

Daily Proceedings

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

(MINUTES OF GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE)

Daily Proceedings

Great Plains Annual Conference

June 11 – 14, 2014

Lied Center for Performing Arts and Embassy Suites Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska

Scott Jameson Jones, Presiding Bishop

Diane Jensen, Conference Secretary

Theme: Healthy Inviting Abundant

Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference Clergy Session

Lied Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Scott Jones opened the Great Plains Annual Conference Clergy Session. He gave instructions on how to make substantive and editorial changes to the Board of Ordained Ministry Report. Bishop Jones introduced Bruce Emmert, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Emmert made opening remarks and led in prayer. He explained the role of the Board of Ordained Ministry and gave an overview of the Board's work and how the clergy session would proceed.

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was sung.

Randall Hodgkinson and Deanna Holland, lay members of the Board, presented the Board's report, beginning with Questions 17- 27.

Bishop Jones called for a vote on:

- Question 18. The vote was YES. Full-time and Part-Time Local Pastors stood and were recognized. Lance Clay added Sandra Blumanhourst McKinney to the list of part-time local pastors.
- Question 21. The vote was YES.
- Question 25, strike John Lacy. The vote was YES.

Andrew Conard, Treasurer of the Board and co-author of this report, outlined the goals and priorities of the Board: to provide strong leadership in the areas of Call, Competency and Covenant.

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Hodgkinson and Holland continued with questions 28-31.

- Provisional members came forward and were introduced to the Clergy Session. Bishop Jones led the election for each person listed in Question 28a and 28b. All were elected and received applause.
- Question 29a, added Jan Blasi, Provisional Deacon and Rob Walters, Provisional Elder.
- Question 31b, the vote was YES.

Emmert told a story of pictures of his grandfather's blacksmith shop and how he loved the image of being an apprentice. Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are the master craftsmen and need to pass on the skills and craft to apprenticing people. He invited everyone to spend a few moments sharing with those seated next to them about those who mentored them. Conversations ensued.

Hodgkinson and Holland resumed with questions 32-52. Question

- 32a. Candidates who are to be elected as Deacons in full connection, Susan Barham and Barbra Lenz, were introduced. Bishop Jones led the election for each. They were elected and received applause as a welcome.
- Question 32b. Candidates who were to be elected as elders in full connection, Amanda Baker, Brenda Davids, Natalie Faust, Claire Gadberry, Alan Gager, Trudy Hanke, Andrew Hargrove, Ezekial Koech, Linda Kusse-Wolfe, Patrick McLaughlin, Wendy Mohler-Seib, Nicole Schwartz, and Blair Thompson. Bishop Jones led election for each. All were elected and received with applause.
- Question 36. Sergio Tristan was introduced; he is to be readmitted as an Elder in full connection. Bishop Jones led the election. The vote was YES. He was received with applause.
- Question 39. Jaisong Pi, transferring in from another Methodist denomination, stood and was recognized.
- Question 41. Blair Thompson was added to those being transferred to another annual conference of the United Methodist Church. She is transferring to the North Texas Conference.
Bishop Jones called for a vote on:
 - Question 42. The vote was YES.
 - Question 44a. The vote was YES. Question 46b. The vote was YES.
 - Question 48c. The names of elders who died during the year were read.
 - Question 48e. Names of local pastors who died during the year were read. Bishop Jones led us in a prayer of thanksgiving.

- Question 49. Names of those serving appointments in another conference but maintaining membership in our conference were read; they stood to be recognized. Delete Blair Thompson; she is not keeping her membership here but is transferring to North Texas. Bishop Jones led in a prayer of blessing for their future ministries.
- Question 50 (1). The vote was YES.
- Question 50 (3). The vote was YES.
- Question 52. The vote was YES.

Amy Lippoldt, Vice Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry's Call Team, spoke about the Board's role in the call to ministry. Changes are taking place, including mentoring in groups, a residency program and candidacy summit. She invited clergy to stand as she counted down the remaining years clergy have to serve. This demonstrated the need for new and younger clergy. We need to help recruit new clergy. Bishop Jones commented on Amy's work. He noted that 36 clergy are retiring and 28 are entering into ministry. We have a shortage. He reiterated our need to recruit new clergy.

Jenny Collins, Vice Chair of the Board's Competency Team reported on her work. She reported that they are doing interviews differently and the process will continue to be evaluated and improved.

Emmert read the report of Jeff Gannon, Vice Chair of the Board's Covenant Team.

Hodgkinson and Holland resumed with questions 53-72.

- Question 53a. The names of deacons in full connection and elders in full connection who retired this year were read. They are: deacon, Rena Yocom; elders, Fred Andersen, Carol Roettmer Brewer, James Brewer, Max Clayton, Ira DeSpain, Robert Edwards, John Ewton, Ellie Foster, Roger K. Gillming, Diana Gaier Hill, Nel Holmes, Jan Justice, Jim Keyser, George Kilmer, Jay Krumeich, Lawrence A. Lambert, Sheila Lawson, Terry McGuire, Sandra Moore, Phil Morris, Carol Moore Ramey, Kent Scott, Robert Smith, Robert Winslow, Paul Wolf, and Holly Wood were read. They introduced themselves and were recognized. Karen Jeffcoat added Russell McCallister and Young Ho Chan to the list. Bishop Jones thanked them on behalf of the conference and called for the vote. The vote was YES. There was applause to congratulate them on their retirement.

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- Question 54a. The names of associate members who have retired this year, James Newkirk, Valjean Warman and Ray Weirnerman, were read. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The vote was YES.
- Question 56a. The names of local pastors retiring this year, Theta Dame, Harry Disbrow, Glenda Jardine, Carol Jean Stapleton and Sharon Thomas, were read. All retirees were invited to come up onstage to be introduced and recognized. Bishop Jones addressed them, reminding them as he did the elders, that there is no retirement from discipleship. He called for the vote. The vote was YES. He offered a prayer for all of the retirees.
- Question 64. Names of the Committee on Investigation, Tom Watson, Oliver Green, Sheran Cramer, Carolyn May, Linda Louderback, Mike Chamberlain, Lew Van der Wege, and Alternates, as listed. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The vote was YES.
- Question 69. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The vote was YES.

Nancy Lambert, Director of Clergy Excellence and Assistant to the Bishop

Lambert reported on improving course of study and having a satellite event in western Nebraska or western Kansas. She introduced her staff: Karen Jeffcoat, Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar; Ashlee Alley who will begin in July as Clergy Recruitment Coordinator; and Dana Reinhardt, Event Planner and Assistant to the Director of Clergy Excellence. Nancy asked us to give Reinhardt a round of applause for setting up this Annual Conference.

Hodgkinson and Holland continued with questions 73-82, which ended the business of the Clergy Session. Bishop Jones ended the session in prayer. Adjournment was at 11:30 a.m.

Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference Laity Session

Embassy Suites, Lincoln, Nebraska
Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Opening Music was provided by Dr. Michael Tully, Director of Music Ministries, Trinity UMC, Lincoln, NE.

Daily Proceedings**Welcome, greetings and introductions, Courtney Fowler, Great Plains Conference Lay Leader**

Fowler led in prayer and recognized the Associate Conference Lay Leaders and District Lay Leaders. Members of the Lay Leadership Team are Oliver Green, Topeka, KS; Carolyn May, Colby, KS; Tom Watson, Kearney, NE; and Micole Harms-Brazell. Bob Aderholt, Director of Lay Servant Ministries and Shane Hinderliter, Director of Youth Ministries were introduced. Hinderliter spoke about the One Event that will take place in January in Grand Island, NE and about giving to the Youth Service Fund.

Annual Conference Overview and Orientation, Tom Watson, Associate Conference Lay Leader.

Watson reminded the Lay Members that attendance cards will be picked up at the first plenary session so have them filled out. Parking coupons were discussed. Watson also discussed the role of a Lay Member of Annual Conference. Lay Members are to attend all sessions and participate in the discussion. He also spoke of the worship experiences that are planned and asked everyone to participate. The Lay Members also have the responsibility to report back, in a timely manner, to their local churches upon their return.

Summary of Resolutions, Micole Harms-Brazell, Associate Conference Lay Leader.

Harms-Brazell pointed out that the resolutions are found in the Conference Workbook on pages 56-66 and she discussed each of them. Courtney Fowler opened the floor to questions. She also presented information about making connections using social media. She showed how to move around the Conference website and the different types of social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

Highlights of Upcoming Events, Oliver Green & Carolyn May, Associate Conference Lay Leaders.

