

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

A. PROGRAM OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Connect Imagine Engage

*God can do anything,
you know—far more than
you could ever imagine or
guess or request in your
wildest dreams!*

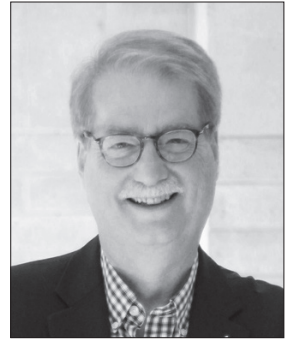
- Eph 3:20 The Message



Edgardo Colón-Emeric, MDiv, PhD
Dean, Duke Divinity School



Rev. Dawn M. Hand
Central Maryland District Superintendent
Baltimore-Washington Conference
WNCC Clergy



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr.
Resident and Presiding Bishop
Western North Carolina Conference
Charlotte Area

ONGOING

- Connect** BINGO is on the inside rear cover of the P&R Supplement book
Connect Prayer and Reflection Stations @Harrell Center, the Labyrinth, and Memorial Chapel
Imagine #BeUMC videos - Record your own testimonial video! @Press Room, Harrell Center 102

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

- Morning** **Connect with Each Other and Creation** <http://www.connectatac.com/>
3:00 p.m. **Executive Session of Clergy Members**
 ¶ 605.6 - "The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference"
4:30 p.m. **Celebration of the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Ordination, Commissioning, and Licensing Classes**
5:30 p.m. **Dinner Recess**

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

- 10:30 a.m.** **Opening Worship: Service of Holy Communion**
 Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean of Duke Divinity School, preaching
Engage - Offering: Stuart Auditorium Restoration and Both/And funding for small, rural, and churches of color
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch Recess**
- 1:30 p.m.** **Conference Plenary: Business Session**
Connect - Opening Hymn and Prayer
 Welcome from Lake Junaluska
 Procedural Matters, Elections for Conference, and Consent Calendar
 Committee on Nominations
 Plan of Organization and Rules of Order
 Historic Wesley Questions for Ordinands
 Committee on the Episcopacy
Imagine - Future of the UMC
- 3:30 p.m.** **Break**
- 4:00 p.m.** **Order of the Day: Recognition of Retiring Clergy**
- 5:30 p.m.** **Dinner Recess**
- 5:30 p.m.** **Connect @ Friday Night Fun** <http://www.connectatac.com/>

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

- 8:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Membership of the UM Foundation of WNC**
- 8:50 a.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**
Connection Moment and Prayer
 Conference Council on Finance and Administration
 2023 Conference Budget
 Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
 Commission on Equitable Compensation
- 10:30 a.m. Break**
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service: Celebration of Life**
Rev. Dawn M. Hand, WNC clergy and DS in Baltimore-Washington Conference, preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Recess**
- 2:00 p.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**
Connection Moment and Prayer
 Presentation of Francis Asbury Award
 Cabinet Resolutions
 Disaffiliation Resolutions
Imagine - (RE)Newed
- 3:15 p.m. Break**
- 3:45 p.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**
Connection Moment and Prayer
Imagine - Both/And: A Great Commission Moment
 Presentation of the Denman Award
 Petitions
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess**
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Service: The Ordering of Ministry**
Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, preaching

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

- 10:00 a.m. Closing Worship Service and Juneteenth Celebration**
Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, preaching
Engage - Offering: Stuart Auditorium Restoration and Both/And funding for small, rural, and churches of color
 Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth
 Adjournment of the 2022 Annual Conference, *sine die*
- 1:00 p.m. Engage - Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Smoky Mountain District and Lake Junaluska**

**USHERS FOR THE 2022 SESSION**

George Eubanks and Kathy McAbee, Chairpersons

Cade Barefoot	Jane Herstine	Cindy Nanney	Suzanne Schilling
Taylor Payne Barefoot	Alan Keely	Sherril Noble	Keith Sherril
Debbie Black	Tonya Lanier	Tony Owens	Jessica Stamey
Mitchell Boughman	Laura Lee Jones	Lane Peeler	Shonnie Stredler
Carol Coram	Dean Martin	Linda Peeler	Robin Tyndall
Catherine Gantt	Jeffrey Martin	Antonette (Toni) Poppy	Gary VanLandingham
Chris Glawson	Logan Miller	Tonia Reaves	Myra Waddell
Lonnie Grose	Luke Mitchell	Forrestene Sain	Cathy Ward
Chris Harbin	Samuel Moore	Rick Schilling	Debbie Williams

B. SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13-15**

C2LJ Bicycle Ride Christ UMC, Hickory NC to Kern Center, Lake Junaluska

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Tee Time **Connect:** Golf Group Lake Junaluska Golf Course, 756 Golf Course Rd, Waynesville
 9:30 a.m. **Connect:** Go for a Hike Maggie Valley, TBD
 9:30 a.m. **Connect:** Water Activities Kern Center, Aquatic Center / Pool
 10:00 a.m. **Connect:** Bible Journaling with Jaidymar Smith (supplies provided).....Stuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
 11:00 a.m. Conference Council on Finance and Administration Meeting..... The Terrace, T-319
 11:30 a.m. Extension Ministry/Beyond the Local Church Luncheon..... Kern Center, Auditorium
 11:30 a.m. First Church Cohort Gathering..... The Terrace, T-316
 1:15 p.m. Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting..... Harrell Center, HC-202
 3:00 p.m. Clergy Spouse Social.....Harrell Center, HC-201
 5:30 p.m. Hood Theological Seminary Alumni and Prospective Students Dinner The Terrace, T-319
 6:00 p.m. Retiree Dinner Lambuth Inn, International Room
 7:00 p.m. Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Meeting ..Maggie Valley UMC, 4192 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley
 8:00 p.m. Panel Discussion with Bishop Carter Panacea Coffee, 66 Commerce St, Waynesville

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

8:00 a.m. Wesley Theological Seminary Alumni BreakfastThe Terrace, Bring Your Breakfast to T-319
 8:30 a.m. UMRA Breakfast Fellowship/Annual Meeting Maggie Valley UMC, 4192 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley
 9:00 a.m. Clergywomen's Juice Bar FellowshipStuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
 9:15 a.m. Usher Training.....Stuart Auditorium, Near the Stage
 12:00 p.m. Asbury Alumni LuncheonThe Terrace, Bring Your Lunch to T-316
 12:00 p.m. BMCR Luncheon..... York Commons Dining Hall
 12:00 p.m. Brotherhood/Sisterhood Meeting The Terrace, T-213
 12:00 p.m. Chaplain's Fellowship Luncheon.....The Terrace, Bring Your Lunch to T-319
 12:00 p.m. High Point University Alumni & Friends Luncheon Lambuth Inn, International Room
 12:00 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Network Luncheon Kern Center, Auditorium
 1:10 p.m. Youth Meetup to Sit as a Group The Labyrinth, Memorial Chapel East Lawn
 5:30 p.m. Rehearsal for the Ordering of Ministry Service and Service of LifeStuart Auditorium, Near the Stage
 5:30 p.m. WNC WCA Banquet..... Lambuth Inn, International Room
 5:30 p.m. **Connect:** Dinner Mixer.....Randomized Group Assignments
 5:30 p.m. **Connect:** Game RoomHarrell Center, HC-201
 5:30 p.m. **Connect:** Live Music in the Courtyard.....Stuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
 5:30 p.m. **Connect:** Messy Church..... Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym
 6:00 p.m. **Connect:** Hymn Sing-Along.....The Cross - Inspiration Point Amphitheater
 7:00 p.m. **Connect:** Pub Gathering (Drop In Anytime before 10).....Boojum Brewing Co., 50 N Main St, Waynesville
 7:00 p.m. **Connect:** Silent Dance PartyStuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
 7:00 p.m. **Engage:** Live Stream: The Seventh Mother Emanuel AME Commemorative Service for the Martyred
 The Terrace, T-316
 8:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Worship Memorial Chapel

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

12:30 p.m. Duke Divinity School Alumni Luncheon York Commons Dining Hall
 12:30 p.m. Jason Moore Gathering..... The Terrace, T-319
 12:30 p.m. Orientation to Ministry (O2M) Lunch.....The Terrace, T-Auditorium
 12:30 p.m. Pfeiffer University Alumni LuncheonHarrell Center, HC-201
 3:00 p.m. Crossnore Coffee Hour..... The Terrace, T-319
 5:30 p.m. Candler/Emory Alumni and Friends Dinner..... Lambuth Inn, International Room

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

1:00 p.m. **Engage:** Juneteenth Celebration..... Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym

C. DAILY MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 3:00 P.M.

CLERGY SESSION CONVENES: In compliance with ¶¶ 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)*, Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. After singing the hymn 57 (UMH) *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, the Rev. Kevin Allan Turner, Davidson, (Davidson, ME) providing accompaniment, Ceola Ross-Baber, Newlyn Street, (Greensboro, NP), member BOM executive committee, offered an opening prayer.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: Rev. Roland T. Barnhardt, executive director, presented the report. The Brotherhood/Sisterhood was organized 128 years ago by clergy and laity to provide collegial support and immediate assistance to the families of clergy members when they die. Twenty-four families have received the support since July 2021. Rev. Jeremy P. Pegram, First, (Pilot Mountain, YV) president, thanked the staff, Rev. Barnhardt and Robbie Carr, administrative assistant; and, reminded members of the annual meeting scheduled for Friday, June 17, 2022, at 12 noon, in room 213 of Terrace Hotel. Several amendments to the by-laws are part of the agenda.

