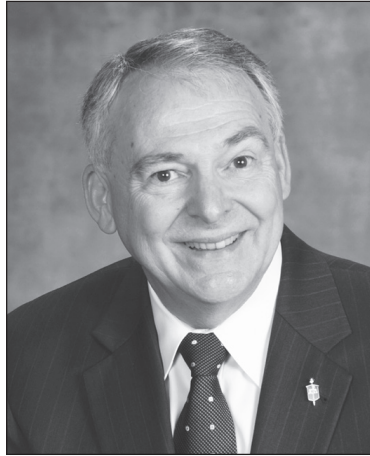


**IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS****A. PROGRAM OF THE 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Bishop Paul L. Leeland**  
Western North Carolina Conference  
Charlotte Area

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 8**

1:00 p.m.

**Opening Worship**

Bishop Paul L. Leeland, preaching  
Offering: UMAR and Northern Haiti Initiative Connection  
Recognition of Deceased Clergy, Diaconal Ministers, and Spouses

**Conference Plenary – Business Session**

Organizational Matters  
Laitly Presentation  
Election of Conference Lay Leader  
Conference Council on Finance and Administration  
2021 Conference Budget  
Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
Recognition of Retiring Clergy  
Conference Trustees  
Disaffiliation Resolutions  
Cabinet Resolutions  
Location of the 2021 Annual Conference Meeting  
Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth  
Adjournment of the 2020 Annual Conference, *sine die*

**Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina**

Elect Board of Directors

**Closing Prayer and Hymn****B. SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no special events were held in connection with the 2020 conference.

**C. DAILY MINUTES****THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020****EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 7:00 P.M.**

**CLERGY SESSION CONVENES:** In compliance with ¶¶ 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)*, Bishop Paul L. Leeland convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020, via ZOOM

**Webinar.** Bishop Leeland welcomed those attending in this unique way during a pandemic and opened with prayer. He noted that 2020 marked the 52nd year of The United Methodist Church and the 236th year of the Methodist Church in The United States. Bishop Leeland introduced Christopher Hampton, director of web and database administration. Mr. Hampton introduced the technology and the tools of the zoom webinar. He explained, that in order to speak or ask a question, participants would need to use the Q&A feature. The Chat feature is disabled for the webinar. Questions would be answered either privately or at a designated time. The Polling feature would be used to vote. Ten seconds will be given for each poll. The polls will be documented and recorded. Bishop Leeland thanked each clergy person for their ministry and pastoral presence. The Bishop explained that ¶¶ 369.5, 603.3 and 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)* gave permission for the means of this meeting and the purpose and business of the executive session of the clergy and the sole eligibility of clergy members in full connection to vote.

**PERMISSION TO BE PRESENT:** At the request of Bishop Leeland, the clergy members in full connection, using Poll 1, approved by the required majority vote (Yes 622, No 9) that lay members of the Board of Ordained ministry are granted voice and vote; and, that local pastors may speak during the executive session.

**BUSINESS QUESTION 17:** Bishop Leeland affirmed the character of the eight district superintendents and reported that each of the district superintendents had affirmed that the character of the clergy serving in their districts was blameless. Business question 17 was approved by the required majority vote using Poll 2 (Yes 556, No 12).

**BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT:** After expressing appreciation to members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the district committees on ordained ministry, and the work of Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, director of ministerial services and conference secretary, Bishop Leeland introduced Rev. Donald Jenkins, St. Paul (Winston-Salem, YV) chairperson. Rev. Jenkins presented the report. He thanked the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry for their work. He voiced appreciation for Adri Bullard-Rodgers, ministry assistant in the office of ministerial services; and, Rev. F. Annalee Allen, the associate director of ministerial services. He gave special thanks to Rev. Kim Ingram, director of ministerial services. Rev. Jenkins noted that the goal and “hearts’ desire” of the Board of Ordained Ministry is “to get it right, not to sit in judgement but to seek to discern what God is doing in a candidate’s life.” Rev. Jenkins reported that the current board will offer two gifts to the next quadrennial Board of Ordained Ministry and the annual conference. The first gift is a document entitled, Whom Shall I Send: A Portrait of Fruitful Clergy Leadership, <https://www.wnccumc.org/FCL> which outlines 12 qualities that are important for fruitful clergy leadership. This will be a resource for pastors, staff/parish relations committees, district superintendents, and district committees on ordained ministry. A team has been organized to help implement this tool. The second gift will be the 2021-2024 quadrennial focus for ethics training and that focus will be on antiracism. The organization RISE! Race: an In-depth Spiritual Examination will be the facilitators. The training will be a two-day event and will be for clergy and lay persons. Rev. Jenkins concluded his report by thanking the bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the Western North Carolina Conference extended cabinet for their response to racism, Holy Listening Holy Action: The Work of the Whole Church. Rev. Jenkins thanked Bishop Paul Leeland for his support and guidance and wished his colleagues to be well and safe.

