

# Rules of Order and the Plan of Organization of the 2000 General Conference

## Preamble

From the days of Wesley, the "People called Methodist" have gathered in 'conference.' The early Methodists attended to practical affairs of the movement but focused primarily on the spiritual affairs and on the vision of "spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land." 'Conferencing,' the coming together to be of one mind and to know the mind of Christ is our legacy. 'Conferencing' must not be lost in our conferences.

The General Conference is the representative, deliberative body for the Church. It has developed an orderly, rational and fair process for making majority decisions in the practical affairs of the Church. Yet, it also protects the rights of minority positions. There is no substitute for such careful deliberation.

However, the spiritual affairs of the Church and its Mission are always before the body whether or not they are apparent in the passions of debate on temporal affairs. The General Conference has spiritual and prophetic leadership which must always form the context of its governance.

All through our history, there have been powerful and committed groups in tension with each other to win majority position. For example, 'confessional' Wesleyans and 'experiential' Wesleyans have vied for the hearts of the people since the time of Whitefield and Wesley. At particular points in our history, social forces have pulled us apart and, in the case of the slavery issue, produced schism.

In that case, we have come back together in the firm conviction that the unity of United Methodism is God's will and the best way to "spread scriptural holiness" in a global movement of the "People called Methodist."

To learn the wisdom in the theological and spiritual tensions; and to focus our vision of God's will for us amid conflicting issues of our times we must: First, recognize that our Plan of Organization must be honored with integrity by all. However, at the

same time it must be open to prayerful discernment of God's will for us. Second, there will be times, in the midst of deliberation, when we will need to stop, pray together, listen in silence together, and refocus our common vision of where the Spirit is leading the Church.

The times of prayer and discernment may be varied and surprising. While they do not substitute for decent and orderly debate, they do serve to hold our temporal affairs up to the light of the larger, common vision for the "People called Methodist."

## Plan of Organization

### I. Opening Session and Organization

The General Conference will assemble on the day fixed at the place designated in accordance with the action taken by the preceding General Conference or the Commission on the General Conference. The Holy Communion and Memorial Service shall be celebrated by the Conference, the Council of Bishops being in charge. During the Memorial Service, there shall be called the names of the bishops and bishops' spouses who have died since the adjournment of the preceding General Conference, and likewise the names of the delegates-elect who have died. The opening business session of the Conference shall be on the day and at the hour fixed by the Commission on the General Conference and shall be called to order by the bishop designated, as provided in the Discipline ¶15.11.

The following order of business shall be observed:

A. Roll Call. The record of attendance shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the General Conference by:

- (1) The Secretary of the Council of Bishops for the bishops,
- (2) The Secretary of the Judicial Council for that body,
- (3) The General Secretary of the General Council on Ministries for all general secretaries,

(4) The chairperson of each delegation for its membership. The chairperson shall be provided with a form on which to report daily the attendance of its members. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate shall have been duly elected as a reserve delegate by the Annual Conference and shall meet the requirements set forth in the Discipline 32-34. Delegates, including reserves when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their election, except when a reserve is seated temporarily, in which case the reserve shall occupy the seat of the delegate for whom the substitution is made. All delegates arriving after the opening roll call shall be reported by the chairperson of the delegation to the Committee on Credentials (See section VIII.A.4. and Rule 5. See also Discipline 506 defining a Quorum.) and

(5) The chairperson of the delegation for affiliated Autonomous Methodist and United Churches delegations.

B. Establish the bar of the conference.

C. Report of The Commission on The General Conference.

D. Report of The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

E. Elections

(1) Coordinator of Calendar. (See IV-C)

(2) Committee on The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

F. Report of Committee on Agenda.

G. Miscellaneous Business.

H. Adjournment.

II. Episcopal and Laity Addresses

The Quadrennial Address of the Council of Bishops shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such hour as determined by the Commission on the General Conference.

The Quadrennial Address of the Laity shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such hour as determined by the Commission on the General Conference. The National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders shall coordinate the prepara-

tion and presentation of the Quadrennial Lay Address from submissions by an annual conference lay leaders. This opportunity shall be open to all annual conference lay leaders in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

### III. Presiding Officers

The presiding officers for the several sessions of the Conference, the opening session excepted (See Section I, above), shall be chosen from among the effective bishops by the Committee on Presiding Officers. (See Section VIII.A.6.)

### IV. Secretarial Staff

A. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for all functions of the office in preparation for the session of the General Conference.

B. The secretary shall select persons from the clergy and lay membership of The United Methodist Church to serve on the secretarial support staff.

C. The Conference shall elect, upon nomination by the Secretary, a Coordinator of Calendar, who shall assist the Committee on Agenda and Calendar in presenting reports in such order as to expedite the business of the Conference, as well as in other responsibilities of the committee. (See I.E.1 and VIII.A.1).

D. After ascertaining that petitions, resolutions, and similar communications in hand and dealing with the regular business of the Conference meet the requirement of 507 of The Book of Discipline, the Secretary shall be responsible for preparing the same for reference to the appropriate legislative committee, subject to review by the Committee on Reference. (See Section VIII.A.7.) In the case of a single petition signed by a number of people, the Committee need print only the name of the first signer with an indication of the total number of signers.

E. The work of the Secretary shall be supervised by the Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference. A budget for the work of the Secretary shall be presented by the Commission on the General Conference to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Such budget shall be paid out of the General Administration Fund.

F. If in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference the office of Secretary shall for any reason be vacated, the Council of Bishops shall elect a successor to serve until the next session.

### V. Nominations and Elections

The Secretary of the General Conference shall develop a timeline for the submission of nominations and elections/appointments by the Council of Bishops. In making these nominations, elections and appointments, attention shall be given to ensuring continuity of membership from the previous quadrennium.

It shall be the responsibility of the Council of Bishops to present nominations for The Commission on the General Conference, Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, Commission on Central Conference Affairs, General Conference standing committees, and secretary-designate of The General Conference. These nominations shall be presented to the General Conference for election.

Disciplinary provisions shall govern the nomination and election procedures for:

General Council on Finance and Administration (§805.1)

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§1502.1)

General Commission on Archives and History (§1704.2)

The University Senate (§1417.2)

The Judicial Council (§2602, 2603, 2604.1)

Episcopal membership on:

General Board of Church and Society (§705.4d)

General Board of Discipleship (§705.4d)

General Board of Global Ministries (§§705.4d, 1311.6)

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§705.4d)

VI. Commission on The General Conference

A. There shall be a Commission on the General Conference composed of one clergy and one layperson from each Jurisdiction and four members-at-large, at least one of whom should be lay and one clergy from the Central Conferences of the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe. They shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops at its Fall meeting next preceding the General Conference and elected by the General Conference for a term of eight years; half of the members shall be elected by the General Conference each quadrennium. If vacancies occur, the Council of Bishops shall elect successors to serve until the next session of the General Conference and then nominate for election by the Gen-

eral Conference persons to serve any remainder of the term. The Secretary of the General Conference, the Treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, and the Business Manager of the General Conference shall also be ex-officio members but without vote. The Commission may elect three additional members-at-large for each quadrennium, providing that one of these additional members shall be the chairperson of the local Host Committee in the Annual Conference which will be the site of the next General Conference.

The Council of Bishops shall designate one of its members to convene and organize the Commission before the adjournment of the General Conference.

B. This Commission shall determine the place and time (within such limits as may be set up by the General Conference) of the next General Conference and shall send an official notice to all elected delegates announcing specifically the opening day and hour of the General Conference and anticipated time of adjournment. It shall further advise the General Conference delegates in advance of all such special events and orders of the day, the dates and times of which have been determined prior to the opening of the General Conference, in order that the delegates may have an overview of the General Conference program. The Commission shall make all necessary arrangements, including arrangements for the publication of the Daily Christian Advocate and quadrennial reports of the general agencies of the church, the same to be published by the United Methodist Publishing House. The Daily Christian Advocate shall print the list of nominees for election to the Judicial Council, with biographical sketches not to exceed 100 words in length for each nominee.

C. The Commission shall take the necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference Delegates, including providing accommodation for language, physical challenges and access to approved licensed childcare during the session at or near the site of the General Conference for children of elected General Conference Delegates.

D. The Commission shall plan the schedule for the opening day of the Conference.

E. The Commission shall recommend to the General Conference the per diem allowance to be paid to the elected delegates. (See Section X.)

F. The Secretary, on behalf of the Commission on the General Conference, shall

issue invitations to ecumenical representatives after consultation with the Council of Bishops and The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. The Commission shall arrange for local hospitality and presentation of ecumenical representatives to the General Conference.

G. The Commission is authorized, if it deems it advisable, to select the site of the General Conference up to four quadrennia in advance.

H. The General Secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall confer with the Commission on the General Conference through its chairperson concerning the selection and performance review of the Business Manager of the General Conference.

#### VII. Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

A. There shall be a Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order composed of ten lay and clergy members, including membership from each of the Jurisdictions and from the Central Conferences of the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe, nominated from the elected delegates to the General Conference by the Council of Bishops at its Fall meeting preceding the General Conference and elected by the General Conference to serve until the next session of the General Conference. Members may be elected for additional terms of four years, provided no more than four members of the new committee are returning members. If vacancies occur, the Council of Bishops shall elect successors to serve until the next session of the General Conference. The Secretary and Business Manager of the Conference shall be ex-officio members without vote. The Council of Bishops shall designate one of its members to convene and organize this committee after it is elected.

Outgoing members of the committee present at General Conference may meet with the newly elected committee during the current sessions of General Conference. These outgoing members will have voice but no vote.

B. To this committee shall be referred any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (See Rule 40). To it may be referred any other matters relating to parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the General Conference.

C. This committee shall serve as an Interim Committee between sessions of the General Conference. The committee shall

re study the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and make needed changes and adaptations and, after printing in the Advance DCA, shall present them to the General Conference for consideration and final action, same to be published in the Daily Christian Advocate which serves as the Journal of the General Conference.

D. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General Conference shall be the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as published in the journal of the preceding General Conference until they have been altered or modified by action of the General Conference (Discipline ¶505.)

#### VIII. Committees

The General Conference shall have the standing committees hereinafter indicated, with such functions, responsibilities, and limitations respectively as are hereinafter prescribed, and such special committees as it may order.

##### A. Standing Administrative Committees

The members of the following committees shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops at its Fall meeting preceding the General Conference. All except the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be from the elected delegates to the General Conference. (See Section V.) Members of standing administrative committees which meet prior to the day on which the General Conference convenes, shall receive the delegate per diem for each additional day on which their attendance is required. Delegates who are appointed to such committees less than 60 days prior to the opening session of General Conference shall be entitled to reimbursement for any additional transportation costs.

##### (1) Agenda and Calendar.

(a) There shall be a Committee on Agenda and Calendar composed of ten members, at least five of whom shall be laypersons, to be constituted as follows: one from each Jurisdiction, one from the Central Conferences of each of the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe, the Coordinator of the Calendar, and the chairperson or substitute for the Chairperson of the Program Committee of the Commission on the General Conference. No member of the committee shall be chairperson of a Standing Legislative Committee or staff person of any general agency. The committee shall be convened, for the purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference at least the day before the opening of the General Conference.

Following the presentation and adoption of the report of the Commission on the General Conference at the opening session of the General Conference, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall immediately become responsible for guiding the order of business of the Conference.

(b) The Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall:

(1) Present calendar reports in such an order as to expedite the business of the Conference,

(2) Inform the bishop presiding as soon as possible of the agenda items, including order of priority, to be considered,

(3) Keep an overview of calendar progress;

(4) Report to each session of the General Conference recommendations concerning business agenda, including time allocation and order in which legislative committee reports shall be presented;

(5) Give priority to calendar items as soon as they are available;

(6) Give priority to calendar items involving minority reports;

(7) Announce, at the last plenary session of each day, a tentative agenda for the next day;

(8) Consult daily with the legislative committee chairpersons to expedite the business of the General Conference; and

(9) Receive all requests for special orders of the day, except those requested in the report of the Commission on the General Conference on the first day of the Conference.

c) Proposals, questions, communications, resolutions, and other matters not included in the regular business of the General Conference shall be referred to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar without motion or debate. This committee shall determine whether or not the matter presented shall be considered by the General Conference. Appeal from the decision of this committee may be presented to the Conference upon the written signature of twenty delegates, and the item shall be presented to the Conference if the appeal is supported by a one-third vote.

##### (2) Correlation and Editorial Revision.

There shall be a Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision of four persons not members of the General Conference and the Book Editor, who shall be an

ex-officio member. They shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses for attendance at meetings of the committee. Two alternates shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops. The Book Editor shall convene the committee for the purpose of organization. The function of this committee shall be:

(a) To review all proposed legislation reported in the Daily Christian Advocate and that presented in special reports to the General Conference. The committee shall report to the standing committees concerned, or to the General Conference as the situation may warrant, all contradictions, duplications, and inconsistencies discovered.

(b) To assure that, when a calendar item approved on the Consent Calendar or under an omnibus vote is found to be in conflict with parts of another calendar item discussed and voted upon at a plenary session, the item discussed and voted shall prevail.

(c) To edit the Discipline in accordance with Section XI.B.

#### (3) Courtesies and Privileges.

There shall be a committee on Courtesies and Privileges of eight members composed of one delegate from each Jurisdiction and one delegate from a Central Conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

The committee has the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) To consider, as presented to it by members of the Conference, what said members regard as questions or matters of privilege, to decide whether they are such or not, and if they are regarded as being such, to recommend to the Conference that they be heard.

(b) To consider resolutions of commendation, courtesy, appreciation, etc., submitted in writing by delegates. The committee may initiate similar resolutions and edit and amend those submitted to it. Resolutions approved by the committee shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate and brought to the floor if the committee considers them of unusual importance or urgency.

(c) To arrange for extending courtesies of the Conference to any to whom they may be due, ecumenical representatives and official visitors excepted.

(d) To limit its report, including the statement of the chairperson and the hearing of such persons as may be presented, to a maximum of ten minutes in any one business

day. No person or persons shall be presented whose request has been denied by the Commission on the General Conference, nor after the sixth day unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Conference. (See Rule 27.3.)

#### (4) Credentials.

There shall be a committee on Credentials of eight members, composed of one delegate from each jurisdiction and one delegate selected from a Central Conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

To this Committee, the chairpersons of the respective annual conference delegations shall report on a form provided for that purpose any change in seating of delegates, indicating the length of time for which the change shall be effective. (See Section I.A.4.) The chairperson of this committee shall make a daily written report to the Secretary of the General Conference, listing all changes of seating approved by the committee. In the event of questions which may arise regarding the eligibility of seating any delegates, this committee shall report directly to the General Conference with its recommendations. (See Rule 5.)

#### (5) Journal.

There shall be a committee on the Journal of three members to approve daily the record of Proceedings of the General Conference prepared by the Secretary and assistant(s). The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

#### (6) Presiding Officers.

There shall be a committee on Presiding Officers of sixteen members, composed of one clergy and one lay delegate from each jurisdiction and one clergy and one lay delegate from members from a Central Conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe. The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

The committee shall select and notify the presiding officer(s) of each session at least 24 hours in advance, in so far as possible. The committee shall be free to select a bishop for more than one session and to change the presiding officer during the session, whenever it seems advisable. (See Section III.)

#### (7) Reference.

There shall be a committee on Reference of sixteen members, composed of one

clergy and one lay delegate from each jurisdiction, one clergy and one lay delegate from a Central Conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe. The membership of this committee shall include at least one member from each legislative committee. This committee shall be convened, for the purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference the day prior to the opening of the General Conference.

(a) After reviewing the proposed assignments by the Secretary to standing committees of the petitions, resolutions, and similar communications dealing with the regular business of the Conference, this committee shall refer the same to the appropriate legislative committees. (See Section IV.D.) One member of each legislative committee serving on this committee shall be designated to coordinate petitions assigned to his/her respective legislative committee. This committee shall also be responsible for reviewing the assignment, by the Secretary, of all reports, recommendations, and resolutions from general agencies, standing or special commissions and committees, and all other communications which shall come into the Secretary's hands after the convening of the General Conference, all of which shall be referred directly to appropriate legislative committees without presentation to a plenary session of the General Conference.