PRIVILEGE: Bishop Carter introduced Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, retired, who will be present on the platform.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT: Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, First, (Asheboro, UW), chairperson, who presented the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry. She was glad to be meeting in person for this session after the pandemic and other turmoil for the past two years. She reported the BOM has 75 members, 4 local pastors, 9 deacons, 45 elders, and 15 lay members. The membership come from diverse geography, ages, experience, gender, places of ministry and theology. The board has sought to listen to those different perspectives. She thanked the members, the executive committee, the conference staff, and the members of the district committees. She noted the creation of a task force to develop a Fair and Equitable Interview Process. Dr. Ceola Ross-Barber, laity, (Newlyn Street, NP) and Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Turner, clergy (Davidson, ME) co-chair the task force. Rev. Ferguson highlighted the on-going clergy ethics training on racism, noted the planned “Hats Off” celebration today for the candidates in the classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022, and finally requested prayers for the families who have suffered a death, faced health issues, and for all the clergy who are retiring. Bishop Carter thanked Rev. Ferguson for her report.

ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, and Rev. Lynda Ferguson explained that only clergy in full connection either active or retired and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are eligible to vote. Those eligible must be seated in sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Stuart Auditorium.

BUSINESS QUESTION 13: Rev Ingram asked business question 13 and Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the bishop, supplied the proposed response for business question 13 in regard to the character of the clergy in the annual conference.

BUSINESS QUESTION 14a (members of the Administrative Review Committee): Rev. Ferguson presented the names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 15 (certified candidates): Rev. Paul B. Thompson, Huntersville, (Huntersville, ME), vice-chairperson, presented the response to business question 15.

BUSINESS QUESTION 16 (persons who have completed licensing school, are approved, but not appointed): Rev. Thompson provided the response with an addition, and they were approved by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 17a, b (persons approved and appointed for full time and part-time local pastors): Rev. Thompson provided the response, and they were approved by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 18 (discontinued as local pastors): Rev. Thompson supplied the response.

BUSINESS QUESTION 19 (reinstated as local pastors): Rev. Thompson presented the response, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 20 (ordained clergy or provisional members from other annual conferences or Methodist denominations approved for appointment while retaining conference or denominational membership): Rev. Ferguson read the names for information.

BUSINESS QUESTION 21 (clergy approved for appointments or other ecumenical ministries in the bounds of the annual conference while retaining denominational affiliation): Rev. Ferguson responded, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 24a, b (deacons and elders elected for provisional membership): Rev. Monica C. Childers, St. Luke’s (Hickory, CV), chair of the order of deacons, and Rev. Norma Hickman de Villagrana, Zion (Monroe, ME), chair of the order of elders, presented the names of those to be elected as provisional members of the annual conference, and they were elected by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 25a (what deacons and elders are continued as provisional members): Reverends Kim Ingram and Monica Childers presented the list of names, and they were approved to continue by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 26b (ordained clergy received from other Christian denominations): Rev. Villagrana answered, the one local pastor was approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 27 (other ordained clergy from other Christian denominations have their orders recognized): Rev. Villagrana presented the one name, and he was approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 28, 29, 30 (those deacons and elders elected in full connection and ordained as deacons and elders): Rev. Childers read the two names of the persons to be elected in full connection and ordained as deacons, and Rev. Villagrana read the 8 names of the persons to be elected in full connection and ordained as elders. All ten were elected in full connection and approved for ordination by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 34 (received by transfer from other UMC annual conferences): Rev. Ferguson presented the names, and they were approved by required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 38a, b (those discontinued as provisional members): Rev. Ferguson presented the names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 39a(1) (those granted honorable location): Rev. Ferguson provided the response, and she was approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 40a (those granted honorable location – retired): Rev. Ferguson provided the response, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 42b (those whose conference membership is terminated by withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office): Rev. Ferguson presented the five names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 44 (names of those clergy who have died in the past year): Rev. Ferguson read the names of associate members, elders, deacons, and local pastors who have died since the last session of The Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church.

BUSINESS QUESTION 46a (requests for leave of absence): Rev. Avery E. White, First, (Gastonia, CV) secretary of the BOM, presented the requests for personal, family, or transitional leave of absence. Those requesting personal or family leave of five years or less were approved by the required majority vote. Those on personal or family leave of more than five years were approved by the required 2/3 majority vote. Those persons requesting transitional leave were listed but did not require a vote for approval.

BUSINESS QUESTION 48 (request for medical leave): Rev. White presented the names of those persons requesting medical or disability leave of absence, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 49 (full connection retired): Rev. Aldana W. Allen, Providence (Salisbury, UW), discernment team chairperson, read the names of the three deacons and 42 elders retiring at the 2022 session of the annual conference, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 51 (associate members retired): Rev. Allen read the names of the local pastors retiring this year.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 53, 54, 57 (candidates for certification in specialized ministry, persons certified in specialized ministry, persons removed as certified): Rev. Ferguson reported the names of candidates for certification in specialized ministries, those persons certified in specialized ministries, and the one person removed as a certified person in specialized ministry.

BUSINESS QUESTION 58 (certified as lay ministers): Rev. Ferguson read the names of the persons certified as lay ministers.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 59-65 (diaconal ministers): Rev. Ferguson provided the responses to the questions, which included the one name of a diaconal minister who had died during the year.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 66 (retired diaconal ministers): Rev. Ferguson provided the name of the one diaconal minister retiring, and her change of status was approved by the required 2/3 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 67a (less than full-time service): Rev. Ferguson read the names of associate members and elders (full and provisional members) approved for less than full-time service. Those persons serving less than full-time for 8 years or less were approved by the required 2/3 majority vote. Those persons serving less than full-time for 8 years, or more were approved by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 71a, b, c (appointment to extension ministries): Rev. Ferguson provided the response to business question 71, and the required 2/3 majority vote for 71 (c) was given.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 72 and 73: Rev. Ferguson noted the names of deacons full connection and provisional appointed beyond the local church, and those appointed to attend school.

BUSINESS QUESTION 75 (other notations): Rev. Ferguson provided additional personal notations.

BUSINESS QUESTION 76 (site and date of next conference session): Rev. Ingram announced that the next session of the annual conference is scheduled for June 15-18, 2023, at Lake Junaluska, NC.

RECOGNITION OF DECEASED CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS: Rev. Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Myers Park (Charlotte, ME), discernment team chairperson read the names of the six associate members retired, the four active and 26 elders retired, the one active local pastor and 3 local pastors retired, the two deacons retired, and the one diaconal minister retired who have died in the last year. Bishop Ken Carter 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; and, offered a prayer.

REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM: Rev. Shirley L. Canty, Burge Memorial-Rock Hill (Mount Holly, CV), chairperson leadership development team presented the report. Rev. Canty noted that the goal of the group is to provide resources and support for leadership needs of clergy and ministry professionals. The priorities of the group have been to help clergy deal with grief, to

lament, and to experience hope. Opportunities for renewal and self-care are sponsored. A spiritual renewal experience is being planned for September 2022. A new offering will look to provide clergy care through service. A new preaching cohort is scheduled and a new edition of Flourish 2.0. She encouraged the clergy to connect to the website for more information.

BISHOP CARTER: Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. presiding bishop for the Western North Carolina and Florida Annual Conferences spoke to the executive session of the clergy. His primary message was to express thanks. He was grateful for the life and vocation in ministry of the clergy. He noted the division and decline in vitality in the denomination. He mourned the 25,000 persons who have died in North Carolina from Covid-19. He acknowledged the polarization in the body. He thanked the clergy for being on the front lines through all the events, hurt, trauma, anger and sorrow of the past two years and recent months. He recognized that it has been exhausting for the clergy and their congregants. He declared that he did not take for granted what the clergy have given. He gave thanks for the strength of the connection. He concluded his words with a prayer.

HATS OFF!: Rev. Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Myers Park (Charlotte, ME), discernment team chairperson, provided opening remarks for the celebration to honor the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Ordination and Commissioning classes. A video introduced each of the 120 people licensed, commissioned, and ordained. Rev. Frederick B. Bowman, Catawba Valley district vitality associate, encouraged the clergy to be lifelong learners. Rev. Elizabeth M. Crissman, West Market Street (Greensboro, NP), provided additional instructions for the celebration on the lawn between Stuart Auditorium and the Memorial Chapel and closed with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: The executive session of the clergy adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022

OPENING WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION – 10:30 A.M.