**CHAIRS OF THE ORDERS ELECTIONS:** The Rev. Donald Jenkins, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry and on behalf of the board, nominated Rev. Angela A. Pleasants as chairperson of the Order of Elder for the 2020-2024 quadrennium. She was elected by the required majority vote from the elders in full connection using Poll 3 (Yes 481, No 37). Rev. Jenkins on behalf of the board nominated Rev. Monica C. Childers as chairperson of the Order of Deacon for the 2020-2024 quadrennium and she was elected by the required majority vote from the deacons in full connection using Poll 4 (Yes 121, No 3). Rev. Jenkins announced that the Rev. Eric W. Lineberry had been elected as the chairperson for The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

**BUSINESS QUESTIONS:** Rev. Donald Jenkins, chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, began the presentation of the required business questions that need a vote. Elders in full connection, deacons in full connection and all members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote. Business question 18a (members of the Administrative Review Committee) were approved by the required majority vote using Poll 5 (Yes 561, No 5). Business question 20 (persons who have completed licensing school, are approved, but not appointed) was approved by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote using Poll 6, Q1 (Yes 575, No 0). Business question 21 (persons approved and appointed as full time and part-time local pastors on 7/1/2020) was approved by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote using Poll 6, Q2 (Yes 575, No 0). Business question 23 (persons reinstated as local pastors) was approved by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote using Poll 6, Q3 (Yes 573, No 2). Business question 25 (clergy from other denominations approved to serve in the Western North Carolina Conference) was approved by the required majority vote using Poll 7 (Yes 577, No 13). Rev. Jenkins read the names and a picture was displayed of the three persons to be elected as provisional deacons and the nine persons to be elected as provisional elders; and they were elected by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote in business question 28, using Poll 8, Q1 (Yes 603, No 0). Business question 29 (persons continuing as provisional members) were approved by the required majority vote using Poll 8, Q2 (Yes 603, No 0). In response to business questions 30 and 31a one person, whose ordination from another Christian denomination is being recognized, was elected into provisional membership by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote using Poll 8, Q3 (Yes 595, No 8). Rev. Jenkins read the names and a picture was displayed of the three persons to be elected into full connection and approved to be ordained as

a deacon and the eleven persons to be elected into full connection and approved to be ordained as an elder. They were elected and approved by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote using Poll 9 (Yes 605, No 0). These clergy will answer Wesley's Historic Questions at the service of ordination. In response to business question 36, one person was readmitted as a full connection elder from honorable location by the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote using Poll 10 (Yes 596, No 1). Rev. Jenkins read the names and a picture was displayed of the nine persons received by transfer from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church and they were received by the required majority vote using Poll 11 (Yes 604, No 3). In response to business question 42 a, b two persons were discontinued as provisional members by the required majority vote using Poll 12 (Yes 612, No 1). In response to business question 44 a two persons were granted honorable location – retired by the required majority vote using Poll 13 (Yes 621, No 0). Rev. Jenkins introduced the Reverend Doctor Elizabeth O. Coppedge-Henley, Harrison (Pineville ME), vice-chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Rev. Coppedge-Henley thanked Rev. Jenkins for his service leading the Board of Ordained Ministry and continued the responses to the required business questions. Rev. Coppedge-Henley presented the response, with one addition, to business question 50a, parts 1 and 3 (requests for voluntary personal leave or family leave for 5 years or fewer) and the requests were approved by the required majority vote using Poll 14 Q1 (Yes 615, No 0). She presented the response to business question 50a, parts 2 and 4 (requests for voluntary personal leave or family leave for more than five years) and the requests were approved by the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote using Poll 14 Q2 (Yes 612, No 3). In response to business question 52 (request for medical leave), with one addition, approval was given by the required majority vote using Poll 14 Q 3 (Yes 615, No 0). In response to business questions 53, 54, 56, and 71 Rev. Coppedge-Henley read the names and a picture was displayed of the four deacons, 31 elders, one associate member, eight local pastors, and one diaconal minister who are retiring this year. The required majority vote for deacons, elders, and required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority for diaconal minister was given for this change of status, using Poll 15 (Yes 623, No 1); and, their years of faithful service was celebrated. Bishop Leeland noted that there are 500 retired clergy in the Western North Carolina Conference. Rev. Coppedge-Henley presented the response to business question 72a (associate members and elders approved for appointments to less than full-time service). The first vote is for those up to 8 years, and they were approved by the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote using Poll 16 Q1 (Yes 607, No 0). The second vote is for those who will have been less than full-time for 8 years or more, and they were approved by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote using Poll 16 Q2 (Yes 606, No 1). Rev. Coppedge-Henley provided the response to business question 76c (appointment to “other valid ministries”), with the addition of one name, and the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote was received using Poll 17 (Yes 613, No 2). Rev. Coppedge-Henley moved that all the business questions considered as part of the executive session of the clergy be approved, and they were affirmed by the required majority vote using Poll 18 (Yes 644, No 3).

**RECOGNITION OF DECEASED CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS:** The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley read the names and a picture was displayed of the four associate members retired, the 17 elders retired, the four local pastors retired, and the one diaconal minister retired who have died in the last year. Bishop Paul Leeland celebrated the lives of these departed sisters and brothers, gave thanks for their years of service and ministry, petitioned for God's grace for their families, friends, and fellow clergy. Using words from the liturgy of the service of death and resurrection, Bishop Leeland offered a prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The executive session of the clergy members adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A final version of the 2020 BAC can be found in Section V of this Journal.



