

# DAILY PROCEEDINGS

## Annual Conference 2022 Greater Northwest Area Opening Session June 19, 2022 6:00pm Pacific Time Via Zoom Webinar

### WELCOME

David Valera, Director of Connectional Ministries for PNW, welcomed everyone to the shared session of the Pacific Northwest (PNW), Oregon-Idaho (OR-ID), and Alaska (AK) Conferences, and he laid out the threefold plan for the session, which included worship, the experience of being together as an episcopal area, followed by PNW action to receive its budget, so that conference members would receive within the required timeframe before acting on it.

### OPENING WORSHIP AND EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Worship included song, liturgy, and the Episcopal address in which Bishop Stanovsky offered words of encouragement and a call to perseverance. She highlighted the area's efforts to address racism in our churches, including the [continuing work by the Innovation Vitality Team](#) under its new executive director Kristina Gonzalez. A video produced by GNW Director of Innovation for an Engaged Church Rev. Dr. Leroy Barber, offered [a spoken word reflection to mark the Juneteenth holiday](#).

During her address, the bishop also touched on ways local churches are active in mission, highlighting a new initiative on [gun control by Olympia First UMC](#) and the response by Lents Tongan UM Fellowship in Portland to the tsunami-driven devastation in Tonga.

As she concluded her message, Bishop Stanovsky said, "Stand firm in your faith, that when God is doing a new good thing, there may be disruption. But there will be a way through it, and it will be worth it."

### LAY LEADER ADDRESS

During the opening session, members also received several other area-wide ministry reports, including those from the [Circle of Indigenous Ministries and Disaster Response](#). The three conference lay leaders – Jo Anne Hayden (Alaska), Paul Nickell (OR-ID) and Nancy Tam Davis (PNW) – offered a shared [Laity Address](#) spotlighting ways laity were engaging in the ministry of the church.

## Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Session Conducted via Zoom Videoconferencing 9:00am am Pacific Time Thursday, June 23, 2022

*Note: the 2022 Clergy Session took place online via videoconference on May 31; those proceedings appear immediately following this record. The Laity Session for Oregon-Idaho was held on June 14, together with the laity from the Pacific Northwest and Alaska conferences.*

### GATHERING, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky called us to order as the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, and welcomed us. Kate Conolly, interim senior pastor of Portland First UMC (the church is hosting the conference session leadership as the bishop presides over this zoom call), offered a welcome. Kate lifted up an acknowledgement of the land on which we meet, and the peoples who first inhabited these lands.

Allen Buck, agenda coordinator, welcomed members and gave instructions for how each person can connect to the simultaneous language interpretation on zoom. Closed captioning is also available for those who choose it. Allen reminded us each to practice patience and grace as we navigate (yet again!) annual conference on zoom.

Charles Brower from the Alaska Conference offered a time of Bible Study as we begin our work together.

Bishop Elaine introduced the head table: Paul Nickell (conference lay leader), Allen Buck (agenda coordinator), Paul Cosgrove (parliamentarian and conference chancellor), Laurie Day (director of connectional ministries and assistant to the bishop), Laura Jaquith Bartlett (conference secretary, joining via zoom), Carlo Rapanut (executive assistant to the bishop, joining via zoom) and Rhondalei Gabuat (bishop's executive administrative assistant).

From behind the scenes: Laura Parch and David Wood from GNTV (a United Methodist media ministry providing support for our zoom meeting and online voting), and the local tech team from Portland FUMC along with Kristen Caldwell, OR-ID communications manager.

David Wood from GNTV led us through an introduction to the voting process, along with a practice ballot. He also outlined the procedure for getting recognized from the floor to make a motion, ask a question, offer a speech for or against a motion, etc.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Laura Jaquith Bartlett offered the organizational motion:

1. The bar of the conference shall be established as those on this zoom webinar, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Clergy members of other annual conferences and other Methodist denominations, who are currently serving under appointment within the bounds of OR-ID under ¶346.1 of *The Book of Discipline*, are allowed to be present with voice but no vote;
  - b. Ministers of other denominations currently serving under appointment within the bounds of OR-ID under ¶346.2 of *The Book of Discipline* are allowed to be present on the webinar with voice but no vote, except that those persons whose credentials have been certified as at least equal to those of United Methodist elders shall have voice and vote.
  - c. The Greater Northwest Area Assistant to the Bishop, Carlo Rapanut, the Conference chancellor and parliamentarian, Paul Cosgrove; the Greater Northwest Area's Director of Innovation for an Engaged Church, Leroy Barber; and the Greater Northwest Area's Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality, Kristina Gonzalez are allowed to be present with voice but no vote.
  - d. The bishop's executive assistant, Rhondalei Gabuat, is allowed to be present without voice or vote;
  - e. Those providing technical support for the webinar and the voting, including GNTV staff and annual conference staff and volunteers, are allowed to be present on the webinar without voice or vote.
2. The agenda for this June 23, 2022, Oregon-Idaho annual conference plenary session is the published agenda developed by the Sessions Committee and posted on the Oregon-Idaho website.
3. The 2022 Memorial Service will be scheduled for a time to be determined, and will include the 2022, 2021, and 2020 memorials.
4. The pre-conference reports for 2022 are hereby accepted for changes and perfections as determined by annual conference actions.

