

Proceedings of the 2000 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

Corrections

During the “Strengthening the Black Church” report on Monday morning, May 8, a video reported that reported Kirby John Caldwell was appointed to St. John’s UMC in Houston, Texas by Bishop Oliphint. The video script should have said that Bishop Woodrow Hearn made the appointment. (DCA does not print the scripts of videos.)

Continued from page 2114)

WALTER L. KIMBROUGH (North Georgia): Bishop Ives, thank you for this time. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for caring enough to give us additional time. It is my understanding that we are already operating under a motion to suspend the rules by GCOM for the purpose of passing out material. That is my understanding, Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: I think we passed that earlier in the—in the session, yes.

KIMBROUGH: Yes. Thank you.

KIMBROUGH: Thank you for your report. We appreciate the spirit in which it is brought.

(Applause)

BISHOP IVES: Let me tell you where we are. We’re six minutes away from our regular adjournment time. We have some announcements, a report from the presiding officers, and a closing prayer. The only question is, to the house, is, do you want to hear the result of a ballot before you go to dinner and take another ballot? If—if somebody wants to extend the time to do that, that’s okay. If not, we’ll proceed with those three items that I suggested. Hearing none, you’ll deal your ballot when you come back to gether, next time. Carolyn, do you have announcements? I want Paul Extrum-Fernandez to come and give announcements in relationship to presiding officers, after which I’m going to ask Bishop Aldo Etchegoyen to dismiss us. Carolyn, announcements?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: There are several, which refer to legislative committees, as well as administrative committees. Let me share them with you.

The Committee on Reference will meet tomorrow morning, Tuesday, at 7:15 a.m., in Room 224. Please be present if you are a member of that committee.

The Committee on Conferences will be in to day at 2:00 p.m. This pertains to Church and Society Legislative Committee. All subcommittee chairpersons, please meet at 2:00 p.m. in the legislative meeting room, B212.

*Carolyn Marshall
Reminds of Announcement Rules*

Would refer you to the rules of the General Conference and also to that which is on page 1944. Numerous announcements keep coming to the platform, and there is the rule that announcements should be in order that they could be published and that we will not, hopefully, have to make these announcements from the stage. I’m making two today; however, after this, please adhere to the rules, as they will not be made for the rest of the week.

Having said that, here are the two: All racial ethnic delegates will meet on Tuesday at lunch time, Exhibit Hall B, Room 313, with the Interethnic Coordinating Committee present. And then one which is the same as what is listed in this announcement on page 1924 [sic, 1944], right-hand column, the next-to-the-last one, that all clergywomen delegates and women bishops are asked to meet Liz Lopez immediately following the morning session for a group photo in Exhibit Hall A.

A reminder to all of us that as far as delegates are concerned at the tables, it is important that liquids not be on the tables, as when they are spilled, they do interfere with the voting equipment. And a reminder that the noon time concerts will be in effect all of this week. The choirs share with us very well in the beginning of our morning, for a while, and then also for our morning worship, but remain for a concert at noon. We’ll begin at 12:15 downstairs near the lunch area, and if you have any opportunity at all, please avail yourselves of the opportunity to continue in worship and a time of multicultural experience with them.

Bishop, that completes the announcements.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Carolyn. I want to express appreciation to all of you. You’ve worked hard this morning. You’ve done good work. We’ve begun to move the train, which will go with increasing speed, as you will understand, but we must continue as we move to know that we have been called to be God’s holy people in this place,

and that we are indeed on a journey of Christlikeness in all that we do in this place, and thank you for being on that journey and sharing that journey with me. Call on Paul Extrum-Fernandez to bring a report for presiding officers.

*Bishop Paup Picked
to Precede Monday Night*

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop Ives. This evening, presiding will be Bishop Edward Paup from the Portland Area, and concluding this evening’s session we will give an update on tomorrow’s presiding officers. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Paul. I want to call on Bishop Aldo Etchegoyen, who is the bishop of our sister church in Argentina, to dismiss us this morning. Bishop Etchegoyen.

BISHOP ALDO ETCHEGOYEN: Let us pray. O God, thank you for Jesus Christ and for our calling to be part of peace mission around the world. *O Dios, gracias por Jesu Cristo y por su llamado a ser parte de su misión en todo el mundo.* O God, thank you for the gospel and for the truth, justice, and peace of your kingdom. *O Dios, gracias por el evangelio, por la verdad, la justicia, y la paz de tu reino.* Give us love, faith, and hope to proclaim your message and to serve our neighborhood. *O Dios, danos fe, amor, y esperanza para proclamar tu mensaje y para servir a nuestro prójimo.* Give us your Holy Spirit to fulfill your good will to transform this unjust economic system, in order to put bread and love among all people. *O Dios, danos tu Espíritu Santo para cumplir tu voluntad a fin de transformar este justo sistema económico a fin de poner pan y amor en tre los pobres.* Give us your power to work with hope in favor of the human rights for all human beings. *O Dios, danos tu poder para trabajar con esperanza en favor de los derechos humanos para todos hermanos.* Now, go forth in peace. The grace of Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. *Ahora vayan en paz. La gracia de Jesucristo el Señor, el amor de Dios y la comunión del Espíritu Santo sea con todos ustedes.* Amen.

BISHOP IVES: Amen.

(Adjournment)

Monday Evening May 8, 2000

*(Bishop Edward W. Paup presiding)**(Song)**(Applause)**(Song)**(Applause)*

BISHOP EDWARD W. PAUP: Thank you, sisters in God. Welcome every one to the evening. My name is Ed Paup; I'm the bishop assigned to the Portland Area, which is inclusive of the Alaska Missionary Conference and the Oregon-Idaho Conference. And I'm privileged to sit in this chair tonight, and I want you to know that while we have been here I hope you have felt the support, the support that has been coming from all over the world—people who have been keeping us in prayer. Have you felt their support during these days?

(Applause)

And you know that on behalf of people called United Methodists they haven't been just sitting on their hands while we've been here. They've been out extending the mission of ministry of The United Methodist Church, but I trust you have felt their support, even as I want you to know I feel this night, of my colleagues on the Council of Bishops as they sit here on the platform with me. And especially Mary Ann Swenson, bishop of the Denver Area, and Jack Tuell, who categorically is retired but only by category is he retired, and they sit with me here. And I am very grateful to God for them this night. But we truly are a people surrounded in the spirit of prayer, gathered as the disciples of Jesus Christ. And let us take this moment to acknowledge that we are in God's presence together. Let us be in prayer.

(Prayer)

Gracious God, we do pause to give you thanks that we can be in your presence in this place this night, to be about this act of holy conferencing as United Methodists in the name of Jesus Christ. And so as your Spirit guides us this night, help us to, to pay heed to the moving of that Spirit in our midst, knowing that as you continue to bless us that you call us to be a blessing for you wherever we are and with whom ever we share life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

It's now my privilege to turn to the order of the day—the report of the National Plan

for Hispanic Ministries—to Bishop Joel Martínez, Joel Martínez who will lead us now in this report. Joel.

(Applause)

BISHOP JOEL MARTÍNEZ: We will begin our report with music, and we'll close with music, so let us begin.

*(Song)**(Applause)*

Report of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries

Four years ago at Denver you adopted the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry for a second quadrennium. And as part of our report and recommendations you approved that we should come back and report on our work, our stewardship of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry, at the 2000 General Conference. It's my privilege to present the vice-chairperson of our national committee, the Reverend Rebecca Youngblood from the Mississippi Conference, who will now lead us in this part of the report. Rebecca.

(Applause)

REBECCA YOUNGBLOOD: Thank you. Thank you, Bishop. We begin our, this part of our report with an act of worship, and I invite you to join me in this litany. Your response, and I will indicate to you when that comes, will be printed on the screen above us, so let us enter into an attitude of worship.

God saw that Hispanic people grew in great numbers. God saw the richness of this people, their talents and their hopes, their diversity of culture, their depth of spirituality. At the same time, God saw that many Hispanic people suffer and struggle against discrimination, injustice, ignorance, poverty.

Dios, have mercy on us for not seeing with your vision.

God has sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to reach every one, and God calls us to serve one another and to proclaim the good news to every one, and particularly in this country, to the growing Hispanic population in our midst.

Dios, have mercy on us for not obeying and heeding your call and thereby missing the opportunities to share the gospel.

We as your United Methodist people have heard your call and have been to respond to the challenge to us through the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. We have much to celebrate and much more to do to respond fully to that call.

Gracias, Dios for the opportunity to serve you. Guide us, prepare us and help

us to continue serving faithfully and effectively. Amen.

It is with joy and gratitude that I greet you this night on behalf of the Committee on Hispanic Ministry. We stand before you to bear witness to what God is doing across our church through the initiatives of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry.

*Statistics of**Hispanic Ministries Successes*

Since we last gathered in General Conference, Hispanic ministry has increased in depth and scope. Sixty-one annual conferences now evidence intentional ministry with Hispanic persons, compared to 38 reporting such ministry before 1993, and 56 conferences in 1996. Through the inspired efforts of countless persons, we can now testify to the following accomplishments in light of the plan's original goals. And I invite your attention again to the screen, and I will highlight some of the accomplishments given there.

We can report 64 new chartered Hispanic congregations, 263 church-school extensions, 538 faith communities, 796 trained lay missionaries and 100 trained pastor/mentors. This we celebrate. Furthermore, 18 of your annual conferences have received grants totaling \$836,000 during this quadrennium. The conferences have more than matched these grants, generating over \$2.3 million in your own conference funds. The plan's grantmaking procedure involves ongoing consultation with a trained resource person in a process that is described in Spanish, it would be "to accompany, to walk with." This word is a word of partnership and of ministry, and so it is much more than a financial transaction. It is grounded in relationship with one another and in ministry. It encourages discernment of God's vision for a particular setting within the church and community. It encourages solidarity and action.

In fact, the committee has come to see all of our work this quadrennium as guided by this concept of accompanying one another. The Easter evening of the two disciples walking to Emmaus that we find in Luke 24 embodies the idea very well. You know that story, as the two make their way home at the end of the day, the first day of that week, grieved and confused by Jesus' death and then by the reports that day that he had risen. A third person joins them, and they share with him their sadness, their questions, their distress. In response, this stranger opens the Scripture to them, and we read that their hearts were strangely warmed. They in spirit that the stranger join them for supper, and it is in the breaking of the bread that they rec-

og nize him as the Lord, risen in deed. This encounter fills them with energy and renews their hope, and they re turn quickly to Je ru sa lem to tell the good news.

So it is, when a con sul tant walks with an annual con fer ence to mobi lize for His panic min is try. So it is, when teams of lay mis sion ers and pas tor-men tors en gage in out reach and witness. So it is, when non-Hispanic congregations and Hispanic com mu ni ties ac com pany each other on the faith jour ney and the strug gle for jus tice in car ing for hu man need. In walk ing to gether, our sto ries are told. The real ity of those who walk is val i dated and then trans formed by a God who brings abun dance from scar city, who brings life from death. In walk ing with each other our eyes are opened to the pres ence of Christ with us. Through walk ing to gether, the pas sion to con tinue the mis sion is found. Do not our hearts burn within us when we walk the road of ser vant min is try to gether? This week, once again, we in vite the whole church to join us in that on go ing walk, as the work of His panic min is try con tin ues through out our church. Amen.

(Applause)
(Video Presentation)
(Applause)

ROBERTO GÓMEZ: I am Roberto Luís Gómez, a clergymember of the Rio Grande Con fer ence. I have the priv i lege and honor to night of pre sent ing two peo ple who will share their ex pe ri ence as wit nesses of their ex pe ri ence in the Na tional His panic Plan. First, we will hear Mr. Jerry Goebel. He is a lay pas tor in the Pa cific North west Con fer ence cur rently serv ing a church in a largely His panic area. He has worked as a Chris tian mu si cian, mak ing re cord ings and win ning five popu lar-music awards. And he has many years of ex pe ri ence in eco nomic devel op ment. He is a founder of the com mu nity mobi lization men toring project, a men toring out reach that fo cuses on pro vid ing adult and youth relationships that re solve around seven crit i cal goals or—goal ar eas in a young per son's life. The project cur rently op er ates in seven cit ies and soon will be in three other states. The sec ond witness will be the Reverend Liana H. Pérez-Felix. She is an el der in The Meth od ist Church of Puerto Rico. Currently she serves as the co or di na tor of His panic and In clu sive Min is tries, and as soci ate council di rector in the Mem phis Con fer ence. She has also served as a dis trict su per in ten dent of The Meth od ist Church of Puerto Rico. She has four chil dren—two sons and two daugh ters. She loves to sing, preach, teach, write, act, cook, and do arts and crafts. She speaks Eng lish, Span ish, and Ital ian, and

currently she's learning a fourth lan guage—"Southern."

(Laughter)
(Applause)

Work With His panic Youth

JERRY GOEBEL: Exodus 19:9—you don't have to look it up, I even mem o rized it. "The Lord said to Mo ses, 'I will come to you in a dense fog.'" Have you ever been there?

(Laughter)

How many of you are there right now?

(Laughter)

I say praise the Lord! The Lord will come in a dense fog; he will come in a cloud. And I say praise the Lord! It is the time we are most con fused that the Lord comes to us. Praise the Lord.

I want you to take a good look at me. Forty-three years old, skinny as a rail, balding on top of my head, and—my bosses don't know this yet, it is a secret—I'm white,

(Laughter)

and I work mostly with His panic youth in gangs. Con fus ing? Praise the Lord! Sounds like a fog to me. Praise the Lord. When I first went to the com mu nity where I work, I went there to be a pro gram di rec tor in an all-White church in a com mu nity that was over 70% His panic un der the age of thirty. The first night we had an af ter-school pro gram in which I was placed in charge we had 6 kids show up. Six kids. I felt this is con fus ing. Praise God.

The next morn ing I walked up the street two blocks to an alternative learning pro gram where I asked the di rec tor, "If I give you a lead er ship pro gram cur ric u lum, will you give me?" He said, "Yes." I walked out of the build ing, I said to my self, *What have I gotten my self into?* Praise God. I walked back the next week. I had my 6 An glo kids show up and 40 kids from the al ter na tive learn ing pro gram—39 were His panic, 30 of the youth were in volved in gangs. I said to my self first, *What did I do?* And I said to my self next, *Praise God.*

As I looked around we have the op por tu nity now to reach out to more kids, and I invited the kids to go home and in vite their broth ers and sis ters and cous ins. When we topped a few hun dred I knew the pro gram had to go to more than one day a week. We expanded into six days a week. We pro vided education and training in terms of jobs. We even pro vided a jobs skill pro gram

where we had five—three different out reaches for the kids.

Af ter a half a year of this, the of fice of ju ve nile jus tice made a phone call to us and said, "You need \$180,000 or more to run a program like this." I said, "Wow! Have I been confused?"

(Laughter)

Have I been in a dense fog? Have I been in a cloud?" Praise God.

The pro gram is now in, in our area we have sim i lar pro grams op er at ing in seven dif fer ent com mu ni ties, four of which I am con sult ing. But it's al lowed me to fo cus on the most im por tant pro gram I can think of and that is men toring, getting adults in volved in youth in significant, critical times. In our men toring pro grams we place kids who are in de ten tion or on prob a tion or in a tru ancy, part of a tru ancy act. We link them up with adults who cover only a half hour a week. And dur ing that half hour a week, they fo cus on those sig nif i cant goal ar eas that were men tioned be fore—ed u ca tional, financial, physical, professional, recreational, relational, and spiritual. We have kids that are ask ing to be sen tenced to our pro gram. Sound con fus ing? Praise God.

Since that time

(Applause)

Praise him! The two ma jor things that I have learned is that Chris tian lead ers must, first of all, go and do. When God, when Je sus turned his face to Je ru sa lem, he had no strat egy; he had only a call. I be lieve that Je sus' will op er ated in a dense cloud. Praise God! He was op er at ing in a fog. Praise God!

The sec ond things we must learn as Chris tian lead ers is that God works best when we are un comfortable. When we are in that dense cloud, and so we have to go to where the cloud is densest. It lacks integrity to send peo ple to places where we would not go. And so the roots of Christ's words must strike home to us, which are come and see. Je sus could only say that when he had gone and done.

My friends, our schools, our streets, and our de ten tion cen ters will only be as Chris tians as the Christians who are inside of them.

(Applause)

If these places look foggy to you, praise God! If these places look cloudy to you, praise God! If these places seem un clear to you, praise God, be cause that's where we are called to go. Is it foggy? Help me: Praise God! If it's cloudy, help me: Praise God!

And if it's cloudy, I mean unclear, help me.
Praise God!

(Applause)

*Memphis Conference
Grows Hispanic Ministry*

LIANA PEREZ-FELIX: *Buenas noches.* Just as in John Wesley's times, when the coal miners from Kent were moving with their families to the north and would always find a welcoming community among the Methodists, so it is today when people from Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Peru, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, come with their families to this country to fulfill their own dreams and aspirations for better lives. United Methodists, with the help from National Plan for Hispanic Ministry, have opened their churches and their hearts to them.

Before the National Plan, the Memphis Conference did not have any organized ministry with Hispanics. But there was a sensitive caring group of Anglos who did not speak Spanish but felt that God was calling them and the church to do something with the growing Hispanic population in Western Tennessee and Kentucky. They formed a conference committee and approached the National Plan's office for assistance. The Memphis Conference was one of the first annual conferences to receive a mission initiative grant from the National Plan. It used the grant to secure the services of a conference coordinator of Hispanic ministries. I feel so honored to have been selected for this position.

I began with full power and complete support from Bishop Kenneth Carter and these brothers and sisters. Glory to God! We now have a Hispanic congregation, two churches with spiritual care meetings for seasonal workers, and have held four vacation Bible schools. In addition, we have started 7 after-school tutoring programs, 6 English as a Second Language classes for adults. And we also have begun two day care programs and two organized sport activities. We have organized Spanish classes for different non-Hispanic groups in various communities, including two for law enforcement officers, and two survival Spanish classes for doctors, lawyers, teachers, people going on mission and/or leisure trips to Spanish-speaking countries.

We have established ongoing health screening clinics and a weekly radio program in Spanish at a Baptist radio station and special bilingual worship services. We have held Module One worship for lay missionaries and have begun the planning of a future curriculum for Hispanic ministries at Memphis Theological Seminary. The min-

istry has impacted our conference in a very positive way. The excitement has been contagious. United Methodist Women groups, pastors, and local congregations have invited me to preach and speak and to help them implement Hispanic ministries.

Southern hospitality has been a reality in my ministry, and that has made my work easier. All conference organizations and leadership have been very supportive of this endeavor. As of July of this year, a missionary pastor of the National Plan, through the General Board of Global Ministry, will begin to serve in several ministries we have begun in three of our districts.

It is our goal, nevertheless, to have a Hispanic pastor in each of our five districts in the near future. We not only celebrate what is happening, but we are also already celebrating what will be accomplished in the years to come. We believe that God is doing something new in our days. Incorporating in our communities persons of diverse cultures and origins, thus making it a reality for that glorious day to come when they will come from east and west and from north and south and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

As stated at the 1988 General Conference, the social and cultural mosaic of the United States is changing. We as United Methodists must affirm it, celebrate it, and try to reflect it in our denomination. *Muchas gracias.*

(Applause)

BISHOP JOEL MARTÍNEZ: I told Bishop Paup before we began that we'd try to do thirty "General Conference" minutes and not thirty Hispanic ministries.

(Laughter)

But we're slipping a bit.

My sisters and brothers, you have been listening to the voices and the songs and the stories of the Hispanic community's faith journey in The United Methodist Church, both in the United States and on the island of Puerto Rico through the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. During the last two quadrennia, the National Plan has sought to continue the faith journey by inviting the whole church—all of us—to join in *hacer discipulos para Jesucristo*; in making disciples for Jesus Christ, which is our common mission as United Methodists among millions and millions of our sisters and brothers who trace our heritage to the indigenous peoples, the African Diaspora and the Iberian Peninsula.

