

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS
A. 2017 CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Bishop Leonard Fairley
 Kentucky Conference



Bishop Lawson Bryan
 South Georgia Conference



Rev. Donald Jenkins
 St. Paul UMC, Winston-Salem



Bishop Paul L. Leeland
 Western North Carolina Conference



Linda Ollis Taylor
 Laity Speaker, Avery County

**THURSDAY,
 JUNE 22**

3:00 p.m. Executive Session of Clergy Members
 ¶ 605.6 – “The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference”

**FRIDAY,
 JUNE 23**

7:00 a.m. Prayer Service..... Memorial Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Opening Worship: *Remember Your Baptism*
Bishop Leonard Fairley, Kentucky Conference, preaching
Bishop Paul Leeland, 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
 Opening Remarks from Bishop Leeland
 Constitutional Amendments
 3:00 p.m. Break
 3:30 p.m. Order of the Day: *Recognition of Retiring Clergy*
 4:15 p.m. Conference Plenary – Business Session
 Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits
 Conference Board of Trustees
 Church Legacy Initiative and Cabinet Resolutions
 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess
 7:30 p.m. Worship Service: *Commissioning of Provisional Members*
Bishop Lawson Bryan, South Georgia Conference, preaching

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2017 Western NC Conference Annual Meeting

continued

SATURDAY, JUNE 24	7:00 a.m.	Prayer Service.....	Memorial Chapel
	8:30 a.m.	Order of Morning Prayer	
	8:45 a.m.	Annual Meeting of the Membership of the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc.	
	9:15 a.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Conference Council on Finance and Administration 2018 Conference Budget Petitions	
	10:30 a.m.	Break	
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service: <i>Celebration of Life</i> <i>Rev. Donald Jenkins, St. Paul UMC, Preaching</i>	
	12:15 p.m.	Lunch Recess	
	1:45 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Committee on the Episcopacy Board of Laity (including Laity Address, UMW, UMM, UMY)	
	2:00 p.m.	Break	
	3:15 p.m.	Break	
	3:45 p.m.	Conference Plenary – Business Session Reports and Presentations Crossnore School & Children’s Home Congregations for Children GBGM Awards Presentation Commission on the Way Forward Council on Campus Ministries Justice and Reconciliation Team Church Vitality: One Matters and Denman Awards	
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner Recess	
	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service: <i>Ordination of Deacons and Elders</i> <i>Bishop Lawson Bryan, South Georgia Conference, preaching</i> <i>Bishop Paul Leeland, liturgist</i>	
	SUNDAY, JUNE 25	7:00 a.m.	Prayer Service.....
10:00 a.m.		<i>Closing Worship Service and Holy Communion</i> <i>Bishop Paul Leeland, preaching</i> <i>Special Music by the Junaluska Singers, Mary Wannamaker Huff, Director</i> Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth Adjournment of the 2017 Annual Conference, <i>sine die</i>	

**USHERS FOR THE 2017 SESSION**

George Eubanks and Kathy McAbee, Co-chairpersons

Team A (Green)

Kate Carpenter
Ricky Johnson
Chris Raines
Mike Walker
Dennis Ammons
Leigh Bartoli
Nathan Harris
Lisa Tanico
Jimmy Howard

Team B (Yellow)

Midgie Dial
Kris Peurifoy
Ed Peurifoy
Richard Gould
Scott Hopkins
Kimberly Hopkins
Howard Fleming
Jennifer Julian

Karen Doucette
Rick Schilling
Bob Hayward
Billy Martin
Todd Snaith
Greta Wolfe
Neil Haynes
Kim Shockley
Cindy Nanney

Sean Turner
Jim Tate
Pete Ross
Jill Smith
Linda Peeler
Lane Peeler
Laura Beach
Dillon Culbreth

Team C (Red)

Kim Eller
Myra Waddell
Mary Martin
Matthew Johnson
Marcia Oliver
Jeff Martin
Melissa Swofford
Mick Raynor
Kristen Surratt

Cheryl Perkins
Renita Williams
Kelly Creekmore
Richard Routh
Kathy Odell
Ruth Sides
Kay Webb
Wayne Ward

B. 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS**MONDAY,
JUNE 19-21**

C2LJ Bicycle Ride Christ UMC, Hickory, N.C. to Lake Junaluska

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 22**

10:00 a.m. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Harrell Center, HC-202
 10:00 a.m. Conference Board of Trustees Meeting and Luncheon Terrace, T-319
 11:00 a.m. Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members
 Meeting and Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 12:00 p.m. Extension Ministries and Beyond the Local Church Luncheon Kern Center, 11 Memory Lane
 12:00 p.m. Hispanic/Latino Network Luncheon Lambuth Inn, Saville Room
 2:00 p.m. Brotherhood/Sisterhood Meeting Terrace, T-213
 6:00 p.m. Board of Ordained Ministry Dinner First UMC, 566 S. Haywood St.
 6:00 p.m. Retiring Clergy Dinner Lambuth Inn, International Room
 6:00 p.m. UM Rural Advocates Banquet and Support Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 8:00 p.m. Emory Club 5k at the Lake: Glow Run/Walk In front of Stuart Auditorium
 9:00 p.m. Late Night with Ed Kilbourne Harrell Center, HC-105