Seconded.

**Passed.**

Allen Buck summarized some highlights from the agenda that is ahead of us today.

#### GC/JC DELEGATION REPORT

Wendy Woodworth, head of the General/Jurisdictional Conference delegation, reminded us of the names of those on the team, elected in 2019 for the 2020 Conferences....and still faithfully serving as we wait for a General Conference session to be convened! Wendy thanked the delegates, who have been working together all this time. We now know that we will have a 2024 General Conference, and we have dates for a 2022 Jurisdictional Conference in November. The Western Jurisdiction will be electing three bishops at that event.

#### BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Julia Nielsen, chair of the BOM, offered a report that highlighted the five ordinands for 2022 as well as our new associate member. Jules also noted the Board's work on clergy wellness, and the ongoing need for care and resources for clergy.

Our current class of retirees offered witness to the annual conference members through an inspiring video. They addressed our conference theme (*Called to be . . . Alert, Faithful, Brave, Love*), sharing what it means to be alert, faithful, brave, and how to love. Bishop Elaine prayed for each of these persons.

#### QUESTION

A question was raised about whether we are in violation of our Conference Rule 2.250 about the episcopal nomination process, since we using a different process than what is outlined in our rule. Paul Cosgrove responded that, because we are not actually nominating persons--we are simply lifting up names for a discernment process--we are not in violation of that rule.

#### BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Paul Nickell offered up highlights from the Board's work, which include cooperation and collaboration with the lay ministries from all three conferences of the GNW, and increased work and partnership with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

#### BREAK (12 minutes)

#### RACIAL JUSTICE STRATEGY REPORT

Cynthia MacLeod, Columbia District Lay Leader and member of the Racial Justice Strategy Team, offered a video report. The team was created in response to AR#19, which was approved by the 2021 annual conference. Members are Leroy Barber (team lead), Ria Galo, Sharon Bryan, Keren Rodriguez, Allen Buck, Cruz Edwin Santos, and Laurie Day. The team has developed four levels of strategies to address racism and change: personal, interpersonal, organizational, and cultural. The first strategic recommendation is White Work; the second is BIPOC Funds; the third strategy addresses Land Acknowledgments; and the fourth is Paths to Leadership.

#### QUESTION

During this time of uncertainty and division in the UMC, is there a process in place to make sure that episcopal candidates are committed to the United Methodist Church? The bishop believes that the extensive discernment process will address these questions.

Allen explained the process for receiving and then voting on the next batch of reports. We will hear reports and motions from four conference entities, then vote on each of the four motions on one ballot.

#### COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Daryl Blanksma, chair of the commission, offered the report, including the news that the commission is recommending an increase of about 8% to the minimum base compensation, which the members believe is essential in order to keep up with the cost of living for our clergy.

Daryl moved that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference fix the minimum base compensation for 2023 as follows:

- If an adequate parsonage is provided for the use of the pastor, the base compensation be set at:
  - o Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: \$47,390
  - o Provisional Member: \$45,020
  - o Local Pastor: \$42,770
- If the church or charge does not provide an adequate parsonage for the use of the pastor, the base compensation be set at:
  - o Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: \$65,439
  - o Provisional Member: \$62,168
  - o Local Pastor: \$59,060

Clay Andrew moved to amend by adding this language to the end of the report: "Beginning July 1, 2023, the minimum fulltime salary levels (with or without a parsonage) for all appointed or assigned leaders shall be equal, regardless of conference status." Seconded.

There was extensive discussion, including these questions:

- Jon Umbdenstock: The amendment stated that the minimum would be the same, but did not specify at what level.
- Buddy Gharring: Why is it that we are assuming these new across-the-board minimums would be set at the elder level (high end) instead of the LLP level (low end) across the board? Churches can always pay over minimum recommendation.

Steve Mitchell moved to refer the proposed amendment to the Equitable Compensation Commission for further discussion and recommendation to the next annual conference session. Seconded.

**Passed.**

Note that the vote on the original Equitable Comp motion will be bundled with the other financial report votes later this morning.

