

**DAILY PROCEEDINGS**

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE CLERGY SESSION**  
**Capitol Plaza Hotel Sunflower Room, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**

**Bishop Scott Jones** opened the Great Plains Annual Conference Clergy Session. “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” was sung and Bishop Jones gave the opening prayer.

Bishop Jones introduced **Amy Lippoldt**, the chair of the Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry, who noted that the Board’s purpose is based on verses from I Peter 5. She encouraged those present to silently name those who would benefit from a conversation regarding a call to ministry, choose a date for that conversation and pray for them.

**Nancy Lambert** one of the staff members who work with the board, introduced two others, **Ashlee Alley**, Clergy Recruitment and Development Coordinator, and **Karen Jeffcoat**, Registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Retiring Board members, **Karen Nyhart** and **Kelly Karges** presented the Board’s report:

- **Nyhart** and **Karges** began with Question 17.
- **Question 18 (a)**. It was noted that Alice Purvis is not an alternate. Bishop Jones called for a vote. The Administrative Review Committee was elected.
- **Nyhart** and **Karges** continued their report with Questions 18 (b), 18 (c), 19 (a), 19 (b), 19 (c), and 20.
- **Questions 21 (a), (b) and (c)**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. Approved.
- **Nyhart** and **Karges** continued with Questions 21 (d) and 21 (e).
- **Questions 22, 23, 24 (a), 24 (b) and 25**. Bishop Jones called for a vote. Approved.
- **Nyhart** and **Karges** continued with Question 26 (a) and 26 (b).
- **Question 27**. Bishop Jones introduced Lawrence Barbary and called for a vote. He was elected and welcomed as an associate member of the Great Plains Conference.
- **Question 28 (a)**. Bishop Jones introduced Melissa Gepford and called for a vote. She was elected as a provisional deacon.
- **Question 28 (b)**. Bishop Jones invited those to be elected as provisional elders to come forward and introduce themselves. He called for a vote of each individual. Michael Brown, Isaac Chua, Orlando Gallardo Parra, and Kayla Mangrich were elected as provisional elders.

- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 29 through 31.
- **Questions 32, 33 and 34** were addressed together. Bishop Jones asked the candidates for ordination to come forward and introduce themselves: Melanie Martin and Karla Woodward, deacons; Lora Andrews, Tiffany Baker, Emily Cannon, Hyun Jung Choi, Jacob Cloud, Rebecca Davison, Aaron Duell, Katherine Ebling-Frazier, Andrew Frazier, Benjamin Hanne, Bryce Hansen, Changsu Kim, Hyeayoun Kim, Joohyang Kim, Joseph McColligan, Jose Miranda, and Joel Plisek, members in full connection and elders. All were elected.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Question 35 through 37.
- **Question 38.** Kalaba Chali, Jill Sander-Chali, Rodgers Chishiba and Hollie Tapley were introduced and received by transfer from other annual conferences in the United Methodist Church.
- **Question 39.** Todd Maberry was introduced and received by transfer from another Methodist denomination.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 40 (a) and 40 (b).
- **Question 41.** Thomas Buckley, Anthony Dawson, David Diaz, Patricia Longstroth, Michael Patzloff, Andrew Scott and Linda Willey have been transferred to other annual conferences of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Jones offered a prayer of thanksgiving for their ministries among us.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Question 42 (a).
- **Bishop Jones** called for a vote on Questions 42 (b) and 42 (c). Passed.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 42 (d), 43 (a)(1), 43(a)(2), 43 (b), 43 (c)(1), 43 (c)(2), 44 (a), 44 (b) and 45.
- **Question 46 (a).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Frances Rathbun and Karen Wiseman were approved for termination by withdrawal to unite with another denomination.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 46 (b) and 46 (c). Bishop Jones offered a prayer.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 47, 48 (a), 48 (b) and 48 (d).
- **Questions 48 (c), and 48 (e).** Sonia Irwin was added to the list. Bishop Jones offered a prayer of thanksgiving for those who have died in the past year.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 49.
- **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, Jayne Duncan, Tess Hufford, Janice Japp, Barbara Snell McLain, Pamela Bauer Nolan, Penny Swift-Kelly, Dianne Tombaugh and Jane Voelkel.
- **Question 50 (a) (2).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for voluntary leave of absence personal, 5 years or more, was granted to Costa de Oliveira and Nancy Barrett Walker.

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- **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, Jennifer Herndon, Hyemi Jones, and Amy Slater.
- **Question 50 (a) (4).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for voluntary leave of absence family, 5 years or more, was granted to Pauletta Joy Lehn and Lisa Wiens Thompson.
- **Question 50 (a) (5).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for voluntary leave of absence transitional was granted to Sue Barham and Laura Felleman.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 50 (b) and 51.
- **Question 52.** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Permission for medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions was granted to the 25 people listed.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 53 (a) and 53 (b).
- **Question 53 (c).** Retiring elders were called to the stage and introduced. Bishop Jones thanked them, prayed for them and called for the vote. The vote was YES.
- **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.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 53 (d), 54 (b) and 55.
- **Question 56 (a).** Bishop Jones noted that not all local pastors who are retiring are eligible by Discipline to be listed in this question. He called for the vote on retiring local pastors Janie Freeman and Melvin Reazin. The vote was YES. All retiring local pastors were called to the stage, introduced, thanked and prayed for.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Question 56 (b).
- **Question 57.** The charts for this question will be included in the official BAC report in the 2016 Great Plains Journal.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 58 through 63.
- **Question 64.** Bishop Jones noted that the Committee on Investigation will be elected by the Annual Conference.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 65 through 68.
- **Question 69.** Bishop Jones called for a vote. Sherry Wright, diaconal minister, was granted leave of absence.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 70 through 72.
- **Question 73 (a).** Bishop Jones called for a vote on all who are approved for less than full-time service. The vote was YES.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 73(b) through 75.
- **Question 76.** These appointments will be included in the Journal.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 77 (a) and 77 (b).
- **Question 77 (c).** Bishop Jones called for a vote. The vote was YES.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 78 (a), 78 (b), 78 (c) and 79.

- **Question 80.** There are no active diaconal ministers in the conference.
- **Nyhart and Karges** continued with Questions 81 and 82. The next Conference Session will be held June 7-10, 2017 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

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

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAITY SESSION**  
**Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**

Opening Music was provided by four members of the Asbury Mount Olive United Methodist Church Choir from Topeka, KS.

**Courtney Fowler**, Great Plains Conference lay leader, welcomed the laity and thanked them for being a blessing to her. She did a roll call of each district represented and asked them to stand. She recognized the youth that were in attendance, the United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Men. She gave awards for the person who drove the farthest, and the person who has attended the most Annual Conferences.

**Tom Watson**, Associate Conference Lay Leader from Kearney, Nebraska gave instructions, including a reminder that 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 report back to their Church Councils.

**Carolyn May**, Associate Conference Lay Leader from Colby, Kansas explained about the Lay Servant and Lay Speaker program. She also explained the Angie Newman Award; the recipient for 2016 is Mrs. Keitha Thomson of Nebraska City, Nebraska.

**Oliver Green**, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Topeka, Kansas invited the laity to share their ministry celebrations.

**Micole Harms-Brazell**, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Omaha, Nebraska, briefly explained the resolutions that will be before the Annual Conference.

**Randall Hodgkinson**, Topeka District Lay Leader reviewed resolution #10 on revised Lay Equalization Plan. He also reminded everyone of the social media opportunities that are available in the Conference.

**Courtney Fowler** thanked two Associate Conference Lay Leaders who have served faithfully and will no longer be serving in these roles, Micoles Harms-Brazell and Tom Watson. Fowler then introduced Keith Olsen, Grant, NE and Lisa Maupin, Lincoln, NE who will be joining the Lay Leadership Team as Associate Conference Lay Leaders.

