Official Minutes
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, New Jersey
September 27, 2014

OPENING WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. **Prelude** – Dr. Gordon Turk, Organist of the Ocean Grove Great Auditorium

9:03 a.m. **Call to Worship** – The Rev. Iraida Ruiz De Porras

9:04 a.m. **Hymns** – "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand" and "Blessed Assurance"

9:09 a.m. **OGCMA Welcome** – The Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson introduced Dr. Dale Whilden, President of the Board of Trustees of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, who welcomed the annual conference to Ocean Grove.

9:12 a.m. **Gospel Lesson** – Rev. Gina Hendrickson read Matthew 5:14-16

9:13 a.m. **Bishop's Welcome** – Bishop John Schol, greeted the annual conference and shared highlights of the A Future with Hope Mission Campaign

9:18 a.m. **Gospel Lesson** –Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader, read Luke 14:28-30

9:19 a.m. **Sermon** – Bishop Schol preached on the theme "Count the Cost." Bishop Schol challenged the annual conference to consider the challenges ahead, to learn to really listen to, value, and open our doors wide to those beyond the Church. Bishop Schol challenged the annual conference that this mission will come at a high cost. Bishop Schol concluded by remarking that the special session of the annual conference had been convened to get the count right and take up the challenge to make disciples, equip vital congregations, and transform the world.

9:30 a.m. **Hymn** – "Victory in Jesus"

9:34 a.m. **Words of Welcome** – Bishop Schol recognized and welcomed several special guests

9:36 a.m. **Benediction** – Bishop Schol gave the benediction for the opening worship service of the special session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Call to Order

9:38 a.m. Bishop Schol called the special session of the annual conference to order and reminded the annual conference of the purpose of the special session: consideration of the "New Conference Center Resolution."

Setting the Bar of the Special Session of the Annual Conference

9:39 a.m. The Rev. Dr. David Wiley, Conference Secretary, made a motion to define and set the bar of the annual conference for the special session.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Extend the Time Allotted for Presentation

9:40 a.m. The Rev. Louis Strugala, Jr., Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees, made the motion to grant 35 minutes to the Board of Trustees for presentation of the "New Conference Center Resolution." This motion was necessary because conference rules allow only five (5) minutes for the presentation of legislation.

The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of the "New Conference Center Resolution"

9:40 a.m. Rev. Strugala introduced those who presented the "New Conference Center Resolution."

9:43 a.m. The Rev. James Ryoo, Conference Trustee, presented an analysis of the current conference center facilities. Rev. Ryoo reminded the special session of the resolution passed by the 2013 Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference authorizing the Board of Trustees to replace the current facilities.

9:46 a.m. The Rev. Clifford Still, Sr., Conference Trustee, presented the rationale for the increase in budget for the purchase and construction of the new conference center.

9:47 a.m. Stephen Carlidge, Principal of Shore Point Architecture, provided an overview of the design of the new conference center interior, exterior, grounds and surrounding properties.

9:54 a.m. Jack Green, General Contractor and Principal of Jack Green Construction, made a presentation describing his selection as the general contractor; selection, purchase and wetlands study of the property; and the bidding process for the development and construction of the new conference center site and building.

9:57 a.m. John Bishop, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, presented rationale for increasing the initial expenditure on the purchase and construction of the new conference center including explanation of the impact on the budget of the annual conference.

10:05 a.m. Judy Hopkins, Conference Trustee, gave a presentation on the value of the new conference center from the standpoint of the mission and strategic vision of the annual conference.

Motion to Adopt the "New Conference Center Resolution"

10:10 a.m. Rev. Strugala summarized the presentation and made the motion to adopt the "New Conference Center Resolution" on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The resolution is attached as presented to the special session of the annual conference.

Discussion of the "New Conference Center Resolution"

10:11 a.m. Bishop Schol reminded the annual conference of the rules of discussion and of the bar of the special session of the annual conference. Bishop Schol reminded the annual conference that a second to the motion was not required since the motion was made by the Board of Trustees. Bishop Schol instructed the annual conference that each speaker would be allowed one question per time of recognition.

Summary of Initial Discussion

Speakers included**:** Nancy Reid (Lacey UMC, Forked River), Lee Schubert (Morristown UMC), David Yamoa (Roselle UMC), Christina Zito (Red Bank UMC), John Cardillo (Conference Treasurer), Lou Strugala (Chair, Board of Trustees), Bishop Schol, and others.

Topics of discussion included: mortgage of the current conference center; mortgage of the new conference center; accountability for the inaccuracy of the original cost estimate for the new conference center; steps taken to contain future cost increase for the new conference center; funding A Future with Hope; the crises in Atlantic City; salary of conference staff and appointed pastors; retiree health benefits

Proposed Amendment to the "New Conference Center Resolution"

Creed Pogue (West Side UMC, Millville) proposed amendment of the "New Conference Center Resolution" by altering the "third resolved:"

> *FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the conference share of the current HealthFlex dividend of $500,000 be dedicated to financing this project.*
>
> To read:
>
> *FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the conference share of the current HealthFlex dividend of $500,000 be dedicated to meet the conference obligations under its plan for retiree health care in the next four budgets, and that the "local church share" of approximately $800,000 be rebated to those local churches that fully paid their health insurance premiums in 2012 and 2013.*

The motion to amend was seconded.

Creed Pogue presented rationale for the amendment including using the HealthFlex dividend to offset increases in healthcare expense and to fund mission and ministry by returning a portion of the dividend to local churches who have paid health insurance.

Bishop Schol ruled that the amendment was out of order because it digressed from the purpose of the special session of the annual conference. Bishop Schol reminded the annual conference that the *Book of Discipline* will only permit consideration of the question(s) for which the special session of the annual conference was convened.

Summary of Additional Discussion

Speakers included: Victor Peterson (Ridgewood UMC), Ruth London (Haddonfield UMC), Angel Bonilla (Asbury UMC, Camden), Kay Scott (New Beginnings UMC, Camden), Lou Strugala, Bishop Schol, Gina Hendrickson (Dean of the Cabinet), and others.

Topics of discussion included: environmental/ecological responsibility; enlarging the conference center while conference membership is shrinking; potential reduction to conference staff; equipping the conference staff with a suitable facility and technology; contingencies and outcomes should the resolution fail; paragraph 213 studies; careful location of the conference center that takes into account demographic diversity.

Proposed Amendment to the "New Conference Center Resolution"

Creed Pogue proposed an amendment of the "New Conference Center Resolution" by deleting the "third resolved:"

> *FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the conference share of the current HealthFlex dividend of $500,000 be dedicated to financing this project.*

The motion to amend was seconded.

