

Proceedings of the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

The Committee on Journal

The Committee on Journal hereby certifies as accurate the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Friday May 3, 2004.

Reported by Lin Doyle
Chair, Committee on Journal
(D4, Seat 10)

Saturday Morning, May 1, 2004

(Morning Worship)

BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON
(Los Angeles Area): Amen! Thank you, Bishop Keaton! That Brother Jonathan has pep in his step, don't you think?

(applause)

Thank you, Mass Youth Choir.
Thank you so much!

(applause)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Aloha! Sanu! Guten Morgen! ¡Buenos Días! Ofa Atu! Bonjour! An yong-ha-se-yo! Hi, ya'll! That was my first language.

(laughter)

It's good to see you all this morning and for us to come together for our plenary time. I will begin to call on some of our committee chairpersons for their reports to us, and then we'll hear from the Judicial Council. And then we should have time this morning before we go to our legislative committees for us to begin to consider some calendar items. So we'll consider some of the first of our calendar items.

You'll notice that I've asked Bishop Melvin Talbert and Bishop Jack Tuell to sit with me this morning, so they will

be present with me in the presiding chair. I'll call first on Paul Extrum-Fernandez, the Chair of the Committee on Presiding Officers, and have him bring his report to us today.

Opening Announcements

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Bishop Swenson and members of the General Conference, just one quick announcement. The Presiding Officers Committee will not be meeting today.

Our Monday morning presider comes from Davao area in the Philippines, Bishop Leo Soriano. We'll also be making an announcement on Monday morning who will be presiding for the afternoon and evening sessions on Monday. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Now I'll turn to our committee on the calendar and the agenda, and have Mary Alice Massey and Gere Reist speak to us.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Good morning, Bishop, council, delegates. Great is thy faithfulness. This morning, as you have heard, we will hear from the Judicial Council. That report, we will give it all the time that it needs. I understand it is six pages long. Following that, we will begin our plenary and work through as many calendar items as we can.

We will take a break on the way to our committee assignments. We work in committee the rest of the day. The times will be adjusted according to your committee chairpersons. Tomorrow will be a day of rest for some. We will all go to church in the morning, and after lunch sometime or afternoon sometime when the hall is open, there are some committees who will be meeting. That will be announced in your committee if that is the case.

We will see you back on Monday with choral music, worship service, and plenary. We'll have the Africa University

Report and the Judicial Council elections. Have a good weekend, and we'll see you then. Thank you.

And I call on now Jerry Reist, who will bring the calendar items, and we have a video presentation here that will show you where we are in our legislation.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: I'm Fitzgerald Reist, coordinator of the calendar, and I have with me John Brawn, who is a member of the secretary staff. John has worked with, I guess, 5 General Conferences now—at least. Was the original author of the PETS program, the software system we used before CALMS was introduced to us this year. John's going to explain the graphics that show our progress through the petitions legislative process.

JOHN BRAWN: Good morning, I'm John Brawn. Can we have the first graphic up please? This is the bar chart that we're using to follow our progress by legislative committee through the course of dealing with all the petitions.

The bottom row is the total. The black arrow shows you how much time we've used. We have used 75% of the time that's available to us in legislative committees. The red shows how much work we haven't started. We have 42% of the petitions that have not been voted on yet in legislative committees. If we were right on track, we would only have 25% of those not voted. We're clearly not on track.

I'd like to give a special thanks, though, for those of us who have been going crazy in the office to the central conferences group, because you can see at the top they have no red bars. We also have Faith and Order, who has completed all of their petition work in their legislative committees.

(applause)

Our goal, from a chart perspective, is to get rid of the red. Let's "get the red

out,” as they say. And we want it eventually by next Friday evening to be all white, which means that it’s gone all the way through the process and been voted here. We’ll bring this back to you each day, so that you can see how you are doing.

Now, you may be interested to see how we’re doing against a quadrennium ago, and if can have the next slide, we’ll take a look at that. The red line here shows how many calendar items were ready to be brought to the plenary session each day through the last part of the first week and second week of conference in the year 2000. The black line shows where we are so far this quadrennium. We started slow; we’re currently ahead. Our goal is shown by that star. By Tuesday morning, we want all of our petitions to be in committee items, in calendar items, calendared, printed in the *DCA*, and before you. So that you have the flexibility to deal with those as you see fit.

I would encourage you to please work diligently with your legislative committees, and let’s try to have that black line stretch out and hit that yellow star. Thank you.

REIST: I’d ask you to turn in your *DCA*s to page 1655. I just want to draw your attention to the item on page 1655. It describes the budgetary, or the legislative process, with legislation that has budgetary implications. We’ve received a number of requests for information. GCFA has prepared this for you. It spells out the process. Anything that has budgetary implications is automatically referred to GCFA for inclusion in their final report to us, and that whole process is spelled out there very clearly. Please take the time to read it.

Consent Calendar

Now I invite you to turn in your *DCA* to page 1571. Page 1571, Consent Calendar A02. There are no changes to that calendar.

MASSEY: Bishop Swenson, I move the approval of Consent Calendar A02.

BISHOP SWENSON: Consent

Calendar A02 is now before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have approved this Consent Calendar. [Yes, 846; No, 6; Abstain, 5]

REIST: If you would turn to page 1574, Consent Calendar B02, is correct as printed.

MASSEY: Bishop, I move the approval of Consent Calendar B02.

BISHOP SWENSON: Consent Calendar B02 is now before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have approved Consent Calendar 2. [Yes, 846; No, 20; Abstain, 6]

REIST: If you would look to page 1575, Consent Calendar C02. The following items have been removed from the consent calendar; Calendar Item 77 has been removed from the consent calendar. Calendar Item 120; Calendar Item 120 has been removed from the consent calendar. Both of these items appear on page 1645.

MASSEY: Bishop, I move the approval of Consent Calendars C02 with the exception of Item 77 and 120, which have been removed.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, Consent Calendar C02 is now before you, with the exception of these two that have been removed. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [Yes, 861; No, 11; Abstain, 5]

MARY ALICE MASSEY: This concludes our report.

BISHOP SWENSON: And you have approved Consent Calendar C02. Mic 2.