We celebrate with you tonight that the whole United Methodist church is on the journey with us. The mission among His-

panics is more genuinely, after eight years, a churchwide initiative than ever before. Nearly every annual conference, hundreds of districts, and thousands of local churches are reaching out with ministries of compassion and justice, congregational development and service. You have noticed some of the statistical measures of that. The other part of the story is the overwhelming growth of this community throughout the land. We have simply underestimated—as you would, I think, testify—underestimated the dimensions of the challenge in our mission planning, especially over the last decade. Stories abound my colleagues in the Council of Bishops, among annual conference leaders, of migration and immigration and demographic shifts which demand the church's faithful response, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Frankly, I shudder to think where we would be had the General Conference in Louisville in 1992 not adopted the National Plan at that time. But you did, and we began working and learning and praying together to continue the UMC faith journey with this community.

Four Strategies for Hispanic Ministries

Now, we need to do four things this quadrennium, and very briefly they are:

First, we must continue to provide effective resourcing, especially mission-development grants, planning assistance and consultation, and training with annual conferences. We have unmet needs and pending requests beyond what was possible to do with current resourcing.

Secondly, we need to work closely with our seminaries and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in addressing the critical enrollment, recruitment, and training needs for ordained leadership among the Hispanic community. A significant budget allocation in the new quadrennium is for the purpose of supporting that effort.

Thirdly, we need to expand the participation of non-Hispanic congregations in the response to Hispanic ministry needs. This is a key strategy if more Hispanics are to be disciples for Jesus Christ. There are simply too few Hispanic congregations in most annual conferences to meet the growing challenge.

And fourth, we should explore increased dialogue, interaction, and cooperation with our colleagues of the Methodist churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America is currently represented on the national committee. But practical sharing of experiences, resources, and ministry between United Methodist

Hispanics, the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and other Latin American churches can strengthen our witness among new immigrant communities coming into this country.

Tonight's report has been but a snapshot of a long, long journey that stretches for a century-and-a-half. You have seen some of the faces, heard some of the voices, of people moving together with a common experience of the risen Christ in their hearts that Rebecca Youngblood commented on as the experience of the Emmaus disciples. Tonight we are all invited, you and I, into this journey as a worldwide General Conference. So, in Lou is ville we be gan to gether; we need to go forward together, as one church, with one mission, and with one strategy, to serve and reach Hispanics with the gospel that is in Jesus Christ. It has to be done together. *Unidos* is the work in Spanish. We can, and we will. Let us enjoin our hearts and voices in singing that song, "*Unidos*," "To gether," in Christ's spirit.

RAQUEL MARTÍNEZ: This song, "*Unidos*," "To gether," is a favorite in the Hispanic community. But it is also being embraced by other, non-Hispanic groups, including other denominations. We're going to sing the verse in Spanish first, because we want you to get the full flavor of the music. You should have the text up on the screen, and then we will have a chance to sing it in English the second time around. Those who are able, will you please stand, and let's sing together.

(Singing)

MARTÍNEZ: Let the people of God say, . . .

MARTÍNEZ AND AUDIENCE: Amen!

(Applause)
(Music)

BISHOP PAUP: Join me in thanking God for the leaders that guide us in this magnificent plan of the United Methodist Church, our National Hispanic Plan. Let me also as we give thanks to God for them ask for your help in making an adjustment in our calendar for this evening and our agenda. We have the opportunity to hear from our brother Bishop Juan Vera-Méndez. You remember that we . . . (Applause) May I take the liberty to assume from your response that you would like to hear from our brother?

*Bishop Vera-Méndez Addresses
General Conference*

BISHOP JUAN VERA-MÉNDEZ: Dear sisters and brothers in Christ let me express my deep thanks for your support and

prayers and for the resolution approved last week, when I was arrested. You have no idea how happy I am to be with my Methodist family after being detained and arrested by Federal Marshals and FBI agents in the beautiful island of Vieques.

This happened because I was faithful to the gospel of Jesus the Christ. (Applause) I carry the marks of my Lord. I was chained and shackled, by the forces that represent law enforcement, for the welfare of the citizens and community. They are the same forces that read to me the Protocol of Arrest as follows: "This is a United States Federal Territory and you are trespassing." And I repeat to you what I said them: "This is our land! This is my land, and you took it away from us, and we will struggle to get it back."

(Applause)

My dear Methodist sisters and brothers, the one that must get out of Vieques is the United States Navy who for the last sixty years has subjected Vieques with constant air, land and sea bombardment as target practice for their training.

The US Navy is the one who forcibly removed the population of Vieques in order to convert two-thirds of the best sugar-cane land into an ammunition depot and a site for military maneuvers in support of the British Royal Navy, in their war against Hitler's penetration in Argentina. Hitler disappeared, but the US Navy took over and stayed. The consequence was that the population of Vieques diminished from 20,000 to 9,500 inhabitants.

The US Navy is the one who sandwiched the Vieques population between two land tracts into a very narrow strip of land.

The US Navy is the one who has strangled economy and forced the residents to live as squatters in the land that was previously theirs.

The US Navy is the one who polluted and ruined the pristine beauty of God's creation in Vieques and its two deep-water harbors and two luminous bays—unique in the world—with chemicals used in the bombing practices with two of the most potent cancer-causing agents—depleted plutonium and cordite—along with tons of unexploded ordnance. This has caused the destruction of God's creation.

It is the US Navy who has invited other foreign naval forces to use Vieques as target practice while charging them millions of dollars for its use. Not one single penny of this money has been given back to Vieques.

The US Navy is the one who has made Vieques a land with higher cancer incidence among children and adults, in com-

parison with the mainland of Puerto Rico and other countries in the world, including the United States.

It is the US Navy who has, many times, threatened to deplete the municipal underground water supply with the military maneuvers of invading Marines, who at times have amounted to more than six thousand troops. The US Navy has refused to pay millions of dollars of water-cessation to the government of Puerto Rico, who in turn took them to court demanding immediate payment.

The US Navy is the one who has directly contributed to the impoverishment of the industrial capacity of the municipality by way of destroying the reefs and fishing areas of Vieques.

And finally, to add insult to injury, David Sanes-Rodríguez, a civilian US Navy security guard, was killed and three other civilian employees were injured by two air bombs, dropped by a US Navy pilot during target practices on April 19, 1999.

This death awakened and united the Puerto Rican people in an island-wide consensus to stop the bombing of Vieques and to demand the ousting of the US Navy from Vieques. All sectors of the Puerto Rican society joined forces. This included religious leaders (Roman Catholics and Protestants alike), church members, union workers, fishermen, artists, students and university professors, public school teachers and students, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, etc. It is the religious sectors who have led the whole movement in favor of the people of Vieques. This is a new model of economic cooperation affirmed by diverse segments in Puerto Rico.

The North American Press has presented a very peaceful, dignified process of arrest and detention of those exercising civil disobedience. The contrary happened after the press was ousted by the federal forces.

It is customary that whenever women are to be arrested and detained, female agents are the ones involved in physically frisking the female detainees. In our case, Roman Catholic nuns and other women were subjected to the embarrassment of being frisked by male federal agents without proper respect, consideration and sensitivity. Detainees were threatened with violence and given rude orders as they were driven off Vieques if they did not follow orders.

My dear sisters and brothers, Vieques is our land, taken from us sixty years ago for a war that ended in 1945, but not for the 9,500 United States citizens of Vieques. This appropriation of

land—does it not resonate and reverberate in the ears and consciences of our Native American sisters and brothers? They know what we are talking about! Their case was one of millions and millions of acres. Ours is only 33,000 acres, but still a matter of justice, never the less.

Let me make this very clear, those detained and arrested on May 4, 2000 were following literally the principles of civil disobedience at its best. As a matter of fact, we were inspired by Jesus Christ on the cross; by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Montgomery, Alabama; by Rosa Parks not sitting in the back of the bus; and Crazy Horse at Wounded Knee.

And now, I am very, very upset and disappointed. I learned late this afternoon that the United States Navy has resumed, today, military maneuvers with inert bombs. The official understanding between the United States Navy and the Ecumenical Coalition for Vieques was that the maneuvers would resume four weeks after the arrest. This would have afforded us precious time for more conciliatory measures.

What can you do to join us in the just cause for Vieques? First, without any doubt, we need your prayers and fasting. Second, we need you to write to President Clinton insisting for the US Navy to leave Vieques now! And I say NOW! *(Applause)* We need for you to write to your Senators and Congress-persons in order to advocate for Vieques.

In summary, join me in evangelical civil disobedience for Vieques!

We need for you to write your Senators and Congressperson in order to advocate for Vieques. In summary, join me in evangelical civil disobedience for Vieques. Thank you and God bless you. Amen.

(Applause)

BISHOP PAUP: While you're standing, while you're standing, I'm going to ask that our prayer be the return to Hymn No. 583 and if Cynthia's here we're going to sing verses 2 and 3, verses 2 and 3 of 583.

(singing)

BISHOP PAUP: And you may want to be reminded that on page 1919 of the DCA you will find the text of the resolution that was passed last week regarding Vieques. Now let us turn to Mary Alice Massey, chairperson of our Committee on Agenda, who will lead us at this moment.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Good evening, Bishop Paup and delegates. First of all, let me say that we are unable to carve out

any legislative session time for the legislative committees tonight because the interpreters have all gone home and I apologize for that. Secondly, I would like to move to suspend the rules to allow the pleary session to be extended to 11:00 o'clock tonight because we're behind schedule.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, you have heard the motion to suspend the rules that we might continue until 11:00 o'clock tonight. If you are ready to vote press one, if you approve, two; if you do not approve, please vote when the light appears. *[Yes, 441; No, 466]* Please, let us not vote with applause. *(Laughter)* But you have not agreed to suspend the rules and that means that we will go until 10:30. *(Laughter)*

MASSEY: I certainly understand the delegates' reluctance to approve that, but because notice that some time this week you're going to have to stay later because we are behind schedule. Now for tomorrow for our agenda.

BISHOP PAUP: Please, let's give attention to Mary Alice.

MASSEY: This is a proposed agenda. We haven't really been on schedule the whole week, so. But this is proposed agenda. Worship service will begin at 8:15 to 9:00 with the normal choral music beginning at 8:00 o'clock. 9:00 to 9:10 we'll have the committee on calendar, agenda, report. From 9:10 to 9:13 we'll have words from a circuit rider. From 9:13 to 9:23 a.m. University Senate elections. From 9:23 to 11:45 calendar items. From 11:45 to 12:05 the GCFA Report. From 12:05 to 12:15 conference announcements and Committee on Presiding Officers. 12:15 to 1:30 will be the lunch recess. At 1:30 to 3:30 legislative committees who have not finished their work will meet. In the afternoon we'll be ginple nary at 3:45 and go until 5:30. We'll have dinner recess from 5:30 to 7:20. In the evening we'll have our music and then we will be gin our plenary at 7:30. Report on agenda at 7:30 and then plenary beginning at 7:35. GCOM Advance will be an order of the day at 9:35 to 10:00 o'clock and then announcements and adjournment. Thank you, Bishop.

Second & Third Bal lots for Judicial Council

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you very much, Mary Alice we will work hard tonight to move through as many calendar items as we possibly can, but first of all I would like to determine if we have a ballot report ready. I'm told that we do. This is a report from the second ballot. You are electing members to the Judicial Council and let's hear the report now. You will note 2741 valid votes, 931 valid ballots, need to elect 457, in valid

ballots, 19. You will see before you the numbers. Mary Daffin, 448; Rodolfo Beltran, 331; James Holsinger, 308; Sally Geis, 258; Paul Ervin, 241; Jon Gray, 219; Marc Loud, 204; Daniel F. Evans, Jr., 120; Edward Hill, 92; William White, 86; Evelyn Caterson, 75; Daniel Ivey-Soto, 74; James Lamark Cox, Sr., 61; Ann Saunkeah, 51; Lonnie Brooks, 50; Oscar Ferrer, 39; Theopelous Gambe, 32; W. Clark Williams, 27; Steven Lett, 15; William Todd, Jr., 10.

We will proceed now for the third ballot for the Judicial Council. You are voting for lay members of the Judicial Council. Three lay members and so you will be voting three different times. Once this time from the list of 1 through 20, you have that list before you now. Please vote when the light appears. Now for the second person you wish to vote for for the Judicial Council lay member. We have the list before us again. Please vote when the light appears. And now for the third person that you will vote for Judicial Council lay. The list is before us. Please vote when the light appears. Thank you very much.

Is the report ready for the clergy ballots? Clergy ballot no. 2: valid votes 1872, valid ballots 945. Needed to elect, 469, there are six in valid ballots. There are no elections Larry Pickens 402, Keith Boyette 334. Theodore "Ted" Walter 285. Jane Tews 223. Susan Henry-Crowe 157. Robert Sweet, Jr. 105. Belton Joyner 98. Philip Fenn 62. Linda Thomas 50. Ralph Laurence Dill III 41. Frank Davies 35. Elsie Crickard 31. Francine Taylor-Thirus 28. Thomas Griffith 14. Thomas Shanklin 7.

As per the instructions that were given to us this morning you are voting for 2 one per screen but for 2 who will serve 8 year terms and then we have 1 after these two are elected who will fill an unexpired term for 4 years. Let's have the list before us again. Take a moment to check the list determine for whom it is you wish to vote. Voting for 1. Please vote when the light appears. Thank you. Let's have the list before us a second time. Voting again for 1. Please vote when the light appears. Ballot no. 3 for the Judicial Council is now closed.

We will now turn to calendar items and will invite Tyrone Gordon and officers of Local Church Legislative Committee to present to us calendar items at this time. While they're coming, yes, please, mike 6.

Local Church Legislative Committee Report

PATRICIA MILLER (South Indiana): Thank you Bishop. Because of our desire to have maximum participation by all dele-

gates I move that when presenting calendar items the presenter give the location in the *DCA*, the petition or resolution number, a one sentence summary of the item, and a brief statement of rationale behind the vote of the committee. If I could have a second I would like to speak to that.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, you have a second. Proceed.

MILLER: As you all know we are juggling several sources of material. Some of us are barely getting to the location in the *DCA* before the vote is taken and we would appreciate ample opportunity to know the issue before voting.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, thank you. Is there debate on this matter? Procedural matter before us. All right, seeing none, this is the motion that is before us if you support the motion you will press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 757; No, 153] All right, you have supported this procedural action. Tyrone, welcome, will you be able to lead us in this way?

TYRONE D. GORDON (Kansas West): I'll try my best.

BISHOP PAUP: All right. We know you can.

GORDON: Bishop. From the Local Church Committee we have several items to present. *DCA* p. 1846, Calendar Item 141, Petition 30976, and you'll also find it in your *Advance DCA* p. 1138. The committee votes nonconcurrency because it is in violation of our trust laws.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, that is before us from committee. They have determined nonconcurrency. Is there any debate? If you support nonconcurrency you will vote 1, press 1 when the light appears, if you do not sustain the committee, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 852; No, 66] You have supported the committee.

GORDON: *DCA* p. 1909, Calendar Item 327, Petition 30320. You'll also find it on your *Advance DCA* p. 1102. The committee voted concurrency as amended and this has simply changed the preface preceding paragraph 201 to emphasize our Wesleyan tradition.

BISHOP PAUP: All right that is before us, committee voting concurrency as amended. Questions or statements. All right, let us cast our vote. Press 1 if you support the committee, 2 if you do not. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 881; No, 30] you do sustain the committee.

Local Church Access to the Disabled

GORDON: Under *DCA* p. no. 1909 you'll find Calendar Item 328. It's found in

your *Advance DCA* on p. 1140. The committee voted or recommends concurrency and it just simply says that the church should evaluate church property and when it is applicable, plan a timeline as to how to go about correcting problems of accessibility to those who are disabled and we felt that this was a justice issue.

BISHOP PAUP: All right the committee then moves concurrency with amendment. Questions? Statements? If you support the committee you will press 1 if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 900; No, 29] You do support the committee.

GORDON: Also on your *DCA* p. 1909, you'll find Calendar Item 329, Petition 31194. You'll also find it in your *Advance DCA* on p. 1136. And the committee is recommending nonconcurrency in that this matter is taken care of elsewhere.

BISHOP PAUP: All right. The committee's motion is for nonconcurrency. Questions? Statements? If you support the action of the committee you will press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 900; No, 28] You support the committee's action of nonconcurrency.

GORDON: On your *DCA* p. no. 1910, you'll find Calendar Item 330, Petition 30881 and in your *Advance DCA* you'll find it on p. 1108. The committee voted or is recommending concurrency because the current Discipline requires the pastor to hold confirmation or membership classes annually, and this requirement is unrealistic for numerous of our small membership churches when such classes are held every two or three years. And it re moves the term annually.

BISHOP PAUP: The committee's action is concurrency. Questions or statements? If you support the action of the committee, press 1 if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 823; No, 97] You do support the committee's action of concurrency.

GORDON: On your *DCA* p. no. 1910, you'll find Calendar Item 331, Petition 30138. You'll find it also in your *Advance DCA* on p. 1109. The committee recommends nonconcurrency. The *Discipline* paragraph is about nurturing in active members. However, this petition adds specific language about eliminating discrimination, but this such language appears elsewhere. In *The Discipline* and there fore seems unnecessary at this point.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, committee's action is nonconcurrency. Questions or statements? Press 1 if you support; 2 if you do not. Please vote when the light appears.

[Yes, 868; No, 62] You do support the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrency.

GORDON: Bishop, our last item is found on *DCA* p. no. 1910, Calendar Item 332, Petition 30274. In your *Advance DCA* you'll find it on 1111. The committee recommends concurrency which just simply puts the *Discipline* in line with where the program already lies.

BISHOP PAUP: Committee recommendation is for concurrency. Questions or statements. If you support the work of the action of the committee, press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 887; No, 28] You do support the committee's action of concurrency.

GORDON: Thank you, bishop.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you, Tyrone and the Local Church. Let us now turn to Robert Hayes and of ficers of Faith and Order.

Faith and Order Report

ROBERT HAYES JR. (Texas): Bishop and delegates to the General Conference. The Legislative Committee on Faith and Order would like to bring before you tonight five petitions for your consideration. My name is Robert Hayes, Jr., and I serve as the chair and Scott Jones serves as the vice chair of this committee. All of these petitions can be found on p. 1908 of the *DCA* and in the *Advance DCA* you can find this first petition on p. 510. The first Petition is 30135; p. 1908. This particular petition deals with children's environmental protection. The committee recommends nonconcurrency and this particular petition is an effort to safeguard children from an unsafe environment and the recommends nonconcurrency because much of the language is similar in other sections of the *Discipline*.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, and this is also no. 313. Recommendation of the committee is nonconcurrency. Any questions or statements? If you support the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrency, you will press 1, if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 879; No, 55] You support the recommendation of nonconcurrency.

HAYES: The second petition can also be found on 1908, it is Calendar Item 316: "The prevention of addiction and care of addicts." That's Petition 30009. The committee recommends concurrency as amended and it lists also the wording that is included in this: "freedom through Jesus Christ and in finding good opportunities" is the amended sentence. As I said, the committee recommends concurrency with that change.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, the recommendation, concurrence as amended. Questions or statements? Press 1 if you support; 2 if you do not. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 907; No, 24] You do support the action of the committee.

HAYES: The third petition is Calendar Item 312 also found on p. 1908. Petition 30058. It deals with "United Methodist seminaries to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act by 2011 with no exceptions." The committee recommends non-concurrence and the rationale is that many of our United Methodist seminaries have already complied with American Disabilities Act, and granting no exceptions to some of the older building of our seminaries would place an undue hardship upon them if they are not able to do that. And so the committee recommends non-concurrence at this time.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, you've heard the committee recommendation of non-concurrence. Any questions or statements? If you support their action, press 1; if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. You have supported their action of non-concurrence. [Yes, 776; No, 152]

HAYES: Vice chair Scott Jones will present the other two and close us out for the evening.

SCOTT JONES (North Texas): Bishop and members of the conference, I call your attention still on page 1908. The Calendar Item 311, it represents our action on Petition 31665. You can find that in your *Advanced DCA* on p. 1284. The committee's recommendation is for non-concurrence leaving this first sub-paragraph of paragraph 66 unchanged. The rationale being that this was taken care of by other places in the *Discipline*.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, the committee's recommendation is non-concurrence. Questions or statements?