Creed Pogue presented rationale for the amendment/deletion including stressing the annual conference's obligations to the local church and exploring the costs and benefits of different models for meeting those obligations.

John Cardillo rose to provide further information regarding the HealthFlex dividend, in that the dividend related to a positive loss ratio for healthcare claims history and the lack of predictability of that condition.

Bishop Schol ruled that a question from the floor about various uses of the dividend could not be discussed per the *Book of Discipline* since that question diverged from the stated purpose of the special session.

Evelyn Caterson (UMC at Absecon, Conference Chancellor, Committee on Rules, Committee on Episcopacy) and Lou Strugala spoke against the amendment.

Bishop Schol called for a vote on the amendment.

The amendment was not adopted.

Summary of Additional Discussion

Speakers included: Bret Walker (Ebenezer UMC, Auburn and Hudson UMC, Pedricktown), Mark Earl (Christ UMC, Lakewood), Joel Hubbard (Park UMC, Bloomfield), Peter Dewes (Little Falls UMC), Judy Colorado (Emanuel UMC, Springfield), Ed Carll (Denville Community UMC), Paul Zorn (Chair, Conference Board of Pensions), La Gretta Bjorn (Cadwalader-Asbury UMC, Trenton), Jack Green (General Contractor), Stephen Carlidge (Architect), John Cardillo (Conference Treasurer), Lynn Caterson (Chancellor), Lloyd Terrell (Franklin St. Johns UMC, Newark), Lou Strugala (Chair, Board of Trustees), Bishop Schol and others.

Topics of discussion included: the decision to build a new conference center made at the 2013 Session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference; the process for obtaining bids and estimating costs; the serious deficits and potential to update the existing conference building; local church indebtedness; priorities of the annual conference; funding A Future With Hope; the larger economic environment in New Jersey; options and potential changes to the architectural plan for the new conference center; the value of risk-taking to achieve conference mission, vision and goals; the importance of equipping and supporting conference staff; the HealthFlex dividend and funding of health benefit liabilities; contingencies should the "New Conference Center Resolution" fail; the timeframe and expiration of the budget contained in the "New Conference Center Resolution;" the requirements of UMC polity should the "New Conference Center Resolution" fail; the role of faith in the decision to build a new conference center.

Motion to Call the Question

Bishop Schol recognized a motion from the floor to call the question. After noting that there had been five speeches in support of and five speeches against the "New Conference Center Resolution," Bishop Schol called for a vote on the motion to call the question.

The motion passed.

Final Statement from the Board of Trustees

Rev. Lou Strugala, Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees, made a concluding statement supporting the "New Conference Center Resolution." He indicated his faith in the process and people who produced the resolution. He apologized for mistakes made on the path to purchasing and building a new conference center. He stated his faith that God has great plans for the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference that include the new conference center. He asked the annual conference to support the resolution.

Approval of the Motion to Adopt the "New Conference Center Resolution."

Bishop Schol called for a vote on the motion to adopt the "New Conference Center Resolution."

11:19 a.m. The annual conference voted to adopt the "New Conference Center Resolution."

Concluding Comments

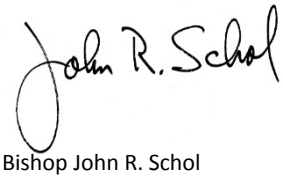
Bishop Schol offered some concluding comments indicating that his desire for the special session was to ensure that questions about the "New Conference Center Resolution" were answered. Bishop Schol expressed his faith in the Conference Board of Trustees. Bishop Schol shared his experience in overseeing large building projects and expressed that he had never witnessed a more thorough process. Bishop Schol expressed his thanks for and faith in the general contractor and architect for the new conference center.

Prayer and Dismissal

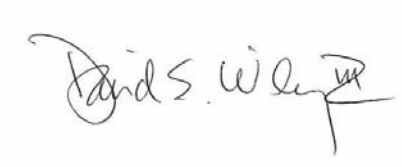
11:22 a.m. Bishop Schol dismissed the special session of the annual conference with prayer.

CERTIFICATION OF DAILY PROCEEDINGS

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing is a correct and complete report of the proceedings of the special session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church held at The Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, NJ on September 27, 2014.



Bishop John R. Schol
Resident Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference



Rev. Dr. David E. Wiley, III
Secretary
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
Meeting at Wildwood, NJ

Thursday, May 28, 2015, 10 a.m.

OPENING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The opening worship celebration opened with words of welcome from Rev. Roy Bundy, a Native American, who told of how Wildwood had been a summer home for Native Americans. He invited the body to go 'fishing and hooking' men and women.

The conference praise band, directed by Mark Miller, led songs of praise and welcome.

Rev. Hector Burgos divided the body into three sections and directed the body on how to respond during the call to worship. Bishop John Schol and Debra A. DeVos led the call to worship and brought a water jug to the baptismal table to open the service.

The Superintendents, District Lay Leaders, Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Rosa Williams, and a large group of children carrying paper fish processed in to "Marching to Zion." The opening prayer was led by Rev. Yeol 'Earl' Kim. Rev. Karline Dubuisson read the scripture of John 21:1-7 in French/Creole.

Bishop Schol introduced Nicole Caldwell-Gross, the day's preacher, and described her as a gifted and thoughtful disciple on fire for Jesus Christ. She began by thanking God for how blessed she was at this time. Her sermon message was "Business Unusual" based on the John passage. She described the disciple's actions in that passage as "business as usual:" the resurrection of Christ had not yet transformed them and they didn't know what to do other than business as usual. She compared this to the way some of us, after feeling the power of the Spirit at conference, go back to our churches to "business as usual." According to Caldwell-Gross, the first message from today's passage is that when we meet Jesus, we should be changed and we should never go back to life as usual, for Jesus changes the very essence of who we are. She encouraged those who were feeling uneasy hearing this to understand that maybe they were trying to follow Jesus using their old mode of operation, but this won't work: Jesus has changed us. She used the fishing disciples as an example of how radical Jesus calls us to be. When Jesus told the disciples to fish off the other side of the boat, against the currents and in broad daylight, this was sacrilege. Caldwell-Gross went on to explain that what Jesus was asking was not just a shift in position but also a shift in perspective: a shift we need to make within ourselves. She admitted that shifting the nets in our churches might upset some people but "casting our nets on the other side" is about how much Jesus has caught us and how deep is our faith. She ended by reminding the body that it is the Lord who sends fish to empty nets, faith to empty spirits and brings abundance to absence, possibility to impossibility and expectation to emptiness. "The Lord can fill empty nets – cast yours on the other side."