#### BOARD OF PENSIONS

Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen offered a report from the Board. He began with gratitude for Dan Wilson-Fey as he retires this year, as well as gratitude for the staff of the Conference Treasurer's Office. Jeremy also offered an update on the new BIPOC Support Initiative. In this past year, \$117,000 has been granted to eight ministry settings—and this work is just beginning. In recognition of the intense challenges the pandemic has posed for those serving local churches, the Board distributed wellness grants to lay and clergy leaders appointed or assigned to local churches and new start ministries. The recipients were simply asked to use the money to promote their physical, emotional, and/or spiritual well-being.

Jeremy moved the adoption of the health benefits recommendations and pension and welfare plan recommendations as printed in the Board of Pensions pre-conference report and presented in the video report of the Board of Pensions to the 2022 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

The vote on this motion will be held until we vote on all the financial reports.

#### COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Paul Cosgove, president of the CF&A, offered a summary of the conference budget. Paul gave thanks for the work of Dan Wilson-Fey, and noted with pleasure that CF&A has nominated Candace Clarke for our new Interim Conference Treasurer.

The 2024 proposed budget offers a reduction of about 6.94%. The apportioned budget would be at \$2,802,766 (\$200,000 less than in 2022). The apportionments represent about 35% of our total revenue resources—an essential piece of our ability to do ministry. In 2021, 97 churches paid 100% or more of their shared giving. Paul expressed his thanks to these congregations. The proposed budget is the result of some difficult choices. The details can be found in the pre-conference reports, and in the financial section of the 2022 Conference Journal.

Paul moved the adoption of the 2023 Conference Budget and the four CF&A annual recommendations as printed in the pre-conference financial items.

Christy Dirren moved that we add to the Youth Ministry line item budget an amount of \$12,000 to be added to the existing funds for youth ministry.

Paul noted that our Rules state that any proposed action that has budget implication must be referred to the CF&A before action. The bishop asked that Paul try to convene CF&A at lunch, so we will hold this item until after lunch.

#### NOMINATIONS REPORT

Sarah Richard presented the work of the Conference Nominating team. She moved the adoption of the Conference Nominations Committee report as published in the Annual Conference 2022 Reports, with the addition of Fungalei Taufou on Line 25 of page 74.

**BALLOT**

AC members voted on the motions from the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Board of Pensions, and the Nominating Report (we are holding the CF&A vote until after lunch).

Equitable Compensation motion: **Passed.**

Pensions: **Passed.**

Nominations Report: **Passed.**

While waiting for the results of the ballot, the conference members watched and listened to a video report from Todd Bartlett, executive director of camp and retreat ministries.

Angelina Quilimaco prayed for us as the conference members went to lunch.

**LUNCH BREAK****WELCOME BACK**

Bishop Elaine welcomed us back from our break.

**MEMORIALS**

Conference members viewed a video in which Brett Strobel and Dorita Betts Borgerson read the names of clergy and spouses who have died in the past year. Charlie Wallace closed our time by reflecting on the gifts of those we have memorialized even as we prepare to welcome our new ordinands, and then he offered prayer.

**HISTORIC WESLEYAN QUESTIONS**

The five ordinands who have been elected into full membership by the Clergy Session stood in person before the bishop, who asked them the historic Wesleyan questions in preparation for tomorrow's ordination service.

**SAMOAN MISSION**

The Conference was shown a video lifting up some highlights of our Samoan Mission in southern Oregon, including the community's effort to hold not just one, but two covid vaccination clinics, which included food and grocery gift cards.

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

We deferred action on the budget this morning so that CF&A could review an amendment that was presented during discussion. Paul reported that CF&A was able to quickly meet over the lunch break.

Paul moved a substitute motion from CF&A for the youth ministries line item in the 2023 proposed budget: delete the figure of \$2,500; replace it with the figure of \$12,000; in the 2023 reserves: delete the figure of \$2,500; replace it with the figure of \$12,000. The apportionment column remains at zero.

**Passed.**

Voting moved to the main motion, the adoption of the 2023 Conference Budget and the four CF&A annual recommendations as printed in the pre-conference financial items.

**Passed.**

**EPISCOPACY DISCERNMENT PROCESS**

These names were lifted up for further discernment:

Duane Anders, Adam Briddell, Allen Buck, Karen Hernandez, Joe Kim, Eilidh Lowery, Tim Overton-Harris, Carlo Rapanut, Ric Shewell, Jeremy Smith, John Tucker, Wendy Woodworth.

