

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

A. 2016 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Rev. Dr. Bryan Collier
The Orchard:
A United Methodist Congregation
Tupelo, Mississippi



Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
Baton Rouge Area
Louisiana Conference



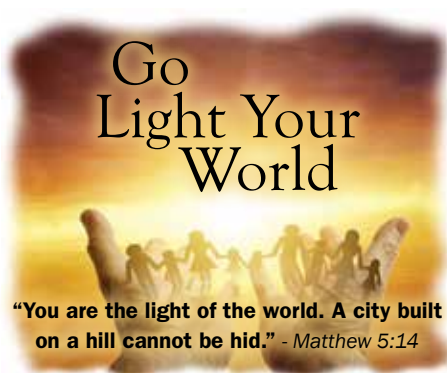
Rev. Dr. William McClain
Wesley Theological Seminary
Washington, D.C.



Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster
Charlotte Area
Western North Carolina Conference



Rev. Dr. Ken Lyon
Matthews United Methodist Church
Matthews, N.C.



Sandy Blackburn
Laity Address Speaker
Welcome, N.C.

2016 WESTERN NC ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

All sessions will be held in Stuart Auditorium unless otherwise noted

- WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. JUNE 15** Executive Session of Clergy Members
¶ 605.6 – “The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference”
- THURSDAY, 10:30 a.m. JUNE 16** Opening Worship, *Service of Holy Communion*
Rev. Dr. William McClain, the Mary Elizabeth McGehee Joyce
Professor Emeritis of Preaching and Worship, Wesley Theological Seminary, preaching
Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, liturgist
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Recess
- 1:30 p.m. Conference Plenary – Business Session
Opening Hymn and Prayer
Call to Order
Welcome from Lake Junaluska
Procedural Matters, Elections for Conference, and Consent Calendar
Plan of Organization and Rules
Committee on Nominations Report
The Children’s Home and Crossnore Report
Conference Committee on Camp and Retreat Ministry Report
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Conference Plenary – Business Session
Report from the 2016 General Conference
Report on “Healthy Conversations” (from 2015 Annual Conference)
Report on Schools Initiative and C4C (from 2015 Annual Conference)
Mission Engagement Team Report
Call and Vocation Team Report
Introduction of Dr. Elaine A. Heath, Dean, Duke Divinity School
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner Recess
- 7:30 p.m. Evening Worship
Rev. Dr. Bryan Collier, Pastor, The Orchard: A United Methodist Congregation in Tupelo, MS, preaching

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2016 Western NC Conference Annual Meeting

continued

FRIDAY, JUNE 17	7:15 a.m.	<i>A Service of Prayer and Praise</i>	Memorial Chapel	
	8:30 a.m.	Worship Service: <i>Commissioning of Provisional Members</i> <i>Rev. Dr. William McClain, preaching</i>		
	10:00 a.m.	Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc.		
	10:20 a.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Report Conference Board of Trustees Report		
	11:15 a.m.	Break		
	11:30 a.m.	Order of the Day – <i>Recognition of Retiring Clergy Members</i>		
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch Recess		
	1:30 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Strategic Vision and Plan, 2016 – 2020: “The Vitality Project” Conference Leadership Team The Duke Endowment Report Conference Council on Finance and Administration 2017 Conference Budget		
	3:15 p.m.	Break		
	3:45 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Resolutions and Petitions Committee on Episcopacy Report		
	5:15 p.m.	Dinner Recess		
	7:30 p.m.	Reception for Bishop and Mrs. Goodpaster <i>Recognition of upcoming retirement from active ministry, between Stuart and the tent</i>		
	SATURDAY, JUNE 18	7:15 a.m.	<i>A Service of Prayer and Praise</i>	Memorial Chapel
		8:30 a.m.	<i>Order for Morning Prayer, including the 2016 Laity Address</i>	
9:00 a.m.		Conference Plenary – Business Session Board of Laity Report Denman Awards Cabinet Resolutions Concluding Conference Business		
10:45 a.m.		Break		
11:15 a.m.		Worship Service: <i>Celebration of Life</i> <i>Rev. Dr. M. Kenneth Lyon, Matthews UMC, preaching</i>		
12:30 p.m.		Lunch Recess		
7:30 p.m.		Worship Service: <i>Ordination of Deacons and Elders</i> Bishop Cynthia F. Harvey, Resident Bishop, Louisiana Conference, preaching Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, liturgist		
SUNDAY, JUNE 19	9:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Sunday School</i>	Memorial Chapel	
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Closing Worship Service</i> Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, preaching Special Music by the <i>Junaluska Singers</i> , Melody Galloway, Director Fixing of the Appointments Adjournment of the 2016 Annual Conference, <i>sine die</i>		