After a prelude by Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, and call to worship by Rev. Charlie D. Rivens, Sr., New Place (Charlotte, ME), the processional hymn 64 (UMH), *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* was sung. Rev. Donna Strickland Smith, Burnett's Chapel (Greensboro, NC) offered the opening prayer. Following a choral call to worship sung by the Greensboro Ensemble, Rev. Patricia M. Dixon, Faith – Antioch (Rural Hall, YV) led the litany, "Testimony of Hope", using an adaption of Psalm 27 and lines from the hymns *And Are We Yet Alive* and *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*. Mrs. Lindsay Snipes Hampton, West UMC Growth Co. (ME), read the scripture lesson, John 20:17-23. Following a song of preparation by The Greensboro Ensemble, Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr., presiding bishop for the Western North Carolina Conference and the Florida Conference, introduced Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colon-Emeric, dean of Duke Divinity School, who presented the message, "After Pentecost." Using the gospel text from John and the conference theme of connect, imagine, and engage, Dr. Colon-Emeric contrasted the disciples before Pentecost and after Pentecost. Before Pentecost the disciples were afraid, angry, and apart, trapped in the logic of the world. After Pentecost they remembered who Jesus is and his ministry and began to understand and be empowered for discipleship. Dr. Colon-Emeric challenged worshippers to reconnect with Jesus and find some upper rooms not as a fortress but for reflection and empowerment, to reimagine mission, mission from the margins, and to reengage the spirit in order to dream, for we are commissioned to dream. Rev. Pamela E. Blackstock, Central (Charlotte, ME), explained that the offering will be evenly divided between two ministries: the preservation, and infrastructural improvements of historic Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, and towards grant funding that will be distributed among small, rural, and churches of color to explore how digital resources can impact their worship, discipleship, hospitality, and leadership. Following an offertory sung by the Greensboro Korean UMC Praise Team entitled *Vision*, and the doxology, Bishop Carter, Dr. Colon-Emeric, and Rev. Monica C. Childers, St. Luke's (Hickory, CV) led the congregation in a prayer of confession and pardon and Great Thanksgiving. Bishop Carter celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion with the assistance of other clergy and lay persons. After the prayer following communion, the singing of the recessional hymn 670 (UMH) *Go Forth for God*, benediction by Bishop Carter, and postlude played by Jarvis Wilson, worship concluded, and the conference recessed at 12 noon.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONVENES – 1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: With Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., resident and presiding bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church convened in the George R. Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on June 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Following the singing of hymn 553 (UMH), *And Are We Yet Alive*, Bishop Carter offered an opening prayer, written by the late Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Langford, Jr., and called the 55th session of the annual conference to order at 1:30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE: Bishop Carter introduced Mr. Jarvis Wilson and Mr. Keith Wilson who will serve as conference musicians.

#BeUMC VIDEO: A video segment of #BeUMC was presented which focused on the testimony of young adults about being United Methodist.

WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY: Bishop Carter introduced Ken Howle, executive director of Lake Junaluska, who welcomed members of the annual conference to Lake Junaluska Assembly for the first time since 2019. He reaffirmed the mission of Lake Junaluska Assembly as a place of Christian hospitality, where lives are transformed through renewal of mind, soul, and body. He noted that 2022 is the 109th anniversary of the assembly and that a priority of the assembly is the restoration and infrastructural improvements of the historic and oldest structure on the Assembly, Stuart Auditorium. He thanked Bishop Carter and the members of the conference for their continued support.

VOTING BAR AND ELECTION OF DISTRICT-AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that the voting bar, or legal limits, of the conference be set to include all of Stuart Auditorium, and that those voting must be seated within the bar unless other instructions are given in case of a full house. And, she further moved that the district-at-large members, who have been identified by the districts according to the equalization process, be elected to serve.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that the conference program as printed on page 3 of the *Supplement* booklet constitute the official agenda of the 2022 conference session. Rev. Ingram explained that if you want to speak about a change in the agenda, please bring a note to the desk. She highlighted on page 32 of the *Supplement*, Connect@AC. On that webpage can be found 7 or 8 fun options for members to connect with others at conference. After 3 years apart from each other, conference organizers wanted members to be able to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

REPORTS OF BOARD AND AGENCIES: The conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that the reports of the conference boards and agencies as printed in the *Program and Reports* booklet and the *Supplement* be ordered to record insofar as they do not require conference action and provided that the conference agencies be permitted to file late reports and/or corrections no later than July 1, 2022.

SECRETARIAL STAFF: The conference secretary nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2022 session, and they were elected: Marsha Patton and Rev. A. Owen Peeler, associate secretaries; Rev. Kathy M. McAbee and George Eubanks, assistant secretaries; and Rev. Dr. Charles D. White, Jr. (Denny) as conference secretary *emeritus*.

GREETINGS TO THOSE MEMBERS ABSENT: The conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that any action concerning conference members unable to attend because of illness or other family emergency be given directly to the conference secretary, and that the secretary write these absent members expressing the greetings and prayer concern of the conference.

CONSENT CALENDAR MOTION: The Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, reported that the list of petitions for the consent calendar is found on page 10 of the *Supplement*. Rev. Ingram moved that the consent calendar, PETITIONS 4-15 be adopted as printed, and it was approved.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: The conference secretary moved the adoption of the report of the committee on nominations for 2020-2024 *ad interim*, and they were elected. Rev. Ingram noted that these changes are proposed based on our conference rules for people asking to come off a committee, filling vacancies, and inactivity.

CONFERENCE RULES AND PLAN OF ORGANIZATION: Bishop Carter introduced Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, First (Newton, CV), chairperson, who presented the report of the committee on conference rules and organization and moved the adoption of the proposed amendments, and they were adopted. The committee makes decisions based on recommendations from various agencies and entities within the denomination, including any disciplinary changes that occur, any requests from entities within the annual conference, structural changes that occur so that the rules and procedures are in line with what the conference is actually doing and in line with *The Book of Discipline*. The changes this year are printed on pages 15-20 in the *Supplement* and summarized as follows: **Part I.A.1.a.**, added the specific paragraph reference, paragraph 32, of *The Book of Discipline*, which connects annual conference clergy membership with the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. **Part I.A.1.e.**, and other references of the United Methodist Women in the rules and procedures, by correcting the changed name of the global organization from United Methodist Women to **United Women in Faith**. **Part I.A.2.** adds the requirement in *The Book of Discipline* that district-at-large members will be elected at the opening business session of Annual Conference. **Part I.C.1.a. and d.** adds the words “**and inclusiveness**” after diversity; and in item d. adds the sentence that the nomination process be conducted in a manner that ensures diversity and **inclusiveness**. These changes were made to align with *The Book of Discipline* and the priority of the annual conference. **Part I.C.5.b. and d.** removes **Ministries of Creation Care led by a Conference Earth-keeper** from the Justice and Reconciliation Team and adds **ministries of creation care** to the Mission Engagement Team. **Part I.F.7.** creates a new section of procedures for the election of lay and clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. This is in response to a petition adopted by the 2019 session of annual conference that approved a request for a procedure for clergy to self-nominate to be elected a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conference.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY: Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW), chairperson, who presented the report. Rev. Ferguson thanked the members of the district committees on ordained ministry and the conference board of ordained ministry, and on their behalf presented the candidates for licensing, commissioning, and ordination. She highlighted that there are 32 local pastors for licensing, 3 clergy by transfer from other annual conferences to the Western North Carolina Conference, 13 received from other annual conferences or denominations serving on loan, 16 provisional members to be commissioned, 2 deacons for ordination, 8 elders for ordination, 1 clergy from another denomination whose orders are recognized. All of the candidates have been examined, reviewed, and their education requirements completed. They are approved for readiness and effectiveness for ministry. Rev. Ferguson noted the creation of a task force for the just and equitable interview process of candidates chaired by Dr. Ceola Ross Barber, Newlyn Street (Greensboro, NP) and Rev. Dr. Kevin Allan Turner, Davidson (Davidson, ME). She highlighted that the quadrennial emphasis for the required clergy ethics training is focused on anti-racism education and application.