**CHURCH CLOSURES**

As Dean of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Cabinet, and on behalf of the Superintendents of the Districts in which the following churches are located, Tim Overton-Harris moved that Aberdeen UMC, in Aberdeen, Idaho be closed effective August 14, 2022; and that Filer First UMC, in Filer, Idaho; Richfield Community UMC, in Richfield, Idaho; Wilder UMC, in Wilder, Idaho; Talent First UMC, in Talent,

Oregon; and Coburg UMC, in Coburg, Oregon be closed effective July 1st, 2022; and that all real and personal, tangible and intangible property of these local churches shall be transferred to the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Board of Trustees according to paragraph 2549 in the 2016 Book of Discipline.

**Passed.**

While waiting for the ballot results, we watched a video from Kristen Caldwell, our communications manager, outlining the work we have done in the communications arena to share the good news of our ministry both in Oregon-Idaho and as part of the Greater Northwest Area.

#### READING OF APPOINTMENTS – CRATER LAKE DISTRICT

John Tucker joined Bishop Elaine via video to read the appointments for the Crater Lake Missional District. District Lay leader Ria Galo then led in a prayer.

#### LEGISLATION BLOCK #1

Ethan Gregory, co-coordinator for the legislative process, thanked the members of the Legislative Assembly. He introduced the two Consent Calendars and explained how legislation gets on the consent calendar.

Ethan moved the adoption of Consent Calendar A.

Adam Briddell, who works with Ethan as co-coordinator, moved the adoption of Consent Calendar B.

The ballot included Consent Calendar A and Consent Calendar B.

**Passed.**

The ministry of United Women in Faith (the new name for United Methodist Women) was highlighted in a video that was shown while the ballot was tallied.

#### READING OF APPOINTMENTS – CASCADIA DISTRICT

Wendy Woodworth joined Bishop Elaine via video to read the appointments for the Cascadia Missional District. District Lay leader Dawn Chastler then led in a prayer.

#### LEGISLATION BLOCK #2

Ethan returned to guide us through individual standing resolutions, which will be voted on in one ballot at the end of this block.

Ethan moved that the annual conference approve SR#2, Affirming and Celebrating All Transgender Children of God.

Adam moved that the annual conference approve SR #4, A Call to Civility.

Sheri Willard moved to amend line 25 to insert “and request civility from” before the words “those persons” as follows: “Every United Methodist is called upon to respond with civility to **and request civility from** those persons who promote hate...” Seconded.

**Passed.**

Consideration moved to the main motion, SR#4, as amended.

Ethan moved that the annual conference adopt SR#6, We are UMC.

Adam moved that the annual conference adopt SR#7, Advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Ethan moved that the annual conference adopt SR#8, Equitable Distribution of COVID Vaccines.

The ballot contained votes on SR#2, SR#4 (as amended), SR#6, SR#7, and SR#8.

**All Passed.**

While waiting for the ballot results, AC members watched a video highlighting the Trinity UMC (Idaho Falls) Day Shelter.

BREAK – 10 minutes

#### READING OF APPOINTMENTS – SAGE DISTRICT

Karen Hernandez joined Bishop Elaine via video to read the appointments for the Sage Missional District. District Lay leader Sharon Bryan then led in a prayer.

#### LEGISLATIVE BLOCK #3

Adam moved that the annual conference adopt AR #1, Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land. The Legislative Assembly recommends voting against this motion, by a vote of 9-10 from the Assembly's session.

Karen moved to suspend the rules in order to allow Dee Poujade to speak to the action request. Bishop Elaine ruled the motion out of order, since Rule 2.106 gives the chair the power to give voice at the annual conference to any member of the UMC. The bishop chose not to give voice to Dee, since the members of the Legislative Assembly who voted in favor of the Action Request should be able to offer a speech in favor.

**Passed.**

Chris Mitchell, conference president of United Women in Faith, offered a video report outlining the ministry of the Oregon-Idaho UWF, while the vote was tallied.

Ethan moved that the annual conference adopt AR#4, Fulfilling our Baptismal Vows to Children of Clergy.

Heather Riggs moved to amend by replacing lines 33-35 with: "During the consultation process the district superintendent would ensure that the leadership of the church receives notice of this policy and require that the church complete their plan before July 1. If the church fails to complete their plan, the pastor will not begin work until the plan is completed, but the church will still compensate the pastor for the work that should have begun July1." Seconded.

**Failed.**

Consideration moved to the main motion, AR#4.

Larry Hermann moved to call the question and end the debate. Seconded.

**Passed.**

Voting moved to the main motion, AR#4.

**Failed.**

Conference members learned more about the Abundant Health ministries of the annual conference while waiting for the results of the ballot.

Adam moved that the Annual Conference adopt AR#9, Amend the Sexual Ethics Policy for Clergy.

Karen Hernandez moved to amend by inserting language to the first informational dot on page two, at the end of line 4, which currently states, "Undergo a criminal background and records check as determined by the Board of Ordained Ministry;" these words would be added: "with costs being covered by their local church or charge conference. If payment is burdensome to the local church, the pastor/clergy should discuss financial assistance with their district superintendent." Seconded.