B. 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 12		C2LJ Bicycle RideFirst UMC, Gastonia, N.C. to Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15	11:00 a.m.	Clergy Ethics "Make-up" Session Terrace, Room T-316
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members Meeting and Lunch Maggie Valley UMC, 4192 Soco Road
	12:00 p.m.	Extension Ministries and Beyond the Local Church Luncheon Kern Center, Memory Lane
	2:00 p.m.	Conference Board of Trustees Meeting Terrace, T-319
	3:00 p.m.	2012-16 Board of Ordained Ministry Harrell Center, HC-202
	4:00 p.m.	Before the Disaster: UMCOR Pastor and Leader Training Bethea Welcome Center, Auditorium
	4:00 p.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Meeting Terrace, T-213
	5:00 p.m.	Duke Divinity School Picnic Dinner Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym
	5:15 p.m.	UM Rural Advocates Annual Banquet Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive
	5:30 p.m.	Candler Alumni and Friends Dinner Long's Chapel UMC, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 p.m.	Ed Kilbourne and The Foundation Band Harrell Center, HC-105
THURSDAY, JUNE 16	8:00 a.m.	Givens Estates: Cookies on the Lawn Outside Stuart Auditorium, Tent by the Lake
	8:00 a.m.	Imagine No Malaria 5K & Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by the WNCC Emory Club Stuart Auditorium, in front
	8:00 a.m.	Women in Ministry Breakfast Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive
	9:15 a.m.	Usher Training Stuart Auditorium
	12:00 p.m.	Deacons, Diaconal Ministers, and Deaconesses Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive
	12:00 p.m.	Givens Communities: 25 Years of Pickin & Grinnin Outside Stuart Auditorium, Tent by the Lake
	12:00 p.m.	Gordon Conwell Alumni and Friends Luncheon Lambuth Inn, L-103
	5:00 p.m.	Wesley Theological Seminary Gathering Terrace, T-319
	5:15 p.m.	Board of Ordained Ministry Dinner Waynesville FUMC, 566 South Haywood Street
	5:30 p.m.	Hood Theological Seminary Alumni, Students, and Prospective Students Dinner Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive
	6:00 p.m.	Retiring Clergy Dinner Lambuth Inn, International Room
	9:00 p.m.	Ed Kilbourne and The Foundation Band Harrell Center, Room HC-105
	9:00 p.m.	Seminary Students Fellowship - Campfire & S'mores Shackford Fire Circle
FRIDAY, JUNE 17	7:15 a.m.	Retired Clergy and Spouses Breakfast sponsored by The Eugene M. Cole Foundation Lambuth Inn, International Room
	12:00 p.m.	Asbury Seminary and Friends Luncheon, bring your own lunch Terrace, T-319
	12:00 p.m.	Pfeiffer University Lunch & Learn Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive
	12:00 p.m.	Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) Jones Dining Hall, 238 N. Lakeshore Drive
	12:00 p.m.	Chaplains' Fellowship Luncheon Terrace, Room T-316
	12:00 p.m.	High Point University Luncheon Lambuth Inn, International Room
	12:00 p.m.	Reconciling Ministries Lunch Kern Center Auditorium
	12:00 p.m.	Young Adult Clergy and Families Picnic - <i>The Branch</i> Playground near Children's Building
	2:30 p.m.	Prayer and Praise Fellowship for Clergy Spouses Memorial Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Evangelical Movement Dinner Lambuth Inn, International Room
	6:00 p.m.	Pool Party for Middle and High School Youth Aquatic Center Pool
	8:30 p.m.	Reconciling Ministry Worship Memorial Chapel
	9:00 p.m.	Ed Kilbourne and The Foundation Band Harrell Center, HC-105
SATURDAY, JUNE 18	7:15 a.m.	Educational Opportunities Breakfast Terrace, Auditorium (TAUD)
	7:30 a.m.	CONAM Breakfast (Native American Ministries) Lambeth Inn, Saville Room
	12:30 p.m.	2016-2020 Board of Ordained Ministry Harrell Center, HC-202
	12:30 p.m.	Greensboro and Bennett Colleges Luncheon Terrace, Auditorium
	12:45 p.m.	Clergy Spouses Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Drive

C. DAILY MINUTES**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016****EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 3 P.M.**

CLERGY SESSION CONVENES: In compliance with ¶¶ 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012), Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. After singing hymn 384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, Bishop Goodpaster offered prayer.

METHODIST COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES: The Rev. Dr. John V. Arey, Jr. and the Rev. Shelton Davis presented the report. The counseling center will now operate under a new name, Sanctuary Counseling Group. The Rev. Arey announced an upcoming training event for professionals and interested lay persons from local congregations in Charlotte on October 4, 2016, focused on suicide prevention.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: The Rev. James L. Pyatt, president, described the ministry of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood to show compassion and care to the families of deceased clergy members of the annual conference. He announced a new website for the organization and the ability to pay clergy calls online. He further reported that the Rev. Robert W. Combs is retiring as the executive director. The Rev. Roland T. Barnhardt will serve as interim executive director. The search for a new executive director will begin July 1, 2016. Persons interested in applying for the work may contact the Rev. Pyatt. A reception to honor the Rev. Combs is planned for August 6, 2016, at Boger City United Methodist Church from 2-4 p.m.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference staff representative and the Rev. J. Daniel Hester, vice-chairperson and incoming chairperson, presented the report. The goal of the team is to foster “people development over program development” for leadership. The Call and Gifted to Lead workshop has been the signature event providing personalized learning and coaching for leadership. In addition, the team has developed and provided e-lead newsletters focusing on specific topic and each issue lists links to prior areas of discussion, created partnerships to provide scholarships for training resource events, and created peer learning cohorts. The report included video testimony from participants about the value of the leadership training being offered.

BIG SIGH MINISTRIES: The Rev. Jacqueline E. Tookey, executive director, described the focus of the ministry which is designed to help clergy and congregations plan for clergy renewal and leave time.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT: The Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley, chairperson of the board, presented the report. She noted the multitude of changes that happened over the course of four years and a life time, but the call of God on people through the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel continues. She thanked the work of the Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, director of ministerial services and conference secretary; the Rev. Sally W. Queen, associate director of ministerial services; the executive committee of the board of ordained ministry, and Bishop Larry Goodpaster.

CHAIRS OF THE ORDERS ELECTIONS: The Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry and on behalf of the board, nominated the Rev. Gloria G. Hughes as chairperson of the Order of Deacon for the 2016-2020 quadrennium and Rev. Veranita G. Alvord as chairperson of the Order of Elder for the 2016-2020 quadrennium; and, they were elected by the votes from their respective orders. The Rev. Crowder Stanley announced that the Rev. Sue Anne Morris had been elected as the chairperson for The Fellowship of Local Pastors for the 2016-2020 quadrennium by the membership of the fellowship.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS: The Rev. Crowder Stanley supplied the proposed response for business question 17. The Rev. Kim Ingram, with additional explanation by Bishop Goodpaster, supplied the proposed response as amended to business question 18 and they were elected. Rev. Carol Williams-Gilbert will serve in place of Rev. Heidi Campbell Robinson on the Administrative Review Committee. Rev. Patricia G. Pegram is added to serve on the Committee on Investigation. The Rev. Ingram supplied the proposed responses for business questions 19-26, and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved.

The Rev. Dr. Keith Marsden asked a question about the process and accountability for clergy received from other denominations. The Rev. Ingram responded.

ELECTION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS: The Rev. Ingram introduced and moved the election of two persons as provisional deacons and 12 persons as provisional elders in response to Business Question 28, and they were elected. (See Section V, *Business of the Annual Conference*, in the *2016 Journal*)

ELECTION OF FULL CONNECTION MEMBERS: The Rev. Ingram introduced and moved the election of seven persons as deacons in full connection and 20 persons as elders in full connection, in response to Business Question 32. Following Bishop Goodpaster’s inquiry of the candidates, asking the traditional and historic questions and admonitions from *The Book of Discipline* (2012), and the ordinands’ responses with the prescribed responses, they were elected and greeted warmly by the clergy. The same persons just elected were approved for ordination as deacons or as elders in response to Business Questions 33 and 34. (See Section V, *Business of the Annual Conference*, in the *2016 Journal*).