Green spoke of the churches around the Conference that took to the streets and addressed the needs of their communities. He also spoke of the Global Aids Fund and how to become an Aids Ambassador. World Aids Day is observed on December 1st. May spoke of the highlights of the past year, such as raising money for Imagine No Malaria. Sixty million dollars has been raised by United Methodists worldwide which is 80% of the goal. The Great Plains Conference, as of April, has contributed \$605,000 to the Imagine No Malaria campaign. She also spoke of the Aldersgate Covenant that was held last month with prayer as its main focus. Revival will occur when more people become excited about it.

General Conference 2016 and Election of Delegates, Courtney Fowler

Fowler spoke of electing the delegates to General Conference at the 2015 Great Plains Annual Conference in Wichita, KS. Voting next year will be done electronically. General Conference will be held in May 2016 in Portland, Oregon and Jurisdictional Conference will be held in July 2016 in Wichita, KS. Jurisdictional Conference is where the Bishops will be elected and assigned.

Closing: Fowler made closing announcements. Oliver Green gave the closing prayer. The Laity Session adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Great Plains Annual Conference Laity Luncheon

Embassy Suites Ballroom

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 11:45 a.m.

**Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference
 Opening Worship Service**

Lied Center Auditorium

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

The organist was Brent Shaw, First United Methodist Church, Lincoln. The opening hymn was "Wade in the Water", and an opening prayer was given by Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader. Scripture was 1st Corinthians 12.

Sermon, Bishop Scott Jones

We are making one out of many. Liberty and unity are represented in the Crazy Quilt given to Kansas West which now belongs to the Great Plains Conference. There is diversity of creation knitted together, and it is beautiful. From 1st Corinthians 12 there are three points: Doctrine (Jesus is Lord); Discipline (understanding our gifts, knowing our place in the body); and Diversity. The world needs United Methodism now.

Mission offering for Haiti, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, Kalaba Chali, Mercy and Justice Coordinator

The Great Plains Conference has mission partnerships with Haiti, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. These three countries have asked us to partner with them again. Mission is two-way: They have come here, and we have gone there. Friendships have led to the partnerships.

Offering to the Mission Partnership with Haiti, Nigeria and Zimbabwe: \$11,329.70

Closing hymn

“And We Are Yet Alive” was sung.

Video presentation

Churches featured were Oakland United Methodist Church, Hutchinson Trinity United Methodist Church, College Avenue United Methodist Church, and The Water’s Edge United Methodist Church.

(5 minute break)

**Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference
Opening Plenary
Lied Center Auditorium
Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 2:30 p.m.**

The Conference Called to Order, Bishop Scott Jones

Bishop Jones opened with prayer for two immediate concerns: Diana Dixon of Mound Ridge church, whose son was killed in an industrial accident today, and Deb Burgess who is in the hospital with meningitis and pneumonia.

Introductions

Bishop Jones introduced Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader, and Diane Jensen, from Ft. Calhoun, NE, Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Procedural MOTIONS

- Jensen moved that the secretarial staff for the 2014 Great Plains Annual Conference be as follows: Rev. Roger Gillming, Chair, Alan Dappen, Rev. Kirstie Garnes, Rev. Gina Gile, Laura Gregory, Amy Hasemeyer, Deanna Holland, Penney Schwab, and Rev. Jeff Thurman. Approved by voice vote.
- Jensen moved that the bar of the Conference for voting purposes will be the entire area of the auditorium. The motion carried.

Standing Rules: Morgan Whitaker-Smith

Whitaker-Smith presented the Standing Rules for the Great Plains Annual Conference (lines 171-283 in the Conference Workbook). A correction was made to agree with the Plan of Organization that was approved at the Uniting Conference: on line 233 a new letter “i” was added to read “Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.” Old letter “i” becomes letter “j”. **MOTION:** Whitaker-Smith moved that the Standing Rules as printed and with the correction be approved. The motion carried.

Announcements

- Attendance will be taken by signing cards as indicated in the Standing Rules. Roll cards will be collected before the first break and may also be turned in to the Conference Secretary at the front tables. White cards are for clergy and green cards are for laity.
- There will be closed captioning; technology problems are being resolved.
- Mary Lou Reece (Bishop Jones' spouse) announced that the Clergy Spouse Gathering will be a brunch at 8:30 Saturday morning at the Lied Center Commons area.

Board of Ordained Ministry (BoOM) Report, Bruce Emmert, Board Chair BoOM works with the Bishop and Cabinet to further the mission of the Great Plains Conference. Strong leadership is developed through the work of the Call, Competency, and Covenant Teams of the Board, working with the Clergy Competency model. He spoke to the value of the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF). Work of the board is intense and hard. When three conferences united, the Board became 51. Board members stood and were recognized. There are 17 Districts and each District has a District Committee on Ministry. Members of District committees stood and were recognized. BoOM's goal is called, equipped and deployed clergy for the Great Plains Conference.

Warren Schoming, former Local Pastor and now an Associate Member and Course of Study graduate, spoke about Course of Study and the importance of Local Pastors in our churches. They attend License to Preach School, then Basic Course of Study, and Advanced Course of Study. They are faithful and effective leaders to fill pulpits. Those completing the Course of Study in 2013 were introduced and recognized with applause: Lawrence Barbary, James Bendorf, Doug Gahn, Juan Garcia, Ruth Karlsson, Rod Lyon, Paul McAllister, Vern Olson, Sharon Thomas, Mary Scott.

Karen Nyhart, Chair of Order of Deacons, introduced Katherine Ebling and Melody Martin, Provisional Deacons.

Bruce Emmert introduced Provisional Elders: Lora Andrews, Emily Spearman Cannon, Andrew Frazier, Ben Hanne, Changsu Kim, Hyeayoun Kim, Joohyang Kim, Teresa Lucas, Joseph McColligan, Jose Miranda, Charles Austin Rivera, and Kimberly Shank. All Provisional Candidates were welcomed with applause.

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Emmert introduced those to be commissioned. Those to be commissioned for the work of a deacon are Katherine Elizabeth Ebling and Melanie Nord Martin. Those to be commissioned for the work of Elder are Lora Lee Andrews, Emily Elizabeth Spearman Cannon, Andrew Michael Frazier, Benjamin Christopher Hanne, Changsu Kim, Hyeayoun Kim, Joohyang Kim, Teresa Lynn Lucas, Joseph McColligan, Jose Manuel Miranda, Charles Augustine Rivera, Kimberly Anne Shank.

Emmert also introduced Jaisong Pi, who is transferring from the Korean Methodist Church, and Sergio Tristan, whose orders are being restored. They were welcomed to full connection.

Karen Nyhart introduced those to be ordained as Deacons in Full Connection: Sue Barham and Barbra Lenz.

Jim Keyser, Chair of the Order of Elder, introduced those to be ordained as Elders in Full Connection: Amanda Baker, Brenda Davids, Natalie Faust, Claire Gadberry, Alan Gager, Trudy Hanke, Andrew Hargrove, Ezekiel Koech, Linda Kusse-Wolfe, Patrick McLaughlin, Wendy Mohler-Seib, Nicole Schwartz, and Blair Thompson.

Bishop Jones asked the historic questions of those to be ordained as Elder and Deacon. All those to be ordained were congratulated with a standing ovation.

Grace Med Report, Rev. Gary Brooks, District Superintendent of the Wichita East District

Brooks presented information on behalf of Grace Med, a FQAC medical clinic. There are 7 clinics now, 175 staff, and there are plans to grow to 12 clinics by the end of 2015. He brought greetings from their Executive Officer who could not be present. Grace Med started as a free clinic operated by volunteers, originally a primary care center for uninsured and those on Medicaid and Medicare. Services are now for all residents of south central Kansas. Medical care and spiritual care are given.

Reminders by Bishop Jones

Annual Conference is many things: learning, inspiration, business, family reunion. Attendees are encouraged to visit booths throughout the Lied Center. Learn about the ways the conference is involved in missions in this area and around the world.

Announcement, Nancy Lambert, Director of Clergy Excellence and Assistant to the Bishop

Pages will collect Roll Call cards. If cards are not complete now, turn them in to the secretarial tables.

(30-minute break. Session resumed at 4:00)

MOTIONS

- Rev. Max Clayton, District Superintendent of Hays District, moved acceptance of the Resolution for Discontinuance of Dresden United Methodist Church, found on page 56 of the Conference Workbook. All things shown have occurred, including their final service and final prayer for discontinuance. The motion carried.
- Rev. Claudia Bakely, District Superintendent of Flint Hills District moved discontinuance of Emmanuel UMC in Alta Vista, KS. Their resolution follows the resolution for Dresden UMC in the Workbook. A portion of the resolution was omitted from the Workbook. Please add:

“Therefore, be it resolved that the Great Plains Annual Conference concur with the decision of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church conference to discontinue.

“And be it further resolved that all the church property, upon closing, be handled in accordance with The Book of Discipline, upon recommendation of the congregation and with approval of the Flint Hills District Superintendent and Flint Hills District board of church location and building and in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Great Plains Annual Conference.”