Bishop Schol introduced a video about the 'Imagine No Malaria' initiative. He explained how our Mission Fund is helping both those affected by Hurricane Sandy and Imagine No Malaria. He asked all to give generously in order to raise funds for both. The offering was collected.

Bishop Schol led the liturgy for Holy Communion. He encouraged all members of conference to pray the Lord's Prayer in their first language. Communion was celebrated as the bread and cup were shared with all present.

Bishop Schol gave the benediction encouraging the body to "lean in to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to be prepared to throw our net on the other side of the boat."

The session adjourned at 11:45 am.

Thursday, May 28, 2015 – noon

CLERGY SESSION

Bishop Schol began by giving instructions on how to use the electronic voting device. He then reminded the body that only those wearing red or blue lanyards were allowed to vote. Voting tally sheets, voting devices and the Business of the Annual Conference Report were then distributed.

Bishop Schol led the body through a trial vote for 'favorite disciples' to ensure everyone was comfortable with the voting device.

The candidates nominated for election as delegates were called forward. Each spoke for one minute. Bishop Schol asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made.

Revs. Shawn Callender Hogan and Rev. Jessica Brendler Naulty began presenting each section of the **Business of the Annual Conference Report** while the voting devices were prepared for voting for delegates.

FIRST CLERGY BALLOT

Bishop Schol led the clergy through the first clergy ballot. The total number of ballots cast 378, total invalid ballots 27, total valid ballots 351, needed for election 176. There were no elections.

SECOND CLERGY BALLOT

Bishop Schol led the second clergy ballot. Total number of ballots cast 380, total invalid ballots 33, total of valid ballots 347, needed for election 174. There was one election: Thomas Lank, 177 votes.

REPORT

Callendar Hogan and Brendler Naulty continued with the **Business of the Annual Conference Report** to its completion. Approvals and corrections were given where needed.

Candidates for Ordination were introduced. Bishop Schol asked the historical questions and then invited the clergy to ask them any questions. No questions were asked. The candidates were led out of the room. Bishop Schol asked for a vote to approve the candidates. They were approved unanimously.

Candidates for Commissioning were introduced. Bishop Schol invited the clergy to ask them any questions. No questions were asked. The candidates were led out of the room. Bishop Schol asked for a vote to approve the candidates. They were approved unanimously.

Bishop Schol acknowledged all the retirees.

The entire report was presented for approval. It was approved.

The session adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 28, 2015, 1:20 p.m

LAITY SESSION.

Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader, called the Laity Session to order and opened with prayer. Bishop Schol provided instruction on how to use the voting device and led the laity through a practice session.

FIRST LAITY VOTE

Total number of votes cast: 470, total invalid ballots 117, number of valid votes: 353, needed for election: 177. There were three elected: Evelyn Caterson with 205 votes, Bethany Amey with 203 votes, Judy Colorado with 178 votes.

SECOND LAITY VOTE

Total number of votes cast: 460, total invalid ballots 0, number of valid votes: 460, needed for election: 231. There was no election.

THIRD LAITY VOTE

Total number of votes cast: 462, total invalid ballots 0, number of valid votes: 462, needed for election: 232. There was no election

FOURTH LAITY VOTE

Total number of votes cast: 466, total invalid ballots 0, number of valid votes: 466, needed for election: 234. There was no election

FIFTH LAITY VOTE

Total number of votes cast: 472, total invalid ballots 0, number of valid votes: 472, needed for election: 237. There was one elected: Rosa Williams with 247 votes.

LAITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Rosa Williams informed the body about the Laity Leadership Academy which will be held this fall at Haddonfield UMC Sept. 11-12, 2015. Bishop Schol added his encouragement for this event.

ADJOURN

The Laity Session adjourned at 2:30 p.m. followed immediately by the general plenary session.

2:30 p.m. Session

GATHERING

The conference praise band gathered the people with songs of praise.

BAR OF CONFERENCE

Conference Secretary, Rev. David Wiley made a motion to set the bar of the conference. The motion passed.

ADVERTISING VIDEO

Rev. Christopher Heckert, chairperson of the Conference Commission on Communications, presented a video of the current advertising campaign which places UMC ads on the sides of buses. Several present had seen them.

TEAM VITAL VIDEO

Bishop Schol introduced a video on Team Vital and discussed how it could be used to develop new resources and help churches.

PRAYER

Bishop Schol informed the body that Dr. Mary Ann Baenninger, the new president of Drew University, was supposed to be present with us but her husband was in the hospital. A prayer was offered for all those who were ill or in pain.

VIDEO

A video of people commenting on their ideas of fishing for people was presented.

EPISCOPAL AND LEADERSHIP ADDRESS

Bishop Schol began his Episcopal address by sharing how some churches are doing ministry in their local communities. He also shared how at IGNITE 2014 there were over 700 young people in attendance and that 70 percent of them made a first time confession of faith and another 20 percent rededicated their lives to Christ. He went on to celebrate that, as a conference, we grew in professions/reaffirmations of faith; the number of disciples in small groups; and the amount of money given to missions and that we are well on our way to reaching our 2018 goals.

Bishop Schol then discussed the state of our Shared Ministries. He told the body in 2014 the collection rate was up to 82 percent, an increase over 2013. He also celebrated that there has been an increase in all the other conference billings. This means that the churches are being faithful and he anticipates that Shared Giving will remain strong.

Bishop Schol next reported on the A Future With Hope Mission Fund, informing the body that $5 million had been collected to date, and looked forward to reaching our goal of 12 million dollars by 2018.

Bishop Schol then reported on the Sandy Relief and Recovery program, stating that, to date, 9,000 volunteers from 37 states had helped with Sandy relief. This equals 213,000 volunteer hours. One hundred and fifty houses have been completed and there are 55 houses currently being restored and renovated. A video was presented with volunteers and homeowners giving testimony; letters were read describing their experiences.

Bishop Schol invited members of the body to step up to the microphones and witness what their churches were doing in their communities. Numerous people stepped forward and gave testimonies to their church's ministries.

Chairs were set up in a 'round-table' format and Bishop Schol held a public conversation with some church leadership. He first asked John Bishop, Chair of the Conference Council of Finance and Administration, to report on how we, as a conference, were doing financially. Mr. Bishop reported that churches continue to increase their giving and the budgets set are realistic. He reported that the Harvest Mission Fund is producing income for programs. He did express some concerns over challenges he foresees in the future stating that if we continue to decline, we will need to spend money on reaching out to the unchurched and we will have a shortage of clergy. He was not sure how we should respond to these issues.