**Passed.**

Consideration moved to the main motion, AR#9 as amended.

**Passed.**

While waiting for the vote result, we viewed a video from the General Board of Global Ministries.

Ethan moved that the annual conference adopt SR#3, Support Disaffiliation for the Cause of Full Inclusion. The Legislative Assembly voted 2-19 to recommend it, and thus recommends defeat of this resolution.

**Failed.**

A video from Fremont UMC in Portland offered some explanation about the importance of creating a “land story” that acknowledges the displacement of native peoples from their homelands; this was shown while waiting for the ballot tally. Allen Buck also noted a link for more information and resources for creating land acknowledgements: [www.greaternw.org/circle](http://www.greaternw.org/circle).

Adam and Ethan affirmed that our legislative work is completed for this session! Bishop Elaine thanked all those who guided and worked on this process.

#### READING OF APPOINTMENTS – COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Tim Overton-Harris joined Bishop Elaine via video to read the appointments for the Columbia Missional District. District Lay leader Cynthia MacLeod then led in a prayer.

#### CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Jaquith Bartlett reminded folks that the Service of Ordination will be held both in-person (with advance registration) and via live stream at 11:00am Pacific on Friday, June 24. The closing Greater Northwest Area session will be Saturday morning, June 25, ending with a final worship service and a celebration of Bishop Elaine as she concludes her final annual conference session as bishop, before retiring at the end of this calendar year.

#### CLOSING DEVOTION

Bishop Elaine introduced Dan Wilson-Fey with deep appreciation and gratitude for Dan’s ministry and what he brings to all of us as a person of faith and caring. Dan led in a heart-felt closing devotion.

The session ended at 5:25pm Pacific.

**Saturday, June 25, 2022**  
**Greater Northwest Area Closing Session**  
**Via Zoom**  
**9:00am Pacific Time**

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky welcomed all, and invited participants to greet others in the zoom chat, and to include a note of indicating whose unceded land each person is joining from. Allen Buck, agenda coordinator for Oregon-Idaho, gave instructions for the members to choose among English, Korean, and Spanish languages, as we are providing simultaneous interpretation for those three languages.

#### DEVOTIONS/CENTERING

David King and Keren Rodriguez (Oregon-Idaho) led us in a brief bilingual service of worship to center us for the day.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

The bishop introduced Laurie Day, the Director of Connectional Ministries for Oregon-Idaho. Laurie introduced the persons assisting in-person in the leadership of the session today: Carlo Rapanut, Rhondalei Gabuat, Paul Cosgrove, Allen Buck; along with Lisa Talbot and David Valera. Jim Doeppen, Kristen Caldwell, and Patrick Scriven are our conference communicators. Laurie also thanked GNTV--Laura Poarch and David Wood (along with their team); and Drew Hogan (Portland First UMC) with his team of staff and volunteers who are supporting the tech for this online conference.

## REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

Nico Reijns, the brand-new conference secretary for Alaska, offered a report from the Alaska Conference. Nico noted the ongoing work of preparing for the eventual official move of Alaska as a district of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Laura Jaquith Bartlett, lifted up highlights from Oregon-Idaho's conference session. And Shirley DeLarme, secretary from the Pacific Northwest conference, gave her report from PNW.

## LATE-BREAKING ACTION

Ruth Marston-Bihl from PNW was invited to address the conference. Together with Nico Reijns (Alaska) and Eilidh Lowery (OR-ID), a statement was prepared late yesterday, which Ruth presented to the GNW Area. Ruth read the statement, which was in response to yesterday's Supreme Court decision to end the Roe v. Wade protection of reproductive health care, including abortion rights. Bishop Elaine clarified that we are not acting on the statement right now, but it is being made available to members so that we can return to the statement later today to determine whether the members present at this joint session are in favor of issuing this statement publicly. This would not be a legislative action (she noted that all three conferences have different processes for legislative action), but would simply be a statement made by the combined GNW Area.

## EPISCOPAL DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Each conference interpreted the new discernment process somewhat differently, but each of the three lifted up names:

**Alaska:** Carlo Rapanut

**Oregon-Idaho:** Duane Anders, Adam Briddell, Allen Buck, Karen Hernandez, Joe Kim, Eilidh Lowery, Tim Overton-Harris, Carlo Rapanut, Ric Shewell, Jeremy Smith, John Tucker, Wendy Woodworth

**Pacific Northwest:** Shalom Agtarap, Joe Kim, Katie Ladd, Derek Nakano, Tim Overton-Harris, Carlo Rapanut

Bishop Elaine reminded us that the process calls for us not to narrow the pool at this point, but rather to widen the pool. If there are additional persons who feel called to enter into discernment, there is a form on the WJC website.