They will close effective June 29. The motion carried.

New Church Start, Rev. Dennis Ackerman, Five Rivers District Superintendent

New Church Lawrence is to start in Lawrence, KS, merging with Campus Ministry at KU. Ackerman introduced Rev. Jacob Cloud, the new church start pastor. There are 75,000 unchurched people in Lawrence. New Church Lawrence wants to connect college students with the passion and excitement of the community of Lawrence. Joey [no last name given] representing Wesley KU, spoke. Wesley KU will be merged into New Church Lawrence. He asked the Annual Conference to pray for this new church. Those who know someone going to KU were asked to let them know about New Church Lawrence.

Episcopacy Committee Report, Rev. Maria Campbell

The Episcopacy Committee report appears on page 51 of the Conference Workbook. Campbell reported that the quadrennial appraisal of the Bishop has been completed. In the months of

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January and February, 174 people responded and participated in the appraisal process survey. From those responses, a consultant followed up with 31 one-on-one interviews. The Appraisal was shared with Bishop Jones in March.

Now there is a need to evaluate the location of the Episcopal residence and make recommendations. An Episcopal Residence Task Force is being created to develop a recommendation to take to the Connecting Council in March, then to the Annual Conference in 2015. They will not change conference office locations. Campbell read the names of those recommended to serve on the Task Force: Maria Campbell, chair; Mike Dillmon, GPC Board of Trustees representative; Brad Kirk; Jose Miranda; Marilyn Moore; Jose Olivas; Kent Rogers; Tom Watson; and Marilyn Zehring. She also asked for recommendations from the floor. There were no recommendations from the floor. Any recommendation regarding the Episcopal Residence will be effective July, 2016. **MOTION:** Maria moved that the task force be approved as read. The recommendation was approved by voice vote. Maria asked for prayers for the task force and for Bishop Jones in his quest for personal growth. Bishop Jones recognized Maria and the Episcopacy Team for their work. Applause.

Mission Partnerships Report, Kalaba Chali, Mercy and Justice Coordinator

Nancy Lambert introduced Kalaba Chali and presented a banner. All lay and clergy members of a Nebraska church were asked to stand. Nebraska Conference gave 100% of their apportionments to Africa University Fund. Africa University sent a banner to be presented to the Annual Conference. Kalaba Chali thanked those from Nebraska and Kansas. He is the fruit of the conference's generosity; he attended Africa University.

Chali introduced three chairs of partnerships in Haiti, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

Claudia Bakely spoke for the Haiti partnership. Kansas East has a long 40-year partnership with Haiti, the poorest country in the world. Kansas East asked them what their most important needs and desires were. Fixing the Methodist guest house was an immediate need and repair of schools. Bakely offered special thanks to Church of the Resurrection who has sent many teams and resources; they have focused on schools. Scholarships for students from La Gonave will be funded from the Bishop's Roundup for Hunger.

Dorothy Halvorsen, chairperson of the Nigerian partnership, brought greetings from UMC orphanage and staff in Jalingo, Nigeria. This partnership began thru the Bishops' initiative, Hope for the Children

of Africa. Nebraska has a long relationship with Nigeria. In 2000, a group went to Nigeria to assess needs. The Orphanage now serves 100 children, through 6th grade. In December 2013, there was an electrical fire in the boys' dormitory. At least \$30,000 is needed to rebuild the dormitory. Donations can be sent to line item number 300 on your Treasurer's remittance form. The goal is for the orphanage to become self-sustaining.

Mark Conard spoke on the Zimbabwe partnership. It is a small land-locked country in Africa with 80-90% unemployment. A video clip from 2010 was shared. The Chabadza covenant partnership with the east conference of Zimbabwe was approved in 2010. It linked Kansas West with Zimbabwe East and now links the Great Plains Conference. The covenant will be revisited and evaluated in August this year.

Kalaba Chali asked that efforts be coordinated with him and his office to be sure we do not damage local initiatives. They are working to identify needs, fairly and honestly and justly, to best help the countries.

Moment of Personal Privilege, Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence

Fisher and the Bishop have worked together 10 years, and she wants to give him a "punch". In the packets there is a Congregational Excellence Game punch card, an effort for everyone to connect with the Congregational Excellence staff and learn more about what is going on in the churches.

Announcements, Nancy Lambert

- The Nebraska Annual Conference members will be meeting in the auditorium after adjournment re: Nebraska Retiree Health Care Benefits.
- The Hutchinson District laity and clergy are meeting in the Lied Commons re: Hutchinson District Union.
- The Meeting of Salina District laity and clergy re: Salina District Union is in the Johnny Carson Theatre.

Rev. Jim Brewer was asked to pray by Bishop Jones. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.

United Methodist Men's 100 Club Dinner and Auction
Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

Nebraska Laity and Clergy Meeting

Lied Center Auditorium

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 5:15 p.m.

At the Uniting Conference, Nebraska lay and clergy members approved the gradual elimination of the subsidy for retiree health care. Funding of the subsidy was approved at this percentage of church operating income:

1.25% for years 2014 through 2016

1% for years 2017-2019

.75% in years 2020-2022

.5% in 2023, the final year of an asking.

In January, the Health Care team met and agreed to maintain the 1.25% asking for 2015. However, the strength of the market and further analysis of the resources on hand this spring indicates that the asking can be reduced at a faster rate and still have adequate funding for the Nebraska clergy who retire by December 31, 2019.

Nebraska Retiree Health Care Subsidy Motion:

The motion is to approve that churches will be billed the following percentages of operating income:

1.25% in 2015

.75% from 2016 to 2018

.5% from 2019 to 2021

This reduces the asking more quickly and ends it sooner. This will continue to be reviewed annually, but the Health Care team believes this plan will generate enough funds until the death of all eligible clergy and spouses if the market stays strong and Nebraska churches continue to pay this asking for Retiree Health Care.

Bishop Jones called for the vote. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:25.

Hutchinson District Union Meeting

Lied Center Commons

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 5:20 p.m.

Resolution for Vote:

WHEREAS, the Hutchinson District Union no longer functions; and,

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Hutchinson District Union

recommend to dissolve the Union; and,

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WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Hutchinson District Union have called a meeting of the District Union membership for discussion and decision regarding their recommendation to dissolve the Union

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hutchinson District Union be dissolved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Program Team assume all trailer management duties, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the officers and Trustees of the Hutchinson District Union are hereby authorized to take the steps necessary to affect the dissolution, in accordance with the requirements of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* and the laws of the State of Kansas.

After a few questions and brief discussion, the vote was taken by ballot. Ballots were examined by the Rev. Nancy Crawl and the Rev. Dennis H. Livingston. The results of the vote: for dissolution, 63; against dissolution, 0.

The vote was unanimous to dissolve the Union, and meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Salina District Conference

Johnny Carson Theater, Lied Center
Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 5:15 p.m.

The Salina District Trustees recommend to the District Conference that the District Union be dissolved effective July 1, 2014 and that, prior to dissolution, ownership of all property held by the Salina District Union be transferred to The Great Plains Conference Trustees and that all monies held by the Salina District Union be transferred to The Great Plains Conference to be used in the Disaster Response Ministries of The Great Plains Conference.

MOTION: Ken Trickle moved that the recommendation be accepted. Janis Jackson seconded the motion. The Salina District Conference voted 60 in favor and 1 opposed. The motion carried.

Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference
Worship

Lied Center Auditorium
Thursday, June 12, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Worship was led by Dr. Michael Tully, Director of Music Ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church, Lincoln, NE and the music team.

**Great Plains Annual Conference
The State of the Conference**

8:45 a.m.

Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader

The first-ever Great Plains Conference Laity Session was a blessing. It was a celebration of a special moment in the Conference history. We found a common bond in the love of Jesus Christ. We look forward to participating in God's vision for our Conference. We have seen an enormous outpouring in loving Jesus through service, including disaster response, maternal and child health advocacy; AIDS; mercy and justice; eradicating malaria; and in many other ways. We plant seeds of our future church through our youth. God will create something abundant through them. Fowler asked us to reflect on those who planted seeds in us, and suggested that we be more intentional in planting seeds in others.

Bishop Scott J. Jones

It is a high moment for Bishop Jones to preside over the first-ever session of the Great Plains Annual Conference. The United Methodist Church is facing difficult times. We are trying to turn around decades of decline and are uncertain about how to deal with changing realities. His job as Bishop is to help us stay together. Our unity is our strength: we are stronger when we are united. The main thing is how we love each other. How do we disagree with respect? "God doesn't care where we put the coffee pot, but God does care deeply about how we treat each other." We need to remember who we are and what our values are. How is the new Conference doing? We are doing extremely well given the difficulty of the undertaking. It is a journey and we are living into it. We need to focus on strengthening all 1,045 congregations, but we also have to start new congregations. How can we be used by God to disciple others so they may start bearing fruit? We are committed to transforming the world and spreading scriptural holiness through the world. If genuine revival ever comes to America, it will come through the United Methodist Church.

