

**DAILY PROCEEDINGS**  
**(MINUTES OF GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION)**

**Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference Clergy Session**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas

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

**Bishop Scott Jones** opened the Great Plains Annual Conference Clergy Session. "And Are We Yet Alive" was sung. Retired Bishop Richard Wilke gave the opening prayer.

Bishop Jones introduced Bruce Emmert, the chair of the Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry. He encouraged all clergy to read the Board's full report, because only some of the names will be read aloud. It's a very complex report, and there may be errors; corrections can be made on a pink card and handed to Karen Jeffcoat.

Emmert introduced Kay Scarborough who gave instructions regarding the I-9 forms which every clergy under appointment in the Great Plains Conference must turn in to meet federal government requirements.

**Bette Trumble**, a lay member of the Board, and **Ji-Souk Ju**, a clergy member of the Board, presented the Board's report:

- **Trumble** and **Ju** began with Question 17.
- **Question 18 (a)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. The Administrative Review Committee was elected.

**Ken Van**, chair of the Administrative Review Committee reported on the committee's work. They addressed only one question related to ¶355.6. The committee certified that the disciplinary procedures for involuntary leave of absence were properly followed.

- **Question 18 (b)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. The Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry was elected.
- **Question 18 (c)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. The Committee on Investigation was elected to comply with the Judicial Council's ruling.
- **Question 19 (a)**. Julie Freeman and Michael Marcus were added to the list of certified candidates.
- **Question 20**. Julie Freeman and Josh Luton were added to the list. Randall Whitley is moved from Question 20 to 21 (b).

**Warren Schoming**, chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, introduced the 2014 Course of Study graduates: Bruce Draper, Sylvia Romero, Mark Demas, Juan Garcia and Nancy Moden. They were greeted with applause. All full-time local pastors, part-time local pastors and students from other annual conferences were invited to stand and be recognized. Michael Marcus and Randall Whitley were added.

- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued, adding Walter Marsella, David Geisler and Steven Holmes to Question 21.
- **Questions 21 (a), (b) & (c)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. Approved.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 21 (d) and (e).
- **Questions 22, 23, 24 and 25**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. Approved.

**Bishop Jones** welcomed Larry Adams and John Hogue for service in this annual conference as people from other denominations.

- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Question 26.

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**Andrew Conard**, treasurer of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reported on scholarships for seminary and course of study students and for continuing education. In 2015 the dollar amount has been doubled. The goal is that every seminary student be able to graduate debt-free and that finances would not be a barrier for clergy receiving continuing education.

- **Question 27.** Bishop Jones introduced Kathleen Symes and called for a show of hands vote. She was elected as an associate member of the Great Plains Conference.
- **Question 28 (a).** Bishop Jones introduced Hyemi Lee Jones and called for a vote. She was elected as a provisional deacon.
- **Question 28 (b).** Provisional elders under the provisions of ¶1324 (a) and (b) or ¶1324.6 and ¶1322.4 were introduced: Chad Alan Boling, Doug Gahn, Christine Jorgensen, Molly Just, Tyler Kaufmann, Mari Idell King, Brenda Kostner, Lucas McConnell, Kyle Nelson, Kyle Reynolds, Andrew Scott and Kim Serio. Bishop Jones called for a vote by show of hands for each individual. All were elected as provisional elders.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 29 through 31 and Question 33.
- **Questions 32 and 34** were addressed together. Bishop Jones asked the candidates for ordination to come forward and introduce themselves: Timothy W. Bever, William Gepford, Cathryn Jo Love, Jo Mead, Emily R. Meckley, Robert M. Walters and Kathy Lynn Williams. Bishop Jones called for a vote by show of hands for each individual. All were elected as elders and full members of the annual conference.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 35 through 37.
- **Question 38.** Tamlyn J. Aubushon and Israel Kamudzandu were introduced and received by transfer from other annual conferences in the United Methodist Church.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 39 and 40.
- **Question 41.** Although not all were in attendance, members who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of the United Methodist Church were recognized: Charles James Alkula, William "Michael" Benischek, Kyle Butler, Emily Reeves Grammer, Kye-Young Song and James Wallasky. Bishop Jones offered a prayer of thanksgiving for their ministries among us.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 42 and 43.
- **Question 44 (a).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. The status of honorable location-retired was granted to Jenny Buss and Lucy Pierre.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 44 (b) and 45.
- **Question 46 (a).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Approval was given to terminate the conference membership by withdrawal to unite with another denomination for David Bolz.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 46 (b) through 47.
- **Questions 48 (a) (b) (c) (d) & (e).** Bishop Jones offered a prayer of thanksgiving for those who have died in the past year.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Questions 49 and 50 (a) (2).
- **Question 50 (a) (1).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for voluntary leave of absence personal (less than 5 years) was granted to Lance Carrithers, Charles L. Danforth, Jayne Duncan, Richard Haden, Janice Japp, John Martyn, Barbara Snell McLain, Pamela Bauer Nolan, Costa de Oliviera, Penny Swift-Kelly, Dianne Tombaugh and Nancy Barrett Walker.
- **Question 50 (a) (3).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for voluntary leave of absence family (less than 5 years) was granted to Tim Ault-Duell, Molly Elizabeth Simpson and Amy Slater.
- **Question 50 (a) (4).** Bishop Jones called for a vote by show of hands. Two-thirds majority required. Permission for voluntary leave of absence family (Five years or more) was granted to Pauletta Joy Lehn and Lisa Wiens Thompson with a more than two-thirds vote.
- **Question 50 (a) (5).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for voluntary leave of absence transitional was granted to Dee Ann Heptas and Faye Wagner.
- **Question 50 (b).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for involuntary leave of absence was granted for Michael Gaddie.
- **Trumble and Ju** continued with Question 51.
- **Question 52.** Bishop Jones called for a vote to grant medical leave to 28 people listed. The vote was YES.

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**Covenant Team Report** by Karen Nyhart, chairperson: A continuing education policy, requiring 20 contact hours per year, will be in effect beginning July 1, 2015. Work has begun on healthy boundaries training and training a response team and a team of advocates. Work has also begun on plans for the next Order and Fellowship event on Feb. 17 and 18, 2016, focusing on the culture of call.

**Call Team Report** by Amy Lippoldt, chairperson, was done to music.

- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Question 53 (b).
- **Question 53 (a) and (c)**. Retiring deacon and elders were called to the stage and introduced. Bishop Jones thanked them, reminded them, “There is no retirement from discipleship,” and prayed for them. He called for the vote. The vote was YES. All were recognized with a standing ovation.
- **Question 54 (a)**. Retiring associate members were called to the stage and introduced. Bishop Jones thanked them, prayed for them and called for the vote. The vote was YES.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Question 55.
- **Question 56 (a)**. All retiring local pastors were called to the stage and introduced. Bishop Jones thanked them, prayed for them and called for the vote on Joyce Allen, Thomas Bailey, Bonnie Forney, Roger Frederick, Phoebe Pitney and Roger Walls, as required by *The Book of Discipline*. The vote was YES.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Question 56 (b).
- **Question 57**. The charts for this question will be included in the official BAC report in the 2015 Great Plains Journal.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 58 through 62.
- **Question 63**. Don Alt and Janet Arnold were added as certified lay ministers.
- **Question 64**. No vote required; it was cared for with the vote of Question 18 (c).
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 65 through 68.
- **Question 69**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. Sherry Wright, diaconal minister, was granted family leave of absence.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 70 through 72.

**Nancy Lambert**, Assistant to the Bishop and director of Clergy Excellence introduced Clergy Excellence staff members Ashlee Alley, clergy recruitment and development coordinator; and Karen Jeffcoat, registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry. In the months ahead Nancy and her team will be working on the Elijah grant, continuing education opportunities including Process Communication Model, boundaries training, and covenant groups.

- **Question 73 (a)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote by show of hands on all who are approved for less than full-time service, noting that the vote for Jennifer Collins, Casey Karges, Cheryl Wertheimner and Albert Winseman requires a two-thirds majority because they have been at less than full time for eight years or longer. It passed by more than two-thirds.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 73 (b) through 75. Josh Luton was added to the list of appointments since the last annual conference session.
- **Question 76**. These appointments will be included in the Journal.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 77 (a) and (b).
- **Question 77 (c)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote by show of hands. Approval by more than a two-thirds majority was given for appointments under the provisions of ¶344.1d.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 78 (a), (b) and (c).
- **Question 79**. Add Lucas McConnell, Yale Divinity School, to those listed.
- **Trumble** and **Ju** continued with Questions 80 through 82. The next Great Plains Annual Conference Session will be held June 1-4, 2016 in Topeka, Kansas.

The Clergy Session adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

## Daily Proceedings

## Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference Laity Session

Hyatt Regency Grand Eagle Ballroom, Wichita, Kansas  
 Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

**Opening Music** was provided by St. Mark UMC Praise Team from Wichita, Kansas.

**Courtney Fowler, Great Plains Conference lay leader**, welcomed the laity and opened with prayer. She recognized those who are attending Annual Conference session for the first time, the youth who were present, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Lay Servant Ministries and Volunteers in Mission. Members of the Lay Leadership Team are Oliver Green, Topeka, Kansas; Carolyn May, Colby, Kansas; Tom Watson, Kearney, Nebraska; and Micole Harms-Brazell, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Tom Watson** answered the question, "What do I need to know about Annual Conference?" He reminded everyone that they are the liaison between the church and the Annual Conference. According to the *Book of Discipline*, lay members are to make a report back to their local church within the week of returning and also a report to their Church Councils.