Regarding Financial Implications

J. PAT STROMAN (Central Texas): Pat Stroman, Central Texas Conference. Bishop Swenson, I have a motion, a procedural motion; and if I get a second, I’d like to explain.

I move that all presenters of calendar items at the 2004 General Conference indicate whether any money implications are in the proposed budget or are new money.

BISHOP SWENSON: It has been seconded. Pat, would you just say it

very clearly one more time so people could understand and hear what you were saying?

STROMAN: OK, I’m sorry I speak Texan, so we’ll do the best we can. I move that all presenters of calendar items at the 2004 General Conference indicate whether any money implications are in the proposed budget or are new money.

BISHOP SWENSON: He has said the motion then is a procedural motion that those who are presenting calendar items would indicate whether the budget implications or the financial implications are in the budget or are new money. Did I get the gist of it right? OK. Then are there questions? Are you ready to vote? Yes, it was seconded. It’s properly before us, so will you please vote now. [Yes, 731; No, 120; Abstain, 20]

You have approved of this motion, so we will go forward with this procedure.

I’ll turn now to our conference secretary, Carolyn Marshall, to begin to bring to you the report of the Judicial Council.

Judicial Council Report

CAROLYN M. MARSHALL: Prior to reading the report of the question which was placed before the Judicial Council near the beginning of our time together, it seems appropriate to make mention of the fact that as we gathered for the 2000 General Conference, there was a member of the Judicial Council who was seriously ill and has since passed away. That individual was Thomas Matheny, known to many persons throughout the church, and it was simply appropriate that we acknowledge the service which he has rendered and the time that he spent on the Judicial Council.

Now we look to Decision No. 84 in reference to the declaratory decision regarding the meaning, application, or effect of ¶¶ 304.3 and 2702.1b of the 2000 *Discipline*. ¶ 304.3 of the 2000 *Discipline* is a declaration of the General Conference of The United

Methodist Church that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The practice of homosexuality is a chargeable offense under 2702.1b of the 2000 *Discipline*.

Majority Decision

Statement of Facts: On motion of a delegate from the Arkansas Annual Conference, the 2004 General Conference requested a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council on the following questions: 1. Does the statement in ¶ 304.3 of the 2000 *Discipline* constitute a declaration by The United Methodist Church that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching? And, 2. If the answer to no. 1 is yes, does ¶ 2702.1b of the 2000 *Discipline*, “practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings,” incorporate that declaration into United Methodist church law by reference.

Jurisdiction. The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under ¶ 2610 of the 2000 *Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale. ¶ 304.3 of the 2000 *Discipline* provides that “While persons set apart by the church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standard of holy living in the world. Since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.”

As stated in Decision 886, the *Discipline* is the law of the church, which regulates every phase of the life and work of the church. ¶ 304.3 is unambiguous in its assertion that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Though the statement “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” is preceded by the word “since,” the inclusion of the word “since” as a conjunction introducing

the phrase does not diminish the import of the statement which follows the conjunction—quite the contrary. Its usage connotes an emphatic declaration. *Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary* defines “since” as meaning “seeing that; because; considering; formerly followed by that.”

A “declaration” is defined as “the act of publicly announcing; explicit asserting; proclamation,” *Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary*. In every sense of the word “declaration,” the statement contained in 304.3 that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching is a public announcement, an explicit assertion, and a proclamation. ¶ 304.3 has been a declaration of The United Methodist Church without modification since it was originally added to the *Discipline* by the 1984 General Conference as ¶ 402.2 of the 1984 *Discipline*. See Decision 544.

Only the General Conference has the authority to speak for The United Methodist Church. ¶ 509 of the *Discipline* states, “No person, no paper, no organization has the authority to speak officially for The United Methodist Church, this right having been reserved exclusively to the General Conference under the Constitution.”

In Decision 980, the Judicial Council stated that The United Methodist Church in the *Discipline* has declared the practice of homosexuality to be incompatible with Christian teaching. We reaffirm our previous decision in this regard and hold the statement in 304.3, that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, is a declaration by The United Methodist Church.

¶ 2702.1 of the 2000 *Discipline* provides, “A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 365), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may choose a trial when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: . . . (b) practices declared by

The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings.” The language contained in 2702.1b was first enacted by the 1980 General Conference four years before the language contained in 304.3 was adopted.

As noted above, the only entity which can make a declaration on behalf of The United Methodist Church is the General Conference. When the General Conference enacts legislation which is codified in the *Discipline*, the General Conference speaks for The United Methodist Church (see Decision 886). The *Discipline* is the law of the church, which regulates every phase of the life and work of the church.

When the language contained in ¶ 304.3 was adopted in 1984, the language contained in ¶ 2702.1b was in existence. In determining what constitutes a chargeable offense under ¶ 2702.1b of the *Discipline*, one must look to the pronouncement of the General Conference codified in the *Discipline*. The statement in ¶ 304.3, that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, is such a pronouncement. Therefore, the practice of homosexuality is a chargeable offense under ¶ 2702.1b as a practice declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings.

The Decision. ¶ 304.3 of the 2000 *Discipline* is a declaration of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The practice of homosexuality is a chargeable offense under ¶ 2702.1b of the 2000 *Discipline*. April 29, 2004, signed by John G. Corry, president, and Sally Curtis AsKew, secretary.

Dissent by Pickens and Geis

In addition, there is a dissent to read: We dissent from the majority decision. In our opinion, the statement that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching does not rise to the status of church law. We

contend that the statement found under “Qualifications for Ordination” in ¶ 304.3 references ¶ 161G, “Human Sexuality” of the Social Principles.

The 2000 General Conference clarified the nature and meaning of the Social Principles in at least two significant ways. First, it illuminated the church’s understanding that the Social Principles are not church law. That statement is part of the preface of the Social Principles. The clarification was included in the preface to the Social Principles but not printed in the 2000 *Book of Discipline*. It appears in the errata sheet of omissions and mistakes for the 2000 *Discipline*.

Second, the 2000 General Conference clarified the meaning of ¶ 304.1 on “Qualifications for Ordination” by adding the doctrinal standards to the list of items enumerated in ¶ 304. See the *DCA* of the 2000 General Conference minority report to Calendar Item 1544, which added this language to ¶ 304.