*We are grateful for the hospitality and skill of the team at West UMC!  
Photos by Christopher Hampton*



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020****OPENING WORSHIP – 1:00 P.M.**

Using a recorded video scene, the Reverend Andrea F. Smith, West-St. Paul, Mooresville (ME) welcomed worshippers to the live streamed opening worship service of the 2020 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Joy B. Moss, Skyland (BR) and Josh Headen, Covenant Community Church, Asheville (BR) presented their faith journey testimony and call to ministry in a video produced by Ken Morgan. Rev. Moss shared that after 15 years in a career as an occupational therapist she felt called to a different ministry. After working as a children and youth ministry director and earning her theological degree, she was ordained a deacon. “I have found my true calling, sailing true north connecting the church and the world.” Mr. Headen’s journey finds him living his calling to serve God, students, and youth around the world. He sees his racial difference of being black as that different light that will bring a positive impact of God on the youth with whom he interacts. The Rev. Dr. Jae Lee, Calvary, Charlotte (ME) led the call to worship “Here We Are” written by David Inglis on Re-Worship Blog. Viewers were invited to voice the congregational response posted on the screen. Antonio Delgadillo, vocalist, with Amy Vernam Johnson, accompanist, performed from First United Methodist, Elkin (AP) invited worshippers to sing along to hymn 553, (UMH) And Are We Yet Alive. Bishop Paul L. Leeland read the scripture from John 20:19-22 and presented the devotion. Using Jesus’ appearance to the disciples on that first Easter day and the words of the iconic hymn of Charles Wesley “And Are We Yet Alive,” Bishop Leeland challenged clergy and laity to be the voice of hope announcing God’s reconciling love through Jesus Christ to communities impacted by racism, denominational separation, economic disparity, an emotionally charged election season, and COVID-19 pandemic. He asked if this generation could be transformed by the Holy Spirit to be totally abandoned to God and radically available to God. Sarah Jenkins, a resident of one of the UMAR Homes, introduced the beneficiaries of the 2020 Annual Conference offering: Northern Haiti Mission Connection and UMAR. A brief video highlighted the Northern Haiti Mission Connection to provide micro-lending to women, education initiatives, clean water projects, and support of Dr. Eugene Maklin and health care at New Hope Hospital. A second video, narrated by Marilyn Garner, President and CEO of UMAR, highlighted the mission of UMAR to promote community, independence, and growth for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through residential, employment, and cultural enrichment opportunities. A celebration of life remembered the 27 clergy and diaconal ministers; and, the 25 spouses of clergy and diaconal ministers who had died since the last session of annual conference. Rev. Walter Pegues and Rev. Margaret R. Wannemacher, representing the 2020 class of retirees; and, Rev. Brandon C. Wrencher, Sr. and Rev. Kelly Rae Shrader, representing the 2020 class of ordinands for elder and deacon, read the names in alphabetical order as a picture, if available, was shown and a bell tolled. Revelation 14:13, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...they will rest from their labors,” was pictured on the screen. Hymn 140 (UMH) Great Is Thy Faithfulness was sung by the choir of Simpson Gillespie UMC, Charlotte (ME).

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:** Bishop Paul L. Leeland, resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, convened the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, using several digital platforms to live stream the proceedings. Bishop Leeland thanked West United Methodist Church, Mooresville (ME) for providing staff, facilities, technology, and tech team to host the 2020 session of the annual conference virtually. In addition, Bishop Leeland thanked the staff of the annual conference and the worship team for preparing and presenting the worship service and business agenda for the annual conference. He noted that other annual conferences were conducting their sessions on virtual and digital platforms. The Bishop then introduced Chris Hampton.

**TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS:** Mr. Chris Hampton, conference director of web and database administration, said that he had been inspired and encouraged by the way churches had adapted and implemented changes to provide streaming worship services, outreach, and marketing using digital technology to connect, grow, and worship. The annual conference has had to adapt and implement a new model for this session of the annual conference. He outlined some of the specifics for the 2020 session. The goal was to make this annual conference session accessible and open. The session is being live streamed on the conference website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. The session is being recorded at the same time. Second, the virtual platform does not provide a way for floor debate, but participants may submit questions using the Q&A portal on the annual conference website. These inquiries are being monitored during the session and until 5 p.m. today. Third, voting will not be in real time but will use “election buddy” that provides a ballot format. Annual Conference members will complete the ballot either on-line or through a paper ballot, if that had been requested. The on-line ballot will open at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at 11:59 p.m. August 8, 2020. The ballot will also serve to count attendance for the session. Each delegate has a unique voting link to access the “election buddy” ballot. He next outlined the steps for using the on-line ballot for voting. When the voter link is accessed all the questions requiring a vote will appear on a single page. Each question may be marked yes, no, or abstained. The ballot must be answered in a single session. There is no way to save and return to the ballot. Once the ballot is completed it may be reviewed. At the bottom of the review page is a box to submit the ballot. The ballot is not complete until it is submitted. Once the ballot has been submitted there will be a confirmation page. The ballot cannot be reset, nor a substitute ballot provided. Conference members using the paper ballot will have until August 12, 2020 to mail the ballot. If both a paper ballot and digital ballot are submitted, then only the on-line ballot will be recorded. For any difficulties or issues using the on-line ballot a “help ticket” may be accessed. The “help desk” will be monitored until 5:00 p.m. August 8, 2020.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:** Bishop Leeland introduced Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, who presented the following motions which will appear on the ballot for a vote:

**VOTING BAR:** Rev. Ingram moved that the voting bar for the annual conference will be the 2020 clergy and lay members of the annual conference who are present and voting virtually or on a paper ballot. (Election Buddy ballot results: Yes 1,993, No 12.)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The conference secretary moved that the conference program as printed on page three of the *Supplement to the Program and Reports* booklet constitute the official agenda of the 2020 conference session.

