, and other topics.

A couple of special notes: formation guides the board's work and processes, rising to meet the bar and addressing barriers to meeting it. Laity are the first to recognize and encourage clergy on their path; thank you. Let's celebrate 30 years of the order of Deacon, which extends the ministry of the church into the world, and also their new sacramental authority for their context. We also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the full rights of Methodist clergywomen.

Joe Kim, chair of the full membership committee, introduces those who are to be commissioned and ordained: Wilma Reyes (commissioned), *Mele Taumoepeau ʻAho*, *Kate Crisci*, *Drew Hogan*, *Joe Lee* (Deacon), and *Catherine Lyle*. *Bishop Cedrick* asked these candidates the Historic Wesleyan Questions.

Michelle Campton-Stehr, of the Conference Relations committee, welcomes transferees *Kim Poer* and Riva Tabelisma (provisional elder).

Celebrating those licensed for the first time: Cody Stauffer and Brian Fu**.**

Clergy Ballot #4

Elected: none

Laity Ballot #4

Elected: Patrick Scriven

159 votes cast, 80 required, 87 yes, 54.72%

Ministry Opportunity Fund Report

Molly Fraser and Armando Espinoza reported $78,000 were granted so far in 2026. Another $30,000 are available in Cycle C, with a September 30 application deadline.

Cycle A awards include Trinity Community Garden Project, Wenatchee UMC; Castle Rock UMC – Youth Resilience Program with 4H and Rotary; Tacoma First UMC – Migrant Visitation Program with La Resistencia; Mt. Vernon UMC – Hispanic Ministry Toiletry Bank; Green Bluff UMC – Garden Folk School and Community Garden. Cycle B awards include Cheney UMC – Ecumenical Progressive Youth Ministry with four partner churches; Ocean Park Camp – Migrant Summer Camp with the school district; El Dios Viviente, Renton First, and Fairwood UMCs Asylum Seekers Mission; Wesley Club at Garden Street UMC – Civil Rights Journey Learning Trip; Camp Indianola – Connecting Kids/Youth of SeaTac and PS Districts, CCYOM Eastside Expansion.

Thank you to those serving the MOF (Ministry Opportunity Funds). They will give us a tip sheet with additional funding opportunities, good plans, and ready-to-go ministry ideas.

Laity Address, Falisha Hola

Annual Conference Lay Leader Falisha Hola reflects on this year's theme, Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously, calling the conference to respond to fear, injustice, and uncertainty with resilient faith and action. Drawing on a Tongan proverb about seaweed that continues to return despite the ocean's currents, she celebrates the resilience of the laity and their commitment to showing up, serving, and leading through every season. She concludes with a challenge to both laity and clergy to embrace shared leadership, remove

barriers to participation, and boldly live out God's call together.

Peace with Justice Awards

David Wright expressed appreciation to Judy Dirks who stepped up mid-year to chair the Church and Society board and submitted the reports to the PCH. The board hopes each congregation will identify someone to be their Social Justice Advocate. The board has spent time this year growing partnerships with the Environmental Stewardship Commission and United Women in Faith (UWF). Specifically, UWF and the Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) collaborated on the Peace with Justice Grants, which have historically been funded by Peace with Justice Sunday offerings and are now partnered with UWF Faith Endowment Seed Grants, resulting in a combined total of 7 grants this year. Recipients include Leavenworth Community UMC Backpacks program; UWF at Mason UMC for their Blessing Bag program for unhoused persons, and a new relationship with the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center for domestic and relational violence victims; Aldersgate UMC Inclusion and Reconciling Team; Bonners Ferry UMC for their Conduit of Care program providing basic hygiene supplies to those in need. CBCS grants include Boundary County Victim Services in Bonners Ferry; Village Cohousing Works at Takesa Village in NE Spokane; and The Fig Tree, an independent nonprofit newspaper in Eastern WA.

The 2026 MLK Jr. Award, funded by the Peace w/ Justice offering, was presented to *Jim Davis* via video report in which *Jim* answered questions about the evolution of social justice work over the course of his ministry, how United Methodists can embody the work of peace and justice, and how we can collectively attend to the present difficult season.