**Micole Harms-Brazell** explained the difference between resolutions and petitions. She gave a brief overview of each resolution and petition.

**Carolyn May** gave the highlights of several events around the Great Plains Conference.

**Tom Watson** shared his poetry as he had during his years as conference lay leader in Nebraska.

**General Conference Delegates** whose names were listed in the workbook were introduced.

Closing prayer was given by Oliver Green.

## GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING WORSHIP

Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
 Wednesday, June 10, 1:30 p.m

Pastor Luke Aadalen, leader of the Asbury Church band, welcomed the Annual Conference members to worship. He opened with prayer and the band provided musical inspiration.

Michael Tully, music director at Trinity UMC in Lincoln, Nebraska, thanked the Asbury Church band. In keeping with the Annual Conference session theme "Though Many, One," he taught the song "We Are One, Stand United."

Bishop Scott Jones performed the sacrament of baptism for Evelyn Gayley, daughter of the Rev. Emily and Steven Cannon.

Preaching from Ephesians, chapter 4, read by Joseph Rafique of Aldersgate UMC, Lincoln, Nebraska, Bishop Jones' sermon was entitled "Difficult Unity." He spoke of the genius of United Methodism which is our connection, our tolerance of diversity, and yet our willingness to stay connected, because God has things in store for us, and we are stronger together than we are separate. He hopes we are "practicing as United Methodist Christians in a diverse annual conference at a level of mutual respect and love for each other. Mr. Wesley put it this way: 'If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand.' We've got to make a commitment to uphold the discipline of our church. But the main thing is the mission. The unity of the church requires a focus on who we are and whose we are. The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."

The Rev. Kalaba Chali introduced the offering for our mission partnerships in Haiti, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The offering totaled \$11,413.07 (as reported in the Summer 2015 GPconnect).

A video was shown highlighting the mission work of several churches in the Great Plains Conference.

Worship closed with the singing of "And Are We Yet Alive" and a benediction by Bishop Jones.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING PLENARY**

Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Wednesday, June 10, 2:30 p.m

**Bishop Scott Jones** called the Annual Conference into session and opened with prayer. He lifted up the family of the Rev. Olin Belt who died in Pierce, Nebraska this morning and the Rev. Jeff Thurman, Benton UMC, Benton, Kansas who suffered a heart attack yesterday.

**Tellers** distributed documents that were not included in the conference workbook or the packets. Bishop Jones noted that these items cannot be acted upon until 24 hours after distribution.

**Bishop Jones** introduced Courtney Fowler, lay leader of the annual conference and Diane Jensen, secretary of the annual conference, both seated with him.

**MOTIONS** by Diane Jensen:

- I move that the secretarial staff for the 2015 Great Plains Annual Conference be as follows: Deanna Holland, chair, Bruce Deines, Jenelle Erb, Rev. Kirstie Garnes, Laura Gregory, Amy Hasemeyer and Rose Roberts. The motion was approved.
- I move that the bar of the conference, for voting purposes, will be the entire area of the auditorium. The parent room and all other areas are not included in the bar. The motion was approved.
- By recommendation of the Connecting Council, I move that we elect three alternates for Jurisdictional Conference for both laity and clergy. Bishop Jones noted that the number of delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference is set by the secretary of the General Conference and the commission. The connecting council discussed this and is recommending that we elect three alternates. The motion was **approved**.

Jensen reminded the body that attendance is taken by signing roll cards as indicated in the standing rules and collected by the pages or turned in at the secretary's table.

**Bishop Jones** introduced Morgan Whitaker-Smith, chair of the Annual Conference Session Planning Team. She referred to the standing rules on page 12-15 in the conference workbook and noted the recommended changes. **MOTION:** Whitaker-Smith moved the adoption of the standing rules. Bishop Jones recognized **Randall Hodgkinson**, Topeka District lay leader, who proposed an amendment. **MOTION:** move to amend the standing rules as presented to delete Section 3(a) which is page 13, Line 48, and amend Section II (B) (4) (c) to add "and the secretary of the annual conference," so that line 20 reads "Chairpersons of conference boards and teams and the secretary of the Annual Conference. The motion to amend carried. Bishop Jones noted that motions must be turned in to the secretarial staff on the form provided. **Shane Hinderliter**, At the Well UMC, Wichita, Kansas and conference coordinator for local church youth ministries, offered another amendment. **MOTION:** On page 13, Line 28, Section II (B) (4) (i) move to delete the strikethrough, so it would read "17 additional youth as determined by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries." The motion to amend **carried** by a hand vote. The motion, as amended, **carried** by a hand vote.

**Courtney Fowler**, Great Plains lay leader, gave the State of the Conference Address from the laity point of view. Her real joy in the past year had been worshiping in churches with nine in attendance and in one of our largest churches. Both services were wonderful for their uniqueness. The common thread among all the churches she attended was in joyfully glorifying God. She gave thanks for the lay folks in every church who hold the church together. She highlighted the work of the local church laity in the areas of education partnerships, advocacy, maternal health, abolishing the death penalty in Nebraska, the global AIDS initiative, leadership development and spiritual growth, as well as the work of the United Methodist Men, the United Methodist Women, Volunteers in Mission and Lay Servant Ministries. She is especially proud of the youth in our conference and the OneEvent held in Grand Island, Nebraska. She thanked all the youth in attendance at the Annual Conference session. She suggested that our most urgent task is letting our next generation re-imagine how God might transform the world through us. She encouraged everyone to recommit to the things that matter most of all, to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves. She closed with a C.S. Lewis quote, "In a fearful world, we need a fearless church."

**Bishop Jones** gave his State of the Conference Address. When people ask, “How is the new conference going?” he replies, “Very, very well. We have exceeded all expectations.” Christ calls us to fruitfulness. We want to be the kind of disciples who make a difference in people’s lives and in transforming the world. We’re called to help non-believers become Christians. We’re called to help baby Christians become fully devoted and passionate followers of Jesus. And we’re called to send United Methodist Christians out to make a difference in the world for peace, justice, and the right things that God wants to do. He challenged the annual conference with declining statistics and resources. The average age of the clergy under appointment in our conference is 56. In the next 10 years, half of our clergy may be retiring. We have 42 retirements this year. We need a new generation of United Methodist clergy. We’re committed to a culture of call, to new church starts, church revitalization, developing stronger lay and clergy leaders, strengthening camping and missions, and having an impact for social justice. We need permission-giving churches and leaders, changing attitudes and behaviors.

**The Rev. Nancy Lambert** recommended a change in one of the opening motions. **MOTION:** Lambert moved for reconsideration of the opening motions. The motion was seconded and carried. **MOTION:** Lambert moved that the bar of the conference be sections D, C and B in the balcony and the first level of seats, but excluding the orange seats. The motion to change the bar of the conference and to accept the other opening motions **carried**.

#### **Thirty minute break.**

The annual conference session reconvened, and Bishop Jones explained the process for voting for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates. The process began with a paper ballot, so it was possible to assign a number to every person who received one or more votes. Then the hand-held electronic voting machines could be used. Every clergyperson who is a member in full connection of the Great Plains Conference and every layperson who is a member of a United Methodist church in the Great Plains Conference is eligible for election on this first ballot, including those whose biographies appear in the workbook. Clergy vote for clergy and laity vote for laity. In order for a ballot to be valid, there must be votes for exactly the number announced by the Bishop. To be elected, a person must receive 50 percent + 1 of the valid votes cast. Results are announced after each ballot. Six clergy delegates and six lay delegates to General Conference will be elected first. Then six clergy and six laity delegates to Jurisdictional Conference will be elected. Then three clergy and three laity alternates will be elected. By a vote of the Connecting Council, all General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates will have their expenses paid to the General Conference in Portland, Oregon in 2016. The first layperson elected will be the head of the delegation.

Paper ballots were passed out to the laity and clergy. The Rev. Junius Dotson, St. Mark UMC, Wichita, Kansas, offered a prayer.

**Clergy Ballot #1** was taken for six General Conference delegates.

**Laity Ballot #1** was taken for six General Conference delegates.

Ballots were marked and Bishop Jones declared ballot #1 closed. Ballots were collected. Results will be announced on Thursday.

**The Rev. Bruce Emmert**, chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, gave a report. Our mission statement is inspired by I Peter 5:1: As a witness to and example of Christ’s ministry, the Board of Ordained Ministry shepherds those whom God has entrusted to us. We recognize each one as a gift to the church for the strengthening of the kingdom of God on earth. We will tend to their formation and offer oversight with humble authority and a spirit of service.

Those elected at the Clergy Session came forward and introduced themselves.

- Associate member, Kathleen Symes
- Provisional deacon, Hyemi Lee Jones
- Provisional elders, Chad Alan Boling, Doug Gahn, Christine Jorgensen, Molly Just, Tyler Kaufmann, Mari Idell King, Brenda Kostner, Lucas McConnell, Kyle, Nelson, Kyle Reynolds, Andrew Scott and Kim Serio.

They were welcomed to the Great Plains Conference with applause.