BUSINESS QUESTIONS: Rev. Ingram supplied the proposed responses for business questions 35 to 47, and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved, and the necessary votes were received. In response to business question 48, the Rev. Donald Jenkins, vice-chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry requested the clergy to stand as the names of the members of the annual conference who had died since the last session were read and prayer offered. The Rev. Jenkins provided the responses for business questions 49, 50, 52, 53, 54 and they were approved. The Rev. Jenkins gave the responses for business questions

69, 70, 73, 77 (c), and 78, and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved. All other business questions were referenced for the body's information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The conference secretary, the Rev. Ingram, made necessary announcements.

ADJOURNMENT: The executive session of the clergy members adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENS WITH WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION – 10:30 A.M.

The Rev. William Posey, WNCC's youngest full connection clergy person, led the call to worship, followed by the singing of the processional hymn 139, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*. After an opening prayer given by the Rev. Joe Thurman Melton, WNCC's oldest full connection clergy person, by video, and the reading of *Matthew 5:14-16* and *Psalms 27:1*, in first English and then Spanish by the Rev. Anna Morrison, the Rev. James Burroughs III offered the prayers of the people, which began with a moment of silence for the victims of the Pulse nightclub in Orlando Florida. After an introduction by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster and the reading of *John 21:9-27* by the Rev. Sally Queen, the Rev. Dr. William B. McClain, The Mary Elizabeth McGehee Joyce Professor *Emeritus* of Preaching and Worship, Wesley Theological Seminary, preached the message, "Do You Love Jesus, Answer or Response?" The Rev. Dr. McClain proclaimed that it is not so much an answer to a question but challenge that demands a response. To love Jesus is a commission to ministry. After *The Apostles' Creed*, led by Ashlee Hand, a member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and the receiving of the offering for support of "Churches + Children + Schools = Transformed Communities," The Lake Junaluska Singers provided special music. Following the *Doxology* and hymn 176, *Majesty, Worship His Majesty*, Bishop Goodpaster led the congregation in a responsive prayer of confession and pardon. Bishop Goodpaster celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion with the assistance of deacons in full connection, district superintendents and prior members of the Cabinet who have served with Bishop Goodpaster. After the prayer following communion, the singing of the hymn 344, *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*, and dismissal with blessing, worship concluded and the conference recessed at 12:04 p.m. Timothy Scruggs, First United Methodist Church in Gastonia, and Scott Taylor, First United Methodist Church in Waynesville, are the music leaders for annual conference. Dr. Melodie Galloway is the director of The Lake Junaluska Singers.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONVENES – 1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: With Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church convened in the George R. Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on June 16, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop Goodpaster called the 49th annual session of the conference to order at 1:30 p.m. Following the singing of the traditional hymn 553 *And Are We Yet Alive*, Bishop Goodpaster read the theme scripture for the 2016 annual conference from *Matthew 5:14-16* as translated by Eugene Peterson and offered prayer.

WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY: Bishop Goodpaster introduced John "Jack" Ewing, executive director of Lake Junaluska, who welcomed the members of the annual conference to Lake Junaluska and likened our arrival to "Easter Sunday."

GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN CONFERCING: Bishop Goodpaster referenced the statements presented in the guidelines for Christian Conferencing found on the inside opening page of the *Supplement* and the *Program and Reports booklet*; and, announced his plan to preside over the sessions using these guidelines.

ELECTION OF CONFERENCE SECRETARY: Bishop Goodpaster nominated the Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as conference secretary for the 2016-2020 quadrennium and she was elected.

ELECTION OF CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR: Bishop Goodpaster nominated Greg Huffman to be elected conference chancellor for the ensuing quadrennium (2016-2020) and he was elected.

CONSENT CALENDAR MOTION: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, reported that the list of petitions for the consent calendar is found on page 15 of the *Supplement*. Petition #20 titled "Medical Reimbursement Election" found on page 38 of the *Supplement* will be added to the list of petitions on the consent calendar. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has met with the maker of the petition, Rev. Michael A. Macdonald, and the board members are in agreement to support the petition.

The Rev. Ingram moved that the consent calendar, PETITIONS 3-11, 13-18, and 20 be adopted as printed, and it was approved. (The listing of petitions can be found in Section IX and additionally in Section VIII.)

VOTING BAR: The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that the voting bar, or legal limits, of the conference be set to include all of Stuart Auditorium, and that those voting should be seated within the bar unless other instructions are given in the case of a full house.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that the conference program as printed on pages six and seven of the *Supplement* to the *Program and Reports booklet*, subject to necessary daily adjustments, constitute the official agenda of the 2016 conference session.

REPORTS OF BOARD AND AGENCIES: The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that the reports of the conference boards and agencies as published in the *Program and Reports booklet* and the *Supplement* be ordered to record, insofar as they do not require conference action and provided that conference agencies be permitted to file late reports and/or corrections no later than June 30, 2016.

GREETINGS TO THOSE MEMBERS ABSENT: The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that any action concerning conference members unable to attend because of illness or other family emergency be given directly to the conference secretary, and that the secretary write these absent members expressing the greetings and prayer concern of the conference.

SECRETARIAL STAFF: The conference secretary nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2016 session, and they were elected: Marsha Bradley and the Rev. A. Owen Peeler, associate secretaries; the Rev. Kathy M. McAbee, and Mike Penniger, Assistant Secretaries; and the Rev. Dr. Charles D. White, Jr. (Denny) as *conference secretary emeritus*.

CONFERENCE RULES AND PLAN OF ORGANIZATION: The Rev. Ingram moved the adoption as amended and they were approved of the Conference Rules and Plan of Organization, printed in the *Supplement*, pages 42-50 and found in Section VII of the *Journal*. The changes were in Part I, Section C. Conference Organization, items 1.e. and 2. changing the Vision Alignment Team to Connectional Table. Changes were made in Part I, Section C. Conference Organization, item 7 Committees, notably the Committee on Conference Staff Relations.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: The conference secretary moved the adoption of the report of the committee on nominations for 2016-2020, with additions, and the nominees were elected. The elections are found in Section II of the *Journal*. The following persons were added to the nominations report and elected:

Administrative Review Committee: Carol Williams-Gilbert
 Archives and History Committee: Alan Keely
 Committee on Episcopacy: Monica Palmer
 Committee on Investigation: Patricia Pegram
 Board of Laity: Kim Clarke

APPROVAL OF "JURISDICTIONAL POOL" OF NOMINEES: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary presented, a slate of nominees for inclusion in a "pool" of potential members of general and jurisdictional agencies for consideration at the 2016 jurisdictional conference. The following list of persons was named:

General Conference Delegates

Clergy: Kim Ingram, Amy Coles, David Christy, Jeremy Troxler, James Howell, Ashley Crowder Stanley, John Boggs, Jeff Patterson, Sam Moore, In-Yong Lee

Laity: Lynne Gilbert Amy Johnson, Sandy Hieronymus, Shannon Sherfey Jennifer Burton, Robert Upchurch, Jennifer Davis, Tonya Lanier, Hank Dozier, Coley Hooker, Jr.

Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

Clergy: Sally Queen, David Hockett, Laura Beach, Chris Westmoreland, Shelly Webb, Lory Beth Huffman, Jan Brittain, Stephanie Hand, Angela Pleasants, Dawn Hand

Laity: Cindy Thompson, Kathy FitzJefferies, Neffie Locklear, Reynaldo Rodriquez, Joseph Williams, Wade Loftin, Jane Boatwright Wood, Sarah McKinney, Andrew Woods

Additional Names (clergy and laity): Carl Arrington, Paul Milton, Otto Harris, Darryl Dayson, Emmanuel Morris, Rod Ingram, Pam Shoffner, Mary Downes, Ray McKinnon, Dana Lyles, Ashlee Hand, Alanah Harris, Sonia Zuniga, Clarissa Fuentes, David Ortigoza, Uiyeon Kim, Jae Lee, David Lee, Tamara DellaTorre, Pilar Perez, Stacy Guinto-Salinas, Ashley Pimentel, Anita McGill, Marigold Vang, Lauren Chou, Christy Oxendine, James (Bo) Taylor, Daphine Strickland

Diversity Representation (inclusive of names listed above) (clergy and laity):

African American: Sam Moore, Stephanie Hand, Angela Pleasants, Dawn Hawn, Carl Arrington, Paul Milton, Otto Harris, Darryl Dayson, Emmanuel Morris, Rod Ingram, Jennifer Davis, Tonya Lanier, Hank Dozier, Coley Hooker, Jr., Pam Shoffner, Mary Downes, Ray McKinnon, Dana Lyles, Ashlee Hand, Alanah Harris

Hispanic/Latino: Sonia Zuniga, Clarissa Fuentes, David Ortigoza, Reynaldo Rodriquez, Tamara DellaTorre, Pilar Perez, Stacy Guinto-Salinas, Ashley Pimentel

Asian American: In-Yong Lee, Uiyeon Kim, Jae Lee, David Lee, Anita McGill, Marigold Vang, Lauren Chou

Native American: Larry King, Donna Smith, Angel Christ, Neffie Locklear, Christy Oxendine, James (Bo) Taylor, Daphine Strickland

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND CROSSNORE SCHOOL: Brett Loftis, *Juris Doctor*, CEO of the Crossnore School, began the report with a video that highlighted the Crossnore School in Avery County. He described how the legacy and history of The Children's Home in Winston-Salem and the Crossnore School are parallel and represent a way forward for both institutions in providing trauma-informed, residential foster care for children. Katheryn Northington, chairperson of the board for The Children's Home, reported that TCH board of directors has approved becoming a part of the The Crossnore School.

PETITION 12: THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND THE CROSSNORE SCHOOL: The Rev. Ingram presented Petition 12: The Children's Home and Crossnore School, which proposed for election to the Board of Directors of The Children's Home and Crossnore School the following: Iris Sunshine, John Stone, Redge Hanes, and Jeff Patterson, and they were elected.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Goodpaster reported that the offering from the morning worship for “Churches + Children + Schools = Transformed Communities,” amounted to \$18,200.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES: Carroll Harris, coordinator, presented the report, which featured a promotional video for Camp McCall and Camp Gilrock. Harris noted that the basic value of camp and retreat ministries provides space to be, to have a mentor, and to learn to live in a close-knit, short-term community. Camp and retreat ministries further provide participants a chance to discover God’s love and represents an extension of the local church.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Goodpaster introduced and welcomed to the platform Mollie M. Stewart, executive director of Gulfside Assembly, who greeted the delegates and thanked them for their generous support in the ongoing effort to rebuild the assembly after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina.

Bishop Goodpaster acknowledged that this year represents 60 years since women were granted ordination and full clergy rights in The Methodist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The conference secretary made necessary announcements and the conference recessed at 2:45 p.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to adjournment the conference reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

REPORT ON THE 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, lead clergy delegate, began the report noting her top 10 experiences, which included reporting that the Rev. In-Yong Lee was selected as a member of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. The Rev. Ingram also chaired one of the legislative committees of General Conference.

Jennifer P. Davis, chairperson of the delegation and lead lay delegate, continued the report. She noted that Linda Young was commissioned as a Deaconess and Helen Ryde commissioned as a Home Missioner. She also commended the Rev. Jeremy Troxler for his timely and thoughtful comments during debate at General Conference.

EPISCOPAL ELECTION: Jennifer P. Davis moved the endorsement of the Rev. Dr. James C. Howell for election to the office of Bishop and the conference approved. The Rev. Dr. Howell spoke to the conference and asked for prayers for his family, for him, and the church.

GC4JC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR JESUS CHRIST: The Reverends Laura M. Beach and Kevin C. Miller reported on the GC4JC project that engaged the homeless in the Portland, Oregon, area by sharing 6,000 child-made cards, along with a voucher for a meal.

BISHOPS’ TASK FORCE: Bishop Goodpaster offered a word about the decision of General Conference to take no vote on the numerous petitions relating to human sexuality. Instead the conference adopted a recommendation from the Council of Bishops to create a task force on human sexuality. This commission of 24-30 people, representing a broad range of theological views and geographical areas, will enter into a time of discernment over the next 18 to 36 months on the topic of human sexuality.

REPORT ON HEALTHY CONVERSATIONS: The Rev. Matthew S. Smith, chairperson of the conference Justice and Reconciliation Team, reported on the response to the petition adopted at the 2015 Annual Conference session to develop and implement healthy conversations around the conference. The Rev. Smith noted that a process for having healthy conversations around human sexuality and homosexuality was developed. The process included a live stream discussion designed to model healthy conversations which was simulcast to various locations in the conference. In addition, a curriculum, “Finding Our Way,” was produced along with a list of additional resources that a local congregation could use. The video of the model discussion is also available.

VIDEO 1 ON MISSIONAL OFFERING 2015: The first of several videos was shown which highlighted the use of money received during the 2015 Annual Conference for missional engagement. The total dollars of the offering amounted to \$25,000.