**REPORTS OF BOARD AND AGENCIES:** The conference secretary moved that the reports of the conference boards and agencies as published in the *Program and Reports* booklet and the *Supplement* be ordered to record, insofar as they do not require conference action and provided that conference agencies be permitted to file late reports and/or corrections no later than August, 15, 2020.

**SECRETARIAL STAFF:** The conference secretary nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2020 session: Marsha Patton and Rev. A. Owen Peeler, as associate secretaries.

**CONFERENCE RULES AND PLAN OF ORGANIZATION:** Rev. Ingram, conference secretary, referenced the conference rules and plan of organization, printed on pages 30-38 of the *Supplement*. She noted that the addition of Rule 32, telephonic or virtual meetings of the annual conference, had been presented and approved by an earlier vote by the members of the annual conference prior to convening the 2020 session of the annual conference. No additional changes would be presented at this session. The changes presented in the *Program and Reports* booklet would be postponed and considered at the 2021 session of the annual conference. This requires a vote which will appear on the ballot (vote: Yes 1,986, No 19).

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS:** The conference secretary presented the report of the committee on nominations for the 2020-2024 quadrennium printed on pages 39-40 of the *Supplement*. She noted that the committee on nominations was comprised of the district superintendents, the district lay leaders, conference staff leaders and additional lay members to provide for diversity. The committee had met twice in 2020 and considered those persons whose names had been submitted to serve and additional persons to be inclusive of ages, gender, ethnicity, clergy, laity, experience and gifts. (Vote: Yes 1,940, No 32.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR MOTION:** The conference secretary reported that the list of petitions for the consent calendar is found on page 41 of the *Supplement* and that the full description of PETITIONS 3-16 are printed on pages 42-48 of the *Supplement*. All the petitions on the consent calendar will be a single vote on the ballot (vote: Yes 1,949, No 21).

**PETITION 17: JUST COMPENSATION:** Bishop Leeland ruled that because of the inability to conduct debate from the floor Petition 17: Just Compensation, presented on pages 85-86 of the *Program and Reports* booklet, would be referred to a task force in consultation with the Justice and Reconciliation Team and that the task force would bring a report to the 2021 annual conference.

**ELECTION OF CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR:** Bishop Leeland nominated Greg Huffman to be elected conference chancellor for the ensuing quadrennium (2020-2024). The conference secretary, statistician, and treasurer as stipulated in Paragraphs 603.7 and 619 of *The Book of Discipline* will be elected sometime after General Conference meets. (Vote: Yes 1,920, No 45.)

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF LAITY:** Bishop Leeland introduced Jane Boatwright Wood, conference lay leader and president of the Board of Laity, and indicated that the written reports of the Board of Laity, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries can be found in the *Program and Reports* booklet on pages 63-65. Mrs. Boatwright Wood presented the report by remote video. In her remarks the Conference Lay Leader summarized the works with vision of the Board of Laity over the past four years: growing the numbers of committed laity, maturing in their faith, discipling others, and transforming local churches, communities and the world. She celebrated the development and implementation of an effective certified lay ministries program and the additional creation of a centralized on-line depository of information for lay ministry resources. Mrs. Wood thanked Wade Loftin, conference director of lay servant ministry, for his service and work; and she expressed appreciation to Annalee Allen, whose assistance made the on-line resources conveniently available. The Board of Laity moving forward will be guided by five norms and values: an engaged laity is essential to ministry fruitfulness, resist injustice in whatever forms it takes, engage in collaboration and cooperation, navigate conflict head on, and fresh leaders lead to innovative solutions. Mrs. Boatwright Wood thanked the lay leaders and members of the Board of Laity for their service, especially those members whose terms conclude with this quadrennium.

**ELECTION OF CONFERENCE LAY LEADER:** Jane Boatwright Wood nominated John Crane to be elected Conference Lay Leader for the 2020-2024 quadrennium. Mr. Crane has served as a district lay leader, trained in lay servant ministry, and has experience in project management and change leadership. (Vote: Yes 1,948, No 19.)