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Those elected as members in full connection came forward and introduced themselves: Timothy W. Bever, William Gepford, Cathryn Jo Love, Jo Mead, Emily R. Meckley, Robert M. Walters and Kathy Lynn Williams. Bishop Jones asked them the historic questions and welcomed them to the Great Plains Annual Conference. They were greeted with a standing ovation.

### Resolutions for Church Closings

The Rev. Jim Akins, Hays District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Lyle UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

The Rev. Jim Akins presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Prairie Chapel UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

The Rev. Dennis Livingston, Hutchinson District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Mt. Pleasant UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

The Rev. Kibum Kim, Parsons District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Tyro UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

The Rev. Delores Williamston, Salina District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Clyde UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

The Rev. Linda Louderback, Wichita West District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Wichita Grace UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

The Rev. Linda Louderback presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Wichita Mount Olivet UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

**Additional Resolution:** The Rev. Claudia Bakely, Flint Hills District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Strong City UMC. Members and former members were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

**Additional Resolution:** The Rev. Rick Just, Wichita East District superintendent, presented the resolution for discontinuance of the Christ Community UMC and restart as a new United Methodist Church, the New Beginnings UMC. Members and former members of Christ Community UMC were invited to stand. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The resolution **carried**, followed by prayer by Bishop Jones.

### Celebration of Bridges to the Future

Bishop Jones explained the background of Bridges to the Future. In 2006, strategic plans were considered around several crucial issues that would strengthen United Methodist witness in Kansas, including camps, student ministries, Hispanic ministry, and new church development. Through a long process of study, a capital campaign called "Bridges to the Future" was developed. We raised a ton of money. "Bridges to the Future" was an incredible success. We are finally closing the campaign and we thank you.

The Rev. Tom Lucas, chair of the camping team for the Great Plains and Sara Shaw, coordinator of camping ministry based out of Wichita, spoke of the successes in camping in the Great Plains. Tom Lucas shared stories about each of the Great Plains camps and presented the Connecting Council's Camp Comeca Capital Campaign Recommendation. Bishop Jones called for the vote. The vote was YES. Bishop Jones introduced Janelle Wilke who has agreed to work half-time through the summer, as the director of the Camp Comeca Capital Campaign.

Ashlee Alley, clergy recruitment and development coordinator for the Great Plains Annual Conference, reported on the Transition into Ministry program. Begun in 2011 in the three former conferences, it is a grant from the Lilly Endowment as a program to support young clergy in their transition from seminary to full-time pastoral ministry, specifically focusing on the first five years of ministry. Bishop Jones has appointed the fourth group of young pastors who will be starting on July 1. Tyler Kaufmann will be at Lenexa UMC in Lenexa, Kansas, and Kyle Reynolds will serve at Aldersgate UMC in Wichita, Kansas. In addition, resources related to transitions for pastors have been added to the Great Plains web site.

**Nebraska Retiree Health Care Team**

Bishop Jones instructed the conference that only Nebraskans can vote on this proposal. Clergy who retired while serving a Nebraska church are among those who are eligible to vote on this matter.

The Rev. Ron Harris, chair of the Nebraska Retiree Healthcare Team reported. After consulting with the conference staff, it was determined that clarification is needed on one of the ways we deal with the health care subsidy for Nebraska retirees. The change on Line 40 and 41, strikes "participation in the conference health plan" and replaces it with "full-time service immediately prior to retirement" to receive the subsidy. Bishop Jones called for a vote. The recommendation carried by a hand vote.

**Announcements**

Bishop Jones lifted up the celebration of 130 years of ministry of First UMC, Bertrand, Nebraska. Nancy Lambert made several announcements related to the voting process and the voting equipment. The Annual Conference session adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**United Methodist Men's Dinner and Auction**

Wichita First UMC, Wichita, Kansas

**United Methodist Women's Dinner**

Wichita First UMC, Wichita, Kansas

**Young Clergy Dinner**

Wichita First UMC, Wichita, Kansas

**Education Partnership Dinner**

Hyatt Regency Grand Eagle Ballroom

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MORNING WORSHIP**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas

Thursday, June 11, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

**Pastor Luke Aadalen**, leader of the Asbury Church band, returned to welcome the Annual Conference members to worship. He opened with prayer and the band provided musical inspiration.

**Bishop Jones** introduced and welcomed Ms. Stephanie Hixson for a time of teaching. She is the executive director of the Just Peace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation. She is the coauthor of a book, "The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice, and Reconciliation."

Ms. Hixson used a singing bowl, the scripture reading from 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10 and the annual conference session theme "Though Many, One." She spoke to her theme word, *reverberate* ... resonance, to have a continued effect. "Your very lives are echoing the master's word. You are the message, the gospel embodied. How do we engage one another in a way that can be transformative, restorative, and enables God's own not only to live but to flourish? To thrive in relationship with God and with one another?" Ms. Hixson concluded with a video.

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**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**  
Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

**Bishop Jones** began with a thorough orientation on the use of the voting machines. Several practice votes were taken. All cell phones had to be turned off or in airplane mode.

**The Minimum Compensation Recommendation**

Rev. Craig Hauschild, East Heights UMC, Wichita, Kansas, the chair of the Personnel Committee, asked the members to turn to page 17 of the workbook. The Personnel Committee proposed that minimum salary remain as it is for 2015. **Motion to Amend:** the Rev. Larry Myers, Plains-Kismet UMCs, Plains, Kansas, moved that the minimum compensation be raised 2 percent from the previous year. The motion was seconded. Bishop Jones clarified that this applies to all the categories on the report, full-time local pastor, associate member, provisional elder or deacon, and full member. There were questions and comments from the floor. Rev. Michael Davis, retired, serving the Elgin UMC, Elgin, Nebraska, called the question. There was a second. The motion to stop debate on the amendment carried.

Bishop Jones moved to a vote by show of hands on the amendment. The amendment failed. **Motion:** the Rev. Nancy Tomlinson, St. Paul UMC, Papillion, Nebraska, moved to table this motion until after consideration of the healthcare recommendations. Bishop Jones asked for a show of hands vote. The motion to table failed. Bishop Jones called for a vote on the proposal. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

Another practice vote was taken. Some difficulties continued with the voting devices. Everyone who received one or more votes on the first paper ballot or whose bio was in the printed booklet has received a four-digit number. Those names and numbers were distributed. Although there are two clergy in the Great Plains Conference named Matt Fowler, both asked to have their names withdrawn from consideration.

**The Rev. Evelyn Fisher**, Great Plains Director of Congregational Excellence, reported on behalf of the Congregational Excellence Team, based in Wichita. She introduced the Congregational Excellence Bingo game and gave instructions for winning one of the gift baskets. Evelyn also introduced a brand new resource which was launched just two days before the annual conference session. It is the local church toolbox section of the Great Plains Conference website. You can find it by going to [greatplainsumc.org/toolbox](http://greatplainsumc.org/toolbox). Good stories, good ideas for taking your ministry to the next level or for increasing the administrative effectiveness of your congregation can be found there. We are thrilled to have 33 young adult interns serving in our conference this year.

**The Rev. Nicole Conard**, young leadership development coordinator, invited the 33 summer interns to come forward. They will work full time for the next ten weeks. The six types of interns are: Micah Corps, Vacation Bible School interns, church planting interns, pastoral leadership interns, Hispanic ministry interns and the youth ministry interns. Nicole offered a prayer of thanksgiving and guidance for these young people.

**The Rev. Nathan Stanton**, New Church Development Coordinator, and The Rev. Chad Anglemeyer, chair of that team, reported on the work of the Great Plains New Church Development Board. Exciting things are happening at New Church Lawrence, which is a hybrid campus ministry and new church start in Lawrence, Kansas at the University of Kansas. We're also celebrating the chartering of Living Water UMC in Kansas City, Kansas. The prayerful and challenging outcome of the Board's discernment was the development of 20 new churches by the year 2020. The other key mission fields are the college campuses, and the Hispanic ministry community. For the upcoming five years for this particular plan, it would be funded by reserves of the Annual Conference.

**Shanna Smith**, Vice President of Development, began her report with a video about Asbury Park, a not-for-profit retirement community located in Newton, Kansas.

**Results of Clergy Ballot # 1**

Number of votes cast: 524  
Number of valid: 517  
Needed to Elect: 260  
There was **no election**

Following every ballot report, votes were shown on the screen. Only those who received 25 or more votes were reported.

**Results of Laity Ballot # 1**

Number of votes cast: 630  
Number of valid: 621  
Needed to Elect: 321

**Elected: Courtney Fowler - 413**

Bishop Jones congratulated Courtney Fowler who will be the leader of the delegation.

Kabala Chali was listed among the laity, but is a clergy member of another conference. His name was removed.

**Nancy Lambert** made announcements and the annual conference session adjourned until 11 a.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 11 a.m.  
"Is the Lord Among Us, Or Not?"

The memorial service began with the singing of "Sing With All the Saints in Glory." Bishop Scott Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving and celebration.

Bishop Jones read Exodus 17:1-7 and introduced Bishop Bruce Ough, president-elect of the Council of Bishops. Bishop Ough welcomed the families, friends and colleagues of those who have "preceded us in attaining glory" and offered a prayer. In the Exodus story, the Israelites quarreled and questioned, "Is the Lord among us or not?" Those who have experienced the death of a loved one have asked this question. Every time we ask, "Is the Lord among us," the answer is always, "Yes!"