(b) The Committee on Reference may withdraw a paper that has been assigned to a committee, either upon a request or upon its own motion. It may also withhold from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper.

(c) Where the committee finds two or more substantially identical petitions, it may group them under one title and number, indicating the total number of petitions.

(d) No petitions shall be assigned by the Committee on Reference to any General Conference Committee unless they meet the requirements of the Book of Discipline.

B. Commission on Central Conference Affairs.

(For membership, see Discipline, 2201.)

To this Commission shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the Central Conferences, Autonomous Churches, Affiliated Churches, Affiliated United Churches and Concordant relationships (Discipline, ¶¶26-29, 428, 535-553, 2201.)

The Commission on Central Conference Affairs shall submit its report and any legis-

lative proposals related to the paragraphs assigned to it directly to the General Conference.

If the Commission on Central Conference Affairs has a concern for any paragraphs assigned to one of the legislative committees, the Commission shall offer its recommendation to the appropriate legislative committee for consideration and recommendation to the General Conference.

### C. Standing Legislative Committees.

The General Conference shall have the following standing legislative committees, which shall consider all proposals looking toward new legislation or changes in the present legislation of the church, including all reports and recommendations from general agencies, and standing or special commissions or committees, and report recommendations relating thereto, to the Conference.

Any legislative committee considering legislation affecting the concerns of the Commission on Central Conference Affairs shall consult with the Commission before submitting its proposed legislation to the General Conference.

#### (1) Church and Society.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the Boards of Church and Society.

Discipline paragraphs

628 AC: Board of Church and Society

656 District Director

1001-1011 General Board of Church and Society

#### (2) Conferences.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the composition and activities of the General, Jurisdictional, Annual, Provisional, Missionary, and District Conferences, and Missions, including the Jurisdictional, Annual and District Conference Councils on Ministries. (Legislation relative to Central Conferences shall be referred to the Commission on Central Conference Affairs (see ¶¶ 2201).)

Discipline paragraphs

7-II Constitution: Conferences

12-15 Constitution: General Conference

21-25 Constitution: Jurisdictional Conferences

30-34 Constitution: Annual Conferences

35-39 Constitution: Boundaries

40 Constitution: District Conferences

405-407 Election, Assignment of Bishops

501-510 General Conference (including opening statement)

511-526 Jurisdictional Conference

527-529 Jurisdictional Agencies

528 Jurisdictional Council on Ministries

554-557 Provisional Annual Conferences

558-561 Missionary Conference

562-563 Mission

601-607 Annual Conference

626 AC: Program Organization

649 AC: Committee on Disability Concerns

652-653 District Conference

655 District Program Organization

#### (3) Discipleship.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the Boards of Discipleship.

Discipline paragraphs

270-273 LC: Lay Speaking

274 LC: Lay Missioner

531 Jurisdictional Youth Ministry

Organization Convocation

629 AC: Board of Discipleship

630 AC: Board of Laity

646 AC: Council on Youth Ministry

647 AC: Council on Young Adult Ministry

654 DC: Lay Leader

660 DC: Board of Laity

661 DC: Committee on Lay Speaking

665 DC: Council on Youth Ministry

1101-1106 General Board of Discipleship

1107-1109 GBOD: Education

1110-1114 GBOD: Evangelism, Worship and

Stewardship

1115-1119 GBOD: Ministry of the Laity

1120-1125 GBOD: Curriculum Resources

Committee

1201-1211 National Youth Ministry Organization

#### (4) Faith and Order.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions relating to Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task, Social Principles, the ministry of all Christians and the meaning of ordination and conference membership.

Discipline paragraphs

60-63 Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task

64-70 Social Principles (including preface)

101-103 The Churches

104 The Heart of Christian Ministry

105-107 The Ministry of All Christians

108 The Unity of Ministry in Christ

109 The Journey of a Connectional People

110-111 Servant Ministry and Servant Leadership

112-114 Servant Ministry

115-116 Servant Leadership

117 Called to Inclusiveness

118-120 The Fulfillment of Ministry through the United Methodist Church

301-304 The Meaning of Ordination and

Conference Membership

#### (5) Financial Administration.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the United Methodist Publishing House. The budget and recom-

men da tions pre pared by the Gen eral Coun cil on Fi nance and Ad min is tra tion shall be sub mit ted to this com mit tee for study and re view. There af ter, when the Gen eral Coun cil on Fi nance and Ad min is tra tion pre sents its re port to the Gen eral Con fer ence for ac tion, the com mit tee shall pre sent its re com mend a tions and may pro pose amend ments.

Discipline paragraphs

6 Con sti tu tion: Ti tle to Prop erties  
 20 Con sti tu tion: Re stric tive Rule  
 608-616 AC: Coun cil on Fi nance and Ad min is tra tion  
 617-625 AC: Clergy Sup port  
 636 Epis copal Res i dence  
 637 AC: Board of Pen sions  
 648 AC: Joint Com mit tee on Dis abil ity  
 801-809 Gen eral Coun cil on Fi nance and Ad min is tra tion  
 810-813 GCFA: Gen eral Funds  
 816 GCFA: Spe cial Days Of fer ings  
 817-822 GCFA: Gen eral Funds  
 823-832 GCFA: Epis copal Fund  
 1501-1505 Gen eral Board of Pen sion and Health Ben e fits  
 1506-1509 GBPHB: An nual Con fer ence Pen sion Ad min is tra tion  
 1601-1642 The United Meth od ist Pub lish ing House  
 2501-2523 Church Prop erty  
 2553 Trust ees of Church In sti tu tions  
 (6) Gen eral Ad min is tra tion/Ju di cial Ad min is tra tion.

To this com mit tee shall be re ferred all pe ti tions, re so lu tions, etc., re lat ing to the work and con cerns of the Gen eral Coun cil on Min is tries, in clud ing the Ad vance and Ju di cial Ad min is tra tion.

The re port of the Gen eral Coun cil on Min is tries shall be sub mit ted to this com mit tee for study and re view. There af ter, when the Gen eral Coun cil on Min is tries pre sents its re port to the Gen eral Con fer ence for ac tion, the com mit tee shall pre sent its re com mend a tions and may pro pose amend ments.

Discipline paragraphs

1-4 Con sti tu tion: Gen eral (in clud ing

Preamble)

16-17,19 Con sti tu tion: Re stric tive Rules  
 53-56 Con sti tu tion: The Ju di ci ary  
 57-59 Con sti tu tion: Amend ments  
 266-269 Local Church Spe cial Sun days  
 627 AC: Ad vance Pro gram  
 650 AC: Com mit tee on Na tive Amer i can Min is try  
 651 AC: Com mit tee on Crim i nal Jus tice and Mercy Min is tries  
 701-725 Ad min is tra tive Or der Gen eral Pro vi sions  
 814-815 The Ad vance  
 901-907 Gen eral Coun cil on Min is tries  
 2601-2622 Ju di cial Coun cil  
 2623-2629 In ves ti gation, Tri als and Ap peals

(7) Global Min is tries.

To this com mit tee shall be re ferred all pe ti tions, re so lu tions, etc., re lat ing to the work and con cerns of the Boards of Global Min is tries.

Discipline paragraphs

533 JC: United Meth od ist Women  
 631 AC: Board of Global Min is tries  
 644 AC: United Meth od ist Women  
 663 DC: United Meth od ist Women  
 1301-1311 Gen eral Board of Global Min is tries  
 1312 GBGM: Mis sion Pro gram Areas  
 1313-1316 GBGM: Of fice of Dea con ess  
 1317-1325 GBGM: Women's Di vi sion  
 1326 GBGM: Health and Re lief

(8) Higher Ed u ca tion and Min is try.

To this com mit tee shall be re ferred all pe ti tions, re so lu tions, etc., re lat ing to the work and con cerns of Or dained Min is tries and Su per in ten dency, Higher Ed u ca tion, Schools of The ol ogy, and the Di vi sion of Chap lain cy and Re lated Min is tries.

Discipline paragraphs

18 Con sti tu tion: Re stric tive Rule

43-52 Con sti tu tion: Epis copal Su per vi sion

305-365 Or dained Min is try

401-404 Su per in ten dency

408-416 Su per in ten dency: Bish ops

417-425 Su per in ten dency: Dis trict Su per in ten dency

426-427, 429 Ex pres sions of Su per in ten dency

430-434 Ap point ment-Making

532 JC: Com mit tee on Or dained Min is tries

632 AC: Board of Higher Ed u ca tion and Camp us Min is try

633 AC: Board of Or dained Min is try

634 AC: Ad min is tra tive Re view Com mit tee

635 AC: Com mit tee on Epis copal ity

659 DC: Com mit tee on Or dained Min is try

662 DC: Com mit tee on Dis trict Su per in ten dency

1401-1409 Gen eral Board of Higher Ed u ca tion and Min is try

1410-1412 GBHEM: Di vi sion of Chap lains and Re lated Min is tries

1413-1423 GBHEM: Di vi sion of Higher Ed u ca tion

1424-1426 GBHEM: Di vi sion of Or dained Min is try

1427-1429 GBHEM: Schools of The ol ogy

(9) In de pen dent Com mis sions.

To this com mit tee shall be re ferred all pe ti tions, re so lu tions, etc., re lat ing to com mis sions, and ec u men ical con cerns. This shall in clude Ar chives and His tory, Chris tian U nity and In ter re li gious Con cerns, Com mu ni ca tions, Re li gion and Race, Sta tus and Role of Women, United Meth od ist Men, and mem ber ship or re la tion ship to the World Meth od ist Coun cil, Coun cils and Con sul ta tions of Churches, and the Amer i can Bi ble So ci ety.

Discipline paragraphs

5 Con sti tu tion: Ec u men ical Re la tions

530 JC: Com mis sion on Ar chives and His tory

534 JC: Com mit tee on United Meth od ist Men

638 AC: Com mis sion on Ar chives and History

639 AC: Com mis sion on Chris tian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

640 AC: Com mis sion on Re li gion and Race

641 AC: Com mis sion on Sta tus and Role of Women

642 AC: Com mis sion on Small Mem ber ship Church

643 AC: Com mis sion on Com mu ni ca tions

645 AC: United Meth od ist Men 657 DC: Di rec tor, Eth nic Lo cal Church

Concerns

658 DC: Di rec tor, Re li gion and Race

664 DC: United Meth od ist Men

1701-1712 Gen eral Com mis sion on Ar chives and His tory

1801-1809 Gen eral Com mis sion on Communication

1901-1906 Gen eral Com mis sion on Chris tian Unity and Interreligious Con cerns

2001-2008 Gen eral Com mis sion on Re li gion and Race

2101-2109 Gen eral Com mis sion on Sta tus and Role of Women

2301-2303 Gen eral Com mis sion on United

Methodist Men

2401-2406 Interdenominational Agencies

(10) Lo cal Church.

To this com mit tee shall be re ferred all pe ti tions, res o lu tions, etc., re lat ing to the or ganization of the local church and its mem ber ship, pro grams, boards, coun cils, com mis sions, com mit tees, etc., or re lat ing to local church prop erty.

Discipline paragraphs

41-42 Con sti tu tion: Charge Con fer ences

201-213 Lo cal Church

214-244 LC: Church Mem ber ship

245-262 LC: Or ga ni za tion and Ad min is tra tion

263-265 LC: Gen eral

2524-2552 LC: Prop erty

D. Mem ber ship of Stand ing Leg is la tive Com mit tees.

(1) Each del e gate shall serve as a mem ber of one of the stand ing leg is la tive com mit tees num bered 1 to 10. Within the an nual con fer ence del e ga tion each mem ber shall choose from the leg is la tive com mit tees 1 to 10 the com mit tee on which to serve, the choice be ing made in or der of elec tion. Be gin ning with 1996, the clergy first elected shall be en ti tled to the first choice, the lay del e gate first elected, the second choice, and thus the right of choice shall con tinue to al ter nate be tween clergy and lay del e gates in the or der of their elec tion. For sub se quent Gen eral Con fer ences, first choice shall al ternate between the lay and clergy del e gates, provided that two mem bers of a del e ga tion may not serve on any one of the above-designated stand ing leg is la tive com mit tees 1 to 10 un less the said del e ga tion is rep re sented on each of them. All del e ga tions com posed of eleven or more mem bers shall as sign all mem bers in ex cess of ten ac cord ing to this same prin ci ple of dis tri bu tion. (For example, a con fer ence with six teen del e gates shall have two mem bers on each of any six of these ten com mit tees and one on each of the re main ing four. Sim i larly, a con fer ence with 26 del e gates shall have three mem bers on each of six com mit tees and two on each of the re main ing four. Each del e gate may, in the or der here in in di cated, se lect any one of these ten com mit tees, provided that the fore going di vi sion of the del e gates among the com mit tees is maintained.) Whenever a del e ga tion has more than one mem ber on a leg is la tive com mit tee, its mem bers shall be di vided as equally as pos si ble be tween lay and clergy. Thus, if there are three mem bers on a com mit tee, they shall be two clergy and one lay or vice versa.

(2) If a mat ter is un der con sid er ation in any stand ing leg is la tive com mit tee which in the judg ment of any an nual con fer ence del e ga tion vi tially af fects the in ter ests of its con sti tu ency, and if the said an nual con fer ence is not rep re sented in the mem ber ship of said com mit tee, then the del e ga tion may choose one of its mem bers to rep re sent its an nual con fer ence in the com mit tee when the mat ter judged to be vi tal to the in ter ests of this con sti tu ency is un der con sid er ation. Such a per son shall be en ti tled to sit with the com mit tee while this par ticu lar mat ter is be ing con sid ered and shall be en ti tled to the floor, sub ject to such lim i ta tions as are im posed on the reg u lar mem bers of the com mit tee, but shall not be en ti tled to vote. (See Sec tion VIII.E.4.)

(3) Each person seated in the Gen eral Con fer ence with the right to speak but not vote may submit to the Sec re tary of the Gen eral Con fer ence a choice of a leg is la tive com mit tee and shall have the same right in that com mit tee to speak but not to vote.

E. Meet ing of Com mit tees.

(1) For Or ga ni za tion. All stand ing leg is la tive and ad min is tra tive com mit tees shall meet for or ga ni za tion at such time as the Com mis sion on the Gen eral Con fer ence shall de ter mine. A bishop ap pointed by the Coun cil of Bishops and an as sis tant sec re tary ap pointed by the Sec re tary of the Gen eral Con fer ence shall serve, re spec tively, as chair per son and sec re tary to ef fect an or ga ni za tion in each of the sev eral stand ing com mit tees, ex cept where other pro vi sion is spec i fied. The first meet ing of the leg is la tive com mit tees shall be held as soon as pos si ble fol low ing the first ple nary ses sion of the Gen eral Con fer ence. The or ien ta tion of the com mit tee, fol lowed by the elec tion of of fi cers, shall be the or der of busi ness of the first meet ing of the com mit tee.

(a) The elec tion of chair per son, vice-chair per son, and sec re tary of each stand ing com mit tee, both ad min is tra tive and leg is la tive, shall be by bal lot.

(b) The Sec re tary of the Gen eral Con fer ence shall be re spon si ble for ar rang ing for a train ing ses sion for all chair per sons, vice-chair per sons, and sec re tar ies of leg is la tive com mit tees as soon as pos si ble af ter their elec tions. The train ing shall in clude in struc tion in their du ties, all pro ce dures in the han dling of pe ti tions, the times of the daily dead line for pub lish ing re ports, and other in for ma tion to ex pe dite the work of the com mit tees. The Com mis sion on the Gen eral Con fer ence shall ar range for a time and place for such a train ing ses sion.

(2) Reg u lar Meet ings. The stand ing leg is la tive com mit tees 1 to 10 in clu sive shall meet for busi ness as sched uled by the Agenda and Calendar Com mit tee un less other wise or dered by the Con fer ence, un til their work is com pleted, and at such other times as the com mit tees may de ter mine.

