

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Session
Conducted via Zoom Videoconferencing
2:30 – 4:30 pm and 6:00 – 8:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time
September 16, 2020

Note: the 2020 Clergy Session took place virtually on June 10; those proceedings appear immediately following this record of the September Session.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky enthusiastically pounded her gavel and called to order the 52nd Session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, with prayers for all who gather to continue our ministries of love and mercy—in so many ways—around the world. She reminded us that we are upheld by the grace of Jesus Christ, even in this context of a global pandemic, the smoke from wildfires, and the constant battle against racism. We are gathering in a very new way: online! Bishop Elaine thanked the members and guests for being willing to try this new form of meeting. She also thanked the many, many behind-the-scenes folks who are helping to make this possible. She put her hands on her heart and then opened them to the conference members, as a sign of her love and gratitude for all of us. Then the bishop invited us into opening worship.

WORSHIP

The GNW worship team led us in worship through a video that included a photo montage of where we've been as an Episcopal Area over the last four years of this quadrennium. Bishop Elaine offered leadership for the service from her office in Washington, asking the question we've been exploring: What does God require of us? To do no harm (fighting COVID); to do good (dismantling racism); to stay in love with God (reimagining life together). The service ended with prayer led by youth and young adults from the Area. [Note: the service was inadvertently interrupted, so part of it did not take place until a bit later in the meeting; but the entire service has been summarized here.]

Bishop Elaine said a few words about the rampant wildfires throughout the West Coast. District Superintendent John Tucker spoke about the fire and smoke dangers. John lifted up the web address where donations can go to the Conference Disaster Response Fund: umoi.org/give. John thanked Dan Moseler, our interim Conference Disaster Coordinator, for his efforts. The bishop reminded us that we are part of a larger Area: all three conferences (Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest) are meeting this week, and all three will be meeting together on Sunday afternoon for a gathering titled "Breathing Smoke, Seeking Hope." We'll pray, hear testimonies about how churches are responding to the wildfires, and support one another. This event will be at 4pm Pacific/5pm Mountain, available on youtube (an email link was sent out earlier today).

The bishop introduced the virtual head table: Jan Nelson, Conference Lay Leader; Wendy Woodworth, Agenda Coordinator; Laura Jaquith Bartlett, Conference Secretary; Paul Cosgrove, Parliamentarian and Conference Chancellor; Laurie Day, Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop; Rhondalei Gabuat, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop.

Laurie introduced the Rev. David Wood, the executive director of GNTV, a United Methodist media ministry. We have contracted with GNTV to manage our technical and voting needs for this annual conference session. David led us through a practice ballot, and let members know how to get technical help during the session.

Laura Jaquith Bartlett, the conference secretary, moved that:

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, who are currently serving under appointment within the bounds of OR-ID under par. 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 par. 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 Conference chancellor and parliamentarian, Paul Cosgrove, is 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 AC staff and volunteers, are allowed to be present on the webinar without voice or vote.
2. The agenda for this September 16, 2020, annual conference session is limited to the essential business, as listed in the published agenda developed by the Sessions Committee.
3. The 2020 Memorial Service and Ordination and Commissioning Service will both be rescheduled for the 2021 Annual Conference Session.
4. The pre-conference reports for 2020 are hereby accepted for changes and perfections as determined by annual conference actions.
5. Persons elected to conference or district positions for the 2016-2020 quadrennium will be continued in their positions until such time as the 2021 General Conference designates the beginning of a new quadrennium. Any vacancies may be filled in the usual manner, according to Conference Rule 13.010.3.

Seconded by Debbie Arnold.

Passed by common consent.

RULES CHANGES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are gathering limits in place that have necessitated this virtual Session; therefore, we need to make some changes to our Rules, to allow for this meeting. Steve Mitchell, the chair of the Conference Rules Committee moved that:

1. A new rule 2.000 be established: "Annual Conference sessions are to be held in person as called by the Bishop, with location determined by the Conference. However, Annual

Conference sessions may be held virtually (electronically through media applications appropriate for conducting business) when conditions warrant that gathering in one physical location is not safe or possible, in accordance with Paragraphs 603.3 and 603.5 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.”

2. Conference Rules 2.023 and 2.024 be suspended until 2021, to allow us to suspend our legislative process until next year.
3. Conference Rule 4.070.3 be suspended until 2021, to allow Standing Resolutions scheduled to expire in 2020 to remain in our Journal until consideration by the 2021 Annual Conference Session.

This motion requires a 2/3 majority. While waiting for the results of the ballot, we watched a video from the Board of Lay Ministry.