The names of clergy being remembered are: Thomas A. Bandy, Donald E. Carper, Donald G. Christensen, Donna D. Dudley, Dale L. Ellenberger, Ardith O. Ernst, Herman J Heise, Beth E. Hodgson, Delbert L. Honn, Robert L. Hopkins, Naomi K. Hull, Lorena Hunt, J. Karl Jones, Larry Keller, Hiram W. Lilley, Lee R. Louderback, James L. Moores, James Mote, Raymond E. Nuetzman, Ross A. Olson, Lynda J. Radant Parson, Jack E. Sample, Kurt A. Stecker, Maria Stonger, Nelson L. Thompson, William H. Winter and M. Max Wright.

The names of clergy spouses being remembered are: Dixie Alsobrooks, Kathryn Baker, Jerrald Boden, Deborah J. Burgess, Erlene M. Dillon, Willis Hodgson, Arlene T. Jensen, Violet S. Jones, Kathleen K. Karlowski, Jane S. Kersenbrock, Shirley W. Lathan, Sally Mae Loomis, Melva Metzger, Maria C. Munoz, Barbara E. Nunnally, Clara P. Phillips, William H. Post, Isabelle K. Ricker, Leona Rogers, Alvina A. Shaw, Blanche I. Simmer, Betty Whitsitt and Merrietta Jo Wolfe.

The offering for the United Methodist Global AIDS fund totaled \$7,764.16 (final total of offering received was \$7981.66 as reported in the Summer 2015 GPconnect). The service concluded with Holy Communion and the sending song "For All the Saints."

**MISSION LUNCHEON**  
Hyatt Regency Grand Eagle Ballroom  
**SALINA DISTRICT LUNCHEON**  
Hyatt Regency Cypress Room A

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**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**  
Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

**Bishop Jones** gave additional instructions on voting, including the process for a write-in vote. The Rev. Carol Roettmer Brewer gave a prayer before the voting.

**Clergy Ballot #2** was taken for six General Conference delegates.

**Laity Ballot #2** was taken for five General Conference delegates.

**Sarah Trapp** reported on United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries. Social services and medical and dental services are provided at the care centers.

**Nathan Morgan** executive director of United Methodist Ministries in Omaha, Nebraska reported on new and exciting projects with the Big Garden.

**Carl Nord**, chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, noted that the Council's report is on pages 21-34 of the workbook. Questions may be submitted on the 3 X 5 cards that are provided. The detailed budget is online.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #2**

Number of votes cast: 426

Number of valid: 341

Needed to Elect: 176

**Elected: Adam Hamilton**

A person identified only as Mark spoke from the floor, asking for an additional five minutes to review the information on the screen. Bishop Jones took this as a **Motion** and asked for a show of hands. The motion to delay **failed**.

The Rev. David Watson, FUMC Salina, Salina, Kansas, offered prayer.

**Clergy Ballot #3** was taken for five General Conference delegates.

**Kelly Williams**, chair of the Pensions and Health Benefits Board. Her report was on pages 16 and 17 of the conference workbook, and the proposals from the Board were handed out on Wednesday. Bishop Jones noted that review of the conference rules indicates that information on handouts can be discussed after four hours of conference plenary time. The following resolutions were considered: Recommendations numbered 1 through 6. Bishop Jones noted that there is a correction on line 21, 3 percent was changed to 2 percent; and on line 23, 9 percent was changed to 8 percent. The Rev. Susan Montgomery, retired clergy, suggested a correction regarding Lance Lingard who is now deceased. Bishop Jones regarded that as an editorial matter. He called for the vote on the first six recommendations. The vote was **YES**. Williams addressed resolution number 7 on the handout giving the board's rationale for the resolution. **Motion:** Rev. Kevass Harding asked to call the question. Seeing no one else prepared to speak, Bishop Jones declared the body had affirmed Harding's motion and debate was closed. Recommendation number 7 was **approved**.

**Results of Laity Ballot # 2**

Number of votes cast: 698

Number of valid: 597

Needed to Elect: 299

**Elected: Oliver Green - 307**

**Laity Ballot #3** was taken for four General Conference delegates.

## Daily Proceedings

**Mary Lou Reece**, Bishop Jones' spouse, noted that their granddaughter, Juliet, taught him how to deal with issues of the annual conference session by the way she got obedience from her dog. She said, "Back! Back!" and the dog obeyed!

**Results of Clergy Ballot #3**

Number of votes cast: 505

Number of valid: 448

Needed to Elect: 225

Elected: There was **no election**.

**Clergy Ballot #4** was taken for five General Conference delegates.

**Shelley Duncan**, CEO of Ember Hope, provided an update on their work within the child welfare and behavioral health fields. They serve children in both the juvenile justice arena and in the foster care arena, as well as families and adults. The revisions to the bylaws of the United Methodist Youthville Foundation, Inc. were handed out Wednesday afternoon. **Motion:** Evelyn Fisher, a member of the Youthville Board, moved that these changes be approved. Dave Sealy, conference chancellor, answered questions. The motion **carried**.

**Results of Laity Ballot # 3**

Number of votes cast: 704

Number of valid: 636

Needed to Elect: 319

**Elected: Shayla Jordan - 320**

**Laity Ballot #4** was taken for three General Conference delegates.

**Evelyn Fisher** continued with the Ember Hope report, referring to the **Resolution "Ember Hope and TFI Family Services Merger Discussions"** in the packets. The resolution authorizes Ember Hope/Youthville to enter into discussions with TFI Family Services with the aim of merging the two organizations. It also authorizes the Connecting Council to act on behalf of the annual conference in approving such a merger. Questions were addressed. There were statements for the resolution and against. Bishop Jones asked for a show of hands regarding closing debate. It carried. The recommendation to approve the resolution **carried**.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #3**

Number of votes cast: 505

Number of valid: 448

Needed to Elect: 225

Elected: There was **no election**.

**Clergy Ballot #4** was taken for five General Conference delegates.

Bishop Jones offered a prayer and Nancy Lambert gave announcements. She noted that it is possible to order a directories-only version of the Conference Journal. Bishop Jones asked the Connecting Council to meet briefly at the front of the auditorium after the retirement service. Evening events were cancelled in order to have an evening session at 7:30 p.m. The session adjourned at 4 p.m.

**Results of Laity Ballot # 4**

Number of votes cast: 693

Number of valid: 638

Needed to Elect: 320

**Elected: Dixie Brewster - 333**

**Thirty minute break.**

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**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE RETIREMENT SERVICE**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 4:30 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."

Bishop Jones invited all those who are being ordained this year, those who have been made provisional members of the annual conference and those who are entering into ministry for the first time to stand. Jones stated that Moses mentored Joshua, Elijah passed the mantle to Elisha, Paul encouraged Timothy and others to be faithful to the tasks that they were given and to cultivate and care for and produce abundance in their ministry through the calling that was entrusted to them. From generation to generation we have passed down our dreams and our visions.

The retirees received a standing ovation from those in attendance.

The Wichita West District Children's Choir presented special music singing "God's Supernatural Grace". The presentation of the retiring servants was preceded by a litany given by the Rev. Kent Little with the response: For these we are grateful".

Deacons, elders, associate members and local pastors retiring are: Joyce Allen, Thomas Bailey, Jenny Lynn Buss, Patrick K. Buss, Michael L. Chamberlain, Charles R. Claycomb, Harry L. Cross, Carl K. Ellis, Danny E. Ferguson, Bonnie Forney, Roger Frederick, Laura E. Arnett Fricker, Lawrence R. Fry, Stephen C. Griffith, Wayne H. Handle, Deborah A. Hanes-Nelson, Kelvin L. Heimann, Janet Hernandez, Nita Hinds-Park, Larry D. Hollon, Lucinda S. Holmes, James A Hopwood, Daniel R. Lord, Dennis H. Matthews, Gene A. McIntosh, James H. Miller, Norma J. Miller, William Frank Morgan, Judy Long O'Neal, R Glenn Patterson, Christine E. Peterson, Lucy E. Pierre, Phoebe Pitney, David Ragland, Martha Sanchez, Charles Spence III, John C. Thompson, Lewis Van Der Wege, Faye Wagner, Dennis W. Wallace, Roger Walls and John Ross Wright.

Brief conversations between some of the children and the retirees was followed by the singing of "Amazing Grace" and Bishop Jones' benediction.

A dinner was held for the retirees and their spouses.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

**Bishop Jones** called the session to order and began with voting instructions. The Rev. Charlotte Abram and Courtney Fowler spoke encouraging the Annual Conference to consider diversity in gender, age, race and geography when voting for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates. The Rev. David Livingston, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas, welcomed the children who were in attendance due to childcare not being available for this additional evening session. The Rev. Mike Gardner, Old Mission UMC, Fairway, Kansas, was called on to pray before the next ballot.

**Laity Ballot #5** was taken for two General Conference delegates.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #4**

Number of votes cast: 510

Number of valid: 463

Needed to Elect: 232

Elected: There was **no election**.

**Clergy Ballot #5** was taken for five General Conference delegates.

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**Results of Clergy Ballot #5**

Number of votes cast: 513

Number of valid: 434

Needed to Elect: 218

**Elected: Amy Lippoldt - 253****Mark Holland - 220**

At the request of Dixie Brewster, Milton, Kansas, "Happy Birthday" was sung to 81-year-old Ken Bueker.