(3) Quo rum for Com mit tee Meet ings. A ma jor ity of the mem bers shall con sti tute a quo rum for the trans ac tion of busi ness in all com mit tees.

(4) Each leg is la tive com mit tee shall es tab lish an area in which only vot ing com mit tee mem bers will be seated. Staff, re source per sons, and vis itors may speak only when au tho rized, in each in stance by

specific committee action. (See Section VIII.D.2.)

(5) Legislative committees are urged to give priority to significant and controversial legislation so that their reports on such matters may be printed as soon as possible in the Daily Christian Advocate and considered by the General Conference.

(6) Minority reports should be encouraged so that differing views held by a significant portion of the committee may be carefully prepared and expressed and the issues clearly defined for decision by the General Conference. Adequate time should be given for the minority to prepare its report and the majority and minority reports shall be printed together in the Daily Christian Advocate (See Rules 33, 34, and 36).

F. Function and Authority Of Committees.

(1) The standing administrative committees, with out specific instruction or direction from the Conference, shall assume responsibility for considering and reporting to the Conference upon all matters which fall within their respective responsibilities. (VIII.A.)

(2) The standing legislative committees may not originate business, but shall consider and report only upon that which is referred to them by the Committee on Reference, or which has been referred to them directly by the Conference and processed by the Committee on Reference. (See Rule 31.)

IX. Proposal Involving Expenditure of Unbudgeted Funds

A. Any proposal submitted to the General Conference to establish an interim or continuing board, commission, committee or task force shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration or its executive committee for a report and recommendation before final action is taken.

The General Council on Finance and Administration or its executive committee shall provide the General Conference with the following before action is taken:

(1) an estimated budget for the proposed board, commission, committee or task force for the next quadrennium; and

(2) a statement explaining how the creation of the proposed board, commission, committee, or task force will affect the budget or budgets for existing boards, commissions, committees and task forces already presented by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

B. Any proposal submitted to the General Conference which involves the expenditure of funds not included in the established budget shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration for advice and recommendation before final action is taken.

X. Delegates' Expense Accounts

A. The report of the chairperson of the respective annual conference delegations shall be the basis for settlement with principal and reserve delegates for their per diem allowances. The total traveling expense including per diem shall be payable to the principal delegate if present and seated. If during the Conference a reserve delegate is seated for a principal delegate for one or more full days, the principal delegate shall adjust the per diem with such reserve on the basis of the time served by each.

B. Full travel expenses and per diem shall be paid for the number of allotted delegates from each conference whether those delegates are principal or reserve.

C. Air travel expense shall be on the basis of the most economical round-trip tourist/coach air fare directly to and from the seat of the General Conference. Special excursion and promotional fares shall be utilized whenever possible. Additional expenses may be allowed delegates from Conferences outside the United States for arrival and departure not to exceed two days before or after General Conference. The per diem expense allowance for all such days before and after General Conference shall be at the same rate as granted delegates during General Conference. Exceptions to these limitations must be approved by the Business Manager of the General Conference.

D. When one or more delegates come in the same automobile, the owner will be allowed the established rate per mile plus the cost of room and meals en route up to the established General Conference per diem rate. Guest passengers who are the principal delegates to the General Conference shall submit only the cost of room and meals en route up to the established General Conference per diem rate. Maximum use of automobiles for travel may not exceed 1,000 miles round-trip, for reimbursement purposes. If automobile travel exceeds 1000 miles round-trip, reimbursement will be based upon the most economical round-trip tourist/coach air fare, or the mileage reimbursement, whichever is less. In all

cases delegates shall report only the actual cost of travel.

E. For the dates General Conference is in session, no General Conference delegate shall receive expense money from the general church or any of its boards and agencies other than approved per diem and travel expenses available to all delegates. This provision is not to restrict official assistance to delegates from their own annual conferences. This shall be commensurate with the General Conference of 2000.

XI. Material to be Included in The Discipline

A. No non-legislative material shall be ordered printed in the Discipline without first referring it to the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for consideration and report to the General Conference for further consideration and final action.

B. The Book Editor, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Publisher of The United Methodist Church, and the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be charged with editing the Discipline. These editors, in the exercise of their judgment, shall have the authority to make changes in phraseology as may be necessary to harmonize legislation without changing its substance. The editors, in consultation with the Judicial Council, shall also have authority to delete provisions of the Discipline which have been ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. Any challenge of a decision made by the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be in writing. If the matter should go to the Judicial Council, the appealing party shall give notice thereof to the Committee. Any established errata in the Discipline shall be forwarded by the United Methodist Publishing House to the Council of Bishops.

XII. Distribution to the Desks of Delegates

After the first day, only the Daily Christian Advocate shall be placed on the desks of the delegates, with additional copies for the first clergy and first lay reserve delegate from each delegation.

XIII. Distribution of Unofficial Material

Daily, periodic, or regular newsletters, or any special interest material published at General Conference by United Methodist boards, agencies, and related United Methodist groups may be distributed under the following conditions:

A. Two copies of each publication shall be deposited in the office of the Com mis-

sion on the General Conference in advance of the time of distribution.

B. Material distributed should be used for information relative to matters that have been before or are coming before the General Conference and not for soliciting membership in an organization.

C. Distribution shall be at least 30 feet outside any entrance door to the plenary or committee meeting rooms.

D. Distribution shall be done by representatives of the publishing groups. Distributors shall be in the smallest number capable of effecting adequate distribution to those entering. During distribution it is the responsibility of the distributors not to impede or interfere with the entrance or exit of persons or to hamper the general flow of pedestrian traffic.

E. Distributors are responsible for the disposal of unused or unclaimed materials.

F. Distributors violating these regulations will be prohibited from future distributions.

#### XIV. Reports to be Mailed

##### Before General Conference

The reports, recommendations, and resolutions, requiring action by the General Conference, as well as petitions submitted in accordance with Discipline 507.7, shall first be assigned a Petition Number by the Secretary of the General Conference or the Petitions Secretary and then shall be printed in an Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate and distributed to all delegates and to the first clergy and first lay reserve delegates at least sixty days prior to the opening of the General Conference. If necessary to meet this deadline, material to delegates from Central Conferences shall be sent by air mail. Such reports shall be printed in the same size and style as the Daily Christian Advocate and be punched for binding.

In order to accomplish this, the finished copy of all such reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the editor of the Daily Christian Advocate at least 150 days prior to the opening of the General Conference. Any such reports and recommendations not so submitted and not printed in an Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate shall be received by the General Conference only upon three-fourths vote of the General Conference. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall be exempt from this requirement to the extent necessary to allow inclusion of general funds receipts in formation for the first

three years of the quadrennium. The General Council on Finance and Administration will provide data including the third year of the quadrennium and other appropriate information to delegates prior to the convening of the General Conference.

## Rules of Order

### I. Daily Schedule

#### Rule 1. Hours of Meetings

The following shall be the daily order for the General Conference, Sunday excepted:

- (1) 8:00 a.m. Choral music
- (2) 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Devotional service under direction of the Council of Bishops
- (3) 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Conference business or committee meetings
- (4) 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Conference business or committee meetings
- (5) 7:30 p.m. Evening programs as planned by the Commission on the General Conference, Conference business or committee meetings

(6) Recess may be called during any plenary session at a time deemed appropriate by the bishop presiding.

#### Rule 2. Order of Business

After the devotional service, the daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) Reports of standing administrative and special committees
- (2) Agenda and calendar items
- (3) Consent calendar (See Rule 28.5 29.5.)
- (4) Miscellaneous business

### II. Presiding Officers

#### Rule 3. Authority of the Chairperson

(1) The bishop presiding shall be the chairperson of the General Conference session.

(2) The bishop presiding shall decide points of order raised by the delegates and shall rule on points of order not raised by delegates, as the chair deems necessary to conform to these rules of order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the Conference by any delegate without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order

here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal shall sustain the chair. (See Rule 27.2) Any delegate who raises a point of order shall cite the rule believed to have been violated.

(3) At the discretion of the bishop presiding a time for prayerful discernment may be taken during deliberation. Such a time should be for personal meditation or for group prayer and shall end at the call of the bishop presiding; at which time normal deliberation shall be resumed.

(4) The bishop presiding shall have the right to recess a session of the General Conference at any time at the chair's discretion and to reconvene at such time as the chair shall announce. The bishop presiding shall also have the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene with only delegates, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such a session following recess.

#### Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order

When the bishop presiding calls the Conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand.

### III. Rights and Duties Of Members

#### Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves

No delegate, unless hindered by sickness or other emergency situation, shall be absent from the sessions of the Conference without permission of the Conference. All absences shall be reported by the chairpersons of the several Annual Conference delegations to the Committee on Credentials on a form provided for this purpose. A reserve delegate may be seated upon authority of the chairperson of the delegation who shall report the substitution in writing to the Committee on Credentials on a form provided for this purpose. Reserves are chosen to be seated:

1. by reason of being of the same order as the absent member,
2. in order of their election as reserve delegates.

If the Committee disapproves the substitution, after consultation with the chairperson of the delegation, it may report to the General Conference with its recommendation. The chairperson of the Committee on Credentials shall make a daily written report to the Secretary of the General Conference, listing all changes of seating. (See Plan of Organization IA.4 and VIII-A.4.)

#### Rule 6. Voting When On The Platform

Electronic voting devices shall be available on the platform for delegates making a presentation to the Conference. Reserves shall not be seated for such delegates.

#### Rule 7. Directions for Securing the Floor

A delegate desiring to speak to the Conference shall hold up the appropriate placard provided for that purpose. A delegate shall not move to the microphone until recognized by the bishop presiding. Unless raising a point of order or parliamentary inquiry, the delegate shall not speak until given the floor. The bishop presiding shall consider the various sections of the auditorium in rotation. The delegate recognized shall proceed to the nearest microphone and shall first announce her or his name and the name of the Conference represented; which in turn, the bishop presiding shall then announce to the Conference.

#### Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker

No delegate who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a misrepresentation, a parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, or to call attention that the time has arrived for a special order.

#### Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech

A. No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question if any delegate who has not previously spoken on the question desires the floor.

B. No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, except as provided in Rule 37.2.

C. No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes unless that time is extended by the Conference. (See Rule 37.3)

D. The three minute limit on delegate speeches may be amended by a majority vote of the Conference at any time and for any period of duration.

#### Rule 10. Point of Order

A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the bishop presiding and say, "I rise to a point of order." The bishop presiding shall interrupt the proceeding; if a delegate is speaking that one shall immediately yield the floor. The bishop presiding shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to state the point as briefly and concisely as possible, citing the rule invoked in the point of order that the delegate shall not presume to decide the question or argue the point.

A point of order is decided by the bishop presiding without debate unless in doubtful

cases the chair submits the question to the body for advice or decision. When the bishop presiding rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed.

#### Rule 11. Bar of the Conference

The bar of the conference shall provide for the integrity of the General Conference. It is for delegates, pages, and others who have been granted access to the area for General Conference business. Delegates are not to distract others near them by engaging in unrelated business activity.

#### Rule 12. Voting Procedure

(1) Voting shall be by electronic means unless otherwise ordered by the Conference, provided, however, that in elections, voting may be by written ballot.

(2) When electronic voting is not in use, a standing count vote or vote by written ballot may be ordered on call of any delegate, supported by one-third of the delegates present and voting.

(3) In the event the electronic voting system is inoperable, the chairpersons of the delegations shall poll their respective delegations.

(4) Only delegates within the bar of the Conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. No delegate shall cast a vote in place of any other delegate.

(5) No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself or such business as the chair may deem appropriate.

#### Rule 13. Division of Question

Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

#### IV. Business Procedure

##### Rule 14. Motion for Adoption of Reports

Whenever a report of a committee signed by the chairperson and secretary is presented to the Conference for action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the Conference without the formality of a second.

##### Rule 15. Required Forms for Reports, Resolution, Motions, Amendments.

All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared in triplicate; and motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing. (See Rules 29.2, 32.2, 34.)

##### Rule 16. Alterations of Motions

When a motion is made and seconded or a resolution is introduced and seconded or a committee report is read or is published in the Daily Christian Advocate, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Conference and may not be altered except by action of the Conference. (See Rule 33.)

##### Rule 17. Nondebatable Motions

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

(1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the Conference finally

(2) To suspend the rules

(3) To lay on the table, except as provided in Rule 37.2

(4) To take from the table

(5) To call for the previous questions (See Rule 23)

(6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 28)

(7) To limit or extend the limits of debate

(8) To take time for prayerful discernment at the immediate moment.

##### Rule 18. Rights of the Main Question

The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to commit or refer, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of except as provided in Rule 12.5. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable.

##### Rule 19. Precedence of Secondary Motions

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

(1) To fix the time the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid on the table.)

(2) To adjourn

(3) To take a recess

(4) To lay on the table

(5) To order the previous question (See Rules 23, 25.)

(6) To limit or extend the limits of debate

(7) To postpone to a given time

(8) To commit or refer

(9) To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being allowed to an amendment)

(10) To postpone indefinitely

**Rule 20. Motion to Adjourn in Order Except:**

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken with out debate and shall always be in order, except:

(1) When a delegate has the floor

(2) When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided

(3) When the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending

(4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened

(5) When the motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending

The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

**Rule 21. Final adjournment shall be sine die; therefore, all unfinished business shall remain unfinished.**

**Rule 22. Tabling Related Motions**

No motion which adheres to an other motion or has an other motion adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they adhere or which adhere to them.

**Rule 23. Previous Question**

Any member who moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If said member does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken with out debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption; if it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies with out

further debate except as provided in Rule 37. (See also Rules 17, 25e, 26.)

**Rule 24. Referring Reports, Etc.**

It shall be in order for the Conference to refer to a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the Conference for consideration of any amendment offered thereto.

**Rule 25. Procedure for Amending by Substitution**

(A) When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for consideration and action, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be offered by any member moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the house and not simply a negation of the main motion.

(B) The Conference shall proceed first to perfect the original report or resolution, including consideration and action upon any amendments which may be offered to it

(C) The same perfecting process shall be followed with respect to the substitute.

(D) The questions shall be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the motion to adopt the report or resolution.

(E) The motion for the previous questions shall not be in order on the adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed substitution until opportunity has been given for at least two members to speak on each side of the question of substitution or adoption. (Also see Rule 36.2 for handling minority reports.)

**Rule 26. Unlawful Motion After Speech**

It shall not be in order for a delegate immediately after discussing a pending question and before relinquishing the floor to make a motion which, if adopted, would limit or stop debate.

**Rule 27. Exceptions to Majority Vote.**

A majority of those voting, quorum being present (Discipline 506), shall decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

(1) One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a recorded vote in case the decision of the chair is challenged. (See Rule 12.2.)

(2) A tie vote sustains the chair. (Rule 3.2.)

(3) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 39) or amend (Rule 40) the rules; to set aside a

special order (Rule 29.1); to consider a special order before the time set there for; to sustain the request of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges for the presentation of any person after the sixth day of the General Conference. (Plan of Organization VIII.A.3.)

(4) A call for the previous question is a motion to suspend the rules and therefore requires a two-thirds vote.

(5) A two-thirds vote shall be required to approve a proposal for a constitutional amendment. (Discipline, 57-59.)

**Rule 28. Reconsideration**

A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed for reconsideration was non-debatable, the motion to reconsider shall be non-debatable. (See Rule 17.)

**Rule 29. Regular Calendar and Consent Calendar**

(1) The Secretary shall keep the Calendar which includes the orders of the day and the reports of committees (See Rule 33). Business placed on the calendar shall be considered in the order recommended by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, unless by two-thirds vote of the Conference, an item is taken up out of order. (See Rule 27.3.)

(2) When a committee presents a report, it shall also list the numbers of all petitions relating to the report on which the committee voted non-concurrence so that all related matters may be considered together. (See Rules 31.3, 32, 34.)

(3) Action from a legislative committee shall be placed on the Consent Calendar if:

(a) No more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position in the Committee;

(b) The item has been previously printed in the Daily Christian Advocate;

(c) The item has been in the hands of delegates for at least 24 hours; and

(d) The item is neither a constitutional amendment nor one having financial implications.