HISTORIC WESLEY QUESTIONS FOR ORDINANDS: Bishop Carter invited the candidates for ordination to the platform. As a tradition in this annual conference, he asked the historic questions of John Wesley for those to be ordained. Bishop Carter explained and expounded on these questions and encouraged lay members of the conference to “lean in” to their roles and responsibilities for support, accountability, and encouragement. Bishop Carter asked the conference to welcome the ordinands and he greeted each of them by name.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY: Rev. Sanford L. Giles, chairperson, presented the report. Rev. Giles noted the obvious that the Covid-19 pandemic had turned the world upside down. One of the disruptive effects of the pandemic was cancellation of General and Jurisdictional Conference, the inability to elect new bishops and fill vacancies because of bishops, who were required to retire. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy appointed Bishop Ken Carter to continue as bishop of the Florida Annual Conference and in addition to lead the Western North Carolina Conference. This is the first opportunity to welcome and greet Bishop and Mrs. Carter. Chairperson Giles thanked Bishop Carter for his leadership, characterized by reconciliation, civility, and kindness. Hank Dozier, St. Mark’s (Charlotte, ME), vice-chairperson and Jennifer Davis, Epworth (Gastonia, CV), ex-officio member and head of the lay delegates to General Conference, led a service of celebrating the assignment of a bishop to an area. Rev. Alex Shanks, assistant to the bishop, Florida Conference, brought greetings from the conference and provided statistics and highlights of mission and ministry in Florida. He noted that the Florida conference has 548 churches, 26 missions, 752 clergy, 209,000 laity, and 109,000 average worship attendance. During the pandemic 5 million meals were served in one year. Rev. Pam Carter, spouse of Bishop Carter, greeted the conference and spoke words of gratitude. Rev. Giles concluded the report by presenting Bishop Carter with a bag of Junaluska Java coffee.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE LAY LEADER: Bishop Carter introduced John Crane, First, (Gastonia, CV), conference lay leader. Mr. Crane presented his report to the conference. He celebrated the partnership of clergy and laity, especially over the past two years, who showed God’s love, offered grace, encouragement, comfort, and healing in the many local communities of service and beyond. He thanked members of the board of laity and all the lay members of the annual conference. He noted that the lay members of the conference are the vital link between the vision and goals of the annual conference and the local congregations.

IMAGINE – THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Rev. Kim Ingram, First (Belmont, CV), head of the clergy delegation to General Conference, and Jennifer Davis, Epworth (Gastonia, CV), head of the lay delegation to General Conference, shared a list of the strengths, the foundational theological doctrines, and the common core of ministry of The United Methodist Church. Western North Carolina United Methodism is and will continue to be a place where lives are changed by Christ and communities

transformed. The vital ministry of the local church happens in a particular context of the gifts which the local church brings and the needs of the local community. That will continue in The United Methodist Church. In the future United Methodist Church all members, clergy, local churches, and annual conferences will continue to have a home, whether they consider themselves liberal, evangelical, progressive, traditionalist, middle-of-the-road, conservative, centrist, or something else. There is no vote needed to remain a United Methodist. Rev. Ingram reported that Jurisdictional Conferences are scheduled to convene this year for all five Jurisdictions. The Southeastern Jurisdiction will meet November 2-4, 2022 at Lake Junaluska Assembly. A part of those sessions will be the election of new bishops and their respective assignments. General Conference is scheduled to meet in May 2024. No exact dates are available at this time. Annual Conferences are awaiting a decision by the Judicial Council as to whether the 2024 General Conference will be considered a postponement of the 2020 General Conference. If it is ruled that the next General Conference is a postponement from 2020, then the clergy and lay delegates elected in 2019 will serve in 2024 and legislation previously submitted will be a part of the agenda. If it is ruled that the May 2024 meeting is not a postponement, then new delegates will be elected at the 2023 session of the annual conference and new legislation submitted. *The Book of Discipline* cannot change until 2024. Rev. Ingram encouraged members to consider what it means to be a United Methodist and tell their story in Harrell Center, room 102 and become a part of #BeUMC.

BISHOP'S REMARKS: Bishop Ken Carter offered his reflections on The Future of the UMC. Bishop Carter proclaimed that United Methodists are people who love scripture, but the interpretation of scripture is shaped by the people who taught and influenced us. In addition, as United Methodists, we are aided in our interpretation by the tradition, our reason, and our experiences with the Holy Spirit and our particular human experiences. He continued, the future of The United Methodist Church will value scripture, and the doctrines of the denomination and the restrictive rules will not change. But each generation must do the theological task, which is to integrate doctrines that are ancient with the realities of the present. This requires hard conversations. Hard conversations are part of our DNA. How can the church be a counter cultural place where we have hard conversations across our differences, but we see Christ in each other as we do it? We hold to the core values. The journey to holiness means the church leans into differences in order to listen, to love God more, and love other people more. Bishop Carter confessed that he cannot be holy without you. And you cannot be holy without me. We are called together to love God more and to love each other more. This is the journey to holiness.

The reflections by Bishop Carter, Rev. Ingram, and Ms. Davis concluded with a litany, led by Ms. Davis, based on the baptismal liturgy of The United Methodist Church.

EPISCOPAL NOMINATION: Jennifer Davis, chair of the laity delegation to General Conference, announced that Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the bishop, was overwhelmingly affirmed the episcopal nominee from the Western North Carolina Conference by the delegation. Rev. Coles thanked the conference for the affirmation and shared reflections based on Romans 8 that names our present state of brokenness and exclaims our hope for a way forward.

REPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: Rev. S. Amelia Stinson-Wesley, First (Charlotte, ME), conference delegate to the governing board of the NCCC, presented the report. The Council of Churches is represented by 18 denominations from across the state from various geographical areas and from diverse communities. The council informs and advocates about theological, social, and political issues considered through the eyes of the Christian faith tradition. She highlighted that the council is offering listening posts at the North Carolina Conference and the Western North Carolina Conference to hear about mental health concerns, to provide a space to talk with health care professionals for assessment and needed resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The conference secretary made necessary announcements.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 3:43 p.m. with a #BeUMC video being played as members departed for the recess.

ORDER OF THE DAY – 4:00 P.M. RECOGNITION OF 2022 RETIREES

Following a prelude by Jarvis Wilson, conference musician, Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Kalish, chairperson WNCUMC Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, delivered opening remarks, noting the combined 1,464 years of service of the 60 retirees being honored. She thanked them for their years of ministry and petitioned God's blessing going forward. Rev. Dr. Mark J. Key, board of ordained ministry representative, spoke in support of the pass-the-mantle initiative, a way to honor retirees and say thank you by providing financial support through a fund, administered by the United Methodist Foundation to provide scholarships for certified clergy candidates. In the first year \$24,815.00 has been raised. After an opening prayer led by Rev. Maegan Daigle Habich, Pfeiffer University (Misenheimer, UW), 2022 member of full connection class, Rev. Sharad H. Creasman, Brevard College (Brevard, BR), 2022 member of full connection class, led the litany, "Whom Shall I Send." Rev. Julianne Brittain (Jan), Williamson's Chapel (Mooresville, ME), 2022 member of retiree class, spoke on behalf of the retirees. Rev. Katherine Randall Bryant, Trinity (Kannapolis, ME), 2022 member of full connection class, spoke in response on behalf of the 2022 class in full connection. Following the singing of hymn 545 (UMC) *The Church's One Foundation*, Dr. Kalish presented the 2022 class of retirees. Bishop Carter greeted each retiree. Rev. Dr. R. Mark King, conference treasurer and director of administrative services, Rev. Kim Ingram, director of ministerial services and conference secretary, and Dale Bryant, benefits administrator participated. Retirees were presented certificates and each spouse received a rose. Rev. Dr. Michael D. Kurtz, Francis Asbury (Candler, BR), 2022 member of retiree class, and Rev. Karen C. Kurtz, Montmorenci (Candler, BR), 2022 member of retiree class, offered special music written by Dr. Kurtz, *May Our Lives Be a Praise*. Bishop Carter led a response in gratitude from the church. Rev. Jennifer Read-Orr, Salem, (Albemarle, UW), 2022 member of full connection class, offered the closing prayer. Following the singing of hymn 156 (UMH) *I Love to Tell the Story*, Bishop Carter pronounced the benediction.

RECESS: Pursuant to adjournment the conference recessed at 5:10 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022**CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 8:30 A.M.**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.: G. Thomas Jordan, chairperson of the board of directors, called the meeting to order and presented the report. He explained the formation of the foundation by annual conference action, the number of persons to serve on the board and their division to serve in classes of three-year terms, and members, who serve as ex-officio. Mr. Jordan nominated the following for election to the board and they were elected: in the class of 2025, Mark Bailey, David Mildenberg, Wanda Musgrave, Melvin Scales, and Steve Wilson. He introduced Rev. David A. Snipes, president and executive director, who continued the report. He noted that the foundation is now the third largest foundation in total assets in the denomination and the largest in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. He acknowledged Mr. Jordan, who is retiring from the board of the foundation after 14 years of service. Mr. Jordan was elected to serve in 2008 and has served in many roles for the foundation, as well as a delegate to General Conference, in his local church, Christ UMC, Greensboro, and the wider Greensboro community. As a token of appreciation, the foundation is presenting a gift in his honor to the Mack Brown “Learn to Swim” endowment in Guilford County, which is dedicated to providing water safety to all Second Graders. Rev. Snipes nominated Anne Martin to serve as chairperson of the board, and she was elected. He listed her prior leadership roles for the foundation and noted that she will be the first woman chairperson of the board. Mrs. Martin addressed the conference and noted that Rev. Snipes celebrates 20 years as executive director. She further highlighted the work of the foundation, including assisting in clergy debt reduction, providing grants for local churches, and the goal to be more inclusive in the foundation’s projects and partnerships. A video, “The Foundation as A Light in the WNCC” was shown celebrating the foundation’s milestones for the past twenty years, including testimonies of appreciation for the leadership of Rev. David Snipes. Rev. Snipes presented to Bishop Carter a check in the amount of \$217,000.00, the largest gift given to date, for the Bishop’s Initiative which will be designated for the comprehensive plan of equity, peacemaking in communities, and strengthening “First Churches.” The annual meeting of the Foundation adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 9:02 a.m. with a video segment from #BeUMC.