**PRIVILEGE MATTER:** Bishop Leeland thanked Mrs. Boatwright Wood for her service as Conference Lay Leader. Mr. John Crane, conference lay leader nominee, by way of video, expressed appreciation for Jane Boatwright Wood and Wade Loftin on behalf of the Board of Laity. He announced that a contribution in recognition of Mrs. Wood and Mr. Loftin had been given to the Foundation for Evangelism for the Harry Denman Award program.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken, president, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration by remote video. He summarized the responsibilities of CFA required by *The Book Of Discipline* to develop, maintain and administer the fiscal policies of the annual conference, to develop and manage the budget, and to serve as a ministry partner to make ministry and mission possible. He presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1a: 2021 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES. The Rev. Dr. Kinken presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1b: 2021 Conference Budget. The overall budget for 2021 totals 15.989 million dollars. This amount is a decrease of 11.77% or 2.134 million dollars from the 2020 budget. He explained some of the reasons for the decreases, most notably the decision by the Conference Board of Pensions to fund the clergy medical leave coverage expense. Dr. Kinken presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1c: PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT POLICY. This petition is intended to standardize expenses and reduce costs associated with conference related travel, lodging, and meal expenses for all members of conference boards, agencies, committees, and commissions, and conference and district staff. Petitions 1a, 1b, and 1c comprised a single ballot question; vote: Yes 1,923, No 43.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS:** Michael Watson, chairperson, presented the report of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits by remote video. He presented and moved the adoption of PETITION 2a: PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES. A significant change this year is that supplemental funds for the cost of the Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Benefit Part (CRSP-DB) for clergy appointed on medical leave to be requested from the 2021 Conference Budget will be zero dollars. Mr. Watson presented and moved the adoption of PETITION 2b: HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES. Petitions 2a and 2b comprised a single ballot question; vote: Yes 1,936, No 24.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CLERGY:** The Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, introduced the recognition of 47 clergy retiring at the 2020 session. This class of retirees account for 1200 collective years of service. Rev. Ingram announced that the 2020 class of retirees would be invited to participate in the usual social festivities at the 2021 annual conference. The names and service record of each retiree is listed in the *Supplement* on pages 64-67. While the Rev. Donald Eugene McCoy spoke on behalf of the retirees by video, a picture of each retiree was displayed.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Bishop Leeland introduced Bob Wilhoit, chairperson, and Josh Britton, executive director of Mount Shepherd Retreat Center. Mr. Britton by way of recorded video introduced a proposal contained in PETITION 18: MOUNT SHEPHERD RETREAT CENTER TO GRANT AND CREATE 87.935 ACRE CONSERVANCY EASEMENT. Mr. Britton on behalf of the Board of Directors of Mount Shepherd Retreat Center, Inc. Asheboro, NC (UW) moved to approve a land conservancy agreement between Mount Shepherd Retreat Center and The Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC). This easement will grant permanent land conservancy of 88 acres out of the 543.3 acres owned by the camp. The PLC will pay \$175,870.00, approximately \$2,000.00 per acre to Mount Shepherd for the easement. Mr. Wilhoit, by way of recorded video, on behalf of the Conference Board of Trustees approved the proposal and requested the annual conference give assent to the petition. (Vote: Yes 1,936, No 25.)

**DISAFFILIATION OF CHURCHES:** Bishop Leeland introduced Greg Huffman, conference chancellor, appearing on the live stream, who outlined the decisions of the Special Session of the General Conference in February 2019 as follows: The Special Session of the General Conference in February 2019 created a pathway for churches to leave the denomination under certain circumstances. Paragraph 2553 allows a church to disaffiliate “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follows.” Paragraph 2553 stipulates that the church must hold a church conference whereby at least 2/3 of the members in attendance vote to disaffiliate. The church then negotiates a “disaffiliation agreement” with the Conference Board of Trustees. Finally, the annual conference must approve the agreement. The following seven churches are requesting disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (which includes changes approved at the 2019 Special Session of The General Conference) at this session of the annual conference: Bethel (Midland), Brown’s View (Bostic), Cedar Grove (Bostic), Golden Valley (Bostic), Hardison (Mocksville), Mount Pleasant (Thomasville), Mount Zion (Lenoir). The legal documents for disaffiliation for each church are posted at [www.AC2020.org](http://www.AC2020.org).

*Note, the disaffiliations become effective as of the date of property transfer, not the date of approval at Annual Conference. Thus, the disaffiliated churches will appear in the 2021 BAC.*

Bishop Leeland explained that the General Conference requires each request for disaffiliation be voted upon individually. Therefore, on the ballot each petition will require an individual vote.

Subject: **Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Midland, NC, Metro District** (Vote: Yes 1,738, No 164)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees, Board of Stewards, and Planning & Preparation Team of Bethel United Methodist Church, Midland, NC, Metro District

*Whereas*, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Bethel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

*Whereas*, the Bethel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

*Whereas*, the Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

*Whereas*, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

*Whereas*, the Bethel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

*Whereas*, that the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards, with appointed Planning and Preparation Team, of Bethel UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

*Whereas*, the Conference Trustees and Bethel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Bethel UMC from The United Methodist Church.



Subject: **Disaffiliation of Brown's View United Methodist Church, Candler, NC, Blue Ridge District** (Vote: Yes 1,751, No 159)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Brown's View United Methodist Church, Candler, NC, Blue Ridge District

*Whereas*, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Brown's View United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

*Whereas*, Brown's View United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

*Whereas*, Brown's View United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the "traditional plan" to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline's* standard on matters of sexual practice; and

*Whereas*, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

*Whereas*, Brown's View United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

*Whereas*, that the Board of Trustees of Brown's View United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

*Whereas*, the Conference Trustees and Brown's View UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as [Exhibit A](#)), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Brown's View UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Subject: **Disaffiliation of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District** (Vote: Yes 1,747, No 168)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District

*Whereas*, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

*Whereas*, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

*Whereas*, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the "traditional plan" to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline's* standard on matters of sexual practice; and

*Whereas*, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

*Whereas*, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

*Whereas*, that the Board of Trustees of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

*Whereas*, the Conference Trustees and Cedar Grove UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as [Exhibit A](#)), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Cedar Grove UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Subject: **Disaffiliation of Golden Valley United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District** (Vote: Yes 1,750, No 167)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Golden Valley United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District

*Whereas*, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Golden Valley United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

*Whereas*, Golden Valley United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

*Whereas*, Golden Valley United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the "traditional plan" to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline's* standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Golden Valley United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Golden Valley United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Golden Valley UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Golden Valley UMC from The United Methodist Church.