(4) The Daily Christian Advocate shall clearly identify the Consent Calendar which will list items in three sections sub-headed as follows:

(a) Discipline Changes Concurrence

(b) Non-Discipline Items Concurrence

(c) Discipline and Non-Discipline Items  
Nonconcurrency

(5) The Consent Calendar shall be called up daily pursuant to Rule 2. Adoption of the Consent Calendar by vote of the Conference shall be deemed action on all calendar items on the Consent Calendar.

(6) Any five delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by having such a request on file with the Secretary by 3:00 p.m. of the day the calendar item first appears in the Daily Christian Advocate. Such items shall be called up in the regular order of business.

Rule 30. Rules of Order of Legislative Committees

The rules of order of the General Conference, except for Rule 37, shall be observed in meetings of standing legislative committees in so far as they apply.

Rule 31. Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees

(1) Following election and orientation of officers, as its first order of business, each committee shall utilize the resources of its legislative coordinator (see Committee on Reference). Each committee shall evaluate the petitions as signed to the committee, establish priorities, and outline the committee's work on the basis of those priorities unless it is given special instructions by the General Conference. (See Plan of Organization VIII.A.(7)(a).)

(2) When a petition or resolution or any similar item is referred to one of the several standing legislative committees, it shall be understood that the whole question with which the paper has to do is referred to that committee for such action as it may deem wise. In addition to concurrence and non-concurrence, a committee may recommend action or referral to the next General Conference or to a board, council, commission, or committee either for action or for report to the next General Conference.

(3) Committees shall report to the Conference upon all matters referred to them by the Conference, directly or through the Committee on Reference. Committee reports on resolutions, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by numbers they bear respectively in the published reports of the Committee on Reference or in some other suitable manner.

(4) When a committee ascertains that another committee is, or in its judgment should be, considering a subject which the former is considering, it shall report the matter to the Committee on Reference for

such adjustment as the situation may require.

Rule 32. Legislative Committee Report to the Daily Christian Advocate

(1) As quickly as material can be prepared, each secretary of a standing legislative committee shall present each of the committee's reports to a recorder as signed to the committee. The recorder will prepare the report and send it to the Daily Christian Advocate. A copy of the report as it will appear in the Daily Christian Advocate will be sent to the chair and vice chair for their approval and signature. After copy has been approved, it will be returned to the Daily Christian Advocate. A calendar number will be assigned and it will be printed as approved.

(2) Committee and minority reports which propose changes in the Discipline shall give chapter, section, and paragraph to be affected and shall be prepared in the following manner.

Existing words used as reference points shall be in quotation marks; words to be deleted shall be single-underscored; words to be added shall be double-underscored. In the publication of these reports, the Daily Christian Advocate shall substitute italics for single underscoring and boldface for double underscoring. (See Rule 34.)

Rule 33. Published Reports in Possession of Conference

Reports submitted by the committee according to the deadline, as announced by the Secretary of the Conference, shall appear in the next day's Daily Christian Advocate. The report as printed in the Daily Christian Advocate becomes the official copy, subject only to grammatical or other obvious editorial changes and shall be regarded as in the possession of the Conference. On the day following its first appearance in the Daily Christian Advocate or any time thereafter, a report is in order for consideration at the pleasure of the conference. The same rule shall apply to a report of a minority of any committee. (See Rules 16, 36.)

Rule 34. Preparation and Printing of Reports

(1) All committee reports shall be presented to the Daily Christian Advocate on a form provided therefor and using a process approved by the Secretary of the Conference. The form shall bear at the top the name of the committee, its total membership, the number present at the time the report was adopted, the number voting for and against the report, respectively, and the

number voting. (See Rule 15, 29.2, 31.3, 32.)

(2) Consent Calendar items (see Rule 29.3, 4) shall be clearly marked with an identifying symbol on the report cover and in the Daily Christian Advocate printing, this symbol to be supplied by the General Conference Secretary.

(3) Reports of the standing legislative committees shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate at least one day before being presented for consideration by the Conference. Committee reports to which minority reports are appended shall be printed in sequence, and so numbered.

(4) Every effort should be made by the secretary of the Legislative Committee to report consecutively all petitions which address the same issue.

Rule 35. Committee Chairperson Not in Harmony with Report

When the chairperson of a committee is not in harmony with a report adopted by the committee, it shall be the chairperson's duty to state the fact to the committee. The committee shall elect one of its members to present it in the presentation and discussion of the report in the Conference. If, in such a case, the committee shall fail to select a representative, the chairperson shall designate a member to represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such report.

Rule 36. Minority Report

(1) Minority reports represented as substitutes for a committee report shall conform to Rule 25 and Rule 32 respectively and indicate the specific report number with which it relates. The names of the members of the committee signing the report shall be indicated. A minority report shall be signed by one-tenth or by ten members of the committee, whichever is the lesser.

(2) A minority report shall be processed as a substitution for the report of the committee pursuant to Rule 25 as would any other substitute.

(3) The signers of the minority report shall select one of their number to present the report. This person shall have the same rights and privileges as the chairperson in the presentation of the committee report. In closing debate on the minority report, the member presenting the minority report shall speak first and the chairperson last.

Rule 37. Speakers For and Against

(1) When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of the bishop presiding to ascertain, when recognizing a member of the Conference, on which side the member proposes to speak; the chair shall not assign the floor to any member proposing to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any member desires to speak on the other side thereof.

(2) Except for undebatable motions (Rule 17), no report shall be adopted or question relating to the same decided without opportunity having been given for at least two speeches for and two against the said proposal. After three speeches for and three against and provided no secondary motions come before the floor, the questions shall be put automatically. However, the chairperson and/or duly authorized member or members presenting the committee's report (and the minority report chairperson or representative if there be one) shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. (See Rule 36.)

(3) The right of the chairperson and/or other member or members to close the debate shall prevail in like manner to a limit of three minutes when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, or to lay on the table or any other motion whose adoption would vitally affect the report under consideration. (See Rules 9, 36.)

#### Rule 38. Effective Date

All legislation of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church shall become effective January 1 following the session of the General Conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified. (See Discipline 508.)

#### VI. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing

##### Rule 39. Suspension of the Rules

The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization or of these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by two-thirds vote of the Conference. (See Rule 27.3.)

##### Rule 40. Amending Rules

The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the Conference; provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to this committee, which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day. (See Rule 27.3 and Plan of Organization VII.B.)

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as adopted at the opening session shall be printed in the next Daily Christian Advocate.

##### Rule 41. Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority

In any parliamentary situation not covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the General Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

##### Rule 42. Persons Without Right to Make or Second a Motion

A person seated in the conference with the right to speak, but without vote, does not have the right to make a motion or second motions.

##### Connectional Process Team Presentation Plan

We propose that the Connectional Process Team (CPT) Report come before the General Conference in the following manner:

1. The Connectional Process Team will present its report to the General Conference

in plenary session on Wednesday morning, May 3, as an order of the day.

2. Following this presentation, the delegates to General Conference will be divided into 25 randomly selected non-legislative groups for reflection and dialogue on the CPT report.

3. Each group will meet for 90 minutes guided by a convener bishop selected by the Council of Bishops.

4. Each group will be provided a recorder who is a non-delegate.

5. On Wednesday evening, May 3, the conveners and recorders will meet to compare experiences and to identify areas of consensus with, dissent from, or questions about the CPT report and proposals.

6. On Thursday evening, May 4, immediately following the opening worship, the conveners and recorders will provide the General Conference with a written summary of the small group meetings.

7. Following time to read the written report, the General Conference will enter into a time of prayerful discernment to ask the Holy Spirit to give the Conference the mind of Christ and make clear the will of God for our Church on this issue.

8. On Friday, May 5, following the Africa Committee Report, the floor of the conference shall be open for debate upon amendments to or other action upon the report as the conference shall direct. This action shall proceed any legislative committee action upon specific petitions related to the CPT report.

8. Petitions related to the CPT report as assigned to the appropriate legislative Committees will follow the legislative process in accordance with the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order adopted by the General Conference.

## Proceedings of the 2000 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

# “We Who Are Many . . . Are One Body”

### Communion Meditation

by Bishop Robert C. Morgan

#### Mark 5:1-20

*[The beginning of this address is in audio on the audio tape.]*

[The demoniac is] barely a human being. He is exiled to the graveyard, to the place where only silence and the dead reside. How many people is he? How many voices come from him? He is many, so very many, that he seems a monster who can not be understood or cared for by other people. For Jesus sees this man as we do, bruised and tattered, and twisted. Jesus hears the voices of the legion, but Jesus also sees something else. For when Jesus gazes upon him, he sees what no one else can see. He sees the one loved and blessed child of God whom this poor man once had been. Jesus sees Legion, not as he is, but as he can be again, whole and restored to life. Jesus sees him as God has created him, before the demons had come. So after Jesus had instructed the demons to come out of him, he asked the man his name, gave him a chance to speak, to give the name by which he is known. But the response comes from even more demons: “We are called Legion,” they cried, “for we are many in this one man.”

Well, is it possible to see our selves in this gospel account, dear friends, as a people, as a General Conference, as a church? Here we gather at this General Conference to discuss, to debate, to share, and—yes—to struggle, of ten with each other, we who are many. Now when the world watches us—and be sure, the world watches us—do we appear as Christ sees us, whole and blessed? When the world listens to us, do our voices sound as Christ would hear us? Do our words seem faithful and committed to him, loving and supportive of one another? Are we the one, the loved body of Christ our Lord? Or do we appear as the demoniac in the graveyard, talking inces-

santly, filled with a thousand conflicting voices, filled with anger, filled with rage?

Well, there’s a hopeful promise for us in this gospel lesson. When we find ourselves trapped, as was this man, Jesus stands among the tomb stones. Where we’re hiding, bruised and shaken, he hears us as we raise our many voices to each other. He is with us in this place and will hear our every word. Let us invite him, now, to touch us so our exile among the dead can be ended. When Christ touched the man who was Legion, he was restored, and his many voices were healed and harmonized into a beautiful voice with only one word to share. The Savior tells a man, now healed, “Go back and tell your friends of what the Lord has done for you and what mercy has been shown you.” Once possessed of a thousand voices, now a single messenger remains: Tell the world what God has done for you and what mercy has been shown you.

As we gather for the General Conference, we’ll come to the Table of the Lord and we will celebrate Eucharist to remind ourselves—no, more than that—to claim our identity. The theme of our conference is “We who are many are one body” in Christ. Do we need to remind our selves that we are many? Did you see that opening procession? We come from all over the world! We speak multiple languages. We differ in theological opinions. And we represent different cultures. We who are gathered here are many, but we’re gathered here as one body. This is Christ’s vision for us. Don’t forget it. For the Christian family, unity is both a gift given and an ideal we seek. Diversity is a gift of God as well, not to be managed, manipulated, but to claim.

Early in the epistle to the Ephesians, Paul makes clear the source of our unity. He

sounds the primary evangelical protestant core doctrine of justification by grace through faith. The gentle readers, the first readers of the epistle, receive Paul’s words with great joy. The way is now open for all. Those who were far off and those who are near have been reconciled, brought into one body by the cross. All now have access by the Spirit to the Father. See, unity is a gift to those who have been reconciled to God through Christ. Dear friends, Christ is our peace. Our unity is a gift but is also a promise to be claimed.

Oh, what a challenge! What a challenge as we come together! Some believe our unity appears to be fragile, but not because his gift is not complete and to tally sufficient. We must claim it and live in it. But as Jesus looked past the demons, he saw a person, whole and healthy. And he looks at us, and we can look at each other and see each other for who we are. We can look past all divisions to see a brother’s face, a sister’s face, even the face of our beloved, the face of Jesus Christ. Oh, all of us gathered in this place are precious to him. Christ would not stifle any one’s voice, for through our voices comes the Spirit. We would hear everyone’s voice in this body who, in conviction and faith, offers an opinion or a plea before this conference.

Now am I talking about unity at any cost? Well, we know this: Christ paid our cost, and there is never a time for drawing a line in the sand. We must remember that if Jesus drew in the sand, it would not be a line, but it’d be a circle; it would be a circle. Friends, the crucified Christ paid the highest cost to draw a circle around all of us.

In June, 1998, an article about one of our Kentucky Methodist congregations appeared on the front page of the *Wall Street*

*Journal.* It was about a church, Bryantsville, a small rural church just south of Louisville. They had dug deep into their pockets to buy a 93-year-old farmhouse to be used as a parsonage. But buried deep into the fine print of the deed—and unknown to the church before the purchase—was a valuable commodity, a permit to grow 1,850 pounds of burley tobacco. Well, this meant a generous financial dividend for the church, and what began with excitement grew into a painful dispute over emphysema, and cancer, and the responsibilities of churchgoing Christians regarding tobacco. Well, in Bryantsville, the debate was primarily between a majority of the congregation and just one family. Both groups were devoted to their church, and both [were] profoundly opposed to the other's position.

The young student pastor, James Williams, student at Asbury, along with the vast majority of the congregation, never doubted what the church should do. They said, "We just can not be in the business of raising a crop that is harmful to people's health." Well, Grover Drew, a wonderful man in the church, a member of the church all of his life—and a tobacco farmer himself—bristled at the very idea that the church would not rent or sell their tobacco allotment, and his position was, "We will rent or sell the allotment or I'll look for me another church."

Well, for many in the church, Mr. Drew was drawing that line in the sand. An administrative board meeting was called, and they decided to pray over the issue and study the Social Principles to discern God's will, and after the study and many long discussions and prayers, the church members finally reached the conclusion that they would rather—they would not sell and they would not rent the allotment. They determined that the church would not profit from this tobacco allotment.

Well, Mr. Drew and his wife were the only ones who voted against it. The young pastor and the congregation were very anxious. They were worried whether or not Mr. Drew would return. Well, their anxieties were sort of relieved the following Sunday morning when Grover and his wife pulled up in the church yard in his pickup truck. He seemed to be in a good mood. James said that Mr. Drew never said a whole lot. He was always cheerful and smiling and supportive, and each week, the only words he ever heard him say, he would walk up to him and shake his hand and say to him something like this: "That was a mighty fine sermon, Brother Jim, and I do hope you have a good week." But someone said to him as he got out of his pickup truck in the parking lot, "We were afraid that you'd be

mad and you would not come back to the church." And Grover quickly responded, "Shucks, I'm not goin' to let a little tobacco come between me and the people I care about."

Well, when the worship service was concluded and people gathered on the church steps, Grover came up to the young preacher, smiled, and extended his hand, and said, "That sure was a mighty fine sermon, Brother Jim," and the people relaxed because they knew all was well with Grover.

At some point, we need to understand that living together in the bond of love is God's will for us. Unity's a precious thing. In fact, unity is the gift that is ours, through our salvation and Baptism. It is our unity in Christ that is the miracle that makes us strong! Without it, we will have lost each other, and we should not be willing to lose one. The question might very well be: Can we have unity without uniformity? Well, once Christ's saving hand has touched us, and once our conversations are over and the Holy Spirit has led us—once his commandment to go out into all the world has sent us from here—our mission beyond these walls is sacred. We are to spare the world our differences. Once our struggles to decide are over, once our decisions have been made, once each voice has been heard and weighed, we must allow the hand of Jesus to touch us, heal our hurts, and give us one voice with which we are then sent out to tell the world one thing—one thing, one simple, holy thing—we're to tell the world what God has done for us and what mercy has been shown us in Christ Jesus.

Oh, the blood of Jesus Christ brought us who were once far off near. Nothing else can give life to a desperate world. Nothing else can heal our world but the mercy of God. Not our doing, not our debating, not our striving. To the world that watches us, listens to us, strains to understand us, let us only speak of this one thing: speak of the mercy Christ has shown us, tell and demonstrate that we who were once aliens and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope without God in the world, now in Jesus Christ have been redeemed and made one body with one mission—to share his saving grace with all the world and make of the whole world disciples in Jesus Christ.

Hear me friends, this must be our primary focus for the General Conference, and it is this mission and the strategies for fulfilling this mission that should require the overwhelming amount of our attention during these days.