**Tom Watson** shared his poetry which he has written for several years for the Nebraska Conference and now the Great Plains Conference.

Closing prayer was given by Oliver Green.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING WORSHIP  
Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas  
Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**

Worship opened with music by the Thundering Cats and their Big Band sound.

Bishop Scott Jones began with prayer. Using scripture from Ephesians 3, he spoke on four factors that make ministry so much harder now: 1) we have so many competing religions in our culture; 2) we're living in a time and place where people have fragmented lives; 3) increasing diversity; and 4) we're living in a time of rapid change. Bending over at the waist, Jones said, "Too many leaders are so bent over with earthly cares and the problems of life and of ministry that they're just ... focused on the ground and all they can see is the dirt in front of them. [Pope Gregory] said that's not what leadership is all about. Leadership is always gazing heavenward, keeping your eye on Jesus, ... being straight backed and looking upward." He concluded with a clip from "The Lion King" and Mufasa's words, "Remember who you are." He closed with prayer.

The offering, which totaled \$15,793.84, was divided equally among an endowment to supplement salaries of pastors in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference which includes three churches in Kansas, the Lydia Patterson Institute to help with a much needed expansion to the school, and the Zimbabwe East Conference to aid in the construction of an office building to better coordinate the ministries of this growing conference.

Bishop Jones celebrated the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Caleb Dean, the infant son of Rev. Michael and Jennifer Brown. He gave the benediction and the worship service closed with the Thundering Cats playing "When the Saints Go Marching In" and Bishop Jones' closing prayer.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**  
**Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 2:30 p.m.**

Bishop Jones called the Annual Conference to order and introduced Bishop Richard Wilke, who authored the *DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY*. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *DISCIPLE*. Bishop Jones also introduced the two people on the stage with him, Diane Jensen, the conference secretary and Courtney Fowler, the conference lay leader.

**Opening motions** were presented by Diane Jensen.

- I move that the secretarial staff for the Great Plains Annual Conference be as follows: Deanna Holland, Chair, Rev. John Collins, Janelle Erb, Laura Gregory, Amy Hasemeyer, Rose Roberts, Bette Trumble, and Rev. Kathy Williams. The motion was **approved**.
- I move that the bar of the conference for voting purposes be Sections 105 through 119, from the top of the Green section of seats forward. The parent room and all other areas are not included in this bar. The motion was **approved**.

Jensen also noted that the Standing Rules are on page 77 of the workbook; attendance is taken by signing the roll cards; and a fragrance-free area has been set aside in the arena.

Bishop Jones offered prayers for the Rev. Kibum and Inshin Kim who have traveled to Korea for the funeral of her mother and for the family of Mel Shumaker, Kearney, Nebraska whose funeral was yesterday.

**State of the Conference Address, Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader**

Fowler welcomed the members of the annual conference and expressed her appreciation to the laity of the annual conference, the associate lay leaders, the youth, her family and Bishop Jones and his spouse, Mary Lou Reece. She lifted up the work of every local church, Volunteers in Mission, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, as well as the Mercy and Justice Teams and the Copeland, Kansas United Methodist Church who donated \$10,000 to support the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. She reported on her experience as head of the General Conference delegation and her portion of the laity address to the General Conference.

**State of the Conference Address, Bishop Scott Jones**

Bishop Jones began with compliments to the General Conference delegation for their active participation and leadership in Portland, OR. He is grateful for the opportunity to lead three conferences into becoming the Great Plains Conference, one of the highlights of his ministry. He spoke about the vision for the new conference

and our missional priorities: youth, new church starts, leadership development, and global mission partners. He highlighted successes such as new staff positions, our mission partnerships, renewing camping ministries, and the global diversity of our clergy. He also lifted up the ongoing challenges of zero professions of faith in 51% of our churches, the average age of our clergy (57 years), and justice issues such as public education and mental health. "The key question facing us is how well we are going to love God and how well we are going to love each other through the difficult times ahead. In the midst of our diversity and our disagreements, we've got to stay focused on love of God and love of neighbor." The annual conference responded with a standing ovation.

**Nancy Lambert** brought announcements and, when asked by the Bishop, admitted it was her birthday. The annual conference sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

### **Thirty minute break**

Bishop Jones reconvened the annual conference at 3:50 p.m. and called on Erin Gately who wished her brother Wesley a happy birthday and on Daniel Solomon Holland who is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation in his family to attend annual conference. He introduced his father, Mark Holland, and his grandfather, Ron Holland.

### **The Nigeria Conference, Simon Benjamin, Director**

Benjamin began with a video and brought greetings from Bishop John Wesley Johanna of the United Methodist Church in Nigeria and the entire staff and students of the United Methodist Church orphanage in Jalingo, Nigeria. Current challenges at the orphanage include scholarships for students who are going on to college, transportation and the poor economy of the government which has made it difficult to provide enough food for the children.

### **Board of Ordained Ministry, Amy Lippoldt, Chair**

Lippoldt thanked the 51 members of the board, especially the vice chairs, Jenny Collins, Jeanne Jensen and Karen Nyhart, treasurer Andrew Conard, and secretary Sandy Simmons. She introduced Warren Schoming, leader of the fellowship of local pastors, who recognized those who have completed the Course of Study: Robert "Bob" Clemence, Bruce Draper, Glen Duderstadt, Theresa Forshee, Berniece Ludlum, Cesar Garcia Rodriguez, Scott Tempero and Beth Wilke. Lippoldt also introduced Karen Jeffcoat, registrar for the board, who introduced those being commissioned, recognized or ordained at this annual conference:

- Commissioned as provisional deacon – Melissa Gepford;
- Commissioned as provisional elder – Michael Brown, Isaac Chua, Orlando Gallardo Parra and Kayla Mangrich;
- Recognized as an associate member – Larry Barbary;
- Ordained as elders and received into full membership in the Order of Elders – Lora Andrews, Tiffany Baker, Emily Spearman Cannon, Hyun Jung Choi, Jacob Cloud, Rebecca Davison, Aaron Alexander Duell, Katherine Ebling-Frazier, Andrew Frazier, Benjamin Hanne, Bryce Hansen, Changsu Kim, Hyeayoun Kim, Joohyang Kim, Joseph McColligan, Jose Miranda, and Joel Plisek.

Bishop Jones asked them the historic questions. They were greeted with applause by the annual conference.

Lippoldt recognized the clergy present who were celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary under appointment. David Livingston offered a prayer of thanksgiving for them and their ministry. Those celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary were asked to stand. Claudia Bakely prayed for them. Those celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary stood, and Bill Ritter prayed for them. Those celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary stood, and Dee Williamston prayed for them.

**Mary Lou Reece**, Bishop Jones' spouse, announced the clergy spouse event which is scheduled for Friday.

### **Celebration of the 20-Year Anniversary of the Order of Deacon, Karen Nyhart**

Bishop Jones introduced Karen Nyhart, chair of the Order of Deacons, who invited all the deacons to come to the stage. As she spoke, a video showed photos of deacons in their various ministries throughout the conference. Prior to 1996, the ordination of deacons was the first step toward ordination of elders. Beginning in 1996, deacons became a separate and distinct order, the Order of Deacons. Nyhart recognized those present who were ordained in 1997.

On behalf of the deacons of the Great Plains conference, Nyhart presented to Bishop Jones a pitcher and towel as symbols of servant ministry and a reminder that we're all in ministry together. Jones thanked the deacons for their ministries and the annual conference thanked them with applause.