**Subject: Disaffiliation of Hardison United Methodist Church, Mocksville, NC, Yadkin Valley District** (Vote: Yes 1,751, No 163)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Hardison United Methodist Church, Mocksville, NC, Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Hardison United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Hardison United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Hardison United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Hardison United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Hardison United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Hardison UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Hardison UMC from The United Methodist Church.

**Subject: Disaffiliation of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Thomasville, NC, Yadkin Valley District** (Vote: Yes 1,740, No 172)

Submitted by: Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Thomasville, NC, Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mt. Pleasant UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mt. Pleasant UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and further ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.



Subject: **Disaffiliation of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Lenoir, NC, Appalachian District** (Vote: Yes 1,740, No 174)

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Lenoir, NC, Appalachian District

*Whereas*, by near unanimous consent, the congregation of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

*Whereas*, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

*Whereas*, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

*Whereas*, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

*Whereas*, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

*Whereas*, that the Board of Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

*Whereas*, the Conference Trustees and Mt. Zion UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mt. Zion UMC from The United Methodist Church.

**CABINET RESOLUTIONS:** Bishop Leeland introduced Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the Bishop and secretary of the Cabinet, appearing on the live stream, who proposed adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment:

**Resolution for the Closure of  
Brevard’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley District  
GCFA: 967642 • DCNo: CV 095**

*Whereas*, the membership of Brevard’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley, has declined to 10 in worship; and,

*Whereas*, the church is no longer financially able to support the pastor’s salary and pension, nor to maintain its facility; and the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of a local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204;

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

*Resolved*, that the **Brevard’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley District**, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective July 31, 2020; and that the Wesley Community Development, and **the Board of Trustees of Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Columbus United Methodist Church, Polk County, Blue Ridge District  
GCFA: 2165707 • DCNo: BR-830**

*Whereas*, Columbus United Methodist Church, Polk County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 12 members, with worship attendance averaging 6; and,

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

*Whereas*, Columbus United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

*Whereas*, members present from Columbus United Methodist, Polk County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by greater than ¾ majority vote at a special called session of church conference on March 18, 2020; and

*Whereas*, Columbus United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on April 26, 2020; and

*Whereas*, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that **Columbus United Methodist Church, Polk County, Blue Ridge District** be considered discontinued effective April 30, 2020; and that the property be transferred to **the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc.** which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference; and be it

*Further resolved*, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Columbus United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District  
GCFA: 290791 • DCNo: BR-320**

*Whereas*, Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 10 members, with worship attendance averaging 4; and,

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

*Whereas*, Davis Chapel United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

*Whereas*, members present from Davis Chapel United Methodist, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation on December 10, 2019; and

*Whereas*, Davis Chapel United Methodist Church held a closing worship celebration on January 5, 2020; and

*Whereas*, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that **Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District** be considered discontinued effective January 31, 2020; and that the property be transferred to **the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc.** which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of  
Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland County, Catawba Valley District  
GCFA: 293704 • DCNo: CV 210**

*Whereas*, the membership of Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland County, Catawba Valley, has declined to 13 in worship; and,

*Whereas*, the church is no longer financially able to support the pastor's salary and pension, nor to maintain its facility; and the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of a local church according to the *2016 Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204;

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

*Resolved*, that the **Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland County, Catawba Valley District**, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective December 31, 2019; and that the Wesley Community Development, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Hanes United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District  
GCFA: 303382 • DCNo: YV-285**

*Whereas*, the membership of Hanes United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District, has declined in worship and has limited resources to the point that the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the *2016 Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and

*Whereas* on Feb 2, 2020, the charge conference of Hanes UMC unanimously made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation on April 30, 2020; and

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

*Resolved*, that the **Hanes United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District**, be discontinued effective April 30, 2020, that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of  
Lilesville United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District  
GCFA: 292301 • DCNo: UW-275**

*Whereas*, Lilesville United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources;  
*Whereas*, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and

*Whereas* Lilesville United Methodist Church is a legal corporation;

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

*Resolved*, that the **Lilesville United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District**, be discontinued and the legal corporation dissolved on October 31, 2019, and effective October 31, 2019, that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference; and be it

*Further resolved*, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Lilesville United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.

**Resolution for the Closure of  
Louisa Chapel UMC, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District  
GCFA: 303052 • DCNo: SM-045**

*Whereas*, the membership of Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District, has declined to an average worship of 9 persons; and,

*Whereas*, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church has discerned it is no longer able to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and

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

*Resolved*, that the **Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District**, be discontinued effective June 30, 2020, that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549.3 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

O God, our help in ages past, we give you thanks for the rich legacies of each of these churches. They were built with loving hands and loving hearts. We are grateful for all who sacrificed and gave of themselves to provide these special meeting places for many years.