General Board of HEM / Global Ministries

Jenny Phillips brings greetings from Roland Fernandez, the General Secretary of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. With the perils of war, climate change, and racism around the world, people need the good news more than ever. God is calling us to mission. Global mission starts where we are in our communities, through the work of our conference via advance specials, and extends through our global connections via apportionments.

Mission happens through partnerships like PNW's with Mary Johnson Hospital in the Philippines, and Global Ministries partnerships like this one for water. This week, solar-powered wells are being dug in N Katanga, DRC, with funding from a Global Ministries grant. The well will serve 50,000 people out of an 80,000-person population. This is our work. Because we are on opposite sides of the world, someone picks up the work of mission and ministry while we rest. When we serve locally, we are part of the 24/7 mission movement in support of God's redemption for the world and its people.

The Environmental Sustainability Team, which *Jenny* leads, reviews grants, maintains a library of sustainable equipment for disaster response, and the EarthKeepers program.

BeUMC Awards, United Methodist Communications

Heather Blue came from United Methodist Communications to assist with presenting the first BeUMC Awards in the PNW. Patrick Scriven and Falisha Hola assisted. The Clergy Award went to *Pam Brokaw,* someone who knows how to be a shepherd to nine churches in a sub-district. The Lay Award went to Carolyn Stimbert, who coordinates Port Angeles' weekly meals and also feeds souls. Two churches were selected. A Church Award went to Shelton UMC after they spent three years rightsizing, becoming a reconciling congregation, and deepening community involvement. The second church award went to Garden Street UMC, which exemplified courageous, faithful discipleship by sending its pastor and a team to the UMC Day of Faithful Resistance in Washington, D.C., thus investing in young advocates. These are our people; these are our churches. This is what it means to BeUMC.

Prayer: Sanoah Smith

Clergy Ballot #5

Elected: no election

Laity Ballot #5

Elected: Falisha Hola, Erin Tombaugh, Andy O'Donnell, Sophia Agtarap

153 votes cast, 77 needed, 121, 92, 87, and 79 votes respectively elected.

Clergy Ballot #6

Elected: *Mele Aho*

104 votes cast, 53 needed, 56 elected

Trustees/Episcopacy Report

Jeremy Smith

Resolution #J1

Trustees made a motion to authorize conference trustees to allow management or sale of conference property, specifically the episcopal residence. Following much debate, failed amendments, and finally a call to the previous question, the Trustees' motion passed. The motion to strike the words "or sell" had 267 votes cast, 220 no, 82.4%, 47 yes, the amendment failed. The main motion had 263 votes cast, 235 yes, 89.35% main motion approved

Celebrating the Ministry of Deacons

Video celebration with music and our Deacons witnessing.

Clergy Ballot #7

Elected: *Joe Kim*

109 votes cast, 55 needed, 59 elected

Laity Ballot #6

Elected: Nica Sy

143 votes cast, 72 needed, 82 elected

Budget Recommendation Petition #15

Melissa Ramming, Brant Henshaw

Questions were answered by Brant Henshaw.

Regarding the Board of Pensions' contribution to help cover the cost of benefits for Conference staff, this is intended as ongoing support apportioned to all churches. The BOP gifts to clergy health costs only benefit churches with pastors who receive health coverage. Regarding changes in costs on the 2025 to 2027 budgets: there were operating losses in the 2025 budget they are attempting to recover. We are in a time of high inflation, and we are responding to environmental stewardship priorities, including renting non-disposable table service for conferences, which is more expensive.

Damien Carruthers moves an amendment: that the proposed 2027 Pacific Northwest Conference Budget be reduced by $242,827 and that the CFA committee be directed to determine the necessary reductions and present a revised budget reflecting this decrease for consideration by the Annual Conference.

Bishop Cedrick asked about the process for determining the necessary reductions and presenting a revised budget in the short time available; *Carruthers* suggested a special session for the budget. *Bishop Cedrick* reminded the body that a special session costs a significant amount of money.

The motion received a second. Several speeches were given, both for and against the motion.

On the amendment, 259 votes cast, 130 needed, 152 yes, 58.69% approved the amendment.

Therefore, the budget will need to be addressed in a special session.