If you support the committee, press 1; if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 896; No, 35] You do support the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence.

JONES: On the same page, 1908, the Calendar Item is No. 317. This represents our work on Petition 31800. You can find that on page 1285 of your *Advance DCA*. Our committee's recommendation is non-concurrence. This leaves unchanged the separation of the two subparagraphs in paragraph 66. Our rationale is that the point the maker of the petition was trying to make, the same point is cared for very well in other places in the *Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions*.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, committee's recommendation is non-concurrence. Questions or statements? If you support the committee, press 1 if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 878; No, 51] You do support the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence.

JONES: Bishop, that concludes the Faith and Order petitions and calendar items for tonight.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you to Robert and Scott, and to members of the Faith and Order Legislative Committee.

(Applause)

Let us now move to Discipleship; Jeffrey Greenway.

Discipleship Committee Report

JEFFREY E. GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop Paup and members of the General Conference, we have five calendar items for you this evening. The first four are found on page 1907 in your *DCA*. Page 1907, Calendar Item 302; the location in the *Advance DCA* is page 289. This is Petition No. 30081. Petition 30081. This petition calls for an amendment to paragraph 1115.7 to include the National Association of Annual Conference Directors of Lay Speaking. The committee has recommended non-concurrence. Our rationale is that this organization is a relatively new organization. It has not yet been given affiliate status with the General Board of Discipleship. Therefore, placing that in this location in the *Discipline* would be premature at this time. On behalf of the committee, I move non-concurrence.

BISHOP PAUP: Committee's recommendation is non-concurrence. Questions or statements? Yes, please, in the back, yellow card, mike 5. Yes, please, mike 5. Let's try once again, please, mike 5. Let's move—can you move across to mike 6, please? Thank you.

LEE HOSKINS (Kansas East): Bishop, I speak in opposition to the recommendation of the legislative committee. The General Conference has done much this session to affirm the lay speaking ministry and set the pathway for the next quadrennium. It's essential that we affirm the budding Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking and provide them with a valuable link through which they can share in formation and resources, not only between themselves but through the General Board of Discipleship, even though they are young in nature at this time. Thank you.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you. You have heard this speech against the recommendation of this committee. Is there a speech that

favors the recommendation of the committee? All right, seeing no others, Jeffrey, do you wish to make a final statement?

GREENWAY: Yes, this was discussed at great extent in our legislative committee. The timing of this—I believe that across the board there's affirmation for the ministry of lay speaking. The timing of this, though, is that this organization has not yet been approved as an affiliate of the Board of Discipleship. And this paragraph speaks to—the only other specific entity mentioned in this paragraph is the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, which is an approved affiliate. And we thought that the timing should be "affiliate status," probably when the Board of Discipleship meets this fall, and then we would come back in the future and revisit this at another General Conference. Thus our motion.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, again, the recommendation of the committee is non-concurrence. If you support their recommendation, press 1; if you do not support it, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 590; No, 341] You have supported the recommendation for non-concurrence.

GREENWAY: Remaining on page 1907, Calendar Item No. 303; the location in the *Advance DCA* is page 283. This is Petition No. 30439. This was a petition to remove paragraph number 629.7 because of duplicate information. The committee recommends non-concurrence, and our rationale is that the committee did not agree that this is all duplicate material and that there would be some essence lost if we were to remove this paragraph at this time. Therefore, I move non-concurrence.

BISHOP PAUP: Recommendation of the committee is for non-concurrence. Questions or statements from the floor? Seeing none, if you support the committee, press 1; if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 903; No, 32] You do support the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence.

GREENWAY: Remaining on page 1907, Calendar Item No. 305; this is found in your *Advance DCA* page 278. Petition No. 30894. This is a petition to amend paragraph 270, which is concerned for the lay speaking ministry. The committee recommends concurrence. The rationale is that it calls for commitment to Scripture, doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church for lay speakers. Therefore, I move concurrence.

BISHOP PAUP: You've heard the recommendation of the committee for concurrence. Questions, statements from the floor? If you support the recommendation,

please press 1; if you do not, please press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 835; No, 91] You have supported the action of the committee for concurrence.

GREENWAY: Remaining on the same page, 1907, Calendar Item 304; this appears in your DCA on page 1273. This is Petition No. 31917. This is a petition to amend paragraph 273. The committee recommends nonconcurrency. Our rationale is that we affirm the minister of the baptized. We also appreciate the way that the recent training has affirmed and expanded the minister of lay speaking; but we were not willing to change the reference from "lay speaker" to "lay minister." There fore, I move concurrence. Nonconcurrency, sorry.

BISHOP PAUP: All right. Yes sir, thank you. Once again, the recommendation of the committee is for nonconcurrency. Questions or statements from the floor? If you support their recommendation, press 1; if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 825; No, 95] You have supported the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrency.

GREENWAY: Our final calendar item for tonight is found on page number 1835, 1835. This is Calendar Item No. 12. Let's take just a moment to turn that page, 1835, Calendar Item No. 12. This is found in your Advance DCA, p. no 282. This is Petition No. 30434. It's a, as petition to amend ¶ no. 629.1b and 2a. The committee recommends concurrence as amended. The rationale was that there were persons in the committee that believed that *age level* and *lifespan* were both necessary in this language. Therefore I move concurrence as amended.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, the recommendation of the committee is concurrence as amended. Questions or statements from the floor? If you support their recommendation, please press 1; if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 904; No, 27] You do support the recommendation of the committee.

GREENWAY: Bishop Paup, that concludes the Discipleship Committee's calendar items for this evening.

PAUP: Thank you, Jeffery, and thank you to the legislative Committee on Discipleship.

(Applause)

Mary Daffin Elected to Judicial Council

I'm told that we have a ballot to report. This is Judicial Council ballot no. 3. [Valid votes, 2726; valid ballots, 925, need to elect 454; in valid ballots, 16

(Applause)

There is an election.

(Applause)

Mary Daffin is elected with 529 votes. Yes, please? I'm reading the report. Let me, let me complete the reading of the report. Let's hear, then, the number of votes received by other persons. Rodolfo Beltran, 417; James Holsinger, 338; Sally Geis, 298; Paul Ervin, 238; Jon Gray, 207; Mark Loud, 174; Daniel Evans, Jr., 92; William White, 69; Edward Hill, 65; Evelyn Peterson, 58; Daniel Ivey-Soto, 49; Lonnie Brooks, 35; James Lamark Cox, Sr., 35; Oscar Ferrer, 33; Anne Saunkeah, 31; Clark Williams, 17; Theopelous Gambe, 16; Steven Lett, 16; William Todd Jr., 9. Is this regarding the ballot report? All right. Please, mike 6.

DANIEL IVEY-SOTO (New Mexico): I wish to withdraw my name from further consideration for the Judicial Council. I'm, I have, up till now, been no. 14. When I arrived at the General Conference I was asked by the Hispanic Caucus if I would place my name in nomination. There's never been a Hispanic on the General Council—on the Judicial Council. However, given where the general balloting is going, I understand that that will wait at least one more quadrennium, and I wish to facilitate other people getting elected, and as a result would like to withdraw my name. Thank you.

BISHOP PAUP: All right! Thank you very much. Yes, please.

(Applause)

Mike 5, does this also relate to the ballot report?

CHARLES SCHUSTER (Rocky Mountain): Yes, there are six teen of us who continue—

BISHOP PAUP: Excuse me, sir. Would you please give us your name and conference?

SCHUSTER: I'm from the Rocky Mountain Conference—where you used to be.

(Laughter)

I have a question about the six teen voters who continue to make the same mistake in so far as I might be one of them. Could there be some explanation as to what that is?

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you. We will, we will research that and, and try to get an answer for you very quickly. Let's proceed to the clergy. We're trying to get an answer around the invalid ballots. If you could give us just a moment. It is apparent that the invalid ballots, at least for some, are being

created by voting for the same person each time. You may only vote for one person one time. It invalidates it if you vote for that same person a second and/or a third time.

All right, we are going to proceed now to elect, elect two remaining lay persons to the Judicial Council. And so you will see the screen twice. You see the screen now before us. Please vote when the light appears.

All right, we will see the screen a second time, and please make your decision for the next person you wish to cast a vote for. Please vote when the light appears.

Larry Pickens Elected to Judicial Council

All right, we will now proceed to report on the clergy ballot for Judicial Council. You will see on the screen valid votes 1865, valid ballots 940, needed to elect 466, invalid 9. There is one election. With 479 votes Larry Pickens is elected. Continuing the reading, Keith Boyette 361, Theodore Walter 297, Jane Tews 250 Susan Henry-Crowe 156, Belton Joyner 83, Robert Sweet 69, Philip Fenn 40, Linda Thomas 31, Frank Davies 25, Ralph Laurence Dill III 21, Elsie Crickard 19, Francine Taylor-Thirus 18, Thomas Griffith 10, Thomas Shanklin 6.

We will now proceed to vote for 1 clergy member, 1 clergy member for an eight year term on the Judicial Council. Let's have the screen before us again. We may still be removing Larry Pickens. May we have the slate of nominees without Larry's name, please. We have lost more than Larry's name.

All right. Now you have before you the slate of nominees minus the name of Larry Pickens, who is now elected. You will vote this time for 1, 1 only please. Please vote when the light appears. Ballot no. 4 for the Judicial Council is now closed. Let us now continue with calendar items and we will invite Global Ministries. Christine Keels and officers of Global Ministries.

CHRISTINE KEELS (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, the Legislative Committee on Global Ministries was very blessed to have the presence of Youngsook Kang our vicechair. Youngsook assumed the responsibility of tracking petitions within the committee as well as the Committee on Reference. To night she will be presenting from p. 1848.

Committee On Global Ministries Report

YOUNGSOOK KANG (Rocky Mountain): Good evening, Bishop and delegates. This evening on behalf of Legislative Committee on Global Ministries we will be bringing to you three calendar items. First of all, let me just point out one correction

that has been made in your *DCA* related to Global Ministries petitions. If you turn to p. 1957, 1957, on the top part of the left hand column, you see Global Ministries under there you will see corrections made. We even have an apology for this. Thank you.

Now we'll be looking at calendar items beginning with Calendar Items 169, please turn to p. 1848, Calendar Item 159, Petition 30864. Subject is Communities of Sha lom. The full text is found in your *Advance DCA* blue book p. 878. The committee recommends to continue—the committee recommends concurrence, the rationale being, we feel that it is essential to continue the implementation of communities of Sha lom. Our recommendation is concurrence with a reference to GCF&A, and I so move, Bishop.

BISHOP PAUP: All right. So your recommendation is concurrence and then reference to General Council and Finance and Administration. Questions or statements from the floor? All right, if you support the committee, please press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. You do support the recommendation of the committee [Yes, 902; No, 35].

Relationship With Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico Extended

KANG: Thank you. The next item is also found on the same p. 1848, Calendar Item 162. In the middle column of the page. Petition 30866, subject is, "Extend Provisions for Relationship with Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico." The full text is found in your *Advance DCA* p. 882. The committee recommends concurrence, the rationale being that we feel it is important to extend the relationship between The United Methodist Church and the Autonomous Methodist Church of Puerto Rico for the additional quadrennium. Our recommendation is concurrence with reference to GCF&A, and I so move, Bishop.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you. Again, the committee's recommendation concurrence with reference to General Council on Finance and Administration. Questions or statements from the floor. If you support the committee press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. You do support the committee [Yes, 876; No, 52].

KANG: Thank you. The next item is also found on the same page. P. 1848, Calendar Item 163. It is right below the item that we just dealt with, Petition 30862, subject is, "Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence." If you'd like to see the full petition please go to your *Advance DCA* p. 875. The committee recommends concurrence, the rationale being that we feel it is important to continue the program of substance

abuse and related violence that have provided the ministry of healing, hope and health for the last quadrennium. Now the committee recommends concurrence with a reference to GCF&A and I so move, Bishop.

BISHOP PAUP: All right. Again, the committee recommendation concurrence with reference to General Council and Finance and Administration. Questions or statements from the floor? If you support the committee, please press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. You do support the recommendation of the committee [Yes, 894; No, 34].

KANG: This concludes our report on Global Ministries for tonight. Thank you.

BISHOP PAUP: Youngsook, Christine, and Legislative Committee on Global Ministries. Thank you very much. Let us now turn to the Legislative Committee on Conferences. Charles Courtoy and other officers. While they are coming—they are now here. Thank you very much Charles.

Report of Committee on Conference

CHARLES COURTOY (Florida): Bishop, I'm Charles Courtoy, Chair of the Committee on Conferences, and to night to present two items is our vice-chair Donde Ashmos. Donde?

DONDE ASHMOS (Southwest Texas): Bishop, members of the conference, I direct your attention to—we bring you two items to night. I direct your attention to p. 1906 in the *DCA*, calendar Item 297, Petition 30936. Number 30936 it is at the bottom left hand side of the page. The full text can be found on p. 169 of the *Advance DCA*.

BISHOP PAUP: Calendar Item 297, is that correct?

ASHMOS: Calendar Item 297. The subject of this has to do with prohibiting general agency staff from lobbying general conference. Our committee recommends non concurrence. The rationale was that the information that we receive from boards and agencies is helpful.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, the committee recommendation is for non concurrence. Questions or statements from the floor? All right if you support the committee recommendation, please press 1, if you do not, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 719; No, 204] You have supported the recommendation of the committee.

ASHMOS: Our next item is also on p. 1906 in the *DCA*, Calendar Item 298 right next to the one that you just looked at. This is Petition 31515. The full text can be found on p. 171 of the *Advance DCA*. This has to do with "General church agency should be

disciplined if it makes statements that are contrary to the *Book of Discipline*." Our committee recommended non concurrence and the rationale was that would be difficult to monitor and really not necessary anyway.

BISHOP PAUP: All right, the committee recommendation is for non concurrence. Questions or statements from the floor? If you support the committee's recommendation please press 1, if you do not press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 654; No, 277] All right, you have supported the committee's recommendation of non concurrence.

ASHMOS: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP PAUP: To Donde and Charles and Legislative Committee on Conferences, thank you very much.

(Applause)

Let me ask if the Presiding Officers Committee has a report for us tonight? Yes, please. We would like to see you up at, up front, Paul. Come all the way up. *(Pause)* Please give your attention to Paul Extrum-Fernandez, who chairs our Committee on Presiding Officers. Paul.

Bishops Sprague, Nacpil, and Dew to Pre side on Tuesday

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop Paup, delegates. It's my pleasure to announce who will be presiding for tomorrow's morning session, afternoon session, as well as evening session. Bishop Joseph Sprague of the Chicago Area will be presiding at our morning session. Bishop Emerito Nacpil from the Manila Area will be presiding at the afternoon session. And Bishop William Dew from the Phoenix Area will be presiding at the evening session. Thank you.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you very much, Paul. Thank you for the work of your committee. We do have a ballot report ready for us. *(Pause)* All right, let's hear the lay report. We're yet voting for two. Report back on ballot no. 4. *(Pause)* All right, you will see valid votes, 1,845; valid ballots, 932; needed to elect, 461; invalid ballots, 10. There is no election. Let me give you the count. Rodolfo Beltran, 448; James Holsinger, 346; Sally Geis, 282; Paul Ervin, 218; John Gray, 179; Mark Loud, 79; Daniel F. Evans, Jr, 66; Edward Hill, 37; Evelyn Catterson, 35; William White, 31; Lonnie Brooks, 22; Oscar Ferrer, 21; James Lamark Cox, Sr, 18; Ann Saunkeah, 17; Theophilous Gambe, 13; Stephen Lett, 13; Clark Williams, 7; William Todd, Jr, 6; Mary Daffin . . .

(Laughter)

I believe you need to disregard the last two. If I remember, Mary was elected and we had one with drawal.

All right. Let's proceed for lay ballots. You're yet voting for two. This time, as the screen appears, we're voting for one of the list. Please take a moment. *(Pause)* Determine the one for whom you wish to vote. Please vote when the light appears. *(Pause)* The screen will appear another time for our next vote. For the second time, the list is before us. You need to select one additional person now, an other person from this list. Please vote when the light appears.

All right. I'm going to turn now to the clergy ballot results. Ballot no. 4. *(Pause)* Can we get the screen ahead of this one that indicates number needed for election? We won't get it this time, is that correct—when we're voting for one? *(Pause)* All right. Since we need a majority, you will note there is no election.

Let me read the results. Keith Boyette, 344; Jane Tews, 265; Theodore Walter, 114; Susan Henry-Crowe, 99; Belton Joyner, 32; Robert Sweet Jr, 32; Philip Fenn, 16; Elsie Crickard, 10; Linda Thomas, 10; Frank Davies, 6; Francine Taylor-Thirus, 5; Ralph Lawrence Dill III, 4; Thomas Shanklin, 3; Thomas Griffith, 1; Larry Pickens has already been elected.

Now we will have the screen before us again. You are voting for one. *(Pause)* If we may have the screen. The slate of nominees, please. There we are. You are voting for one. *(Pause)* Please vote when the light appears. All right, ballot no. 5 then is closed. I'm going to suggest now that we take a 15-minute break. If you will, please, return at ten minutes 'til the hour. Thank you very much.

(Singing)

BISHOP PAUP: We'll sing that verse again, in a moment, but we do know that there are some health concerns in the body. We know that we don't have time now to name them all. You will want to lift them, of course, in your heart and minds. We do welcome back Bishop Sharon Rader. So thankful that she's out of the hospital and back with us. We also want to have Carolyn give us a word about Tom Matheny, so please, if you will hear from her.

Prayer for Tom Matheny

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Even in the midst of our celebration and rejoicing and in the middle of our singing we realize that there are persons here, and persons absent from us, because of major concerns either

for themselves or their families. Yesterday, no Saturday, the announcement was made that if you wanted greetings sent from the Conference, if you would pass a note to the secretary's desk, here at the front, we would see that was done. There's one particular one that at this time Bishop Paup has allowed us, and wanted that we bring to your attention, to the attention of all of us. And that is the severe illness of Tom Matheny. Tom served as the president of the Judicial Council. We are now in the process of voting for new members of the Judicial Council to fill several classes, both in lay and clergy or ders. And so, because of the fact that Tom is not with us because of his illness and in recognition of the service which he has given across a good many years, not only as a president and member of the Judicial Council but in other arenas of service, I would move that this body, along with the Council of Bishops, send our love and prayers and concern to Tom Matheny.

BISHOP PAUP: All right. If you would support, would you lift a hand, please? All right, you have supported. Let's join hands, if we could, and take moment for prayer.

(Music, prayer, singing)

(Music)

Thank you very much. We have a challenge before us. We have about 30 minutes of this evening of business remaining, and the challenge is to elect the members of the Judicial Council before we go home for the night. I think you can do it.

*Rodolfo Beltrán Elected
to Judicial Council*

All right. We have some ballot results now before us. You recall that you have elected one layperson already. Valid votes, 1,839; and the valid number of ballots, 924; needed to elect, 460; in valid ballots, 21. We will research that.

(Applause)

(Reads Election)

Rodolfo Beltrán.

(Applause)

you have elected. And I failed to recognize these persons before. Is Mary Daffin here? Is Rodolfo here? Oh, there's Mary. All right. Mary, we want to recognize you at this time.

(Applause)

Mary was elected earlier. Mary, congratulations.

(Applause)

Okay, is Rodolfo here as well? All right. Now, let's continue with the reading of votes received. James Holsinger, 378; Sally Geis, 334; Paul Ervin, 216; John Gray, 160; Daniel F. Evans, Jr, 57; Mark Loud, 46; Edward Hill, 30; Evelyn Lynn Catterson, 26; Lonnie Brooks, 24; William White, 24; Oscar Ferrer, 15; James Lamark Cox, Sr., 14; Ann Saunkeah, 7; Steven Lett, 6; Theophelous Gambe, 4; William Todd, Jr, 3; Clark Williams, 3. Now the reason the names appear is that these persons are still receiving votes, and so that's why their names appear even though one was elected and one with drew. Yes? does this? is this in regard to the balloting? Please go to mike 4.