**FRIDAY,
JUNE 23**

7:15 a.m. Retired Clergy and Spouses Breakfast sponsored by
 The Eugene M. Cole Foundation Lambuth Inn, International Room
 8:00 a.m. Women in Ministry Breakfast Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 8:30 a.m. Fresh Expressions: Yoga Church,
 Hosted by Mouzon UMC and WNCC Vitality Team Kern Center, Lakeside Porch
 9:15 a.m. Usher Training Stuart Auditorium, Near the Stage
 10:00 a.m. Givens: Cookies on the Lawn Tent by the Lake near Stuart Auditorium
 12:00 p.m. Asbury Seminary and Friends Luncheon, bring your own lunch Terrace, T-319
 12:00 p.m. Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) Jones Dining Hall, 238 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 12:00 p.m. Chaplains' Fellowship Luncheon Terrace, T-316
 12:00 p.m. Fresh Expressions: Kayak Church,
 Hosted by River of Life and WNCC Vitality Team Kern Center, Recreation Hut
 12:00 p.m. Givens: Pickin' & Grinnin' Tent by the Lake near Stuart Auditorium
 12:00 p.m. High Point University Alumni Luncheon Lambuth Inn, International Room
 12:00 p.m. Interactive Mural by Art&Soul, drop by to paint your part Harrell Center, HC-202
 12:00 p.m. Pfeiffer University Alumni and Friends Lunch Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 12:00 p.m. Sabbath Living Group Luncheon Lambuth Inn, Saville Room
 2:45 p.m. Methodist University Ice Cream Social Harrell Center, HC-105
 5:30 p.m. Candler Alumni and Friends Dinner Long's Chapel UMC, 175 Old Clyde Hwy, Fellowship Hall
 5:30 p.m. Evangelical Movement Dinner Lambuth Inn, International Room
 5:30 p.m. Wesley Theological Seminary Gathering (bring your buffet dinner) Terrace, T-319
 5:45 p.m. Duke Divinity School Picnic Dinner Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym
 6:00 p.m. Pool Party for Middle and High School Youth Aquatic Center, Pool
 9:00 p.m. Late Night with Ed Kilbourne Harrell Center, HC-105
 9:00 p.m. Reconciling Ministry Worship Memorial Chapel

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 24**

7:30 a.m. CONAM Breakfast (Native American Ministries) Lambeth Inn, Saville Room
 8:00 a.m. Interactive Mural by Art&Soul, drop by to paint your part Harrell Center, HC-202
 12:15 p.m. Deacons, Diaconal Ministers, and Deaconesses Luncheon Harrell Center, HC-105
 12:15 p.m. Gathering of Young Adult Laity at Annual Conference (bring your lunch) Terrace Hotel, T-319
 12:15 p.m. Gordon-Conwell Alumni & Friends Luncheon Terrace Hotel, T-316
 12:15 p.m. Greensboro and Bennett Colleges Luncheon Terrace Hotel, Auditorium
 12:15 p.m. Vitality Team Luncheon: Thinking about a New Place
 for New People? Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 5:30 p.m. Hood Theological Seminary Alumni, Students,
 and Prospective Students Dinner Foundation for Evangelism, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr.
 6:00 p.m. Fresh Expressions: Pub Church, Hosted by
 King Street Church and WNCC Vitality Team Boojum Taproom, 50 N. Main St., Waynesville
 9:00 p.m. Late Night with Ed Kilbourne Harrell Center, HC-105

C. DAILY MINUTES**THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017****EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 3 P.M.**

CLERGY SESSION CONVENES: In compliance with ¶¶ 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016), Bishop Paul L. Leeland convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2017 in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. After singing hymn 733 *Marching to Zion*, Bishop Leeland offered prayer.

PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT: At the request of Bishop Leeland, the clergy members in full connection approved that the conference musicians, identified guests, and local pastors be allowed to be present during the executive session.

BUSINESS QUESTION 17: Bishop Leeland supplied the proposed response for business question 17 in regard to the character of the eight District Superintendents. Then each of the District Superintendents affirmed the character of the clergy serving in their districts and business question 17 was approved.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Leeland spoke words of appreciation to the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and requested that members present stand and be acknowledged with appreciation.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT: The Rev. Donald Jenkins, chairperson of the board, presented the report. He welcomed Bishop Paul Leeland as the presiding bishop of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, introduced and thanked members of the executive committee of the board. He requested prayer for the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, especially because of the tough decisions that must be made in regard to candidates for ordained ministry and ordained clergy. Rev. Jenkins introduced and thanked the Rev. F. Annalee Allen, associate director of ministerial services; and, thanked the Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, director of ministerial services and conference secretary.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS: The Rev. Kim Ingram supplied the proposed responses for business questions 18-27, and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved. In response to business question 25 the Rev. Dr. Keith Marsden affirmed the process and accountability for clergy received from other denominations in regard to adherence to the policies of "Safe Sanctuary."

ELECTION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS: The Rev. Ingram introduced and moved the election of three persons as provisional deacons and 13 persons as provisional elders in response to Business Question 28, and they were elected. (See Section V, *Business of the Annual Conference*, in the *2017 Journal*)

ELECTION OF FULL CONNECTION MEMBERS: The Rev. Ingram introduced and moved the election of three persons as deacons in full connection and 17 persons as elders in full connection, in response to Business Question 32. Following Bishop Leeland's inquiry of the candidates, asking the traditional and historic questions and admonitions from *The Book of Discipline* (2016), 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 *2017 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 42 (c), the Rev. Carol Williams-Gilbert, acting chairperson of the administrative review committee, reported that the committee had reviewed the process for those persons proposed for involuntary discontinuance of provisional membership and affirmed that there had been a fair process.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: The Rev. James L. Pyatt, president, presented the report and described the ministry of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood to show compassion and care to the families of deceased clergy members of the annual conference. He remembered the death of the Rev. Robert W. Combs, who had served as executive director for 17 years and was named executive director emeritus, in 2016. He introduced the Rev. Roland T. Barnhardt as the new executive director, who had served as interim executive director following the retirement of Rev. Combs. Rev. Barnhardt presented Bishop Leeland a certificate of honorary membership in the Brotherhood/Sisterhood and a plaque of appreciation to Rev. Pyatt for his two years of service as president. Rev. Pyatt introduced the Rev. Joseph M. Westfall as the newly elected president of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS: The Rev. Ann L. Duncan, secretary for the board of ordained ministry, supplied the proposed responses to business questions 49-72, 76, 77, and 80 and in each instance where a vote was required, the members approved. All other business questions were referenced for the body's information. In response to business question 48, the Rev. Duncan requested the clergy to stand as she read the names of the members of the annual conference who had died since the last session and Bishop Leeland offered prayer. All of the business questions, considered as part of the executive session of the clergy, were approved as a whole.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Rev. Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements, which included announcing that the retreat for elders is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT: Following the singing of hymn 369, *Blessed Assurance*, and a benediction by Bishop Leeland, the executive session of the clergy members adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENS WITH WORSHIP AND BAPTISM REAFFIRMATION – 10:30 A.M.