Plenary Session

9:30 a.m.

**Resolution Establishing the Great Plains Conference Public
Education Partnership: Kent Little, Chair, Mercy and Justice
Ministries**

The resolution is found on page 57 in the Conference Workbook.

MOTION: Little moved approval of the Resolution.

Question: It says there are financial implications. Are they budgetary?

Little: We have \$50,000 outside of budget funds to support this ... a \$25,000 grant from the Connecting Council and a \$25,000 grant through the Kansas Health Foundation (to be used in Kansas only).

Evelyn Fisher: Almost half of the funds will be used to make small matching grants to individual churches to help establish or strengthen a partnership with a local school.

The motion passed.

Fisher: Churches will be invited to participate in a “Big Hairy Audacious Education Caravan” event scheduled at six sites, three in each state. Pages distributed a card with dates and locations. In Kansas: Garden City First UMC, July 29; Iola Wesley UMC, July 30; Topeka First UMC, July 31. In Nebraska: Scottsbluff First UMC, Sept. 29; Kearney First UMC, Sept. 30; Lincoln Saint Paul UMC, Oct. 2.

Great Plains New Church Development, Inc., Chad Anglemeyer, Chair

New Church Development is the research and development arm of the church. Anglemeyer discussed support grants, coaching, technical and other support for new churches. The Great Plains new church plants at this time are: in Nebraska: First United Methodist Church Omaha, the Urban Abbey; Prairie View in Lincoln; Water’s Edge in southwest Omaha. In the Kansas City area, Living Water in Kansas City, Kansas and Life Bridge in Shawnee, Kansas, a suburb. In Wichita, St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, southeast satellite campus, launched in 2013; the church at Park City, a Wichita suburb; and The Church at the Well in Wichita. Our new church start this year, announced yesterday, is in Lawrence, a partnership with the Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministry.

Nathan Stanton, New Church Development Coordinator

Stanton spoke about the “Five-Touch Program” which included a recent event in Kansas City called “Regenerate” for those who are planting new churches right now, a retreat about the key issues they are facing. This fall we’ll be starting a church planter assessment incubator. It will be on-the-ground training as a planter for three or four sessions, with the opportunity to have the conversation at the end of that whether participants are indeed called to plant a church in the Great Plains. Stanton introduced Junius Dotson, Senior pastor, St. Mark UMC, Wichita, and recognized them for establishing St. Mark Southeast Campus. St. Mark, a strong predominantly African-American church and

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Epworth, a once strong predominantly Anglo church in a spiral of decline and very near death, for five months worked together under the ethos of a new church development to relaunch the ministry of Epworth, now called St. Mark Southeast Campus. Three hundred ninety-nine people attended the launch in October 2013. The future is bright and Christ will see the work through to completion.

Award Presentations

- The Harry Denman Award was named for Dr. Harry Denman, founder of the Foundation for Evangelism and a renowned lay evangelist. Patrick Broz for the Vital Congregations Team, assisted by Carolyn May, Associate Lay Leader, and Bob Aderholt, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries presented the award in three categories: Youth Award to Lily Hanke, Bloomfield Christ Memorial and Verdigre UMCs; Laity Award to Ed Hatcher, Haysville UMC; and Clergy Award to Dennis Wallace, Wichita West District.
- The Asbury Award for Campus Ministries was presented by Caren Loper, Chair of the Great Plains Campus Ministry, to the Rev. Mel Luetchens for his many years of work in campus ministry. She showed a video highlighting campus ministry.
- The Angie Newman Award was established to honor an active laywoman in the conference. It was named for the first woman elected as a delegate to General Conference and a member of Saint Paul UMC, Lincoln, Nebraska. Sandy Sypherd, the 2013 recipient, presented the award to Marge Ambrosius., a member of Saint Paul UMC, Lincoln.

Announcements, Nancy Lambert

(30-minute break, sponsored by Justice for Our Neighbors, the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and Baker University)

“Celebration of Life and Holy Communion”

Lied Center Auditorium

Thursday, June 12, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

**Bishop Scott Jones Leading Worship and Holy Communion
District Superintendents and District Lay Leaders Serving
The Word Proclaimed by Rev. Delores “Dee” J. Williamston
Offering to Global AIDS Fund: \$5,490.04**

Deceased Pastors:

Charles A. Bailey, Donald R. Barb, Ronald Bumstead, Michael W. Conner, Burr P. Crickard, Frank Lee Dorsey, Keith O. Dudeck, Duane Lee Dyer, Virginia Rae Fleharty, Clifford Fryda, Robert C. Harder, Billy Hughes, Hugh Maddry, Jr., Donald F. Marsh, Lila Picton, Ralph A. Rosenblad, Marvin L. Reubsamen, Vincent Rutherford, Phyllis Samuelson, A. K. Saul, Melvin Lee Short, Phyllis Southard, Thomas H. Walsch, Charles Earl Wretling.

Deceased Spouses: E. Laverne Amend, Myron Jaunita Bailey, Gary S. Blasi, Bethel K. Christensen, M. Nanon Clare, Delores Doran, Loretta Ellengerger, June M. Froelich, Norma Gates, Beverly Ann Goering, Glenna J. Newkirk, Nina E. Pringle, Sylvia Stearns, Eileen Stoupe, Dennis Lee Tompsett- Welch, Shirley Turner, Sharon Vaughn, Ruth E. Viets, Ruth K. Warner, Linda L. Woods.

Correction to the Memoir of Linda L. Woods: The service was held Nov. 20, 2013 in Goodland, KS.

**Mission Lunch Celebrating Mission Partnerships with Haiti,
 Nigeria and Zimbabwe**

Embassy Suites Ballroom
 Thursday, June 12, 2014, 12:00 p.m.

Plenary Session

Lied Center Auditorium
 Thursday, June 12, 2014, 2:00 PM

Erin Concannon Emler, Cokesbury

Emler told what was available in the Cokesbury store and gave her thanks for our conference partnering with the United Methodist Publishing House.

Sara Shaw, Camping Coordinator

Shaw brought greetings from the Nebraska Camps (Camp Comeca, Camp Fontanelle and Camp Norwesca) and greetings from the Kansas Camps (Camp Chippewa, Camp Horizon and Camp Lakeside). Camps are a vital ministry and are working at being accredited. Courtney, Dasha, and Catie spoke about their camping experiences and how it has impacted their lives and the lives of others.

CLERGY EXCELLENCE

Elisha Grant, Studio for Great Preaching, Transition into Ministry and the Orders and Fellowship Gathering, Nancy Lambert

Daily Proceedings

- Nancy gave thanks to everyone who has helped with the planning of this Conference. One hundred ninety seven reams of paper were consumed to make the packets for Annual Conference. Things will have to be changed for next year, but each year it will get better.
- Nancy introduced Karen Jeffcoat, Registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry and Ashlee Allie, the new Clergy Recruitment and Development Coordinator.
- A new program approved by the Connecting Council was the Elisha Grant, designed to help reduce seminary debt and to rebuild the finances of those who graduated with little debt. This can be found on page 26 of the Conference Workbook. Check the Conference website for the requirements of the Elisha Grant.
- The second Studio for Great Preaching will begin this fall. One of the priorities is to have excellent preaching skills in our conference. The studio will be held in Wichita, KS.
- Transition into Ministry is working with seven associates who work along with a mentoring pastor. We are exploring how we can take the TiM program beyond the funding of the Lilly grant, so that we can provide this experience to even more of our young clergy.
- The next Orders and Fellowship Gathering will be held January 21-22, 2015 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lincoln with Rev. Jay Hanson and Anne Bosarge as featured speakers.

Clergy Excellence, Marvin Neubauer

A group of District Superintendents and members of the Board of Ordained Ministries Executive Committee have been working to determine the components and attributes of clergy competency. Ten Competencies that have been identified are: Spiritual Vitality, Visioning, Achieving Results, Resilience, Team Leadership, Coaching and Developing Others, Negotiating Differences, Interpersonal Communication, Presentation Skills, and Managing Skills. This is a work in progress and is brought to the Annual Conference for their information.

CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE**Introductions, Evelyn Fisher**

Fisher applauded the staff as the best staff anyone could have. She introduced Kalaba Chali, Mercy and Justice Coordinator; Nicole Conard, Young Adult Leadership Coordinator; Corey Godbey, Hispanic Coordinator; Shane Hinderliter, Youth Ministry Coordinator; Micki McCorkle, Small Membership Churches

Coordinator; Kathie Monroe, Safe Gatherings Coordinator; Sara Shaw, Camping Coordinator; Nathan Stanton, New Church Development Coordinator; Linda Stewart, Disaster Response Coordinator; Jan Todd, Vital Congregation Coordinator. Fisher pointed out the Congregational Excellence page on the website where many resources for local churches can be found. A monthly ePublication entitled "Rethink Home" is emailed to pastors and lay leaders. Each month there are resources to stimulate thinking on how congregations can be more vital. In the Conference Workbook on page 9 the numbers are shown for Congregational Vitality. On page 11 is a summary of these numbers.

Vital Congregations, Eric Ford, Chair

As part of congregational excellence, we exist to help equip and connect congregations. We want to see existing congregations of all shapes, sizes, and locations become healthier, more inviting, and more abundant in all of their ministries. How are we going to do this? We are going to increase the number of vital congregations. Vital congregations need purpose, passion and prayer. All the vital signs count quantity, but we hope to figure out how to measure quality and give a snapshot of what it looks like. Instead of a program, the focus will be on process, the next steps in the process to become great churches. "Next Steps" is a new two-step process available now. It is designed to equip and assist good churches to take that next step and become great churches. "Abide" is available for small membership churches; it addresses the spiritual leadership of laity, creates an environment of transformation, and establishes processes that bear fruit. A "Small Wonders" Conference, will be offered at Kansas Wesleyan on October 10-11. Speakers will be Stephanie Caro and Bishop Jones. We will look at youth ministry, small groups, how to provide mental health in rural areas, intergenerational ministries, such as boomers and young adults, in the small membership church.

One Event, Shane Hinderliter, Local Church Youth Ministry Coordinator

Hinderliter asked the youth in attendance to stand. They were greeted with cheers and applause. The One Event is the one time each year that all youth and leaders gather in one place. Speakers, bands, exhibits, and fellowship will be part of the program. One Event will be held at the Heartland Events Center in Grand Island, NE on January 3-4, 2015.

Moment of Personal Privilege, Mary Lou Reece, Bishop Jones' spouse

Reece stated that her job is to make the Bishop blush. She gave the conference a limerick challenge.

**Resolution #8, Consolidation of the Disaster Response Funds,
Steve Burnett, Great Plains Disaster Committee Chair**

This resolution would consolidate the Kansas East funds, Kansas West funds and Nebraska funds into the Great Plains Area Disaster Response Fund. Gary Beach clarified that the monies that are Great Plains Area Disaster Response Fund will be used in Kansas and Nebraska only. If UMCOR asks for help, money will not be used out of this account. There are other funds for building local churches that are destroyed. Michael Davis called the question. The resolution passed.

**Council on Finance and Administration Report #1, Carl Nord,
Chair**

The Great Plains Composite Budget Summary is on page 22 of the Conference Workbook. The summary budget vote will be on Saturday. Copies of a detailed budget will be available at the hospitality desk. Questions are to be written on the paper passed out and returned to the Pages who will be at every exit as we dismiss for break. Andy Hargrove asked for a moment of personal privilege to make an Amendment. Bishop Jones asked him to write his proposal as a motion, typed up with 1800 copies made to be ready by 1:00 tomorrow. Question: Will the detailed budget be available on the website? Gary Beach: That lies with the Communications Team to get it on the website. Scott Evans called for the Order of the Day.

Announcements

Nancy Lambert reminded attendees that motions from the floor need to be in writing and given to the secretarial staff or emailed to the Conference Secretary.

Bishop Jones led in prayer for Jane Kirkenbach and Keith Johnson.

(Break at 3:41 for 30 minutes)

Retirement Service

Lied Center Auditorium

Thursday, June 12, 2014, 4:10 p.m.

Bishop Jones offered thanksgiving for the ministries of the retirees. "And so the gifts of one generation are handed down to the next. These faithful retiring servants have served in the light of God and continue this journey in new ways. Let us give thanks to God for the witness of these retirees."

The passing of the mantle was from the Rev. Carol Roettmer Brewer, representing those who are retiring, to Rev. Claire Gadberry, representing the class of ordinands.

Deacons, Elders, Associate Members and Local Pastors retiring are: Fred Andersen, Carol Roettmer Brewer, James Brewer, Young Ho Chun, Max Clayton, Theta Dame, Ira DeSpain, Harry Disbrow, Robert Edwards, John Ewton, Ellie Foster, Roger Gillming, Diana Gaier Hill, Nel Holmes, Glenda Jardine, Jan Justice, Jim Keyser, George Kilmer, Jay Krumeich, Butch Lambert, Sheila Lawson, Russell McAlister, Terry McGuire, Sandra Moore, Phillip Morris, James Newkirk, Carol Moore Ramey, Kent Scott, Robert Smith, Carol Jean Stapleton, Sharon Thomas, Valjean Warman, Ray Weinerman, Robert Winslow, Paul Wolf, Holly Wood, and Rena Yocom.

A reception was held for the retirees and their spouses.

United Methodist Women Dinner

Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
Thursday, June 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Great Plains Annual Conference Worship

Lied Center Auditorium
Friday, June 13, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Worship began with Dr. Michael Tully and the Trinity United Methodist Church music team from Lincoln, NE. Bishop Jones introduced the Rev. Jorge Acevedo, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, a multi-campus congregation in Southwest Florida. Rev. Acevedo has grown the Grace Church from one campus with 400 in worship to multiple campuses with 2600 in worship; he's become a teacher and leader in helping other congregations do the same thing.

A video about Grace United Methodist Church was shown.

Jorge Acevedo, preaching from John 15

"Apart from me you can do nothing." Faithfulness precedes fruitfulness. That's true in rural Nebraska and in the inner city of Wichita. There are three things that Jesus said are required for ordinary followers of Jesus to know fruitfulness in their lives and in their ministry:

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1. Faithfulness requires community.
2. Faithfulness requires abiding.
3. Faithfulness requires pruning.

Great Plains Annual Conference Plenary

Lied Center Auditorium

Friday, June 13, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Bishop Jones led in prayer.

Continued prayers for Deborah Burgess and for a 12-year-old child from Valentine UMC who is undergoing a liver biopsy and heart catheterization.

AGENCIES RELATED TO THE GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE**Larry Ruth, Member of Nebraska Wesleyan Board of Trustees**

One-third of Wesleyan students are enrolled in adult and graduate programs. We are trying to find programs to meet the needs of all types of students. The University ministry is in great shape under leader Eduardo Bousson; there is a great relationship with First United Methodist Church, Lincoln.

David Sisney, Vice President for Advancement at St. Paul School of Theology

Things are going well and student recruitment is up. St. Paul moved to the Church of the Resurrection to reach the students. They have 231 students; they see amazing possibilities for the future; new curriculum online will begin in the fall and will ultimately reduce the cost for the students. Oklahoma City University campus is doing well; they revamped Course of Study program and it is stronger than ever, expecting to expand in Nebraska and Eastern MO. Prayer is necessary as well as monetary support, good ideas and best and brightest students. St. Paul cannot do it alone and they aspire to be the destination seminary for the Midwest.

Matt Thompson, Kansas Wesleyan

All students, alumni and board members were invited to stand. They are producing students who have a love of God and are able to deal with the issues of the world with the love of Christ. There are two new majors, Sports Ministry and Worship Arts Ministry; they adopted the Dollars for Scholars program where the Board and university will match the dollars of the Church. Thompson presented a cross to Bishop Jones as a commitment to serve in the Great Plains Conference.

Shelly Duncan, President of Amber Hope

Youthville is part of this organization. It started in 1927 as an orphanage, Kansas Methodist Home for Children, and changed its name, July 2013, to Amber Hope. They serve children that have been removed from their home because they are not safe at home. They have a Newton campus and a Dodge City Campus where psychiatric treatments are available as well as a therapeutic animal program and a new K9 program. The Newton campus is now thriving and Duncan thanked the Great Plains Conference for their help and support.

Emiliano Lerda, Justice for our Neighbors in Omaha

JFON was started in 1999 by UMCOR. Lerda thanked the Church for the radical hospitality and thanked Bishop Jones for his leadership in welcoming the stranger. JFON provides immigration legal services to those who have a legal remedy available but do not have the finances. Immigration law is administrative law and not criminal law. This organization helps to provide low cost or pro bono services.

Ella Foster, Wesley House

Wesley House was established in 1982 in Pittsburg KS, in a county that ranks 103 in income. It was established to serve low-income families in Crawford County and to serve as advocates for people who face challenging situations. Partnering with the Salvation Army, they helped 621 families with food in 2013. They provide supplementary food for families in the summer when schools are closed and gave 4,602 sacks of food last summer. They also offer vouchers to children for a new pair of shoes and/or jeans.