The *DCA* of the 2000 General Conference Minority Report to Calendar Item 1544, which added this language to paragraph ¶ 304: “Clergy must be accountable to The United Methodist Church accept its Doctrinal Standards and disciple and authority.” The General Conference adopted this wording when Calendar Item 1544 was presented to the General Conference. The same calendar item affirmed the Social Principles are principles rather than law.

Item H: Historically, the Social Principles have been a teaching document. The General Conference voted 467 yes, and 435 no, *DCA* 2000 General Conference, Volume 4, p. 2468. ¶ 161G, referenced by ¶ 304.3 does state that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. This assertion, however, does not have the force of church law. ¶ 304.3, standing alone, is inconclusive and does not represent a definitive, declarative statement by the General Conference. The same is true of the General Conference inclusion of the

Doctrinal Standards within ¶ 304.1. When considering any part of ¶ 304 in relation to the provisions of ¶ 2702.1b we must also consider all nine enumerated provisions of ¶ 304.1. Most of the nine enumerated qualifications (A through I) of ¶ 304.1 are not stated in language that makes a candidate accountable for specific actions as does the provision of ¶ 304.3.

However, by inserting the Doctrinal Standards into print, one into point 1 of ¶ 304, it becomes possible to question a candidate about specific pronouncements within the Doctrinal Standards. Surely, such questioning would be of equal importance to questions about sexual orientation. For example, under ¶ 103, Article 16 of the Doctrinal Standards, we have incorporated the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church which is titled “Civil Government.” It states, “We believe war and blood shed are contrary to the gospel and spirit of Christ. We believe it is the duty of Christian citizens to give moral strength and purpose to their respective governments through sober, righteous, and godly living.” If the process for chargeable offenses is to include specific questions about actions and behaviors, there is no reason to assume that one characteristic, for example sexual orientation, should be examined while others such as opposing war are not considered. The pronouncement that war and bloodshed are contrary to the provision falls within the applicable standards that we expect our clergy to follow under the provisions of ¶ 304. If we do not make doctrinal statements such as disavowing war a chargeable offense, how we can we justify selecting another specific question?

We find the statement that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching and ¶ 304.3 does not constitute church law and does not equitably place anyone under the applicable for chargeable offenses under ¶ 2702.1b.

Signed, Larry Pickens and Sally Brown Geis.

Dissent by AsKew

Dissent 984: I respectfully dissent from the majority opinion in this case. I do not believe that ¶ 304.3 is an unequivocal declaration that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. I must, also, confess that I made an error in concurring with Decision 980. More research and prayerful consideration have convinced me that I never should have concurred in saying that The United Methodist Church has made a declaration in ¶ 304.3 that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Additionally, I do not believe the Judicial Council has the right under our enumerated powers in the *Discipline* to tell any group of persons that they should abstain from being a member of a committee on investigation or a trial court pool. Any such abstention is an individual decision. The Judicial Council itself has always refused to let any person or group dictate to it when a member should abstain from taking part in a decision indicating that such a decision was a personal one to be made by each individual.

Signed, Sally Curtis AsKew.

This concludes the reading of the decision.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you, Carolyn, for reading from the Judicial Council report. We’re now ready to move forward with calendar items and calendar business for today. And, we will start with our different committees. The first one will be Church and Society. Let’s go to mic 1.

If the leaders from the Church and Society Legislative Committee would come to the stage, we will be ready soon to begin with actions on reports from your committee. Mic. 1.

Request for a Declaratory Decision

MAXIE DUNNAM (Kentucky): Bishop Swenson, Maxie Dunnam, Kentucky Conference. Having received the closing blessing of Bishop Keaton earlier in worship and believing that we are standing in a place where their presence is deeply known, mercy

abounds and wisdom flourishes. I move that the 2004 General Conference request a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council on the following two questions:

1. In light of the Judicial Council Decision 886 and the Judicial Council decision just handed down, what is the application of those decisions and *The Book of Discipline* to the ruling of the trial court in its verdict of the case of the Reverend Karen Dammann.
2. In light of the finding of the trial court that the Reverend Karen Dammann is a self-avowed, practicing homosexual and in light of Judicial Council Decision 886 and the decision just handed down, what is the meaning, application, and effect of ¶ 304.3 in *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, which states “that self-avowed, practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church,” regarding whether a bishop may or may not appoint someone found by a trial court to be a self-avowed, practicing homosexual.

We have celebrated and continue to celebrate our unity. We see ourselves as family. If we are going to live as family, we are going to have live by common covenant, and we are all going to have to live by the same *Discipline*. In that this trial has received such widespread national attention, and Methodists across the world and especially in the United States, are awaiting this General Conference to respond to these issues.

BISHOP SWENSON: This is a request for another declaratory decision from the Judicial Council. Are you ready to vote? OK. Mic 8. Go to mic 8.

FRANK DORSEY (Kansas East Conference): I want to speak against this because even though the words that Dr. Dunnam gave were about reconciliation, they are about striking at our heart with a knife to disrupt and destroy

our church. I wrote the minority report that says that the, in the Preface, that Social Principles are not law, but are guidelines for teaching and Christian living, which the Judicial Council has completely disregarded. I do not trust that body to deal with a matter of law that I think was very cogent. So, I have to stand opposed to this!

BISHOP SWENSON: Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP SWENSON: You have made this request. [*Yes, 551; No, 345; Abstain 6*] So, we will make this request. We're now ready to proceed with our legislative committees. Yes, mic 1.

Request to Distribute Report

KEVIN GOODWIN (Peninsula-Delaware): I rise to move to suspend the rules to allow the Africa University Report be distributed to our delegates on Monday morning before the presentation of the report, so the members of this General Conference can see the excellent work that we are doing in Africa University through their appointments that they pay.

BISHOP SWENSON: Is there a second?

OK, the motion is to suspend the rules in order to distribute material Monday relative to the Africa University Report that we will receive on Monday. So this does require a two-thirds vote. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP SWENSON: You have voted to do this, [*Yes, 843; No, 44; Abstain, 6*] and so we will distribute this material on Monday. We will turn now to the legislative committee on Church and Society. I am going to go in this order: Church and Society, Discipleship, Financial Administration, Faith and Order, Global Ministries, Higher Education, and Judicial Administration. We will see how far we get in the next hour before we recess.