CONNECTION MOMENT AND PRAYER: Nick Hall, First (North Wilkesboro, AP), co-president of Conference Council on Youth Ministry, shared how CCYM, because of the lapse of in-person events due to Covid-19, has developed a network to share resources, provide support, and offer vision to strengthen young people in their discipleship. He closed with a centering prayer.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Irish Gaymon Spencer, Memorial (High Point, NP), vice-president, presented the report of the council on finance and administration. Bishop Carter offered a prayer of healing for Rev. George M. Coates, Hickory Grove (Charlotte, ME), president, who is dealing with a serious illness. Dr. Spencer introduced members of CF&A, and Rev. Dr. R. Mark King, conference treasurer and director of administrative services introduced members of the conference treasury services. Dr. Spencer summarized the responsibilities of CF&A 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. Dr. Spencer presented PETITION 1a: 2023 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES, and moved the adoption of items 1-20, and they were adopted. She noted that the amount paid by the local church for apportionments will be removed from the formula for calculating annual conference apportionments. Dr. Spencer presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1b: 2023 CONFERENCE BUDGET, and it was approved. The 2023 conference budget totals 15.5 million dollars and is a 10% decrease or 1.5 million dollars less than the 2022 budget.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS: Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Kalish, president, presented the report of the conference board of pensions and health benefits. Dr. Kalish thanked the members of the board, and in particular Lynne Gilbert, treasurer, Lori Wilson, chair health benefits committee, Rev. Dr. Mark King, conference treasurer, and Dale Bryant, benefits administrator. She celebrated Mr. Bryant’s service for 24 years, since 1998. Dr. Kalish presented and moved adoption of PETITION 2a: PROPOSED PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, and it was approved. Rev. Kalish presented and moved adoption of PETITION 2b: PROPOSED HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES, and it was approved.

PETITION 16: REVISION TO THE “MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN” OF THE CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM: Sue Jones, Cashiers (Cashiers, SM), chairperson of the petitions committee, presented the petition. Rev. Perry S. Miller, author of the petition, spoke in favor of the petition. Rev. P. Glenn Kinken, III, Centenary (Winston-Salem, YV), asked a question if the petition could be referred and moved to refer the petition to the conference board of pensions. David Rigby, Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem, YV), spoke in favor of the motion to refer. The motion to refer was sustained by the conference.

PETITION 3: EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES AND GUIDELINES: Sue Jones introduced the petition. Rev. Brandon Craig Lazarus, Morning Star, (Canton, SM), chairperson of the Just Compensation Task force, presented the task force findings on salary inequality based on race, gender, and years of service, and moved adoption of the petition, and it was adopted. Rev. David Alan Thompson, St. Paul (Concord, ME), asked a question of why less than full time appointments were not included as part of the petition. Rev. Lazarus responded. Rev. Elizabeth McPherson Crissman, West Market Street (Greensboro, NP), spoke in favor of the petition. Walter Terrell, Ranger (Murphy, SM), asked a question regarding cost-of-living increases. Rev. Lazarus responded. Kathy Lisle, Burkhead (Winston-Salem, YV), asked a question, if adoption of the petition would make the acceptance of women or persons of color more difficult.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY: Rev. John F. Howard, Jr., Bethesda (Pine Hall, YV), chairperson, presented the report. The board oversees eight campus ministries in the annual conference and supports five Methodist-related colleges and universities. He explained the Francis Asbury Award, which honors an individual, who supports and advocates for United Methodist ministries in higher education at the conference and local church levels. Rev. Howard presented the 2022 Francis Asbury Award to Rev. F. Annalee Allen, Greater Vision (Charlotte, ME), associate director of ministerial services.

HAYWOOD COUNTY FLOOD RELIEF: Brian M. Mateer, Providence (Charlotte, ME), associate director of missional engagement, began the presentation with a video describing the event of the flood on August 17, 2021, the destruction, and efforts to provide response relief in the aftermath. He solicited additional volunteer teams for disaster recovery in Haywood County. Bishop Carter noted that the conference offering for this flood relief effort totaled \$250,000.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Ingram made necessary announcements. She announced that the offering received during the opening worship service amounted to \$15,638.78. Total registration for the annual conference is 1,882: 975 lay members, 858 clergy members, and 49 members of other denominations and annual conferences.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 10:30 a.m. in preparation for the Celebration of Life worship service.

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

Rev. Caitlin Lai, Northern Kannapolis (Kannapolis, ME) read Psalm 46 and Rev. Brian Elwell, Kadesh, Knob Creek, St. Peters (CV) read Matthew 5:14-16 and Revelation 22:5. Following an introduction by Bishop Carter, Rev. Dawn M. Hand, WNCC clergy member and district superintendent Central Maryland District, Baltimore/Washington Annual Conference, preached the sermon entitled, “In Glory Shine.” In her message Rev. Hand, hypothesized that light equals love. The life, legacy, and love of loved ones and colleagues celebrated today shined light in their roles of ministry, service, advocacy, family responsibilities, and sacrament. Our loved ones didn’t do it alone for their glory, but to bring others to experience the glory of God. Light can be transformative and a channel for God’s love. We need more light to break through the darkness. At the same time, darkness can sometime be a place of transformation. The darkness of grief can provide a deeper understanding of self and of grace. God can bring transformation from brokenness to strength and hope. Keith Wilson and Jarvis Wilson, conference musicians; and members of the 2022 class elected to full connection assisted in the service. Matt Gravely, Noah Gravely, and Daniel Habiab, a trio from Christ (Greensboro, NP) provided special music. During the Naming of the Saints, the lives of 39 clergy and diaconal ministers were remembered and celebrated, as well as the spouses of 40 clergy and diaconal ministers who died in the year.

CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 2:00 p.m. with the singing of hymn 368 (UMH) *My Hope Is Built*.

#BeUMC: Bishop Carter introduced a video segment from the series of stories of why persons are United Methodists. Bishop Carter noted that the video segments can be accessed on the conference website and the tab #BeUMC video.

CONNECTION MOMENT AND PRAYER: Catherine Gantt, Bryson City (Bryson City, SM), shared her testimony of spiritual energy generated by various struggles and her gift of experiencing and seeing miracles. She closed with prayer.

CABINET RESOLUTIONS: Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the bishop, proposed adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment, and they were adopted:

Resolution for the Closure of Elkwood (Asheville) United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District GCFA: 290803

Whereas, the membership of Elkwood United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined in worship and resources are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and,

Whereas, on April 3, 2022, the charge conference of Elkwood UMC made a faithful decision to close as a congregation after holding a closing worship on June 26, 2022; and,

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

Resolved, that the **Elkwood United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District**, be closed effective June 26, 2022 and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, 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 Giles Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Uwharrie District GCFA: 300696

Whereas, Giles Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Uwharrie District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources; and

Whereas, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 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 **Giles Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Uwharrie District**, be discontinued effective June 30, 2022, 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.

**Helton United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District
GCFA: 297564**

Declaration of Presiding Bishop and District Superintendents to Church Closure August 14, 2021

PURSUANT to Paragraph 2549.3 (b) of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016 Edition, as amended) (the “*Discipline*”), the undersigned presiding Bishop of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church (the “Conference”) and the District Superintendents, after full and deliberate consideration, by consent do hereby *RESOLVE and DECLARE* that:

1. Helton United Methodist Church in Lansing, North Carolina (Appalachian District, GCFA #297564) is a local church formed in 1889 as part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and
2. Exigent circumstances now exist that require the immediate protection of the local church’s property for the benefit of the denomination as Helton United Methodist Church is no longer serving the purpose for which it was organized and the local church property is no longer being used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church; therefore,
3. **Helton United Methodist Church** is hereby closed pursuant to Paragraph 2549.3(b) of the *Discipline* and all real and personal property, tangible and intangible, of Helton United Methodist Church shall be immediately vested in The Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc. (the “Conference Trustees”) who may hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, subject to any standing rule of the Conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of
Hodgin Memorial United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District
GCFA: 295986**

Whereas, Hodgin Memorial United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources;

Whereas, Hodgin Memorial United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and

Whereas, members present from Hodgin Memorial United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District, made a faithful decision by vote on April 24, 2022 to discontinue as a congregation, effective June 30, 2022; and,

Whereas, Hodgin Memorial United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 26, 2022; 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 the **Hodgin Memorial United Methodist Church, Rockingham County, Northern Piedmont District**, be discontinued effective June 30, 2022; that the remaining members be transferred to Centenary (Stoneville) United Methodist Church; 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
Nebo United Methodist Church, McDowell County, Blue Ridge District
GCFA: 296924**

Whereas, the membership of Nebo United Methodist Church, McDowell County, Blue Ridge District, has declined in worship and resources are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and,

Whereas, on May 25, 2022, the charge conference of Nebo UMC made a faithful decision to close as a congregation effective June 26, 2022, after holding a closing worship service on June 12, 2022.