Elizabeth (*unintelligible middle name*) Pitts, a member of the Duke University faculty, has given me the permission to tell you about her older sister, Mary Blair. Beth claims that it was her sister who taught her what it meant to be loved of God. Mary Blair is mentally retarded and has lived in a special home for the mentally retarded for over 40 years. Beth tells how her brother, Carl, who had not seen Mary Blair in over 25 years, decided that he would overcome his distaste for hospitals and travel down to Gracewood near Augusta, Georgia, to visit her. Carl was about two years older than Mary Blair, and he had not seen her since she was 11 and he was 13, and now they were both in their early forties. You need to know that Mary Blair does not have language, and her mind is frozen at about 18 months. Her life consisted of enjoying music and food and sunlight on a swingset. So Carl had no idea whether Mary Blair would even recognize him when he came to see her after so many years apart. Beth said that when Carl and the parents were there in the hospital unit, they sat around and talked together while Mary Blair, as always, watched and rocked and listened from the bed. But all the time, she was staring at Carl, that forty-something-looking man with graying hair and widening midsection and a beard on his face. And she stared at him for a long time. Then she suddenly did something extraordinary. She got out of her bed and went over to him, she grabbed him by the wrist and started dragging him toward the door and down the hall. And Beth says that she can be very persuasive when she wants something. So he went with her, and the mother and the father followed as she led him into the patient lounge near the nurse's station, which was really little more than a glass booth with a television set and a long, vinyl sofa. Once in the room, Mary Blair sat on the sofa in front of the TV, and she pulled Carl down next to her so that they were sitting side by side. In that action, Mary Blair had said every thing she needed to say. She had made it abundantly clear to all of them that she had recognized Carl and she knew who he really was. He was not just some forty-something-year-old man, some strange, gray-haired person. She had seen past the weight and the tracks of life upon his face. She saw the boy she had once sat next to on a sofa back at home. Here was a little boy with whom she had watched TV so long ago in childhood. She knew that the man who came to see her was once, and was still, the boy who was her brother.

This is how Jesus saw Legion—not as he was, but as he could be again, whole and restored to life. Jesus saw him as God created

him, before the demons had come. Jesus looked past the actions of a shattered man to see him as he once was and could be again. And that happens to us, over and over again, as we come to the Table of the Lord. Here in this place we will hear God's message of grace and mercy. Jesus will take us by the hand in this place, at this moment, and lead us to the table, and we will remember who we really are and who our sisters and brothers are. This is the table he has prepared with his own bleeding hands, and we are his guests. This is the table he has set to bring us home to one another, to make us whole and set us free. But be ware, hear me, be ware all who come here, look around at those who are with you as you come. No body deserves it, but all of us are here. Are we not all here? The one with whom you agree and the one with whom you disagree. There are those whose faces are different color, the ones who hear the gospel in different accents. We need each other to hear the fullness of the gospel.

Unity does not mean sameness. Whoever comes to the table of Christ must be reminded that we did not make up the guest list, because we're all a guest, adopted children. Every one must agree to be a sister or a brother to all others, because what we cele-

brate here is the only thing that gives us unity, and that is the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and the reminder of his resurrection and living presence with us as his body, the church.

Barbara Brown Taylor has said that no matter how much we may mess things up, some things are going to keep turning out all right, because we are not in charge. Although to come to this table is to come confessing our sins and receiving Christ's forgiveness, an activity we're not in charge of. As Paul said once, we've come here—to this table, that is—once we have received his saving grace, we're all brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Here, Legion will give way to Jesus, and we will arise and speak only of God's mercy and what great things have been done for us. Oh, if you would be healed, if you will be a source of healing for a broken world, if you will be a dynamic of healing as we move through these days of General Conference, come to the table. Here you will find bread for the wilderness and wine for the journey. Here the claim of Christ will be laid upon you again to be his body, to speak his Word, to be his presence of love and mercy in a world that never more desperately needed it.

Now hear the epistle, once more, just some brief verses. From the pen of Eugene Peterson, let me read this paraphrase.

In the light of all this—the fourth chapter of Ephesians—in the light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anybody strolling off down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline; for not in fits and starts, but steadily pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences, you are all called to travel in the same road and in the same direction. So stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one master, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Every thing you are and think and do is permeated with one-ness.

Oh, if we have heard these words so that they take root in our hearts and change the way we live our lives, then they will become for us and all who know us truly the words of the living God. Amen.

## Proceedings of the 2000 General Conference

May 2, 2000

**BISHOP ROBERT C. MORGAN** (Louisville): We're a little behind, but we're going to catch up if you'll take your seats. All right, if you'll come to order. It's been a wonderful, celebrative afternoon and we're now ready to do a little bit of business. Once again, the delegates would please take their places. When you are in your places, I'll call you to order and we'll begin. All right, if I might have your attention. By the grace of God, we're here and the General Conference 2000 of The United Methodist Church will come to order.

*Let us pray.*

*(prayer)*

Well, you have noticed that we are long halls. I feel that I'm sitting under a goalpost at this end and the people from the Holston conference, North Carolina conference, I know that you're back there. I know you're back there and Oklahoma, I know you're back there. And we got these wimps up here in the front row from Western Pennsylvania and Central New York, you know. If you'll start putting your tithes in like they do, back

in the back, we'll move you forward, and so on. Oh, it's a great . . . We come from all over this world to meet and what a delight it is. So we must move now to get organized. Now turn to Carolyn Marshall, the secretary of the General Conference to help us along.

**CAROLYN MARSHALL:** Bishop Morgan, one announcement needs to be made before we begin that part, and that is a request that all bishops and presidents of autonomous affiliated, autonomous concordat Methodist churches sitting as delegates come to the front of the stage on your left in order that you may be introduced quite soon.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** May I interrupt even here with that announcement to say that there was an omission in the memorial service and we failed to list Wilma Frank. There's always that, and I know you'll want to add that family to your prayers. Excuse me, Carolyn. I meant to do that first.

*Roll Call Procedures*

**CAROLYN MARSHALL:** As we begin the conference, we would like to have everyone know that the rolls will be taken

from the registrations which each of you have done; that Bishop Rader, who is Secretary of the Council of Bishops, will provide the roll call for the Council of Bishops; Sally AsKew that for the Judicial Council; Dave Lundquist, general secretary of the General Council on Ministries for general agencies; chairpersons of delegations and chairpersons of delegations of the affiliated autonomous and united churches for their delegations.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** All right, roll call has been cared for. Turn now to Bishop William Grove who is the ecumenical officer who represents us in the ecumenical community around the world of the Council to come and present the affiliated autonomous church representatives.

**BISHOP WILLIAM B. GROVE** (Retired): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have seated in our conference and as part of our family for these two weeks, representatives, delegates from other Methodist churches throughout the world and we're happy to welcome them now. First, I would like to ask Bishop Elias Galvan and Bishop Joel Martinez to come forward, present to you

bishops and presidents from other Methodist churches and then I will present delegates.

**BISHOP WILLIAM GROVE:** We are a world-wide Methodist family. Every time we gather as a General Conference we welcome and have fellowship with our sisters and brothers from around the world. We are blessed as we gather in Cleveland with the participation again of our colleagues, bishops, and presidents of churches of autonomous, autonomous-affiliated, and concordant churches from around the world. In the language of Benito Juárez and Cervantes, *desde lejos han llegado, y Dios los ha traído con bien*. Thanks be to God; you have come a long way, and God has brought you safely here.

Our Council of Bishops rejoices in welcoming our colleagues to Cleveland and to this General Conference. I will now call on my colleague Bishop Galvan who will read the name of the church that our colleagues preside over and lead, and then each colleague will introduce himself or herself and then Bishop Morgan will greet them on behalf of the Council.

*Guests from Autonomous Churches*

**ELIAS GALVAN:** Yes, I would like to present some of our bishops from some of our autonomous Methodist churches. From the Methodist Church of Argentina, Obispo Aldo Echegoyén. From the Methodist Church of Brazil, Bishop Paulo Lockman of the Rio de Janeiro Conference. From the Methodist Church of Bolivia (not here). From the Methodist Church of Chile, Obispo Naftali Aravena. From the United Evangelical Church of Ecuador, Obispo Salomon Cabezas, *por la gracia de Dios*. From the Church of China, Bishop Philip Seng. From the Church of Samoa, Faatooese Auvaa, president of the Methodist Church of Samoa. Thank you for being here sir. From the Evangelical Methodist Church of Costa Rica, Obispo Luis Palomo. From the Evangelical Church of Spain, Enrique Capul de Bajelora. Thank you for being here. From the Methodist Church of Hong Kong—Greetings from Hong Kong, it's good to see you here—thank you, it's been awhile. From the Methodist Evangelical Church of Italy, Pastore Valdo Benecchi. From the Methodist Church of Kenya, Bishop Zabon John Nthamburi. Thank you for being here. From the Methodist Church of the Union of Myanmar, Bishop U. Maung Than, known as Burma before. From the Evangelical Methodist Church of Nicaragua, Rueben Vak. From the Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama, Obispo Pedro Arauez. From the Methodist Church

of Peru Jorge Figeroa. From the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Bishop Elmer Bolocon. From the Iglesia Metodista Evangelica, Obispo Irineu Cunha. Thank you for being here. The Evangelical Methodist Church of Uruguay, Beatriz Ferrari, President of the Methodist Church in Uruguay. Thank you for being here. President of Semial, Bishop Isaias Gutierrez. Bishop, thank you for being here, God bless you. [He] is the president of the Council of Methodist Churches in Latin America, Mr. Gutierrez. President of the Methodist Church of Fiji. [Representative] Greetings from the Methodist Church in Fiji. We're glad you're here. From the United Church of the Dominican Republic Rev. Alejandro Theodor. Welcome, thank you for being here. From the United Church of Japan, (representative). Thank you for being here.

Will you greet the friends?

*[applause]*

*A Prayer for Bishop Mendez and Puerto Rico*

**BISHOP MARTINEZ:** One of our colleagues from the Affiliated Autonomous Church of Puerto Rico is not with us today. Bishop Juan Vera Mendez, who is a part of the Council of Bishops, is on the island of Vieques which is a municipality of the commonwealth a few miles from the main island in the midst of a peaceful ecological protest in the restricted zone of the naval bombing range on that island. He has sent greetings to the council earlier in the week, requesting our prayers for himself, the Methodist church, and the ecological colleagues and leaders who join together in solidarity in that peaceful protest. You have been reading and seeing in the media, the various media, the imminent confrontation that is likely to happen there. We would ask on behalf of Bishop Vera Mendez and other ecological leaders that we hold them in our prayers, in our thoughts during these hours and during these days of general conference. Mr. President, I hope that the appropriate prayer might be offered in the midst of our colleagues here on behalf of Bishop Vera Mendez and the church in Puerto Rico.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** And Bishop Martinez, I ask you now, while you're here, to offer that prayer for not only our brother the bishop but for all of our Methodist friends in Puerto Rico, especially on the island of Vieques.

**BISHOP MARTINEZ:** Let us pray.

*(prayer)*

**BISHOP MORGAN:** Amen. Thank you, Bishop. Turn back now to Carolyn Marshall . . . Bill, microphone 3.

*Concordat Relationships*

**BISHOP WILLIAM BOYD GROVE:** We have relationships, which we call concordat relationships with three churches, and we want to recognize those churches. The Methodist Church in Great Britain, which is the mother church of world Methodism and The United Methodist Church have a some what unique relationship in that we have two voting delegates annually in their conference and they have four voting delegates annually in our—quadrennially—in our general conference. The leader of their delegation is not at the present time a president, although he has been president of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, but he is secretary of conference, Reverend Nigel Collinson, and with the other delegates from Great Britain—they're seated in section D, row 2, and we'll ask them in just a moment to stand, but not until I also mention the others. We have a concordat relationship with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas—they're seated in section A, row 9—and the Methodist Church in Mexico—they're seated in section A, row 5. The affiliated autonomous delegates are seated in the back, and I'm told the only reason for that has to do with the voting machines and the placement of voting machines since those delegates do not have votes. But I would like to ask that the delegates from the 3 concordat church that I mentioned—Great Britain, Caribbean and the Americas, and Mexico—to stand, and the delegates from the Affiliated Autonomous Churches—the churches have already been named as your bishops and presidents were presented—if you would all stand, and we'll ask the President of the Council of Bishops to welcome you formally on behalf of the Council of Bishops, on behalf of the General Conference, and then the conference will greet you. Bishop Morgan.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** Yes, we see them here. What a joy it is have you. We welcome you.

*(applause)*

**BISHOP MORGAN:** The other day I preached for Bishop Nathaniel Lindsay at *(unidentifiable)* Memorial Church in Louisville at the occasion of their conference, several states in the CME church, and as I was leaving to go over there, my wife, Martha, said, "Where are you going?" and I told

her, and she said, “Oh, they’re our cousins.” I said, “No, they’re not our cousins, they’re our brothers and sisters.” And all of you are brothers and sisters with us in this family, and we are honored with your presence this day, in deed. Now, I turn now to Carolyn to set the bar of the conference.

**CAROLYN MARSHALL:** Bishop Morgan, the bar of the conference has been established as those seats at the tables on the floor of the convention hall. There are voting boxes and places for the delegates who would have them, as well as the several places on the platform for persons with responsibility here, and in order that they would be able to vote at that time.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** All right, if you’ll make that the bar of the conference, please show the hand, please. Down, closed, and it is so ordered. Now, I turn to Bishop Jonathan Keaton, our marvelous host here in Cleveland, in the East Ohio Conference, and he is going to bring some words of greeting and make some introductions. We welcome—I think you ought to welcome—Bishop Keaton.

#### *Local Officials’ Greetings*

**BISHOP KEATON:** I have asked Dr. Julius Trimble and Dr. Kenneth Chalker to join me while I share these words of welcome. Welcome to Cleveland, Ohio. I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus’ name is above every name. For at that name every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Special greetings come from three other names today, my predecessor, Bishop Edwin C. Boulton, receives you with a holy kiss from his sick bed in Muirfield, Ohio. Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker extends hospitality to every one. It is warm and it is compassionate. Ken chairs our area host committee, East Ohio Area host committee. All things that you find in this information guide, all things, are the fruit of his dedicated leadership and the committed work of the committee. If you look through this information guide you will see what I call sign acts. You will see what I call *kairos* opportunities, places where you will meet the Christ. Taste and see. Some already have.

Now there is another name to my right, notably, Dr. Julius C. Trimble. He is the superintendant of the Cleveland district. He commands the mission and ministry there, and of course, the current home of the General Conference is on his district. Let me tell you something about Julius Trimble. No one loves the urban church more. His love for the city is holy and bold. But more importantly, he is known by the salutation,

“Be encouraged.” We’ll need a lot of that this week and next.

We are glad that you’re here. All of East Ohio rejoices that you are here. And you know what? We’ll be happy to see you go. (*laughter, applause*) But we’ll be happy to see you go to the exciting five-star concert where the home of the Cleveland Orchestra is, Severance Hall. Remember, Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We want you to go on the tours where possible, learn about our history and engage our diversity. We want you to go and build one of three Habitat for Humanity houses for low-income families. We want you to use your hands, we want you to use your feet, and we want you to use your heart. We want you to go to all of your meetings—morning, noon, and night. Make your witness known. Yes, we’ll be glad to see you go.

Here’s the last paragraph. Just over 192,000 United Methodists, 774 active clergy, 402 retirees, 830 churches comprise East Ohio Annual Conference. Some of them are here to serve you. Call on us for assistance. We shall try to be the best host and hostesses possible. But I want you to do me a favor: Eat our cookies.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** You can count on it!

**BISHOP KEATON:** Eat our cookies. I want you to feast on them. For cookies are coming to this convention hall from the ovens of the entire Ohio East area. But now listen to this. I want you to consider our cookies a reminder of common elements used for Holy Communion. Thank you, Lord. As with Christ, we have spread the table. As with Christ, we have de sired to sup with you. As with Christ, we have longed for your presence, and now you are gathered here. Finally, we have realized the universal presence called the church. That leads me to two thoughts. One, thank you, Jesus. But more importantly, welcome home. We who are many are one body. May it be so, on this earth as it is in heaven. In the name of Jesus the Christ, welcome.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** We’re so grateful to East Ohio. We discovered something last night, man; they know how to throw a party, don’t they? That was some more bash, and we’re grateful for the good fellowship and the good food. Now I turn to Mollie Stewart, who is the chair of the Commission on the General Church, to make their report.