The Rev. Benjamin Parker Haynes, WNCC's youngest 2017 ordinand led the call to worship, followed by the singing of the processional hymn 3164 (Worship & Song), *Down to the River to Pray*. After an opening prayer given by Mary Longstreth, retired Missionary, Brooks Howell Home, Asheville, and the reading of *Luke 12:54-59* by the Rev. Melissa Lowe and *Psalms 51:1-12* by the Rev. Ellis Carson, Maggie Tilley, Lazelle E. Free, Sr., Dave Holland, and Mary Downes offered prayers of the people. After an introduction by Bishop Paul L. Leeland and the reading of Ephesians 4:1-5 by the Rev. Lauren Sims-Salata, Bishop Leonard E. Fairley, Resident Bishop, Louisville Area, Kentucky Conference, preached the message, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism." Bishop Fairley proclaimed that through baptism we receive new birth, a new status, and a new calling. We are water washed and spirit born people of God standing at the banks of the river of life. The Rev. David Snipes, President/CEO, United Methodist Foundation led *A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada*. David Johnston, West Market Street, Greensboro announced that the morning offering would benefit the Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences and he pledged a dollar for dollar match of the money received. Members of the United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts presented the offering, *Take Me to the Water*, and Stephanie Bell Burke drew an offering of art on stage. Following the *Doxology*, Bishop Leeland introduced the act of baptismal reaffirmation and Bishop Fairley led the congregation in the renunciation of sin and profession of faith. Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader led the thanksgiving over the water. While the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts provided music during the act of baptismal reaffirmation, the members of the order of deacon administered water to the congregation, signing them with the cross on the forehead. After the singing of the hymn 2248 (TFWS), *Baptized in Water*, Bishop Fairley pronounced the benediction and the conference recessed at 12:05 p.m.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONVENES – 1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: With Bishop Paul L. Leeland, 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 23, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Following the singing of hymn 370, *Victory in Jesus*, and an opening prayer by Judy Foster, Hartsell Memorial UMC in Hickory, Bishop Leeland called the 50th 49th session of the conference to order at 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY: Bishop Leeland introduced John "Jack" Ewing, executive director of Lake Junaluska, who welcomed the members of the annual conference to Lake Junaluska and reiterated the mission statement of Junaluska: "A place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through the renewal of soul, mind and body." He highlighted the improvements and repairs made to the Lake's facilities and grounds. Mr. Ewing reported that the July issue of *Our State Magazine* will feature an article on Lake Junaluska Assembly. His report concluded with a brief video produced to tell the story of Lake Junaluska as a place to reconnect, renew, and be transformed.

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.

EXPLANATION OF THE RED, YELLOW, AND GREEN CARDS: Bishop Leeland explained the colored cards provided at registration. The use of the cards will assist him to preside when members wish to be recognized to speak from the floor. To speak for an issue the conference member should lift the green card. In order to speak against a business item the member should raise the red card. If someone wishes to ask a question or raise a point of order, they will signal with the yellow card.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The conference secretary moved and the conference approved that the conference program as printed on pages four and five of the *Supplement to the Program and Reports booklet*, subject to necessary daily adjustments, constitute the official agenda of the 2017 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, 2017.

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 2017 session, and they were elected: Marsha Bradley and the Rev. A. Owen Peeler, associate secretaries; the Rev. Kathy M. McAbee, and George Eubanks, Assistant Secretaries; and the Rev. Dr. Charles D. White, Jr. (Denny) as *conference secretary emeritus*.

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*. The Rev. Ingram moved that the consent calendar, PETITIONS 4-17, 19, and 21 be adopted as printed, and it was approved. (The listing of petitions can be found in Section IX and additionally in Section VIII.)

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 46-54 and found in Section VII of the *Journal*. The changes were in Part I, Section C. Conference Organization, items 1.a. and 2; aligning the conference structure with current practice. An editorial change was made to Rule 27.

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

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Leeland made opening remarks to the members of the annual conference. What he hopes for the annual conference comes from the story of the call of David to be king by the prophet Samuel that the spirit will rush upon the people called United Methodist. The mission of the church is to make disciples and the focus for the next four years will be the Great Commission to baptize, teach, be obedient, and go. This session of the annual conference will remember our baptism. He reviewed his first year. He has spent several days in each of the eight districts and met with clergy and lay leadership. He indicated that making disciples will require shifting to an adaptive lifestyle that brings the church more into the communities where people live and he gave several examples. He thanked the conference for the welcome and hospitality that he and his wife Janet had received. The conference received his report with appreciation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: Bishop Paul Leeland introduced the five proposed constitutional amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church adopted at 2016 General Conference. Every annual conference will take a ratification vote for each constitutional amendment. The tally of the ballot for each amendment will be submitted and the total aggregate vote on each amendment will determine ratification. The amendments cannot be amended or changed. Presentations to inform the vote may be made. The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary, gave instructions for the balloting. Only deacons and elders in full connection and lay members of the annual conference are eligible to vote.

Rev. Ingram presented Constitutional Amendment I and its rationale, which would add a new paragraph 6 on gender justice between current paragraphs 5 and 6.

Nate Washington, First Canton, Smoky Mountain District voiced disapproval of the second sentence. Bishop Leeland responded that word changes could not be made.

Rev. Evelyn Lemons, Chestnut Grove, Yadkin Valley District, spoke against amendment 1.

M. Lynne Gilbert, Northern Piedmont District, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Ken Smith, Metro District, spoke against the theological and linguistic language of amendment 1.

Rev. Dawn Hand, Metro District, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Harold Underwood, Mount Carmel, Northern Piedmont District, spoke against the amendment.

Rev. John C. Stein, Zion, Metro District, asked a question, Bishop Leeland responded.

Rev. Kim Higgins Clardy, Ebenezer-St. Mark, Blue Ridge District, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Rev. Carol Hunter, Uwharrie District, asked a question, Bishop Leeland responded.

A vote was taken for or against Constitutional Amendment I.

The Rev. Ingram presented Constitutional Amendment II and its rationale, which would amend by addition and deletion for paragraph 4 adding "gender" and "ability" and deleting "status."

Angie Wright, Catawba Valley District, spoke against the amendment.