REPORT ON SCHOOLS INITIATIVE AND C4C (Congregations for Children): The Rev. Jay W. Bissett and Caroline Wood, conference associate director of discipleship ministry and mission pathways, made the report. 548 partnerships between churches and schools have been reported. The Rev. John S. Boggs, Blue Ridge district superintendent, provided additional background of the development for C4C and reaffirmed that this initiative is a priority in the next four years. The Rev. Bissett noted that the project not only seeks to understand poverty, but also to address challenges faced in the public education system and advocate for changes at the state level. He urged support for the project and for members of the annual conference to become advocates for public schools, teachers, and resources.

REPORT ON MISSION ENGAGEMENT TEAM: Caroline Wood, conference associate director of discipleship ministry and mission pathways, and Katie R. Lineberger, chairperson of the Mission Engagement Team, made the report. They highlighted Project Agape, ZOE ministry, Congo missions, Building Teams, and Disaster Response Teams. The team has focused on encouraging grassroots mission efforts that connect churches to each other in community mission and in helping to resource churches with funding, training, and communications for mission.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Goodpaster introduced Dr. Elaine A. Heath as the new dean of Duke Divinity School. Dr. Heath spoke to the conference and indicated that she had two primary orientations and skill sets for pastors and congregations: the need to foster asset-based community development and spiritual formation and direction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements.

RECESS: The conference stood in recess at 5:03 p.m.

EVENING WORSHIP – 7:30 P.M.

Using a traditional worship-style liturgy, the evening worship opened with an organ voluntary, *Hymn to Joy*. Following acts of worship, a hymn, and prayer for healing, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster introduced the Rev. Dr. Bryan Collier, pastor of The Orchard: A United Methodist Congregation, from Tupelo, Mississippi. The Rev. Collier preached the sermon titled, “As Those Who Know Him Best,” using the scripture text from *John 15*. Special music was provided by The African American Clergy Choir. The Rev. Collier offered the benediction.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016**SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS – 8:30 A.M.**

The service of commissioning opened with a video presentation introduced by the Rev. Donald Jenkins, vice-chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, who led the call to worship. Following the processional hymn 2237, *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*, the Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, led *A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*. After an introduction by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster and prayer by the Rev. Carol Rogers Hunter, the Rev. Dr. William B. McClain, the Mary Elizabeth McGehee Joyce Professor *Emeritus* of Preaching and Worship, of Wesley Theological Seminary, preached the sermon “So, Now We Go,” based on *Matthew 28:16-20*. The Rev. Dr. McClain asked “is there a word from the Lord that speaks to me and my world?” Bishop Goodpaster recognized a new class of 28 licensed local pastors and commissioned 14 persons for ministry. Each candidate who was commissioned received a cross from the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented by the Rev. Jenkins. Special music was provided by Mahari Conston, 2016 graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, with a bachelor’s degree in music in vocal performance, and member of Providence UMC, Charlotte, Metro District. The Rev. Dr. David Greene, licensing school director, the Rev. Sally W. Queen, associate director of ministerial services and the Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, director of ministerial services assisted in the service. The service concluded with the singing of hymn 568 *Christ for the World We Sing*.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.: The Rev. David A. Snipes, president and CEO, convened the annual meeting, introduced the staff of the foundation and nominated the following for election to the board and they were elected: in the class of 2019 – Mark Bailey, Wanda Musgrave, Jimmy Saine, Charlie Smith, and Steve Wilson; the Rev. Dr. M. Kenneth Lyon in the class of 2018. Christian Burns, executive director of client relations & cultivation, shared stories about how individuals, local congregations, and other institutions had used the UMF Development Fund and Loan Program, Planned Giving for endowment development and philanthropy, and building use assessment for hospitality. In each instance, the goal was to enrich mission and ministry. The Rev. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley, chief operating officer, related various partnerships between the foundation and African American churches to develop stewardship and the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to help refinance student debt. A brief video was presented that showcased the ways the foundation is working in the annual conference and local congregations to provide stewardship development, financial planning, and capital development. Christopher (Chris) Davis, board chairperson, challenged the members of the annual conference and presented to Bishop Goodpaster a check for the tithe, designated for the Global Health Initiative to end malaria. The annual meeting of the foundation adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 10:30 A.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to adjournment the annual conference reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS: M. Lynne Gilbert, president, presented the report and moved adoption of PETITION 2, PART a: PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, and the petition was approved.

Gilbert presented and moved adoption of PETITION 2, PART b: HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES and the petition was adopted.

The Rev. Frank A. Stith III spoke words of appreciation and thanked Lynne Gilbert for her service to the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Susan Irvin, chairperson, presented the report. She noted the agreement with the A. Anthony Company to utilize Foundry, Inc. as the master brokerage firm for property management of properties being closed, discontinued, and offered for sale in the years 2016-2020. She reported that a new episcopal residence had been purchased and the planned sale of the current residence. She indicated that only immediate repairs would be made at the Conference Center and that investigation has begun for a new conference center. She encouraged local congregations do regular risk assessment on their properties and evaluate insurance coverage providers for adequate coverage and affordable premiums.

VIDEO 2 MISSIONAL OFFERING: A second video was presented giving testimony on how the 2015 annual conference missional offering had been used.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 11:06 a.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY: RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Thirty-five clergy were recognized on the event of their retirement. The Rev. Jock P. Ollis spoke on behalf of the retirees. The Rev. Julia S. Trantham spoke in response on behalf of the 2016 class in full connection. M. Lynne Gilbert, president of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Rev. Diron Chloe, a member of the 2016 class in full connection, and Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster also participated. Retirees were presented with certificates and each spouse was given a rose.

CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The conference secretary made necessary announcements.

STRATEGIC VISION AND PLAN, 2016-2020: Bishop Larry Goodpaster reviewed the last eight years of moving from a focus on the institution to mission, noting that mission is the most important thing.

The Rev. Amy L. Coles described the development of Missional Networks connecting local congregations in missions in their local communities. The Rev. Cindy Lunsford, Uwharrie District; the Rev. George Coates, Northern Piedmont District; the Rev. Lucy Robbins, Blue Ridge District; the Rev. Paul Brown, Smoky Mountain District; and the Rev. Nina Wynn, Metro District, shared examples of local churches cooperating together, often in ecumenical efforts, to address poverty, hunger, support of schools, and the needs of immigrants across the annual conference.

The Rev. Coles introduced the Conference Leadership Team for the 2016-2020 Quadrennium:

The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram will be responsible for leadership development; Caroline Wood is the staff person for mission engagement and connectational relationships; the Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs, new director for vital discipleship. The Rev. Coles also introduced the district congregational vitality strategists: the Rev. Stephanie Hand, Metro; Carroll Harris, Uwharrie; the Rev. Maria King, Northern Piedmont; the Rev. Dr. Tim Roberts, Appalachian; the Rev. Rene Wilt, Yadkin Valley; Kim Shockley, Catawba Valley; and, the Rev. Sherrie Schork, Smoky Mountain.