Bishop Schol then asked Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader, what she feels the laity are concerned about. She answered that church members want their churches to grow and reach out and make an impact in their communities. Many want to be leaders in the church. She expressed gratefulness that Sandy recovery had allowed churches to be in mission right here in New Jersey, with churches able to keep 25 percent of the mission funds raised for A Future With Hope within the local church, which helps churches be in mission in their local communities as well.

Bishop Schol asked Rev. Vicki Brendler, head of the Connectional Table, what she felt were some challenges we are currently facing. Rev. Brendler expressed concern that there is a level of complacency in the church and described how we are working to break this cycle. She stated that the perception of the church in the community is a little suspicious and that our new ad campaigns are trying to combat this. She also recognized that on the local church level, there is a level of distrust of the conference, and that the conference has been working to improve the level of trust. A couple of things being done on this issue is to measure churches growth in vitality, helping to indicate a church's health. Also, using a new appointment making process — inviting clergy to offer themselves for appointments — has helped foster trust. Results are beginning to be seen through these processes.

Bishop Schol asked Rev. Vanessa Wilson, Chair of the Commission on Race and Religion, to address the issue of cultural competence. Ms. Wilson stressed the importance of engaging in conversations in multi-cultural settings to address racism.

Next, Bishop Schol spoke with Rev. Hector Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries, and had him explain all that is being done to help local leaders. Rev. Burgos explained that resources are being aligned—Team Vital is implementing a strategic plan in which he hopes 300 churches will participate; coaching is being made available for clergy with the goal that 300 clergy will be involved by 2017; PaCE peer learning groups will be launched for clergy starting in the fall with the goal that 25% will participate in 2016 and 50% by 2017; Communities of Hope will be created this summer, and small congregation initiatives are being implemented.

Bishop Schol then directed questions to two young people, Matthew and Lindsay. He first asked them what they appreciated in the local church. Both answered that they appreciated the music in their churches and that their churches were open and accepting of everyone. Bishop Schol asked them if they had any concerns for the church. They answered that they felt sermons should be more visual, using object lessons. They also would like to see more teens attending church. He asked them what their friends thought about church. They responded that to their friends it's a big thing to go to church, something we don't always recognize. They also stated that their friends don't realize that church is more relaxed than they think. The Bishop's last question to Matthew and Lindsay was "What would they like to say to the members of Annual Conference?" They responded by suggesting that all leaders of the church help people connect their faith to all aspects of life, and they feel this include teens and young adults in the leadership roles in all churches.

Bishop Schol concluded his address by encouraging all present to incorporate these ideas into their respective churches.

LEGISLATION

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT

Rosa Williams presented the Committee on Nominations report, including the section found in the pre-conference book as well as the addendum given out at conference. She informed the body of the necessary corrections and additions. She moved its approval. It was approved.

TRUSTEES ENABLING RESOLUTION

Rev. Louis Strugala moved the adoption of the Trustees Enabling Resolution. The motion passed. Bishop Schol thanked Rev. Strugala for his leadership of the trustees. Rev. Strugala's term ended this annual conference.

CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS RESOLUTION

The Conference Advance Specials for 2015-2016 resolution was presented and a motion made for its adoption. The motion passed.

A FUTURE WITH HOPE, INC., CHANGE IN BY-LAWS

Bobbie Ridgely presented the Future with Hope By-Laws change resolution, including both what is in the pre-conference book and the addendum booklet. She moved its adoption. The motion passed.

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY, CHANGE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Jo D. Malessa moved the adoption of the Educational Society Constitution and By-Laws Change resolution. The motion passed.

FLANDERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORIC SITE, PORT ELIZABETH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORIC SITE AND CAMDEN NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC SITE

Rev. Bill Wilson presented the three historic sites resolutions at the same time, including both the sections from the pre-conference book and the addendum booklet. He moved their adoption. The motion passed.

ANNUAL CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT TO ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Rev. Bill Wilson moved the adoption of the Annual Church/Charge Conference Report to Archives and History resolution. The motion passed.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964 MERGER OF FORMER DELAWARE ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHURCHES IN NEW JERSEY WITH THE NEWLY FORMED NNJ AND SNJ CONFERENCES

Rev. Bill Wilson moved the adoption of the resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the 1964 merger of the former Delaware Annual Conference churches in New Jersey with the newly formed NNJ and SNJ conferences. The motion passed.

ELECT A LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIAN AND INCLUDE IN CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT

Rev. Bill Wilson moved the adoption to Elect a Local Church Historian and Include in Church Conference Report resolution. The motion passed.

CHURCH DISCONTINUANCES

The following resolutions dealing with church discontinuances were presented and voted on together.

SARANG KOREAN UMC DISCONTINUATION

Rev. Wayne Plumstead moved the approval of the resolution to discontinue Sarang Korean UMC.

BRIDGETON: CENTRAL UMC DISCONTINUATION

Rev. Jisun Kwak moved the approval of the resolution to discontinue Bridgeton: Central UMC.

WINDSOR UMC DISCONTINUATION

Rev. Varlyna Wright moved the approval of the resolution to discontinue Windsor UMC.

GLADSTONE UMC DISCONTINUATION

Rev. Drew Dyson moved the approval of the resolution to discontinue Gladstone UMC.

WEST PORTAL DISCONTINUATION

Rev. Drew Dyson moved the approval of the resolution to discontinue West Portal UMC.

All motions passed.

ENABLING LEGISLATION

Rev. David Wiley made a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of adopting the Holy Conferencing procedures as emailed to all conference members. A two-thirds vote was needed for approval. The motion passed.

MOTION

Rev. David Wiley moved the adoption of the procedures outlined in the email sent out to all conference members.

AMENDMENT

Creed Pogue made a motion to amend those procedures to include rule number 42. The Bishop clarified for Creed that a substitute motion would be appropriate. Creed withdrew his motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Creed Pogue offered a substitute motion which in effect would have tabled all legislation on homosexuality indefinitely. The motion failed.

Bishop Schol asked for a vote on the approval of the original motion. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David Wiley made the necessary announcements.

Bishop Schol announced that the total for the Mission Fund Offering was $86,733. He shared with the body that his mom had fallen and broken her hip and was in the hospital. He asked Rev. Gina Hendrickson to pray for all who were ill or in pain.