Polly Pearson, convener for the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Catawba Valley District, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Rev. Harley D. Scalf, Catawba Valley District, spoke against the amendment.

Rev. Brian C. Allen, Northern Piedmont District, moved to suspend the rules in order to end discussion and take the vote on the remaining four constitutional amendments. The motion received a second and the motion to suspend the rules was affirmed by the required 2/3 majority.

Bishop Leeland instructed the conference members to mark their ballots for or against the constitutional amendments.

Rev. Holly Cobb Adams, Appalachian District, asked a question about Constitutional Amendment V. Bishop Leeland responded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Leeland recognized the Rev. Dr. James W. Ferree, who is attending his 68th annual conference meeting. The Rev. Jim C. Gilland was recognized as attending his 67th annual conference meeting.

RECESS: Following a prayer by Robert Jarvis, conference musician, he then led the members of the conference in singing the *Lord's Prayer*, and the conference recessed at 3:00 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY – 3:30 P.M. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Fifty-four clergy were recognized on the event of their retirement. The Rev. Sanford L. Giles Jr. spoke on behalf of the retirees. The Rev. Sarah S. Howell spoke in response on behalf of the 2017 class in full connection. Mike Watson, president of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Rev. Monica C. Childers, a member of the 2017 class in full connection, Bishop Paul L. Leeland, Dale Bryant, Rev. R. Mark King, treasurer and director of administrative services, Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, also participated. Retirees were presented with certificates and each spouse was given a rose.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 4:15 p.m. with singing of hymn 334 “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” and prayer by Rey Rodriguez, member of Bethel (WS) and serving as lay supply at Mount Zion, Trinity (YV).

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS: Michael Watson, president, presented the report and moved adoption of PETITION 2, PART a: PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, and the petition was adopted.

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

CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Bob Wilhoit, chairperson, presented the report and moved adoption of PETITION 3: NEW CONFERENCE CENTER.

Rev. Norman E. Jones, Jr., Salem, Catawba Valley District, moved to refer the petition to the Board of Laity and Mission Engagement Team for further study.

Gail Fulbright, Catawba Valley District, asked a question about non-profit tax exempt status and Mr. Wilhoit and Rev. Mark King, conference treasurer, answered.

Rev. Charles H. Curtis asked a question about the future housing of the conference archives and history, and Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the bishop, responded.

Rev. Byron E. Alexander spoke against the motion to refer.

The motion to refer did not prevail.

Bobby Hord, Catawba Valley District, asked a question and Mr. Wilhoit responded.

Brent Blumberg, Metro District, asked a question and Rev. King answered.

Rev. Julie A. Roberts, Catawba Valley District, asked a question and Mr. Wilhoit and Rev. King answered.

Kylee Rose Frye, Blue Ridge District, asked a question and Rev. King responded.

Rev. Lynn Blankenship Caldwell spoke in favor of the petition.

Janet Morgan, Catawba Valley District, asked a question and Bishop Leeland answered.

Craig Frazier, Uwharrie District, asked a question and then spoke against the petition.

Rev. Brenna N. Lakeson, Metro District, asked a question and the Bishop responded.

Rev. Donald W. Haynes, Uwharrie District, spoke in favor of the petition.

Rev. J. Billy Towery, Jr., Metro District, asked a question and Mr. Wilhoit and Rev. King responded.

Jennifer L. Burton, Yadkin Valley District, spoke against the petition.

Petition 3 was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The conference secretary made necessary announcements.

RECESS: Following the singing of hymn 98, *To God Be the Glory*, the conference recessed at 5:23 p.m.

**EVENING WORSHIP
COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS – 7:30 P.M.**

The service of commissioning opened with a video presentation of the candidates to be commissioned introduced by the Rev. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley, vice-chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, who led the call to worship. Following the processional hymn 555, *Forward Through the Ages*, the Rev. Donald Jenkins, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, led A *Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*. The Rev. Dr. David Greene, licensing school coordinator, presented the 2017 class of licensed local pastors. Bishop Paul L. Leeland examined the local pastors and offered prayer. Bishop Leeland introduced The Right Reverend Jose McLaughlin, the bishop of the Western North Carolina Diocese of the Episcopal Church, and his wife Laura. After an introduction by Bishop Leeland and prayer and scripture reading of *Genesis 28:10-18* by the Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, Resident Bishop, South Georgia Episcopal Area, South Georgia Conference preached the sermon “The Great Discovery,” based on *Genesis 28*. Bishop Bryan focused on verse 16, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” He proclaimed that the candidates are commissioned to be curious and lead others to curiosity. The Rev. Annalee Allen, associate director of ministerial services, spoke the words of introduction and Rev. Jenkins presented the 2017 class of 16 persons to be commissioned for ministry. Bishop Leeland examined the candidates and following the singing of hymn 578, *God of Love and God of Power*, commissioned the newly elected provisional members for ministry. Each candidate who was commissioned received a cross and certificate of commissioning from the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented by the Rev. Jenkins. Rev. Robert McMichael, conference musician, song leader and Mr. Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, pianist/organist participated in the service. The service concluded with an unison blessing and benediction; and, the singing of hymn 159, *Lift High the Cross*.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017
CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 8:30 A.M.**

ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER: After singing hymn 57, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, The Reverends Teresa B. Dunn and Phyllis K. Coates led the service of morning prayer. Following an opening prayer, hymn 344, *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*, was sung. Psalm 95:1-7a was read and hymn 344, *Spirit of the Living God* sung. The Rev. Josh Sherfey, offered the prayers for the people with petition, silence, and response. Following hymn 420, *Breathe on Me Breath of God*, The Lord’s Prayer was recited. The service concluded with hymn 399, *Take My Life*, and a benediction.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.: The Rev. David A. Snipes, president and CEO, convened the annual meeting, welcomed Bishop Paul Leeland and began the annual report. He noted the mission of the Foundation to partner with people, churches and institutions to invest monetary assets to provide funds for ministry that makes a difference in the world. The Foundation’s diversified fund provided an 11% yield in 2016 and shows a 4% growth for 2017. Rev. Snipes introduced Christopher W. Davis, chairperson of the board, thanked him for his years of service to the foundation and presented him a certificate of appreciation for his years of service as board chairperson. Mr. Davis nominated the following for election to the board and they were elected: in the class of 2020 – Rob Byrd, Tom Jordan, Rev. Tom Latimer, Bill Mileham, and Cindy Thompson; in the class of 2018 – Will Rucker. Mr. Davis recognized and honored the legacy of the late Goldston Harris and Ted Sumner, who envisioned and implemented the creation of The United Methodist Foundation as an institution for developing and funding ministry. Finally, Mr. Davis introduced Tom Jordan, chair-elect, board of directors, who addressed the conference and then introduced Rev. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley, chief operating officer. Rev. Coppedge-Henley introduced Susan Cothorn, as the new director of client relations. Next, Rev. Coppedge-Henley noted that \$1,348,000.00 had funded ministry and mission projects in 2016-2017; and, she highlighted stories of the foundation including the Ghana Mission, Great Pastor/Great Administrator, and partnerships with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Wespeth, and the Lilly Endowment. Tammy Lehman, chief financial officer, presented information about the clergy debt reduction loan program. Mr. Jordan presented the foundation’s tithe for 2017 in the amount of \$20,000 for new faith communities to Bishop Leeland. The annual meeting of the Foundation adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to adjournment the annual conference reconvened at 9:25 a.m. with a prayer by Shannon Sherfey, Appalachian District Lay Leader.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: The Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken, president, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration and PETITION 1: 2018 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES and moved the adoption of items 1-19, and they were approved.

Donna Friddle, Northern Piedmont District, asked a question about Golden Cross and the Rev. Dr. Kinken responded.

The Rev. Dr. Kinken presented the proposed 2018 CONFERENCE BUDGET, moved its adoption and it was approved.

The Rev. Dr. Kinken introduced the Rev. Dr. Mark King, treasurer and director of administrative services, who presented his first annual report to the annual conference.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Rev. Dr. James W. Ferree asked if the annual conference was paying 100% of apportionments. Bishop Leland responded that the amount was closer to 90%. Rev. Ferree urged the conference to return to a time when 100% of apportionments were contributed.

LEGACY CHURCH INITIATIVE: The Rev. W. Lyn Sorrells, church legacy initiative team leader, and the Rev. Angela B. Hollar, team associate, outlined the legacy church initiative supported by the Duke Endowment. This new ministry is designed to assist congregations to make faithful decisions about their future either to find a path to renewed vitality or to provide a legacy for future church development. A video testimony from Wanda Stillwell, lay leader Hebron UMC, Metro District, presented the story of how Hebron became a legacy church.

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:

Bessemer United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District (GCFA 294743, NP-015)

Whereas, Bessemer United Methodist Church, Northern Piedmont District, has declined to 9 active members, and only a few live in the community where the church is located; and,

Whereas, Bessemer United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-2014 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 Bessemer, and declare it abandoned; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Bessemer United Methodist Church be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective January 31, 2017; 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.

Green Valley United Methodist Church, Watauga County, Appalachian District (GCFA 288046, AP-220.2)

Whereas, the membership of Green Valley United Methodist Church, Watauga County, Appalachian District, has declined to 23 members with 8 persons in worship; and,

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

Whereas, in meetings coordinated by the Church Legacy Initiative, the congregation determined that they could no longer fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and,

Whereas, the Appalachian 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 Green Valley United Methodist Church be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2017; 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* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Hebron United Methodist Church, Union County, Metro District (GCFA 292196, ME-250)

Whereas, Hebron United Methodist Church, Union County, Metro District, has declined to fewer than 20 members, with worship attendance averaging 6; and,

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

Whereas, Hebron 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 Metro district superintendent, and the Metro District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to discontinue Hebron UMC, and declare it abandoned; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Hebron United Methodist Church be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective December 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.

Laurel Hill United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District (GCFA 290940, BR-575)

Whereas, Laurel Hill United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 3 members, with worship attendance averaging 3; and,

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

Whereas, Laurel Hill 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 Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to discontinue Laurel Hill United Methodist Church, and declare it abandoned; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Laurel Hill United Methodist Church be considered discontinued and declared abandoned effective November 1, 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.

McAdenville United Methodist Church, Gaston County, Catawba Valley District (GCFA 293841, CV-415)

Whereas, McAdenville United Methodist Church, Gaston County, Catawba Valley District, has declined to 6 members in worship attendance; 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 declining attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and,

Whereas, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that McAdenville United Methodist Church be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2017; 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 paragraph 2549 of the 2016 *The Book of Discipline* and the policies of the annual conference.

Rhodhiss United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District (GCFA 300105, AP-310.2)

Whereas, the membership of Rhodhiss United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District, has declined to 28 members with 15 persons in worship; and,

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

Whereas, in meetings coordinated by the Church Legacy Initiative, the congregation determined that they could no longer fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and,

Whereas, the Appalachian 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 Rhodhiss United Methodist Church be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2017; 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* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Savannah United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District (GCFA 292312, UW-275.4)

Whereas, the membership of Savannah United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District, has declined to 5; with no members attending Sunday morning 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 no one is available to serve as church officers; and,

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

Resolved, that Savannah United Methodist Church be discontinued effective October 31, 2016; and because the original deed contains a reversionary clause which remains valid and in effect, ownership of the church property rightfully reverts to the heirs of Charles Ingram and Mary Davis.