**The Rev. Maria Campbell**, chair of the Conference Episcopacy Committee, reported on the Episcopal Residence Task Force which was formed a year ago at the 2014 annual conference session. Their task was to bring a recommendation to the 2015 annual conference session for the relocation or the location of the Episcopal residence and the Episcopal office. Five cities warranted further investigation: Lincoln, Topeka, Wichita, Omaha and Kansas City. **Recommendation:** The Episcopal Residence Task Force recommended that we maintain our current Episcopal residence in Wichita and keep a secondary or additional residence in Lincoln to facilitate our incoming Bishop to become acquainted with our two states. The recommendation was approved by the Connecting Council. The recommendation was approved by the annual conference.

**Mary Lou Reece** presented a Great Plains Limerick Challenge. She said the whole limerick, and the annual conference filled in the last word: "The Great Plains is having such fun. That ghost of John Wesley does run. He's messing with ballots, machines that aren't valid, but John Wesley says 'God's will be DONE.'" An unidentified man named Scott offered another limerick: "There was a young man named Augustin whose behavior was disgustin'. He prayed, 'Lord, make me pure, but don't hurry the cure. Your grace in the matter I'm TRUSTIN'."

**Results of Laity Ballot # 5**

Number of votes cast: 566

Number of valid: 547

Needed to Elect: 274

**Elected: Lisa Maupin - 288**

**Laity Ballot #6** was taken for one General Conference delegate.

**The Rev. Nancy Lambert** gave the report of the Connecting Council recommendation and the Strategic Plan Summary. The entire Strategic Plan can be found on the conference web site.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #6**

Number of votes cast: 410

Number of valid: 402

Needed to Elect: 202

Elected: There was **no election**.

**Clergy Ballot #7** was taken for three General Conference delegates.

**The Rev. Nancy Lambert** continued with her report. The entire Strategic Plan is before the Annual Conference. Andrea Paret, member of the Mercy and Justice Team, offered an editorial change: On page 69, line 19, after "and mercy ministries" add "as well as the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the Commission on Religion and Race." Evelyn Fisher noted that the budget request is for 2016; the Strategic Plan goes through the year 2020.

**Results of Laity Ballot # 6**

Number of votes cast: 571

Number of valid: 571

Needed to Elect: 286

Elected: There was **no election**.

**Laity Ballot #7** was taken for one General Conference delegate.

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**Shane Hinderliter**, At the Well UMC, Wichita, Kansas and coordinator of local church youth ministry, noted that “The Purpose” on page 71, line 7 needs editorial change. It should read: “And the purpose is to help local churches create and maintain excellent ministries with youth by providing resources and training for student and adult leaders and coordinating conference youth events.”

**Results of Clergy Ballot #7**

Number of votes cast: 421

Number of valid: 414

Needed to Elect: 208

**Elected: Zach Anderson - 221**

**Cheryl Jefferson Bell - 236**

**Clergy Ballot #8** was taken for one General Conference delegate.

**Nancy Lambert** continued with her report, referring to the redistricting study group recommendation on page 18 of the workbook. Coming from the Connecting Council is the **recommendation** that the district study team bring a recommendation to this body no later than annual conference session of 2018. The recommendation was **approved**.

**Results of Laity Ballot #7**

Number of votes cast: 571

Number of valid: 571

Needed to Elect: 286

**Elected: Wesley Gately - 289**

**Laity Ballot #8** was taken for six Jurisdictional Conference delegates.

**Nancy Lambert** continued with a **recommendation** from the Connecting Council, referring to the Three Mission Campaign on page 18 of the workbook. The recommendation was **approved**.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #8**

Number of votes cast: 426

Number of valid: 426

Needed to Elect: 217

Elected: There was **no election**.

**Clergy Ballot #9** was taken for one General Conference delegate.

**Nancy Lambert** continued with a **recommendation** from the Connecting Council that an amount up to \$5,000,000 be earmarked for new church starts in the next five years. The recommendation was **accepted**.

**Evelyn Fisher**, director of Congregational Excellence, reported on the Education Partnership. This initiative has shown success in its first year with matching grants for local churches and the “Big Hairy Audacious Education Caravans.”

**Results of Laity Ballot # 8**

Number of votes cast: 587

Number of valid: 532

Needed to Elect: 267

**Elected: Keith Olsen - 281**

Penny Schwab asked that her name be removed from consideration. A vote for her will not invalidate a ballot.

**Laity Ballot #9** was taken for five Jurisdictional Conference delegates.

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**Evelyn Fisher** continued with the update of the Education Partnership. There are 177 churches in the Great Plains Conference who have an official partnership with a local public school. Matching grants will again be funded in 2015. The deadline for applications is Sept. 11, and grants will be awarded by Oct. 1. The Kansas Leadership Center and the Kansas Health Foundation have granted funds for matching grants to churches in Kansas.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #9**

Number of votes cast: 419

Number of valid: 419

Needed to Elect: 210

**Elected: David Livingston - 227**

**Clergy Ballot #10** was taken for six Jurisdictional Conference delegates.

**Mary Lou Reece** reminded the clergy that their spouses are invited to the Clergy Spouse Retreat Day Apart. It will begin on Friday at 9 a.m. in the Cypress Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

**Results of Laity Ballot # 9**

Number of votes cast: 580

Number of valid: 547

Needed to Elect: 274

**Elected: Randall Hodgkinson - 332**  
**Esther Hay - 332**

**Bishop Jones** adjourned the evening session at 9:33 p.m. and closed with prayer.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Friday, June 12, 2015, 8 a.m.

Mates in Ministry (clergy spouses) met in the Cypress Room at the Hyatt Regency with brunch served at 9:00 a.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas

Friday, June 12, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Worship began with music by Evangelica Nueva Church of Garden City, Kansas. Bishop Jones introduced Stephanie Hixon and thanked her for her presentations yesterday and today. She is addressing word and sacrament through the theme "Though Many, One." She spoke of baptism and used Matthew 25: 5-8, the story of the women at the tomb. Her word for the day was "Reflect."

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas

Friday, June 12, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Prayer**

Bishop Jones introduced Tom Watson, associate lay leader from Kearney, Nebraska, who led the body in prayer before the balloting.

**Laity ballot #10** was taken, voting for three Jurisdictional delegates.

**Report of Clergy Ballot #10**

Number of votes cast: 391  
 Number of valid: 368  
 Needed to elect: 185  
 There was **no election**.

**Clergy Ballot #11** was taken voting for six Jurisdictional delegates.

**Quilted Banners**

Bishop Jones called our attention to the beautiful quilted banners hanging on both sides of the stage. The members of the Wamego (Kansas) UMC made these as we became one conference. The symbol of the United Methodist Council of Bishops is on one of them and a cross and flame with Kansas and Nebraska behind it on the other. These were a gift to the episcopal office and hang in the Lincoln office.

**Nominating Committee Report, the Rev. Tessa Zehring**

Those who served on the Nominations Committee and those who are committee chairs were thanked for their service. Zehring shared that there are 16 committees all with a class to fill in 2016 and she gave instructions on how to get on the website to nominate people to serve.

Rather than printing the entire Nominating Committee report, only changes that have been made this year are listed. Libby Oberdorf will be added to this committee as well as Evelyn Fisher as staff liaison.

Changes to the printed report:

Add to Connecting Council, at-large member, Class of 2018, Omar Cruz, Omaha, Nebraska.

- The Rev. Eldon Davis will replace the Rev. Marvin Neubauer as Elkhorn Valley District Superintendent.
- BOOM: Brent Clayton is listed twice, replace the second name with Jack Dutton.
- Vital Congregation: Add to the Thank You for Your Service section, Bob Aderholt, conference lay servant ministries person. He will be replaced by Mary Feit.
- Great Plains Campus Ministry chair will be Sam Fisher, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Annual Conference Sessions Planning Team has one position added through action of the Connecting Council: Vice-Chair, Shelley McNaughton-Lawrence, Class of 2018.
- Nominating Committee: change to eight members including the conference lay leader (ex-officio with vote) and director of Congregational Excellence (ex-officio without vote) and having at least two of the other six be clergy and two be laity.
- Trustee of Kansas Wesleyan: replace David Watson with Nathan Stanton.

The printed report, as amended, was **accepted**.

**Results of Laity Ballot #10**

Number of votes cast: 641  
 Number of valid: 619  
 Needed to elect: 310  
**Elected: Karelle Leeper - 327**

**Laity Ballot #11** was taken voting for two Jurisdictional delegates.

**Announcements: Nancy Lambert**

Clergy need to stop at the I-9 table to get forms if they have not already done so. If you're going home today, be sure to leave your voting machine and nametag holder in one of the bins provided. If you are playing Congregational Excellence Bingo, your entries must be turned in by the dinner break this evening.

**Thirty minute break.** Session resumed at 11:05 a.m.

**Prayer**

Bishop Jones introduced Carolyn May, associate lay leader from Colby, Kansas who offered a prayer for the voting process.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #11.**

Number of votes cast: 451  
Number of valid: 406  
Needed to Elect: 204  
There was **no election.**

**Clergy Ballot #12** was taken for six Jurisdictional delegates.

**UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) – Thodleen Dessources, program manager for UMCOR thanked the annual conference for inviting her. UMCOR is celebrating 75 years and the last 10 years our annual conference has supported UMCOR in the amount of \$8,935,720. Ms. Dessources, a native of Haiti, thanks us on behalf of the communities of Haiti and UMCOR. She closed with a video that illustrated the manner in which our prayers and financial support has helped to alleviate human suffering around the world.