PAUL ERVIN (North Georgia): I really appreciate the honor that the conference has given me for this election, but I would like to request withdrawal and ask the folks who've been voting for me to find another wonderful candidate. Thank you.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you, Paul. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

I'm going to ask that we proceed to the next ballot for the lay members of the Judicial Council. You are voting for one. We will receive the screen with the slate of candidates. We're not candidates.

(Laughter)

Is the screen ready, please? I'm told they're trying to erase your name, Paul, and, this may be taking just a moment. As the screen appears, let me remind you that having elected two lay members now to the Judicial Council you will be electing one additionally, and so you will be voting for one. You have the screen now before you. Please take a moment to study the names on the screen. All right, please vote when the light appears. Now you will note that we have to exceed 50% for an election. I am told that it will be possible for us to do some continual voting until a person is elected; because now you are voting for one and the results appear automatically. May I ask if you are willing to continue to stay with lay ballots until the next lay person is elected?

CONGREGATION: Yes!

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you for the affirmation. Let's have the screen again. Yes, please, mike 1.

JON R. GRAY (Missouri West): I wish to thank the Council of Bishops for their nomination. I'd like to withdraw my name and ask the delegates to find some other good candidate to vote for.

BISHOP PAUP: Jon, thank you. Jon Gray is withdrawing. Thank you, Jon.

If we can have the screen at least with the results before us so that we can see that once again. Well, that does not give us the results, but perhaps—Are you willing to move ahead and cast another ballot?

All right, you find the names now before you. You are voting for one person. Please take a moment to reflect on these remaining names. All right, please vote when the light appears. Are we able to pull the lay screen back again? There it is. Take a moment. James Holsinger, 449; Sally Geis, 384; James Lamark Cox, Sr., 20; Mark Loud, 16; Evelyn Catterson, 11; Edward Hill, 11; William White, 9; Rodolfo has already been elected; Lonnie Brooks, 8; Daniel Evans, 5; Oscar Ferrer, 5; Ann Saunkeah, 5. And we'll ask for the screen again for lay candidates for the Judicial Council.

Once again, you are voting for one. Please take a moment to reflect on the person for whom you wish to vote. Please vote when the light appears. Let me read this for you. James Holsinger, 473; Sally Geis, 404; James Lamark Cox, Sr., 18; Mark Loud, 9; Lonnie Brooks, 5; Evelyn Catterson, 5; William White, 5; Daniel F. Evans, Jr., 4; Oscar Ferrer, 4; Theophilous Gambe, 2; Edward Hill, 2; Anne Saunkeah, 2; Steven Lett, 1; William Todd, 1; Clark Williams, 1. Yes, please? Question? Mike 3.

JOHN HORTON (South Georgia): The percentages that are shown on the screen include the invalid votes of persons already elected. If those numbers were taken out because they're invalid, that would change the percentage figures. If we calculate, subtracting those, it may be that we have an election on the last ballot.

BISHOP PAUP: Are the tellers prepared to help us with this? Let's check the numbers again. Can we pull up that screen please? Do we know if the 949 is inclusive of all the ballots cast? Is it inclusive, therefore, of invalid ballots?

Let me test the will of the body. Would you proceed to take another ballot?

RESPONSE: Yes.

*James Holsinger Elected
to Judicial Council*

BISHOP PAUP: All right. I'm going to ask us to proceed for another ballot. Would you bring the screen back please? All right. The screen is before us. Please take a moment to reflect on these persons. And now vote when the light appears.

(Applause)

With 501 votes, you have elected James Holsinger. Is he here?

(Applause)

All right, thank you. And now I'm going to ask that we proceed to the clergy ballot. Did we have a result on the last ballot? All right. We're going to vote for one. We're going to vote for one. If you recall, on the clergy, we're voting for one for an eight-year term. And then we will have one additional to elect for a four-year term. Pardon? Mike 7.

PHIL GRANGER (North Indiana): Bishop, I believe we did not have a report of the last ballot for clergy.

Keith Boyette Elected to Judicial Council

BISHOP PAUP: All right. That was my question as well. Is there a report? Thank you. Keith Boyette, 407; Jane Tews, 314; Theodore Walters, 69; Susan Henry-Crowe, 61; Robert Sweet, 25; Belton Joyner, 23; Philip Finn, 9; Linda Thomas, 7; Frank Davies, 6; Elsie Crickard, 4; Thomas Griffith, 4; Francine Taylor-Thirus, 3. And now if we may have the screen back listing your candidates for the Judicial Council. You will be voting for one, for one please. And now vote when the light appears. The results are Keith Boyette, 463; Jane Tews, 360; Theodore Walter, 40; Susan Henry-Crowe, 31; Belton Joyner, 14; Robert Sweet, 13; Elsie Crickard, 7; Linda Thomas, 5; Frank Davies, 4; Thomas Griffith, 4; Philip Finn, 3; Thomas Shanklin, 2; Ralph Lawrence Dill, 1; Francine Taylor-Thirus, 1.

May we have the screen please? Candidates for the Judicial Council. Voting again for one. Please take a moment to reflect on the names. Please vote when the light appears.

(Applause)

You have elected Keith Boyette. I'd like to have the screen held for a moment though please. Is Keith here? All right. Let's proceed though, because we do have one more election. Let me see the results. Jane Tews, 355; Theodore Walter, 23; Susan Henry-Crowe, 20; Belton Joyner, 13; Robert Sweet, 13; Elsie Crickard, 3; Frank Davies, 3; Linda Thomas, 3; Philip Finn, 2; Thomas Griffith, 1; Thomas Shanklin, 1; Ralph Lawrence—all right, these with 0. Now, we'll pull the screen back another time.

Let us be reminded that we are now electing one additional clergy person for a four-year term—one clergy for a four-year

term. I believe it's taking a moment to remove Keith Boyette's name, and then we should receive the screen again with the remaining names. All right, you now have before us the remaining names. We're going to be, again, electing one, one only, a four-year term. Take a moment to study the screen. And now please vote when the light appears.

(Applause)

You have elected Jane Tews. With 517 votes, you have elected Jane Tews. Is Jane here?

(Applause)

I'm going to ask, if I may, if these persons who we have elected and are in the hall would please come forward at this time that we might recognize them. Would you please come forward?

(Applause)

I am going to ask that the current members of the Judicial Council come and join their new colleagues here on the platform and I am going to have a moment where we can all enter into prayer thanksgiving to God. I'm told Rodolfo is coming. Oh, wonderful, come on Rodolfo, welcome, congratulations!

(Applause, prayer, applause)

I am now going to turn to Carolyn Marshall for some concluding announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Yes Bishop, I believe there is only one to night. What a record. There will be no legislative committee meetings this evening following adjournment. *(applause)* Hear the rest of it. *(laughter)* We have a reduced staff of interpreters and they have been translating all day and evening and we have been informed that they are exhausted. We need them to be fresh to morrow. We need all of us to be fresh to morrow, too. We regret any inconvenience this may cause. And as was announced by the agenda and calendar committee, legislative committees will be meeting to morrow if you are not finished with your work from 1:30-3:30 with the exception of Higher Education and Ministry which desires to be in at 1:00. That's it, Bishop.

BISHOP PAUP: Thank you very much. Now let me share with you that there are still alternates to be elected to the Judicial Council. But you have done so well to night in electing the members to the council that we are not going to do that yet this evening, but instead I send you to your rooms with thanksgiving for a wonderful day. Thank you for the way you cooperated this night.

Have a restful night and we'll see you at 8:00 to tomorrow morning. God bless you all.

Tuesday Morning May 9, 2000

(Bishop Joseph C. Sprague, presiding)

(Applause)
(Song)

STEPHEN D. BRYANT (Publisher, *The Upper Room*): Be good stewards of God's manifold grace using whatever God has given us to the glory God.

I brought a lot of stuff with me to General Conference, and perhaps you did too. I brought a lot of clothes, I brought a lot of documents and books, and I brought 4 or 5 pairs of reading glasses—and I've only lost 2 or 3

(Laughter)

using up what I brought. But this message this morning, both word and in dance, reminds me that God has given us some things to bring as well; and that each of us comes bearing gifts—gifts of God's grace. And I'd like to invite you this morning to, not forget that God has given you something to bring, and if you have n't used it yet, you have a few days still.

What is the gift that God has given you to bring to this conference? What gift of grace to this community? And what is the gift that God has given us as a people called Methodists for this world?

Let's take a moment this morning in prayer and discernment to reflect, first of all, on what is the gift that God has given you to bring to this conference. What is the gift that you bring? Is it the gift of persuasion or speech? Or is it the gift of a listening heart? Perhaps at this point in the conference it's the gift of forbearance or a gift of forgiveness or an ability to speak the truth in love.

And what is the grace? What is the gift that God has given us to give to the world? That's the question this week. What is the gift that God has given us to give to the world? I want to invite you to take one minute to turn to a person and share a response that comes to mind with regards to the gift that you bring, or the gift that we, in fact, have been given to give to the world. And help each other identify what that is this morning. Just share for just a moment, and then we'll close in prayer.

(Pause for sharing)

Let's bring our sharing to a close and be silent for just a moment and join together in prayer. Let us listen to God for what God would say to us about what God wants us to give, what God is giving us to share.

(Prayer)

Gracious God, you have blessed us with your life in and through Jesus Christ, and you've given us even more than we really need to live our lives; but you've given us just what we need to live your life for the sake of the world. Help us today to be good stewards of your manifold grace, of all that you have given us to give, and all you have blessed us to be. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BISHOP C. JOSEPH SPRAGUE: All right, thank you. As Mary Alice Massey and Fitzgerald Reist come, we're reminded that worship has to do not with what we either think or feel but rather worship has to do with the worship of God and with our abilities to sing praises through words and through wonderful actions such as the dancers we experienced this morning. We're grateful that the worship of God was acknowledged in action, word, and song this morning. Thanks to the worship team and particularly to our preacher of the morning, Mary Alice.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Good morning Bishop Sprague and delegates. This morning it's my privilege to introduce Hee-Soo Jung who is the vice-chair of the Agenda Committee who will be presenting the agenda. Hee-Soo?

HEE-SOO JUNG (Wisconsin): Thank you. Bishop Sprague and council bishops and all members of the delegation. On behalf of the Agenda Committee I present our agenda today, which is printed in p. 2 in today's *DCA*, vol. 4, no. 7.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. The agenda is before us. Let us be mindful as we prepare to vote that it is Tuesday. Friday's coming as we adopt the agenda. It will be the order of the day. That means we're binding ourselves to it. As many as would accept the agenda, please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 698; No, 7] All right, the agenda is overwhelmingly adopted. Let us go.

Consent Calendars A03, B03, C03
Approved

FITZGERALD REIST: Good morning. Please turn in your *Daily Christian Advocate* for Monday, May 8, 2000, vol. 4, no. 6, to p. 1963. The third Consent Calendar begins there. On page 1963 consent calendar

A03 begins with Calendar Item 333. On page 1965 Calendar Items 354 and 355 have been removed at the request of delegates.

HEE-SOO JUNG (Wisconsin): Bishop I move the approval of the consent calendar A03 with the exception noted.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right it is properly before us. Please vote accordingly when the light appears.

All right it is adopted. [Yes, 748; No, 12]

REIST: On page 1970, consent calendar B03 begins with Calendar Item 405. There are no changes to consent calendar B03.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right it is before us please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 801; No, 8] All right it is adopted. Thank you.

REIST: On page 1977 consent calendar C03 begins with Calendar Item 454. On page 1978 Calendar Item 461 has been removed at the request of delegates. On page 1979 Calendar Item 475 has been removed at the request of delegates.

JUNG: Bishop, I move the approval of consent calendar C03 with the exception noted.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: OK, it is properly before us. Please vote as the light appears. [Yes, 805; No, 10] And once again the vote is positive. Thank you.

JUNG: This concludes our agenda today, thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you very much. Mary Alice? It is our understanding that we are to be visited by a Circuit Rider at this point. We're prepared for the visit.

Circuit Rider Ralph Jarboe
Rides Horse From Kansas

HARRY E. SHANER (Commission on the General Conference): Bishop, members of the General Conference and guests. On March 19, Rev. Ralph Jarboe left Erie, Kansas, on horse back, riding Scooby Doo, as a circuit rider to celebrate the bicentennial of the United Brethren in Christ Church. Some of us remember his trip in 1984 to Baltimore.

Accompanying Ralph on the 1,117 mile journey are his two sons, Charles and Matt, taking turns on Skip, and his wife Marie driving the van and trailer when the horses were on the ground. Ralph is an elder from the Kansas area, having served as pastor in the Kansas West Conference for 30 years and in the Kansas East Conference for two years. I present to you the Rev. Ralph E. Jarboe, Jr.

(*applause*)

RALPH E. JARBOE, JR.: Bishops and members of the General Conference, I want to thank the Commission on the General Conference for letting me fulfill my dream of riding horse back to General Conference for the second time for the bicentennial of the United Brethren Church. I have shared with 60 churches this time, and about 2,000 people, the history of the United Brethren Church; and about what the circuit riders wore; and about the books they carried in their saddle bags; and a message about the Holy Spirit watching over us as we travel along the high ways to come to an annual conference; and how that spirit will guide and direct each of us on our faith journeys. I've also taken up an offering for my expenses and I would like to give a portion of that offering to Habitat for Humanity. That amount is \$1,500.00.

(*Applause*)

Thank you very much for letting me celebrate the bicentennial of the United Brethren Church.

(*Applause*)

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you so much. Thank you so very much.

We are reminded in so many ways that what affects one of us directly affects all of us indirectly. As Dr. King once said: "We're all tied together in one mutual garment of destiny." We are reminded of that with the presentation just received. We are further reminded of that by the sad fact that a number of our Central Conference delegates could not be with us because of visa difficulties. Surely we share their anguish, we hold them in our special prayers, and we trust that they know that though they are not with us physically, we in deed are one in the Spirit and one in the Lord. It is in the spirit of that oneness that we turn now to Elena Tischenko that she might call to our attention for a moment of prayer, the very somber, serious nature of this day, because it is the 55th anniversary of a most auspicious occasion. Elena, where are you, that we might recognize you and you might go to the appropriate microphone. Yes, mike 2 please, mike 2.

Prayer for Russia, Past, Present, Future

ELENA Y. TISCHENKO (Russia Provisional): Bishops and delegates, my name is Elena Tischenko. I am from Russia Provisional Conference, lay delegate. Fifty-five years ago at 9th of May, 1945, the Second World War for Russia was ended. But more than 13 millions of Russians were killed. It

was about 25 percent of our population. And my grandmother and my two uncles were killed, too. And not only Russians, a lot of soldiers from other countries and citizens perished, too. This is the reason why I'd like us, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, about one minute of silence for memory. It will be not minute of memory, and it will be a minute of reminder for every one who would like to start a new war. And if possible I'd like to ask Ruediger Minor, our bishop, to pray with us.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you very much. We'll ask Bishop Minor to come to the microphone that he might be prepared to lead us in prayer as we now silently both remember and also commit ourselves to the presupposition that all of us are brothers and sisters, that every war is a civil war. Let us be in prayer.

(*Silent prayer*)

BISHOP RUEDIGER MINOR (Eurasia): Awesome, holy and merciful God. We remember the millions who have died in WWII and the other wars of the 20th Century. Women and children, civilians and soldiers, as they have been dying to this very day. We affirm our belief that there shall be no war. And yet, we are aware that your children continue to engage in war. We pray for the victims of wars; in Sierra Leone, and in Kosovo, and in Chechnya, and in other places of our world. As a church of ancient times, in many nations and tongues, we pray for your mercy—(*Greek Sanctus in English interpretation*) Holy God, Holy strong God, Holy immortal God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Amen. Thank you. We turn now to elections for the University Senate. Would remind you that these elections are by plurality rather than by majority, which simply means that in each category the two persons receiving the most votes will be those elected on the one ballot. Are we ready with that ballot? Are we ready with the screen? (*Pause*)

All right, for the Chief Executive Officer category. Are the names visible or would you like them read? If some one would like the names read, would you lift your card? If not I shall not—yes, I shall read them. 1-Wanda Bigham; 2-Thomas W. Cole Jr.; 3-Mark Collier; 4-James Evans Douthat; 5-Kevin LaGree; 6-David Maldonado; 7-Trudie Kibbe (Preciphs) Reed. You will vote for two; but you will do that—yes, I see a card. Mike 4, please. Mike 4. We are in the midst of an election so let us hear what your concern is, please.

RANDALL FLANAGAN (West Virginia): In the *Daily Christian Advocate* that we received, William Hayden was also listed as one of the nominees by the bishops for the CEO category; his name is not there. Inquire concerning why.

Trudie Kibbe Reed Elected to University Senate

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you very much. It's an inquiry. May we have a word? Page 1875, I'm told, page 1875. We're checking, just a moment, please. Thank you very much. We're calling that to the house's attention. He has already been appointed, he is not in the to be elected category. So the names read and the screen itself are both correct. The gentleman whose name was lifted has already been appointed.

All right, are you ready to vote? You will be voting for two, you will vote one at a time, please vote for your first choice when the light appears. (*Pause*) All right, prepare now if you would, to vote again when the light appears. (*Pause*) The names are before you, please vote when the light appears. (*Pause*) All right, as you can see, you have a vote. You have elected Trudie Kibbe (Preciphs) Reed and David Maldonado. Is either in the house? All right, never the less, we do congratulate them upon their election.

(*Applause*)

All right, let us move to the next category, please. Soon as the ballot is ready. Yes, Mike 4, please. Mike 4. Mike 4.

DALE SEGREST (Alabama, West Florida): I'm afraid that there was confusion in the vote that we've just taken. I'm concerned that we thought we were voting two times, for two different people and that some may have voted for the same person twice. I don't think our instructions were clear and I think that there is a problem with that election.

JO SEPH SPRAGUE: All right, as many as would like to re-vote the previous ballot please signify with 1 when the light appears. If you do not wish to re-vote, signal with the 2, please. Vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 382; No, 517*] All right, the first ballot is valid and the elections as announced are in place.

Let us now prepare for the next category. I seek to be clear; I apologize if I was unclear previously. We will on this occasion vote only one time, and the two top vote getters on this ballot will be the two elected. I apologize for the lack of clarity. The names are before you, let us hear them. 1-Willa Bing-Harris; 2-Bruce Birch; 3-Charlene Black; 4-Ted Brown; 5-Maxi E. Dunnam;

6-Sheila Flemming; 7-Willie Jones; 8-Yong S. Lee; 9-Robin Lovin; 10-Marjorie Suchocki; 11-Leslie Wessman. You will vote for one person and one only, but the two top vote getters will be the persons elected. Please vote when the light appears. (Pause)

*Charlene Black and Maxie Dunnam
Elected to University Senate*

All right, you have elected Maxie Dunnam and Charlene Black. Are they in the house? (ap plause) Here's Charlene in the front. Is Maxie here? Is Maxie on the floor? Yes. All right, when we see Maxie we will surely congratulate him, as well. Thank you. Thank you very much.

We're ready now to move to calendar items. We will turn first to the Legislative Committee on General and Judicial Administration, Christine Harman.

*Report of Committee on General and
Judicial Administration*

CHRISTINE HARMAN (Kentucky): Thank you Bishop. Good morning. I would like to introduce to you the rest of the leadership team of General and Judicial Administration. Our vice-chair is Sam Wynn, a clergy delegate from North Carolina, and our secretary is Janet Forbes, a clergy delegate from Rocky Mountain. I'm Christine Harman, lay delegate from Kentucky serving as chair.

Our first item to present is on p. 1990. Calendar Item 610, Petition 31395, found on p. 608 of the *Advance DCA*. The committee recommends concurrence with reference to GCFA.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Concurrence is recommended with reference. Is the house ready to vote?

HARMAN: (Re-reads reference) P. 1990. Calendar Item 610, Petition 31395, found on p. 608 of the *Advance DCA*.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. I'll give you time to find that. I see a card. Mike 4 please.