And, if you will turn in your *DCA* to p. 1578; that's where you will begin to see the report of these calendar items. Jessica Moffat is the chairperson of the legislative committee on Church and Society.

Church and Society Calendar Items

JESSICA F. MOFFAT (Oklahoma): Bishop, members and guests of the General Conference, my name is Jessica Moffat, and I come to you from the Oklahoma Annual Conference. I bring you greetings from the good people on the Church and Society Legislative Committee. In a spirit of shared leadership and in celebration of our diversity, our petitions will be presented by our committee leaders from our legislative committee. And presenting at this time will be Dixie Brewster.

DIXIE BREWSTER (Kansas West): Dixie Brewster, Kansas West Conference, and as a member of the committee on the Board of Church and Society we appreciate Jessica's great leadership. We are on *DCA* p. 1578, Calendar Item 126, Petition No. 40373; Advance *DCA* p. 148.

The committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Move bold sentence at the end of the petition up to follow the end of the first sentence. In the next sentence, we would add the word, “also,” after “we.”

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, this item is now properly before us. Do you understand it, have you been able to find it in your *DCAs*, and you understand the recommendation of the committee? Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 728; No, 100; Abstain, 33*]

You have voted yes. You approve the recommendation of the committee.

Now I take you to *DCA* page 1578 again, Calendar Item 127, Petition 40369, Advance *DCA* page 148. The committee recommends concurrence. (*unintelligible*) committee? Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 624; No, 184; Abstain, 24*]

You have voted yes, and you will sustain the recommendation of the

committee. Thank you, bishop and members of the General Conference. Thank you very much.

We're now about ready to move to the legislative committee on Discipleship with Jeff Greenway. Mic 3. (*pause*) It doesn't seem to be working. Why don't you try to run back to mic 7 behind you? Get your exercise.

JAMES EHRMAN (East Ohio): I have a question of disenfranchisement. What is the procedure to use if the voting pads don't work? Mine has only worked for one of the votes so far.

BISHOP SWENSON: That's a good question, and I don't know the answer. I'll see if somebody here on the technical staff can advise us, if the voting pad is not working. He's going to come to your chair and see if he can make sure it's working.

EHRMAN: They already tried that.

BISHOP SWENSON: Oh. He says they already tried that. Well, we'll try it again and may bring you a new voting pad.

Discipleship, Jeff Greenway.

Discipleship Calendar Items

JEFFREY E. GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop Swenson and members of the General Conference, my name is Jeff Greenway. I'm a clergy member of the Western Pennsylvania Conference, and I've been pleased to lead this wonderful group of people from the Discipleship Legislative Committee. My vice chair is Forbes Matonga, a clergy member of the West Zimbabwe Annual Conference; and our secretary is Carol Loeb, a lay member of the Southwest Texas Conference.

We will be presenting five pieces of legislation for you this morning. I'll present the first; and then Ida Easley, who's been chairing our Hymnal Ordinal Subcommittee, will present the second. Arthur Jones, who's been co-chairing our Ministries With Young People Subcommittee, will present the third and fourth; and, if time permits, I'll be back to present the fifth.

The first item for your consideration

today is found on *DCA* Page No. 1578, Calendar Item 128, Petition No. 40905, and it's found in the Advance *DCA* on page 501. This is a petition requesting affordable and renewable resources. The committee recommends non-concurrence for the reason that these resources are already being produced. It's not a question of whether the resources are there. The question is, the issue is one of communication and be able to get that into the people's hands. So on behalf of the legislative committee, I move non-concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: The recommendation is now before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 796; No, 90; Abstain, 2*]

You have supported the recommendation of the committee of non-concurrence.

IDA EASLEY (South Indiana): Bishop, members of General Conference, I have the honor of chairing the Subcommittee on Hymnals and Ordinals; and today we are considering on page 1578, Item No. 129, Petition No. 41057, and it does have financial implications. Page 492 of the Advance *DCA*.

This petition was requesting that the General Board of Discipleship and The United Methodist Publishing House provide resources that are reflective of Section 3 in the *Discipline*; and our committee voted non-concurrence because we are aware that those types of materials are already available.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, the recommendation of the committee is properly before you. It's a recommendation for non-concurrence. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 818; No, 68; Abstain 5*]

You have supported the recommendation of the committee for non-concurrence.

*Division on Ministries
with Young People*

ARTHUR JONES (North Texas): My name is Arthur Jones from the North Texas Annual Conference, and I have been very pleased to chair the

Subcommittee on Young People. Please turn to your *DCA*, Page No. 1578, Calendar Item No. 130, Petition No. 40864, and page 480 in your Advance *DCA*.

The committee unanimously recommends concurrence with 88 in favors, 0 against, and 3 abstentions. Rationale being that the creation of a division on ministries with young people, the General Board of Discipleship, is a unification of the United Methodist Youth Organization and the Shared Mission Focus on Young People and the General Board of Discipleship to be both more inclusively global and more effective at the local church. This unprecedented cooperation and enthusiasm from across the connection resulting in a body which aims to local churches in better making disciples of Jesus Christ is exactly what this church needs.

There is financial implications, both in and out of the budget, which we will get to in the next petition, hopefully, to tell you we are recommending from the entire, from World Service funds, \$6.574 million. Only \$1.84 of that is off budget.

On behalf of the Discipleship Legislative Committee, I so move concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, this recommendation is properly before us from the committee, recommending concurrence. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have voted to support the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 780; No, 109; Abstain, 11*] You have voted concurrence.

(*applause*)

JONES: Thank you very much, Bishop. Now please turn—we're voting on the budget now—please turn to your *DCA*, page 1578, Calendar Item No. 131, this is Petition No. 40865, and page 484 in your Advance *DCA*.

Yet again, I would like to emphasize that we're only asking for \$6.574 million from World Service—so please analyze that carefully, it might be

slightly confusing—and \$1.84 million of that is off of GCFA’s proposed budget. We unanimously recommend approval of this budget; and so on behalf of the Discipleship Committee, I so move.

BISHOP SWENSON: This is properly before us from the committee. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 759; No, 140; Abstain, 7*]

You have supported the recommendation of the committee and voted concurrence.