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

Resolved, that the **Nebo United Methodist Church, McDowell County, Blue Ridge District**, be closed effective June 26, 2022, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, 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
Rockford Street United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District
GCFA: 303622**

Whereas, the membership of Rockford Street United Methodist Church, Surry County, Yadkin District, has declined in worship and resources are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶ 201-204; and,

Whereas on June 13, 2021, the charge conference of Rockford Street UMC has made a faithful decision to close as a congregation; 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 **Rockford Street United Methodist Church, Surry County, Yadkin Valley District**, be closed effective June 28, 2021 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.

Rev. Coles led a litany of thanksgiving for the mission, ministry, heritage, and the people of the several congregations dissolved and abandoned.

DISAFFILIATION OF CHURCHES: Greg Huffman, conference chancellor, presented on behalf of the conference board of trustees the requests from 18 churches for disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. He explained that the process for disaffiliation was created by the 2019 General Conference, under limited circumstances, and is recorded in ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. If a church has objection of conscience related to legislation adopted by the 2019 General Conference in regard to human sexuality or has objection to the actions or inactions of an annual conference in regards to that same legislation, it may take advantage of the disaffiliation process. The financial obligations of the churches are set out in ¶2553. A church choosing to request disaffiliation must enter into a written agreement of disaffiliation with the conference trustees. Paragraph 2553 is the only provision for disaffiliation provided in *The Book of Discipline* or approved by the Judicial Council. Mr. Huffman advised that churches would be ill-advised to follow a different pathway for disaffiliation, such as under ¶2548.2. Mr. Huffman read the names of the 18 churches, explained that the voting process required a vote as a block, without discussion or amendment, moved adoption of the petitions, and the conference sustained the requests in each instance as follows for Bellview (Murphy), Bethlehem (Cherryville), Burnett's Chapel (Greensboro), Carson's Chapel (Marion), Cornatzer (Mocksville), Grassy Creek (Grassy Creek), Gray's Chapel (Rutherfordton), Lafayette Street (Shelby), Ledford's Chapel (Hayesville), Lineberry (Denton), Maple Springs (Ramseur), Martin's Creek (Murphy), Mary's Grove (Kings Mountain), Midway (Monroe), Nesbitt's Chapel (Fairview), New Union (Mocksville), Pleasant Grove (Denton), and West Marion (Marion).

PDFs of the legal documents for disaffiliation for each church are posted at www.AC2022.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 2023 BAC.

Disaffiliation of Bellview United Methodist Church, Murphy, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Bellview United Methodist Church, Murphy, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation present at Bellview United Methodist Church on March 17, 2021 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 Bellview 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 Bellview 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 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, Bellview 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Bellview 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; and

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

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Bellview UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Cherryville, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Cherryville, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Bethlehem 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, Bethlehem 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, Bethlehem 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with the condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Bethlehem United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem 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. as needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Bethlehem United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement per the requirements of ¶2553; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the Disaffiliation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Burnett's Chapel United Methodist Church, Greensboro, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Burnett's Chapel United Methodist Church, Greensboro, N.C., Northern Piedmont District
Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Burnett's Chapel 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, Burnett's Chapel 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, Burnett's Chapel 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Burnett's Chapel 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*, ¶2553; and
Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Burnett's Chapel 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; and
Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Burnett's Chapel UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it
 Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Burnett's Chapel UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church, Marion, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church, Marion, N.C., Blue Ridge District
Whereas, Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved by the 2019 General Conference does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and
Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process in Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* whereby congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church can disaffiliate and retain ownership of its real and personal property without charge; therefore, be it
 Resolved, that Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per ¶2553; and be it further
 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Carson's Chapel 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; and be it further
 Resolved, that and said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2022 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

Disaffiliation of Cornatzer United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Cornatzer United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District
Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Cornatzer 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, Cornatzer 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, Cornatzer 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Cornatzer 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*, ¶2553; and
Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Cornatzer 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; and
Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Cornatzer UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it
 Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Cornatzer UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Grassy Creek United Methodist Church, Grassy Creek, N.C., Ashe County, Appalachian District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Grassy Creek United Methodist Church, Grassy Creek, N.C., Ashe County, Appalachian District

Whereas, Grassy Creek United Methodist Church disagrees with the actions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference regarding the Traditional Plan approved by the 2019 General Conference and believes the WNCC leaders acted inconsistently with the work of the General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process in ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* whereby congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church can disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and retain ownership of its real and personal property without charge; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Grassy Creek United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* ¶2553; and be it further

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Grassy Creek UMC be given 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; and be it further

Resolved, the Conference Trustees and Grassy Creek UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553; and be it further

Resolved, Grassy Creek UMC (Ashe County) requests said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2022 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

Disaffiliation of Gray's Chapel United Methodist Church, Rutherfordton, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Gray's Chapel UMC, Rutherfordton, N.C., Blue Ridge District.

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Gray's Chapel 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, Gray's Chapel UMC 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, Gray's Chapel UMC 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Gray's Chapel UMC, 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Gray's Chapel 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; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Gray's Chapel UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Gray's Chapel UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Lafayette Street United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Lafayette Street United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Lafayette Street 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, Lafayette Street 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, Lafayette Street 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Lafayette Street 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Lafayette Street 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; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Lafayette Street UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Lafayette Street UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Ledford's Chapel United Methodist Church, Hayesville, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Ledford's Chapel United Methodist Church, Hayesville, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, by unanimous consent of the congregation present at Ledford's Chapel United Methodist Church on February 20, 2022 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 Ledford's Chapel 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 Ledford's Chapel 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," another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "Traditional Plan"; and

Whereas, the 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 the actions of a church's Annual Conference; and

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

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Ledford's Chapel 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; and

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

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Ledford's Chapel United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Lineberry United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Lineberry United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of the Lineberry United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the actions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, specifically the adoption of petition 22; and

Whereas, the Lineberry United Methodist Church has chosen this disaffiliation process for reasons of conscience regarding the deep conflict with The United Methodist Church around the issues of human sexuality and the associated scriptures in the Bible; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of 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; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Lineberry United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* ¶2553; and, be it further

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Lineberry UMC be 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; and, be it further

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2022 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Lineberry UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Maple Springs United Methodist Church, Ramseur, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Maple Springs United Methodist Church, Ramseur, N.C., District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Maple Springs 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, Maple Springs 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, Maple Springs 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Maple Springs 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Maple Springs 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; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Maple Springs UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Maple Springs UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Martin's Creek United Methodist Church, Murphy, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Martin's Creek United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Martin's Creek 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 Martin's Creek 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 Martin's Creek 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", and another petition which stated the annual conferences strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "Traditional Plan"; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Martin's Creek United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* ¶2553; and, be it further

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Martin's Creek UMC be 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; and be it further

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the June meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Martin's Creek congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, effective at the close of the Annual Conference.

Disaffiliation of Mary's Grove United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Mary's Grove United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by two thirds consent, the congregation of the Mary's 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, Mary's 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, Mary's 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Mary's 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mary's 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; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mary's Grove UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mary's Grove UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Midway United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted By: Board of Trustees of Midway United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Midway 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, Midway 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, Midway 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with the condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Midway United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members as special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2553; and

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

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Midway United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A) per the requirements of ¶2553; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference

of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Midway United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Nesbitt's Chapel United Methodist Church, Fairview, N.C., Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Nesbitt's Chapel United Methodist Church, Fairview, N.C., Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District

Whereas, Nesbitt's Chapel United Methodist Church disagrees with the actions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference regarding the Traditional Plan approved by the 2019 General Conference and believes the WNCC leaders acted inconsistently with the work of the General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process in Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* whereby congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church can disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and retain ownership of its real and personal property without charge; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Nesbitt's Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* ¶2553; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Nesbitt's Chapel UMC be given 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; and, be it further

Resolved, the Conference Trustees and Nesbitt's Chapel UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, and, be it further

Resolved, Nesbitt's Chapel UMC (Buncombe County) requests said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2022 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

Disaffiliation of New Union United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of New Union United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the New Union 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, New Union 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, New Union 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, New Union 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of New Union 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; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and New Union UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of New Union UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Pleasant 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, Pleasant 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, Pleasant 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", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; 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, Pleasant 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Pleasant 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 Pleasant Grove UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Pleasant Grove UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Disaffiliation of West Marion United Methodist Church, Marion, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of West Marion United Methodist Church, Marion, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the West Marion 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*, West Marion 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, West Marion 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”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; 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, West Marion 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*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of West Marion 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; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and West Marion UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2022 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of West Marion UMC from The United Methodist Church.