PAUL ERVIN (North Georgia): I thought last night we requested to have a rationale and a very brief explanation of the matter before the house.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, may we have that please.

SAM WYNN (North Carolina): This particular piece of legislation is requesting that a forum be established within GCOM so that it can be gotten coordinated and to facilitate the issues and ministries around Native American Ministries in our church.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, are you ready to vote? As many as would concur, vote 1 and those who would not, vote 2 when the light appears. The committee is supported. Thank you. [Yes, 846; No, 73]

HARMAN: The next item is on the same page, 1990. Calendar Item 611, Petition 31928, found on p. 1346 of the *Advance DCA*. The committee is recommending concurrence with reference to GCFA. The rationale was to give an affirmation to the transformation and the directions that are being achieved through this initiative and we wanted to see it continue.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, are you ready to act? I see no cards. As many as would vote concurrence, signify with 1 when the light appears; those who would not, vote with 2. Vote when the light appears please. The committee is supported. Thank you. [Yes, 886; No, 26]

HARMAN: The next item is again on p. 1990. Calendar Item 612, Petition 31929, found on p. 1350 of the *Advance DCA*. This is on the Shared Mission Focus on Young People. The same reasons – to give affirmation for the transformation that is occurring within that initiative and to provide continuing support. It is to recommend concurrence with reference to GCFA.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. As many as would support the committee, vote 1 when the light appears. Those to the contrary, vote 2. Vote when the light appears please. The committee is supported. [Yes, 851; No, 55]

HARMAN: Now to continue the patterns that we've been living out in our committee. The remainder of our presentations over the next few days will be made by various individuals. Today's presenters, in order of their appearance, are Kathi Austin Mahle, John Cooke, and Wilard Douglas.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right – Kathi.

Amendment to Constitution Preamble

KATHI AUS TIN MAHLE (Minnesota): Thank you, Chris. The first item that we will be voting on is found on p. 1991. Item no. 613, Petition 30804. This is also found on p. 730 of the *Advance DCA*. This is an amendment to the Constitution. This is an amendment to the Preamble. The legislative committee has voted concurrence. This amendment brings the language into current usage. It reflects our current situation.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is before us. When we vote, if it is approved, it will need to be approved by at least a two-thirds margin. Are you ready to vote? Those who would support the committee, vote 1. Those who do not, vote 2. Please

vote when the light appears. You have supported the committee in excess of the two thirds. Thank you.

MAHLE: The second item is just below it. Item no. 614 on p. 1991. The petition no. is 30805. It's found on p. 705 in the *DCA*. This amendment is to the Declaration of Union. The committee votes concurrence. As you read on p. 705, you will see that The United Methodist Church is listed in the second line. This is a misprint in the *Advance DCA*. The original petition did not include "United" of the two organizations that were united, so it was the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church. That is how the petition read as it was presented to the Legislative Committee. The committee votes concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, this also needs at least a two-thirds vote. Please vote when the light appears. The committee is supported. [Yes, 908; No, 17] Kathi?

MAHLE: This concludes the work that we will be doing today on constitutional issues.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you. We turn now to John.

Required Doctrinal Standards Rejected

JOHN D. COOKE (Western New York): These petitions have to do with general administration and they are all found on p. 1991 of your *DCA*. First Calendar Item 615, Petition 30176 found on p. 720 of your *Advance DCA*. "General agencies members shall uphold doctoral standards of the United Methodist Church." Our legislative committee voted non concurrence. The rationale being that these that these could be applied too narrowly in requiring people to subscribe to a particular creed.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is before us. The committee recommends non concurrence. As many as would support non concurrence vote 1, those who do not vote 2. Please vote when the light appears. Committee has supported. [Yes, 604; No, 328] All right John.

COOKE: Next, we have Calendar Item 616, Petition 31012, found on p. 721 in your *Advance DCA*. The title of the petition is somewhat misleading. I will read the part that is actually being recommended for change in *The Book of Discipline*. "All management staff persons of general agencies shall be persons who hold with the integrity the faith of The United Methodist Church as expressed in its doctrinal standards." That is the part that would be added. Our legislative committee recommends non concurrence. The reason being that we have long-term employees, especially some

of our non-program agencies. People who are very loyal and work very hard to do a great work for the church, but are not necessarily United Methodist and in some cases may not be members of the Christian faith.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the motion is non concurrence. As many as would support the committee move for non concurrence vote yes with 1, those who not 2 for the no. Vote when the light appears please. Committee has supported. [Yes, 632; No, 301] John?

COOKE: Calendar Item 617. Petition 31015, found on p. 725 of your *Advance DCA*. Our legislative committee recommends non concurrence. The reason being that we felt that this was an undue burden on the GCOM, especially in reviewing people's compliance with the general rules, which are a historical document in some ways hard to apply to our contemporary situation.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right the motion for non concurrence is before us. If you would support the committee, vote with the 1, if not please vote with the 2. Please vote when the light appears. The committee has supported. [Yes, 684; No 247] John?

COOKE: Calendar Item 618. Petition 30290, found on p. 722. Our legislative committee recommends non concurrence. It was felt that this would apply in some states, and not other states, also it would not apply in central conferences.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, non concurrence is before you. As many as would support the committee vote with the 1, those who do not the 2. Please vote when the light appears. All right, the committee is supported. [Yes, 821; No 101] John?

COOKE: Calendar Item 619. Petition 30289. Found on p. 722 of your *Advance DCA*. Our legislative committee recommends non concurrence. Once again, it was felt that this applied to some states and not to others and not to the central conferences.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the motion for non concurrence is before us. Those who would support the committee vote with the 1, those who would not vote with the 2. Please vote when the light appears. Committee is supported. [Yes, 832; No, 90] Willard?

WILLARD H. DOUGLAS (Virginia): Bishop Sprague and members of the General Conference, I have six calendar items to report on. The first is found on p. 1848 *DCA*, agenda item 157. This is petition 30150, on p. 730 in the *Advance DCA*. This petition requested increasing the judicial council membership to 11 with the guaranteed membership of two from each of the ju-

risdictions, and one from the central conference. The committee voted non concurrence, because it felt that this was discriminatory on its face.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the motion for non concurrence is before us. If you would support non concurrence vote the 1, if not the 2. Please vote as the light appears. Committee is supported. [Yes, 786; No, 124] Willard.

DOUGLAS: Today's item is also found on p. 1848, *DCA* agenda item 158. It's Petition 30978, on p. 731 in the *Advance DCA*. This petition also requested in creating the membership of the judicial council to 11 members. And it would also set term limitations which we address later. And for those reasons the committee voted non concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, non concurrence is the motion before us. If you support the committee, vote 1, if you do not, vote 2. Please vote as the light appears. Committee is supported. [Yes, 832; No, 92]

Geographically Balanced and Enlarged Judicial Council Debated

DOUGLAS: The next agenda item is on 1991, p. 1991. This is agenda item—Calendar Item 620. Petition 31593, and its in the *Advance DCA*, on p. 731. This petition requested that each jurisdiction in central conference be represented by one elected member. The committee sees this as a guaranteed quota. And in view of our prior position, voted non concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, if you favor non concurrence vote 1, if not vote 1, please vote as the light appears. Oh pardon me . . . hold, I see a card, mike 6 please. Mike 6.

Mike 6.

TIM RISS (New York): Bishop, is it in order to amend the petition?

BISHOP SPRAGUE: An amendment is in order.

RISS: I would like to amend by placing a period after "shall be represented by at least one nominee," and then restoring the deleted language, and then deleting some of the next additional language beginning with "having each jurisdiction represented," ending with "with out concern to geographical location provided." Then I would like to be in the next sentence with a capital A, which will then read, "A majority of the elected membership," etc., and then replace the word, "does" by "shall," so that these two sentences will read, "Each of the jurisdictions and the central conferences as a group, shall be represented by at least one nominee." And then there's language

about—that I did n't write down about not requiring one from each jurisdiction, and then, "A majority of the elected membership shall not come from within a single jurisdiction or central conference area." And if I have a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Is there a second? All right, it has been seconded.

RISS: I think we need a Judicial Council which all members of the church can consider representative of them. Judicial Council is the only disciplinary body of the . . . at the General Conference level which is not made geographically representative by jurisdictional and central conference membership. Decision 62 of the Judicial Council of the former Methodist Church found that requiring council membership to come from jurisdictions and the central conferences was constitutional. However, in our committee it was thought that it may not be wise to require such a small body to have such mandated representation. I think, though, that it should be enough to ensure some geographical breadth if no region of the church holds a majority of seats on the Judicial Council. And, therefore, I would like to adopt this amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Thank you. Is there a speech against the amendment? Is there a speech against the amendment see none. Let us prepare to vote on the amendment. If you would support the amendment, vote with a 1; if you would not support the amendment, vote 2. Please vote as the light appears. [Yes, 483; No, 440] All right, the amendment is before us. I, I apologize to the chair. In my haste I should have turned to you, sir. I apologize for that. Would the house like to hear from the chair and re-vote, or do you want—all right. Let's hear. I will rule that to vote, in valid, because of my mistake. We'll hear from the chair, and then we will re-vote. I'm sorry. Willard?

DOUGLAS: Yes. Members of the General Conference, the committee felt that this was still mandating representation from each of the jurisdictions and from the central conference. And for our earlier reasons, that this was a quota of guaranteed representation, the committee felt that the best way to create diversity was having the electorate, the General Council—Conference—to vote on the members, and as was exemplified yesterday, it was shown that we can get geographical diversity. And the committee also felt that the best people, the best nominees should be elected regardless of where they reside.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. And now let us vote again. If you would support the amendment, vote with a 1; if you would not,

vote the 2. Please vote as the light appears. [Yes, 421; No, 506] The amendment fails and the, the chair apologizes. I am sorry for that *faux pas*. And now the motion for non-concurrence is before us. If you would support the committee, please vote the 1; if not, vote the 2. Let us vote as the light appears. [Yes, 666; No, 248] All right, the committee is supported. Willard?

DOUGLAS: All right, the next p. 1991, Calendar Item 621, Petition 31594, p. 732 in the *Advance DCA*. This petition also seeks to have the Judicial Council reflect the geographic diversity. And for the reason that we stated in Calendar Item 620, the committee voted nonconcurrency.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Motion for non-concurrence is before us. If you would support the committee, vote 1; if not, vote 2. Let us vote as the light appears. All right. [Yes, 703; No, 224] The committee is supported. Willard?

DOUGLAS: Page 1991, Calendar Item 622, Petition 31596 found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 732. This petition as amended sets two consecutive eight-year terms with the break of four years before a member could seek re-election to the Judicial Council. The committee voted concurrency.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, concurrence as amended is before us. If you would support the committee, please vote the 1; if not, the 2. Vote, please, as the light appears. [Yes, 829; No, 87] All right, the committee is supported. Willard?

*Mandatory Retirement Age
for Judicial Council Rejected*

DOUGLAS: Page 1991, Calendar Item 623, Petition 31789, p. 733 in the *Advance DCA*. This petition removes the mandatory retirement age of 70 of members of the Judicial Council. And in view of the previous vote for term limitations, the committee voted concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. It is before us. Committee recommends concurrence. As many as would support the committee, vote with the 1; those who do not, the 2. Please vote as the light appears. [Yes, 739; No, 180] All right, Christine.

CHRISTINE HARMON: And, Bishop, that concludes our presentation this morning. Thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Church and Society Report

BISHOP SPRAGUE: We turn now to the Legislative Committee on Church and So-

ciety. Terri Rae Chatten. I see a card in the back please, Mike 6.

TAKAYUKI ISHII (New York): Bishop and members of the conference, I move the Petition 30058, p. 1908 of the *DCA*, item no. 312 for reconsideration. If I have just a second I'd like to—

BISHOP SPRAGUE: On which side did you vote?

ISHII: On which side?

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You're voting for, you're asking for reconsideration.

ISHII: Yes.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Did you vote in the affirmative?

ISHII: No.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Then it's out of order. All right, Terri Rae.

TERRI RAE CHATTIN (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you Bishop Sprague.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You're welcome.

CHATTIN: Would like to first introduce our other officers for our committee. Our vice chair person is Robert Hoshibata. Bob had to be away for several days because of a pastoral emergency back in his district, so Phil Granger was elected as our interim vice chair person and we thank him very much for graciously coming forward and assisting us in so many ways. And of course doing all the detailed, well, just that special detailed work was our secretary, Pat Deal. Thank you.

We have eleven petitions that we would like to share to day. Our committee divided up into sub-committees based on the Social Principles categories and categories in the *Book of Resolutions*. Our presenters for the various petitions to day will be from the natural world, William Scott; nurturing community, Jana Bennett; social community, Richard Parker; and political community, Gail Ford Smith. We begin with the political community.

GAIL FORD SMITH (Texas): P. 1847 in the *DCA*, 1847, Calendar Item 149, Petition 30525 also found on p. 151 in the *Advance DCA*. As you can see our committee was not of one mind as we voted nonconcurrency for opposing food and medicine blockades or embargoes. It came out of the subcommittee amended and supported but in the whole committee there was nonconcurrency with the rationale that food and drug embargoes were important bargaining tools.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, committee's motion for nonconcurrency is before the house. As many as would support the

committee please vote the 1, those who do not the 2. Let us vote as the light appears. Committee is supported. Right, Bill? [Yes, 595; No, 328]

WILLIAM SCOTT (Mississippi): Page 1847 of the *DCA*. Calendar Item 150, Petition 30506 also found on p. 111 of the *Advance DCA*. The title of that petition is "Recycling and use of recycled products." The committee recommends concurrence as amended. We amended it to direct the general agencies within four years to begin to use recycled paper in our print material. I move the adoption.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, I see a card. Number 6 please, Mike 6.

JANET STEPHENSON (Iowa): Bishop, I would recommend that this item be referred to GCF&A to consider the budget implications.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, motion to refer is in order. As many as would refer please vote the 1 as the light appears, those who would not vote the 2. It's a motion to refer, let us vote as the light appears. All right, it is referred to GCF&A. [Yes, 518; No, 393] All right, Bill.

SCOTT: Same page, 1847, item no. 151, Petition 30025, also found on p. 39 of the *Advance DCA*. This petition is to "support higher quality of life for all God's creation." This petition is related to update some current petition that is in the *Book of Resolutions* and we amended it by rearranging some of lines near the middle of that page as you can see in the middle column there. You can see where we did that and also to change the word from "grant" to "entrust" to put it in a stewardship mode and we recommend it to you for concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is before the house. As many as would support the committee, vote the 1, those who do not, the 2. Vote as the light appears please. You have supported the committee. [Yes, 883; No, 36] Bill.

JANA BENNETT (Rocky Mountain): Chair person of the subcommittee on nurturing community. The next calendar item is found p. 1847, Calendar Item 152, Petition 30618, found in your *Advance DCA* on p. 84. The committee recommends nonconcurrency, the rationale is that this petition covers items already in the *Book of Discipline*.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the motion for nonconcurrency is before you. All right, please vote appropriately as the light appears. All right, the committee is supported.

BENNETT: The next item is found on the same page, 1847, Calendar Item 153, Peti-

tion 30502, found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 40. The committee recommends concurrence with reference to the General Council on Finance and Administration. The rationale is that this is the direction that the church is going and needs to continue to go.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, if you would support the call for concurrence and reference, please vote 1, as the light appears, 2 if you do not. Vote as it does appear. Committee is supported and reference is made. [*Yes, 737; No, 191*]

BENNETT: The next Calendar Item 299, Petition 31376, found in your *Advance DCA* on p. 96. The committee recommends non-concurrence. The rationale is that states that already do not have no-fault laws for divorce, there is still a high rate of divorce which is coupled by increased animosity between the couple divorcing and causes further problems for the children.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It is before us. If you would support non-concurrence vote the 1, if not, the 2. Vote as the light appears, please. (*Pause*)

Right, the committee has supported, Jana.

JANA M. BENNETT (Rocky Mountain): The next item is on the same p. 1907, Calendar Item 300, Petition number 31259, and found in your *Advance DCA* on p. 90. The committee recommends non-concurrence. The rationale is that the GBCS fulfills functions that are not covered in other areas of the church.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, I see a card in the back. Yellow card in the back. Mike 8, please. Mike 8. Motion is for non-concurrence. Mike 8, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I rise with.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Name please and conference.

ROBERT J. LADD (Eastern Pennsylvania): My name is Bob Ladd, Eastern Pennsylvania.

GBCS Actions in Boy Scouts and Elián González Controversies Questioned

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Mr. Ladd.

LADD: I rise with heavy heart to ask the Conference to consider reject to the committee's, the committee's recommendation and I'd like to speak to that.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Is there a second? I hear the second, proceed.

LADD: I have worked with wonderful Christian people over the last week and I'd.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Sir, is there a motion that . . . simply to speak against is not

appropriate. You must make a motion to which you then can speak.

LADD: I would like to make a motion that we reject the committee's report.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You would do that in the voting, sir. You're going to need to find a little different way to couch it.

LADD: Okay.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: If you just want to speak against it, is that what you want to do?

LADD: That's what I want to do. Okay, thank you. I have spent the last week working with wonderful Christian people and I affirm the church's need to have a social conscience. I affirm the process that we're doing here to day and the body's decisions even if I don't fully agree with them. My problem is with the board and its leadership and its tendency to unilaterally take positions that I don't think are appropriate. I'd like to use as an example my friends from the Boy Scouts, who are on both sides of the homosexual issue, who come to me and ask me why our church—you notice they don't say the Board of Church and Society—wants to tell them what the qualifications for leadership should be, since they don't ask us to do the same. I also have a concern about our involvement with the Elián González case. Although I affirm the boy's need to be with his father, there was an awful lot of disagreement on our willingness to hire the President's attorney to represent his father and we . . . every time these things happen, I believe that it brings us to a point where we are throwing road blocks in the mission of the church, and that is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. I ask that you vote "no" in this committee report because at some time later in this Conference we're going to vote for what I think is one of the most wonderful things that we have done and that is the Igniting Ministry and every time . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You need to sum up sir, you need to sum up.

LADD: I will do that. Finally, every time this sort of thing happens it does, it has a negative public relation effect that will not be offset by the positive one of the Igniting Ministry campaign. Thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, thank you. I apologize for confusing all of us there, for a moment. That was a speech against non-concurrence. If there is a speech for non-concurrence we will receive it now. If not, we will turn to the chair. Yes, this is a speech for non-concurrence? All right if you would come to mike 2, please. Mike 2.

SHAWN HARTMAN (Central Pennsylvania): I agree with the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence, bishop. The reason being if individuals take the time to read the press releases and the statements released by the GBCS we have full support of the Social Principles and the *Discipline* and what they perceive as their work. What we are attempting to do by the last speech is eliminate a board simply because they choose not to agree with the issues. I can sit as an Eagle Scout before you and tell you I affirm the GBCS's work but we are doing is approaching this from the wrong direction eliminating a positive ministry for the church simply because people choose not to agree with what our *Book of Resolutions* says and what our *Discipline* currently says.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It is a speech for non-concurrence in support of the committee. Jana, would you like to speak?

JANA M. BENNETT (Rocky Mountain): Yes, we have considered some of the issues raised by both speakers and believe that this is covered already in the *Book of Discipline*, especially in paragraph 1011 found on p. 463, and so we would recommend non-concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. If you would support non-concurrence you vote 1, if you do not, you vote 2. Please vote as the light appears. (*Pause*) Non-concurrence is supported. Thank you Jana. [*Yes, 644; No, 284*] Gail?

Hand guns and Gun Violence Petition Debated

GAIL FORD SMITH (Texas): On that same page 1907, Calendar Item 301, Petition 30840, also found on p. 143 in the *Advance DCA*. The committee recommends concurrence as amended, which adds a new text to the "Gun Violence in the United States" in the *Book of Resolutions*. A rationale is that in light of the gun violence, increasing gun violence in America, this was an appropriate statement.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, a motion for concurrence is before you. Yes, I see a green card. Mike four, please. Mike four. Name and conference please.

SCOTT KELSO (West Ohio)

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Scott.