**Results of Laity Ballot #11**

Number of votes cast: 651  
Number of valid: 628  
Needed to elect: 315  
**Elected: Robert Aderholt - 328**

**Laity Ballot #12** was taken for one Jurisdictional delegate

**Resolution - Property and Liability Insurance for Former Kansas East Conference Churches – submitted by Valinda Hailey**

The resolution was **withdrawn** by the submitter.

**Resolution - Local Church Property and Casualty Insurance – submitted by Steven R. Kirkeby**

**Motion:** Kirkeby moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded.

The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #12**

Number of votes cast: 412  
Number of valid: 371  
Needed to elect: 186  
**Elected: Junius Dotson - 212 and Eduardo Bousson -192**

**Clergy Ballot #13** was taken for four Jurisdictional delegates.

**Southwestern College** – Martin Rude, director of worship outreach, introduced Lindsay Graber a Southwest College senior, who spoke about how she has developed as a disciple of Jesus Christ and grown and been transformed through the integration of organizations, academics and mentoring at Southwestern College. She introduced several SWC staff members who joined her on stage.

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**Announcements** – the Rev. Nancy Lambert said that Thodleen Dessources will be available in the UMCOR booth for those who may wish to visit with her.

**Prayers**

Bishop Jones lifted up prayers for Mark Knutsen, the son of retired pastors Dean and Mary Alice Knutsen, who is receiving chemo and radiation treatment following brain cancer; and for Shelley Myers, wife of Trent Myers, director of Camp Fontanelle who has been diagnosed with a serious cancer.

**Break for lunch.** Plenary reconvenes at 1:30 p.m.

**CAMPUS MINISTRIES LUNCH**

Hyatt Regency, Grand Eagle Ballroom, 12 noon

**HISPANIC MINISTRY LUNCH**

Wichita First UMC, 330 N Broadway Street, Wichita, KS, 12 noon

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas

Friday, June 12, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

The Rev. David Lux, Saint Paul UMC, Lincoln, Nebraska opened with prayer.

**Results of Laity Ballot #12:**

Number of votes cast: 636

Number of valid: 636

Needed to elect: 319

There was **no election**

**Laity Ballot #13** was taken voting for one Jurisdictional delegate.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #13**

Number of votes cast: 445

Number of valid: 416

Needed to elect: 209

There was **no election**

**Clergy Ballot #14** was taken voting for four Jurisdictional delegates.

**Archives and History**

Lona Dearmont, chair of the Great Plains Annual Conference Archives and History Team recognized five churches that are celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in 2015:

First UMC Eureka, Kansas, First UMC Fort Scott, Kansas, Monticello UMC, Shawnee, Kansas, Palmyra UMC, Palmyra, Nebraska and Westmoreland UMC, Westmoreland, Kansas. Representatives of each church came forward and received a certificate as a picture of each church was shown. These churches came into being in 1865 when Nebraska was still a territory and Kansas had been a state for four years. Being a church for 150 years means that there have been 7,800 Sundays of worship services. Dearmont invited the body to visit the Archives and History booth to see other churches that are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup>, 120<sup>th</sup>, 125<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> anniversaries this year.

**Results of Laity Ballot #13**

Number of votes cast: 582

Number of valid: 582

Needed to elect: 292

**Elected: Sandy Simmons - 340**

This completed the laity election of General and Jurisdictional delegates.

Bishop Jones explained how the election of delegates works. If a delegate elected to General Conference for some reason cannot serve, then in order of election, they move up. So it is possible that the first person elected as a Jurisdictional delegate might end up being seated as a General Conference delegate if one of the original six is unable to serve. In the same way, if any of the six who are Jurisdictional delegates cannot serve at the Jurisdictional Conference, the first alternate is then seated as a Jurisdictional delegate. By electing three alternates, we have assurance that the Great Plains Annual Conference will be fully represented at these two conferences. Jones stated that the Great Plains Annual Conference is run with integrity and a high standard and so that each delegate has the backing of the conference, each one of them being endorsed by at least 50 percent plus one.

**Laity Ballot #14** was taken for three alternate delegates for Jurisdictional Conference.

**Nebraska and Kansas United Methodist Foundations Report, Anita Crisp and Alan Herndon**

Anita Crisp stated that the mission of the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation is to support the ministries of the Great Plains Conference and the local church 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 the year 2014 with over \$33.2 million in assets. In 2014 the Foundation received over \$5.2 million in contributions and earnings and distributed \$3.1 million consisting of grants, seminary scholarships, donor support and operations.

Alan Herndon, president and CEO of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation stated that their mission is about sustaining the United Methodist witness. The Foundation completed 2014 with just over \$47 million of assets and distributed just over \$3.2 million offering support to various United Methodist ministries, Kansas United Methodist churches, individuals and scholarships. He discussed the Certificate of Participation for empowering Kansas United Methodist Churches and how to make a million dollar difference. He recognized several churches that are currently participating.

The Nebraska gift basket was won by Delores Whiseheart and the Kansas gift basket was won by Alice Purvis. Bishop Jones recognized the amazing work being done by both foundations and blessed their continuing work.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #14**

Number of votes cast: 370

Number of valid: 357

Needed to elect: 179

**Elected: Stephanie Ahlschwede - 357**

**Clergy Ballot #15** was taken for three Jurisdictional delegates.

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**Resolution - Health and Wellness Liaison – submitted by Larry Tobias, Chair Great Plains Health and Wellness Committee**

**Motion:** Tobias, First UMC, McPherson, Kansas moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Debate Time**

Bishop Jones reminded the body that debate time is limited to two speeches for and two speeches against, each no more than two minutes in length.

**Resolution - Reinstating Group Health Insurance – submitted by Rev. Scott E.R. Evans**

**Motion:** Evans, Trinity Parish, Revenna/Hazard, Nebraska moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. One person spoke in favor of the resolution and two persons spoke in opposition.

Carl Nord, CCFA, indicated that a group term policy to cover the conference was higher than the rates that they had; therefore, there would be an increase to the cost of the insurance for the conference which would have a budget impact on 2016. He thought that we needed to be revenue neutral and asked if we could do that. Bishop Jones called on the Rev. Gary Beach, Great Plains Annual Conference Treasurer, to address the issue of the impact that this resolution would have on the conference budget if passed. He stated that the rates for clergy and lay conference staff would go up considerably in the budget if we go to group insurance.

**Motion** was made by Rev. David Livingston, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas to refer this to the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The motion was seconded and **carried** by a hand vote.

**Results of Laity Ballot #14**

Number of votes cast: 628

Number of valid: 598

Needed to elect: 300

**Elected: Carl Nord - 345**

**Laity Ballot #15** was taken for two alternate delegates for Jurisdictional Conference.

**Resolution - Local Church Healthcare Allowance – submitted by Steven R. Kirkeby** **Motion:** Kirkeby, on behalf of the Staff Parish Council of Stilwell UMC, Stilwell, Kansas, moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Resolution - Lay Equalization Refinements – General and Jurisdictional Delegates – Submitted by Randall Hodgkinson**

**Motion:** Hodgkinson, Topeka District lay leader, moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #15**

Number of votes cast: 423

Number of valid: 408

Needed to elect: 205

**Elected: Nathan Stanton - 208, and Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson - 205**

**Clergy Ballot #16** was taken for one Jurisdictional delegate.

**Resolution - Lay Equalization Plan Refinements – Campus Ministries – submitted by Randall Hodgkinson**

**Motion:** Hodgkinson, Topeka District lay leader, moved the adoption the resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Results of Laity Ballot #15**

Number of votes cast: 613

Number of valid: 590

Needed to elect: 296

**Elected: Steve Baccus - 328 and Shane Hinderliter - 303**

Bishop Jones stated that the Laity have completed their elections.

**Resolution - Board of Ordained Ministry Laity in Lay Equalization Plan - submitted by Randall Hodgkinson**

**Motion:** Hodgkinson, Topeka District lay leader, moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded.. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #16.**

Number of votes cast: 418

Number of valid: 418

Needed to elect: 210

There was **no election**

**Clergy Ballot #17** was taken for one Jurisdictional delegate.

**Resolution, Administration of Area Seminary Scholarship and Continuing Education Funds – submitted by Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Motion:** the Rev. Andrew Conard, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, moved the adoption of the resolution. It does not require a second. It was distributed to the body on Wednesday and does not appear in the workbook. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

**Resolution - District Superintendent Representation on the Conference Board of Trustees – submitted by the Extended Cabinet of the Great Plains Annual Conference**

**Motion:** the Rev. Don Hasty, Dodge City District superintendent, on behalf of the Extended Cabinet, moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion does not require a second. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Resolution - District Superintendent Representation on the Conference New Church Development Committee – submitted by the Extended Cabinet of the Great Plains Annual Conference**

**Motion:** the Rev. Don Hasty, Dodge City District superintendent, on behalf of the Extended Cabinet, moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion does not require a second. N.M. Patton, Peabody UMC, Hutchinson District asked, regarding Resolutions 16 and 17, why the superintendents would not be voting members. The reason is that there might be a conflict of interest in that position. The motion **carried** by a voice vote.