## GNW DELEGATIONS FOR GENERAL/JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

We watched slides of all the lay and clergy delegates; Bishop Elaine offered a blessing for all these persons, especially as they prepare for the November 2022 Western Jurisdictional Conference to elect new bishops for the leadership of our church.

## VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Allen Buck reviewed the voting instructions, and noted that GNTV has the ability to allow us all to vote simultaneously, yet the votes will be tallied separately for each of the three conferences.

## VITALITY COMMISSION REPORT

Daymond Glenn offered a brief report, but formally asked for an additional year to draft legislation for the creation of a new vitality council, as outlined in the commission's report. He encouraged AC members to the commission with any questions.

Because we are voting on this action, we need a motion from each of the three conferences.

Carlo Rapanut (AK) moved the adoption of the Greater Northwest Area Vitality Commission report which extends the work of the Vitality Commission by one additional year. The Commission will submit its work to the 2023 Annual Conference sessions.

Jeremy Smith (OR-ID) moved the adoption of the Greater Northwest Area Vitality Commission report which extends the work of the Vitality Commission by one additional year. The Commission will submit its work to the 2023 Annual Conference sessions.

Wongee Joh (PNW) moved the adoption of the Greater Northwest Area Vitality Commission report which extends the work of the Vitality Commission by one additional year. The Commission will submit its work to the 2023 Annual Conference sessions.

The votes were tallied separately for each annual conference:

AK – **Passed.**

OR-ID – **Passed.**

PNW – **Passed.**

While awaiting the ballot results, the conference members viewed a report from the Faith Foundation Northwest.

#### GNW MISSIONS COHORT

Ronda Cordill offered a video report from the GNW Missions Cohort.

#### TONGAN RELIEF UPDATE

Brant Henshaw, PNW conference treasurer, reported on the results to this point of our efforts to support the relief work in Tonga. So far, \$5,200 has been given online, but Brant strongly encouraged us to keep on giving. Bishop Elaine pointed out the very long history of strong Methodism in Tonga. She also noted the difficulty right now of getting containers to Tonga, due to the challenges of the global supply chain.

#### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA UPDATE

Dan Wilson-Fey and Brant Henshaw brought us an update. After decades of abuse allegations and litigations within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the BSA finally declared bankruptcy in February of 2020. This resulted in 82,000 claims of abuse against the BSA. The GNW Area had about 100 claims, with most taking place before 1980. After a two-year process, a settlement was reached, that is about \$2.7 billion. The judge has not yet made her ruling, which will then be reviewed; this will probably not be completed until fall or winter. Every annual conference in the nation has made a commitment to contribute to a fund for survivors of \$30 million. All three GNW annual conference has committed to contribute a combined \$650,000, including legal expenses and some insurance forensic costs. The agreement has been signed by the presidents of CF&A and Trustees in all three conferences plus the directors of connectional ministries, the conference treasurers, and by the bishop. Discussion is ongoing on exactly how to pay this, and how the payments will be shared. But we do know that we will pay our commitment in full.

There are some major changes that have been negotiated in the relationship between the UMC and the BSA:

- UMCs can use an affiliation agreement or a facility use agreement
- Increased clarity on indemnification and increased insurance coverages
- BSA Councils will recruit, screen, and train all leaders
- BSA Councils will provide EIN and act as fiscal agent for all troops or units
  - All bank accounts and assets will move to the Council from the local church

New BSA/UMC Affiliation Agreement:

- Current agreements can be extended up until October 31, 2022, in order to give time to move to the new agreement
- An additional interim agreement between the UMC and the BSA will provide insurance and indemnity coverage during this time
- UMCs can implement the new Affiliation Agreement or a new Facility Use Agreement using provided forms.

Brant encouraged churches to be watching for more information in the coming months, and to feel free to contact him with any questions in the meantime. Brant reminded us of the important of taking seriously our responsibility to be a safe and caring place while protecting all who pass through our doors.

Dan lifted up three commitments that are also part of the agreement. We commit to:

- Review and update all local church safe sanctuary policies
- Run articles provided by UMC and BSA on this topic
- Recruit leaders to listen to survivor experience as part of our commitment toward healing and away from harm.

#### GNW DEACONESSES AND HOME MISSIONERS

By video, we witnessed Bishop Elaine commissioning Ronda Cordill as a new deaconess and Caesar Marciales as a new home missionary, both in the PNW Conference. Ronda was commissioned to ministry as the WJC Volunteers in Mission Coordinator, and Caesar was commissioned to do ministry as a teacher at Wasilla High School. Bishop Elaine also listed the current deaconesses throughout the GNW.