The Bishop announced that clergy balloting would now continue. Laity were welcome to stay and observe the voting if they wished.

CLERGY BALLOTING FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

CLERGY BALLOT THREE

Votes cast: 383, total invalid ballots 28, valid 355, needed for election 178. There were two elections: Rev. Eunice Vega-Perez with 191 votes, and Rev. Jisun Kwak with 184 votes.

CLERGY BALLOT FOUR

Votes cast: 311, total invalid ballots 0, valid: 311, needed for election: 156. There were no elections.

CLERGY BALLOT FIVE

Votes cast: 321, total invalid ballots 0, valid: 321, needed for election: 161. There were no elections.

CLERGY BALLOT SIX

Votes cast: 320, total invalid ballots 0, valid: 320, needed for election: 161. There were no elections.

CLERGY BALLOT SEVEN

Votes cast: 324, total invalid ballots 0, valid: 324, needed for election: 163. There was one election, Rev. Varlyna Wright with 181 votes.

CLERGY BALLOTING FOR JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

CLERGY BALLOT EIGHT

Votes cast: 330, total invalid ballots 106, valid: 228, needed for election: 115. There were two elections, Rev. Drew Dyson with 131 votes and Rev. Grace Pak with 128 votes.

CLERGY BALLOT NINE

Votes cast: 336, total invalid ballots 19, valid: 317, needed for election: 159. There were no elections

CLERGY BALLOT TEN

Votes cast: 331, total invalid ballots 15, valid: 316, needed for election: 159. There was one election, Rev. Tanya Linn Bennett with 172 votes.

CLERGY BALLOT ELEVEN

Votes cast: 327, total invalid ballots 0, valid: 327, needed for election: 164. There were no elections.

CLERGY BALLOT TWELVE

Votes cast: 325, total invalid ballots 0, valid: 325, needed for election: 163. There was one election, Rev. Gina Hendrickson with 197 votes.

CLERY BALLOTING FOR ALTERNATES

CLERGY BALLOT THIRTEEN

Votes cast: 334, total invalid ballots 23, valid: 311, needed for election: 156. Elected as alternates were Rev. Christopher Heckert with 192 votes, Rev. Steven Bechtold with 188 votes and Rev. John Di Giamberardino with 172 votes. This concluded the clergy voting.

ADJOURN

Bishop Schol closed with prayer.

Friday, May 29, 2015, 8 a.m.

LAITY GATHERING

Bishop Schol opened the session with a word of prayer.

SIXTH LAITY VOTE

The number of votes cast was 347, total invalid ballots 79, valid votes, 268, needed for election, 135. Four delegates and first alternate were elected: Stephen Quigg with 212 votes, June McCullough with 166 votes, Jee Hei Park with 162 votes, and Creed Pogue with 157 votes as Jurisdictional Conference delegates; and Carolyn Pendleton was elected as first alternate with 139 votes.

SEVENTH LAITY VOTE

The number of votes cast was 373, total invalid ballots 0, valid votes, 334, needed for election, 168. The final two alternates were elected, Cynthia Kent with 295 and Sherri Shumate with 235 votes.

GATHERING

The conference praise band gathered the body with singing and praise.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Schol announced that laity voting was completed.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Bishop Schol introduced Rev. Andrew Forrest as the day's preacher and offered a word of prayer. Rev. Forrest informed the body that, according to Pew research, 14.7 percent of adults in the United States are affiliated with a Protestant tradition which is a sharp decline over other religions. He stated that the UMC has fallen from 5.1 percent in 2007 to 3.6 percent in 2014. According to Rev. Forrest, "people don't come to church because they're afraid of us". He determined that love must go out from us "first," in three different ways. First, love goes "first" to the sermon. He asked all the clergy if they were doing the hard work of making sermons interesting. He suggested causing some tension in the sermon to catch people's attention. Next, love goes "first" to the neighborhood. He asked the body if love for their local

neighborhood was common knowledge. To have them know this he suggested that we talk about our churches and show care for our neighborhoods. He showed a video demonstrating a couple of ways his church has done this. Lastly, love goes "first" to the cross. People are looking for a living God, not a voting league. He reminded the body that when Jesus calls a person he calls them to die and live for Christ. Rev. Forrest admonished the body not to lower their standards; instead, he called us to raise them. He is convinced people want to hear the bold message of Jesus Christ. Rev. Forrest ended by stating that love is already at work, the harvest is plentiful and we are called to share it with other people.

The conference praise band ended by singing "Love Has Broken Down the Wall."

GNJUMC.ORG

The Conference Communications Team showed the body how the GNJUMC website has been revised and revamped. Clergy were also encouraged to get their picture ID taken for an identification card.

LEGISLATION

PROPOSED SHARED MINISTRIES PLAN

John Bishop presented the Proposed Shared Ministries Plan report for approval. Before the vote, he congratulated the 391 churches that paid 100 percent of their apportionments, which is a record high. He also thanked the 485 churches that paid 100 percent of their conference billing. He also informed the body that, for the eighth consecutive year, GNJAC had paid 100 percent of its apportionments to the General Conference. Mr. Bishop informed the body that we had a clean audit and he acknowledged and thanked John Cardillo and his staff for their good work.

A motion was made for the adoption of the 2016 budget. The motion passed.

SHARED MINISTRY FORMULA

John Bishop moved the adoption of the Shared Ministry Resolution. The motion passed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CONFERENCE SURPLUS FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT OF MORTGAGE

John Bishop moved the adoption of the Authorizing Use of Conference Surplus for Partial Payment of Mortgage resolution. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Zorn informed the body that the Board of Pensions has been able to collect $800,000 in back payments and they have put this toward the mortgage of the new conference office.

John Bishop reminded the body that the construction mortgage for the new conference office is $4 million dollars. He informed the body that we have $3.5 million already towards that mortgage, leaving only $500,000 to go to close the gap.

John Bishop recognized the members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Pensions and Council of Finance and Administration.

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Rev. Paul Zorn moved the adoption of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits resolution. The motion passed.

2015 HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDELINES

Rev. Paul Zorn moved the adoption of the 2015 Health Insurance Guidelines resolution. The motion passed.

2016 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

Rev. Paul Zorn moved the adoption of the 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan resolution. The motion passed.

Bishop Schol thanked Rev. Zorn for his work.

A FUTURE WITH HOPE VIDEO

A video showcasing the progress of the A Future with Hope campaign was shown to the body. The video explained that, to date, more than 150 homes have been rebuilt. This was possible because of the 9,000 volunteers from 37 states who came and worked over 200,000 hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Schol announced that yesterday's offering for A Future with Hope was now up to $91,543. He set the goal of $100,000 by the end of the conference. He encouraged the body to find additional monies.