**MOLLIE STEWART:** Good afternoon. To Bishop Robert Morgan, and members of the Council of Bishops, delegates, officials, and visitors. On behalf of the Commission on the General Conference, we extend

greetings and welcome to each of you. We welcome you to the conference, which meets for the first time in the twenty-first century. We especially welcome those who are attending General Conference for the first time as elected delegates and reserve delegates. And I’m going to take a prerogative now—all of the first-timers stand, whether you are reserve or the official elected delegates. (*applause*)

**BISHOP MORGAN:** Mollie, it’s obvious that it’s adjournment time, and we need to extend that time. Carolyn Marshall, do you have a suggestion for the body?

**CAROLYN MARSHALL:** Bishop Morgan, I would move

**BISHOP MORGAN:** We need Carolyn’s mike, secretary’s mike,

**MARSHALL:** Bishop Morgan, I would move that we extend the time until 5:30, or until 5:15, that we organize legislative committees at 5:30, and that the training sessions for chairs, vice-chairs, and secretaries be scheduled then at 6:30, and that we return for the evening plenary at 8:45 in stead of 8:15 and also that any business that remains unfinished for this afternoon be the first point of the day for this evening...point of order.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** All right, if you approve this, would you please show the hand? Down. Opposed. We’ve come to the meeting and sound like we’re going to be doing a lot of meeting, and so we thank Carolyn for that direction. So we will meet until 5:15 and get as far as we can go. All right, Mollie, I’m sorry.

#### *Introduction of Commission on the General Conference*

**STEWART:** That’s all right. Thank you Bishop Morgan. That was really impressive to see all of the new comers to this General Conference. It is my belief that we ought to turn over the plate every now and then and let the new people get involved. The Commission is given responsibility for determining the time and place of the meeting of the General Conference and making all arrangements for the sessions of General Conference. The names of the commission members are found in your delegates handbook on p. 1153. They are here with me, and I would like at this time to introduce to you the members who have been working so hard for the past four years, along with the Cleveland Area and East Ohio Conference representatives to make this a successful General Conference. First of all, I’d like to introduce from Walnut Creek, CA, and he’s standing to my left, the vice-chairperson for

facilities of the commission, Harry Shaner. (applause) And I would like to ask you if you would please hold your applause until all of them have been introduced. The vice-chairperson for program from Minneapolis, MN, Rev. James Perry. The secretary of our commission is from River Edge, NJ, Robert Brandt; from the Philippines, Rodolfo Beltran—Rodolfo is not here—he's here, but not up here; from Cleveland, OH, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chalker, whom you saw earlier; from Slidell, LA, Rev. Carol Cotton-Winn; from Tulsa, OK, Nancy Foster; from Mission, TX, Rev. Roberto Gomez; from Santa Anna, CA, Rev. Anita Iceman, who is not present; from Brooklyn, NY, Shirley Parris; from Sacramento, CA, Kimball Salmon; from Detroit, MI, Rev. Phylemon Titus; from Charlotte, NC, Rev. Denny White; from Rochester, MN, Aileen Williams, and your chair-person, Mollie Stewart, all the way from Valhermosa Springs, AL.

BISHOP MORGAN: Now you can give them applause.

(applause)

STEWART: In addition to the commission members who were elected by you, we have ex-officio members; first of all and seated some place out in the plenary, is Sandra Keller Lackore, the general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration; from Veedersburn, IN, Carolyn Marshall, secretary of the General Conference; and the person who has held me together, Gary Bowen, the business manager of the General Conference; Steve Zedkoff, also from Evanston, IL, and they are from the General Council on Finance and Administration staff. We have other persons who have worked real hard to see that this whole event is carried off successfully. As you have witnessed and experienced this great experience with worship this afternoon, our director of music from Atlanta, Ga., the Rev. Cynthia A. Wilson.

In her absence. There she is. OK Producer of this whole big affair, from Nashville, TN, the Rev. Jay Voorhees. And Jay, you've seen him running around. He's here somewhere. In the very, very back, in the booth. the coordinator of marshals and pages which is so very important to the carrying out of this whole event, from Modesto, CA, the Rev. Mark Wharff. And to John Braun and his gift for the PETS system, we want to say it has brought us a long way, baby, but it will not take us much further. And, John, we thank for this gift that you have given us. I want to do a special appreciation now to the Rev. Randy Nugent, the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries,

who have coordinated with his people and staff the arrival of our global members, and assimilated into the process of leading them at their entry and getting them successfully to this conference. And even while we are still here, they are trying to ease the task of the deliberation of their finding things and making them feel very comfortable while they are here. This commission felt like this was very important, and we believe in using and utilizing the resources in the church. We do not have to reinvent the wheel every time something happens. This is a great church. It's a strong church, and it has many resources. So we called upon those folk who were experts in doing things, and we have no problem in doing that. And we want to say appreciation to Dr. Nugent for doing that for us.

Now at this time, I turn to the vice chair of program. Chair man Jim Perry, who has a greeting from some of our officials.

*Greetings from President Clinton*

JAMES PERRY: Thank you, Mollie. This first one is dated April 26, 2000. Warm greetings to all those gathered in Cleveland for the quadrennial General Conference of The United Methodist Church. I am delighted to welcome all the delegates who have traveled from across the country and around the world to participate in this important event. I deeply appreciate your willingness to respond to my call to action for racial justice and diversity in the new millennium. As leaders in our nation's faith community, you have a unique opportunity and responsibility to help America address the fundamental racial issues that have divided our citizens for too long. The theme of your conference, "We Who Are Many, Are One Body," reflects your commitment to this important goal, and I thank each of you for taking advantage of this opportunity to formulate strategies on how to promote racial healing and social justice in America. I am convinced that we will be an infinitely better nation if our efforts are informed by, driven by, and advanced by people of faith. I look forward to working with you to create an America that remains a beacon of justice, freedom, and equality. Let us work for an America that is not driven apart by differences, but instead is united around shared values and respect for our diversity. And let us work for one America in which every one of us, without regard to race or belief, or gender or ethnic background can achieve our dreams and make our own unique contributions to the life of our nation. Best wishes for a productive and inspiring conference. Bill Clinton.

(applause)

*Greetings from Governor Taft  
and Mayor White*

I would also like to call your attention to the greetings that are printed in today's *Daily Christian Advocate* from both Bob Taft, the governor of Ohio, and also from Michael White, the mayor of Cleveland. We tried every way possible to have Mayor White here with us at some point, but every time we had a place in our agenda where it was possible for him to be...for us to have him, to include him with us, he was unavoidably in an other place. And so when he was available, we were not. But we thank Mayor White for all the ways in which he has made Cleveland a place of hospitality for us. And I would like to say just one more thing, and that is to express my appreciation and the appreciation of the entire Commission on General Conference for the leadership that Mollie has provided to us. She has made our time to gether a very special time, in deed. Thank you.

(Applause)

STEWART: You have already met and heard from Bishop Keaton. I also want to thank Bishop Keaton and Rev. Dr. Julius Trimble from the Cleveland District. I want to recognize the Host Committee. The names of the Cleveland local committee chairs are found on p. 1154. And we just want to say that they are there, and you can see their names and meet them as you go in and out of these sessions.

I want to especially recognize though, out of that group, which happened by chance, that the chairperson of the host committee also became a member of the commission—the name of the Reverend Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker. These persons have worked prayerfully and diligently to prepare for your arrival, and we are very appreciative for all the work that they have done.

This session of the General Conference has been planned in accordance with the Plan of Organization of General Conference. To facilitate the work on the conference, the commission recommends the following schedule of special events for your approval. The Episcopal Address at 8:15 this evening. This service will be preceded by hymn-singing at 7:45 in this room.

BISHOP MORGAN: That's been changed, (unintelligible), by our action.

STEWART: Oh, I'm sorry. Right, okay.

BISHOP MORGAN: It'll be the singing at 8:30 and 8:45 at convening of the conference this evening.

STEWART: As you can tell, the chair person of the general commission don't know it all.

BISHOP MORGAN: You've just got to pay attention, Mollie, that's what you have to do.

*(laughter, applause)*

STEWART: Well, you know how that goes. I'm getting older.

BISHOP MORGAN: Watch it.

STEWART: Well, we will be here in this room, to night.

*(laughter)*

And we will enjoy the singing and the bishop's address. How about that?

*(applause)*

BISHOP MORGAN: Yeah, yeah. That's it.

STEWART: The Cleveland Area program that was referred to by Bishop Keaton a few minutes ago is for Sunday evening, May 7, at 7:00 P.M. The ecumenical worship service with Dr. George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, preaching, and the presentation of the ecumenical representatives at 8:15 Wednesday. Bishop Morgan, I move these recommendations for approval.

BISHOP MORGAN: Okay, thank you, Mollie. You heard the motion. Those who favor, lift the hand. Thank you. Those opposed, same sign. It is adopted. Thank you very much. You need to realize that the commission is also responsible for the seat assignments. Several people have fussed at me. I want you to know, I did not do that. Again, Holston, we thought we had a little telephone network, but we discovered that you would be in a different area code, and we could not work it out, so . . . *(laughter)* talk to these folks.

STEWART: Yes, but he's still our presiding bishop. *(laughter)* Sections of the hall have been designated for persons that are physically challenged. The marshal and pages will be pleased to direct persons to those areas in the conference. There were some corrections that had to be made in the DCA that came to us, and now that you are all seated, I'm sure the corrections got made.

It is requested that there be no smoking in the center during this conference. Food service for breakfast, lunch, and dinner is

available in the cafeteria in the exposition hall. No electronic communication devices are to be used in the plenary hall or in the legislative committee meetings, except for those persons who are responsible for the ongoing of the General Conference in this convention center, and the staff.

Morning worship service is scheduled in this hall at 8:15 daily, except Sunday. The choir will present a brief concert at 8:00 A.M. each of these days. You experienced the massed choir. The commission this time tried to do some things and think out of the box. We wanted to make this an exciting, a spiritual and an uplifting conference. So we are trying massed choirs for the first time. We express our appreciation to the music director, the Reverend Cynthia Wilson, and we thank her for her endeavors on these and the other worship services that you will experience. It was the director's responsibility to select the singing groups to participate at this General Conference. It has not been an easy responsibility for her, because there were many audition tapes that she had to consider.

We would like for you to listen to the next statement and not give the marshal and pages a hard time. En try into the worship service will be restricted after the ending of the first hymn. You know, some of us are just late comers, and we stop and talk, and shake hands. But we need you to get on into the worship service. But we are allowing you to the end of the first hymn-hymn.

I remind you that announcements are to be made in the DCA. The magnification image projector notices are to be limited to the official operation of this conference, its administrative and legislative committees. The commission recommends that the journal be the official record of the General Conference. Bound copies will be available for purchase as a package at a later date. Bishop, I move the approval of this recommendation.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, it's before you. If you would support it, would you please show the hand? Down. If you oppose, same sign. And it is adopted.

### *Three Special Offerings Moved*

STEWART: The commission recommends three offerings to be received during the conference. The offering just received has been designated by the Council of Bishops, and you saw in your worship bulletin that it was designated for the children of Africa, Hope for the Children of Africa. Second, an offering for Habitat for Humanity. Bishop Keaton said that there will be three houses being built while we are here.

This offering will be received on Thursday, May 4. The proceeds of this offering will be split fifty percent for the East Ohio Habitat Project and fifty percent to the national Habitat for Humanity organization. Third, an offering for marshals and pages will be received on Wednesday, May 10, immediately following morning worship. I remind you that these persons are volunteers who provide their own travel expense and other expenses while they are here. They provide an invaluable service to the conference delegates and other members and staff. In addition to these three offerings, you are reminded that this coming Sunday . . . Maybe we ought to vote on the first two, Bishop.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right.

BISHOP MORGAN: This recommendation is before you. If you support the recommendation of the offerings, would you show your hand, please? Down, opposed, same sign, and it is ordered.

STEWART: In addition to these three offerings, you are reminded this coming Sunday, May 7, is Native American Awareness Sunday. Throughout our denomination they will be raising, lifting offerings in churches. If you were back home in your local church, you would be invited to make a contribution to that offering. So please remember that offering when you are visiting the local churches in the Cleveland area, and make your contribution through the church where you attend. The business manager of our conference is serving us anew this time. He is a fast learner, by necessity. I'm speaking, of course, of Gary Bowen. And I would now request permission for Gary Bowen to make some announcements concerning matters which pertain to the operation of this Conference. With your permission, Bishop, I would like Gary to speak now to these matters.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, without objection, we will hear now from Gary Bowen.

### *Voting System Explained*

GARY BOWEN: Thank you, Bishop. Bishop Morgan and members of the General Conference, we welcome you to the Cleveland Convention Center. We have spent much time preparing for your visit, and hope that we have prepared adequately for your business. I would like to share now a couple of items related to our procedure in the building. For several years now, we've been using a computerized system for our voting. Utilizing the keypad in front of you, you will be able to record your votes instantly. When the presiding bishop states,

please vote when the light appears, the green light on your key pad will light, and a message will appear on the key pad and on the projection screen directing you to vote. Now this is going to be participation, so, at this time, press the button which corresponds to your choice: press button 1 for "yes," button 2 for "no," or button 3 if you wish to abstain. When you do this, your choice will appear in the window on your individual keypad to confirm your selection. You may change your vote as long as the green light is illuminated on the key pad by first pressing the "star" button in the lower left-hand corner and then entering your new choice. When the green light on your key pad starts flashing, you will have three seconds left to vote. When the light goes off, voting is closed and you've lost your vote if you haven't voted. You will notice that voting time will speed up as we progress through the Conference. We've found that you will soon feel comfortable with this equipment and are able to vote in a faster time, allowing the business to proceed at a faster pace. After the voting is closed, the computer will tally the votes and the results will be displayed on the projection screen. Please remember that only one response will be taken from each key pad, so pushing the button ten times will not get you ten votes, although I'm certain someone will try that. So that we can become familiar with the voting system, we're going to present you with a few test questions for you to answer at this time. The first question may be the most difficult. Are you present? If "yes," please press button 1; if "no," please press button 2; if you're not sure and wish to abstain, please press button 3. The question is now before you, please vote when the light appears.

(laughter)

Very good, you're mostly here.

(laughter)

OK, so we're gonna try it again. Here's question 2. I know the answer to this, we'll see if you do. Is Elvis still alive?

(laughter)

If "yes," press button 1, if "no," press button 2, if you're not sure, please press button 3. The question is now before you. Please vote when the light appears.

(laughter)

Gee, I thought he was still with us, but you'll be glad to know that the General Conference has just ruled Elvis to be dead.

When it comes time to ballot, for those nominated for certain offices, the procedure

is similar. Assume for a moment that there's a contest for denominational mascot. As with the elections that will eventually be before us, we will use numbers for all candidates. The nominees for our mascot today are as following: #1. Bugs Bunny; #2 Kermit the Frog; #3 Mickey Mouse; #4 Bart Simpson; #5 Elmo. These nominees are now before you. Please vote when the light appears. In this particular case, just vote for one. (Laughter and applause).

Well, everything's green, I guess, right? This is the procedure we'll use when electing persons to hold office. However, please remember that the number of ballots taken will correspond to the number of offices we're trying to fill. An example, for example, if we're trying to fill seven slots, we'll have to vote seven times. Unfortunately, the results of this multiple election will not be instantaneous because of the amount of data that has to be processed, but they still will come back quickly.

The Commission on General Conference and the Committee on the Plan of Organization of Rules wants to remind you that each delegate has only one vote. And this vote is to be recorded only on the key pad in front of the delegate. In other words, please don't vote your neighbor's pad. Absentee delegates may not have their votes recorded in absentia. Rather, reserve delegates should be moved in and seated and voted in their place. Obviously, we have prepared if you're on the stage, you can vote. There are keypads here if you're a delegate.