KELSO: I would like to amend by deletion. I would like to delete the word *handguns*. If I have a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: I hear the second. Please.

KELSO: I was in the legislative section that worked on this, and I agree with everything except the word *handgun*, which was

added kind of at the last moment. And we had a person from the general board give us a definition of the automatic weapons, weapons that can fire 30 rounds per second, sometimes even more, and can use armor-piercing bullets and this kind of thing. I think we all agree that the general public does not need weapons like that that are just designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible. But if we pass this with the word *handguns*, what we're in effect doing is asking America to disarm herself. And, you know, we have a constitutional right in the second amendment, I believe, to bear arms.

I am not an NRA member, and I am not a gun enthusiast; but I believe that we have a right to protect our selves in our own homes. If someone breaks into my home in the middle of the night to do bodily harm to myself or to my wife, I can't pull out the *Book of Resolutions* and say "Wait a minute, I'm a United Methodist. I've got a position on this."

(Laughter and vocal responses)

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Let the house be in order now. Let the house be in order. Give the brother his time.

KELSO: And I think, I think it just goes too far to add the word *handgun*, so I would delete that word.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the amendment is to delete *handguns*. I see a card in the far-reaches. It looks like an orange card. Yes, you who are standing. Mike eight, please. This should be a speech in opposition to the amendment. Is that true?

JEREMIAH THOMPSON (Illinois Great Rivers): It is.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Mike eight, main conference please.

THOMPSON: I would like to speak against the amendment. I'm from a city named Kankakee, Illinois, which, while I was in high school, had proportionally the second highest murder rate in the country. I had friends who were robbed at gun point. One of my, one of the people that went to my high school was shot and killed. I've seen the violence that is awash in our society and I have to ask, if we're really the disciples of the Prince of Peace, shouldn't we speak against guns? Guns are destroying our society. They're destroying my generation. They're destroying future generations. We need to take a stand.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the amendment is before us. We've had a speech on both sides. We need now a speech in favor of the amendment to delete

handguns. Over here, mike seven please. Mike seven.

RON BARHAM (Mississippi): Just a point of clarification. This did not call for a ban on handguns or assault weapons but only on those that could not be detected by traditional metal detecting devices. Is that not correct? (Inaudible discussion and clarification) It says that can not—thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, is there a speech against the amendment? In, in the far-reaches, person standing with the card, now standing. No sir, the, the woman behind you. Mike eight. Mike eight. This should be a speech against, against the amendment. Is that the case?

BEVERLY WILKES (Illinois Great Rivers): Yes, Bishop.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, name and conference, please.

WILKES: I rise to speak against taking *handguns* out of this petition. I am the person that put *handguns* in the petition with the confession, coming from Kentucky, that I own a handgun, but I am also willing to give that handgun up because the society that I grew up in is quite different from the society that I am currently present and member of. The escalation of violence and many of our children are killed in homes where there are handguns. And so it is precisely that we wanted *handguns* in this amendment, be cause that tends to be the result of a lot of the children being killed accidentally.

But also, in clarity, the weapons that cannot be detected by traditionally used metal detection devices is in elusive; it does not exclude. We are calling for America to disarm itself for the sake of our children and for the sake of too many others who died too soon because we're trying to police ourselves, when we have professionals who can police us if we would allow ourselves the freedom to trust them. Yet give ourselves the right to bear arms for the sake of sporting, as it relates to the situation we have in ecology where we may have too many deer. We don't need a 357 Magnum to kill a deer.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Time to sum up. Thank you. All right, we've had two speeches on either side. Is there a speech in favor of the amendment? In favor of the amendment? Yes sir, mike three please. Mike three.

LELAND MCKEOWN SR. (Florida): I speak in favor of this amendment, because traditionally we have been allowed to protect our own homes. I have a pistol in my house, my son-in-law has one in his, and my son has one in his. We have these in order to

have protection in our homes. Not a day goes by hardly that you don't read an article in the newspaper where some person has been able to ward off an invader into their home because they had the ability to scare the person away. If you think that putting a ban on handguns is gonna get rid of handguns, I'd like to sell you a bridge in New York. It's just not going to work that way because the criminals are still going to have the handguns. The American people have a right to protect their homes and this is the best way to do it on an individual basis. So I speak in favor of this amendment. Please remove *handguns* from this legislation.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, sir. Thank you. We now can receive one final speech before we hear from the chair. This speech would be against the amendment. The, the woman here in the white, white, the jumper with the, with the white sleeves, mike seven please. Mike seven. Mike seven. I see she's not going. The gentleman standing in the black shirt. Yes, mike eight. Mike eight. Mike eight.

PHILIP AMERSON (South Indiana): It was the Fourth of July weekend this past summer that Won Joon Yoon, a young Korean man in our community, was on his way to the United Methodist church, and he was killed by a handgun bought in a show; part of a hate crime that touched others of you in the Midwest. I think it's time for the church to clearly say that handguns are in appropriate, especially the ones that are used in the streets of our cities to kill our children. Most handgun tragedies occur in homes on the families who own those guns, over 90%, and so I would encourage us to vote against this amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, thank you. We will proceed to vote on the amendment.

GAIL F. SMITH (Texas): The inclusion of handguns—

BISHOP SPRAGUE: What is your point of order please. Go to the mike, mike 2, state your point of order please.

JACK W. PLOWMAN (Western Pennsylvania): Sir, my point of order is that the person who proposed the amendment should be the last to speak.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: No, no that is not true . . . Gail.

SMITH: The inclusion of handguns.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Pardon me just a second. I don't want to be abrupt. It's when it's a committee, then the committee has the right before the chair. But when it comes from the floor, not so. I'm sorry for being abrupt.

SMITH: The inclusion of hand guns was a difficult decision. There was a powerful witness from the delegate from Great Britain who reminded us of the gentle man who walked into a classroom and murdered children and their teacher. She said the next day in Britain began the process of banning hand guns. That the people were willing to give up some of their freedom in order to ensure the safety of its most vulnerable. We agreed.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right we are voting only on the amendment. If you would support the amendment vote 1 if you do not vote 2. Vote as the light appears, vote now, as the light appears. [*Yes, 358; No, 574*] The amendment is not supported, therefore the main motion for concurrence as amended and as it is printed before you is before us from the committee. I see a hand in the back, yes. No. 5 please, no. 5, yes sir, you. The motion to concur is on the floor. Mike 5.

NOE C. VALDERMA (North-West Mindanao Philippines): Mr. President, I would like to make an amendment, an other amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right.

VALDERMA: An amendment to the amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: No, there is no amendment.

*Debate on U.S. Or Global Mandate
for Gun Amendment*

VALDERMA: Gun violence in the United States and in all countries in the world because this motion limits only to the U.S. but even in the Philippines and elsewhere we have the same problem so we, my amendment does not limit only to the U.S. problem on gun violence, but it should include an other countries and all countries of the world. That is my amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Would you please write that so that the secretary might have it. And would you state it again for us please as it is before the house. Just speak the amendment if you would. As you want it to be heard, and as you will write it. Mike 5 please. There is nothing else on the floor except the main motion and this would be an amendment to it.

VALDERMA: The amendment is not to limit gun violence in the U.S. but to include all countries in the world.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right so the language would be to call upon all governments, sir? I'm trying to hear what you want.

VALDERMA: Yes, sir.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Call upon all governments. Right, that is the amendment before us. It was seconded, is there anyone who wishes to speak against the amendment. Yes, mike 4 please, mike 4. The amendment is before us, only the amendment.

WALTER KIMBROUGH (North Georgia): Bishop, I'm wondering if the maker of the amendment would accept these additional words. All governments where there is a United Methodist presence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Let's treat this as an amendment to the amendment because the first amendment is now the house's and it really not for him to say it is for the house.

KIMBROUGH: All right.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Go ahead Walter. Is there a second? Is there a second to the amendment. All right, Walter please. No. 4 please, mike 4.

KIMBROUGH: I think it is very important for us to acknowledge where we are and at this moment in history we are not in every part of the world. But where we are located, we have a moral obligation to call upon those governments to be accountable in the interests of the people, and for that reason I submit this amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: And before you are seated would you state it again please, that we might have the words.

KIMBROUGH: That we call upon all governments where there is a United Methodist presence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, thank you. This is the amendment to the amendment. It is before us. Please write it down, Walter, that we might have it. Is there anyone who wishes to speak against the Kimbrough amendment? All right if you would support vote with the 1 if you do not support vote with the 2. Par don? Oh, I am sorry, Chair, par don me. Par don me. Gail, go right ahead.

SMITH: I think we can agree to that. We knew it was American specific and it will take a little more editorial work, but that'll be fine.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, thank you, and I apologize. All right the Kimbrough amendment is before us if you would support it vote the 1 if you do not vote 2. Vote as the light appears. All right, now we must vote on the amendment as amended. In essence it functions as a substitute. Those who would . . . oh I see a card in the back, mike 8 please. Mike 8. Mike 8.

ULISES TORRES (New England): Bishop, I have a question for the amendment. Will the name of the US country dis-

appear as we make a reference to all governments where there is a United Methodist presence?

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It is still there would be my understanding.

TORRES: It would remain?

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It is my understanding.

TORRES: OK.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: No? All right, Walter, speak. I'm sorry. I'm listening to my elders and to my in nards, I'm sorry.

TORRES: It is my understanding that it would be taken out. I wish to suggest that it remains, because . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, why don't you hold let's see and if we then need to amend we'll give you a shot. OK, Walter. Walter, mike 4 please.

KIMBROUGH: The intent is to delete it, US. We are a global church. We have been trying to say that consistently. If we don't mean it, let's stop saying it. I'm convinced we are a global church and so what applies to us in the United States, as was indicated earlier by our previous speaker, it applies in other parts of the world, and we sought to add where there is a United Methodist presence. All governments where there is a United Methodist presence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, so mike 8 please, mike 8.

TORRES: The question is that violence on the streets, on the schools, everywhere in the society is a unique phenomenon of our society and to make it that general, it will water down the original intent. So I wish to suggest that the US and all other societies where there is a United Methodist presence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right that is the amendment before us. Is it seconded. All right I hear the second. Is there one who would speak against it? Yes, mike 2 please. Mike 2. This is the amendment specific to the United States plus.

RONALD BRETSCHE (North Central New York): Thank you Bishop. Yes, the use of hand guns and other means in the United States is exceptionally high. Whether it is higher than where there are United Methodists in Kosovo, certainly Sierra Leone is I think questionable. I speak against setting aside the United States and speak in favor of using the more generic language of all countries. My main rationale as was stated before is that as we move toward being a global church we must be more inclusive and certainly this applies to many other countries.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Is there a speech for the amendment. Yes, mike 6, please, mike 6.

BETH CAPEN (New York): Thank you Bishop. Although I agree with the intent of making it more global and I guess it's going to take us more than this General Conference to get the *Book of Resolutions* expanded into a much more global context, the reason why I speak in favor of the amendment is if you look at page 143 of the *DCA* which sets forth the entire resolution, we'll find that the entire resolution sets forth continually the statistics that deal specifically with the United States. And for that reason I would support Ulises' amendment.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, is there a speech now against the amendment, we've had 2 for and 1 against. All right, chair, Gail.

SMITH: We did spend time in the committee discussing this very nature and I'm inclined to support Ulises amendment that recognizes the United States and then is inclusive of the rest of the world. We wanted to be very clear that Americans understood this position and also to honor the unique character of other countries and governments as well.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the amendment is before us. If you would support it vote 1 if you would not vote 2. Vote as the light appears. [Yes, 711; No, 206]

All right, it is adopted, and this is the main motion, and it is before us. I see a hand, yes, a card, mike 8. We have the main motion before us as adopted—as amended. Mike 8.

LEWIS F. TIBBITS (Detroit): I stand against the motion as it is written. I believe that there will be many more people lose their lives if we strike out, or if we have in this amendment, hand guns.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Sir, we're beyond that.

TIBBITS: I know that. I'm sorry.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. You're out of order, then. Please be seated.

TIBBITS: No. I'm not talk—OK, I can't speak on this?

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You can speak on the motion, but . . .

TIBBITS: That's what I'm speaking of.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Go—go right ahead.

TIBBITS: OK. I'm against violence. I love children. I work with children. But I believe we would help our cause here if we would state, or realize, that probably soon there will be a law that man dates all guns

that are purchased will have a trigger-safety device before it is lawful to purchase them.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, so that is a speech against the whole motion as it is before us. All right. Is there a speech for? Yes, mike 4, please. Mike 4. We've had a speech against, and now we're going to hear a speech for. Mike 4.

PHYLLIS S. FERGUSON (Pacific North west): Bishop, I call for the question and all that is before us.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the question is called. We have had sufficient speeches, so it is in order. It requires a two-thirds vote. If you would support the question, please vote 1 when the light appears; if not, vote 2. It requires two-thirds. [Yes, 834; No, 80] All right, it does and now let's hear from the chair, and then we will vote.

GAIL F. SMITH (Texas): I encourage your support of this petition.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the petition is before us. If you support it, vote 1 when the light appears; if not, vote 2. Vote as the light appears. [Yes, 724; No, 205] The report is supported. All right. Bill?

*Petition for Ethics Committee
for Cloning Supported*

WILLIAM D. SCOTT (Mississippi): Thank you. Page 1989 of the—of your *DCA*, Calendar Item No. 598, Petition 31733; page 1828 of the *Advance DCA*. The title of that petition is "UMC form ethics committee to oversee observance of separation of human and animal cells." The committee read the supporting material and the content of the petition and agreed with this intent, and therefore, we omitted it by substitution of language. If you look at the language that was eliminated, the petition called for The United Methodist Church to form an ethics observation team with a duty to ensure that scientific rules which specifically forbid human cloning amidst themselves was strictly upheld. We did not believe that the church could put together a team that would ensure whatever those rules are and whoever makes those rules and would obey them. So we—we moved to substitute with the words you see there in the middle column, beginning with "in light of the rapid development." And we submit that to you for concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is before us, for concurrence. If you would support our concurrence, vote yes when the light appears; if not, vote no. Vote as it appears. [Yes, 845; No, 59] And the committee is supported. Thank you, very much. Richard? Richard Parker.

RICHARD PARKER (New York): I'm Dick Parker from the New York Conference, representing the Committee on Social Community in the Church and Society Committee. On the same page, page 1989, Calendar Item 599, dealing with Petition 31294 on [Advance DCA] page 91. This is a petition calling on us to engage the Cleveland community and the ownership of pro-baseball teams to engage . . . to discuss the issue of de-meaning uses of mascots and mascot names. It's an issue that comes up from time to time in the sports community, but this one is specifically asking us to engage the community of Cleveland in regard to the sports mascot Chief Wahoo, and the caricature of Native Americans which is included in the use of that mascot.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Committee recommends concurrence. It is before you. If you would support the committee, vote yes when the light appears; if not, vote 2. [Yes, 610; No, 293] The Committee is supported. One more, and then we'll take a break.

*Repeal of Religion Exemption in CAPTA
Is Supported*

PARKER: The—the next item is—Calendar Item—is on—also on—page 1989, Calendar Item 600, and this is related to Petition 31773; and if you wish to find that, please turn to page 102, page 102, where you will find the version of that petition which we approved. This is one of those difficult issues which includes conflicting values. The petition calls for the repeal of a section of the United States Code permitting a religious exemption to the requirement that parents provide adequate medical care for their children. The current provision of the code allows parents to withhold certain kinds of medical treatment on the basis of religious belief. Honoring religious beliefs is one value. The committee voted to support, on the other hand, the value of protecting the rights of children to receive adequate medical care. The committee voted for concurrence and recommends concurrence for this petition.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Yes, I see a card. Mike 6, please, Mike 6. Motion before us is for concurrence. Mike 6.

LEONARD F. SJOGREN (Iowa): Speaking in support of this complex piece, a few things about CAPTA. Each state makes its own child-abuse and neglect laws, and retains that right. But the federal government influences the state laws by setting eligibility requirements for federal money for state programs on child abuse and neglect. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, (CAPTA), was first passed

in 1974; is it reauthorized about every four years, and will be again this year. Its definition of *child abuse and neglect* reads, "At a minimum, any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm." States must enact statutes that define child abuse and neglect at least that stringently in order to get federal money for their child-abuse prevention and treatment programs. If they don't want that federal money, they need not set those standards.

In 1996, the act was reauthorized and added a religious exemption, without which it functioned fine for twenty-two years, that said that there was nothing that would require a parent or legal guardian of a child to provide any medical service or treatment against their medical beliefs. States in the program may let parents with religious beliefs against medical care withhold it from their children but must require all other parents to provide it.

This double standard by the federal government is wrong. It discriminates against a class of children, depriving them of the protections afforded to others. While CAPTA does not provide that courts may—*does* provide that courts may order medical care for children over the religious objection of their parents, a law that lets parents themselves withhold medical care on religious grounds is difficult, . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Please sum up, sir. Please sum up.

SJOGREN: . . . especially when children are not yet in school.

The Supreme Court has ruled the right to practice religion does not include liberty to expose a community or a child to communicable disease. That is a case over 50 years old. We don't allow people to beat or starve or molest for religious reasons. Neglect may be less sensational than abuse, but it can be just as harmful to a help less child.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you. Richard?

PARKER: The committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Those who would concur, vote yes; those who do not, no. Vote as the light appears, please. [*Yes, 770; No, 132*] Committee is supported.

We will return from recess at ten 'til eleven in order at that time we might hear from the Legislative Committee on Faith and Order. We are in recess.

Again to come to order. If the delegates would move to your places, please. All right, let's move to our places, time is wasting. (Music) Thank you. Let's sing our ways to our seats. Cynthia, help us get to our places joyfully.

CYNTHIA WILSON: "Come Christians, Join to Sing," no. 158 in your hymnals. (*singing*)

We felt we should thank Jonetta and Monya at the organ and at the piano. Thank You. (*Applause*)

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, if the delegates will take their seats please, I'm sure that all of you would want to know that the tune you just heard is the Ohio State fight song. And both Bishop Craig and I used to have congregations sing that Sunday before the big Saturday of the Michigan game. But I want you to know that though we sang it lustily it did very little good. (*Laughter*) All right, let's turn now to Mr. Robert Hayes, Faith and Order legislative committee. Mr. Hayes. Let the conference be in order. The conference be in order please. Mr. Hayes.

ROBERT E. HAYES (Texas): Bishop and delegates to the General Conference, the Legislative Committee on Faith . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Just a minute, I see a card in the back, yes. We're under the order of the day. All right, go ahead Mr. Hayes.

*Report of the Committee on
Faith and Order*

HAYES: The Legislative Committee on Faith and Order would bring before you some petitions for your consideration this morning. These can be found in the *DCA* on p. 1896 and 1897. These are petitions that we would like for you to consider at this time beginning with Calendar Item 197, Petition 31663. That can be found on p. 1284 of the *Advance DCA*. Petition 31663. And the subject of this particular petition speaks to privileges that are given to white people and denied to people of color. The committee recommends concurrence with the following amendment. And I might want to bring out at this particular point that in the *Advance DCA*, the recommendation was that the following sentence be placed between the first and second sentence, and not the fifth and sixth that appears on p. 1896. And the committee recommends concurrence with the change that is noted.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right it is properly before us. The motion is for concurrence. If you would support the committee please vote yes when the light appears, if not vote no, vote as the light appears please.

Committee is supported. Thank you. Robert. [*Yes, 588; No, 86*]

HAYES: The second is just next to that. Calendar Item, no. 198, Petition 30403, which is also found on p. 1896 of the *DCA*. And on p. 512 in the advance copy. P. 1896 here and on p. 512 in the *ADCA*. Petition 30403, the subject is "People with Disabilities." They have a rightful place in both church and society. The committee recommends concurrence with this. The rationale is self-explanatory.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is properly before us. If you support the committee vote yes when the light appears, if not, do the contrary. Let's vote as it appears. Committee is supported. Robert? [*Yes, 782; No, 10*]

HAYES: Just below that is Calendar Item 199. Petition 30078, found on p. 510, of the *ADCA*, p. 510, 30078. The subject is the abuses that children need to be protected from, should include emotional abuse, along with economic, physical, sexual exploitation, etc. We have inserted the word emotional abuse with this petition. The committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It is before us. If you would support the committee vote yes when the light appears, if not to the contrary, let us vote as the light appears. Committee is supported. Robert. [*Yes, 742; No, 10*]

HAYES: Okay. The next is Calendar Item 200. Petition 30496, found on p. 1283 of the *ADCA*, p. 1283.