CLERGY EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FOR 2016

Rev. Jennifer Cho moved adoption of the Clergy Equitable Compensation for 2016 resolution. The motion passed.

STANDARDS FOR PARSONAGES

Rev. Jennifer Cho moved adoption of the Standards for Parsonages resolution. She added to lines 26 and 27 on page 81 the words 'and/or certificate of occupancy'. The motion passed.

COMMUNITIES OF HOPE

A video about the Communities of Hope program was shown. It explained how skills, relationships and assets from A Future with Hope can support entire neighborhoods. It identified where the UMC can become beacons of hope in the summer of 2015.

GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL DELEGATES

Bishop Schol announced the delegation for General and Jurisdictional Conferences. For General Conference the clergy delegates are: Rev. Thomas Lank, Delegation Chair, Revs. Eunice Vega-Perez, Jisun Kwak and Varlyna Wright. Laity delegates are: Evelyn Caterson, Bethany Amey, Judy Colorado and Rosa Williams.

The Jurisdictional Conference clergy delegates are: Rev. Drew Dyson (first alternate to General Conference), and Revs. Grace Pak, Tanya Linn Bennett and Gina Hendrickson. Laity delegates are: Stephen Quigg (first alternate to General Conference), June McCullough, Jee Hei Park, Creed Pogue.

Alternate clergy delegates are: Revs. Christopher Heckert, Steven Bechtold and John Di Giamberardino. Laity delegates are: Carolyn Pendleton, Cynthia Kent and Sherri Shumate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David Wiley made the necessary announcements.

LEGISLATION

TRANSFER OF ALDERSGATE PROPERTIES

Creed Pogue made a motion to withdraw the Transfer of Aldersgate Properties resolution. The motion passed.

COMMISSION ON CAMPS, CONFERENCES AND RETREATS, INC., STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo and Creed Pogue moved the adoption of the Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, Inc. Statement of Relationship resolution. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION REGARDING RACIAL JUSTICE

Rev. Rupert Hall moved the adoption of the resolution, Regarding Racial Justice.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

Jackie Love asked to make a friendly amendment. Bishop Schol determined a review of the amendment was necessary due to the length and instruction it contained.

The resolution was tabled.

IGNITE VIDEO

A video showing the IGNITE 2015 ministry was presented.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Service of Remembrance opened with the singing of "Open My Eyes That I May See". Rev. David Wiley led the Call to Worship. Revs. Jerry Ruff, Gina Kim, Lakesha Groover, the District Superintendents, Rosa Williams and Bishop Schol processed in to "When Words Cannot Express". Rev. Jerry Ruff offered a word of prayer. Rev. Lakesha Groover read the scripture, Isaiah 65:17-25.

Bishop Schol introduced Rev. Gina Kim from Wesley UMC in South Plainfield. Rev. Kim's sermon title was "The Best Is Yet to Come". She reminded clergy that they need to be ready to move, ready to die and ready to preach. Her sermon began by reminding the body that God is creating something new - a new heaven and a new earth - meaning God's best is yet to come. She stated that God is going to forget the painful past and focus on the new. Rev. Kim had the body read together Psalm 16:11, reminding us that God is always with us, all our troubles will be forgotten and we will share in the joys of heaven. She used the Super Bowl as an analogy, referencing last year's win by the Patriots and describing in detail how they basked in the victory. They seemed to have forgotten all the hard work of the entire season. She expressed that this is how she imagines entering heaven – with everyone cheering and forgetting how hard life was. She ended by reminding the body that every day is a day to rejoice.

Rev. David Wiley invited the body to stand in honor of those whom they have known and come to remember as the names of the saints were read. He then read the **Glory Roll**.

Laity:

Keith A. Brendler
Christa Grant
Carlton G. Johnson
Kathleen Randall Petty

Clergy Spouses:

Ruth Shrader Beemer
Martha Cheney
Gloria Facey
Arthur Sherwood Fowler
Elizabeth Lynch
Verna W. Pine
Carol Sue Price
Patricia L. Richardson-Newman
June Strickland
Ada "Dot" Tonkinson
Janet Walz
June J. Watt

Clergy:

Gilbert F. Bennett
Gary Brennan
Julio C. Pantoja
Howard L. Cassaday
Delloyd A. Green
Brian A. Greco
Charles G. Hankins
Frederick D. Hoffman
Edward S. Carty
Alf O. Olsen
Dale Sherrod
Howard Fred Sterling
Carole Ann Wagg
William M. Yates

Bishop Schol offered up a word of prayer and the benediction. The closing hymn was "For All the Saints".

CELEBRATING AND HONORING DISCIPLESHIP FRUITFULNESS

Rosa Williams introduced the presenters of the following awards.

CHRISTIAN UNITY AWARD

Rev. Jessica Campbell presented Rev. Jackie Burgess with the Christian Unity Award and the Manasquan UMC with the Bishop's Congregation Award.

DENMAN AWARDS

Rev. Kee Young Yang presented the Denman Evangelism Youth Award to Brielle Hohne, the Denman Evangelism Laity Award to Charlie Burch and the Denman Evangelism Clergy Award to Rev. Frank Davis.

FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD

Rev. Iraida Ruiz de Porras presented the Francis Asbury Award to Rev. Don Gebhard.

HARRY H. SEESE AWARD

Rev. Hector Burgos presented the Harry H. Seese Award to Rev. Jungrea Chung.

ROBERT B. STEELMAN HISTORY AWARD

Rev. William Wilson presented the Robert B. Steelman History Award to the Florence UMC.

HELENOR ALTER DAVISSON AWARD

Rev. Michelle Ryoo presented the Helenor Alter Davisson Award to Rev. Jisun Kwak.

ONE MATTERS AWARD

Rev. Ken Sloane presented the One Matters Award to Groveville UMC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David Wiley made the necessary announcements

BLESSING

Laura Fisher gave the closing blessing.

The afternoon was filled with workshops in various areas and a food packing event to support Stop Hunger Now.

May 29, 2015, 7 p.m.

ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE

The Ordination and Commissioning Service began with the ordinands, clergy and bishops processing in to the hymns "The Church's One Foundation" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name". Bishop John Schol introduced Bishop Alfred Johnson and together they opened the service with prayer. Bishop Johnson led the reaffirmation of baptism at the baptismal fount. As the choir sang "I Believe", Bishops Johnson and Schol sprinkled water to symbolically reaffirm the baptism of all participants.