Following the vote, Bishop Carter led the conference in prayer for each of these churches. Bishop Carter noted UMs Connected, an initiative to help persons continue to be a part of The United Methodist Church, following the closure or disaffiliation of a local church. He expressed thanks to Greg Huffman and Rev. Amy Coles for their negotiations with Boy Scouts of America relating to sexual misconduct and assault lawsuits.

IMAGINE – (RE)NEWED: After an opening video of “Look God Is Making Something New” Rev. Rob Hutchinson, Assurance (Charlotte, ME), conference director of church development, began the report on congregational vitality, providing glimpses of renewal and vitality in the annual conference. Rev. Cindy Wechter, Christ (Drexel, CV), reported about congregational vitality grants that assisted churches to pivot during the pandemic to develop and use digital platforms to stay connected and provide ministry. The goal is to engage participants, not viewers, and worshippers, not watchers. A video presentation highlighted the WithAll Congregation that seeks to connect with heart, mind, soul, and strength. Rev. Frank Ramos, Central (Asheboro, UW), chair of the conference church vitality team, noted the development of an anchor church model for the creation of new congregations. A video presentation described the transformational journey initiative happening in several local congregations to further invigorate vibrant churches. Rev. Jim Parsons, Milford Hills (Salisbury, UW), added additional testimony about transformation journey. A video highlighted Rev. Vinsen C. Ross, As It Is (Gastonia, CV) and As It Is Ministries that is multi-cultural, multi-generational and mission minded new church start. Rev. Luke S. Edwards, First (Charlotte, ME), associate director of church development reported by video about the fresh expressions initiative. Jaidymar Smith and Rev. Chris Smith, Jordan Memorial (Ramseur, UW) and Rev. Pam Blackstock, Central (Charlotte, ME) shared their stories of fresh expression initiatives in their churches.

PETITION 17: PROCESS FOR CONGREGATIONS DISAFFILIATING IN THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE: Sue Jones, member of the petitions committee, presented the petition. Bishop Carter made a parliamentary ruling, not a ruling of law under *The Book of Discipline*, and ruled the petition and related motion(s) in support are ruled out of order and cannot go forward for the following reasons: The core matters in Petition 17 (*Supplement* page 52) as to Paragraph 2548.2 of *The Book of Discipline* are currently the subject of a declaratory ruling request made by the Council of Bishops to the Judicial Council (JC Docket 0522-02). Specifically, before the Judicial Council are the questions of the constitutionality of paragraph 2548.2, as well as its applicability, if constitutional, as a gracious exit or disaffiliation provision, and if so, the applicable parameters. Since no decision by the Judicial Council has been rendered, it is premature to consider Petition 17 and conduct a vote. Moreover, despite the matter pending before the Judicial Council, Petition 17 contains provisions that are unconstitutional under The United Methodist Constitution and violate or negate various provisions of *The Book of Discipline* and Judicial Council rulings. Such violation or negation include but are not limited to the following: it does not maintain the integrity of the rights of certain legislative bodies and the episcopacy; the improper utilization of paragraph 2548 as a method of “disaffiliation.” Paragraph 2548 relates only to the transfer of real property and not the separation of the church body from the UMC. Provisions in Petition 17 grant an authority to the annual conference it does not have to recognize a body as an “evangelical denomination.” Petition 17 negates the consent authority of the episcopacy and district superintendents to certain matters in *The Book of Discipline*; negates the authority of the Conference Trustees as set out in *The Book of Discipline*; violates the rights of local churches to determine their usage of Paragraph 2553; violates Disciplinary provisions regarding the call of a church conference under Paragraph 248 and 2553, particularly as to the authority of the district superintendent; violates the authority of the bishop to set appointments of clergy in consultation with the cabinet and the laity under The United Methodist Constitution and *The Book of Discipline*. At the request of Bishop Carter and with the consent of the conference, Jennifer Lineberry, Pleasant Grove (Thomasville, YV), a submitter of the petition was given, as a courtesy and with respect, three minutes to speak.

PETITION 18: REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL CALLED ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA: Sue Jones presented the petition (*Supplement* page 54). Rev. Kari S. Howard, West Bend (Asheboro, UW), spoke in favor of the petition. Dana Lyles, St. Matthews (Greensboro, NP), moved to amend the petition by adding an item 3. as follows:

If a church or charge votes to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church at a time other than at the June session of the Western North Carolina Conference and the pastor appointed to serve that church or charge does not desire to leave The United Methodist Church and an appointment is not available, the disaffiliating church will pay the salary, housing, and benefits of the pastor (all appointed clergy regardless of status - to include local pastors, provisional and full deacons appointed to the local church, and provisional and full elders) for the remainder of the conference year to the Annual Conference along with the other funds required by *The Discipline* in paragraph 2553 and the Annual Conference disaffiliation policy.

Rev. H. Donnell FitzJefferies, University City (Charlotte, ME), asked a question, and Bishop Carter answered. John Davis, First (Lenoir, AP), asked a question, and Bishop Carter answered. Rev. Emily Kroeger, New Hope-Trinity (Monroe, UW), asked a question, and Bishop Carter responded. Helen Ryde, Haywood Street Congregation (Asheville, BR), spoke in favor of the amendment. Ron Dollyhite, Concord (Catawba, CV), asked a question and spoke against. Dana Lyles presented a final word in support of the amendment, and the amendment was adopted. Rev. Jan Brittain, Williamson's Chapel (Mooresville, ME), spoke against the petition as amended. Rev. Andrea McCumber, Groce (Asheville, BR), moved to amend Petition 18 by adding an item 4., 5., and 6. as follows:

Be it resolved that the 2022 Western North Carolina Annual Conference request that the Bishop and Cabinet make inquiry of all persons on District and Annual Conference Committees, Boards, and Agencies as to their intention to remain in The United Methodist Church over the next quadrennium; and, be it further

Resolved, that any persons that express an interest in leaving The United Methodist Church within the quadrennium be asked to resign from their leadership roles on any District and Annual Conference Committees, Boards, and Agencies; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop and Cabinet shall report to the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference the number of persons who expressed an intention to leave the denomination that were in leadership roles on District and Annual Conference Committees, Boards, and Agencies, and the number of those persons, as requested by this resolution, stepped down from those roles.

Bishop Carter ruled that the proposed amendment is out of order because it violates the separation of powers and the role of the bishop. Rev. McCumber asked clarifying questions to the ruling by the bishop and Bishop Carter responded. Dr. Irish Spencer, Memorial (High Point, NP), called for the question. Rev. Howard made a summary statement and the petition as amended was defeated.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 3:52 p.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 4:20 p.m. with the singing of hymn 370 (UMH) *Victory in Jesus*.

#BeUMC VIDEO: Another video segment of #BeUMC was shown featuring the testimony of Rev. Dr. Sam H. Moore, Jr., Yadkin Valley district superintendent.

CONNECTION MOMENT AND PRAYER: Torey Haynes, Rock Hill (Stanley, CV), shared his witness of how serving in his local church was transformative for his life and how he chose to serve, chose to love, and he led in prayer.

PETITION 19: CLARIFY REFERENCES TO HUMAN SEXUALITY: Sue Jones presented Petition 19, and reported that the author of the petition, Rev. Julie Ann Roberts, El Bethel (Kings Mountain, CV) and Sulphur Springs (Shelby, CV), has withdrawn this petition. Therefore Petition 19 will not be considered as part of this session of the annual conference and concludes the work of petitions for this conference. She recognized and thanked all the members of the petitions committee.

CROSS AND KEY PRISON MINISTRY: Rev Mark Hicks, executive director, presented the report. He recalled the formation of Disciple Bible Outreach Prison Ministry twenty-four years ago. He celebrated the accomplishments of that ministry and the lives transformed. A year ago, the ministry began a new visioning process and has a new vision, a new mission, and a new name. The mission of newly named Cross and Key Ministry is to equip and encourage churches for prison ministry, advocating for prison reform, and educating about criminal justice issues. The new mission is ministry to the incarcerated working toward a more just society. The ministry is developing a tool kit for churches to prepare for prison and criminal justice ministry available for download from the Cross and Key Ministry website. The fourth Sunday in August, August 28th, is designated as a Sunday to receive a special offering for the Cross and Key Ministry.

IMAGINE – BOTH/AND: A GREAT COMMISSION MOMENT: Rev. Rob Hutchinson, resumed the presentation of Imagine, and introduced Jason Moore, who addressed the annual conference by Zoom, because he tested positive for Covid-19. Moore focused on maximizing hybrid worship experiences for online and in-person audiences. He explored 13 strengths of hybrid worship, which included video examples from worship services and personal testimonies of participants engaged in Both/And worship experiences. The Both/And model provides expanded opportunities for following the Great Commission.