#### GNW HISPANIC/LATINX MINISTRIES

Cruz Edwin Santos outlined some of the ministries he has been engaging in with Hispanic/Latinx folks through the Area. He showed a video affirming the diversity of the peoples across the Area, and the need for LGBTQ-welcoming Latinx churches.

#### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CHOICES

Ruth Marston-Bihl of the Pacific Northwest conference, together with Nico Reijns of the Alaska conference and Eilidh Lowery of the Oregon-Idaho conference, moved that the members of these three conference meeting together as the GNW support [this statement](#). Seconded by Eilidh.

The bishop asked Paul Cosgrove to clarify how we are handling this statement. Paul affirmed that this is not binding legislation, stating the views of the individual members of the GNW conferences, as they meet together. Bishop Elaine assured members that she will work with our three conference communicators to share this statement with clear language about exactly what we are doing.

Each AC member was instructed to go their own conference voting platform to vote. Bishop Elaine reported the results for the Area: 314 ballots cast; 276 yes, 38 no. She promised that the statement will be available, along with the explanation, within a day or so.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Jaquith Bartlett invited all members to come back after lunch for closing worship and celebration at 1:00pm Pacific time, using the same zoom link.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Each of the conference secretaries made the motion to adjourn. Oregon-Idaho's was made by Laura Jaquith Bartlett, who moved that the 54th session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference be adjourned sine die following our closing worship this afternoon; and that the daily proceedings of this Annual Conference be printed as the official minutes in the Journal, with such editorial corrections as are necessary. Seconded.

**Passed.**

Daniel Miranda, PNW District Superintendent, offered the closing prayer at 11:55am Pacific time.

Following a lunch break, conference members and guests joined (primarily online) together for closing worship, and then a celebration of Bishop Elaine's episcopal service.

## Oregon-Idaho Clergy Session May 31, 2021 1:30pm Pacific | 2:30pm Mountain

#### GATHERING

Bishop Elaine offered the members of the Clergy Session a greeting, and Julia Nielsen, chair of the Board

of Ordained Ministry, led a time of centering followed by some reflections from the bishop. Julia gave an overview of logistical information and instructions related to our use of the zoom webinar platform.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MOTION

Laura Jaquith Bartlett, conference secretary, moved that the bar of the clergy session be those on this zoom webinar, with the following exceptions:

- ministers of other denominations currently serving under appointment within the bounds of OR-ID under ¶346.2 are allowed to be present on the webinar without voice or vote; an individual minister of another denomination may be allowed voice upon approval by a majority vote of the Session;
- clergy members of other annual conferences, who are currently serving under appointment within the bounds of OR-ID under ¶346.1 are allowed to be present with voice but no vote;
- The bishop's executive assistant, Rhondalei Gabuat; the Greater Northwest Assistant to the Bishop, Carlo Rapanut; and Oregon-Idaho's Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop, Laurie Day, are allowed to be present without voice or vote; those providing technical support for the webinar and the voting are allowed to be present on the webinar without voice or vote.

Seconded.

**Passed.**

#### BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Amanda Gayle Reed, Conference Relations Coordinator led us through the BAC questions.

**NOTE:** The detailed information for all these questions can be found in the BAC report, starting on page XX in this Journal.

**Q13** Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration (¶¶604.4, 605.7)?

The bishop asked the question of each district superintendent in turn, and then asked the clergy of each district to affirm the question about their DS. All answers were affirmative.

**Q14a** Who constitute the Administrative Review Committee?

**Passed.**

While the vote was tallied, the Order of Deacons report was given by Patty Meyers.

**Q15** Who are the Certified Candidates? (for information only)

**Q17a** Who are approved and appointed as Full-time local pastors?

**Q17b** Who are approved and appointed as Part-time local pastors?

**Q17c** Students from other ACs serving as local pastors?

Amanda Gayle noted our new system for recording educational progress by licensed local pastors in the Course of Study.

While the vote was tallied, there was a recognition of licensed local pastors, and Bishop Elaine offered a prayer.

**Passed.**

**Q18** Who have been discontinued as local pastors (¶320.1)? (for information only)

**Q20** What ordained ministers or provisional members from other Annual Conferences are approved for appointment in the Annual Conference while retaining their conference membership (¶¶331.8, 346.1)? (for information only)

**Q21** What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve appointments or ecumenical ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation (¶¶331.8, 346.2)?

**Q22b** Who are affiliate members without vote?

While the vote was being tallied, Wendy Woodworth, head of our General Conference delegation, gave a brief report on the ongoing work of the delegation, despite not have a General Conference to attend!

**Passed.**

**Q23** Who are elected as associate members (§322)?

Christy Dirren was introduced and read her ministry statement, and then left the virtual room.