Nancy Lambert presented a certificate to Kathryn Witte, Director of Communications

In October, Witte was awarded the certification in Christian Communication through the United Methodist Church. This is administered and awarded by a committee of representatives from the United Methodist Communications and the United Methodist Association of Communicators. Witte introduced her behind-the-scenes staff: Jeremy Wurst, media and video producer; Rachel Moser, Communications Coordinator; Roxie Delisi, Communications Administrative Assistant; Amanda Woita, an intern who is a UNL grad; and Cindy Kelly, Communications Coordinator, who offices in Wichita.

Daily Proceedings**Resolution on Realignment of Districts and Commitment to Campus Ministry**

Bishop Jones received the resolution submitted by Andy Hargrove and Austin Rivera; copies are available for Annual Conference members as they exit the auditorium at 10:40, thus allowing it to be in the hands of the members for four hours before consideration.

Bishop Jones led in prayer for the family of Max Klamm, active member of Wyandotte United Methodist Church and leader of the board of Forest Park Camp, who died this morning.

(30-minute break, sponsored by Justice for Our Neighbors, the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and Baker University)

Reconvened from break at 11:10

Correction to the Conference Workbook

Bishop Jones noted that the report on Aldersgate Village (page 94) should be included with the Mission Agencies reports which begin on page 66.

Announcements

Mary Nel Reece, a Lay Member of Scandia UMC and Mary Lou Reece's mother, was introduced by Bishop Jones. He announced that Ken Hathaway, who is a retired clergy member of our conference, has experienced the death of his brother, Doyle. Mary Lou Reece gave the Great Plains Limerick Challenge.

Jason Kennedy, Horizons United Methodist Church, Lincoln and current president of the Iliff Alumni Association Board

Kennedy introduced Dr. Tom Wolfe, who is the new President and CEO of Iliff School of Theology. Wolfe said, "We like to think of our education as engaging courageous theological imagination, as we're educating the next generation of excellent leaders who, in the Wesleyan tradition, are intellectually alive and spiritually deep." Enrollment is strong and growing, and a majority of Iliff students are seeking the Master of Divinity Degree.

Pensions and Health Benefits, Kelly Williams

Bishop Jones asked the pages to pass out the Pensions and Health Benefits report. **MOTION:** Williams moved to suspend the rules that the resolution be in the hands of the conference for four hours so that this document can be considered. The motion was seconded and carried.

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The report is found on page 13 in the Conference Workbook. On page 15 under Retirement Benefits there is an overfunding and reserve and the board has agreed to use these reserves and overfunding so the direct billing back to congregations is 10%. On page 17 Clergy Housing Resolution must be approved annually and there has been no change from last year. **MOTION:** Williams moved that the report on pages 13-18 of the work book and the Pensions Summary handout be approved. **MOTION TO AMEND:** Quentin Bennett moved to replace lines 411 and 412 on page 14 of the Conference Workbook with the following: The clergy portion of the health insurance premium will be no more than 3.5% of their gross salary and will be determined in August 2014 with recommendations given to the Connecting Council for approval. The motion failed. Brad Kurth asked for a count on Quentin Bennett's amendment. The amendment passed 444 for and 442 against. The whole report was adopted.

Board of Trustees, Steve Flader

The report is on page 20 in the Conference Workbook. The sale of land in Kearney that was originally purchased for \$41,000 was sold for \$158,000. The profits were placed in New Congregational Starts to be used in our Conference.

Resolution #7, Incorporation of Local Churches

The resolution passed.

Announcements

Nancy Lambert: Cokesbury has the book list for the Great Preaching Event.

Bishop Jones: the detailed budget proposal is now on the conference web site.

Angela Washington closed with prayer at 12:05 p.m.

Hispanic Ministry Lunch

Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
12:00 p.m.

Great Plains Annual Conference Plenary

Lied Center Auditorium
Friday, June 13, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

The Bishop called the session to order at 2:07 p.m. He introduced Nicole Harms-Brezell, Associate Lay Leader joining him at the table. Bishop Jones led in a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and

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service to the church of State Senator Shirley Marsh, long-time United Methodist who died recently.

Personnel Committee Report, Craig Hauschild

The report is found on page 18 of the Conference Workbook. It includes a recommendation of a cost-of-living adjustment to the minimum compensation amounts for 2015. Those are listed on lines 581 - 584. They reflect a 2.16% increase. All increases for conference staff are based off of the rate of increase for the formula that's used for District Superintendents. The report was approved.

Nominating Committee Report, Rev. Tessa Zehring

It's an exciting job to take the gifts and graces of the conference and match them to our ministries.

Changes to the printed report:

- Page 2 – Gateway District – Delete Paul Bennett – Add George Probasco, Arapahoe, NE.
- Page 5 – Board of Ordained Ministry
 - After Ashley Barlow-Thompson add Wichita, Kansas
 - Add: Chair of Order of Elders, Rev. Rick Saylor, Topeka, KS, begin serving 7/16/14
 - Add Rev. Anne Gatobu, Lincoln, NE
 - Add Rev. Margaret Johnson, Parsons, KS.
- Page 8 – Chair of the Great Plains Camps, Inc., add Tom Lucas
- Page 9 – Campus Pastors/University of Nebraska Lincoln, add Joel Egger
- Page 14 - Council on Finance and Administration
 - Class 1, add Kathleen Whitmore, Topeka, KS
- Add dates: Class 1 term ends on June 30, 2016; Class 2 ends June 30, 2018. When have Class 3, in two years, they will serve from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020.

Correction to the printed report:

- Page 21 – Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries Board of Directors -- change Joe to Jeff Pfungsten

The printed report, as amended, was accepted.

Zehring introduced the Nominating Committee. September 1 is the goal date when there will be a nominations page on the conference web site where names can be suggested to the Nominating Committee. The person who is suggested will be asked to fill out a survey of interests, spiritual gifts, experience, etc. It is okay to nominate yourself. We need a long list of names to choose from. Our goal is to create the best diverse teams possible.

Archives and History Report, Lona Dearthmont, Chair of the Great Plains Conference Commission on Archives and History

Dearthmont recognized two churches celebrating 150 years, Swede Creek UMC, rural Randolph, Kansas, in the Flint Hills District, current pastor, Cat Love and Trinity UMC in Rulo, Nebraska, in Missouri River District, current pastor, Lyle Schoen and Lay Member, Gerald Hopp. Certificates were presented. Dearthmont shared an historical perspective that connected directly to the resolution that passed yesterday to establish the Great Plains Conference Public Education Partnership. Early Methodists supported public education in Kansas and Nebraska. Protestants were educated in the Sunday School movement. Given the absence of public schools, many states adopted a public system because of Sunday School. Tax dollars soon established public schools. Equal access was available. Free public school was not available until the 19th century when many accepted state schools and offered funding. Clergy and laity played a key role in the process. Will we, as the Great Plains Annual Conference support public schools?

Bishop Jones asked all public school teachers, school board members and volunteers in a school to stand. "You're a missionary. Thank you!"

Kansas and Nebraska United Methodist Foundations, Lee Sankey representing Kansas and Anita Crisp, President and CEO of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation

Crisp, using PowerPoint: The mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation is to support the ministries of the local church and the Great Plains United Methodist conference of the United Methodist Church through the development of gifts and the stewardship of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God's work. The Foundation ended year 2013 with over \$31.7 million in assets, which represents an increase of 8.8% from 2012.

Sankey, using PowerPoint: The mission of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation is to promote joyful financial stewardship for congregations and individuals through education, planning, resources, and financial management of the benefit of the ministry of the United Methodist Church in Kansas. The foundation ended the year of 2013 with just over \$49 million in assets under management, which was an increase of 11.6% over 2012.

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The winner for the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation gift basket was Nancy Shuler. The winner of the other United Methodist Foundation gift basket was Sheri McCord.

Resolution, Realignment of Districts and Commitment to Campus Ministry, submitted by Andy Hargrove and Austin Rivera

MOTION: Hargrove, Berryton UMC, Berryton, KS moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Austin Rivera.

Rivera spoke to the motion. This conference votes on the number of districts that the conference will have, but it is not the responsibility of this conference to decide exactly how those boundaries will be drawn.

Bishop Jones commented: That's correct. The conference decides the number of districts and it's my responsibility solely to draw the district boundaries.

Bishop Jones limited the debate to two minutes each, with four speeches in favor of the motion and four against.

MOTION TO AMEND, David Livingston, Saint Paul, Lenexa, KS moved to:

- Under the first "therefore be it resolved" clause, replace the number 14 with the words "no more than 15"
- Add a second "therefore be it resolved" that reads "Therefore be it further resolved that a task force be appointed by Bishop Jones for the purpose of recommending the number of districts to the 2015 Annual Conference session. The recommendation will be presented to the Connecting Council for comment by their March meeting."
- In what now would be the third "therefore" clause to replace the word "three" with the word "two." The last "therefore" would read "Therefore be it further resolved that the amount allocated in the budget for the maintenance of two additional districts."