### **General Conference Delegation Report #1**

#### **Courtney Fowler**

Twenty-nine people traveled to General Conference in Portland, Oregon as the 2016 Great Plains Conference Delegation, and they joined Fowler on the stage. The annual conference thanked them with applause. She introduced **Adam Hamilton** and thanked him for his calming presence in the anxious moments of general conference.

**Rev. Adam Hamilton**

Hamilton described the Great Plains delegation as a “high-impact delegation.” He narrated a video of general conference photographs. The United States is in a different place than it was in any of the five previous general conferences that Hamilton has attended because same sex marriage was approved by the Supreme Court and made legal in all 50 states in the past year. The church is divided. They spent the first week of General Conference, among other things, in legislative committees debating these things and voting. And the likelihood was that the language would stay the same with perhaps even greater restrictions placed on them. The General Conference voted to ask the bishops to take responsibility for appointing a special commission that will develop a plan that they could bring back to a special called session of the General Conference, probably in two or three years. At that called session the commission will unveil this plan, which hopefully will be broad enough that most United Methodists would say, “You know what? I don’t agree with all of that but I can live with that.” Hamilton believes that this commission and maybe General Conference will approve something that 90% of United Methodists can live with. “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?” – John Wesley.

**Commissioning of Interns, Nicole Conard**

This is the second year of the Great Plains summer internship program for young adults who are interested in growing in their faith and leadership skills. Thirty-three interns will serve over the next ten weeks throughout our Great Plains in one of six types of internships: 1) Micah Corps, facilitated by Kalaba Chali, Joshua Manning and the Mercy and Justice team; 2) Vacation Bible School interns facilitated by Micki McCorkle; 3) church planting interns, facilitated by Nathan Stanton and New Church Development; 4) pastoral leadership interns, facilitated by Ashlee Alley, clergy excellence and the Board of Ordained Ministry; 5) young adult community interns, facilitated by Nicole Conard and our Campus Ministries; and 6) youth ministry interns. The interns were invited to the stage, and annual conference members who represent churches that are hosting interns were asked to raise their hands. As the interns held out their hands to receive the prayers of the annual conference, conference members reached out toward them and prayed with Conard. Bishop Jones thanked the interns and reminded them that he started out as a 15-year-old intern at an inner city ministry in Tampa, Florida. It changed the rest of his life.

**Baker University, Kevin Hopkins**

Baker is the oldest college in the state of Kansas. In 1858, a group of New England clergy who had moved out to the prairie to help aid in the abolition movement in the Kansas territory felt led to start a college and Baker was born. Hopkins noted that Baker was most recently named the

number one value for your education and earning potential in the state of Kansas for both public and private universities. He highlighted other accomplishments for the year and ended with a presentation to Bishop Jones, in appreciation for serving for 12 years on the Baker University Board of Trustees ... a Wowser the Wildcat bobblehead.

**Congregational Excellence, Rev. Evelyn Fisher, Director**

The optional evening event, a conversation about general conference, will be an opportunity for Great Plains clergy and laity to be heard and to hear one another. Facilitators and ten members of the delegation will be present to assist.

**Announcements** were presented by Nancy Lambert. Bishop Jones prayed for the family of Great Plains clergy member Susan Montgomery who died recently and adjourned the session.

**United Methodist Men Dinner & Auction**

Countryside United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas, 5:00 p.m.

**United Methodist Women Dinner**

First United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas, 6:00 p.m.

**Deacon Dinner**

Blind Tiger Restaurant, Topeka, Kansas, 6:00 p.m.

**Young Clergy Dinner**

Berryton United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas, 6:00 p.m.

**Gathering of African American & Black American Clergy**

Asbury Mount Olive United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas,  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Topeka Conference Office Tour, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Evening Conversation & Information Regarding General Conference**

Capitol Plaza Hotel, Sunflower Room, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MORNING WORSHIP**

**Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**

**Thursday, June 2, 2016, 8:30 a.m.**

Opening music was led by Dr. Michael Tully, Director of Music Ministries, Trinity United Methodist Church, Lincoln, NE.

Bishop Jones introduced retired **Archbishop Elias Chacour** who identifies himself as a Palestinian Arab Christian Israeli. He was the Archbishop of Akko, Haifa, Nazareth and All Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church from 2006 to 2014. He shared his personal story of growing up as an Arab Christian and serving as a priest in the village of Ibillin. His father taught him and his brothers, “If you use violence, you will fall victim of violence.” He told about being a Palestinian citizen of Israel, “We are not at all wishing the disappearance of Israel. We pray for Israel ... Because being a Palestinian Arab Christian, I’m also a citizen of the state of Israel, and as a citizen, I’m not a citizen like the Jews

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are citizens, I'm a second-class citizen. On my passport, my ID is 02, while the Jew is 01."

Bishop Jones and the Annual Conference thanked Archbishop Chacour who will offer another presentation at the Mission Lunch.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**  
**Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2016, 9:50 a.m.**

**Campus Ministry, Justin Jamis**, Campus Minister at Kansas State University and **Chris Jorgensen**, Campus Minister serving Creighton University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

In the Great Plains, we have ten campus ministries and four United Methodist schools. Jorgensen invited the campus ministers to the stage. This February, the campus ministers gathered to develop a philosophy of Campus Ministry, as a way of defining who they are and how they do our work. The philosophy that came from that is: Campus Ministry is a movement of grace, empowering students to live transformed lives to transform the world. Jamis urged laity and clergy to let the campus ministers know of students attending their schools. The campus ministers introduced themselves, and Jamis concluded with prayer.

**Gary Beach, Conference Treasurer**

Beach encouraged annual conference members to look through the narrative report and the corrected summary financial report in the conference workbook. The 16-page financial report can be found online. **Recommendation:** CF&A recommends that the mission share formula be continued at 10% of the Church's total operating income. **Approved.** Beach will be retiring in 2017, and Bishop Jones thanked him for his work in bringing the finances of three conferences together. The annual conference thanked him with a standing ovation. Bishop Jones called for a vote to elect Gary Beach as the Great Plains Conference Treasurer for the next quadrennium, knowing that he will retire in a year. **Approved.**

**Mates in Ministry, Christine Hargrove**

The clergy spouse group has a Facebook page and will have a Friday lunch in the hotel Pioneer Room. Hargrove asked everyone present to sign the quilt which will be a parting gift for Bishop Jones and his spouse Mary Lou Reece, a token of appreciation for their friendship and support.

**Twenty minute break**

GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE  
Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas  
Thursday, June 2, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Prelude Music: "Shall We Gather at the River." Rev. Angie Vertz brought greetings, led the call to worship and offered prayer. The Korean Clergy Ensemble sang "Vision" in Korean. Angie Vertz read Revelation 7:9-17.

The **Rev. Jim Akins**, Hays District Superintendent brought the sermon. "We gather to remember and honor people today because in a very special way they gifted us with their memories ... They are memories of the transcending presence of God. They are memories of the amazing grace of God. They are memories of the redeeming power of God and the promise of God for our resurrection unto eternal life ... Let us always thank God that he has given us the ability to use our memories to tell the story that disciples might be made and our God might be honored and glorified."

The offering to benefit Camp Comeca totaled \$15,912.87. The Korean Clergy Ensemble sang "How Great Thou Art."

Rev. Melinda Harwood led the "Act of Remembrance." The names of pastors and spouses who died in the past year were read aloud. A candle was lighted and a gong sounded for each one. **Clergy:** Donald Bakely, Harold Dean Baldwin, Olin A. Belt, Jerry Lee Bever, James Charles (JC) Browne, Philip D. Brownlee, LaDonna Ruth Carey, Shirley Holden Carpenter, G. Richard Carter, Dale L. Clare, James E. Fleagle, T. J. Fraser, Carroll French, John Goering II, Paul R. Hett, Donald D. Hines, Conley Kent Hinrichs, Nellie "Nel" Lou Holmes, Charles Stanley LaRue, Lloyd J. Lowe, Gerald Arthur Martin, Dennis Howard Matthews, Lillian Delorse Moore, Marvin D. Neubauer, Raymond Eaton Noah, Robert "Bob" Donald Parker, Arlie Persell, Eugene Rasmussen, Arnold Roland Jr., Oliver Rosas, David Dean Rowe, John A. Schmitt, Dwight Alden Skow, John M. Snook, James P. "Jim" Townson, Richard H. Urbach, Henry Wagoner, George Wattenbarger, Marion F. Woods. **Spouses:** Uriel Bernell McNeill Baldwin, Willa Mae Borger, Lynda J. Brazil, Merceda Joan Dussair, Valda Joan Embree, Doris Ellen Garrison, Vera Evelyn Gordon, Irma Herrick, Sonia D'Ann Irwin, Connie Jo Jones, Hilda Zoe "Zodie" Kaye, Mary Lou Bauer Martin, John Byron Norwich McLennan, Fern H. Mead, Cleo Pataricia Noah, Helen Barber Norman, Cara Ruth Hutchinson Perkins, Virginia E. Rimel, Nita Wyatt Sundbye Sewell, Donna Elaine Stewart Stanton, Marjorie Watts Strohl, Phyllis Watkins Tudor, Julia Kitchens Wilke.

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Bishop Jones led the “Prayer for the Saints and the Faithful Departed.”

Holy Communion was served with Bishop Jones and Akins as celebrants. The sending song was “All the Saints Who’ve Fought.” Bishop Jones gave the benediction. The Postlude was “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.”

**Mission Partnership Lunch with Archbishop Chacour Speaking**  
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Sunflower Room, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Lunch**  
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald Room 1, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY  
Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas  
Thursday, June 2, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**

Bishop Jones began the afternoon session with announcements, including the date of Jurisdictional Conference which will be held in Wichita, July 12-16.

**Pensions and Health Benefits, Kelly Williams, Chair**

The board’s report is on page 56 of the workbook, and their 11 action items begin on page 17. There are no changes to items 1, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11.

- Item 1 – No change.
- Item 2 -- Based on all the information that was provided to the board, the board does not believe that it is fiscally wise for the clergy serving the local church or the local church itself or the Great Plains Annual Conference to return to group health insurance for its clergy members.
- Item 3 -- The board recommends that research of the actual cost of a silver PPO plan for all pieces of geography within the Great Plains Annual Conference be performed each year. The board will then compare each year’s rate to the previous year’s rate for the same plan, and the same geography, and that information will guide the board in determining the rate for the healthcare allowance for the ensuing year. Since the board cannot use the criteria stated above for 2017 due to the lack of equivalent information, based on clergy reporting and the average that accounts for taxes, the board hereby recommends a \$15,000 healthcare allowance for 2017.
- Bishop Jones called for a vote on Items 2 and 3. **Approved.** Bishop Jones also called for a vote on Item 1. **Approved.**

- Item 4 -- The board recommends that effective January 1, 2017, those currently receiving a healthcare allowance and those newly eligible for CPP incapacity leave benefits receive \$300 per month and \$300 per month for the spouse and dependents under the age of 26 for three years. **Motion to Amend** by Lou Davies: That the annual conference continue to pay the conference insurance rate of insurance allowance (\$14,232.00) for the first 24 months until Medicare kicks in. The motion was seconded. **Motion to Amend the Amendment** by Evelyn Fisher: An allowance for \$14,232 for up to 24 months, following which benefits will be \$300 per month and for 3 years, \$300 per month for spouse and dependants until the age of 26. Fisher clarified her intention in the amendment to the amendment: I would anticipate that the \$14,232 would be for two years, the \$300 a month would then kick in for the amount of time stated, an additional three years. Motion to amend the amendment was seconded and **carried**. Bishop Jones called for the vote on the Davies amendment. The amendment **carried**. Bishop Jones clarified further: It is for each individual person that meets that parameter, spouse, and multiple children under the age of 26 (\$300 per person for eligible spouses and dependents). The three-year timetable is just for spouse and dependents; the clergy person has no timetable. Bishop Jones called for the vote on the amended proposal. **Approved**.
- Item 5 – The board recommends that the past service rate be increased from the 2016 rate of \$744 for each past service year to \$759 for each past service year beginning January 1st, 2017. **Approved**.
- Item 6 – No change. **Approved**.
- Item 7 -- The proposed changes to the CPP submitted at General Conference by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits was approved by the board. The changes are presented on Page 59, Lines 42 through 47. Therefore, the board recommends that all three-quarter time ordained pastors, all three-quarter time student local pastors and all three-quarter time local pastors be covered by the CPP with a cost to the local church at 3% of plan comp. Also, ordained clergy members serving halftime will receive benefits through UM life options, with the actual cost being paid by the local church. **Approved**.
- Items 8, 9, 10, 11 -- No changes except what was brought up earlier, which is the healthcare allowance will not be included in the pension funding. **Approved**.

**Personnel Committee, Craig Hauschild, Chair**

The Minimum Compensation Recommendation is on page 9 of the workbook. Last year, the annual conference did not approve any increase to minimum base compensation, and so this year the recommendation is 2% increase. **Amendment** by Andy Hargrove: Substitute lines 24-53 (especially lines 46-48) on page 46 of the workbook for the Minimum Compensation Recommendation. The amendment was seconded. **Motion to Refer** by Brenda Heard: Refer Hargrove amendment to the personnel committee for evaluation and study. The motion to refer was seconded and **Failed**. **Motion to amend the amendment** by Amanda Baker. Strike \$35,000 and replace it with \$41,000. The motion was seconded and **Failed**. Bishop Jones called for the vote on the Hargrove amendment. The amendment **failed**. Bishop Jones called for the vote on the Personnel Committee recommendation. **Approved**.

**Mary Lou Reece**, spouse of Bishop Jones, introduced their granddaughter, Taylor, to the Annual Conference. Reece used “the privilege of the floor” to call on Bishop Wilke to bring a limerick challenge to the floor, allowing the annual conference to supply the last word. “Be ready to preach, pray or die, when the Bishop gives you the eye. Don’t make an excuse. It may cook your goose. Just smile, bow your head and COMPLY.”

**General Conference Delegation Report #2****Rev. Amy Lippoldt**

“Some of our dysfunction in process this year was due not only to a severe lack of trust in the body, but also in the fact that we have a long way to go in learning how to navigate our global differences. Our connection from around the globe was only made possible by the tireless work of skilled interpreters, including five people from our own Great Plains conference who flew to Portland to work in interpretation ... Kalaba Chali spearheaded an effort among the interpreters at General Conference to donate all or much of the stipends that they were receiving for their interpretation work to a scholarship fund at Africa University. Chali and the other interpreters raised \$40,000 from among their stipends.” General Conference also added fiscal malfeasance to the list of chargeable offenses, as a reason for a complaint to be filed against a clergy person or Bishop. Lippoldt thanked the annual conference for the privilege of serving on the delegation.

**Dixie Brewster**

General conference passed changes to local churches. 1) Lay leader and lay member of annual conference shall serve on the SPPRC, in addition to the 5 to 9 members; 2) ministries such as coffee houses and mall ministries are now recognized as local churches; 3) churches are strongly encouraged to have a camping and retreat coordinator; 4) accessibility audits are to be done; 5) every church shall compare costs for adequate insurance coverage yearly; 6) observance of Martin Luther King Day was encouraged; 7) make sure your ministries are relevant and meaningful to your local community. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DISCIPLE Bible Study was celebrated.

**Rev. Zach Anderson**

GCFA initially proposed a \$611M budget, but was encouraged to lower it. They brought a \$599M budget to the general conference. From the floor of the general conference \$5M was proposed for theological education in the central conferences. That was approved, which resulted in a \$604M quadrennial budget, up from \$603.1 in 2012, and resulted in a \$39,000 increase in the Great Plains budget that CF&A proposed.

**Lisa Maupin**

General Conference was not all work and legislation. There were celebrations as well, the celebration of 150 years of United Methodist Women, the commissioning of a sizable class of missionaries and church and community workers, the sending forth of deaconesses and home missionaries, the celebration of 200 years of the AME church and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women. Maupin asked the clergywomen to stand. They were thanked with applause. She ended her report with a video about the ordination of women.

**Resolutions from District Superintendents, all seconded by the Cabinet**

**Rev. David Watson, Five Rivers District**

A resolution that was a substitute for Resolution 1 in the conference workbook. The Iola Trinity UMC in Allen Co., KS is declared discontinued as of June 30, 2016. Bishop Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving. **Approved.**

**Rev. Kay Alnor, Great West District**

The Wellfleet United Methodist Church in Lincoln Co., NE is declared discontinued as of December 27, 2015. Bishop Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving. **Approved.**

**Rev. Bruce Emmert for Rev. Kibum Kim, Parsons District**

The Hepler United Methodist Church in Crawford Co., KS is declared discontinued as of December 31, 2015. Bishop Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving. **Approved.**

**Rev. Dee Williamston, Salina District**

The Pleasant View United Methodist Church in Mitchell Co., KS is declared discontinued as of June 30, 2016. Bishop Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving. **Approved.**

**Rev. Kay Scarborough, Topeka District**

The Soldier United Methodist Church in Jackson Co., KS is declared discontinued as of August 31, 2016. Bishop Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving. **Approved.**

The Scranton United Methodist Church in Scranton, Osage Co., KS is declared discontinued as of September 30, 2016. Bishop Jones gave a prayer of thanksgiving. **Approved.**

**Rev. Linda Louderback, Wichita West District**

A resolution was substituted for resolution 7 in the conference workbook. The South Haven United Methodist Church, located in Sumner Co., KS is declared discontinued as of May 6, 2016. **Approved.**

**Comment, Ron Williams**

"I was raised surrounded by fully ordained United Brethren women ministers, and I would remind you that the first black woman, woman of color, to be ordained in the United Methodist Church was ordained at Concordia, Kansas, in May 1904."

**Epworth Village, Margaret Donovan, CEO**

Epworth Village, York, NE provides a variety of services through group care for youth who have behavior issues. In the 2015 fiscal year Epworth served 260 children and 72 families. They received a clean audit and are operating in the black. They have begun serving girls and are implementing strategies to grow their in-home services. Bishop Jones noted that local churches are asked for 1% of their operating income to go to our mission agencies, and Epworth Village is one of the agencies that is supported in that way.

**Ogden Friendship House of Hope, Diana Chapel, Director**

In 2015, House of Hope helped 2,700 people in our thrift store and had 6,000 duplicated individuals going through their mobile and their standard pantry. They shipped items to VIM mission in Jamaica and school supplies to orphanages in Philippines, Zimbabwe, and Mexico. Chapel thanked the annual conference for their support and gifted Bishop Jones with a House of Hope t-shirt.

**Commission on Archives and History, Lona Dearthmont**

Dearthmont introduced Kansas archivist Sarah DeCaro and commission member Doris Wills who assisted her in honoring churches that are celebrating 150 years. Pastors and lay members came forward to receive a certificate. Those churches are Camp Creek United Methodist Church, Cummings, KS; Centenary United Methodist

Church, Lawrence, KS; Clarks United Methodist Church, Clarks, NE; Easton United Methodist Church, Easton, KS; Hopewell United Methodist Church, near Sterling, NE; Louisville United Methodist Church, Louisville, KS; Marysville United Methodist Church, Marysville, KS; Mentor United Methodist Church, Mentor, KS; Ottawa First United Methodist Church, Ottawa KS; Valley Falls United Methodist Church, Valley Falls, KS.

**Prayer**

Bishop Jones offered prayer for Earl Haggard, Becky Sadler, and Cheryl Cox who are experiencing difficulties.

**Episcopacy Committee, Maria Campbell, Chair**

Campbell asked the Great Plains episcopacy committee and the South Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee members to stand. For the last time, the Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee will have six members from the Great Plains, a strong voice on behalf of this conference. A service of celebration of the new Episcopal leader will be October 15 at St. Mark's UMC, Lincoln, NE. The event will be live streamed. Campbell thanked Bishop Jones for his work, his careful decision-making, and his commitment. She invited Mary Lou Reece to join Bishop Jones as she presented a commissioned piece of art to them, created by Meredith Gannon. Copies of the art are for sale with the proceeds benefiting Camp Comeca.

**David Watson, Five Rivers District Superintendent, on behalf of the Cabinet**

With humor and thanksgiving, Watson honored Bishop Jones and Mary Lou for their years in Kansas and Nebraska. A video of photographs was shown and a life-size cut-out of Bishop Jones in "Super-Bishop" attire was presented. All were invited to the evening reception for them.

**Twenty minute break****GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE RETIREMENT SERVICE**

**Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**

**Thursday, June 2, 2016, 4:30 p.m.**

The service opened with a song medley by Michael Tully and the Praise Band. Mark Conard, the communications coordinator for the Great Plains Association of Retired clergy and spouses (GPARCS), introduced the new acronym for the organization. Nancy Flader, vice president, welcomed the retirees to retirement, their new form of ministry. Jim Reed, chairman, gave advice on downsizing.

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Bishop Scott Jones greeted the retirees saying “Your congregations, your colleagues and friends give thanks for the work you have done among us. We rejoice in your service with us. Never think lightly of the great good God has wrought through you. Continue to be true to your calling. May God’s love and power be with you always.”

Deacons, elders, associate members and local pastors retiring are: Sondra Atkins, Pat Ault-Duell, Larry Barbary, David Bell, Quentin Bennett, Eva Brown, Russell G. Brown, George Wine Chase, Moon-Hee Chung, Dale Coates, Louis Davies, Priscilla Davies, Randall Dilts, Leslie Ellis, Michael Flury, Janie Freeman, Dennis Fulton, Michael Graber, Joyce E. Harris-Scott, Warren Hett, Thomas Hyde, Keith Johnson, J.C. Kelley, January Kiefer, Dale Lambert, Bonnie Linton-Hendrick, Dennis R. “Buck” Linton-Hendrick, Theresa Mason, Janet Maxwell, Bernard McFarthing, Melvin “Tom” Reazin, Clifford “Kip” Ryherd, Rick Saylor, Karla Shafer, Dale Thiele, Cheryl Wertheimer and Bob Whitaker.

Candidates for ordination Ben Hanne, Southwestern College campus ministry and Lora Andrews, Grace UMC, Winfield Kansas led a litany based on the Prophet Elijah and the transfer of his mantle to Elisha.

Rev. Howard Sudduth, retired, Mayetta UMC-Potawatomi UMC, shared his reflections on retirement which was followed by singing “Are We Yet Alive” and Bishop Jones’ benediction. A dinner was held for the retirees and their spouses at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in the Emerald Room.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald Room I and II**  
**Friday, June 3, 2016, 8:00 a.m.**

Mates in Ministry (clergy spouses) met in the Emerald Room at the Capitol Plaza with brunch being served.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP**  
**Kansas Expocentre – Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Friday, June 3, 2016, 8:30 a.m.**

Worship began with music by members of the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference and African clergy from the conference. On behalf of the Zimbabwe Annual Conference and the staff of the United Methodist Church orphans and orphanage, a gift was presented to Bishop Jones in appreciation of the Zimbabwe Partnership.

Bishop Scott Jones introduced George Howard, executive director of Global Coaching and Special Projects of the General Board of Global Ministries who spoke on the theme of doing mission and serving Christ near and far.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**  
**Kansas Expocentre – Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Friday, June 3, 2016, 9:30 a.m.**

Bishop Jones granted a request of personal privilege to Daniel Solomon Holland, representing the youth of the Great Plains Annual Conference. Daniel presented the following **Motion**: I move that on behalf of the youth represented at this Annual Conference, that the Superman cutout depicting Bishop Scott Jones' face, otherwise known as "Super Scott" be placed just behind the pulpit and stage seating in full view of all gathered here while all meetings are in session and out in front of the stage during breaks and after adjournment for the enjoyment and picture-taking of everyone for the remainder of the 2016 United Methodist Great Plains Conference. The motion was seconded and **carried** by a voice vote.

Rev. Nancy Lambert presented two motions that are coming from the Connecting Council: 1) **Motion**: that the proposed change to the language in the Plan of Organization regarding the clergy vacation policy (found on page 19 in the conference workbook) be approved. No second is required; the motion **carried** by voice vote. 2) **Motion**: that the study of redistricting of the conference be terminated (page 20 of the conference workbook). The study was begun following a motion at the 2014 Annual Conference. No second is required; the motion **carried** by voice vote.

Lambert announced that the reception that was held for Bishop Jones and Mary Lou Reese last evening was hosted by the Nebraska and Kansas Foundations and thanked both organizations.

Bishop Jones introduced Micole Harms-Brazell, associate conference lay leader, who is seated with him and Diane Jensen.

**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 year 2015 ended with

assets over \$36.9 million. Distributions in support of the conference were a little over \$2.1 million. The Foundation celebrated fifty years of service in 2015; as part of the celebration, a fund was set up for Camp Comeca, Camp Norwesca and Camp Fontanelle. Annual distributions will be made to the three camps to help with their greatest needs.

Alan Herndon, Kansas Foundation CEO, presented amendments to the by-laws which are in the conference workbook beginning on page 20. Bishop Jones put the approval of the by-laws changes before the body and it was **carried** by a voice vote. Herndon went on to review a variety of services offered to local churches by the Foundation and stated that the total distributions in 2015 were \$3,490,970.

On behalf of the two Foundations, Crisp presented Bishop Jones with a Stamp Award – stamps that tell the story of his lives – interests, hobbies, travels, which included stamps that had been his father’s.

### **Delegation Report #3**

#### **Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell**

Bell gave highlights of the Faith and Order Committee on which she served. They dealt with matters of Faith, Order, Doctrine and Ministry. She chaired a subcommittee dealing with Human Sexuality and came away from General Conference with hope that within the next four years we will be together as a united church.

#### **Rev. David Livingston**

Livingston shared that five amendments passed at General Conference and will be presented to this Annual Conference in 2017. Two-thirds of aggregate votes of all annual conferences are required to ratify a constitutional amendment.

#### **Rev. Mark Holland**

Holland told about serving on the Conferences Committee which considered legislation around the organization and the balance of the five jurisdictions in the United States as well as looking at the global nature of the church and its relationship to the world church. Holland stated that no structural changes were made to the church.

#### **Shayla Jordan**

Jordan stated that she was the second youngest person on the floor at General Conference. Jordan served on the Discipleship Committee which dealt with legislation regarding youth, lay ministry and hymnal and baptismal verbiage. She spoke of her trip to Israel which prepared her for discussions around Israel/Palestine topics and she presented the Young Adult Summit Unity Statement to the General Conference.

**Wesley Gately**

Gately spoke of the global nature of our church. His group was half American and half African and shared the Wesleyan theology of grace and the connection that we have. Due to the vast differences in cultures, we need to find ways to balance the need for diversity of culture while still maintaining the need for unity. He hopes that we find ways to grow and thrive with one another.

Bishop Jones thanked the delegation for their work.

**Thirty minute break**

Bishop Jones offered a prayer for seven year old Brinley Tetrick of Kingman, Kansas who has been hospitalized after being trampled by a horse.

**GraceMed, Dave Sanford**

Sanford shared a video of GraceMed's ministries which includes ten locations in the greater Wichita area; 36,000 persons were treated via medical, dental, vision, behavioral and pharmacy services. They will be coming to Topeka in a few months and in 2017 will have a satellite clinic in McPherson, Kansas.

**UM Open Door**

Rev. Deann Smith was unable to attend but a video telling of the UM Open Door ministries was shown. Bishop Jones said they are currently in a capital campaign that needs to raise \$358,000 by the end of the year in order to receive \$500,000 provided by a challenge grant from the Maybee Foundation.

**Mary Lou Reece** called on Dirk Hutchinson, limerick writer. She is handing the Great Plains Limerick Challenge to Hutchinson who read the third limerick of the session.

**Lydia Patterson Institute, Dr. Socorro de Anda**

Rev. Larry Moffet introduced Dr. Socorro de Anda who showed a video telling of the difficulties the students have to go through to get to school each day. This year 91 students graduated and all have been accepted into a college or university. Scholarships provided by United Methodist churches totaling \$1.7 million were available to students. On behalf of the Great Plains Annual Conference, Bishop Jones presented a letter stating that we have raised \$55,265 for LPI.

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**Resolution – Establishing a Great Plains Conference Disabilities Awareness Sunday and Ministries - submitted by United Methodist Women**

At the request of the president of the Great Plains United Methodist Women, Rev, Loren Drummond moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded.

**Motion to Amend:** Rita Skyles moved to amend on line 40 of page 45 to read “to include equal numbers of persons with physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities, along with clergy and laity, representing both Kansas and Nebraska”. The motion to amend was seconded. The motion to amend **carried** by hand vote.

**Motion to Refer:** Rev. Michael Davis moved to refer the resolution to the Mercy and Justice team. Two persons spoke against the motion to refer. The vote to refer **failed**.

**Motion to Refer:** Rev. Philip Sloat moved to refer line 40 on page 45 of the resolution to the Connecting Council. The motion **failed**.

Rev. Tessa Zehring, chair of the Nominating Committee asked whether this would be an additional committee to be filled by nominations. The answer is no, it will be filled by Mercy and Justice. Two persons spoke for the resolution as amended. The resolution, as amended, **carried** by hand vote.

**Procedural Motion:** Russell Brown moved to suspend the 24 hour rule for the presentation of a new resolution. The motion was seconded. One person spoke for the motion and one against. The motion **failed**.

Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner, Bryan College of Health Sciences, Lincoln, Nebraska, reminded Bishop Jones that the conference standing rules require four hours rather than 24 hours. The resolution may be presented the following day.

**Announcements:** Nancy Lambert thanked the Topeka churches for all of the help that they provided to make this annual conference a success.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY LUNCH**

Capitol Plaza, Emerald Ballroom, 12:00 noon

**HISPANIC MINISTRY LUNCH**

Capitol Plaza, Shawnee, 12:00 noon

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**  
**Kansas Expocentre – Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas**  
**Friday, June 3, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**

Bishop Jones introduced his administrative assistant, Barb Campbell, who works out of the Wichita episcopal office. Jones thanked her and expressed his gratitude for all that she does for the Great Plains Annual Conference.

**Clergy Excellence, Rev. Nancy Lambert, Director**

Lambert, Director of Clergy Excellence and Assistant to the Bishop, presented information about the Bishop's Response Team, differentiating it from natural disaster response teams. This team responds to crises that occur within the local church e.g. sexual misconduct, embezzlement, death of a beloved person. The team consists of clergy and laity who help the local church rebuild and recover after a crisis so that the church can once again doof the way that we are connected to one another and an important part of our ministry together in the conference.