Thresholds: A Residency in Ministry video report

No Hate in WA State

Shalom Agtarap, after leading a prayer, reported on her visit to the OR-ID Annual Conference as a representative of the PNW cabinet. After hearing about a new Idaho law penalizing trans individuals, she offers two ideas on how to support trans siblings: Transaffirm.org and InterfaithJusticeIdaho.org. Support can be both financial and participatory. She also reminded the body of *Bishop Cedrick's* pastoral letter addressing the OR-ID Conference decision not to meet in Idaho. Let us show up in the good neighboring work of loving one another.

Joey Lopez moved a late-breaking petition that the Conference endorse the No Hate in WA Campaign leading up to the November elections, in response to the two anti-trans initiatives on the WA ballot this Fall, both funded by Christian faith communities. The late-breaking petition was seconded.

259 votes cast, 130 needed, 255 yes, 98.46% supported

Invitation to Annual Conference 2027, June 17-19

Inland / Seven Rivers District Superintendent *Daniel Miranda* extended the invitation to Spokane Valley for Annual Conference 2027. On behalf of the Spokane Valley UMC, pastor *Alissa Amestoy* thanked us for coming "all the way to Eastern Washington," and said the volunteers have appreciated the expressions of gratitude and grace given to them.

BREAKING!!! *Bishop Cedrick* is outside, getting soaked by the children, in an effort to raise funds to provide shoes and support local students through the Mission Community Outreach Center as they go back to school.

Sandy Ward prays for dinner.

Ministry Fair

UWF Video Report

United Women in Faith connects and nurtures women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global missions and communities.

***Bishop Cedrick's* Acknowledgment of Mistake**

Re: the body's actions with the Budget. He said he should have ruled the motion out of order or helped make the motion as a substitute. As processed and as amended, the amendment nullifies the original petition. It would have been correct to process the original petition as amended, which makes no sense but is consistent with the process. We did what we did and are now where we are without a budget, which will be addressed. The mistake must be acknowledged, and we move on.

Andy O'Donnell prayed.

Laity Ballot #7

Elected: no elections

Clergy Ballot #8

Elected: *Elizabeth Ingram Schindler*

91 votes cast, 46 needed, 35 yes, 38.5% elected

AC 2027 Affirmation

David Valera moved that we accept the invitation to Spokane Valley in the Inland District for Annual Conference 2027. The motion was seconded. After much discussion about the pros and cons of various options, the requirements that must be met, and the labor-intensive, complex efforts to locate and plan each session, a motion to end debate was followed by a motion to return to Spokane Valley in 2027, which was approved.

Vote on the motion to return to Spokane Valley

229 votes cast, 115 needed, 169 yes, 73.8% approved

Nominations Report

Derek Nakano

232 votes cast, 112 needed, 221 yes, 99.1% approved

Conference Lay Leader, Falisha Hola, thanked Associate Lay Leader Andy O'Donnell for the work he has done and his advocacy for the laity. She introduced the newly elected Associate Lay leader, Deaconess Sophia Agtarap.

Deb Avery prayed.

Laity Ballot #8

Elected: Joey Lopez

128 votes cast, 65 needed, 79 yes, 61.72%

Clergy Ballot #9

Elected: no elections

Certified Lay Servant Ministries (CLM) Recognitions

Sheila Miranda and John Townsend, Lay Servant Ministries

In cooperation with the three GNW Conferences, Mountain Sky Conference, and BeA-

Disciple.com, offering students the opportunities to take the classes they want and need. Appreciation goes to instructors Desi Larson, *Joanne Coleman Campbell*, and Billie Fitzsimmons for giving their time. We now have a total of 42 ministers certified in the past three years. Certificates were presented to ministers and/or their churches. Newly Certified Lay Ministers have taken the basic class and one additional course: Pam Fritschel, Montesano; Sara Moylan, Morton; Tim Pulido, Vancouver: Mill Plain; Tina Ravary, Elma; Marcus Sommer, Vader: Grace; Ariel Bender, Auburn First; Eric Chrismer, Browns Point; Gabriel Titialii, Riverton Park First Samoan; Diane Johnson, Port Hadlock: Community; Barb Maynes, Port Angeles; Keith Skore, Edmonds; Daryl Witherspoon, Kennewick: First; Deb Underwood, Benton City; Shawna Beese, Spokane Valley; Erik Strunk, Deep Park; Mary Turney, Deer Park, Alisa Mary Johnson, Spokane: Covenant. Newly Certified Lay Speakers have taken the basic Course and six additional courses in spiritual gifts, leading worship, leading prayer, polity, history, and preaching. We also received some transfers: Debra Chawner, Ridgefield, transfer from Cal Pac Conference; Jeff Fuller, Vancouver Heights, transfer from North Georgia Cuonference; Susan Keeney, Sandpoint, transfer from Virginia Conference; Joseph Meersman, Spokane: Audubon Park; Shawna Beese, Spokane Valley; Josephine Asiata Tofaeono, Tacoma: Kalevaria. Newly Certified Lay Minister transferred from Upper New York Conference, Nancy Goddard, Green Lake. Continuing Lay Servants were acknowledged. All were blessed in prayer.