(*applause*)

GREENWAY: Just a moment before presenting the last Calendar Item from Discipleship. In our legislative committee, we saw that approval as a historic moment; and I hope that moment is not lost on the body. What the young people of our church have modeled for us as far as cooperation in letting old things pass away and letting new things come for the hope of the church.

(*applause*)

Please give your attention to *DCA* Page No. 1578, Calendar Item 132, Petition No. 40866, and it’s found in your *ADCA* on page 477.

This refers to the establishment of a conference council on young adult ministries, and we recommend concurrence. I so move.

BISHOP SWENSON: This recommendation is before us. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 830; No, 63; Abstain 4*]

You have approved this recommendation. Thank you very much. Mic 4. And as he is going to mic 4, our next one will be Financial Administration, and Tracy Merrick is the chair. Thank you, Discipleship, for your actions today.

(*applause*)

OK. Mic 4.

DALE R. SHUNK (Western Pennsylvania): Hello, chair. This is Dale Shunk from Western Pennsylvania. I would like to request that the numbers for the *DCA* book and

the pages be held just a little longer, particularly for international delegates who have to take a little longer to find or maybe there’s interpretation going on. And I know even in our (*unintelligible*) Commission Committee, the numbers were even different in their books, so they have to take a little extra moment to find what they need to find. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Good. Thank you for that request. I will take more time with those. I’ve been trying myself to look up the pages and take the time to make sure I was seeing it all before we acted.

OK, back mic 6.

BISHOP SWENSON: ...more time with those. I’ve been trying myself to look up the pages and take the time to make sure I was seeing it all before we acted. OK, back mic 6. Or mic 7? You want to go to mic 7? You’ve got your card up.

SAMUEL J. QUIRE JR. (Liberia): I think our presenters are a little bit too fast for our international delegates. They need to be a little slower in their presentations. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. We will. We will slow down and make sure that everybody is on the same page when it’s time to vote. Tracy and Financial Administrations.

Financial Administration Calendar Items

TRACY R. MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Tracy Merrick from Western Pennsylvania. Ewing Werlein, who is sub-committee chair of the group that dealt with some of these items, is present with us to answer questions. And he’ll be participating in future presentations.

I would invite the conference to turn to *DCA* p. 1579, Calendar Item 133, and also in the *ADCA*, p. 625, Petition No. 40862. This deals with the composition of the District Board of Church Location and Building. There are some amendments that are printed there that are changing the original language

found on the top of p. 626. If I could read to you what the resulting language is that we’re placing before you, beginning at the end of...

BISHOP SWENSON: Tracy, before you go ahead and read the change, let’s just make sure so that all the delegates are on the page. Again, once again. It is Petition 40862 that is on p. 625 of your *Advance DCA*. That’s what’s being changed.

MERRICK: In order to find the amended language, if you would turn to the top of page 626. Beginning in the second line, at the end, where it says, “where possible...” and preceding from there, it would read as follows: “where possible, should be inclusive of gender, race, age, and people with disabilities. These persons shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church.”

And with this amendment, the committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: The item is now properly before us from the committee recommending concurrence as amended. You see the page still before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 816; No, 69; Abstain 6*]

MERRICK: If the members of the conference will again refer to p. 1579, Calendar Item 134. In the *ADCA*, please turn to p. 605, and it is Petition 40042, in the lower right-hand corner of that page, dealing with the work of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

In this case, there are no amendments, and the committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: The recommendation is before you. I’m just pausing so that all the delegates can find the page in their books. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 823; No, 51; Abstain 21*]

You have supported the recommendation of the committee. Thank you very much.

MERRICK: That concludes our work for this visit.

BISHOP SWENSON: Good. Thank you. Thank you, Financial Administration. We will now go to Faith and Order. Patricia Farris is the chairperson.

Faith and Order Calendar Items

PATRICIA FARRIS (California Pacific): Bishop Swenson and members of the General Conference, we bring two items this morning. The first is on the *DCA*, page 1579. I will say that I am Patricia Farris, clergy member of the California Pacific delegation.

The first is on the *DCA*, page 1579. It is Calendar Item 135, Petition No. 41147. And if you will also refer to p. 804 of the *ADCA*.

Calendar Item 135. Our committee enthusiastically recommends referral with the minor editorial amendment to approve grammar. We are recommending referral to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry on this petition regarding Pan-Methodist history so that the general board, through its Division of Ordained Ministry may work with our seminaries to ensure that this work proceeds.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, this recommendation is properly before you. If you are able to find where it was in the *Advance DCA*, and it is a recommendation for referral to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 865; No, 26; Abstain, 5*] Thank you.

Global Ministries Calendar Items

FARRIS: Our second item this morning is also on p. 1579 of the *DCA*, Calendar Item 136, referring to a resolution entitled, "The United Methodist Church and the Charismatic Movement." It is Petition No. 40741 on p. 814 of the *ADCA*.

On Calendar Item 136, the committee recommends referral to the Board of Discipleship so that this almost 30-year-old resolution might be brought up to date for us.

BISHOP SWENSON: This one is a

recommendation of referral to the Board of Discipleship. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 826; No, 61; Abstain, 10*] Thank you.

Our next committee is Global Ministries. While Global Ministries is walking here, well let me say that we'll just do a few of theirs, but they will begin with Item 137, which is also in —on p.1579.

CHARLES S. G. BOAYUE (Detroit): Bishop, Charles Boayue, a clergy member of the Detroit Conference, Chair of Global Ministries Legislation Committee.

We have several officers of this committee that is working to shaping our work in the mission of the church around the world. They are not all up with me because we will be handling matters handled by our sub-committee on non-disciplinary legislation. I still would like to introduce them. Our vice-chairperson of the full committee is the Rev. Sally Dyck of the East Ohio Conference. I would like her to stand where her delegation is. Our secretary of the committee is Ms. Ilda Vasquez of the Southwest Texas Conference. Our chairs of sub-committees—and there are three of those—are:

- 1) On the sub-committee on disciplinary legislation, Dr. Charlene Black from North Georgia;
- 2) Sub-committee chair on resolution is Rev. Darren Cushman-Wood of the South Indiana Conference; and
- 3) The chair of the sub-committee on non-disciplinary legislation is Rev. Robert Long of the Oklahoma Conference.