#### *Hope for the Children of African Artwork*

Moving to other matters now. We encourage you to take notice of the images that you will see on the projection center as you enter and leave the plenary sessions. Responding to the request from the bishops' task forces on children and poverty, and Hope for the Children of Africa, the Commission on the General Conference asked children from throughout the church to submit artwork in interpreting our theme.

It was, believe me, for the person that had to enter it, it was an overwhelming success. We have received 400 different pieces of art which will be before you each day on the big screen. In addition, the Council of Bishops has requested that we display a clock on the screen from time to time, a clock that was displayed at their meeting in the fall. This clock displays the number of children who have died of preventable causes throughout the world while we are in session. We hope this display will help us to maintain a certain perspective about our work here in Cleveland.

Moving to the facilities, the public auditorium in which you're seated at the Cleveland Convention Center is a rather different facility than the one we've used in the past quadrennium. We want to offer a few suggestions that will help you during the plenary sessions.

First, perhaps most important, you will want to know that the restrooms for the main floor of the auditorium are located through the middle doors at the left and right of the hall. Those of you seated in the balcony will find restrooms located on a mezzanine level one floor below the balcony entrances.

Second, the main floor of the auditorium is the bar of the conference. You will not be allowed access to the main floor unless your name badge, one of these, indicates you are eligible. Please remember that our marshalls are volunteers, so be easy with them if they refuse you entrance if you have forgotten your name badge. Those are the instructions under which they are operating. It's your responsibility to keep track of this little thing around your neck.

Third, the proposed rules of General Conference and the policy of past general conferences state that after today, only the Daily Christian Advocate may be distributed on the desks of the delegates unless you vote to suspend the rules. We ask you, please honor those rules and not distribute materials on the desks unless authorized to do so.

Fourth, we are a large body that is often trying to come and go at the same time through limited space. In order to help our flow in and out of the auditorium, we want to suggest that delegates seated at the rear of the auditorium exit through the rear doors, and if possible, if you're able to get down the stairs, which I have some difficulty with, at the rear, down the marble stairs into the lower level, while the delegates on the sides exit through the side exits. We hope this will help avoid traffic bottlenecks in the facility and will facilitate you getting from place to place.

Fifth, audio and videotapes of worship services and proceedings are available for purchase in the exhibit area in Hall B.

Finally, if you need more information about location of meeting rooms or other facility questions, I suggest that you check at the information desk located in the main lobby. This desk is staffed by volunteers from East Ohio and from our local host committee, and should be able to offer you help. When all else fails, come to the Business

ness Manager's Office at 223 and we'll certainly try to help you. Have a great conference and thank you. (Applause)

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you, Gary. Mollie?

MOLLIE M. STEWART (North Alabama): The commission certainly wants to thank Gary for his hard work as our business manager and in fulfilling his responsibilities for this conference. We offer appreciation also to his excellent staff: Steve, who was assigned to us, Merrill Gleason and Russell Easler. Our commission thanks the continued hard work of our conference secretary, Carolyn Marshall. I think that you would like to express your appreciation early in this session for all that they do, and all of Carolyn's assistants.

MOLLIE STEWART: Bishop Morgan is younger than I am. He said that Sandra Lacoure is in the very back some place.

BISHOP MORGAN: I thought she was.

STEWART: She may be. I want to personally thank you Sandy for your support.

BISHOP MORGAN: There she stands back there. I can see her.

STEWART: I want to personally . . . see he's younger. Thank you for both your support and affirmation of me and I want you to know that I am wearing my angel. And I will live through this General Conference. Gary, thank you, because without you I would've been a basket-case.

This morning members of the commission had the privilege of meeting with the global members of our church, and to explain to them some of the parliamentary procedure and some of the issues that would be coming before this session. We responded to questions and we very much appreciated the response that we received from that meeting this morning. It is our desire for every one to feel comfortable and to participate as fully as possible during the time that you are here at this conference.

I forgot to recognize at the time that I recognized the music director persons who are accompanying Cynthia. And they are, Alicia, Are you still there? Persons who are accompanying you in the music? Jonetta Johnson Page from Ben Hill United Methodist Church. Mr. Logan, Miss Logan, OK. St. Luke Community Church of Dallas, Texas. Lorel Frederick from Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

(applause)

I had stated earlier that we are trying new things at this General Conference and we are really trying to operate outside the box and think about things that we ought to be thinking about and important things that's an issue for the ongoing strength of our conference. We have two persons on our commission when we were discussing this who really got involved in trying to work with the other connectional departments of our church and to bring our youth together and to not only just bring them here, but we wanted to orientate them and have them fully participate in the life and body of this conference. So they have had two orientation sessions while they're here, and Eileen Williams who is on the commission and Carol Cotton Winn who is on the commission has worked with them. Now I would like for all of those youth in this session to stand.

(applause)

I saw them this morning. They were busy at work and they are a fine looking bunch. I want all of you young people to know that one day way back there some where, that's how I got my start. I can hardly remember that far back, but that's where I started. It is very important for us a church to support and to strengthen this body of young people.

Questions arise from the delegates as to reimbursement of expenses in attending this conference. The commission has established the per diem of \$100 for your expenses while here. That is based in part upon our ability to pay as well as what we contemplate the average cost of a two-person hotel room and a reasonable cost for meals per day. That will not cover the cost, I'm sure for some of you, and it may be ample for others. Delegates will receive two expense reimbursement checks while here. Delegates will receive the first one on Friday morning. It will cover travel expenses to and from General Conference. The second check will be for the \$100 per diem for the days here in Cleveland attending this conference. The chairperson of each delegation should have discovered at his or her desk, upon arrival, an envelope containing travel expenses and vouchers for all members of your particular delegation. I know they are there because the head of my delegation gave me mine. And Gloria Holt said to me, "Mollie I want this back Wednesday morning." It's very important that you follow the instructions of your delegation head. Because if you do not and delay it, you may not get your check. If a reserve has been seated and is entitled to a

travel expense reimbursement, give it to that person. We ask each of you to do a simple thing. First, read the instructions as you fill out your expense voucher. Second, I remind you that the instructions are on the back of the forms. Then fill out the form the way the instructions tell you to do it. I know it's elementary, but we must say this anyway. There will still be persons who will not read the instructions and will do something different. Give it to your chair person. The chair person will approve it and submit the full delegation's expense claims together to the treasurer's office. Not one-by-one, but to gether as a group. We're prepared to process more than a thousand checks for the delegations, and it's very helpful if we can get them all together.

As to the travel expense. If you traveled by car, it is 30 cents a mile. You travel up to 1,000 miles. If it's over 1,000 miles traveled, then you either get the lowest of the cost of mileage above 1,000 or the cost of the least expensive air travel fare that you would have paid for had you come by air. Now that's a mouthful and I hope you got it. You may claim actual expenses for meals and lodging en route to and from this conference. Again, at \$100 *per diem*.

If the chair person will hand in all expense claim forms to the treasurer's office after Tuesday afternoon's business session and before Wednesday evening, we will get the checks to you on Friday. If we do not get your claim form by Wednesday evening, as I have foretold, we do not know when you will receive your checks. If there are any questions, have the chair person of your delegation take them to the treasurer's office. If there are any questions, give them to the chair person of your delegations and have them take those questions to the treasurer's office. Let me now tell you if you would like to cash your checks while you are here, it's been provided for. We have established an account and have made arrangements with the Fifth Third Bank on the corner of Ninth Street and St. Claire.

In addition to the expense reimbursement checks you receive, if you want to cash personal checks, you may do so for up to \$100 per check, provided you first go to the treasurer's office, which is room 222. I think in the handbook it said 221. But the treasurer's office is located in room 222 located on the main floor. So when you look at the map just remember it's one door or one room over. Some one there who is authorized by the bank will initial it for you. In effect we are guaranteeing your check. In effect we are guaranteeing your check, so that the bank does not have to get nervous with checks coming from a variety of places

around the world. And we don't want to be nervous either.

Bishop Morgan, I ask for the approval of these recommendations concerning the expense claims and the method of claiming.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. This is before you. Are there questions? I do not see any cards. If you would approve this recommendation, would you show your hand?

BISHOP MORGAN: Down. If you oppose, show the same sign. It is adopted.

STEWART: Thank you. The commission wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Peggy West and her staff at the United Methodist Communications for their coverage of General Conference and for their work prior to and during this conference, and to Tom McAnally who hung with us for four years, a special thanks to you. To Richard Peck and Neil Alexander at the Publishing House for the production and distribution of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

Now I have a very special and important announcement. In 1996 in Denver we heard the announcement that we would be coming to Cleveland. Now it is my joy and opportunity to announce to you and to report that the commission has responded to an invitation from the Western Pennsylvania Conference and has selected Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as the site of the next General Conference. (Applause) Now you know where this group is from. The dates for that conference are April 25 through May 7, 2004. And I thought when I heard that in '96, "that's a long way off", now it seems like it was yesterday. Time moves so swiftly. I wish to thank you for the privilege of having served here on the commission and as your chair. The membership of this commission serves on a staggered term. Approximately half of us are going off this time and new members will be coming on to the commission. We thank you very much for your understanding and if you have questions, come to the General Conference business office on the main floor at Room 220 or 223. It has been really my pleasure to be here and to serve. I have seen so many important people. I met so many sweet and lovely people and the church has been a real support for me these past 4 years. Bishop Morgan, I move to suspend the rules to allow the distribution of a plan to implement the discernment process under the CPT presentation plan that is found on p. 1264 of the DCA.

BISHOP MORGAN: Does this come from the Rules Committee?

STEWART: The Rules Committee is in accordance with that.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, you're just going to suspend the rules in order for permission to distribute this . . .

STEWART: Right

BISHOP MORGAN: And to suspend the rules will take two-thirds vote. All right, if you would vote to suspend the rules for the purpose of distributing the Rules Committee's proposal for you in a few moments, show the hand please. Down, if you oppose, same sign, and it is permitted.

STEWART: Bishop Morgan, I move to suspend the rules to allow the distribution of copies of the Episcopal Address immediately preceding that address this evening.

BISHOP MORGAN: You need to understand that we haven't done that before, but we feel like it will be a better way to communicate that word. If you would suspend the rules, two-thirds vote again, in order to distribute the Episcopal Address to you as delegates before it's delivered, would you show the hand, please? Down; if you oppose, show the hand, and it is ordered.

STEWART: We who are many are one body. That's very obvious as I look out there at you and see all the beautiful people in all the array and diversity that is among us. I want to thank you and I want to thank Bishop Morgan for this opportunity to give this report, and I want a time of special privilege now to share some things about Bishop Morgan and my relationship. Now, I hope there are no camera men or recorders here. However, Bishop Morgan is on the North Alabama Conference and I am a member of the North Alabama Conference. He was chairperson of the North Alabama Conference Council on Ministries and I came into that Conference after merger, and I came on the Council of Ministers at-large and was elected as vice-chair. He shared that time and spotlight with me and he even allowed me to preside when he was there at certain times and through the years we have developed a friendship. I understand that Bishop Morgan will be retiring when we go to the jurisdictional conference in July, so I asked the question of him at the reception last evening, "You think that means that I also will receive a rock chair?" (laughter) It's about that time for me, as well, and Bishop Morgan, we thank you for all your support and strength.

BISHOP MORGAN: Mollie, you'll never need a rock chair. Thank you so much. This conference wants to thank you for 4 years of hard work.

STEWART: Now that concludes our report.

BISHOP MORGAN: Now then, the whole report is before you. If you would support the report as presented by the commission, please show the hand; down. If opposed, show the hand. And it is ordered. Now then, we are about to move into the rules. Now, once again, people, this is the chair's privilege, I guess, but you can do what you wish to do. We need to attend to the rules before we leave the session. Now you're going to be going to legislative committees. They're going to have box lunches for you there. I can't do this, but it is time for adjournment. What's the wishes of the body? I'd like to have a motion, officially. A motion has been moved that we extend until we complete the rules? Second it? All right, if you would support that, show the hand, please; down. If you oppose, same sign. Right now, turn to Jerome Del Pino who chairs the Plan of Organization and Rules Committee. Dr. Del Pino?

*Report of the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order*

JEROME DEL PINO (New England): Bishop Morgan, members of the General Conference of 2000, honored guests. On behalf of the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, I am pleased to present this report on how we might live our life together faithfully and effectively during this historic session of the General Conference.

This report represents many hours and days of intensive reflection, sharing, and holy conferencing during the last 3 years. It is a report that endeavors to address our perennial task of remaining relevant to our current realities and discerning clearly our impending challenges as the pilgrim people of God. Hence, we have sought to be comprehensive in our understanding of how our plan of organization and our rules of order impinge upon all that we might seek to accomplish in the ensuing 2 weeks.

Because this report does not represent the work of any one individual, I want to acknowledge just briefly the members of the committee before proceeding to our consideration of the report. As I introduce them, and several are not here, due to the fact that they are not delegates to this General Conference, and we did not believe that we were going to have to have a meeting at the site of the conference, but we did. As I introduce them, they will stand, and I ask that you hold your applause until they have all been introduced. They were supposed to be here on this dais at this time, but imagine the du-

ties of being delegates called. They are: The Reverend Emory Purcell, Mrs. Betty Trumble, Darlene Amon, who has served as vice-chairperson, Mr. Robert Stevens, Momo Kapon, representing the central conferences, Dr. Charles Brockwell Jr., who served as our secretary, the Reverend Marcus Matthews, and the Reverend David Funocco, and we are tenderly supported, we were rather, tenderly supported, and at times guided by our ex-officio members, Carolyn Marshall, secretary of the General Conference, and Mr. Gary Bowen, staff member of the General Council on Finance and Administration and the business manager of this General Conference. We all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to each of them. It has been a consummate privilege for me to have been able to serve with them. Would you please greet them now?

It is my intention to be as brief as possible regarding what, in many ways, I would hope is axiomatic. These rules represent the best thinking of this committee regarding what we might minimally need in order to be able to keep faith with our task here at this General Conference, which is to continue the strong tradition of the people of God called United Methodists, namely, to be so ordered in our life and our work that we would do as John Wesley always did, abhor chaos.

The plan of organization is one that has evolved over a number of years, and therefore one does not easily open up any aspect of it without being mindful that if you tug at one of the strings, you might unravel the entire garment. Hence, we did not, in any indiscriminate fashion, choose to make recommendations to you regarding this plan of organization. We will move to the rules in just a moment.

However, we were instructed at the 1996 General Conference to give due attention to a motion that was put, at that time, regarding the need for this General Conference to have a way by which to engage in a method of decision-making that is certainly in keeping with our Christian heritage, but one that we do not of ten, at least, believe is available to us as a decision-making process. That is, a process that would require us to be open to discernment, and in order for that to happen, it was felt that we might need to have more rules. At first, the committee thought this was a consummate conundrum, asking that the Holy Spirit be subjected to rules. However, with faithful and patient discernment on the part of the members of the committee, we were, over the three years, able to determine that we would be able to call this body to consciousness regarding the importance of this process and to locate it within

the history and tradition of the people called Methodist. Thus, we arrived at a preamble that is included before the beginning of the Plan of Organization. It is our best effort at saying to you that it is, in the words of a former theologian no longer read very avidly today, Paul Tillich, it is an "impossible possibility" to subject discernment to rules. And so we want to call your attention to this preamble and for you to understand that it is more than simply words. It is, in deed, intended to remind us that we are, as a people, already a part of this very rich way of relating ourselves to one another in order that we might arrive at decisions that are in keeping with the will and purpose of God.

The only rule that I would identify that would pertain to this where there was a change, in order that we might focus the responsibility for this, should it not be something that would be believed by any member of the body to be necessary. If you would turn to page 1258, the left-hand column, the second paragraph, or the first full paragraph, number three. "At the discretion of the bishop presiding, a time for prayerful discernment may be taken during deliberation. Such a time should be for personal meditation or for group prayer, and shall end at the call of the bishop presiding, at which time normal deliberation shall be resumed." That is the only rule that pertains to that very important effort on our part to address what was believed to be so significant by the 1996 General Conference.