Almighty God, in their pews you gathered your church and filled hearts with your love through song and praise. You heard confessions and forgave sins. You lifted sorrows and made us glad in celebrations. We praise and thank you for food and fellowship, for meetings, ministry, and mission.

In years gone by, O God, your sons and daughters from these congregations offered Christ to others through acts of kindness, generosity and faithfulness. Lives were touched at home and throughout the world. Prayers were offered for healing, comfort, praise, and thanksgiving. Loving hands made prayer shawls, assembled food buckets and health kits, prepared meals, stocked food closets, and provided backpacks for those who were hungry.

In these churches, members baptized their children, professed their faith in Jesus Christ, established new families, and said goodbye to loved ones.

Today we rejoice that these legacy members remain part of Christ's ongoing Church as they are welcomed into new church homes where they will continue to love and follow Jesus and make disciples for the transformation of our communities and world.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we put our trust in you and your great love which continually gives us new life in Christ.

Amen.

Rev. Angie Hollar, adapted by Rev. Amy Coles



**Resolution for the Closure of  
Main Street United Methodist Church, Rowan County, Uwharrie District  
GCFA: 299062 • DCNo: UW-127**

Whereas, Main Street United Methodist Church, Rowan County, Uwharrie District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources;

Whereas, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the *2016 Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and

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

Resolved, that the **Main Street United Methodist Church, Rowan County, Uwharrie District**, be discontinued effective June 30, 2020, and that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District  
GCFA: 296046 • DCNo: NP-466**

Whereas, Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, has declined to worship attendance averaging 15; and,

Whereas, Northwood United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, members present from Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, made a faithful decision by vote on June 14, 2020 to discontinue as a congregation, effective June 30, 2020; and

Whereas, Northwood United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 14, 2020; and

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Northern Piedmont district superintendent, and the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that **Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District** be considered discontinued effective June 30, 2020; and that the property be transferred to **the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc.** which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Peachtree United Methodist Church, Cherokee County, Smoky Mountain District  
GCFA: 302695 • DCNo: SM-175**

Whereas, the membership of Peachtree United Methodist Church, Cherokee County, Smoky Mountain District, has declined to 4 in worship; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, Peachtree United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Smoky Mountain district superintendent, and the Smoky Mountain District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that **Peachtree United Methodist Church, Cherokee County, Smoky Mountain District**, be discontinued effective March 31, 2020, that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549.3 (abandonment) of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of  
Pine Bluff United Methodist Church, Cabarrus County, Metro District  
GCFA: 298717 • DCNo: ME-405**

Whereas, the membership of Pine Bluff United Methodist Church, Cabarrus County, Metro District, has declined to 10 in worship; and,  
Whereas, the church is no longer financially able to support the pastor's salary and pension and district and conference apportionments, nor to maintain its facility; and the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of a local church according to the *2016 Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and,

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

Resolved, that the **Pine Bluff United Methodist Church, Cabarrus County, Metro District**, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective December 31, 2019; and that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of  
Plaza United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District  
GCFA: 292414 • DCNo: ME-415**

*Whereas*, the members of Plaza United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District, are seeking to connect with their community in new and more vital ways; and,

*Whereas*, the Bishop, Cabinet, and the Western NC Conference Office of Church Development are committed to the formation and support of new congregations to reach our increasingly ethnically and racially diverse communities;

*Whereas* the Metro District and the Western NC Office of Church Development are committed to the formation of a new United Methodist Church based at the Plaza UMC location;

*Whereas* on July 22, 2019 a majority of the members of Plaza UMC voted to close in order to become partners in a new church start,

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

*Resolved*, that the **Plaza United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District**, be discontinued effective September 30, 2019; and that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016), the policies of the annual conference, and with the understanding of the intent to plant a new United Methodist Church at the Plaza location.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Rosman United Methodist Church, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District  
GCFA: 290654 • DCNo: BR-932**

*Whereas*, Rosman United Methodist Church, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 15 members, with worship attendance averaging 10; and,

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

*Whereas*, Rosman United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

*Whereas*, members present from Rosman United Methodist, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by unanimous vote on June 12, 2019; and

*Whereas*, Rosman United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 30, 2019; and

*Whereas*, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that **Rosman United Methodist Church, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District** be considered discontinued effective July 31, 2019; and that the property be transferred to **the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc. for repurposing for new ministry in the Blue Ridge District** which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

*Further resolved*, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Rosman United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.