And he is up with me. He will be presenting all of our petitions this morning, and now I will turn over to Rev. Long.

ROBERT E. LONG (Oklahoma): Bishop and General Conference, I invite you to turn in your *DCA* to p. 1579, 1579, to Item 137. It can be

found on p. 1050 in the *Advance DCA*. The subject was our Native American comprehensive plan. The budget is as proposed by the GBGM and agreed upon by GCFA. We certainly move for concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: This motion is now properly before us. The recommendation is concurrence. Microphone 7.

JAY K. BRIM (Southwest Texas): Jay Brim, lay delegate from Southwest Texas. Could you explain to us the amendment of the total funding and what the change is based on the numbers that we have before us in the *DCA*?

LONG: The difference in the numbers are that the General Board of Global Ministries had worked with the General CF and A in order to come to a consensus, and that is the number you have. It's a part the total budget that you already know of—the \$585 million—and so we simply adjusted the numbers from what was printed in the *DCA* to the numbers that had been agreed upon when we came. So we are not asking for an increase in offline money.

BISHOP SWENSON: Alright. Are there other questions? Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have supported this recommendation. [*Yes, 840; No, 42; Abstain, 1*] Let me share with you, this one, also like the one on young people that we did earlier, will automatically go—according to our chart—will automatically go directly to GCFA while we are here this week. Remember the chart we saw earlier this morning that shows when we do pass those with the funding implications, how they will go to GCFA and then back to us.

LONG: I refer you to continue on page 1579 of your *DCA*, item 138. It can be found on page 1067 of your *advance DCA*. The petition number is 41276 (41276). The subject is Peacemaker's Study. We felt that there were a number of outstanding studies already accomplished that people could use to promote peace within the churches. This would have required

all budget money, and we voted non-concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: A recommendation of the committee is non-concurrence. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 807; No, 90; Abstain, 5*]

Regarding Relocation of Board of Global Ministries

LONG: We continue on p. 1579. I refer you to item 139. The petition number is 40749. You may find it on p. 1065 in the Advance *DCA*. The subject was the relocation of the agency staff of the General Board of Global Ministries. We voted non-concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: It's properly before us; giving you time to find it on your pages. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 769; No, 125; Abstain, 5*]

I'm just gonna pause for a second before we go to the next one to give you the information about your voting pads. You remember the delegate asked us about the voting pad that wasn't working? And, you need to punch enter after you vote yes or no. And it won't record unless you punch enter; so you vote either yes or no and then enter it.

LONG: Continuing on page 1579, I invite you to look at no. 140. Petition No. 40748. Again you can find it on page 1065 in your Advance *DCA*. It dealt with the relocation of the agency, the General Board of Global Ministries. Since we have just voted to keep the staff in New York, we felt we should keep the offices there as well (*laughter*), so we move non-concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK. The recommendation of the committee is before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 796; No, 9; Abstain, 5*]

LONG: Continuing on 1579 we look at Item 141. The Petition No. 40747. It can be found continuing on page 1065 of your Advance *DCA*. Again it was

also dealing with the relocation of the agency, and we voted non-concurrence.

BISHOP SWENSON: The recommendation is before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. You have supported the recommendation of the committee [*Yes, 815; No, 79; Abstain, 6*]. We'll do one more and then we'll stop and have our courtesies.

Town and Country Ministry

LONG: On page 1579 continuing on with Item 142. Item 142, Petition 41349. It can be found on page 1068. It deals with Town and Country Ministry. Town and Country Ministry relates to two-thirds of the churches in our denomination – will fall into the category of town and country churches. A full one-third of our membership is found in those churches.

We believe that if we are going to be a strong and vital church then we need to make sure someone is reaching out to where so many of our churches are, so we have voted a budget of \$425,000 over the next quadrennium. It is all off-line money. It is new money, but we felt that it was extremely important knowing the makeup of our denomination that we help to support this very important ministry; so we have voted concurrence with the request, the petition, and it would be a budget item of \$425,000.

BISHOP SWENSON: This recommendation is properly before us. Alright, mic 5, and then we'll go to mic 4.

JAMES HARNISH (Florida): Jim Harnish, Florida Delegation. I will appeal to St. Jude, the patron saint of lost and hopeless causes, to appeal to us to show restraint in adding off-line expenditures. Everything is important. But we simply cannot afford to do everything. And, we've been considering setting up a thermometer over here on our side – we're so far in the back no one would notice anyway – that would indicate the millions of dollars that we will begin accumulating in these off-line expenditures. It is frighteningly easy to approve them here, and equally frighteningly difficult to see the way that this denomination will be able

to function financially into the future if we continue to simply inflate budget beyond budget, beyond budget. The budgeting process should not be about funding everything. It should be about funding those things that are central to our mission. I'm not picking on town and country. I'm simply taking the opportunity at the beginning of this process to plead with us to work within the budget process; to work within GCF and A's budget process, and to show restraint in easily voting a half-million here, a million there. Sooner or later it becomes real money. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. Mic 4, and then we'll go to mic 2. Mic 4.

EDWARD KAIL (Iowa): Thank you Bishop Swenson. My name is Ed Kail, clergy member of the Iowa Conference, President of the United Methodist Rural Fellowship, sponsor of this petition. I believe that what we're proposing is central to our mission. General conferences thought that for two quadrennia since it mandated in 1996 the development of a comprehensive plan for Town and Country Ministries. That was done on a shoestring budget; presented to the 2000 General Conference.

Instructions were given to those of us privileged to work on the plan, not to have any financial implications, and that was adopted in Cleveland. But as shepherds of these concerns, UMRF sponsored a petition to implement the plan. That was accepted in Cleveland, and that has now, is now presented to you. It's in your Advance *DCA*, Vol. 2, the blue one, beginning on page 991. Again, the implementation team was instructed not to include any financial implications. They did that work. But you know, what you don't pay for doesn't happen. And, so we're proposing this budget item. It's not sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries; it's by clergy and laity from all across the connection who believe it's time that we do something.