**Resolution - Christians in the Holy Land – submitted by Carol Ekdahl Garwood, St Paul UMC, South Sioux City, Nebraska**

**Motion:** Garwood moved the adoption of the resolution, to be implemented by the GP Conference Mercy and Justice Team and the GP Peace with Justice Ministries. The motion was seconded. Two persons spoke in favor of the motion and two persons spoke against it. The Rev. Dale Coates, Fullerton, Pierce Chapel and Clarks raised a question about the dates. It was clarified that the delegates to the General Conference will

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be aware of what the recommendations are, but that it will be coming back and then voted on by the 2016 Annual Conference session. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

Bishop Jones explained that once the delegate votes are completed the voting devices will be used for voting on upcoming resolutions and petitions.

**Announcements:** The Rev. Nancy Lambert reminded all that voting machines and name tags must be dropped off before leaving the conference. Leave them at the voting machine booths. The afternoon break is sponsored by our Foundations and we thank the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund for their support of the Parent and Lactation Room which has been well used during this conference.

Bishop Jones expressed special thanks to the Rev. Kim Dickerson-Oard and others who have led our childcare operation. We are sorry that there was no childcare during the special session last night but that session was not anticipated. Kim and her team have done an incredible job of taking care of the children.

**Thirty minute break** (sponsored by Nebraska and Kansas United Methodist Foundations).

**Prayer**

The Rev. Morita Truman, Hillsboro UMC, Hillsboro, Kansas led the body in prayer as the last session of the day began.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #17**

Number of votes cast: 426

Number of valid: 426

Needed to elect: 214

**Elected: Kibum Kim 243**

**Clergy Ballot #18** was taken for three alternates to Jurisdictional Conference.

**Angie Newman Award**

Courtney Fowler, conference lay leader, presented the Angie Newman Award to Cathy Matlack, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas. Cathy was nominated by her pastor, the Rev. David Livingston, who says "whenever there is a person I need to turn to or a voice that needs to be heard, Cathy is the person that I turn to and I know that these needs will be met." Congratulations to Cathy.

**Resolution - Great Plains Circles Poverty Initiative – submitted on behalf of Circles of Manhattan and the Micah Society of First UMC, Manhattan, Kansas**

**Motion:** the Rev. Jim Reed, First UMC, Manhattan, Kansas, moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. Two persons spoke in favor of the resolution. A question was raised regarding implementation by the Mercy and Justice Team and how to measure effectiveness.

**Motion to Amend:** Ken Sokol, Monticello UMC, Shawnee, Kansas, moved to amend as follows:

- in the Rationale: strike the words "Circles Program";
- strike the entire second and third Whereas paragraphs;
- in the Therefore be it resolved paragraph: strike implementation of the Circles program;
- strike the Be it further resolved paragraph;
- in the second Be it further resolved paragraph: strike on Circles

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The motion to amend was seconded. Two persons spoke for the amendment and two persons spoke against the amendment. The question was called and seconded on the amendment. The motion to amend **failed** by a hand vote.

Bishop Jones returned to the motion to accept the resolution, a few questions were answered and one person spoke against the resolution. The question was called on the motion. The motion **failed** by a hand vote.

**Results of Clergy Ballot #18**

Number of votes cast: 325

Number of valid: 313

Needed to elect: 157

**Elected: Rebecca Hjelle 165**

**Clergy Ballot #19** was taken for two alternates to Jurisdictional Conference.

Abby Caseman, Cunningham and Pensalosa UMCs, Cunningham, Kansas, requested a counted vote on Resolution 19. The voting devices were used and the motion **failed (408 – 594)**.

**Resolution - Establishing a Great Plains Conference Committee on Disability Ministries – submitted by Deans of the GP Cooperative Mission u and the GP United Methodist Women**

Esther Hay, Great Plains UMW President, on behalf of the authors, **withdrew** the resolution saying that she has been told the work can be accomplished by the Mercy and Justice Team without having to have a vote by the annual conference. The Rev. Kent Little, chair of Mercy and Justice spoke assuring the body that this will be an agenda item at the next meeting of the team.

**Resolution - Great Plains Annual Conference Exploring a Change in Jurisdictional Boundaries – submitted by Rev. Mark R. Holland, Trinity UMC, Kansas City, Kansas**

**Motion:** Holland moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded.

Two persons spoke in favor of the resolution and two spoke in opposition of the resolution.

**Motion to Amend:** by Tom Watson, associate conference lay leader, moved to remove all of the paragraphs beginning with “Whereas”. The motion was seconded. The motion to amend was accepted as a friendly amendment by Holland and the seconder.

**Motion to Amend:** The Rev. David Livingston, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas. Moved an addition and a deletion, so that it would read, “Therefore, be it resolved that the Great Plains Annual Conference newly elected General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates explore the redrawing of jurisdictional boundaries which would include the Great Plains Conference.” The motion to amend was seconded. The motion to amend was accepted as a friendly amendment by Holland and the seconder.

**Motion to Amend:** by Oliver Green, associate conference lay leader, moved to delete the third sentence of the Rationale: “Also, there may be a better cultural fit for the Great Plains Annual Conference in one of our adjacent jurisdictions.” The motion to amend was seconded. The motion to amend was accepted as a friendly amendment by Holland and the seconder.

**Motion to move the question:** by Neil Gately, Valley View UMC, Overland Park, Kansas. The motion was seconded. The resolution, as **amended, carried** by a hand vote.

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**Results of Clergy Ballot #19**

Number of votes cast: 401

Number of valid: 385

Needed to elect: 157

**Elected: Anne Gatobu - 199 and Rick Just - 196**

Bishop Jones expressed his deep appreciation to Ken Van, the elections coordinator, to the tellers who assisted with the voting process and to Options Technologies who are working with us for the first year. We know that there have been some frustrations regarding the voting devices and the process and are grateful for the patience of the body.

**Resolution - Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking – submitted by Kurt Cooper, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas; the Rev. Cindy Karges, Grace UMC, Hastings, Nebraska and the Rev. Kent Little, College Hill UMC, Wichita, Kansas**

**Motion:** Cooper moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion **carried** by a hand vote.

**Announcements:** the Rev. Nancy Lambert reminded people who are leaving the conference this evening and not returning to turn in their voting machines. The multicolor cross that has been on the altar and the icon of St. John the Divine are the works of Wichita artist Paula Plott Amos and we are very grateful to her for sharing her gifts with us.

**Prayer**

Bishop Jones closed the afternoon session with prayer lifting up Jerry Campbell, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas, who had to leave due to illness and for those being commissioned and ordained at the Ordination Service later in the evening.

**ORDINATION DINNER**

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Redbud Room

5:15 p.m.

**SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center

Friday, June 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

The service began with the prelude “We Gather” played by organist David Cason and followed by the Saint Mark Wichita Sanctuary Choir singing “Perfect Praise” by Walt Whitman.

The clergy and laity participating in the service and the Board of Ordained Ministry processed into the auditorium while the congregation sang “The Church’s One Foundation.” Bishop Jones led the greeting and prayer. The Rev. Dr. James Ayers, administrator at Presbytery of Southern Kansas was unable to be present due to an emergency but sent ecumenical greetings along with his apologies.

Courtney Fowler, conference lay leader; the Rev. Bruce Emmert, chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry; the Rev. Rick Saylor, chair of the Order of Elders; the Rev. Karen Nyhart, chair of the Order of Deacons; and the Rev. Warren Schoming, chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members recommended and presented the following:

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Commissioned for the work of elder: Chad Alan Boling, Doug Gahn, Christine Leah Jorgensen, Molly Just, Tyler Jack Kaufmann, Mari Idell King, Brenda Jane Kostner, Lucas Frederick McConnell, Kyle Nelson, Kyle Edwin Reynolds, Andrew James Scott and Kim Serio.

Commissioned for the work of deacon: Hyemi Lee Jones.

Recognized as associate member: Kathleen Symes.

To be ordained elders: Timothy W. Bever, William Gepford, Cathryn Jo Love, Jo Mead, Emily R. Meckley, Robert M. Walters and Kathy Lynn Williams.

Bishop Jones asked for the support of the congregation for those to be ordained and commissioned and asked the candidates the examination questions. He then commissioned the provisional elders and deacons by the laying on of hands. They were presented to the congregation and warmly greeted.

Those recognized as associate members received the laying on of hands.

The Anthem "Move Up that Mountain" by V. Michael McKay was sung by the Saint Mark Wichita Sanctuary Choir followed by the reading of scripture by Carolyn May, associate lay leader and the Rev. Nancy Kollhoff.

Bishop Bruce Ough of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area preached a sermon titled "Who Was I That I Could Hinder God."

The offering was received to support three mission projects: Lydia Patterson Institute, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Zimbabwe Episcopal Area. The offering totaled \$6043.16 (final total of offering received was \$6550.66 as reported in the Summer 2015 GPconnect).

Bishop Jones examined those to be ordained elder. He ordained them with prayer and the laying on of hands. The elders each received red stoles and the congregation welcomed them with warm applause.

The service concluded with Bishop Jones leading the congregation in prayer and with the recessional hymn "O Church of God, United." Following the recessional, those newly commissioned and ordained were greeted in the auditorium.

## **GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cypress Room, Wichita, Kansas  
Saturday, June 13, 2015, 7:15 a.m.

### **Delegation Meeting**

The newly elected General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and alternates met at the Hyatt Regency, Cypress Room.