The tellers distributed copies of "A Resolution Seeking Reconciliation" to the body which will be considered tomorrow morning.

**Congregational Excellence, Rev. Evelyn Fisher, Director**

Fisher stated that she and her team are working to help make local churches more effective and said that every church has a story to tell. She invited three people to briefly share their stories.

Rev. Theresa Mason, Trinity UMC, Grand Island, Nebraska, spoke of her church's ministry with Sudanese immigrants in their community.

Corey Godbey, Conference Hispanic Ministry Coordinator, extended an invitation to participate in the "Reaching New Neighbors" program which is intended for churches located in areas with changing demographics and uses a process called appreciative inquiry.

Rev. Jordan McFall, Aldersgate UMC, Wichita, Kansas, shared how his church worked with Congregational Excellence and New Church Development to launch a satellite congregation in a new location.

Rev. Chad Anglemeyer, St. Luke UMC, Omaha, Nebraska, as chair of New Church Development encouraged those in existing churches to cultivate additional church leaders and ask them if they have thought about being a pastor.

Rev. Nathan Stanton, Conference Coordinator of New Church Development, spoke of places where new church development is active and of their search for new leaders to plant new churches. Stanton thanked the conference for funding through mission shares that make this work possible.

Rev. Kathy Aeillo, Courtland and Scandia UMCs, Republic County, Kansas told of how her churches are serving in partnership with public education by providing breakfast to school children who would otherwise go hungry.

Evelyn Fisher ended by reminding the body that the Great Plains Annual Conference offers Education Partnership Grants.

Bishop Jones introduced Carolyn May, one of our associate conference lay leaders from Colby, Kansas who joins us on stage this afternoon.

#### **Renew Camp Comeca Campaign, Janelle Wilke**

The campaign has exceeded its matching goal of \$250,000, meeting the challenge of the Wilson endowment. The dream goal for the campaign is \$994,000 and we are still accepting pledges. On behalf of the Great Plains Annual Conference Bishop Jones presented a letter stating that we have raised \$721,000. The Connecting Council has voted to match any new gifts up to \$111,000. A celebration ensued. Jones noted that camping ministry is vital and is supported each year through donations, volunteers and time. He expects that we will be having campaigns for other camps in the future. Camp Comeca was in dire need of help, had a plan in place and was, therefore, selected for special emphasis at this time.

#### **Resolution – Revised Lay Equalization Plan – submitted by Randall Hodgkinson**

Hodgkinson requested editorial revisions: page 47, line 56, add the words “each year” after Paragraph 32; page 48, line 5, replace “charge” with “church”. Bishop Jones accepted the editorial revisions and Hodgkinson **moved** adoption of the resolution as revised. The motion was seconded. One person spoke for the motion and two against. Following discussion, the motion **failed** by a hand vote.

#### **Resolution – Great Plains Poverty Initiative – submitted by Rev. Patrick McLaughlin, Downtown Church of the Resurrection**

McLaughlin **moved** the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. One person spoke for the resolution and questions regarding financial implications were answered.

**Motion to Amend:** Rev. Carl Ellis, Cherryvale UMC, Cherryvale, Kansas moved to add the word “NetworX” after the word “Circles” on page 49, line 31; page 50, line 36 and page 52, line 51. The motion to amend was accepted as a friendly amendment by McLaughlin.

**Motion to Refer:** Rev. Michael Davis, Elgin, Nebraska, moved to refer the resolution to Mercy and Justice. The motion was seconded. Two persons spoke against referral. The motion to refer **failed**.

Following additional questions, the resolution, as amended, **carried** by hand vote.

### **Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference**

Rev. David Wilson, conference superintendent and Bishop Robert Hayes, Oklahoma Annual Conference were recognized. A presentation on the OIMC endowment for pastoral salaries was given; the OIMC has the lowest salaries in the United Methodist Church in the United States. A framed print of the first Cherokee Methodist pastor from the early 1800s proclaiming the gospel to other natives was presented to the GPAC. On behalf of the Great Plains Annual Conference, Bishop Jones presented a letter to Bishop Hayes indicating that we have raised \$55,000 for the OIMC endowment for pastoral salaries.

**Announcements:** Nancy Lambert announced that Rev. Morgan Whitaker-Smith is ending her term as chair of the Sessions Planning Committee; the body thanked her with applause. Lambert and Whitaker-Smith presented Diane Jensen, annual conference secretary, with a small gift with gratitude for the work she has done as her term ends.

### **Thirty minute break.**

**Bishop Jones** opened the session with prayer for healing for the spouse of a staff member of the Burns UMC, Burns, Kansas who was shot seven times recently and will have an extended recovery.

### **Aldersgate Village, Jerry Ney, CEO**

Ney introduced a video and made a presentation on the mission and programs of Aldersgate Village, one of the largest retirement homes in the state of Kansas. They are building some state-of-the-art age-in-place villas and are working with Stormont-Vail Hospital to build a 40,000 square foot clinic on campus across from Susanna Wesley UMC.

### **Camp Lakeside, Stuart Mack**

**Resolution – Allowing the Merger of Camp Lakeside into Great Plains UMC Camps, Inc. – submitted by Great Plains United Methodist Camps, Inc.**

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Mack, along with Rev. Jim Akins, Hays District Superintendent, emphasized that this is a dual resolution coming from the Great Plains Camping Ministry and Camp Lakeside and is followed by a Memorandum of Understanding. One person spoke for the resolution. The resolution **carried** by voice vote.

**Presentation to Zimbabwe Delegation**

A delegation from the Zimbabwe Episcopal area addressed the body with greetings from Bishop Nuatiwa and the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference. The church is alive and growing in Zimbabwe and they are working together with the spirit of Chabazda. Gifts were gratefully received from the delegation and Bishop Jones presented a letter stating that they would be receiving \$55,265 from the Great Plains Annual Conference.

**Resolution – To Create a Culture of Call During Annual Conference – submitted by Rev. Pat Norris, Christ UMC, Schuyler, Nebraska**

Norris moved the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. Five people spoke for the motion and three against. Rev. Bob Resnick, Shawnee Heights UMC, Tecumseh, Kansas called the question. The motion **failed** by a counted vote.

**Resolution – To Celebrate Laity – submitted by Great Plains Lay Servant Ministries Committee**

Mary Feit, chair of the committee, moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. Three persons spoke in favor of the motion and one against. The motion **carried**.

**Resolution – Opposing the Death Penalty in Kansas and Nebraska – submitted by Rev. Stephen Griffith, Blue River District**

Griffith moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. Four persons spoke in favor of the motion and one against. Dixie Brewster, Milton, Kansas called the question. The motion **carried** by hand vote.

**Announcements:** Nancy Lambert reported that the donation for UMCOR kits has totaled \$9,861.62.

**Bishop Jones** led the congregation in prayer for healing for Rev. Gary Roellchen and the daughter of Dr. Cynthia Stuart and then dismissed the body.

**Ordination Dinner**

Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald Rooms I, II and III  
5:15 p.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**  
**Kansas Expocentre – Landon Arena. Topeka, Kansas**  
**Friday, June 2, 2016, 7:30 p.m.**

The Laudate Ringers of Countryside United Methodist Church, Topeka, provided music for the service.

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

Commissioned for the work of elder: Michael Dean Brown; Issac Yan En Chua; Orlando Gallardo Parra; and Kayla Marie Mangrich.

Commissioned for the work of deacon: Melissa Gepford.

Recognized as associate member: Lawrence Edward Barbary II.