Clergy Ballot #10

Elected: *Mary Stanton Nurse*

92 votes cast, 47 needed, 59 yes, 64.13% elected

Central WA Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)

Cruz Edwin Santos & Kristina Gonzalez, *Cody Natland*, and *Paul Mitchell*

People in positions of privilege are invited to join the movement, be available to help immigrant families in court, accompany them on visits to detention centers, and support La Resistencia. Appreciation was expressed for those already working in solidarity with immigrants. A video report was shared. Central WA JFON is born out of the social principles of the United Methodist Church and integrally connected with the UMC.

Motion from the Floor, Delegating Balloting

Justin White moves that the top three candidates who receive 50% be elected to the last jurisdiction spot, and that the two reserve delegates also be elected.

Clergy voting to change clergy balloting process

91 votes cast, 46 needed, 81 yes, 89.01% approved motion

Denise McGuiness prayed.

Clergy Ballot #11

Elected: *Megan Madsen* and *Justin White*

92 votes cast, 47 needed, 60 and 57 yes respectively, 65.22% and 61.96% respectively, elected.

Faith Foundation NW

Julia Frisbee, Executive Director, reports that they have a new website that allows all forms to be filled out online. Also, they are switching to ACH on July 1st so that money is safer and moved faster. They are about to roll out the biggest fee reduction ever, made possible by their growth because of our investments. Also, they more than doubled the amount given away through mini-grants for projects. Provisional Deacon Kelly Marciales, chair of the mini grant committee, presented physically giant ceremonial checks to: Green Bluff UMC, Garden Cathedral and outside worship space; Ridgefield UMC, expanding the Margie Stoner Feed My Sheep; Riverview, Pasco UMC, safer, more resilient space with electrical upgrades; Church of Mary Magdalene, breakfast, volunteer connection, and more; Kelso UMC/Presbyterian, upgrades for their food bank program.

Carrie Bland prayed.

Clergy Ballot #12

DJ Del Rosario

88 votes cast, 45 needed, 46 yes, 52.27% elected

A Closing Word from *Bishop Cedrick*

Bishop Cedrick thanked the Conference Lay Leader for her work and for all who participated in good conversations about important issues. It's easy to take in things and hang on to them in unhealthy ways. He invited us to think about the things we take home, the thoughts, attitudes, and feelings, and what we need to leave behind. Then, to think about the things we've learned that we need to share, those that inspired us, or called to us. And to call to mind the things we want to carry forward, the prayers, wonderings, and curiosities.

Closing Motion

Conference Secretary *Shirley DeLarme* moves the closing of this 153rd session of the Annual Conference following the District Gatherings tomorrow, the Service of the Ordering of Ministry, and the Closing Session shared with the GNW Episcopal Area on June 30, 2026.

172 votes cast, 169 yes, 98.26% approved

Day Three: Thursday, June 25

District Gatherings

Outgoing District Superintendents were bid farewell, incoming Superintendents were welcomed, and the new system of Superintendency was partially explained as an unfolding experimental new thing.

Service for the Ordering of Ministry

During the Service of the Ordering of Ministry at the 2026 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, the conference celebrated the commissioning and ordination of those answering God's call to ministry while reaffirming the shared ministry of all believers. Preaching on the call to be "conduits of God's love," *Bishop Mande Muyombo* encouraged newly ordained and commissioned leaders to embrace lives of selfless love, compassionate service, and faithful witness. The service concluded with Holy Communion, prayers of blessing, and the sending forth of new clergy and elected delegates, reminding the conference that we go together in God's mission.