How many delegates on the floor have read *Born Again in Every Place*,

the comprehensive plan for town and country ministry? How many of you have even seen it? It has been on the shelf in the report of global ministries to the 2000 General Conference in somebody's *DCA* wherever *DCA*'s go after general conference. It has not been seen by the church nor has it been implemented by any sizeable amount of the church. We believe we are at the center of the mission of the church. We believe in the renewal of the church in every place, and we stand aside, along side our urban sisters and brothers who recognize that our problems and challenges are inter-related, that urban problems often have rural sources in problems not addressed there. And the challenges faced in urban places flow into the countryside. We are in this together. We've already invested...

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you, thank you, thanks Ed

KAIL: Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Mic 2.

MARK CONRAD (Kansas West): Mark Conrad, Kansas West clergy. I would speak in support of the committee's recommendation of this. I think for the dollars that are proposed, this could be the most significant thing that we do to reach the majority of our congregations scattered across, not only this country, but across the globe. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK. We've now had two speeches in favor of the committee's report and one in opposition. Mic 7.

Off-Budget Items

ANNA WORKMAN (North Carolina): Bishop Swenson, I wanted to try a question. Anna Workman from the North Carolina Conference. Would it be appropriate to move that we consider all of these off-budget proposals at one time?

BISHOP SWENSON: I don't really think it's possible. I think we just simply have to consider them as they come. The ones you approve will be sent through the tracking process that you've received to GCFA; but we have

to receive, consider them as they come to the floor.

WORKMAN: OK. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK. We've had two in support and one on opposition. We can have one more on opposition, and then we can vote. Alright, mic 6.

JAMES BRANSCOME (Virginia): Jim Branscome, Virginia Conference. I'm not speaking for or against. I would just like a clear understanding of how the finances are going to work. If we vote to approve this, the finance legislative committee has not dealt with this yet. GCFA has not dealt with it. If we vote to approve it now, is it finally approved, or is it just temporarily approved until the Finance and Legislative Committee brings its report back and GCFA brings its report back? So the real question is, what are we, how definitely are we approving the funding at this point?

BISHOP SWENSON: OK. Once again, I'll refer you to page 1655 that you received today in today's *DCA*. It shows that process and what will happen. Alright, now this committee's report is properly before us. Mic 1.

DAVID T. GROUT (Kentucky): David Grout, Kentucky Annual Conference. As was mentioned, these numbers keep adding up, and it does turn into real money. Could we, at least on a daily basis, receive from GCFA a sliding charge? Can we create that thermometer that could be publicly displayed that on a daily basis we would see we are up X-amount of monies that have been added beyond the budget? I realize that may be sad news for those who are going to come at the end of this process, but it will allow us to see moment by, or day by day just how much we have added.

BISHOP SWENSON: It's a good request. We'll see what's possible. Mic 3? OK.

WILLIAM C. SMALLWOOD (Mississippi): I'm Bill Smallwood from Mississippi. I speak against that request. I think it will put those of us

who are going to come forward with relatively small amounts of money later at a very big disadvantage. It'll say we've already spent so much so we can't even consider these items. I oppose that request.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, we've had two speeches in favor and two in opposition. Mic 8?

JULIA J. DEEMER (West Michigan): Julia Deemer, West Michigan Conference. Question of clarification. On this budget item, it has a dollar sign. My understanding was that this was something already in the budget; and when it had an exclamation point, it was off-line. I would just like clarification.

LONG: That was our understanding, too; but if you'll go back to the *DCA*, on the very first day that we received it—and I'm sorry I don't have that in front of me—you can go down and see what were the requested numbers, what was approved in the 2000 and 2004 General Conference. Then you can look at what was asked for the 2004, 2008 General Conference, what was then approved by GCFA, and what the difference is, and this received a zero in that line.

So I think it was requested there; but, unfortunately, it was not listed as an item within GCFA.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, mic 4?

DAN J. GARA (California-Pacific): Thank you, Bishop. Dan Gara from California-Pacific. I am on the legislative subcommittee on Financial Administration, and we have been working extremely hard. And we have now a consensus report crossing all jurisdiction lines to bring to Financial Administration today for approval, which would in fact be recommendations on how we could cap the apportionment amount, including some of the off-budget sheet items.

And I believe if we can have the opportunity to present—if approved at Financial Administration's meeting today—our subcommittee report that it

will for this body kind of bracket where we think we ought to be when we're considering off-budget items. But I would like to have, perhaps from the Agenda Committee, if approved by the body, the opportunity to present our conclusions prior to any kind of an action—beyond perhaps this one we're just doing—before consideration of any further off-budget items.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK. Thank you. All right, I think we've had two speeches in favor and two in opposition, so we're ready to hear the report of the committee and then to vote. Mic 1?

*Closing Speeches on Town
and Country*

DEBORAH K. CRONIN (South Indiana): Deborah Cronin, South Indiana Conference. Several minutes ago, before we got into a lengthy discussion about budget, Ed Kail spoke to the importance of this proposal and also to the importance of the budget; and I want you just to take a moment and recall every thing that Ed said. This is really a very small amount of money to impact a very large geographical area of churches, which includes a very large number of some of our nation's most needy people and needy land. Land issues of water and all kinds of things that we're concerned in town and country sectors.

If you take the amount requested and look at it in terms of The United Methodist Church in the United States, it amounts to one cent per year per member. Now in my kitchen I have a milk can full of pennies. I'll add them all in to get us started. One cent per member per year.

I speak in support of this petition and ask for concurrence on it.

BISHOP SWENSON: We've now had three speeches in favor and two in opposition. By our rules, we can have more in opposition; and then it's time to hear from the committee and do our voting.

Way in the back on mic 5?

MARTA JAN BURKE (Florida): Marta Burke from the Florida Annual Conference. I move that we table this,

all that we are talking about financially until we hear our report from Financial Administration.

BISHOP SWENSON: Is there a second? OK, the motion is to table. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 328; No, 486; Abstain, 5*]

You did not vote to table; so we can have more speech in opposition, and then we'll hear from the committee. Back on the right, mic 8? Would you go to mic 8? Is it a speech against?

FRANK L. DORSEY (Kansas East): Frank Dorsey, Kansas East. I move the question.

BISHOP SWENSON: Well, we're ready to vote. We've already had the three in favor and two in opposition. Is there anybody else who wants speak in opposition? Then we'll have the committee, and then we'll vote.