To be ordained deacons: Melanie Nord Martin and Karla Ann Woodward.

To be ordained elders: Lora Lee Andrews; Tiffany Leigh Baker; Emily Elizabeth Spearman Cannon; Hyun Jung Choi; Jacob Thomas Cloud; Rebecca Lynn Davison; Aaron Alexander Duell; Katherine Elizabeth Ebling-Frazier; Andrew Michael Frazier; Benjamin Christopher Hanne; Bryce Thomas Hansen; Changsu Kim; Hyeayoun Kim; Joohyang Kim; Joseph Mark McColligan; Jose Manuel Miranda; and Joel Matthew Pilsek.

Recognized as elder: Todd Edwin Maberry.

Bishop Jones asked the candidates for ordination and commissioning the examination questions. Following the questions he commissioned the provisional elders and deacons by the laying on of hands.

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

Rev. Patrick Broz, Kingman United Methodist Church, read the scripture from Matthew 16: 24-26. Bishop Robert Hayes of the Oklahoma Annual Conference preached a sermon titled "Membership Has Its Privileges".

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Rev. Kalaba Chali invited the congregation to participate in the offering to support Imagine No Malaria.

Bishop Jones examined those to be ordained deacons and elders. Both were ordained with prayer and the laying on of hands. The newly ordained elders received red stoles as a reminder of the work of the Holy Spirit in the church beginning on the day of Pentecost and continuing in their ministry.

Bishop Jones concluded the service by leading the congregation in prayer and asking all to join in the recessional hymn "Lift High the Cross".

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP  
Kansas Expocentre – Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas  
Saturday, June 4, 2016, 8:30 a.m.**

Morning worship, led by the Council on Youth Ministry, began with music by the Vessel Music Band with Ken Smith and Erin Dalke guiding the worship based on the scripture 1 Corinthians 1: 12-27. Twelve youth created a circle and tossed a ball of yarn to each other making a star-like form. During the meditation, they dropped the yarn one by one showing that we can be so much better with each other when working together. Kitt Regier spoke about the youth service fund and an offering was received. The service closed with singing and a benediction by Dahlke.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY  
Kansas Expocentre – Landon Arena, Topeka, Kansas  
Saturday, June 4, 2016, 9:30 a.m.**

Bishop Scott Jones thanked the youth for a very moving worship experience and began the session with prayer for Rev. Todd Karges and wife, Dianne who welcomed a new grandson and for the people of Nigeria who have experienced violence in the last few weeks.

Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader, informed the body that copies of the print that was presented by the Oklahoma Indian Mission Conference are available to those that would like to purchase one. The \$125 donation will support the OIMC Mission Partnership Campaign.

**Ember Hope, Rev. Evelyn Fisher**

Fisher presented changes in the Ember Hope by-laws for approval. Changes were noted in Article IV, Section 1 and Section 18 along with several editorial changes. The by-laws were **approved** by voice vote as changed.

**Resolution - A Resolution Seeking Reconciliation – submitted by Rev. Russell Brown, Heritage UMC, Overland Park, Kansas**

Brown moved adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded. An editorial change was noted on line 14: council should be counsel.

**Motion to Refer:** Dixie Brewester, Milton, Kansas, moved to refer the resolution to Bishop Jones for examination of the legalities involved. Several persons spoke in favor of referral and against. The motion to refer **failed** by hand vote.

There was a lengthy debate both for and against the resolution. Rev. Susan Greene, Pretty Prairie and Murdock UMCs, Murdock, Kansas called the question. The vote to end debate **carried** by hand vote.

The motion to adopt the resolution **carried** by hand vote.

**Nominations, Rev. Tessa Zehring**

Zehring thanked the committee for their work in filling 300 positions on 18 committees. Nominations can be made online either by self-nomination or recommending another person.

The Nominating Committee report is printed in the conference workbook and only changes that have been made this year are listed.

Changes to the printed report:

- Administrative Review Committee: Alice Purvis, change from alternate to delegate
- New Church Development: add Alan Gager, Class of 2020
- UM Campus Ministry: add Ron Cardey, Class of 2017
- Disaster Response Team: add Kerry Herkelman and David Rayson, Class of 2018;  
David Baltzell (from Ogalalla not Omaha), Dayton Owen and Chair, Russell Anderson, Class of 2020
- Conference Secretary: Nancy Kaye-Skinner, Class of 2020
- AC Session Planning Team: Conference Secretary: Nancy Kaye-Skinner
- Pensions and Health Benefits: Doug Griger, Charles Spence, and Mike Shockley, Class of 2020
- Aldersgate Village Board of Trustees: Kay Scarbrough, Dist. Supt., and Bishop Scott Jones are ex-officio with voice and vote and Official Visitors should be moved down to Jerry C. Ney, president and CEO
- Forrest Park Board of Trustees: Remove Max Klam and change resident manager from Norm Crawford to Kevin Rea

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- Nominations Committee: 7 members, one who is the conference lay leader, and at least 2 clergy or lay members (one lay member is the conference lay leader). Attention shall be paid to geographic considerations
- Mercy and Justice: remove Hyun Jin Cho

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

**Treasurer's Report, Rev. Gary Beach**

Beach thanked his staff for its work over the past year and stated that his report will be on the conference web site as soon as it is available. He reported that the conference continues to grow in faithfulness in response to our mission shares. In 2013 our combined conferences averaged an 86% payout, in 2014 we jumped to 87% and in 2015 to 88%. He recognized three districts that were leaders in paying mission shares in 2015: Blue River, 95.7%, Prairie Rivers, 95.3% and Elkhorn Valley at 95%.

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

Changes to the committee were announced and Nord **moved** that Mary Conrad be elected as statistician for the committee. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

Due to the retirement of Gary Beach next year, it was necessary to find a person to fill the position of Treasurer. Rev. Zach Anderson **moved** that Scott Brewer, currently Associate General Secretary for Administration and Operations for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, be elected as Treasurer. The motion was seconded and **carried** by voice vote. Brewer spoke briefly and was warmly welcomed by the body.

Brent Messick called attention to the Investment Committee report in the conference workbook. It was noted that the 2015 audit has been completed, there were no errors, and the committee is awaiting the final report due some time during the summer.

Nord lifted up the narrative report in the conference workbook on pages 9-17 and **moved** that it be approved for adoption. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

Nord presented the budget and **moved** that the income portion be approved. The motion **carried** by voice vote. He then **moved** that the expense portion be approved. The motion **carried** by voice vote. Finally, he **moved** that the 1% portion of the budget be approved. The motion **carried** by voice vote.

Kitt Regier and Erin Dahlke thanked the conference for its support of youth ministry and encouraged youth to attend annual conference as observers or participants.

**Announcements:** Nancy Lambert reported on the offerings received this year: Youth Service Fund, \$4,864.27; Imagine No Malaria, \$6,656.24; Camp Comeca, \$15,912.87 and our three mission campaign, \$15,793.84. Lambert thanked all who participated in putting the conference together.

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

- I move to accept the record of the minutes as the official Journal of the 2016 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**.

Jensen reminded the body that the next Great Plains Annual Conference will be held June 7 through 10, 2017 at the Heartland Event Center in Grand Island, Nebraska.

**Mary Lou Reece** introduced and expressed thanks and appreciation to the members of the extended cabinet. The cabinet recognized Rev. Alan Davis and presented him with a gift along with their thanks for service and dedication to the call.

The body sang “In Christ There Is No East or West” and took part in a litany led by Bishop Jones.

**Fixing of Appointments, Bishop Jones**

Jones stated that we are a church that sends people out to their places of service. Rather than reading all of the 850 appointments, he read and celebrated the new appointments that are being made within our conference.

**Adjournment with prayer by Bishop Jones**