**Resolution for Closure for Exigent Circumstances  
Siloam United Methodist Church, Davidson County, Uwharrie District  
GCFA: 330515 • DCNo: UW-102**

*Whereas*, the membership of Siloam United Methodist Church, Davidson County, Uwharrie District, has requested a church conference for the purpose of discontinuance in order to buy back real estate and other assets;

*Whereas*, at least two-thirds of the membership of the church conference has approved this resolution;

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

*Resolved*, that the **Siloam United Methodist Church, Davidson County, Uwharrie District**, be discontinued effective December 31, 2019; and that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District  
GCFA: 291226 • DCNo: BR-910**

Whereas, Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 12 members, with worship attendance averaging 7; and,

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

Whereas, Swannanoa United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶201-204 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, members present from Swannanoa United Methodist, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by unanimous vote at a special called session of church conference on November 3, 2019; and

Whereas, Swannanoa United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 28, 2020; and

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that **Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District** be considered discontinued effective June 30, 2020; and that the property be transferred to **the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc.** which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution of Discontinuance and Abandonment:  
Transou United Methodist Church (Laurel Springs), Ashe County, Appalachian District  
GCFA: 288731 • DCNo: AP-600**

Whereas, Transou United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District, has declined to an average worship attendance of thirteen (13) persons,

Whereas, due to declining attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *the 2016 Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 201-204; and

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

**Resolved**, that the **Transou United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District**, be declared discontinued and abandoned effective October 31, 2019; and that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.** be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with paragraph 2549 of the *2016 Book of Discipline* and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for Closure for Exigent Circumstances  
White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District  
GCFA: 289702 • DCNo: NP-587**

White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District, 1843 Low Bridge Road, Liberty, NC 27298 (GCFA: 289702)

Whereas, the reported membership of White's Chapel United Methodist Church for 2019 was 60, with reported worship attendance of 17; and

Whereas, White's Chapel United Methodist Church is no longer willing to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and

Whereas, the membership of White's Chapel United Methodist Church has requested discontinuance in order to buy back real estate and other assets; and

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

**Resolved**, that **White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District**, be considered discontinued effective July 10, 2020; and that the **Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.**, be instructed to handle all matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Note: The Cabinet approved the discontinuance effective on the date that the property is transferred to White's Chapel.

Rev. Coles offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the mission, ministry, heritage, legacy, and the people of the several congregations dissolved and abandoned.

Bishop Leeland indicated that on the ballot, adoption of the resolutions of church closures will require only a single vote (vote: Yes 1,880, No 56). He expressed his gratitude to the Church Legacy Initiative that helped the churches leave a legacy for the communities they served.



**RESOLUTION FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING:** Bishop Leeland indicated that *The Book of Discipline* requests that a date and place be set for the time of Annual Conference for 2021. He proposed that the location of the 2021 Annual Conference meet at Lake Junaluska, June 18-20, 2021. There will be a vote for this motion on the ballot (vote: Yes 1,912, No 88).

**FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS:** Bishop Paul L. Leeland officially fixed the clergy appointments for the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church for the ensuing year as previously published in May, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adjourned *sine die* at 2:20 p.m.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.:** The Reverend David A. Snipes, President and CEO of the foundation, appearing on the live stream, and on behalf of G. Thomas Jordan, chairperson of the board, called the annual meeting to order. Rev. Snipes reviewed the creation of the foundation in 1967 to help provide a stewardship umbrella that would establish endowments, put in place ways for planned giving to support the endowments, and manage the monies of those particular endowments and planned giving instruments. The United Methodist Foundation is incorporated as a 501c3 corporation. The clergy and lay members of the annual conference are members of the foundation and as such elect the board of directors. Rev. Snipes nominated the following for election to the board in the class of 2023: Rev. Pamela Blackstock, Rob Byrd, Rev. C. Thomas Latimer, III, Bill Mileham and Leesa Sluder. David Mildenberg is nominated to serve in the class of 2022. There are 15 board members plus additional ex officio members. These nominees will require a vote which will appear on the ballot (vote: Yes 1,957, No 16). Rev. Snipes announced that Chris Davis and Sam Smith, both former chairpersons of the board, will become honorary members. Rev. Snipes recalled that when the foundation was first created it was funded by support from the annual conference budget. Once the foundation was fully self-supporting the institutions has given back support to the mission and ministry of the annual conference. This year in addition to the COVID-19 grants of \$174,000.00, the Foundation is contributing a check for \$60,000.00 for the Comprehensive Plan for Equity. The annual meeting of the Foundation adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

**PRIVILEGE MATTER:** Bishop Leeland thanked Rev. Snipes and the work and generosity of the United Methodist Foundation. He also thanked Rev. Ed Ramsey, who will offer a closing prayer, and the choir of Simpson-Gillespie UMC, who will sing the closing hymn.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, made the following final announcements:

The electronic ballot will remain open until 11:59 p.m. and the help desk for assistance will be open until 5:30 p.m.

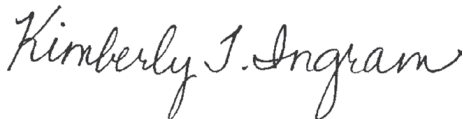
Submission of paper ballots must be postmarked by Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

The results of the ballot will be posted on the conference website sometime by August 24, 2020.

**PRAYER:** The Rev. Edward N. Ramsey, First, Asheboro and St. Luke, Asheboro (UW) offered the closing prayer by recorded video.

**HYMN:** With the words of hymn 593 (UMH) *Here I Am, Lord* displayed on the screen, the choir of Simpson-Gillespie UMC, Charlotte (ME) sang the closing hymn by recorded video.

**BENEDICTION:** Using II Corinthians 13:11, Bishop Paul L. Leeland pronounced the benediction and the live streamed session of the 2020 Annual Conference concluded at 2:35 p.m.



Kimberly T. Ingram



Paul L. Leeland

## D. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the  
2020 Ordering of Ministry Service for Commissioning and Ordination was postponed.