Vance Memorial United Methodist Church, Avery County, Appalachian District (GCFA 297325, AP-770.3)

Whereas, the membership of Vance Memorial United Methodist Church, Avery County, Appalachian District, has declined to 10 members with 9 persons in worship; and,

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

Whereas, in meetings coordinated by the Church Legacy Initiative, the congregation determined that they could no longer fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and,

Whereas, the Appalachian 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 Vance Memorial United Methodist Church be discontinued and declared abandoned effective June 30, 2017; 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* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

The Village Church United Methodist Church, Stanly County, Uwharrie District (GCFA 289074, UW-500)

Whereas, The Village Church United Methodist Church, Stanly County, Uwharrie District, is in a formal covenant with Pfeiffer University; and,

Whereas, students at Pfeiffer University are eligible to receive financial aid from the United States federal government, specifically Federal Work Study, and,

Whereas, federal guidelines prohibit utilizing students who receive federal work study for any work inside the walls of a chartered Church, and,

Whereas, Pfeiffer University has limited space outside of the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel for large group gathering space that includes a performance venue; and,

Whereas, Pfeiffer University has been advised by financial auditors and a liaison from the United States Department of Education that moving away from using a chartered church for its campus ministry and as a teaching and learning space will eliminate compliance issues and potential compliance issues; and,

Whereas, excellent campus ministry and weekly services of Christian worship will continue to happen at Pfeiffer University; and,

Whereas, Pfeiffer University will be hiring a University Chaplain/Director of Church Relations to oversee campus ministry and who will work in cooperation with the newly named Francis Center for Servant Leadership and Faith Formation; and,

Whereas, the Leadership Team of the Village Church has approved this in a charge conference action dated April 30, 2017; and

Whereas, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents and the President of Pfeiffer University have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that The Village Church United Methodist Church be discontinued effective June 30, 2017; and,

Be it further resolved, that the covenant between Pfeiffer University, Village Church, the Uwharrie District of the Western North Carolina Conference and the Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC, be dissolved.

Rev. Rebekah Ralph, Catawba Valley District, asked a question and Rev. Coles responded.

PETITION 18: THE CELEBRATION OF THE HISTORIC 50TH ANNIVERSARIES: Rev. James L. Pyatt, assistant archivist, presented the petition and it was adopted.

PETITION 20: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ARREARAGE POLICY: The Rev. Neal C. Jones, chairperson, commission on equitable compensation, presented the proposal and moved its adoption.

Rev. Duane P. Corle, Blue Ridge District, asked a question and Rev. Jones responded. Rev. Corle then moved to amend the petition by changing the word "may" in item 4 and item 5 to "shall." The Corle amendment was adopted and the petition as amended was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements, including that the offering received at morning worship on Friday was \$16,702.38.

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

WORSHIP SERVICE – CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE – 11:00 A.M.

The Rev. Donald Jenkins, pastor of St. Paul UMC, Winston-Salem, Yadkin Valley District, was the preacher for this service. The sermon text was based on *Psalms 90:5* and his sermon was titled, "Swept Away." Kathi Graham and Leisa Stamey played the bagpipes and escorted the families in and out of the service. Bishop Paul L. Leeland; Rev. Robert McMichael, conference musician, song leader; Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, pianist/organist; and members of the 2017 class elected to full connection assisted in the service. During the Naming of the Saints, the lives of 19 clergy and diaconal ministers were remembered and celebrated, as well as the spouses of 26 clergy who died in the year.

CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 1:45 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Following a prayer by Chris Raines, Shiloh (Germanton), Yadkin Valley District and the singing of hymns 368, *My Hope Is Built* and *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* the conference reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY: Wanda Musgrove, chairperson, made the report. The committee readied the Episcopal residence and welcomed Bishop and Mrs. Paul L. Leeland on September 1, 2016. She noted the three services of celebration held in October, 2016 to welcome the bishop, Bishop Leeland's efforts to become familiar with the people and places of the annual conference, and his four guiding principles: transparency, consistency, trust, and encouragement. Ms. Musgrove requested Jack Ewing, executive director Lake Junaluska, to escort DeEtta Rivens, administrative assistant to the bishop, to the platform. Ms. Rivens was greeted by the conference and presented a gift in appreciation of her service. The Rev. Philip Cole escorted Mrs. Janet Leeland to the stage who was welcomed by the conference and given a gift of appreciation.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF LAITY: Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader and president of the Board of Laity, presented the report. Ms. Wood noted that the mission of the board of laity is to model, assess, and advocate for the laity to fulfill the conference mission of making disciples and transforming the world. She thanked Bishop Leeland for including lay voices in the regular extended cabinet meetings. One of the goals for the board of laity is the development and implementation of accountability groups in local congregations to strengthen discipleship. Ms. Wood remembered Bill Dobbins, a long serving at-large member of the board of laity, who died in May, 2017. She presented Edith Dobbins, Bill's widow, a small gift of remembrance and thanksgiving.

UNITED METHODIST MEN: Neil Brown, conference president of United Methodist Men, gave the annual report of that organization. Bishop Leeland presented for a second year a plaque which recognized the Western North Carolina Annual Conference United Methodist Men from the General Commission of United Methodist Men as the best conference unit of United Methodist Men in the U.S.A. Mr. Brown highlighted the mission focus of UMM in providing scholarships for ministerial education for second career clergy candidates, Upper Room Prayer Ministry, Scouting, The Children's Home, building teams, and partnering with United Methodist Women to work against domestic abuse.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Tonya Lanier, conference president of United Methodist Women, presented the report. A video highlighted the work of UMW to "2 teach is 2 touch lives 4 ever". The WNCC UMW was #1 again this year in mission giving.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: Johnny Copley, president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, gave the annual report of the council. He highlighted several of the district mission outreach projects.

LAITY ADDRESS: Wade Loftin, conference director of lay servant ministries, introduced Linda Ollis Taylor, Pine Grove, Appalachian District, who delivered the 2017 Laity Address using Matthew 28:18-20 as her text. In the address Ms. Taylor exhorted that one's baptism sets a disciple on a life long journey with God within our faith community, in our community, and following Jesus to make a difference in the world.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY: Carol Harris, coordinator, presented the report. There are four camps in five locations: Camp Tekoa and Camp Tekoa Foothills (formerly Camp Loy White), Camp Guilrock, Camp McCall, and Mount Shepherd Retreat Center. Camp Guilrock and Mount Shepherd have new directors, Jason Boggs and Josh Britton, respectively. These camps are providing strong programs and faith development.

REPORT OF COUNCIL ON CAMPUS MINISTRY: Rev. Ben Carson, chairperson, presented the report, which highlighted that there are 7 campus ministry units across 12 college and university campuses serving some 1500 students. The report included a video presentation that showcased the various campus ministry activities.