While vote was being tallied, a video was shown highlighting a clergy wellness retreat at the end of the summer at Wallowa Lake, led by Rev. Craig Pesti-Strobel.

**Passed.**

**Q25** Who are continued as Provisional Members? (for information only)

*Note—Q27 was intentionally moved out of order.*

**Q28** Who are elected as members in full connection?

**Q30a** Who are ordained as elders and what seminary awarded their degree, after provisional membership (§335)?

Deb Payne introduced each candidate in turn: Alyssa Baker, Nicole Berry, Jessica Cummins Connor, Ethan Gregory, Jorge Rodriguez Vasquez. All five were placed in the virtual waiting room for the vote. While the vote was being tallied, Donna Pritchard presented the new episcopal candidacy process being rolled out across the Western Jurisdiction.

**Passed (all five ordinands).**

**Q27** What ordained clergy, coming from other Christian denominations, have had their orders recognized?

Amanda Gayle noted that Mary Beth Boesch is in the process of transferring in, but that is not happening now; this vote is simply to affirm the bishop's previous action to recognize her ordination credential, which was in danger from her home denomination.

**Q34** Who have been received by transfer from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§347.1)?

**Q35** Who are transferred in from other Methodist denominations (§347.2)? (for information only)

While the vote was being tallied, Susan Boegli gave the Order of Elders report.

**Passed.**

**Q37** Who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church (§416.5)? (for information only)

**Q38b** Who are discontinued as provisional members by voluntary discontinuance (§327.6)?

While the vote was being tallied, Laura Jaquith Bartlett gave an overview and explanation of the proposed new Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) policy that is coming to the annual conference for a vote in June.

**Passed.**

**Q39** Who has been granted Honorable Location previously? (for information only)

**Q40b** Who have been granted the status of Honorable Location-retired previously? (for information only)

Allen Buck, the Honorable Location Coordinator, spoke about the annual reporting requirement and our intense and sustained efforts at staying connected, which has resulted in our need to terminate the Honorable Location relationship with John Luebke and John Page.

**Q41** Who have had their status as honorably located and their orders terminated (§358.2)?

While the vote was being tallied, Laura presented an online tool the conference will be using to stay connected: the people portal.

**Passed.**

**Q42** Who have had their conference membership terminated?

**Q43** Who have been suspended?

Amanda Gayle noted our deep gratitude that we have no names this year for these two questions.

**Q44 c, e** What elders/local pastors have died during the year?

Amanda Gayle read each name, and also included two diaconal ministers who have died. The chat was opened so that clergy could share memories of these persons. Amanda Gayle offered prayer.

**Q45** What provisional or ordained members (elders and deacons) have received appointments in other Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church while retaining their membership in this Annual Conference (§331.8, 346.1)? (for information only)

**Q46** Who are on leave of absence?

Terry Neal, the Board's Leave Coordinator, gave a brief context for each person newly on Leave.

**Q48** Who have been granted medical leave?

Terry gave an update from each person, and offered prayer.

While the vote was being tallied, Julia Nielsen offered a report on clergy wellness, and the resources that the BOM has been curating.

**Passed.**

**Q49a and c** What deacon/elders in full connection have been retired (§357)?

**Q40a** Who have been granted the status of honorable location—retired this year (§358.3)?

While the vote was being tallied, we watched a slideshow highlighting this year's retirees.

**Passed.**

**Q53-57** Part III, Certification in Specialized Ministry Slide (for information only)

Amanda Gayle noted that Todd Bartlett received his certification in Camp and Retreat Ministry this year; the bishop congratulated Todd and expressed gratitude to those who continue in specialized ministries.

**Q58** Part IV, Certified Lay Ministry slide #31 (for information only)

**Q59-66**, Part V, Diaconal Ministers slide #32 (for information only)

**Q67a** What associate members, provisional, or full elders are approved for appointment to less than full-time service?

While the vote was being tallied, Deena Wolfe gave the report of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

**Passed.**

**Q67b** What deacons in full connection and provisional deacons are approved for appointment to less than full-time service (§331.7)? (for information only)

**Q71c** What elders (full connection and provisional), associate members, and local pastors are appointed to extension ministries for the ensuing year, to other valid ministries under the provisions of §344.1d? slide #35

Amanda Gayle noted that ALL extension ministers are listed in this question, via the attached (in the Journal) appointment list. But only Category D (other valid ministries, §344.1d) appointment settings require a vote, which is why they are listed here.

Amanda Gayle offered a prayer for all those in extension ministry.

**Passed.**

**Q73** Who are appointed to attend school (§416.6)? (for information only)

Amanda Gayle announced that we have finished our work with the 2022 BAC!

Bishop Elaine offered final words and closed the Session.