Revs. Ricardo G. Ramos and Chin Cho were called forward and commissioned as missionaries by Bishop Schol. Bishop Johnson gave each of them an anchor cross, symbolizing their rooting in God and connection to the global church. Bishop Schol informed the body that Rev. Cho would be serving as a General Board of Global Ministries missionary to Mongolia. Rev. Ramos will be serving as the Coordinator for Theological Education in Bolivia.

Rosa Williams and Rev. Shawn Callendar Hogan presented the candidates to be commissioned, ordained or recognized for the ministry of the church. Bishop Schol asked them the appropriate questions.

The scripture read by Katie Mayer was John 21:1-6. Bishop Schol welcomed Bishop Alfred Johnson and offered a prayer. Using the metaphor of fishing, Bishop Schol explored the tools of ministry, what attracts people to our congregations, and what distracts us from ministry. He stated that most people see fishing as evangelism but this isn't what Jesus meant. Jesus was gathering people to be resources and experience the kingdom of God in the here and now. The Bishop went on to say that unchurched people have preconceived ideas of the church. They don't want to be a part of a system that doesn't care about people. He said that unchurched people feel we are often more focused on our preconceived assumptions than on God's beauty in each person and, just like fish, people are going to be slippery until we change our assumptions and attitudes.

Bishop Schol went on to teach that fishing gear is important. He told a fishing story about his father and his uncle and their fishing equipment and how they were distracted from their fishing by their tools. Some things distract us from real ministry. He also asked the question, "Why would Jesus choose fishermen?" He then described how fishermen have to work together, and need to have patience balanced with persistence. He reminded the body that the original disciples

were skilled but uneducated fishermen, yet others recognized their discipleship. He then warned all the church leadership not to let their degrees in higher learning keep them from seeing the skill and abilities of the people around them.

Bishop Schol encouraged the body to be the ones to make sure that people are never alone. He closed with prayer.

The service then moved into the time of Commissioning. Family and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands as the candidate was commissioned.

Provisional Elders

Karline Dubuisson
Yeol 'Earl' Kim
Frederick R. Marz
Ninabeth D. Metcalf
Tae Youl 'Leo' Park
SandraLee Stenstrom
Heather Elizabeth Valosin
Catherine Elizabeth Williams

Provisional Deacons

Debra A. De Vos
June Lee Tamburro

Associate Member

Bishop Schol presented Gina Yeske to the body to be received as Associate Membership to the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

The service moved into the time of examination and ordination of full member candidates. Family and friends were invited to stand where they were for silent prayer during the laying on of hands as each candidate was ordained.

Ordained Elders

Jean Arlea Eriksen
Evan W. Rohrs-Dodge
Rolando Santiago Fuentes
William McKinley Williams, III

Recognition of Full Membership

Bishop Schol announced the recognition of orders and full membership of James Gi-Sung Lee.

Bishop Schol invited all who may have heard God's call to ministry while at the service to come forward and promised those newly commissioned or ordained would pray with them.

Bishop Johnson gave the closing prayer.

Saturday, May 30, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The conference praise band gathered worshippers together with music and songs.

WORSHIP

Bishop Schol opened the session with prayer. He introduced the morning preacher, Rev. Andrew Forrest. Forrest began by stating he had three words for spiritual skeptics. Skeptics have tough and scary questions and we are often afraid to answer them, because we believe so strongly, we don't want to get the answer wrong. He read John 1:43-51 suggesting to the body that Nathanael was a spiritual skeptic from whom we learn what to say, when to say it and why we answer. We learn from Nathanael what to say when people ask us about our faith and church: the answer is 'Come and see'. We learn that the best time to say it is when a person is truly seeking and this works because people have been asking questions for centuries. We also learn that we are called to lead people to God and that God will take it from there. He stated that we have a 'Come and See' God and encouraged the body to boldly invite people, trusting in Matthew 7:7.

Bishop thanked Rev. Forrest for coming and sent him off with a prayer.

TEAM VITAL

Rev. Beth Caulfield introduced the Team Vital program and explained the five markers of vital congregations to the body. Her presentation was followed by a video on Team Vital.

COMMISSIONING OF JOHN F. INVERSO

Bishop Schol explained to the body that due to a sudden illness, John F. Inverso was unable to be at the Commissioning Service Friday night. Bishop Schol and the newly commissioned clergy had a laying on of hands and commissioned him before the whole body.

SERVICE OF PASSAGE

The Service of Passage began with singing "What Gift Can We Bring" while Bishop Schol, the District Superintendents and other participants processed to the dais. Rev. Regina Hendrickson opened with the Call to Celebration and introduced the retirees.

Bishop Schol celebrated and gave thanks for all the years of leadership the retirees have given to the church. He informed the body that between all the retirees, more than 750 years of service had been given in the name of Christ.

Rev. Kyu Tae Pak called forward the new full members and had them stand before the retirees. The retirees anointed the new full members.

Bishop Schol explained the biblical and historical symbolism of the passing of the mantle, reminding the body that for centuries the mantle has been passed to women and men who were gifted and called to make disciples and to build up the body of Christ. Retiree Rev. Shelley Potter-Abrahamsen passed the mantle to Rev. Evan Rohrs-Dodge, one of the newly ordained, to symbolize the passing on of the work of building up the body of Christ.

Rev. Caroline Smallwood called forward the newly commissioned class and instructed them to stand before the newly ordained. Explaining that a portion of the mantle also falls on them, the newly ordained passed on a portion of the mantle to the newly commissioned class as well as anointed them.

Rev. Myrna Bethke introduced the newly appointed local pastors and called them forward to stand in front of the newly commissioned. The commissioned symbolically passed on a portion of the mantel to them and anointed them.

Bishop Schol and Rosa Williams, holding the mantle, invited all the Lay Servants in the congregation to stand so they could be recognized. Afterwards, Williams passed the mantle through the congregation.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS

Each District Superintendent came forward and read the names of the new appointments within their districts.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Bishop Schol introduced Rev. Betty Horne instructing her to give us our charge. Rev. Horne reminded the body that we are not called to maintain our buildings; rather, we are called to use our buildings; similarly, we are not called to run Sunday school, we are called to use our Sunday school. In her teaching, she reminded the body that all of us are called to help in fishing: some are called to row, some are called to throw the net and some are called to hoist the net. We are all called to fish, to bring people to our captain into our boat. She admonished the body to throw our nets off the right side of our boat.

Bishop Schol gave the benediction and the closing hymn was "What Does the Lord Require of You".