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**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Saturday, June 13, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Jones welcomed the body to morning worship which was led by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry. The service included music, prayer and song with Bailey Waters and Shayla Jordan leading the message. Jakin Lefto, youth service coordinator for the Conference Council on Youth Ministry called Bishop Jones to the stage. Lefto and his "partners in crime" bound Jones' hands and held him for ransom. Lefto explained that the Youth Service Fund was established to empower the youth of the church to have opportunities to start new missions in the local church. Of the amount given, 70 percent stays in our conference and 30 percent is sent to the United Methodist youth organization for the support of its global programs. The youth are hoping that the morning offering will amount to at least \$5,000 which will free Bishop Jones - in the meantime, he is on parole. The offering produced \$6,079.00 (final total of offering received was \$6,539.79 as reported in the Summer 2015 GPconnect).

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**

Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center, Wichita, Kansas  
Saturday, June 13, 2015, 9:15 a.m.

Bishop Jones thanked the youth for an inspiring worship service and invited Evelyn Fisher to the stage to announce the names of the ten winners of the Congregational Excellence gift baskets. Jones then introduced Micole Harms-Brazell, associate conference lay leader from Omaha, Nebraska, who joined him on stage.

The Rev. Bill Ritter, Blue River District superintendent and incoming dean of the Cabinet, was joined by all of the district superintendents to thank the Rev. Mike Chamberlain, outgoing dean of the Cabinet, for his leadership. The Cabinet presented him with a thank you gift.

**Council on Finance and Administration, Carl Nord, Chair**

The first item of discussion was the Conference Advance Specials. This year all of the Advance Specials are listed in the workbook and in the future only changes will be listed.

**Motion:** Nord, on behalf of CF&A, moved the long-term approval of the Advance Special list. This list will be in perpetuity until the annual conference acts at a future time. A second is not needed. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

The Rev. Zach Anderson, Hanscom Park UMC, Omaha, Nebraska, spoke about a task force creating a comprehensive policy on moving guidelines for clergy of the Great Plains Annual Conference. Anderson introduced Patrick McKaig, Great Plains property manager, who works out of the conference office in Wichita. McKaig will serve as the moving coordinator and will be working with clergy to facilitate their move. A change in the policy is that moves will be paid for in full no matter whether the clergyperson serves in a quarter-time, half-time or full-time capacity.

**Motion:** Anderson moved adoption of the moving policy. A second is not needed. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

Bishop Jones introduced the Rev. Gary Beach, Great Plains Annual Conference treasurer, and thanked him, Niki Buesing and Mary Conrad for the tremendous amount of work that they do for the conference. Beach said that because they still have a lot of work to do, he will not be giving a report this morning but it will be on the website available to download next week. One piece of important information is that 2014 was better than 2013 in terms of payout by churches and 2015 is already up again. The first audit of the Great Plains Annual Conference has been completed.

**Questions Related to Finance**

Questions had been submitted in writing and answered by Evelyn Fisher, Carl Nord, Dave Platt and Brent Messick, all members of the Council on Finance and Administration. An editorial change was noted to remove “scholarships” with the line item for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**Approval of Policy**

Carl Nord moved adoption of the Council on Finance and Administration Policies as presented on pages 24-32 in the Workbook. A second was not needed. The motion carried by voice vote.

**Motion:** Carl Nord moved adoption of the Budget on pages 33 and 34 of the workbook. A second is not needed. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

**Motion:** the Rev. Bonnie Linton-Hendrick, Arnold, Ransom, Bazine UMCs in the Hays District, moved that the Great Plains Annual Conference become a fragrance free zone — free of all personal fragrances due to health issues of others attending the meetings. The motion was seconded. A friendly amendment was presented by the Rev. David Livingston, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas that this be referred to the Annual Conference Session Planning Committee and was accepted by Linton-Hendrick as well as the seconder. The motion **carried** by a voice vote.

**Motion:** the Rev. Rob Schmutz, Park City Fellowship, Park City, Kansas moved that the two-minute rule be expanded to five minutes with five speeches for and five speeches against for Petition 7 only. A friendly amendment by the Rev. Mark Holland, Trinity UMC, Kansas City, Kansas, that discussion be expanded to five speeches for and five against with each being limited to two minutes was accepted by Schmutz and the seconder. The motion **carried** by hand vote.

**Petition - Acknowledgement of Diverse Beliefs Regarding Homosexuality**

The Rev. David Livingston, St. Paul UMC, Lenexa, Kansas, moved the adoption of the petition. The motion was seconded.

**Motion:** the Rev. Gene McIntosh, Calvary and Salem UMCs, Iola, Kansas, moved to amend as follows: replace the bold print with “While a significant majority of United Methodists continue to hold the long-standing belief that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian teaching, we acknowledge and respect differences in opinion on human homosexuality.” The amendment was seconded. One person spoke for the amendment. The amendment **carried** by electronic vote (521 – 320).

**Motion:** the Rev. Andrew Conard, First UMC, El Dorado, Kansas, moved to divide the petition so as to consider separately Item 1 from the remainder of the petition. Bishop Jones indicated that this is a procedural matter. The motion **failed** by a hand vote.

**Motion:** The Rev. David Upp, Missionary to India, moved to amend by adding I Timothy 1:10 after the words “incompatible with Christian teaching”. One person spoke against the amendment. The Rev. Ken Van, First UMC, Leavenworth, Kansas called the question on everything before the body which includes the amendment and the petition. Closing of debate carried by hand vote. The amendment failed by electronic vote (600 – 253). The petition **carried** by electronic vote (496 – 363).

**Announcements:** the Rev. Nancy Lambert stated that all will be receiving a SurveyMonkey in the next week to ten days and asked that they be filled out as this helps the Annual Conference Session Planning Team assess the appropriateness of the different venues that we are using. The *Daily News* summary is being

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posted on the Great Plains website each day. This is helpful for lay people as they report back to their churches. When you leave at the end of the day, put your voting machines and nametag holders in the bins provided. She introduced and thanked the members of the Annual Conference Session Planning Team.

**Twenty minute break.**

**Prayer**

Reconvened at 11:15 a.m. with Shayla Jordan, Aldersgate UMC, Wichita, Kansas leading the body in prayer.

**Motion:** the Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner, Bryan College of Health Sciences, Lincoln, Nebraska, moved that the debate be further limited to two speeches for and two against with a time limit of one minute for each. The motion was seconded. One person spoke against the motion. The motion **failed** by hand vote.

**Petition - Geographic Consideration for Election of Bishops**

The Rev. Mark Holland, Trinity UMC, Kansas City, Kansas moved the adoption of the petition. The motion was seconded. Two persons spoke for the petition. The petition **carried** by a hand vote.

**Petition - Holy Conferencing for the Election of Bishops**

The Rev. Mark Holland, Trinity UMC, Kansas City, Kansas moved the adoption of the petition. The motion was seconded. One person spoke against the motion. The petition **carried** by a hand vote.

**Petition - Limit the Number of Bishops from Individual Annual Conferences**

The Rev. Mark Holland, Trinity UMC, Kansas City, Kansas moved the adoption of the petition. The motion was seconded. Two persons spoke for and two persons spoke against the motion. The motion carried by a hand vote. The Rev. Andy Hargrove, Barryton UMC, Barryton, Kansas requested a ballot vote. The motion **carried** by electronic vote (517 – 217).

**Petition - Fossil Fuel Investment Screens**

The Rev. Bonnie McCord, Wauneta and Palisade UMCs, Wauneta, Nebraska moved the adoption of the petition. The motion was seconded.

**Motion to Amend:** Alice Connor, Elkhart UMC, Elkhart, Kansas moved to delete the Whereas paragraph. The motion to amend carried by electronic vote. The petition as amended **failed** by electronic vote.

**Motion:** the Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner, Bryan College of Health Sciences, Lincoln, Nebraska moved to close off debate on the last two petitions due to time constraints. They would be considered as having been moved and seconded and we would then vote on them. This is a procedural motion. The motion was seconded. The motion **carried** by hand vote.

**Petition - Avoid Fossil Fuels Investments**

The petition **failed** by electronic vote (482 – 249).

**Petition - No Fossil Fuels Investments**

The petition **failed** by electronic vote (499 – 221).

**The business of the Annual Conference has been completed.**

**Cabinet Recognition**

Cabinet members and conference staff were recognized by the body and thanked by Bishop Jones for their untiring work on behalf of Great Plains United Methodists. Jones lifted up the family of the Rev. Marvin Neubauer in prayer; Neubauer, Elkhorn Valley District superintendent, died suddenly in mid-May.

**Closing Motions: Diane Jensen, conference secretary**

- I move to accept the record of the minutes as the official Journal of the 2015 Great Plains Annual Conference.
- I move that all reports presented in the workbook be accepted.
- 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.

All motions were **approved** by the body.

Jensen reminded the body that the next Great Plains Annual Conference will be held June 1 through June 4, 2016 at the Expo Centre in Topeka, Kansas.

**Fixing of Appointments, Bishop Jones**

Rather than reading the name of each appointment for the 1,040 churches in the Great Plains Annual Conference Bishop Jones read the names of those whose appointments are changing this year. Clergy and lay members from each district were asked to stand when called upon, the names of those changing appointments were read, and prayer received: God, we thank you for churches and clergy of this district. "Bless them, guide them, empower them that they might keep the main thing the main thing. Amen."

**Adjournment with prayer, Bishop Jones**