Secondly, I want to call our attention to the fact that other than editorial revisions, what is most substantive about this report of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is that this committee has endeavored to make possible the realization of our very laudable effort to have the inclusion of persons across our church globally in the very warp and woof, at the very heart beat of the General Conference itself, namely in its standing committees. Hence, you will notice that there has been a significant change in the way in which we conceptualize who it is we are talking about when we speak of persons who must either "fly across the pond," or across the larger pond in order to get to these shores. We no longer use the language of overseas or international delegates, but we are referring to those persons as delegates of the General Conference who happen to be in the continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia, as we are in North America. And hence, that language has been incorporated at every place that we believe would be appropriate.

The third item that I wish to draw attention to is that this committee has endeavored to see to it that our Plan of

Organization is one that enables us to accomplish our work in the most efficient and effective way possible. Hence, we have determined the allocation of legislation for this General Conference slightly altered in regard to the work that was originally held in the Legislative Committee on Church and Society. We have called for the creation of a Legislative Committee on Faith and Order, and that committee, we believe, is one that will enable us to have legislation that will be coherent in relationship to the work that the General Conference expects. I want to indicate to you that the committee believes that this is driven by at least two realities, namely that we have multiple canons in our life and work, and certainly there is the legislation that relates to the administrative life of the conference. But then, there are also teaching canons of which the Social Principles are a major part, and thus, they be long in a context where they will be discussed and they will be reviewed based upon very serious theological reflection and also questioning.

Finally, there is also in the report, an enabling legislation for us to be able to consider the Connectional Process Team report to this body. You have already suspended the rules in order that there may be a presentation of those, and I have an amended version that will be placed on the screen at the appropriate time. Bishop, this completes my overview of these rules and we stand ready to respond.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** All right, let me try something here as the chair. And again, you can either approve it or disapprove it. As I see the rules, I see at least two, possibly three distinctive areas. If we can use, for example, pages 1245-1257, which basically put forward the plan of organization. If you could lead us in taking that, say, first, we can ask if there are any questions, motions, or additions, we'd deal with that. Then we pick up with the Rules of Order, and that we take them either to the end of that, or we may even take a third part on page 1264. I recommend that we do that, that we do those parts, 1245-1257; then we'll deal with the rules, 1257-1264; and then, we would deal with 1264, the Connectional Process Team. If we could take one of those at a time, perfect them, serially, and then move on. What do you think?

**DEL PINO:** Bishop, I'm certainly amenable to that, if that is, in deed, acceptable to the body, as well.

**BISHOP MORGAN:** And the Chair does not want to push you, but we do need to move along. If you would approve that ap-

proach, would you show the hand, please? Down.

. . . So if you would first of all, what's before us right now would be the Plan of Organization, 1245 to 1257. Now, are there. . . Yes, recognized, come to Microphone 2. Now let me tell you this again, you can see these, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Now, to recognize the person at Microphone 2, now, I'm going to try something else, especially for you people in the very back. I may get clobbered for this, but if you will just come up to a microphone, preferably one in the middle I can see, stand there, I will recognize you. Microphone 2, please. State your name and your conference.

DEBORAH MCLEOD (Florida Conference): Debbie McLeod, Florida.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, Debbie, McLeod.

DEBORAH MCLEOD: On page 1252, I move that paragraphs 301 through 304 be deleted from the paragraphs assigned to Faith and Order, and that on page 1253, the reference to paragraph 305 to 365 be amended to read "301 to 365."

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, is it seconded?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Seconded.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, you want to speak to it?

DEBORAH MCLEOD: Yes, the rationale is that all the legislation related to ordination should be considered by the same legislative committee, and the proposed assignment of legislation separates the definition of ordination and conference membership from the paragraphs about the requirements for ordination.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, thank you. All right, the motion is there, the speech has been made in favor. We are right now operating under the rules that are already in existence, of course, which means that a maximum of three speeches for, three speeches against, you could call for the question after two have spoken—three-minute speeches, and we'll call it to order at that. All right, the motion is before you, and it is seconded. Does any one like to speak to that amendment—the McLeod amendment? I'll come back to Jerome at the end. I don't see any hands? All right, I'll turn to you, Jerome, and you'd like to respond to that?

JEROME DEL PINO: Bishop, the division that was indicated is not as is been represented, the membership in the annual conference is a matter of consideration for

the entire executive session; it is not some thing that is germane for the ordained minister to consider.

BISHOP MORGAN: So you would oppose. . .

DEL PINO: That's right.

BISHOP MORGAN: the amendment? All right, you ready to vote? We're going to use the light. . . He has a last speech on this. If you would support the McLeod amendment, punch 1, 2 for "no," and 3 for "abstain." Please vote when the light turns on, please. All right, the amendment is defeated. It is now. . . this pro. . . Yes. Microphone 6, please.

BETH CAPEN (New York Conference): Thank you, Bishop. Beth Capen, from New York Conference. I want to thank the Committee on Rules for the all the hard work they've done. I am concerned and would not move at this time, because I think it would be too burdensome, but had the issue of the Social Principles being removed from Church and Society been brought up at the last General Conference, I would have opposed it and would recommend that for the next General Conference, that the Social Principles remain in the legislative section on Church and Society. My primary concern is that the Board of Church and Society is, as I understand it, responsible for implementing the Social Principles, and I do know that many people do feel that in our reflections in church and society, we have been in deep theological discussion and reflection, and a lot of prayer on many occasions. So I would recommend that the Social Principles be returned to the Legislative Committee on Church and Society for the next General Conference.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, so there's not a motion. . .

CAPEN: I would move that, your Honor, I mean, I'm sorry, Bishop. . .

(laughter)

BISHOP MORGAN: That's, that's okay. "His Imminence," "Excellency," any of that will be fine, thank you. (laughter) All right, the motion is before you, to recommend to the next Conference. . . and is it seconded? If you would support that, would show the hand, please? Down. Opposed? All right, we will vote again. If you would support that motion. . .

DEL PINO: Bishop. . . Bishop. . . question. Bishop. . . point of information.

BISHOP MORGAN: Jerome?

DEL PINO: This is advisory to the committee that will be convened for the next quadrennium.

BISHOP MORGAN: Okay. Now, then, we're going to use the key pad. If you support that amendment, vote, when the light comes on, 1 for yes, 2 for no. And we will need to have copies of the motions, even the ones that do not carry. All right, it is supported. All right—turn back to your. . . Jerome? Or, to you. Any other matters? We're looking only at pages 1244 to 1257. Don't see any other hands? Are there other persons? Yes, right here, please—pink card, go to Microphone 6, Connie. . . or Microphone 5—go to one of them.

CONNIE MITCHELL (Kentucky Conference): Connie Mitchell, Kentucky Conference.

BISHOP MORGAN: Yes.

*Proposal to Include Spouses in Memorials*

MITCHELL: On the page—under where it says the "Plan of Organization," on page 1245—could there be included, under the opening session of organization, because you did it to day, and as a matter of record, that you include the bishops—the spouses? It says, "During the Memorial Service, there shall be called the names of the bishops who have died since the adjournment of the preceding General Conference, and likewise the names of the delegates-elect," but it does not say the spouses, and you did that to day.

BISHOP MORGAN: We did do that, didn't we? Okay, now, are you altering the amendment here, Connie?

MITCHELL: Yes, I am.

BISHOP MORGAN: You went to a baseball game last night, didn't you, and cheered real loud? (laughter) All right, the Mitchell motion's before us, that we include bishops' spouses? And is it seconded?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We will accept that.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, the committee says they will accept that. Is that agreeable to the body? All right. We're looking, still, at the Plan of Organization. Any more questions, or. . . All right, I don't see any. All right. If you will adopt pages 1245. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 1245. . .

BISHOP MORGAN: Beg pardon?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 1245 to 1257.

BISHOP MORGAN: . . . to 1257, just to the Rules of Order. Vote when the light appears, vote 1 for yes, 2 for no. All right, it is sustained. Now we turn to the Rules of Order, which will be 1257 through 12 . . . just the top of 1264. Now that is before you, the Rules of Order. I see a card over here . . . go to Micro phone 7.

WILLIAM C. SMALLWOOD (Mississippi): I'd like a little clarification on page 28, the second paragraph, "at the discretion of the bishop," reading on down there, it says "group prayer." By "group prayer," does that mean small groups or the whole body?

BISHOP MORGAN: Excuse me, you said page 28? You mean . . .

SMALLWOOD: 1258.

BISHOP MORGAN: 1258, okay.

SMALLWOOD: 1258, second paragraph, number 3, about 5 sentences down, "for group prayer." I'd like clarification; what's meant by group prayer? Is it the small group or the whole body?

JEROME DEL PINO: It can be either small groups or it can be the entirety of the plenary.

BISHOP MORGAN: You might group into 3 or 4—you know, it's a lot of variation of how that might be done.

SMALLWOOD: My question is, group prayer could be a way of influencing the body, and if that should be the case, how are we going to govern that with out it getting out of hand—everybody praying for one certain position that might or might not be the position of other people here?

JEROME DEL PINO: Sir, it is our understanding, just as we have experience at the preceding General Conference, and perhaps you were not there, that when ever we enter into prayer, that is a political statement. It is because it raises other possibilities than the ones that we have in mind. So when ever we would be involved in our discernment, it is going to be with the intention that we would have some level of indifference; that's the hope, that's the prayer. And if that does not happen, then of course, we might get what we ask for. But, bottom line, it is not understood in this process that any of this would be intended nor implemented as being manipulative. We trust our bishops, and that's the reason we have only one rule pertaining to the discernment process. It can come from the floor, but the bottom line is that it is something that is not going to be the rule, but, more often than not, the exception.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, I'm looking in the back, is there any one in sections C or D that wishes to ask a question? Don't see a hand—

BISHOP MORGAN: Is there anybody here in A or B? I don't see a hand. We're talking about the rules. Are you ready? All right, let's vote then. And we'll vote when the light comes on. Vote one for "yes," two for "no."; And the vote when the light comes on. The body is not clear. I asked for questions on section. Excuse me. Stop the voting here. I . . . on p. 1257 to 1264, the top of that. That is before us. That's all that is before us. The Rules of Order. And I saw no hands, no motions. And that's the reason I put the question. Let me put it once again to you. If you would support those pages on the Rules of Order, show . . . vote when the light comes on. One for "yes," two for "no."

Page 1264, the Connectional Process Team, and you will need to present your amendment so we will know exactly what's before us.

DEL PINO: You certainly may keep your booklet open, but we are going to present an amended understanding of the Connectional Process Team presentation plan. And if we could have that on the screen at this time.

BISHOP MORGAN: Let me say, this will be, what they present will be the rules committees report to you. This will be it, not exactly what is on p. 1264. So give attention to the screen.

DEL PINO: All Right. Thank you, Bishop. We propose that the Connection Process Team (CPT) report come before the General Conference in the following manner. First, the Connectional Process Team will present its report at the General Conference in plenary session on Wednesday morning, May third, as an order of the day. Bishop, I will go through the entirety of this?

BISHOP MORGAN: I think so.

DEL PINO: All right.

BISHOP MORGAN: Let's give the whole picture.

DEL PINO: All right

BISHOP MORGAN: And I would say to the technicians, the Bishops, I understand, are not being able to see the votes up here. So if you could do something so they could see that, as well. Excuse me.

DEL PINO: Following this presentation, the delegates to General Conference will be divided into 25 randomly selected

non-legislative groups for reflection and dialogue on the CPT report. Translations will be provided in specified groups. Three, each group will meet for 90 minutes, guided by a convenor bishop selected by the Council of Bishops. Four, each group will be provided a recorder who is a non-delegate and an observer from the Connectional Process Team. Five, on Wednesday evening, May 3, the convenors and recorders will meet with the CPT observers to report the areas of consensus with, dissent from, or questions about the CPT report and proposals. Six, on Thursday evening, May 4, immediately following the opening, the CPT report will provide . . . I'm sorry, the CPT, or Connectional Process Team, will provide the General Conference with a written summary of the small group meetings. Seven, following time to read the written report, the General Conference will enter into a time of prayerful discernment to ask the Holy Spirit to give the conference the mind of Christ and make clear the will of God for our church on this issue. Eight, and finally, petitions related to the CPT report shall be submitted to the appropriate legislative committees for study and review and will follow the legislative process in accordance with the plan of organization and rules of order adopted by the General Conference. The proposed legislation is to be reported out comprehensively and together. That is the amended version of this presentation plan, Bishop, which we now submit for the body's consideration.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, it is properly before you now. I recognize the gentleman at microphone 6. Give us your name and your conference.

CARL SCHENCK (Missouri East): Thank you, Bishop. I would like to move an amendment to the report as presented. I move to amend the process set forth on p. 1264, and let me say, set forth by the chair. By the addition of the following new paragraph eight and the renumbering of existing paragraph eight as new paragraph nine. The new paragraph eight shall read, "On Friday, May 5, following the Africa University Report, the floor of the conference shall be open for debate upon amendments to or other action upon the report as the conference may direct. This action shall precede any legislative committee's action on specific petitions related to the CPT report. If I could have a second, I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP MORGAN: It's supported.

SCHENCK: I believe that the rules committee has given us a very helpful process, but that it is aborted at the point of action

and that the house will want and the legislative committees will want the council of the General Conference in regard to the report itself before we begin work on the various implementing legislations in specific petitions. My amendment would allow, and call for, time for the conference to express its wishes on the report section, and to take action as the General Conference of '96 called for when it called for this review, this wholistic review of the structure of the church. Our...if we cannot deal with it wholistically, but only deal with it *alseri item* to all these various petitions, the conference may not be able to express its will satisfactorily.

BISHOP MORGAN: All Right, There's speech in favor of the amendment. Is there a speech opposed to the amendment? Is there some one who would like to speak for it? Yes, over here, microphone 3, please. Give us your name and conference.

PATRICK STREIFF (Switzerland/France Conference):

BISHOP MORGAN: Welcome, Friend.

STREIFF: I would like to speak against this amendment. I think it is good thing that we have a general discussion here in the plenary, but then it is our general way of working in General Conference that first in legislative committees we have a possibility really to look more in the depths and have a first discussion in the legislative

committee and then bring back to the plenary. And with the motion as we have it now before us all these items will keep together. So it's no danger that will be split up, and I think it is a good procedure to have in one legislative committee the time to discuss on it and then come back after the legislative committee.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you, Patrick. Is there a speech in favor? I go back again to the gentleman here. Go to microphone 6, and then I'll recognize you, Sir.

RICHARD PARKER

BISHOP MORGAN: No, I wasn't recognizing Richard. I was recognizing the gentleman here, Right there.

RICHARD PARKER: Oh, I beg your pardon.

BISHOP MORGAN: That's OK. Stay where you are, Richard.

BILLY JOE RICH (Alabama/West Florida Conference) I think that the gentleman has raised a very important point for us to consider, that being the legislative committee as it were the CPT, I understand about three times after watching it and getting everyone's comments on it, it comes to us now as a semi-document that's finalized. I think that if we really like it, or really don't like it, we ought to follow his position and either vote it up or down. And if we vote it up, and we want to move in that direction,

then allow the committees to go back and take the process that this gentleman has outlined stand.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right there's been two speeches now in favor of the amendment. Now, one against. Richard, do you speak against the motion? Microphone 6.

PARKER: In favor, Bishop.

BISHOP MORGAN: Yes. In favor. All right, is there some one who speaks against the... Yes, I turn. Microphone 7. Go to microphone 7. I recognize the delegate there.

SANDRA LUTZ (East Ohio): We used a similar process with the ministry study four years ago. In my experience with that, serving on the legislative committee that received a good portion of that was that the comments that come out during those small groups that we're going to have, really gave a wonderful feel for how the whole body was experiencing that. And then the legislative committee was able to work with that. And I think when we then came back with our report, we were able to vote on that. If that process for the legislative committee is delayed until Friday, that leaves the legislative committees very little time to work effectively on that report. So I would urge that we defeat the motion.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Now your turn, Richard.