Passed.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Daryl Blanksma, chair of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, presented a video report of the Commission’s recommendations for this year. He moved that for 2021 the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference fix the *minimum* base compensation as follows:

- If an adequate parsonage is provided for the use of the pastor the base compensation be set at:
 - Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: \$42,602
 - Provisional Member: \$40,472
 - Local Pastor: \$38,449
- If the church or charge does not provide an adequate parsonage for the use of the pastor the base compensation be set at:
 - Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: \$58,827
 - Provisional Member: \$55,886
 - Local Pastor: \$53,092

After some discussion, we moved to the vote. As we awaited the ballot results, we watched a video from our Conference Global Ministries.

Passed.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen, chair of the Board of Pensions, presented his report via video. He also thanked the BOP team and the conference staff, as well as our Wespath liaison. Jeremy noted the names of those clergy who are retiring this year. He directed our attention to the annual health benefits recommendations and the Pension and Welfare Plan recommendations, as they appear in the pre-conference reports.

Jeremy then 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 2020 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

While we waited for the ballot results, we viewed a video about our Abundant Health Initiative.
Passed.

CLERGY STATUS CHANGES

Bishop Elaine explained that the Clergy Session met in June via Zoom, but because we've had to postpone ordination, we now have a class of three full members who are not yet ordained. We viewed a video lifting up our six new provisional members (Kalina Malua Katoa, Thomas Orquiza-Renardo, Mia MiKyung Park, Jayde Lauren Rasband, Gigi Siekkinen, Fungalei Taufoou) and our three new full members (Jennifer Willison Hirst, Dylan Hyun, Richard Shewell). We also acknowledged our retiring clergy: Kristan Burkert, Donovan Burkert-Kerr, Marcie Collins, Leslie Hall, William Hays, Michele Holloway, John Quinton Kimbrow, Sandra Kimbrow, Daniel Pitney, Rand Sargent, Daniel Thompson-Aue.

Wendy Woodworth, Cascadia District Superintendent, led us in a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministries of all these persons.

NOMINATIONS

Via video, Laurie Day presented the work of the Conference Nominating Committee. Laurie reminded us that Bishop Elaine has asked persons currently serving on conference and district bodies to continue their service until the end of the current quadrennium, as established by the next meeting of the General Conference.

Laurie announced three new district lay leaders: Cynthia MacLeod (Columbia), Sharon Bryan (Sage), and Ria Galo (Crater Lake). Paula Sadler remains as the Cascadia district lay leader.

Laurie also shared the commitments made by the members of the Nominating Committee for its work in the coming year:

1. Participate in learning and conversation as a nominating committee about inclusion, institutional bias, white supremacy, and racial equity.
2. Audit our Conference rules, policies, practices, and structure for places that limit our ability to be inclusive in our volunteer leadership. Work with appropriate committees to discuss and propose needed changes.
3. Audit membership of conference committees to gain a greater understanding of existing conference volunteer leadership in relation to diversity, inclusion, and other conference values.
4. Present new nominations for the next quadrennium that reflect greater diversity and inclusion to be approved at the 2021 Annual Conference.

Laurie moved the adoption of the Conference Nominations Committee report and subsequent addendum as published on the Annual Conference 2020 Reports webpage.

Brett Webb-Mitchell presented a video on LBGTQ+ Advocacy as we waited for the results of the ballot.

Passed.

The bishop asked Jan Nelson to formally welcome the three new district lay leaders, who are now officially elected to their roles! Jan also expressed gratitude to Paula Sadler for her willingness to continue to serve the Cascadia District. Jan invited all laity to the Laity Session on September 23. Bishop Elaine offered prayers for the ministries of these amazing laity.

The bishop congratulated us on our work so far! As we took a dinner break, we were led in a camp prayer via video by Troy Taylor and Hope Montgomery at Camp Magruder.

DINNER BREAK

Bishop Elaine welcomed us back from break.

CHURCH CLOSURES

Tim Overton-Harris, dean of the Cabinet, directed us to a video highlighting the ministries of the six churches that are closing this year.

As dean of the Cabinet, and on behalf of the district superintendents in the districts with churches to be closed, Tim moved that the Elgin, Nyssa, Richland, and Wallowa UMCs in the Sage District, West Salem UMC in the Cascadia District, and the Chiloquin UMC in the Crater Lake District be closed effective September 16, 2020, and that all real and personal, tangible and intangible property shall be transferred to the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Board of Trustees according to paragraph 2549 in the 2016 Book of Discipline.

As we waited for ballot results, we viewed a video about Claremont School of Theology, which has moved to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

Passed.

MEMORIALS

Because our Memorial Service will not take place until 2021, we want to pause in the midst of our virtual meeting to remember and honor the clergy and clergy spouses who have died this past year. After the video, Bishop Elaine offered scripture and prayer for these faithful servants.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Rick Beadnell, the president of CF&A, addressed the conference via video.

In person, Rick moved the adoption of the 2021 Conference Budget as printed in the pre-conference report titled "Financial Items," found on pages 1-5 of the six-page document.

While waiting for the ballot results, the conference members and guests viewed a video about the Northwest United Methodist Foundation.

Passed.

Rick moved the adoption of the 2021 Annual Recommendations from CF&A as printed in the pre-conference reports, and the adoption of the Non-Budget Support Items listed on page 6 of the Conference Budget document in the pre-conference Financial Items.

This time we saw a video about our Conference United Methodist Women while the votes were tabulated.

Passed.

EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

Bishop Stanovsky showed a video that highlighted a variety of testimonials as to “why I’m a United Methodist.” She challenged us each to answer that question, and to think back on a time when we were really proud of our church. The bishop offered an overview of her episcopal address, which was published in three parts (fighting COVID-19, fighting racism, and imagining a new future being church together) before the beginning of the annual conference session. The address is available on the conference website. The bishop and cabinet are united in this vision and agenda, and they invite all of us to join them. Bishop Elaine reiterated her deep joy at the opportunity to be in partnership with the people of this Area.

GENERAL/JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATION

Laurie introduced us to a video from our delegation for General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Wendy Woodworth, the head of the delegation, asked us all for prayers.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Dean Yamamoto asked if we could offer space to the gathered community, as an opportunity for us to respond to the bishop’s address. Bishop Elaine acknowledged the request.

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES

Laurie introduced our Camp and Retreat Ministries, which offered a video message from Todd Bartlett, executive director of camp and retreat ministries. Todd summarized some of the ways that our camps have responded to the pandemic with nurturing ministries. He asked for continued help and support from the people called United Methodist in Oregon and Idaho.

Laurie directed us to another video with a powerful message from our Hispanic Ministries. The Latinx community is our community—we are not separate people.

AFFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Elaine previously announced the fixing of the appointments through our Conference Communications. A video was played to affirm those appointments again, while Tim Overton-Harris offered prayer.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Kathleen Weber, the District Superintendent of the Crest to Coast District in the Pacific Northwest Conference, invited the Greater Northwest Area to meet in a shared session next year in Puyallup, Washington, June 10-13, 2021.

SUPPORT STAFF THANK YOU

Laurie thanked the many persons who worked behind the scenes to support this Session: chat and Q&A monitors, tech folks, and those who set up and ran the studio in the PNW conference office where the bishop was physically present to preside over the virtual Session.

POST-CONFERENCE GNW GATHERING

This will be livestreamed through Facebook Live and Youtube on Sunday, September 20: “Breathing Smoke... Seeking Hope.” All are invited and encouraged to attend at 4pm Pacific/5pm Mountain.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Laura Jaquith Bartlett noted that the 2020 Conference Journal will be available online by November 16. Our Rules dictate that it be published within two months following adjournment, but she hopes to have it on the conference website by next month.

Laura then moved that the 52nd session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die* following our closing worship; 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.

While waiting for the ballot results, Kristen Caldwell, OR-ID Communications Manager, reported via video on the many ways that our Area communications team has been working during the pandemic.

Passed.

CLOSING WORSHIP

The Area worship team led us in a brief closing worship video.

**Oregon-Idaho Clergy Session
Conducted via Zoom Webinar
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
9:00 am Pacific Daylight Time**

Call to Order

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky called the 52nd Clergy Executive Session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to order. Its specific called purpose is to pass on the character of the clergy, act on items of business of the annual conference requiring clergy session vote, and to receive reports that do not require action. The bishop outlined the unique situation of this first-ever Oregon-Idaho virtual clergy session, and also noted our meeting in the context of acknowledging intense racism in our country.

Welcome

Wendy Woodworth, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, welcomed participants and introduced those at the “head platform:” Julia Nielsen, conference relations registrar; Deb Payne, registrar for provisional members; Anna Cho and Brian Shimer, who are caring for the worship elements of our gathering; and Laura Jaquith Bartlett, conference secretary. Wendy also lifted up the many persons who have supported this event (they are listed in the opening motion below). Wendy explained the specific procedures that are in place to guide our digital meeting.

Julia Nielsen explained that worship, including scripture and prayer, will ground us in our work together today. Brian Shimer and Anna Cho guided the assembly in a practice of *lectio divina* on Luke 10:38-42.