*Support for Racial/Ethnic Group
Equal Access*

ROBERT HAYES: Petition 30496 is the petition and this subject deals with members and racial ethnic groups, have the right to equal access and financial opportunities and it simply spells out that racial and ethnic groups have a right to the purchase of housing and credit and insurance just as other groups may have. The committee recommends concurrence with this petition.

All right, I see a card in the back. Mike 5, please.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: The committee recommendation is for concurrence. It is before us Mike 5.

SHIRLEY PARRIS (New York Conference): This is really a matter of clarification, Bishop, for my own edification. I thought these were on the consent calendar, and I'm not sure, I'm not understanding why we're voting on them. If you could clarify for me.

HAYES: Well, you have a very good point there. It's not that we don't have

enough to do in Faith & Order, and I would be more than willing to strike any item from the consent calendar that we don't feel necessary to vote on.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, may we have some help from the secretary please?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: 196 was removed.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It was removed from the consent calendar, so it is properly before us.

HAYES: No, that was 200.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: I'm sorry. It is on the consent calendar so we need not take action on this. Thank you. Thank you for your vigilance.

HAYES: I don't know if the other ones fall under these categories, Bishop, but I will proceed with them.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Perhaps the secretary can help us.

MARSHALL: It will take her a minute to do it though.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: We are all—we're told now, they are all on the consent calendar.

HAYES: Very good, well we will be back with other items for consideration as soon as we can.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Were that all your days were so easy. Thank you very much.

Let's move to the Global Ministries, please. Global Ministries. This is Christine Dean Keels, please, and the legislative committee. Yes, in the middle. Mike 6, please.

ISHII: Earlier I tried to ask for the reconsideration and when you, Bishop, asked me a question and I was nervous and I made a mistake.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Believe me, I can identify with that, so we who are nervous will proceed together.

ISHII: Bishop and members of the conference, I move the Petition #30058, p. 1908 of the DCA, item 312, it's page 1908 of the I, 30058 the Petition 30058, p. 1908, item 312.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, item 312, p. 1908.

*Petition on ADA and Seminaries
Reconsidered*

ISHII: If I have a second, I'd like to talk.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Motion is for reconsideration. Is there a second? I hear it.

ISHII: Bishop, I ask sign language interpreter and all interpreters are placed. After the voting last night I was informed by dele-

gates who are disabled for reconsideration of this item. The ADA—American with Disabilities Act—was passed so that public accommodations could be provided, so that society would be accessible to people who have. . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Could you hold just a moment, we need to see if we have the vote to reconsider, the speech is in order. All right, those who would reconsider, vote Yes when the light appears, those who would not, vote No. Reconsider, Yes 1; if not, No, 2. Please vote when the light appears. This is for reconsideration. [*Yes, 439; No, 384*] Yes, reconsideration is voted, all right. Go ahead.

ISHII: The ADA, Americans with Disability Act, was passed so that the public accommodations could be provided, so that society would be accessible to people who are historically being marginalized. Some ADA accommodations are not costly. Our church—United Methodist Church—has the opportunity to be pro-active with regard to access and services to our Christian brothers and sisters who are disabled, who are answering their call into ministry. We are committed to be an inclusive church. I am certain that we do not want to make a statement of exclusion.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, if the chair of the committee would—is the chair of the committee in the house? Faith and Order? Is the Faith and Order chair here? We're on item 312. Who is the chair of the committee? Vice chair is coming. Fine. Scott, thank you. This is Calendar Item 312. Here's Robert. Just when he thought he'd gotten away.

HAYES: I was getting some instructions from this afternoon and I apologize for that.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: We have reconsidered Calendar Item 312, and there has been a speech for concurrence when the committee recommended non-concurrence and the house supported you previously.

HAYES: Check my notes on that, Bishop, and I'll. . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It's on p. 1908.

HAYES: Yes, my notes indicate that that is correct.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Would you like to say anything? The motion is in opposition to what the committee recommended. The committee recommended non-concurrence. There's a motion to concur on the floor.

HAYES: Well, I think the rationale on this particular petition is that there have been a great number of changes that have already been made in our United Methodist

seminaries in terms of complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and if that is the will of the body—but I think that where we stand with this is the line “no exceptions” becomes a very difficult for us to see placing an undue burden on many of the seminaries.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the motion on the floor is for concurrence with the original petition. If you would vote Yes, press 1. Mike 8, please.

DAWN TAYLOR (Eastern Pennsylvania): I'd like to make an amendment, Bishop. OK, I'd like to say: “In the spirit of this declaration, United Methodist seminaries will make all efforts to meet ADA, etc.”

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, is there a second? All right, it is before us. Do you wish to say anything further?

TAYLOR: I support this amendment. I believe we should be in surging that all our seminaries are seeking to comply with the act as soon as possible.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Be sure that the secretarial staff gets that in writing, please. We have an amendment now on the floor. Is there a speech against the amendment? Is there a speech against the amendment? Is this a speech against the amendment? Mike 5, a speech against.

BENNETT: I am a seminarian with a disability, and I'd like to speak against this amendment because I do not believe that United Methodist seminaries should be held to a lesser standard than other higher education universities and colleges. While my seminary has provided me with many of the things that I need, there's still much work to be done, and so I would oppose the amendment. Thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: There's been a speech for and a speech against.

HAYES: I would be in favor of the amendment because I do believe that American seminaries—United Methodist seminaries are doing all that they can. Some are doing more than others, but I do believe that there's a conscious decision on the part of our seminaries to comply with—in every way possible—with ADA and I think that this amendment to make all efforts to do so would be a friendly amendment. I would accept that, Bishop.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, as many as would support the amendment, vote 1 when the light appears, those who do not, vote 2. Let us vote. [*Yes, 617; No, 226*]

All right, as amended, it is before us. All right, as many as would support the amended motion, signify with 1. Those who would not, with 2. Vote as the light appears.

All right, it is supported. Thank you Robert. [*Yes, 730; No, 139*]

And now let's hear from Legislative Committee on Global Ministries, please. Mrs. Christine Keels.

Report of Global Ministries Committee

CHRISTINE KEELS (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, the Legislative Committee on Global Ministries had as our secretary Jerry Russell from the Holston Conference. Jerry has processed over 82 petitions and the committee was very happy to have all of the processed by Saturday night. So we affirm the excellent work of our secretary, Jerry Russell. I'd like for him to now come and present from p. 1991.

Advancing Korean Ministries Approved

JERRY RUSSELL (Holston): Bishop and members of General Conference, I draw your attention to p. 1991, to Calendar Item 624, Petition 30868, found in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, the *Advance Edition* on p. 888, where you'll find the location of the petition in its entirety. The petition is entitled "The Advancing Korean-American Ministries." The simple rationale that our committee declared as we considered the petition. The committee recommends concurrence as amended. You'll find in the blue book the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate* there on p. 893 where the amendment would be included as we concur with this. The rationale is as follows: The culmination of a number of years of work of providing adequate resources for the Korean-American congregation addresses particular needs of 1.5 or 1½ generations of leadership and development and congregational development of lay and clergy participation and of clergy persons, women clergy in particular, for leadership development. And, therefore, we recommend this petition as it is amended.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is before us for concurrence. As many as would support the committee, vote yes when the light appears. Those who would not, do the converse, vote as the light appears. All right, and it is automatically referred to GCFA. [*Yes, 847; No, 27*]

RUSSELL: And, Bishop, because of the financial implications it is referred, as you shared, to GCFA.

Our second calendar item is Calendar Item 625, also found there on p. 1992. The Petition is 30863; it's found on p. 1822 in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. The rationale as the committee is concurrence with this particular petition and also recommends concurrence with the following deletion: the deletion is seen there as printed in the

Daily Christian Advocate. The rationale for our recommendation of this petition is in need of support to work with the nine language groups of Asian-Americans in congregational development and leadership development in community ministries. We also affirm this concurrence and because it has financial implications, would refer it to GCFA.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, I see a card in the back. Mike 7. Gentleman in the dark suit.

RON BARHAM (Mississippi): I believe these are on the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: With financial implications, it would be difficult for it to be. I don't know if the secretary wants to comment. It can not be. All right? It is before us if you would support concurrence, vote yes when the light appears, if not, converse. Vote as the light appears. It is done. Yes, Jerry. You are supported and reference is made. [*Yes, 853; No, 27*]

Hispanic Ministries Plan Supported

RUSSELL: Our next Calendar Item is 627 found on p. 1992. The Petition 30867. It's found in its entirety on p. 1823 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Our committee votes in concurrence as amended, and you'll find the amendment there listed in the bold type and our rationale for this concurrence with the amendment is that it provides for the continual work for this particular committee, the Native American Committee, on the comprehensive plan and resourcing the leadership and the congregations.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is properly before us. Yes, Mike 2 please.

BARBARA GALLOWAY-EDGAR (Southwest Texas): You said Native American and the number you pointed us to was the Hispanic Plan. Which are we dealing with?

RUSSELL: Yes, I'd like to redo that. Bishop, I'm as nervous as all those other persons who stood here. I would like to say that that's number three. I got ahead of myself on my notes. It's the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries. Excuse me for that mistake. Also, there's financial implications there, as well. I forgot that.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it is properly before us.

RUSSELL: And so the rationale again, if you'd allow me to speak to that, is the plan is to equip numerous conferences to be involved in ministry with Hispanic persons in their midst. The plan has assisted in the developing plans for local ministries and has worked to revitalize local Hispanic congregations

and churches. It has mobilized non-Hispanic local churches for the Hispanic ministry, and has worked to strengthen the trained Hispanic clergy leadership. And therefore the committee would recommend concurrence with the amendments that are there and referral to General Council on Finance and Administration.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: If you would support the committee, vote yes when the light appears. If not, to the contrary. Vote please. The committee is supported. [*Yes, 875; No, 19*]

RUSSELL: Are we ready sir.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Yes

RUSSELL: Our next Calendar Item is 628 on p. 1992, Petition 30869, p. 895 we concur with this petition as it is amended also we refer it to General Council of Finance and Administration.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Right, it is properly before us. If you would support the committee, vote yes when the light appears, not to the contrary. Vote please. [*Yes, 857; No, 31*] The committee is supported. Yes Jerry.

RUSSELL: Our next Calendar Item is 629, p. 1993, the Petition is 30865, it's found on p. 880. We voted in concurrence with this in the legislative session. It also has some financial implications.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: And so there is a reference then?

RUSSELL: There is a recommendation and a reference.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right as many as would support the committee vote yes when the light appears and to the contrary if you do not. [*Yes, 872; No, 22*] Committee is supported.

*East Point, Georgia
Denied GBGM Relocation*

RUSSELL: Calendar Item 631, found on p. 1993, Petition 31341, it's found on the *Advance* on p. 912. The title is to move the Board of Global Ministries to East Point, Georgia. And because there was potential implications depending on the will of the body that's the reason that it is here, bishop. Our committee voted non concurrence with this petition based upon the action of the 1996 General Conference and so therefore we vote non concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE All right the motion is for non concurrence as many as would support the committee please vote yes, press yes, if not press no. [*Yes, 692; No, 202*] The committee has supported, but East Point is represented. (*laughter*)

RUSSELL: Long live the state of Georgia. Bishop I would like to ask Cheol Kwak

California-Pacific Conference come and address Calendar Item 626. And then I would like Guy Ames who headed the subcommittee from Oklahoma to come and deal with Calendar Item 630 and 632.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: OK Cheol. Please

*Conference Agrees to
Native American Study*

CHEOL KWAK (California-Pacific): Bishop and members of the conference I would like to direct you attention to p. 1992, the Calendar Item is 626, the Petition 31293. The title of this petition is to "Develop a four year study on caring for creation from a Native American perspective." With the amendment the committee felt that we need to continue to encourage our Native American sisters and brothers to articulate the theology of caring for creation, so the committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: I am sorry I was checking.

KWAK: The committee recommend concurrence

BISHOP SPRAGUE: With amendment? Reference?

KWAK: No reference.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: With the \$80,000?

KWAK: That is already budgeted item so...

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, all right. It is before us. Then if you would support the committee please vote yes. If not no when the light appears. [*Yes, 776; No, 119*] Clearly supported

GUY C. AMES, III (Oklahoma): I was the chair of the subcommittee on general which dealt with volunteers and structural issues. If you would find your Petition 630 found on p. 1993, Calendar Item 630, Petition 31570, and you will find it in your *Advance DCA* on p. 866. Our legislative committee has recommended nonconcurrency for the reason that the United Methodist Women and Women's Division maintains in their purposes this very intent all throughout our disciplinary language.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. The motion is for nonconcurrency. If you would support the committee vote yes when the light appears, if not to the contrary. [*Yes, 758; No, 133*] The committee is supported.

VIM Funding Debated

AMES: Thank you Bishop and Calendar Item 632 on p. 1993, Petition 30489, which you will find in your *Advance DCA* on p. 870. This is a petition requesting the encouragement of volunteer mission coordinators, paid staff in every jurisdiction, as

well as we have amended this to encourage on-going discussion with central conferences relative to the development of further VIM programs there. We recommend concurrence as amended.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: It is before us. Yes, microphone 2, please. Mike 2.

JAMES A. HARNISH (Florida): Bishop, basically, I have a question. Was there consideration of this being funded through the existing Board of Global Ministries funds?

AMES: Yes, what we have discovered—this petition was actually discussed a couple of years ago, when not all jurisdictions maintained a paid staff at this level. Since that time, every jurisdiction has a volunteer in Mission staff, some of which is paid through, at this particular time, general board funds. However, we believe that this is a jurisdictional-level ministry. It is grassroots, it is very popular, and it is our intent to encourage jurisdictions to step forward and raise up the funds for this at that level.

HARNISH: Then, if I may . . .

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Surely.

HARNISH: I would move a referral to the Board of Global Ministries for funding. And if I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: There is a second. Please, speak.

HARNISH: Brothers and sisters, we're having a wonderful time affirming excellent mission and ministry with truck loads of dollars behind them. And it seems to me that somewhere along this path, we have to begin say, are there some of these very worthy projects that can be funded through existing channels, rather than continuing to add more and more funding channels? And to say that we're gonna let the jurisdictions pay for it, . . . The bank still ends at the local church, and the money all comes from the same place. And it's very easy, when we're on the floor here, to imagine that by voting "yes," somehow the money is going to materialize just out of nowhere. And I would urge referring this to Board of Global Ministries for their funding.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: And that's a—that is a referral? To the—would you say that again, Jim? I'm not hearing you say "study"

. . .

HARNISH: Refer—

BISHOP SPRAGUE: . . . I'm hearing you perhaps altering . . .

HARNISH: Yes, the motion was, refer to the Board of Global Ministries for consideration of their funding.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, thank you. All right, the amendment is before us. I saw a card over here. Yes, please, mike 3?

Mike 3. The motion for referral is before us. A motion for referral. Mike 3. Take your time.

SHARON L. MOE (Pacific Northwest): I chair the Western Jurisdiction Council on Ministries, and we considered a petition for funding Volunteers in Mission this year for the next quadrennium, which we decided to turn down, because the amount of money that was being requested for funding VIM was equal to our entire budget for the next four years. We also voted not to support VIM, not because it isn't a wonderful enterprise, which we all affirm very strongly, but because it is *Volunteers in Mission*, and we had some feelings that it might best be, continue to be supported through volunteer work. So I speak in favor of referring it to—back to the general board.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, we've had two speeches in favor of referral, is there a speech against? My goodness, I see a pink card in the center. It looks like a dark suit, yes. Please. Mike 8, mike 8. This needs to be in opposition to referral.

DAVID L. SEVERE (Oklahoma): I speak in opposition to referral. I believe this is a matter that we ought to consider in our jurisdictions. We in the South Central have a very strong program. We believe in it. We will support it. The General Board of Global Ministries has not indicated its willingness to do this at this point. They might be able to. It's too urgent for us to put it off. I would support the committee's proposal.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, is there another speech against referral? Yes, mike 5, please. Mike 5.

MARION L. MUTHIAH (Dakotas): It seems to me that if we look at the amended petition as is in our *DCA*, we will notice that the funding has been crossed out, but there is a very important element which the General Board of Global Ministries has been asked to do, and that is, to enter into discussion with the central conferences relative to discovering the possibilities of volunteers. Otherwise, I don't see that there's funding asked for in this.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, we've had two speeches on each side. Would the chair like to speak?

AMES: Yes, I'd speak against referral for two particular reasons. The first being that there are three jurisdictional conferences already that have fully funded a complete Volunteer in Mission staff: Southeast, South Central, North Central. And since the petition was first admitted, the General Board of Global Ministries has established through some of their mission funding the intent that this should be established in ev-

ery ju ris dic tion. In fact, their word to us in com mit tee was that this would go on re gard less of the ac tion of this con fer ence be cause of the com mit ment from the gen eral board to vol un teer in min is try. I think the in tent of the re fer ral is al ready un der way, Bishop; and so I speak against it.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, the amendment is for referral to the General Board of Global Min is tries. If you would support re fer ral, vote yes; if you would not, vote no. Please vote as the light appears. [*Yes, 398; No, 502*] You do not re fer, and now the main mo tion is be fore us. If you would support the com mit tee's recom men da tion for con cur rence, vote yes; if no, vote no as the light ap pears. [*Yes, 767; No, 145*] And the committee is supported. Thank you, Guy.

That's it. Chris tine, any thing fur ther?

CHRISTINE DEAN KEELS (Bal timore-Wash ington): Bishop, this con cludes the re port of Global Min is tries com mit tee.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You folks are or ga nized!

KEELS: Thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you.

(*Applause*)

And now, Local Church, the Reverend Tyrone Gordon and his collogues. I see a green card here, mike 2, please. Mike 2. Re mind you, we're un der an or der of the day for 11:45. Yes sir?

THOMAS V. WOLFE (North Central New York): Bishop and del e gates, I move to sus pend the rules to con sider a res o lu tion con cern ing the im pact of the olog ical differ ences within our church, and to have it printed in the *DCA* for con sideration by the body af ter the 24-hour-pe riod.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. There is a mo tion for sus pen sion of the rules for the pur pose stated. It needs a sec ond. Is there a sec ond? I hear the sec ond. It's not de bat able. It requires a two-thirds vote. If you would sup port the sus pen sion of the rules, vote yes when the light ap pears; if you do not, vote no. Vote, please, when the light ap pears. [*Yes, 472; No, 424*] Not supported. Thank you for try ing.

All right. Let's turn now to . . . LaVon, all right. I'm sorry. Bi fo cals need to be come trifocals. Higher Ed u ca tion will oc cur be fore we look at the lo cal church Par don me, Brother Gordon. Mrs. LaVon Wilson, please.

Report from Higher Education Committee

J. LAVON WILSON (Illinois Great Rivers): Good Morn ing, Bishop. I can re late; I have trifocals like wise.

(*Laughter*)

If you would, open up your *DCAs* to page 1909, Cal en dar Item 322, Pe ti tion 30010; *Advance DCA*, 967.

Our committee recommended non con cur rence on this pe ti tion.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Anything further you would like to say? Rationale? Okay. Yeah, I see a card in the back. Mike 8, please. Looks like a blue denim shirt. Yes, Mike 8.

TYSON FER GU SON (De troit): I have a ques tion, if you can clar ify for me. I am con fused on the count ing pro cess as far as "for" and "against" speeches, as well as ques tions in how you're la bel ing those as to "for" and "against." Cur rently, you are count ing an amend ment and that pre senter as a speech "for"—

BISHOP SPRAGUE: That is cor rect.

FER GU SON:—and you've also counted a cou ple of ques tions in—how ever you de cided to categorize them one way or the other. Can you please clar ify for us—

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Sure.