The motion to amend was seconded.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT, Brad Grease, Lay Member, Ceresco United Methodist Church, Ceresco, NE

Motion to change the third "Therefore: to read "the budget for the maintenance of the excess districts decreased be allocated to the Great Plains".

MOTION TO REFER: Quentin Bennett, McPherson, KS

[Bishop Jones determined a motion to refer takes precedence over all amendments.]

I move that the current motion and amendments before us be referred to the Connectional Table for consideration and that the

Connectional Table report back to the 2015 Annual Conference on the impact of reducing the number of District Superintendents, along with any recommendations they might have.

There were four speeches in favor of the motion to refer and four speeches against the motion to refer.

The motion to refer carried.

(30-minute break, sponsored by the Kansas and Nebraska United Methodist Foundations)

Reconvened at 4:08 p.m. with singing of one stanza of "Amazing Grace".

**Resolution, Safe Gatherings and Personal Conduct Policies,
Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence**

Policies are found on page 28-39 of the Conference Workbook.

The following persons worked on the Task Force that developed this Policy: Deanna Holland, Natalie Foust, Kathie Monroe, Linda Redfern, Eldon Davis, and Karen Reece were asked to stand if present. Bishop Jones introduced Dave Seely, one of our Conference Chancellors, as a resource person for this agenda item.

MOTION: Fisher moved to adopt the Personal Conduct Policy, beginning on page 28. The motion was approved.

Fisher introduced Kathie Monroe, Safe Gatherings Coordinator. As of May 31st, we have 11,754 individuals who are certified either through Boundary Awareness, Safe Sanctuaries, or Safe Gatherings, and are certified to work with children, youth, and adults from vulnerable populations.

MOTION: Fisher turned to the Safe Gatherings Policy.

An amendment to clarify the policy was distributed to the Annual Conference.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES: Bishop Jones asked for a vote to suspend the rules to allow for consideration of this amendment. Suspension of the rules was approved. Fisher presented the amendment, which comes from the Chancellors, authored by Gail Perry of Lincoln, as a clarification of the original policy.

Delete lines 1194-1201. Substitute the following:

Nebraska Revised Statutes, section 28-711, requires any person who suspects that a child has been physically or sexually abused or neglected to report it promptly to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services at the Abuse/Neglect Hotline, 1-800-652-1999.

Mandated reporters include specified professionals and child service organizations, but also include any person who in the course of engaging in activities under this

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policy has reasonable cause to believe that a minor has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observes such child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect.

Failure to report is a misdemeanor. Anyone making a report in good faith is immune from any civil or criminal liability.

Suggestion, Bob Resnick, layperson from Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church

When the staff receives Safe Gatherings information from us, please send a reply email, so we know they received it.

Question, James Griffith, Abilene Emmanuel in Kansas

Is there a procedure in place to address the misidentification of a Safe Gatherings applicant, someone with the same name as a person who would not be approved?

Answer, Evelyn Fisher

Under our current process, we make every effort to be sure we have the right John Doe. One of the ways we do that is through the use of the identifying information which does include Social Security number and driver's license number. Anytime we have a question now, we are able to make confidential calls, check it out, and be sure we have the right person. We think we have safeguards in place that, should that happen to you, call Kathie Monroe. You have the opportunity to address that and prove it's not you, and we will work with you on that.

Question, Russell Brown, clergy, Heritage United Methodist, Overland Park

Are clergy not mandated reporters in both Kansas and Nebraska?

Answer, Fisher

Not in Kansas.

Question, Dennis Reimer, Clergy, Elkhart United Methodist Church, Elkhart, KS

Will the Safe Gatherings accept a certification from 4-H or Boy Scouts or any other entity?

Answer, Fisher

Not at this time.

MOTION TO AMEND, Nancy Kolhoff

Insert at line 1187, "All clergy serving United Methodist Churches in Kansas will be mandated to report incidences of child abuse.

Fisher accepted the amendment as a **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.**

MOTION, Tom Lucas, Clergy, Alliance Lakeside in Nebraska

I move the question.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The motion with the clarification and friendly amendment carried.

Resolution 4, Christians Respond to Gun Violence, Michelle Reed, Clergy, Woodland United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS on behalf of the Mercy and Justice Team**MOTION TO AMEND, Don Menser, Maplewood United Methodist Church, Omaha**

I move to delete lines 2034 and 2035 at the top of page 60. The motion was seconded.

Bishop Jones ruled that debate was frozen in order to move to the Order of the Day. This will be the first order of business following Morning Worship tomorrow.

Announcement, Bishop Jones

Earlier today the Connecting Council was given a very important task to think about, the resolution regarding reducing the number of districts and the funding for Campus Ministry. I'm asking that the members of the Connecting Council meet with me at 8:00 tomorrow morning in the Johnny Carson Theatre here in this building. I will bring to you a proposal for how we can undertake the task that's been given to us. I don't think that study can wait until our October meeting that's face-to-face. I want to bring to you the proposal tomorrow morning. This is your official notification that the Connecting Council will meet from 8:00 until 8:30 tomorrow morning in the Johnny Carson Theatre.

Global Young People's Conference in the Philippines this Summer

Bishop Jones introduced Shayla Jordan, Co-President of our Conference Council on Youth Ministries and Member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Wichita. She will be the representative of the South Central Jurisdiction at this meeting. Also, Daniel Reffner, a student at Southwestern College, is a young adult representative at the same meeting.

Announcements, Nancy Lambert

Dustin Petz closed with prayer.

Adjourned.

Great Plains Annual Conference Ordination Service

Lied Center Auditorium
Friday, June 13 2014, 7:30 p.m.

The Ordination Service began with the conference choir processing in while the Plymouth Brass, with C. Richard Morris on organ playing, "Festival Intrada" and Dr. Michael Tully singing "The Call."

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The clergy and laity involved in the service and the Board of Ordained Ministry processed in while the congregation sang “God of Grace and God of Glory.” Bishop Jones led in the Greeting and Prayer, followed by the Recognition of Our Common Ministry. Bishop Jones introduced Rev. Roddy Dunkerson, the Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ, who gave words of greeting.

Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader, and Bruce Emmert, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Karen Nyhart, Chairperson of Order of Deacons, and Jim Keyser, Chairperson of the Order of Elder recommended and then presented the following:

Commissioned for the work of Deacon: Katherine Elizabeth Ebling, Melanie Nord Martin.

Commissioned for the work of Elder: Lora Lee Andrews, Emily Elizabeth Spearman Cannon, Andrew Michael Frazier, Benjamin Christopher Hanne, Changsu Kim, Hyeayoun Kim, Joohyang Kim, Teresa Lynn Lucas, Joseph McColligan, Jose Manuel Miranda, Charles Augustine Rivera, Kimberly Anne Shank.

To be Ordained Deacons: Susan Barham, Barbra J. Lenz.

To be Ordained Elders: Amanda Lee Bennett Baker, Brenda Jo (Fasse) Davids, Natalie Kay Faust, Claire Elizabeth Gadberry, Alan W. Gager, Trudy Hanke, Andrew Barnes Yantis Hargrove, Ezekiel Kimutai Koech, Linda Kusse-Wolfe, Patrick McLaughlin, Wendy Mohler-Seib, Nicole Jean Schwartz, Blair Elizabeth Thompson.

Those whose orders will be recognized as elders: Jaiseong Pi, Sergio Tristan.

Bishop Jones asked the congregation to support those to be ordained and commissioned and then asked the examination questions which were answered by the candidates. Bishop Jones then commissioned the provisional Elders and Deacons by the laying on of hands. They were presented to the congregation and greeted with applause.

Rev. Jorge Acevedo preached on “The Raw Emotions of Ministry.” After reading Paul’s thirteen letters twice a year for the past several years, he made several observations and shared six of them. 1. The unending pressure of pastoral ministry; 2. Heartbreaking desire for spiritual growth; 3. The unrealistic pressure on the pastoral family; 4. The never ending task of protecting unity; 5. The insidious

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temptation to compare with others: and 6. The heartache of personal betrayal. The solution was to never forget your call and to remember what is at stake; the glory of God being revealed.

The offering for anti-human trafficking advance #333615 was received.

Anti-Human Trafficking Offering Total: \$5,643.72

The conference choir sang, "Praise the Lord Ye Heavn's Adore Him."

Bishop Jones examined those to be ordained Deacon. He ordained them with prayer and the laying on of hands while Dr. Michael Tully chanted, "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire." The Deacons received red stoles and the congregation greeted them with applause.

Bishop Jones examined those to be ordained Elder. He ordained them with prayer and the laying on of hands while Dr. Tully chanted. The Elders received red stoles and the congregation welcomed them with applause.