The bishop offered a word of encouragement to those gathering, starting with an acknowledgement of our need to first lament the depth of pain that is in our world. She reminded us that we are not alone, and that faith will see us through our trials. “God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear....” Bishop Elaine reminded us to breathe, over and over. With the light of dawn, God’s help will come! There is no easy solution to the challenges of our world, but we each breathed through the night, and we are gathered here in this extraordinary way! We give thanks to our generous God for giving us the gift of caring for others.

There was a time to practice the remote voting tool, provided by GNTV.

Opening Motions

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 par. 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 par. 346.1 are allowed to be present with voice but no vote
- The bishop’s executive assistant, Rhondalei Gabuat; the Director of Connectional Ministries and the 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: GNTV staff, Patrick Scriven, David Valera, Kristen Caldwell, Linda Grund-Clampit, Terri Bartish, Brandon Rhodes, and Sheri Konowitz are allowed to be present on the webinar without voice or vote.

Passed.

The actions of the body concerning the BAC are recorded below. For the full details, please see the Business of the Annual Conference report in the 2020 Conference Journal.

Q17: Each district superintendent reported on the character of the clergy of that district, and then the clergy reported on the character of their DS. In order to answer the question of character, each person raised a “virtual hand.” In all cases, the answer was yes, which the bishop reported she could hear with the ear of her heart!

Orders/Fellowship Reports

Michele Holloway, chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, reported that the Fellowship met via Zoom this spring. Many local pastors serve in rural communities

with inadequate wifi services, so there was a sharing of ideas for our new ministry context. Michele is entering into retirement; the Fellowship has elected Deena Wolfe as its new chair.

Joyce Sluss has been co-chair of the Order of Deacons, along with Jeff Lowery, for the past eight years. The Order has elected Patty Meyers and Jane Hill (diaconal minister) as the new co-chairs.

Donna Pritchard and Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen have been co-chairs this year of the Order of Elders. Donna wanted to report on the gathering of the Orders/Fellowship in Boise in March...except that it was canceled due to the pandemic. The BOM has nominated Daryl Blanksma and Susan Boegli as new co-chairs; the Order members will receive an email ballot soon to vote on these nominations.

Q18: Who constitutes the Administrative Review Committee?

Passed.

The Session remembered those who have died in the past year.

Wendy led us in a litany of calling and giving thanks for the gift of being called into service.

Q72: Who are approved for less than full-time service (less than 8years)? It was noted that Marshall Wattman-Turner should be added to this Question.

Passed.

Q72: Who are approved for less than full-time service (more than 8 years)?

Passed.

Q76C: Par. 344.1D extension ministry settings

Passed.

Q28b: Who are elected as provisional elders?

Kalina Malua Katoa: **Passed.**

Thomas Anthony Orquiza-Renardo: **Passed.**

Mia MiKyung Park: **Passed.**

Jayde Lauren Rasband: **Passed.**

Gigi Grasfeder Siekkinen: **Passed.**

Fungalei Taufouu: **Passed.**

Q32a and Q33: Who are elected as members in full connection and ordained deacon?

Jennifer Willison Hirst: **Passed.**

Q32b and Q34: Who are elected as members in full connection and ordained elder?

Dylan Hyun: **Passed.**

Richard Shewell: **Passed.**

The bishop explained that we will be unable to safely commission our new provisional members or ordain our new full members this year, but we will celebrate with great joy at an ordination and commissioning service in 2021.

Q20: Who are approved for licensing but not currently appointed?

Dana Hicks, Carly Hodge, Mario Gonzalez Quezada

Passed.

Q21a: Approved for licensing as full-time local pastors? (listed in the published BAC Report)

Passed.

Q21a: Approved for licensing as part-time local pastors? (listed in the published BAC Report)

Passed.

Q25: Clergy from other denominations approved for appointment? (listed in the published BAC Report)

Passed.

Q26: Affiliate members

Gaye Benson, Ann Blair: **Passed.**

Q36: Who are readmitted (after Honorable Location)?

Janice Haftorson: **Passed.**

Q38: Who are received by transfer from other annual conferences?

James Doepken (Indiana), Brett Pinder (Peninsula Delaware), Heather Riggs (PNW)

Passed.

Q53: What elders in full connection have been retired?

Passed.

Q44: Who have been granted Honorable Location-Retired?

Kristan Burkert, Donovan Burkert-Kerr, Marcie Collins

Passed.

Q50: Who is approved for Voluntary Personal Leave? (listed in the published BAC Report)

Passed.

Q52: Who has been granted Medical Leave?

Terry Neal offered a brief report on each person:

Catherine Davis, Margaret Lofsvold, Katherine Raines

Passed.

This concludes the Business of the Annual Conference!

Bishop Elaine led us in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:49pm Pacific Daylight Time.