FER GU SON:—how this is work ing?

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Surely. When speeches are made the chair has the re spon si bil ity, if it's not clear in what the speaker says, as he or she in tro duces the speech on which side. The chair has the re spon si bil ity to in ter pret on which side, to an nounce that on the body—to the body. If it's pos si ble to go from pro to con, that is the way that our rules sug gest. In the last sit u a tion we had two on one side be fore we could get to the other. But when an amendment is made from the floor that amend ment and the sub se quent speech count on the one side.

FER GU SON: Thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: You're welcome. Thank you. Please. Ra tio nale?

*Classical Christianity Affirmation
for Seminaries Defeated*

WIL SON: The ra tio nale for this was that, that they wanted a set time pe riod for the en gag ing of an evan ge list, and they did not want to hold that bind ing and so, there fore, the committee recommended non con cur rence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Motion for non con cur rence is be fore us. If you sup port that, vote yes when the light ap pears; if

not, to the contrary. [*Yes, 790; No, 103*] Committee is supported. All right. LaVon?

WIL SON: The next, ex cuse me, the next page is 1993, Cal en dar Item 633, Pe ti tion 30965 in the *Advance DCA* 1027. And the committee recommended non con cur rence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: State ment of ra tio nale?

WIL SON: It was stated that fac ul ty and staff of our United Meth od ist schools shall af firm clas si cal Chris tian ity. Again, we felt that that was a binding portion and they voted non con cur rence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. The motion for non con cur rence is be fore us. If you sup port the com mit tee, please vote yes; if not, no when the light ap pears. [*Yes, 685; No, 216*] The com mit tee is sup ported. All right.

WIL SON: Our next page is on the same page of 1993. It is Cal en dar Item 634, Pe ti tion 30256, *Advance DCA* 1021. The sub ject is mak ing Af rica Uni versity a pri or ity. The committee recommended con cur rence. We realize that this item has been gone through with GCF and A, but we wanted the floor to know that we were in ac cord with this.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Mo tion is for con cur rence. Vote yes, if you sup port; no, if you do not when the light appears, please. [*Yes, 809; No, 86*] All right. The committee is supported.

WIL SON: The next page is 1994, Cal en dar Item 635, Petition 31452, *Advance DCA*, p. 947. This is on changing the two-thirds vote to three-fourths for a writ ten bal lot count for the can di dacy for or di na tion and the committee recommends non con cur rence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. It is be fore us. If you would sup port the com mit tee, vote yes; if not, no when the light ap pears. [*Yes, 788; No, 106*] Committee is supported. All right.

WIL SON: On the very same page, Cal en dar Item 636, Pe ti tion 30404, *Advance DCA* p. 948. This is on the pro ce dures may be in clud ing council about min istry of candi dates with disabilities. The committee recommended non con cur rence.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. It is be fore us. If you would sup port the com mit tee, vote yes; if not, vote no. Hold it. I see, I see a card. Par don me. Mike seven, that's fine, mike 7.

PEGGY A. JOHNSON (Baltimore-Wash ington): I'd like to speak against this. I think many can di dates need this. I was at the Ex plo ra tion '98 in a small group with young people with disabilities. They are

greatly in need of this counsel. Please defeat the committee's nonconcurrent.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. Is there a speech in support of the committee? All right. LaVon?

WILSON: We were informed that it was already in place, Bishop, in the *Discipline* and that was our reason for our nonconcurrent.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. If you would support the committee, vote yes; if not, no as the light appears. [*Yes, 616; No, 289*] Committee is supported, and we'll call now, thank you, LaVon. Call for the order of the day and invite those who are going to make the GCF and A report to come forward.

Thank you very much, committee

GCF Report

(*Applause*)

All right, Bishop Norris. Order of the day, GCF report #16. This is for information only.

BISHOP AL FRED A. NORRIS (Northwest Texas-New Mexico Area): Thank you Bishop Sprague, members of the General Conference. Bishop Sprague before I begin the report I'd like to request a suspension of the rules in order that material related to the report might be distributed.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, it has been seconded. If you would support the suspension of the rules in order that information might be distributed, vote yes when the light appears, if not, no, remember it takes a 2/3 vote. Please vote as the light appears. (*Pause*) You do support the motion and the distribution may be done. Bishop Norris.

BISHOP NORRIS: Bishop and delegates of the General Conference, I'm pleased to present the work of the Connectional Ministries Funding Pattern Task Force. Let me begin with a bit of history. As a part of its preparation for the 1996 General Conference, the GCF conducted a series of listening projects with a number of annual conferences. Many of the annual conferences expressed concerns about the apportionment system and the ways of funding the overall mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church. At the 1996 General Conference, the GCF proposed, and the General Conference approved, the establishment of this task force, charged with studying a broad range of issues related to the manner in which connectional ministries are funded in The United Methodist Church.

Topics to be studied were to include the apportionment system as a funding mechanism and a general fund structure, which can be communicated most effectively. Pursuant to this mandate, the task force has been meeting since the fall of 1996, to prepare a report for the GCF and the 2000 General Conference, of the first comprehensive evaluation and review of the apportionment and funding systems in the 32-year history of United Methodism. I would like, at this time, to present Mr. Tracy Merrick who will introduce this morning's presentation team, a part of the great, excellent team that has served the church well through this effort.

Connectional Ministries Funding Report

TRACY MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you Bishop Norris. We'd also like to thank Bishop Looney for his wonderful presentation during worship this morning as an introduction to stewardship as a concept we need to get more attention to within our denomination and that we are stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Our group is before you today to present the report of the Connectional Ministries Funding Patterns Task Force. It is for information only at this time. If you would like to refer to it, it is printed in the *Advance DCA*, red volume, as report no. 16 from the GCF on pp. 364-386. In addition, a compendium of research performed by Don House, on behalf of the committee, was mailed to all delegates.

Before giving our presentation, I have one bit of information that I'd like to share with you. As you are probably aware, report 16 was reviewed by the Financial Administration Legislative Committee. That committee decided that it would be appropriate to make an adjustment in the apportionment formula. During its meeting last night, GCF agreed that the Council would accept this adjustment when both the GCF report and the committee report are presented to the plenary later this week.

Both GCF and the task force certainly stand behind the work of the task force as represented in report 16. However, in the spirit of what we think is best for the church at this time, we believe that this adjustment should be accepted. In case you're interested, on p. 374, under the category "Net Expenditures" you'll see in the report there, for each annual conference, that the net expenditures for the entire, all of the local churches in conference, would be reduced by current capital expenditures and payments to general church apportionments. That's part of the report as it's printed. The adjustment would subtract also debt service payments and all remaining benevolences.

Now to our presentation. If you have read our report, you will recognize that the task force dealt with many issues that are much broader than purely an apportionment formula. In fact, we spent nearly the entire first year wrestling with a number of issues and studying them very carefully. Issues such as issues of theology, matters of stewardship, aspects of our Wesleyan heritage, and research regarding giving patterns across our denomination. The task force has attempted to determine where the intersection is between all of these concepts and our findings. And we believe, as we develop the report, that we reflected that information, and we believe our research certainly supports all of the recommendations within the report. This morning there are 5 members of the task force who'll briefly address various aspects of our very critical report. First, Bruce Birch, who is academic Dean at Wesley Theological Seminary, will address theological foundations.

Theological Foundations for Funding

BRUCE C. BIRCH (Dean, Wesley Theological Seminary): Thank you. My sisters and brothers in Christ all of us know that each General Conference, this General Conference, will set a budget. It comes our responsibility to support then, the commitments that we have made. Our task force was given the assignment to struggle with how that responsibility is to be faithfully shared in our connectional church. We knew that our present system for doing that was not an equitable sharing of one another's burdens and we sought to find a way to faithfully share those burdens with each other. To do that, we sought to ground the work of the task force in the theology of stewardship that is biblically based and Wesleyan in spirit.

Although the role of steward is a central one throughout the Bible, I want this morning to illustrate the deep biblical foundations for our work by looking briefly with you at two texts. The first is Exodus 16—the story of the manna in the wilderness, starting with verse 13. "In the evening, quails came up and covered the camp. And in the morning, there was a layer of dew around the camp and when the layer dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness, was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. And when the Israelites saw it, they said to one another 'what is it?' for they did not know what it was and Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'"

"This is what the Lord has commanded, gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person. And the Israelites did so. Some gathering more, some less, but when

they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over and those who gathered little had no lack; they gathered each as much as any of them needed.”

This story of the manna in the wilderness is a foundational story for understanding the way in which God provides for the needs of the community of the people of God and its journey through the world. It defines the important qualities that distinguish God’s people as a community of stewards.

I want to lift up three of those qualities. The first is *discernment*. The name manna itself comes from the Hebrew words for the response made by Israel. What is it, manna? Like Israel we, too, stand surrounded by resources and often fail to recognize them for what they really are. Namely, God’s gifts to provide for human need and to empower a community to serve those needs. The manna story urges us to the discernment that sees all of our resources as the gift of God, for the needs of God’s world and not as our own individual or local possessions, a point so aptly made this morning by Bishop Looney in his sermon.

A second quality out of the manna story is *equity*. The distribution of the manna was related to need. No one was to have too much or too little. Now, of course, this was a divine miracle at the time; but the church—the community of faith—has read this scripture as a mandate. We must exercise stewardship over the gifts of God’s resources in ways that make resources accessible to those who have the great need. Resources are not to be hoarded. The abundant life is not the life marked by excess, but by enough, and enough for all.

And finally, a third quality from this story is the *quality of mission*. We receive God’s gifts as God’s stewards to enable our participation in God’s mission, and not the success of our own strategic plans or material security. As in the manna story, this requires on-going commitment and engagement in receiving and using God’s gifts. We can not hoard those gifts for a future day. We can not measure their use by our needs alone. The mission requires distribution and use of God’s gifts for the sake of the mission in a day to day, year after year, commitment to receiving and giving of God’s gifts.

Discernment, equity and mission are the constant marks of the people of God as the community of stewards. They were the qualities that the task force tried to keep before us in our work through the quadrennium, and we hope you will see this reflected in our recommendations. We found all of these qualities in spirally reflected in Paul’s letter to the church at Cor-

inth, when he wrote to ask for a collection to aid the church in Jerusalem. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul writes, “I do not mean that there should be relief for others and burdens for you but that, as a matter of equality, your present abundance should supply their need, so that their abundance might later supply your need that there might be equality.” As it is written, the one who gathered much had nothing over and the one who gathered little had no lack.

It is in the spirit of Paul’s letter to Corinth that we ask you to consider the remainder of this report as a matter of discernment, equity, and mission. We ask you to take to heart Jesus’ admonition, “To those to whom much is given, much will be required.”

MERRICK: Jonathan Holston, a District Superintendent from Atlanta, will reflect on our connectional heritage.

Connectional Heritage and Funding

JONATHAN L. HOLSTON (North Georgia): As United Methodists, we accept and affirm that the primary task of our church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the gospel, the good news, and to seek and to welcome and gather people of faith into the body of Christ. When one joins the United Methodist congregation, one becomes a member of the total United Methodist connection. We define that connection as a network of interdependent and interrelated relationships among persons like your selves—in groups, in local and regional, national and international levels. As members, we promise God and our congregation that we will uphold the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. And that church is the local church, or the district, or the annual conference or even the general church.

Our promise to God and the church opens up to us the vast mine is try that awaits those who seek the fields ripe for harvest. I Corinthians, the 12th chapter, the 12th verse, states that “the body is a unit. Though it is made up of many parts and though all of its parts are many, they form one body. Likewise, though we are many members, we are one body.” Even though we may be over 8 million lay members, we are one body. We may be 43,000 clergy members, we are still one body. We may be consecrated diaconal ministers, we may be preparatory members—we are still one body. We may be local churches or pastoral charges, districts, annual conferences, and episcopal areas, but we are one body. We are located all over the world through central conferences and over 1 million lay persons around the world, but we are one body. We are the body of Christ called United Methodists, people

who send missionaries, and our selves, into the world, to live as servants for Christ. We are the Body of Christ who minister in more than 100 United Methodist college and universities, as well as support over 13 theological schools to educate our pastors. We are the Body of Christ that bears each others’ burdens through reaching out in times of need and disaster. We are the Body of Christ connected to gether. We do more than express a concern for the worker, the sick, and the poor. We do more than express a concern for the poor, the aging, the impaired, and the oppressed. We the Body of Christ participate to gether. We struggle together to help those in need. This is important to our faith.

Therefore, as people gather to gether as congregations, we are connected to gether. We do more than no single individual, church, district, an annual conference could ever do by itself. We are in deed the connection. We are together.

So as a task force we were convinced that the United Methodists identify with the need to be in mission. As United Methodists we desire to be in mission to gether, and as United Methodists the mandate is to be in mission to gether everywhere. As a part of this concept, our theme—A Charge to Keep I Have, Our Calling to Fulfill—is one in which we felt strongly that our goal was to assist our church. This United Methodist Church, in fulfilling John Wesley’s adage to “Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.” As a task force we sought to build upon this connection, this network that was interrelated and interdependent. We sought funding as a mission, as an expression of our stewardship. It was a mission and an expression of our connectedness. It provides for avenues for giving in order that we not only could be strong local churches and annual conferences, but that we could be connected to gether seeking to be in mission to gether, seeking to be God’s people at home and around the world.

MERRICK: Jeannie Trevino-Teddle from the Central Texas Conference will now explain some of our critical findings and the emphasis on stewardship.

Research on Funding Findings

JEANNIE TREVINO-TEDDLIE (Central Texas): In the research that we did, we discovered that theology affects church giving more than institutional policies. Bishop Looney reminded us that our own theology contradicts a consumer theology. That consumer theology that says, “Gain all you can, spend all you can, keep all you can.” Bishop Looney reminded us that Fa-

ther John says it a different way: "Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can." John Wesley encouraged Methodists to work with diligence and discipline making wise use of the gifts and resources that are entrusted to them by God.

An other finding was that for stewardship programs to be successful, they must involve a theology and a vision of both personal and collective responsibilities. Our consumer-driven society says, "I earned it. It's mine." This understanding leads to members seeing their giving as paying for services, paying for services rendered. But our Biblical roots emphasize the role of the steward: "All that I am and all that I have comes to my care from God."

I think one of the most important things that our task force has done has been to initiate a major curriculum piece on stewardship that was just passed out to you. It's entitled, *Steward: Living as Disciples in Everyday Life*. The United Methodist Publishing House is developing this 12-week study resource for small groups in local churches. It will be available at the end of this year for use in January of 2001. In the booklet, it will give an overview of this curriculum, of the contents of *Steward*.

Those of you who may not have received this copy, you can go down to the Cokesbury display and there are these booklets that are available to you. In the very back of the booklet you will see a postcard that you can fill out for more information. I think it's one of the most important pieces that's being put together for us to really be able to understand ourselves as stewards as a way of counteracting the consumer-driven society in which we live in. The task force is extremely pleased that this resource will be available to you by the end of this year and we commend it to you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right. We're going to need to move towards conclusion now rather quickly, please. Couple of minutes.

MERRICK: Don House, an economist from Houston, Texas will present some of the formulae and rationale.

For formulas for Funding

DON ALD HOUSE (Texas): As you may know the apportionment funds that come from this General Conference through the Annual Conferences are governed by three formulae. A decimal formula, and two expendituary formulae. We studied those formulae and the effects of those formulae for three and a half years. And we came up with several critical findings. One, there is no link between the health of the local church, and the levels of apportionments as-

signed to those local churches during the quadrennium. The amounts that are assigned are fixed for the quadrennium and it's not linked to the what happens to the local church during that quadrennium.

The second, there are serious inequities we found. We found that the least able to support the general church some times gets the largest apportionments. Troy is an example, yet the apportionments represent 4.4% of their total local church expenditures. North Georgia, the apportionments represent only 2.8% of their total local church expenditures. And North Georgia, we believe, is the stronger, financially, annual conference. There are differences in ability across the annual conference to support the general church apportionments.

We find that there are substantial differences in payouts. The lowest payout is around 64% for an annual conference. And the highest is 100%. We ask ourselves: Why are these substantial differences existing today across the denomination? We found that most of those differences have to do with differences in ability to support the general church.

The fourth finding is we've discovered that membership is really not closely related to the activities of the local church, and is a poor indicator.

The proposed formula. The proposed formula provides a link between the health of the local church and the levels of apportionments that are assigned from the General Conference. We find that the new apportionment formula does take into account differences in ability to pay across the annual conferences. That is what is included in the "I" factor. We also find, or you will find, that the proposed formula takes out membership, out of the apportionment formula. Change can be disruptive. We know that if there is a change in the apportionment formula, those that receive the lower apportionment formula are going to respond beautifully. But those that get the higher apportionment formula will find, or may find, that that's going to be somewhat disruptive. To take this into account, what we have proposed is a four-year transition; that during those years we use both sets of proportions for formula, the one proposed, as well as the three that are existing. And over those four years we will transition such, that in the year 2004, we will be using the new apportionment formula.

Secondly, we find that the proposal brought forth by the financial administration to bring in the two additional deductions in a graceful step. We believe it is a graceful step toward perfection.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you. Can you bring this to conclusion now please?

PATRICIA E. FARRIS (California-Pacific): Sisters and brothers, as we were reminded this morning, John Wesley knew that his people would and should have issues with money. He knew that we would need the personal and corporate disciplines of saving and giving, giving, giving. He knew that we would need a mechanism, whereby those of more affluent means can join with those of more limited means, to pool our resources, for the undergirding of the mission and the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world.

It has been a privilege to serve the church through this taskforce. And we offer you now this report, the fruits of our labors. We offer tools for further research and analysis, tools for spiritual formation as stewards. And we offer a new tool for apportioned giving, to carry forward the great work of our church with renewed strength and enthusiasm. It is our fervent hope that in its depth and scope, this report may be a springboard to energize a renewal of our commitment as United Methodists to personal and connectional stewardship to the glory of God. This is our charge to keep, and our calling to fulfill. As we conclude, I invite you to stand and join in the singing of hymn no. 413, verses 1 and 2. Charles Wesley's "A Charge To Keep." Please note that we will use plural pronouns, rather than personal ones.

(Song)

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, thank you very much. We're so appreciative for the hard work done. It will be cared for in the regular process of business. We thank you. And now let us call the Secretary for ward, Carolyn Marshall. But also as she is coming, Mary Alice Massey and Fitzgerald Reist. Mike 2, please. Mary Alice.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Bishop Sprague, it does not seem that at this time we will have enough calendar items to warrant a plenary session this afternoon, and so I move that the agenda be adjusted to allow for committee meetings all afternoon and then for plenary to night.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, is that seconded? It is. As many as would support the adjournment, vote yes. Those who would not, vote no. This will give the entire afternoon to legislative time. Vote when the light appears, please. Let's hold steady. It overwhelmingly passes. [Yes, 801; No, 66] All right, Carolyn. Hold steady. There are some important announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Your action just made it possible for me to eliminate

many, many of the announcements with all kinds of changing times for committees and subcommittees. The ten legislative committees, then, will meet in your rooms as scheduled, rescheduled. In addition I want to say that the committee on central conference affairs will meet at 1:30 in 212A.

Then, also, to call our attention that the announcement in today's *DCA* on page 2019, right hand column, regarding the Native American banquet is in error as far as

date is concerned. It is tonight, tonight, Tuesday night, not tomorrow night as stated. All other information is correct.

And just a reminder, also, that as you make motions and bring them to the front, have them brought to the front, it would help us immeasurably here if you could print your names as well as sign them—or at least print them. All of our handwriting for signatures is not readily available by some of us, so it would certainly help your secretarial staff. Thank you.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: All right, and thank you I'd like to call Bishop Edsel Ammons to the podium that he might pray us into recess. And as my mystical bishop, a mystic in a prophet, a prophet in a mystic, comes to pray for us, I'd like to thank bishops Craig and Yeakel. Blame me for the mistakes. Thank them for the way we flow.

(prayer by Bishop Ammons)

*(Continues with Tuesday Evening
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