DENMAN AWARDS: Barby Bowser, communications director for The Foundation for Evangelism presented the report for the Foundation. She noted that for over 73 years the foundation had promoted, encouraged, and resourced Wesleyan Evangelism. She highlighted that in 2022 the Foundation provided Equipping the Local Church Grants and a video showcased four churches in the Western North Carolina Conference who received those grants. Ms. Bowser also presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Laity Award for exceptional work that combines loving kindness while sharing their Christian faith. Rev. Marianne Romanat, Light of Christ (Charlotte, ME), introduced this year's recipient, Dr. Brittany S. Bethel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements, including encouraging members to subscribe to the conference newsletter, and reminding conference attendees of the Juneteenth Celebration at Lake Junaluska on

Sunday, June 19th. She thanked and honored Rev. Jim Pyatt for his 30 years serving on the conference commission on archives and history and his service since 2015 as conference archivist. She expressed gratitude for all those who served during the annual conference, especially the worship committee, the ushers, and those who worked registration.

RECESS: The conference recessed for dinner at 5:35 p.m. with the singing of hymn 621 (UMH) *Be Present at Our Table Lord*.

WORSHIP SERVICE – THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY – 7:30 P. M.

Following pre-service music and the processional hymn 577 (UMH), *God of Grace and God of Glory*, Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr. led the responsive greeting and prayer; and, the act of remembering our baptism and common ministry. Dr. Ceola Ross Baber, Newlyn Street (Greensboro, NP), lay member, executive team, Board of Ordained Ministry, presented to the bishop those to be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. Rev. Eric Lineberry, Mount Carmel (Reidsville, NP), chairperson of the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, read the names of those to be licensed as local pastors. Rev. Paul Thompson, Huntersville (Huntersville, ME), vice-chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, read the names of those to be commissioned as provisional members. Rev. Lynda Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW), chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, read the names of those to be ordained as deacons and elders. Following a song of celebration, *The Commission*, presented by the Annual Conference Worship Team, Rev. Avery White, First (Gastonia, CV), secretary, Board of Ordained Ministry, led the prayer for illumination and read the Gospel lesson from Mark 4:1-9. Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr. delivered the sermon entitled, “The Parable of the Soils.” Bishop Carter said that it was an honor to preach and teach the word of God. The parable of the sower is a call to share the word of God. It is about our human need to receive and understand the word of God, to plant the seeds, and to grow beyond where we are. On the anniversary of the shooting at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, and the repeated acts of gun violence in our communities, Bishop Carter asked: What kind of soil are we? What seeds are we planting? What is the seed of the gospel, now, that will lead to life and not death? What kind of soil in the parable is about our receptivity to grace. What are the barriers to the seed being planted in me and our churches? Our hearts can be hardened, and we confess that. God’s word interprets the world, and the world interprets God’s word. We are sowers, who plant the seed. We are the soils. How receptive are we to the word? He concluded by urging those to be licensed, commissioned, ordained, all the baptized to sow and receive the word of God in perfect love and indiscriminate mercy. Dr. Ross Baber led the Nicene Creed. Bishop Carter examined all the candidates to be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. The 30 candidates to be licensed as local pastors were authorized by the bishop, recognized by Rev. Lineberry, and presented their license by Rev. Kim Ingram, director of ministerial services. Bishop Carter examined the 16 candidates to be commissioned as provisional members and then commissioned each candidate assisted by Bishop J. Lawrence McLeskey. Each newly commissioned member received a cross and was presented a certificate. Bishop Carter examined the two candidates to be ordained deacons and then ordained them as deacons, assisted by Bishop McLeskey and other clergy. Each deacon received a stole and was presented certificates of ordination and membership. Bishop Carter examined the candidates to be ordained elders and with the assistance of Bishop McLeskey and other clergy ordained the 8 candidates as elders and the one received by transfer from the Church of God of Cleveland, Tennessee. Each new elder received a stole and certificates of ordination and membership. Following a prayer of thanksgiving and the recessional hymn 648 (UMH), *God, the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*, Rev. Maegan Daigle Habich, Central (Albemarle, UW), newly ordained deacon, pronounced the dismissal with blessing.



SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022

A SERVICE OF THE WORD, AND THE FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS – 10:00 A.M.

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., taking his text from Ephesians 3:20-21, preached the sermon entitled, “Imagine.” Using the 2022 Annual Conference theme, Connect, Imagine, Engage, Bishop Carter shared his personal testimony, a portion not previously told publicly, of how God works to connect and include people, encourage folk to imagine God’s future for them, and engage with other people and their experiences in the world. Bishop Carter noted that the church is suffering from a flawed understanding of holiness. Holiness is not my greater separateness from you, so I can be more holy. Holiness derives from loving God and neighbor more, moving not away from but toward each other. This is engagement, and holiness is being made perfect in love in this life. He asked: What does holiness and righteousness mean? If we get it wrong, then a lot of people get harmed. If we get it right, then God is able to work through us. To spread scriptural holiness is to love each other in ways humanly impossible because what is divinely real is that God first loved us. God is doing something in young people, in older mature adults, and asking people to do things they are not sure how to do. God is wanting us to be more holy, to love him and inviting us to love each other. The Senior Youth Handbell Choir of Davidson UMC (Davidson, ME) and Mr. Jay Ponton provided special music and provided accompaniment for the congregational hymns. Rev. Amy Coles, assistant to the bishop, Rev. Dr. Bill White, Jr., conference director of equity and justice ministries, Rev. Norma Hickman de Villagrana, Zion (Monroe, ME), chair of the order of elders, Rev. Monica Childers, St. Luke’s (Hickory, CV), chair of the order of deacons, Rev. Eric Lineberry, Mount Carmel (Reidsville, NP), chair of the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, Ms. Shasta Wild, Mars Hill (Mars Hill, BR), Rev. Tae Wan (Joseph) Kim, Lebanon (High Point, NP), and Rev. Pam Blackstock, Central (Charlotte, ME) served as worship leaders.

OFFERING: The morning offering will be evenly distributed for the preservation, and infrastructural improvements of the historic Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, and towards grant funding among small, rural, and churches of color in the Western North Carolina conference that are ready and willing to explore how digital resources can impact their worship, discipleship, hospitality, and leadership.

COMMISSIONING OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS: Bishop Carter, with the assistance of Rev. Amy Coles, commissioned the eight district superintendents: Rev. Laura Auten (UW), Rev. David Christy (CV), Rev. Beverly Copley (NP), Rev. Lory Beth Huffman (AP), Rev. Dr. Hyung Jae Lee (SM), Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore, Jr. (YV), Rev. Daniel Pezet, II (ME), and Rev. Dr. Mark Ralls (BR).

CHARGE AND COVENANT PRAYER: Bishop Carter charged the licensed, commissioned, consecrated, and ordained clergy to go where they are sent and called to serve. He charged the laity, including deaconesses, home missionaries and diaconal ministers, to live and serve in God’s world and to receive and support the clergy appointed to their churches. He charged all gathered for worship to embrace and trust one another and give themselves for the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven.

FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. officially fixed the 2022-2023 clergy appointments to the local churches, appointments beyond the local church, and appointments to extension ministry for the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

ADJOURNMENT: The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adjourned sine die at 11:40 a.m.

Kimberly T. Ingram

Kimberly T. Ingram, Conference Secretary

+ Ken Carter

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Resident Bishop



D. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

This is to certify that at a service of commissioning held on Saturday evening, June 18, 2022, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I, Ken Carter Jr., a bishop in The United Methodist Church did

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

Jason Pate Boggs, Kara Harvey Chamberlin, Peter Aram Constantian, Jennifer Lee Forrester, Emily Danahey Kroeger, Dustin Michael Mailman, Samuel Arsaveus Moore, Patrick Jonathan Neitzey, Santosh Niroula, Drew Tristian Nix, Ann Henderson Owens, Kevin Harrison Quick, Cindy Lee Ramirez, Hannah Caroline Smith, Jedidiah Zane Tate, and Danielle Elizabeth Voigt.

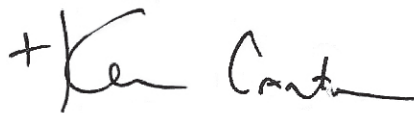
This is further to certify that at a service of ordination held on Saturday evening, June 18, 2022, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I did

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

Maegan Daigle Habich, Jennifer Diane Read-Orr; and

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

Katherine Randall Bryant, David Eugene Cochran, Sharad Hasseini Creasman, Kelly Renee Dotson, Brian Adams Elwell, Caitlin Margaret Tremper Lai, Jason Ryan Mendenhall, and Nikki Raye Rice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Carter". To the left of the first name is a small cross symbol (+).

Bishop