Closing Worship Session – Tuesday, June 30, 10:30 am Pacific Time premiere, pre-recorded

This session will celebrate the ministry taking place across the Greater Northwest and within the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Conferences.

Lisa Talbott led the opening liturgy. Teri Watanabe led a responsive prayer.

Bishop Cedrick expressed appreciation for all the volunteers and staff who put much effort into ensuring that the AK, Oregon-Idaho, and PNW conferences had what they needed to be successful, and for the member and pastoral staff teams at Anchor Park UMC, Boise First UMC, Cathedral of the Rockies, and Spokane Valley UMC that made the conferences happen.

Several individuals from each annual conference attended all three; they shared their thoughts.

Allen Buck celebrated the good work done and also put into motion. The hospitality was spectacular. The example of collaboration was before all of us, beginning with *Bishop Cedrick, Bishop Lynnette, Bishop Dottie,* and *Bishop Stoneking*. The youth voices were strong, especially in Oregon-Idaho. He celebrated the presence of native relatives with us during the Truth Telling. He is curious about the next steps to align our priorities, resources, and a system to become a new creation.

Ric Shewell celebrated seeing a commitment to sharing a real Jesus who always prioritizes love and who always has a preferential option for the poor and marginalized. He saw needs being seen and important values being lifted up, sometimes in tension with each other. He saw good values such as safety, solidarity, freedom, creativity, and stewardship.

He ponders the plenary floor and Robert's Rules of Order, and compares their use to making bread with a screwdriver.

Lisa Talbott, whose focus and passion are equity and intercultural competency, celebrated the hospitality at all three conferences as outstanding. It was a joy to witness three services of ordination, commissioning, and licensing, all the more poignant in a year when we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Methodist Church. Seventy years is so short in the scheme of the church that we must open our eyes to consider other people whose calls are still questioned and challenged. In all three conferences, we have work to do on cultivating relationships and getting past the false dichotomy between the conference and local churches, especially when faced with the reality of shrinking congregations, church budgets stretched tight, and the specter of rising apportionments, and already overworked conference staff.

What's Being Planned

Bishop Cedrick shared about things being planned:

The WJ College of Bishops is taking ordinands on a Wesleyan Journey through England in 2027.

Initiatives are unfolding for lay education opportunities across the jurisdiction and in cooperation with Claremont School of Theology.

We are working on funding, support, and evaluation models for ministries in our area, but no determination has been made about how that will look. There is truth-telling and healing work that needs to happen. The woundedness goes beyond anything we've named. We need to do some work on our values in our areas. The geo-political divide in the media and communities exists in the GNW area. There will be conversations around discovery, naming our values, and tying those into action request #8 and the design team's work. Also, the Circle of Indigenous Ministries works, looking at compensation, what is equitable, a living wage, cost of living, etc.

Superintendency Teams begin on July 1, specifically in PNW, both within and across district and conference boundaries. Trained convenors will be coordinated by *Kathleen Weber* to bring together people with shared ministry priorities and around affinity ideas. A conflict engagement strategy is in place, which will be led by *Gregg Sealey.* Superintendents will schedule charge conferences. The bishop's office will manage complaints. All this is a way to streamline the work that District Superintendents were formerly responsible for, so superintendents can focus on development and connections. *Bishop Cedrick* has directed superintendents to develop principled leaders, both lay and clergy, develop ministries in the local context, and also to connect individuals, teams, and congregations with others doing similar work. Old assumptions and expectations of Superintendent work will need to be adjusted.

Kathleen Weber invited us to gather all the joys and sorrows, and all the places, and to lift

them to God.

Conference Secretary Summary Reports

Megham Lambert, Alaskan Conference Secretary

Laura Jaquith Bartlett, Oregon-Idaho Conference Secretary

Shirley DeLarme, Pacific Northwest Conference Secretary

Benediction

Kathleen Weber gave a benediction.

Offerings Received

Mission Community Outreach Center (School Shoes for Kids) $5299.50

FāVS New $2014.00

The Endowment for Theological Education in the Central Conferences $3139.00