All right, OK, the committee is ready, then we'll go ahead with the committee.

LONG: I want you to know that the general board of Global Ministries Legislative Committee is incredibly sensitive to your concerns about apportionments and voting off-line money. We've had a number of items, as you know, within the World Service Fund, more than \$125 million goes to the GBGM.

As we have gone through all of our budgeted items, there've been requests for more than what was discussed. We have come back on every single item to hold it within the agreement between GCFA and GBGM. On every single item, we have held the line on what has been asked for, except this one. It is our only item out of \$125 million that we've come to ask for any kind of additional funds, because we do believe in the rural church and the renewal that we believe it would help for United Methodism. And that's why we ask for this \$425,000 out of a whole budget of \$125 million World Service.

BISHOP SWENSON: The recommendation of the committee is before you. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now.

You have supported the recommendation of the committee. [*Yes, 747; No, 160; Abstain, 9*]

(applause)

Thank you. We will hear from Global Ministries some more later.

*Closing Courtesies
and Announcements*

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SWENSON: Yes, you're welcome. We'll see you often later.

We have two items of courtesy, our announcements, and then our closing prayer. I'll turn to Janet Forbes, our chair of courtesy.

JANET FORBES: Thank you, Bishop Swenson. It is my pleasure to introduce Eva Csernak from Hungary for a moment of celebration.

EVA CSERNAK (Hungary Provisional): Good morning. This is a special and joyful day for Europe and especially for the ten countries who are joining the European Union today.

(applause)

This is a time of time and challenge for us at the same time. The opportunities of a common economic progress may also create tensions with cultural and historic traditions. I request the prayers and support of this faith community during this time of opportunity and challenge.

This General Conference includes delegates from five of these ten countries. I would like to invite all the delegates, the bishops, and visitors from these countries to stand for a moment of recognition and prayer. The countries are as follows in alphabetical order: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia.

(applause)

Let us pray.

(prayer)

BISHOP SWENSON: I'll turn now to Bishop Talbert, our ecumenical officer, for a special courtesy.

BISHOP MELVIN TALBERT JR.: Bishop Swenson, members of the conference, very briefly. A few days ago, I introduced the persons from the various autonomous churches. One was not here at that time, and I'm pleased that we can recognize Bishop Chun from the Korean Church. If he would stand where he is, sitting next to Bishop . . .

(applause)

Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: I'll turn to Carolyn Marshall, our secretary, for announcements.

MARSHALL: One announcement as far as a meeting is concerned, those of you who are current members of the Commission on General Conference will meet today at 12:30 in Room 328.

Mention has come from several sources that, not particularly within the voting section, within the bar of the conference, but in the gallery, there have been cell phones that have been left on. Would urge you to please observe the rules as far as—and the courtesy—of turning off those cell phones so that they vibrate or do whatever it needs to get your attention but do not make a sound in the process.

And then again to call your attention to announcements as they appear in each day's *DCA*. Today's are on 1604. There is also, there is contained there the mention of the Communion table, "Around the Communion Table," at 12:40 today with Bishop Violet Fisher presiding.

And I'll mention also for our awareness of the worship celebration of lay and clergy women in ministry at 10 A.M. tomorrow in Ballroom A.

BISHOP SWENSON: And a mention, also, for our awareness of the worship celebration of lay and clergy women in ministry at 10:00 AM, tomorrow, in ballroom A, with the Rev. Janet Wolf of Nashville, Tennessee, as the celebrant. Of course, all are invited to that special worship service.

I see that the delegate at mic 4 is trying to get my attention.

C. LANE BOYD (Northwest Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Lane Boyd, Northwest Texas Conference. I move to suspend the rules in order to pass out materials on Monday, regarding the accomplishments of Igniting Ministry.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, this motion is before you, to suspend the rules to pass out materials on Igniting Ministries on Monday. Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. [*Yes, 755; No, 93; Abstain, 6*]

You have voted to suspend the rules and to distribute these materials. Thank you.

I'll ask Bishop Roy C. Clark if he would come to the microphone and pray for us and send us forth to our refreshments and our legislative committees.

(prayer)

Monday Morning, May 3, 2004

(Morning Worship)

BISHOP LEO A. SORIANO (Davao [Phillipines] Area): Brothers and sisters, will you please take your seats now? Please be in your proper places. I'm now going to call the conference to order; and as we are finding our places, I would now call the—those who are going to make a report this morning, the Africa University report, to please come up to the podium.

Please be seated properly now. Please take your seats. I now call this conference to order. And now, we're ready to listen to the Africa University report.

Yes, please? Mic 3.

DAVID ARGO (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

BISHOP SORIANO: You may go ahead.

ARGO: I'm David Argo, Baltimore-Washington Conference. As a General Conference, we have committed ourselves to full participation of every delegate. We, the members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference del-

egation, wish to express our deep concern over how some of our General Conference delegates are being treated in legislative committees, especially delegates who are women and ethnic. At the Church and Society legislative meeting on Friday, one of our delegates had great difficulty in being recognized to speak by the committee chair. A number of other delegates were recognized before her. Ironically, it fell to her, herself a victim of insensitivity, to raise the issues of racism and the protection of every delegate's right to speak to the committee at large. The more painful moment came after the meeting when she was verbally chastised by another committee member for raising these important issues.

These painful moments came in the same morning that as a General Conference we celebrated the service of appreciation of African-Americans, reminding us of the sin of racism in the church and our commitment as a denomination to be a more inclusive church. As I express this deep concern on behalf our delegation, we stand in solidarity with our wounded sister and also call upon our sisters and brothers to model the highest levels of respect, dignity, and honor toward all of God's children here at General Conference. The psalmist has given us a wonderful promise in the 133rd Psalm in writing, "How blessed it is when brothers and sisters love together in unity." Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you, very much. We receive that report. Now I will instruct the Africa University to proceed with their report.

Africa University Report

JAMES H. SALLEY (South Carolina): Bishop and members of the General Conference, we greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm James Salley, lay delegate from South Carolina. That's the annual conference that built, paid for, dedicated, the Faculty of Theology Building at Africa University since we last met as a General Conference.

(applause)