I AM CALLED VIDEO: A video bore witness to the ways God calls Christians to a vocational life in ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Kim Ingram made necessary announcements which included words of thanks for the conference worship team, conference staff, and ushers.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 3:15 p.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Following the singing of hymns 133, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, and 140, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*; and a prayer by Courtney Childers, 2017 high school graduate, Salem (Denver), Metro District; conference reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

REPORT ON THE COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD: Jennifer Davis, chairperson of the 2016 General Conference delegation, thanked the delegates elected to the 2016 General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences for their diligent and prayerful work. She updated the work of the Commission on the Way Forward, and introduced a video presentation that showcased the heart and hopes of commission members.

Ms. Davis gave her witness of hopeful optimism to be a part of God's direction for the church. She announced that events would be scheduled this fall and next spring across the conference to reflect, listen, and pray in preparation for the special session of General Conference calendared for February, 2019.

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND CROSSNORE SCHOOL: Brett Loftis, CEO of the Crossnore School and Children's Home began the report with a video that highlighted the Crossnore School and Children's Home in Avery County and Winston-Salem to provide trauma-informed, residential foster care for children. Currently the two campuses are serving 350 children. Mr. Loftis challenged each congregation to recruit one foster care family and resolve the crisis of the lack of foster care families in North Carolina.

REPORT OF CONGREGATIONS FOR CHILDREN: Susan Pennock, C4C consultant, and Camille Roddy, chairperson for the Conference Congregations 4 Children Team, presented the report which highlighted how the 2016 annual conference offering received for this project had been used. A video presentation also showcased the partnership between congregations and schools in several communities. Ms. Pennock encouraged congregations to pray and seek discernment on how churches might meet the needs of children in poverty. She indicated that C4C can provide training and technical assistance to local congregations to maintain and begin school and church ministries.

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRY AWARDS: Nancy Robinson, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as the Mission Advocate for the Southeast Jurisdiction, and Rev. Russell C. Pierce, interim executive director, communications, the Advance, and fundraising, General Board of Global Ministries, recognized the Western North Carolina Annual Conference for the most support given in the SEJ in two categories. Rev. Pierce presented to Luke Edwards and Brian Mateer an award that recognized the annual conference as ranking number one in the Southeastern Jurisdiction in support of U.S. missionaries through the Advance, contributing \$468,000. Next, Rev. Pierce presented to Steve Cheyney, chairperson, conference committee on relief, an award that acknowledged the annual conference as ranking first in the Southern Jurisdiction in support of UMCOR and second for the entire denomination.

REPORT OF JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION TEAM: Polly Pearson, convener conference committee on the status and role of women, presented the report which focused on domestic violence, sexual misconduct, setting healthy boundaries, and healing.

CHURCH VITALITY: ONE MATTERS AWARD: The Rev. John S. Boggs, director of vital discipleship, and Rev. Nancy Rankin, Northern Piedmont district superintendent, introduced the Rev. Dan Pezet as the new conference director of church development. Rev. Pezet greeted the conference. Rev. Dr. Naomi Annandale, director, research and evaluation, discipleship ministries, described the "One Matters" award which was created in 2015 with the purpose of lifting up churches, who in recent years moved from zero baptisms and professions of faith into positive numbers. Dr. Annandale and Dr. Rankin presented the first One Matters Award in the WNCC to the Rev. Joel Locklear, Bethlehem, Reidsville, Northern Piedmont District. Along with the plaque, the award includes \$1,000 for further discipleship making ministries.

DENMAN AWARDS: Jane Boatwright Wood, executive director of the Foundation for Evangelism, described the Harry Denman Award. Rev. John S. Boggs, director of vital discipleship, presented the 2017 Harry Denman Laity Award to Aaron Pardue, Baltimore UMC, for his leadership developing the East Bend United missional network, Yadkin Valley District. Rev. Tim Roberts, church vitality strategist, Appalachian District, presented the 2017 Harry Denman Clergy Award to the Rev. Josh Sherfey, pastor First UMC, Taylorsville, Appalachian District.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES: Rev. Carrie Carpenter, Smoky Mountain District, moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of receiving a petition regarding Senate Bill 594 currently before the General Assembly of North Carolina, and they were suspended.

PETITION REGARDING SENATE BILL 594: Rev. Carrie Carpenter moved the adoption and spoke in favor of the following petition to voice opposition to North Carolina Senate Bill 594:



RESOLUTION REGARDING SENATE BILL 594

June 22, 2017

Whereas, we hear the call to speak up and defend the rights of the poor and needy (Proverbs 31:8-9), not exploit the poor (Proverbs 22:22-23); assist the oppressed (Isaiah 58:6-11); take up the cause of the children (Isaiah 1:17) show compassion (Zechariah 7:8-10); and be generous to the poor (Deuteronomy 15:10-11); and,

Whereas, Senate Bill 594 calls for proper accountability of Departments of Social Services in North Carolina or face the formation of regions to address the human needs of children, the elderly and the poor; and,

Whereas, there are 100 counties receiving their funding from taxation of the citizens of North Carolina within an existing infrastructure designed to provide cooperative support to the least, the last, and the lost among the children, elderly and poor of our state; and,

Whereas, consolidating 100 current county-based social service agencies into 30 regional agencies will reduce local connections and take away millions of salary and administrative dollars from the economies of two-thirds of our counties, mostly rural, at a time when the economy is just starting to rebound in some parts of our state and will result in even greater wealth disparity and the loss of precious well-paying jobs; and,

Whereas, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the Association of Social Service Directors, two organizations on the front lines of service delivery in child welfare services, are opposed to the legislation as currently drafted which mandates the regionalization of county DSS departments and puts key stakeholders at a greater distance from the assistance they need; and,

Whereas, Senate Bill 594 claims among that North Carolina's child welfare system is failing and proposes legislation it claims will lead to "modernized case management", provide "real-time data about children in foster care" and reduce social worker caseloads, will, in reality, create more bureaucracy, divest counties of their statutory authority over social services delivery, and takes away a major source of revenue while still requiring counties to expend funds to support the regional model; and,

Whereas, previous attempts by the North Carolina General Assembly have failed miserably, most notably by the regionalization of the state's mental health system which has resulted in diminished service both in quality and availability at much greater expense; and,

Whereas, Senate Bill 594 refuses to recognize that the root of the problem of social services delivery in North Carolina cannot be solved by blaming the recipients of service. Similar to public school debate which blames academic failure on the student, questions must be asked about the archaic standards and methodologies mandated by the state and whether the system has been designed to lead to failure; and,

Whereas, Senate Bill 594 gives lip service to local service provision and preserving existing judicial districts where legal action is necessary however, the bill as written provides no details as to how populations who frequently don't have basic transportation will receive services in a distant regional office; and,

Whereas, the language of Senate Bill 594 has already been removed from the House compromise budget in response to ever increasing opposition from County Commissioners, civic leaders, and public servants within the infrastructure of North Carolina's 100 counties;

Whereas, the result of further regionalization and dismantling of existing infrastructure within the communities and the established context for addressing the needs of the least, the last, and the lost will most likely result in further disenfranchisement of children, elderly, and the poor in the most rural and economically depressed communities of North Carolina; and,

Whereas, the North Carolina Annual Conference voted to approve this resolution on June 17, 2017 and in the spirit of unity and connectionalism across both Annual Conferences across the state of North Carolina; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference on June 22, 2017 call upon all Departments of Social Services and connected entities within the infrastructure of all 100 counties to maintain the highest standards of accountability in addressing the needs of children, elderly, and the poor; and,

Be it further resolved, that in recognition and support of the best interests of all citizens of North Carolina and the diverse cultures of all 100 counties that constitute our great state we strongly oppose North Carolina Senate Bill 594, urge its defeat in the legislature, and recommend to the Governor of North Carolina, Roy Cooper that he veto this law, if approved, so that every county Department of Social Services and infrastructures connected therein throughout North Carolina can promptly and effectively provide the help and care to those who need it the most.

Carrie Carpenter, Smoky Mountain District Member at Large,
Adult Spiritual Growth and Connections Director, Long's Chapel United Methodist Church

Kathy FitzJefferies, Northern Piedmont District, spoke in favor of the petition.

Vann Jones, Yadkin Valley District, spoke against the petition.

John Jalocha, Blue Ridge District, made a comment. Bishop Leeland ruled his remarks as favoring the petition.

Rev. Steven R. Jones, Blue Ridge District, asked a question and the Bishop responded.

Peg Aldridge, Metro District, spoke in favor of the petition.

With no additional speakers wishing to speak against adoption the conference voted to adopt the petition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bishop Paul Leeland announced the dates of the 2018 annual conference would be June 21-24, 2018. Rev. Kathleen M. McAbee, Catawba Valley District, moved that Lake Junaluska Assembly be asked to host the 2018 annual conference session and it was approved. Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements. Bishop Leeland thanked the conference and expressed his appreciation for the work of the conference secretary, Rev. Ingram.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 5:40 p.m.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION – 7:30 P.M.

Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, Resident Bishop, South Georgia Episcopal Area, South Georgia Conference, preached a sermon from *John 2:1-11*, titled “When the Wine Runs Out.” Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader, and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry assisted in the service. Following examination, three deacons and 17 elders were ordained by Bishop Paul L. Leeland, assisted by Bishops Lawson Bryan, Ray Chamberlain, J. Lawrence McCleskey, and Thomas B. Stockton.

Members of The Fellowship of Music and Worship Arts (WNC Chapter) provided special music, *Holy Spirit*. Reverend Robert McMichael, conference musician, song leader, and Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, pianist/organist provided accompaniment and direction for the hymns.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

A SERVICE OF THE WORD, HOLY COMMUNION, AND THE FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS - 10 A.M.

Bishop Paul L. Leeland, taking his text from *I Corinthians 9:19-27*, preached the sermon titled, “Run So As To Win.” The Junaluska Singers provided special choral presentations and led the music throughout the liturgy of the worship service.

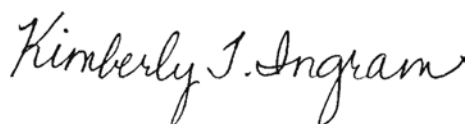
OFFERING: The morning offering was designated for the Ministerial Education Fund. Rev. Amy B. Hutchison offered a personal testimony as to how the fund had assisted her in receiving her theological education.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION: Bishop Leeland led the congregation in a prayer of confession and pardon and celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion with the assistance of the district superintendents and adult and youth lay members to the 2017 Annual Conference.

FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Leeland invited Rev. Dr. Jeff Patterson and Rev. Michael Bailey forward to the platform. Rev. Patterson is being appointed to serve Wesley Memorial UMC in High Point and Rev. Bailey will serve as district superintendent for the Yadkin Valley District. Bishop Leeland 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 Leeland 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. Following the singing of hymn 584, *Lord You Give the Great Commission*, Rev. Willetta Ar-Rahmann offered the benediction.

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



Paul L. Leeland

D. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

This is to certify that at a service of commissioning held on Friday evening, June 23, 2017, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I, Paul L. Leeland, a bishop in The United Methodist Church did

Commission for ministry in The United Methodist Church under the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as provisional members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference:

Wendy Anne Von Seggern Barnes, Nicole Ross Baten, David Alan Blankenberg, Ellis Khari Carson, Luke Stephen Edwards, David Benjamin Floyd, Bobby Reeves Linker, Johnny Donald Lord, Jr., Stacey Reavis Lundy, Kristina Kay Mares, Lisa Kindley Rettew, Nikki Raye Rice, Chad Howard Shoaf, Kelly Rae Shrader, Kayln Marie Wiley, and Brandon Phillip Conrad Wrencher, Sr.

This is further to certify that at a service of ordination held on Saturday evening, June 24, 2017, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I did

Ordain to the Order of Deacon in The United Methodist Church:

Monica Curtis Childers, Kimberly Jerrell Collins, and Lauren Ann Clawson Miller;

Ordain to the Order of Elder in The United Methodist Church:

Dale Wayne Bost, Betty Black Brown, Gary Link Camp, Myer You-Pleh Dahn, Jessica Leigh Ligon Dayson, Elizabeth Carter Ellis, Julia Kaye Hedrick Fry, Jeffery Mark Hamrick, Benjamin Parker Haynes, Lauren Elizabeth Hill, Sarah Stockton Howell, Justin Hunter Lowe, Andrea Alexander McCumber, Matthew Craig Morris, Ryan Christopher Snider, Louis Dillon Timberlake, and Clifford Wayne Wall.



Bishop