Bishop Goodpaster introduced the Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs as the first director of vital discipleship. The Rev. Dr. Boggs outlined his vision for nurturing a missional imagination of making disciples. The Rev. Coles introduced the Rev. Dr. Lyn Sorrells as director of "The Vitality Project." The Rev. Dr. Sorrells introduced the Rev. Angela Hollar, as the associate director, then he outlined the hopes, dreams and opportunities of this project to assist churches of small membership to envision a different future.

REPORT OF DUKE ENDOWMENT: The Rev. Robert R. Webb III, director rural church development, made the report. The Rev. Webb noted that the endowment seeks to create a spiritual foundation, enhance community engagement, and build congregational capacity. The endowment uses grant money as a catalyst for change to impact systems. The endowment encourages bold ideas to bring lasting change.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Laurie S. Guy, president, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration. She offered words of thanks and appreciation to the treasury services staff and to Jennifer L. Burton, former treasurer. Laurie Guy presented PETITION 1: 2017 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES and moved the adoption of items 1-19, and they were approved.

Guy then presented the proposed 2017 CONFERENCE BUDGET and moved its adoption.

The Rev. Dr. Charles C. Kyker moved to amend the amount budgeted for the Church Development Team from \$500,000 to \$700,000 and spoke in favor of his motion.

The Rev. Amy L. Coles spoke about the motion to increase the funding.

The Rev. Dawn M. Hand asked a question and the Rev. Coles responded.

The Rev. Dr. James W. Ferree asked a question and Laurie Guy responded.

The Rev. Bill Foust, Catawba Valley District, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Harry Underwood moved to amend the motion by taking \$200,000 from the contingency fund. Bishop Goodpaster ruled the motion out of order.

Charmaine Van Rooyen spoke against the amendment.

The Rev. Dr. Kyker offered a final word.

The Kyker amendment failed.

Ricky Johnson asked a question and Bishop Goodpaster answered.

The Rev. Ronald D. Doub moved to amend the budget by reducing the amount of \$301,400 proposed for the Board of Ordained Ministry to the 2016 Budget amount of \$240,698 and adding \$61,000 to the Church Development Team line item amount.

The Rev. Sally W. Queen spoke against the motion.

Wade Loftin asked a question and the Bishop answered.

The Rev. Mark Curtis asked a question and Laurie Guy answered.

Laurie Guy spoke against the amendment.

The Rev. John Yeager spoke against the motion.

The Rev. Doub raised a point of order and the Bishop ruled.

The Rev. Michael B. Harrill, Jr. spoke in favor of the amendment.
 The Rev. Doub spoke a final word.
 The Doub amendment failed.

Rev. Duane P. Corle asked a question and Laurie Guy responded.

Craig Frazier made a comment.

Linda Black asked a question and Bishop Goodpaster responded.

The 2017 Conference Budget was adopted.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 3:45 p.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to adjournment the conference reconvened at 3:55 p.m.

ELECTION OF TREASURER: Laurie S. Guy moved the nomination and election of the Rev. Dr. Mark King as Conference Treasurer for 2016-2020, and he was elected.

PETITION 19: CHURCH HISTORIAN TRAINING: The Rev. James L. Pyatt presented the petition and it was adopted.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Goodpaster and Caroline Wood introduced Esther Gitobu, VIM coordinator for Cambodia, Esther Gitobu greeted the delegates and introduced her three daughters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY: The Rev. Mary John Dye, chairperson, made the report which celebrated Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster's eight years of episcopal leadership for the Western North Carolina Conference. She presented DeEtta Rivens, administrative assistant to the Bishop, and thanked her for her work. Wanda Musgrave reported on the task force to secure a new episcopal residence that met the revised Southeastern Jurisdictional conference parsonage guidelines. Mrs. Deborah Goodpaster was escorted to the stage and greeted by members of the conference. The Rev. Dr. Dye paid tribute to her. Bishop Goodpaster introduced his daughter Amy, her husband, Eric and their three children: Amelia, Thomas, and Audrey. A video greeting from Bishop Kenneth Carter, Florida Conference, was presented thanking Bishop Goodpaster for his leadership and wishing him well in his retirement. The Rev. David A. Snipes, president of the United Methodist Foundation-WNC, Inc., reported that the Foundation's tithe of \$25,000, presented earlier, plus the gifts received in honor of Bishop and Mrs. Goodpaster toward the Global Health Initiative, "Imagine No Malaria" for a total of \$70,000. A video was presented that highlighted Bishop Goodpaster's life and ministry. A responsive blessing celebrated Bishop Goodpaster. A tier of numerous plants decorated the stage and will be planted around Lake Junaluska Assembly in tribute to Bishop and Mrs. Goodpaster. Following a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Dye, the Junaluska Singers sang *Precious Lord*.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016

CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 8:30 A.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to adjournment the annual conference reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER: Bishop Larry Goodpaster opened with prayer, followed by the singing of the first verse of hymn 57, *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*.

LAITY ADDRESS: Wade Loftin, conference director of lay servant ministries, introduced Sandy Blackburn, who delivered the 2016 Laity Address, entitled "Shine Your Light." Using the conference theme verse from *Matthew 5:16*, Blackburn's address encouraged the conference to run to the light of Christ; acknowledged that darkness is all around us; and, challenged hearers that they are called to be light in a not-so-perfect world.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF LAITY: Robert D. Upchurch, conference lay leader and president of the Board of Laity, presented the report. Upchurch recognized the following members of the Board of Laity whose term were completed: John Crane, at-large, Catawba Valley District; Kim Eller, at-large, Northern Piedmont District; Martha Gwyn, lay leader, Yadkin Valley District; Joyce Irby, at-large, Yadkin Valley District; and, Connie Locklear, at-large, Northern Piedmont District.

UNITED METHODIST MEN: Neil Brown, conference president of United Methodist Men, gave the annual report of that organization. Bishop Goodpaster noted that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference United Methodist Men were honored in 2016 by the General Commission of United Methodist Men as the best conference unit of United Methodist Men in the U.S.A. WNCC United Methodist Men is second in the number of chartered units and has the highest percentage of chartered units.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Tonya Lanier, conference president of United Methodist Women, presented the report. The WNCC UMW were #1 again this year in mission giving.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ryan Clarke, president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, gave the annual report of the council.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: Jack Young, laity director of the WNCC Brotherhood/Sisterhood, encouraged the laity to support the Brotherhood/Sisterhood, which provides support and encouragement to the family of deceased clergy members. Laity members are honorary members and are asked to contribute \$3 per call. Currently there are fewer than 1,700 laity members of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood.

ELECTION OF CONFERENCE LAY LEADER: Robert D. Upchurch nominated Jane Boatwright Wood for election as Conference Lay Leader for the 2016-2020 quadrennium, and she was elected.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Jane Wood, on behalf of the Board of Laity, thanked Robert Upchurch for his leadership as conference lay leader and president of the board of laity and presented him a token of appreciation.

DENMAN AWARDS: Jane Boatwright Wood, executive director of the Foundation for Evangelism, described the Harry Denman Award. Bishop Larry Goodpaster presented the 2016 Harry Denman Award to The Rev. Luke S. Edwards for his leadership with the King Street Church a ministry of Boone UMC, Boone, N.C. The Rev. David C. Hockett, pastor of Boone United Methodist Church received the award on behalf of Rev. Edwards.

FRANCIS ASBURY CAMPUS MINISTRY AWARD: Dennis Carroll, provost of High Point University, presented the award to Rev. Preston A. Davis, minister to High Point University. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to foster the church's ministries and higher education.

CALL AND VOCATION TEAM: The Reverends James C. Parsons and Sally W. Queen made the report updating the conference on the "I Am Called" videos launched during the 2015 Annual Conference. These videos have been used to spark a culture of call and encourage persons to listen for God's call for service and ministry in their life. A curriculum has been developed and is available for download to help children and youth express their call. The report concluded with a video highlighting the call stories of several youth and young adults.

CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF ORDER OF DEACON: The Reverends Michelle Foster-Beckerleg, chairperson of the order of deacon, and the Rev. Bradley E. Hopper, a member of the board of ordained ministry, presented the report. The order of deacon is a ministry of compassion and justice in the world. The Western North Carolina Conference has the second largest number of ordained deacons in The United Methodist Church. The 2016 class of ordinands has the largest number of deacons to be ordained to date. A video concluded the presentation highlighting the ministry of deacons in the church and in the world.

CABINET RESOLUTIONS: The Rev. Amy L. Coles, secretary of the Cabinet, proposed adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment, and they were adopted:

Faith United Methodist Church, Gastonia, Gaston County, Catawba Valley District (GCFA: 293522, CV-225.1)

Whereas, Faith United Methodist Church, Catawba Valley District, has declined to 115 members, with worship attendance averaging 26; and,

Whereas, the church is financially unable to support the pastor's salary and district and conference apportionments, nor adequately maintain the buildings; and

Whereas, Faith United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Catawba Valley district superintendent, and the Catawba Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to discontinue Faith UMC, and declare it abandoned; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Faith UMC be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2016; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) and the policies of the annual conference.

Morningstar Mission of The United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District (GCFA: 291900, ME-345)

Whereas, Morningstar Mission, Metro District, has declined to 36 members, with worship attendance averaging 13; and,

Whereas, Morningstar Mission was no longer financially viable and could not support district and conference apportionments; and,

Whereas, Morningstar Mission was no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Metro district superintendent, and the Metro District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to consider Morningstar a failed church start, discontinued, and declared abandoned; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Morningstar Mission be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective November 1, 2015; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) and the policies of the annual conference and is requested to consult the Metro District Church Vitality Team regarding the future use of the property for church expansion within the district.

Oak Summit United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District (GCFA: 303768, YV-397.2)

Whereas, the membership of Oak Summit United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District, has declined to eight in worship; and

Whereas, the church is financially unable to support the pastor's salary and district and conference apportionments, nor to maintain the buildings; and

Whereas, due to restricted funds and declining membership Oak Summit UMC is unable to actively fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church in accordance with ¶ 201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012); and

Whereas, The Yadkin Valley District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Yadkin Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Oak Summit United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District, be discontinued effective January 3, 2016; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) and the policies of the annual conference.

Price United Methodist Church, Stoneville, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District Church
(GCFA: 295873, NP-290.2)

Whereas, Price United Methodist Church, Northern Piedmont District, has declined to 30 members, with worship attendance averaging 15; and,

Whereas, Price United Methodist Church is no longer financially viable and could not support district and conference apportionments; and,

Whereas, Price United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) of *The United Methodist Church*; and,

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Northern Piedmont district superintendent, and the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to discontinue Price, and declare it abandoned; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Price be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective January 9, 2016; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) and the policies of the annual conference.

Burgess Chapel United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District (GCFA: 967881; DC NO: AP-415.3)

Whereas, Burgess Chapel United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District, has declined to an average of six persons in attendance,

Whereas, due to declining attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2012), ¶ 201-204; and

Whereas, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Appalachian District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Burgess Chapel United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective July 17, 2016; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2012) and the policies of the annual conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements. Rev. Ingram thanked the Rev. Kathy McAbee, and Mike Penninger, chief ushers for the 2016 session of the annual conference, along with each team of ushers. She thanked the annual conference worship planning team, especially the Rev. Oliver Helsabeck, chairperson, and the Rev. Annalee Allen, stage manager. She thanked Timothy Scruggs, conference musician, and Scott Taylor, assistant conference musician. She voiced appreciation for the Rev. Owen Peeler, associate secretary, for preparing the daily minutes.

Bishop Larry Goodpaster made closing remarks and thanked the Rev. Ingram for her work as conference secretary. He announced that the 2017 Annual Conference would be the weekend of June 23 through June 25, 2017, Friday through Sunday.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 10:35 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE – CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE – 11:15 A.M.

The Rev. Dr. M. Kenneth Lyon, pastor of Matthews UMC, Matthews, Metro District, was the preacher for this service. The sermon text was based on *Exodus 4:1-5* and *John 3:16-17* and his sermon was titled, “Things Worth Remembering.” Kathi Graham and Leisa Stamey played the bagpipes and escorted the families in and out of the service. Members of the 2016 class elected to full connection assisted in the service. Special music was provided by the Brass Quartet from First United Methodist Church, Gastonia, Catawba Valley District, and Zachary Erwin, the Rev. Tracy Love, the Rev. Wesley Smith, and the Rev. Kirk Tutterow from the Metro District. During the Naming of the Saints, the lives of 33 clergy and diaconal ministers were remembered and celebrated, as well as the spouses of 23 clergy who died in the year

SERVICE OF ORDINATION – 7:30 P.M.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Resident Bishop, Baton Rouge Area, Louisiana Conference, preached a sermon from *John 1:35-46* and *1 Samuel 3:1-11*, titled "And They Saw and They Went." Robert D. Upchurch, conference lay leader, and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry assisted in the service. Following examination, seven deacons and 20 elders were ordained by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, assisted by Bishops Cynthia Harvey, Thomas B. Stockton, and Charles Crutchfield.

Madison Marshall, Clemmons United Methodist Church, Clemmons, Yadkin Valley District, provided special music, *Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)*. Timothy Scruggs, conference musician, and Scott Taylor, assistant conference musician, provided accompaniment and direction for the hymns and special music.

Each ordinand received a red stole appropriate for their order and their certificate of ordination.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016**A SERVICE OF THE WORD AND THE FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS - 10 A.M.**

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, taking his text from *Matthew 5:14-16*, preached the sermon titled, "Turn on the Light." The Junaluska Singers provided special choral presentations throughout the liturgy of the worship service.

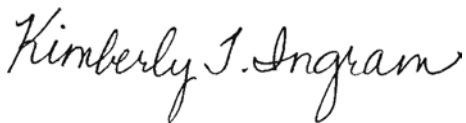
OFFERING: The morning offering was designated for Churches + Children + Schools = Transformed Communities. The money will provide support for children and schools throughout the annual conference.

A SERVICE OF FAREWELL FOR BISHOP LARRY M. GOODPASTER: The Rev. Amy Coles led the farewell. Following a scripture reading of *Romans 12:1-2* from *The Message*, a responsive litany of farewell was offered. After presentation of a gift, a commissioned gift of pottery by a local potter, to Bishop Goodpaster, a prayer of intercession was offered.

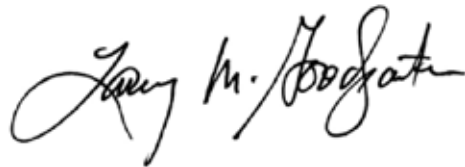
FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Goodpaster invited all the current and future district superintendents to the platform and gave them each a clicker, so they can turn on some light. He introduced the three new district superintendents: Rev. W. Mark Andrews, Metro District; the Rev. Angela A. Pleasants, Catawba Valley District; and, the Rev. Elizabeth M. Crissman, Blue Ridge District. He thanked the Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs, the Rev. Dr. W. Lynn Sorrells, and the Rev. Sally O. Langford who had served as district superintendents, but were receiving new appointments July 1, 2016. Bishop Goodpaster officially fixed the clergy appointments for the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church for the ensuing year.

CHARGE AND COVENANT PRAYER: Bishop Goodpaster charged the licensed, commissioned, consecrated, and ordained clergy to go where they are sent and called to serve. He charged the laity, including deaconesses and diaconal ministers, to live and serve in God's world and to receive and support the clergy appointed to their churches. All persons present shared in the responsive blessing and sending forth. As the hymn 585 *This Little Light of Mine* was sung, worshipers were invited to shine the small light given them when they entered worship.

ADJOURNMENT: The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adjourned *sine die* at 12 p.m.



Kimberly T. Ingram



Larry M. Goodpaster

USHERS FOR THE 2016 SESSION

Kathy McAbee and Mike Penninger, Co-chairpersons

Team A (Green)

Kristy Burnette	Dillion Culbreth
Kelly Creekmur	Jayne Koeslin
Howard Fleming	Tyler Hege
Marsha Joyner	Marilyn Weiler
Walter Joyner	Chris Raines
Phyllis VanHoy	John Sledge

Team B (Yellow)

Jim Tate	Pete Ross
Teresa Blanton	Doug Carpenter
Trent Jones	Chuck Spicer
Sean Turner	Susan Sullivan
George Eubanks	Andrew Baten
Judy Greer	Nicole Baten

Team C (Red)

Tim Fitzgerald	Alan Pruitt
Ed Armfield	William Parish
Danielle Hammett	John Gaston
Tammy Ingram	Natalie Hawkins
Kim Eller	Bryan Wilson
Myra Waddell	Cindy Lunsford

Alternate Team A (Green)

Richard Gould	Rick Schilling
Charles Hughes	Karen Doucette
Jimmy Howard	Gary Wood
Tim Lee	

Alternate Team B (Yellow)

Kris Mares	Rodney Hagans
Richard Smith	Bob Hayward
John Burchett	Joanie Strohm
Mary Brown	

Alternate Team C (Red)

Steve Combs	Aryn Williams Reubel
Mary Hatley	Deb Demorest
Midgie Dial	Greta Wolfe

D. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

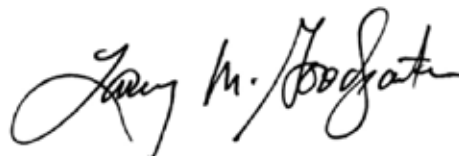
This is to certify that at a service of commissioning held on Friday morning, June 17, 2016, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I, Larry M. Goodpaster, a bishop in The United Methodist Church did

COMMISSION for ministry in The United Methodist Church under the 2012 Book of Discipline as provisional members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference: Kevin Thomas Bates, Nathan David Finsel, Bruce Howard Handy, Jr., Brenna Nicole Lakeson, Samuel McMasters Lewis, Ashley Anne Lloyd, Melissa Dawn Lowe, Jason Ryan Mendenhall, James Randolph Perdue, Carrilea Anne Potter, Joe Richard Simpson, Benjamin David Sloan, Lisa Laign Tanico, Kennette Lawrence Thomas.

This is further to certify that at a service of ordination held on Saturday evening, June 18, 2016, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I did

ORDAIN to the Order of DEACON in The United Methodist Church: Clark Davis Chilton, Troy Edward Howard, Steven Shawn Keaton, Shannon Milea LeMaster-Smith, Joy Boggs Moss, Rhonda Brush Smith, Julia Scarlett Trantham.

ORDAIN to the Order of ELDER in The United Methodist Church: George Craig Allen, Jr., Earl Franklin Bradshaw, James Brevard Brookshire, Diron Cornelius Chloe, George Melvin Coates, Darren Lee Crofts, Wayne Lewis Dickert, Ann Langford Duncan, Kari Lewis Howard, Sandra Waddell Ireson, Innocent Ndagijimana Justice, Jeffery Scott McCumber, Ronald Donall Perry, William Lee Posey, Lucy Brent Robbins, Craig Joseph Sefa, Stephen Loren Shytle, Lauren Rae Sims-Salata, Angela Paulette Toth, Erin Michelle Weaver.



Bishop