The service concluded with Bishop Jones leading in prayer. Following the recessional those newly commissioned and ordained were greeted in the hallway.

Great Plains Annual Conference Morning Worship

Lied Center Auditorium
Saturday, June 13, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

The Morning Worship was led by Zack Ledford from the Hutchinson District, Conference Council on Youth Ministry's Co-President, and the Youth. Rev. Jorge Acevedo preached on "Fruitfulness for God."

Offering for the Youth Service Fund Total: \$4,419.83

Great Plains Annual Conference Plenary

Lied Center Auditorium
Saturday June 13, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Limiting Debate, Bishop Jones

We are limited to two speeches for and two speeches against, and each speech needs to be no more than two minutes in length.

Report on the Connecting Council Meeting, Bishop Jones

Your Connecting Council has formed a Mission Alignment Team composed of at-large members of the Connecting Council who are looking at our missional priorities and asking, "How can we align our resources so that we better reflect our stated priorities?" The Connecting Council voted in March that the teams of the conference would begin a strategic implementation process, which basically says, "Given your responsibility -- vital congregations, new church development, mercy and justice, etc.-- how are we going to live into this and do it better?" We've asked them, as of today, to bring a finished plan with goals and budgetary implications to the Mission Alignment Team by January 15, 2015 and the Connecting Council will review all of these in their March meeting next year. The Campus Ministry question is a part of that process and Rev. Caren Loper chairs the Campus Ministry team. They will be looking at what money we need and our goals. Other places where we do not yet have a conference-funded Campus Ministry will be on the table. The Connecting Council has empowered Bishop Jones to appoint a Study Group of no more than 15 people within the next two weeks to consider the number of districts. The Study Group will have a report for the Connecting Council at the October 2014 meeting. The Connecting Council will look at the final report in March and have a recommendation for the 2015 Annual Conference.

Prayer Concerns, Bishop Jones

Janelle Erb is a Lay member from Orchard, Nebraska. Her mother died unexpectedly yesterday afternoon. She has gone home to attend to matters there. Also Gabriel Morero, our evangelist in the Garden City/Dodge City area was released from the hospital. He will have surgery later and he is resting at home. Prayer was given for both.

Introduction, Bishop Jones

Bishop Jones introduced and welcomed Carolyn May, Associate Conference Lay Leader from Colby, KS.

Continued consideration of Resolution 4, "Christians Respond to Gun Violence"

The resolution is on page 58 of the Conference Workbook. There is a Motion to Amend before us: to delete lines 2034 and 2035 at the top of page 60.

MOTION to Over-rule the Chair and Not Limit Debate, [no name given]

The chair was sustained.

The **MOTION TO AMEND the Resolution** failed.

MOTION (while the vote was being taken), **Scott Evans, Ravenna and Hazard in the Gateway District.**

I move that the length of speeches now be limited to one minute each and that also overall debate, regardless of the condition of any amendments to the amendment to the amendment, that each debate on each resolution now be limited to six minutes total. The motion failed.

The resolution received 502 votes in favor, 312 against. It carried.

Resolution 5, Compassionate Immigration Reform, Andrea Paret
MOTION TO AMEND, Libby Oberdorf from Williamsburg United Methodist Church

On line 2098, change the language from “open and forcefully” to “open and devotedly”.

The motion to amend was seconded and carried.

MOTION TO AMEND, Mike Baughn, Laity, Brewster, KS United Methodist Church

I move to delete, under the second “Therefore,” items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, that being lines 2106-2116 in Resolution 5.

The motion was seconded. It failed.

The FULL MOTION, as amended, carried.

Resolution 6, To Support Global Maternal and Child Health through the Healthy Families, Healthy Planet Project, Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader

The Resolution is on pages 63-64 of the Conference Workbook.

Question, Larry Danforth, Clergy, Wakeeney and Prairie Home in Kansas

On lines 2187 and 2197, does this include abortion?

Answer, Fowler

No, it does not include abortion.

MOTION TO AMEND, Evy Hoyt, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Lyons, KS

Delete the lines 2195-2198, the section that begins “Therefore be it resolved that we call upon”

The motion to amend was seconded. It failed.

CORRECTION: Line 2200 should read “Time Frame: Between July 2014 and June 2015.”

The entire resolution, not amended, passed.

(15 minute Break at 10:57 am)

Bishop Jones reconvened the Conference at 11:15 a.m.

Prayer Requests, Bishop Jones

Lee Louderback, husband of Linda Louderback, the Superintendent of the Wichita West District, was hospitalized last night. Gay Hawn, son of Fred Hawn, Lay Member from Edwardsville United Methodist Church, was hit while bicycling and is in the ICU at Kansas University Medical Center. We also have been asked for prayers of thanksgiving for Don and Barb Nunnally. Don is a retired elder and has served churches in Hastings and Lincoln and as a District Superintendent. They are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Bishop Jones led in prayer.

Report on UMCOR Trailer, Alan Gager, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

Approximately nine tons of items were collected from 456 churches across our conference who brought items or money. Of those, 973 were health kits, 2,480 school kits, 320 cleaning buckets or as they sometimes are called flood buckets, 204 sewing kits, 78 layette kits, 38 boxes of homemade cloth diapers and numerous boxes of miscellaneous items. There were 16 antique treadle sewing machines which will be refurbished, 26 wheelchairs, 18 bicycles and over 500 handmade quilts. Cash donations totaled \$12,733.75 so far.

Council on Finance and Administration Report, Carl Nord, Chair

Nord affirmed the Rev. Gary Beach as Conference Treasurer and thanked him for his service in times of great change and transition. Gary Beach took the podium and thanked his staff. Regarding the year-end 2013, our three former conferences had very similar levels of payment on what we now in the Great Plains Conference call mission shares. Kansas East raised 85.04%, Nebraska did a little better, raising 86.05 and Kansas West led the way with 87.65% of mission shares paid.

Questions Related to Finances

Questions were submitted in writing and answered by Zach Anderson, vice chair of CF&A and pastor at Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, Omaha, Evelyn Fisher and Gary Beach.

“Proposal for Establishment of the Investment Committee of the Great Plains Annual Conference”, submitted by Brent Messick, Church of the Resurrection

The proposal is a white page included in the Annual Conference packets. CF&A recommends the formalization of an investment committee of the Great Plains Annual Conference. Over the next year, it is our intent that this committee will be developing some investment policies, again, working with the four different boards. We will look at probably issuing an RFP, request for proposal, to different investment managers, probably consolidating from nine different managers to a smaller number. The proposal was adopted.

Local Church Audit Requirements, Dave Platt, Audit Committee Chairperson and Secretary for CF&A

CF&A proposed, and the Connecting Council approved, an alternative to a full audit that addresses both the cost issue and the utility issue. This alternative calls for an independent auditor to perform a prescribed set of procedures and prepare a report that would be shared with that church’s finance committee. Those procedures and instructions are posted on the Conference web site.

PROPOSAL, Carl Nord: CF&A is proposing that we reaffirm the 10% formula adopted in the plan of organization at the uniting conference. The recommendation was affirmed.

Great Plains Conference Restricted Reserve Fund, Carl Nord

This document is on pages 24-25 of the Conference Workbook. The proposal was adopted.

MOTION: Carl Nord moved adoption of the Budget, page 22 of the Conference Workbook. It was adopted.

MOTION: Carl Nord moved adoption of the 1% Missional Agency Support, our second-mile giving. It was adopted.

Clergy Spouse Event, Mary Lou Reece

Next year, in Wichita, on Friday, we are going to do an all day spouse retreat, starting in the morning when child care starts. We’ll have brunch or lunch and a little bit of fun together and a little bit of education together and we’ll have a great time.

Closing Motions: Diane Jensen, Conference Secretary

- I move to accept the record of the minutes as the Official Journal of the 2014 Great Plains Annual Conference.

Daily Proceedings

- I move that the Conference Secretary be authorized to make editorial changes in the Journal as needed for clarity.
- I move that the Conference Secretary be authorized to print the number of Journals as required by the *Book of Discipline* and for those that are ordered.

Introduction of the Extended Cabinet and Spouses, Bishop Jones

The extended cabinet is composed of District Superintendents, the directors, the lay leader, and the associate lay leaders. They introduced themselves, and Bishop Jones thanked them all.

2015 Annual Conference

The second Great Plains Annual Conference will be held June 10-13, 2015 at the Century II Event Center, Wichita, KS.

Fixing of Appointments, Bishop Jones

We're going to fix the appointments by my prayer for each district as a group. While I am doing that, I invite you to join with me in a spirit of prayer with your eyes open because on the screen the appointment list will be scrolling. The entire appointment list will be posted on the Great Plains United Methodist Church web site under "appointment changes."

Adjournment with Prayer, Bishop Jones