LEGISLATION

Rev. David Wiley reminded the body where the bar of the conference had been set. Ballots for the questions dealing with homosexuality were distributed.

Wiley announced that the total donation from the A Future with Hope Gift Shop was $2,116.

RESOLUTIONS FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE REGARDING USE OF LANGUAGE, MARRIAGE AND MARRIAGE CEREMONIES, STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FOR ORDAINED CLERGY, USE OF CHURCH FUNDS.

RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR GNJ TO BECOME AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH AND COMMIT TO AND SUPPORT MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Bishop Schol went through the process for the special legislation before the body. He explained that it was not mandatory to either participate in the vote or in the conversations that would take place. Taking one of the ballots the Bishop reviewed the theological positions each fish represented. He encouraged those wishing to participate in conversation to choose a partner with a different theological position from their own.

Bishop introduced the four people speaking to these resolutions, Rosario Quiñonez, Rev. John Di Giamberardino, Rev. Dan Amey and Susan Zahorbenski. Each spoke for three minutes; two in favor and two opposed to these resolutions.

The Bishop invited the body to find conversation partners and led the conversations by posting seven questions to be answered in the conversations.

After the time of conversations, Bishop led in a time of prayer. Bishop instructed the body to cast their votes. The ballots were collected and tellers retired to count them.

RESOLUTION REGARDING RACIAL JUSTICE

Rev. Rupert Hall came forward to present a new Resolution Regarding Racial Justice. Bishop Schol explained that Rev. Hall and Jackie Love, author of the friendly amendment, had gotten together to combine the original resolution and amendment. Bishop explained that the original resolution and amendment had been withdrawn. Rev. Hall then moved the adoption of the new resolution. The motion passed.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: FACILITIES ACCESSIBILITY

Rev. Jackie Burgess moved the adoption of the General Conference 2016: Facilities Accessibility resolution. The motion passed.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: ADDRESSING JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Rev. Jackie Burgess moved the adoption of the General Conference 2016: Addressing Joint Committee Membership resolution. The motion passed.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: ADDRESSING MENTAL ILLNESS BENEFITS

Rev. Jackie Burgess moved the adoption of the General Conference 2016: Addressing Mental Illness Benefits resolution. The motion passed.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: ADDRESS MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES.

Rev. Jackie Burgess moved the adoption of the General Conference 2016: Address Ministerial Candidates with Disabilities resolution.

AMENDMENT

Bonnie Doebley made a motion to remove “irremovable” from line 33 on page 94 of the resolution. The amendment passed. The amended resolution did not pass.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016: REGARDING EMPLOYEE DISABILITY INSURANCE IN THE UMC

Rev. Jackie Burgess moved the adoption of the General Conference 2016: Regarding Employee Disability Insurance in the UMC resolution. The motion passed.

PROJECT NURTURE, INC., STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

Creed Pogue moved the adoption of the Project Nurture, Inc., Statement of Relationship resolution. The motion passed.

THANKS

Bishop Schol thanked all the staff and volunteers who helped out at conference.

FUTURE WITH HOPE PLEDGES

The body was informed that the total for A Future with Hope campaign was just over $96,000, approximately $4,000 short of the goal. Rev. Eric Ostrow challenged the body to come forward with additional funds or pledges. Donations and pledges were collected, unofficially totaling $12,654.32, bringing the new total over Bishop Schol’s challenge of $100,000.00.

BALLOT TOTALS

Bishop Schol read the totals of the ballot votes.

1. Strike from the Book of Discipline the phrase: We do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching. **410 Yes votes, 339 No votes.**
2. Strike from the Book of Discipline the phrase: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our church. **396 Yes votes, 353 No votes.**
3. Strike from the Book of Discipline that homosexuality and performing homosexual unions or weddings is a chargeable offense. **414 Yes votes, 336 No votes**.
4. Strike from the Book of Discipline that United Methodist funds cannot support the acceptance of homosexuality or supporting homosexual ministries. **405 Yes votes, 344 No votes.**
5. The GNJAC work for the full inclusion of all people including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons and that we oppose the continued restrictions of church law that restricts the full inclusion of LGBT people. **389 Yes votes, 352 No votes**.
6. The GNJAC makes a public statement supporting and upholding marriage equality in civil law and that we spiritually, emotionally and prayerfully support clergy who are brought up on charges for performing homosexual unions or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies. **381 Yes votes, 358 No votes.**

SENDING FORTH

Bishop Schol adjourned Annual Conference by encouraging the body to go forth and make new disciples, grow vital congregations and transform the world. He admonished each person to allow God to work through them in this process. Bishop Schol said he wanted outsiders to look at the UMC and not say 'look how they agree with each other" but "look at how they love each other".

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT on Friday, the 29th of May 2015 at the Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, New Jersey, pursuant to the orders of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and in accordance with the provisions of the DISCIPLINE therefore, I ordained as:

ELERS:

Jean Arlea Eriksen
Evan W. Rohrs-Dodge
Rolando Santiago Fuentes
William McKinley Williams, III

Also at the same place and on Friday, the 29th of May 2015, and by the same authority I commissioned the following persons as:

PROVISIONAL DEACONS

Debra A. De Vos
June Lee Tamburro

PROVISIONAL ELDERS:

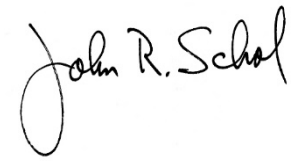
Karline Dubuisson
John F. Inverso
Yeol 'Earl' Kim
Frederick R. Marz
Ninabeth D. Metcalf
Tae Youl 'Leo' Park
SandraLee Stenstrom
Heather Elizabeth Valosin
Catherine Elizabeth Williams

RECOGNITION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP:

James Gi-Sung Lee

RECEIVED INTO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

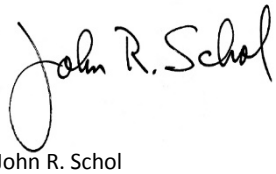
Gina Yeske



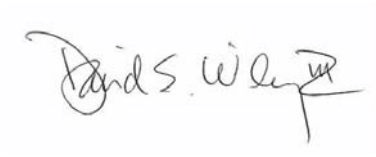
John R. Schol
Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

JOURNAL CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing is a correct and complete report of the proceedings of the sixteenth session of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church held at The Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, New Jersey, May 28 - 30, 2015.



John R. Schol
Bishop
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference



Rev. Dr. David E. Wiley, III
Secretary
The United Methodist Church
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference