

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)

At that 2000 General Conference, Kevin Goodwin challenged every conference in the Northeast Jurisdiction to start a significant campaign for Africa University and report at this conference. We've asked the bishops of the Northeast Jurisdiction to represent their conferences on the stage for this report as we announce that the challenge made by Kevin Goodwin has been met.

(applause)

There are other bishops seated with us today. They, or their annual conferences, have made significant contributions to Africa University during the last quadrennium, and we would ask that you give these bishops, and all the people they represent, a big hand.

(applause)

In the midst of all the things that seek to divide us, Africa University is a uniting United Methodist connectional dream come true. Members of the board of directors come from three continents. Those present with us today, are Professor Rukudzo Murapa, vice chancellor; Dr. Jerome King Del Pino, general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; Bishop Felton E. May, vice chair of the board; Bishop Earnest Lyght, chair of the board's development committee and advisory development committee; Rev. Randy Day, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries; Dr. Maggie Jackson, chair of the building and grounds committee; Rev. Wee-Li Tan of the New England Area; and Miss Deborah Bass, also of the GBGM.

Dr. Eben Nhiwatiwa, who teaches on the faculty of theology and is one of the longest serving faculty members at the university, is heading the Zimbabwe East delegation. He's seated over there. We have four Africa University graduates attending this General Conference, and you will meet two of them later in this presentation. We'll introduce two of them now. Rev. Mellie MoMo and Rev. Emanuel Kanunu are language interpreters for this conference.

The mission of Africa University is

to educate future leaders for the continent of Africa in a Christian environment. Africa University is a model of what the connection is at its best. It's bringing about a continental and global change in the name of Jesus Christ. Bishop Encumo Encanda Ntambo is the chancellor and chairman of the board of directors of the university. He hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo. After you hear from Bishop Ntambo, you will hear two of our graduates, view a short video, and the choir will sing. We would like to announce that the choir has CDs, and they will be available at the Africa University booth after this presentation. Bishop Ntambo.

(applause)

BISHOP NTAMBO: Thanks, Salley. I'm happy to be a part of a connectional church. As I said before, this is the church that led me to knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As a chancellor of Africa University, I want to thank the bishops of the church for the role they have played in the development of this institution that has been good for all Africa.

First, to Bishop DeCarvalho and Bishop Kulah, original founders of the institution. We thank the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for the great service they have provided in accessing funds from the United States for international development in order to construct four buildings on the university campus. Special thanks to the General Board of Global Ministries and all the agencies for their roles that all of you have played in helping this connectional ministry to happen. This has been a united effort from the beginning. We thank all of the *(unintelligible)* groups, individuals, volunteers, and other United Methodists and encourage us to now finish the work.

In our conferences in Africa are looking for ways that we might be more helpful in the development of this university. I have a daughter myself that is enrolled in this school. Thank you, General Conference, for all what you have done for Africa University. This university is already changing

Africa. Let's finish the work. I'm so happy to let me introduce you to Miss Umadjela Ahondju. She is graduate of Africa University. Thank you.

(applause)

UMADJELA AHONDJU: My name is Umadjela Ahondju from Kenchesa, Democratic Republic of Congo. I graduated from Africa University in May 2003 with a degree in marketing and management from the Faculty of Business Management. I serve as the assistant secretary in the office of Bishop Onema Fama, the bishop of Central Congo Area. I am working as a volunteer language interpreter for this General Conference. When I was at Africa University, I used to sing in the choir. The Africa University Choir arrived in the United States after traveling all day and night Thursday. They were met early Friday morning by a gracious church in New York, given a meal, and arrived in Pittsburgh Friday afternoon. Please greet Mr. Benoticosi and the Africa University Choir.

(applause)

SUZANA L. R. LOURENCO: Thank you. I am Suzana Louise R. Lourenco from Rwanda, Angola. I graduated from the Faculty of Theology at Africa University, and I met my husband at Africa University; and our two boys were born on the campus. My husband is Reverend Bartolemo Diazapaulo. He's a senior pastor and also a 2000 graduate of the Faculty of Theology. He currently serves as the bishop's assistant for the Eastern Angola Annual Conference. I am the first in my family to go to a university, and currently serve as the head of the Department of Education in the Western Angola Annual Conference.

(applause)

I also teach church history in the Emilio DaCavaillo Theological Seminary. Three weeks ago I lost a 19-year-old sister who was HIV positive. She died leaving two children. One is HIV positive. Africa University is one of the places on the continent that is

providing the hope for the answer to the HIV pandemic. Please, brothers and sisters, give your attention to this new video report committed to make a difference. Thank you.

(*applause*)

(*video presentation*)

NANCY CARRUTH (Louisiana): I'm Nancy Carruth from the Louisiana Annual Conference. Sixteen years ago today, I stood at a podium similar to this and presented the Africa University program to you all, and you voted it 87 percent approval. And now you can see the what a wonderful thing this has become, and we thank you for receiving this report.

(*applause*)

BISHOP SORIANO: [unintelligible] for the Africa report. Now we can proceed to the next item in our agenda. We have to proceed with our next item on our agenda, that is the election of the members of Judicial Council.

Judicial Council Elections

If you will open your *DCA* on page 1762, 1762. You have the names of those who have been eliminated. Yes?

MELVIN R. BOWDAN JR (Kentucky): Bishop Soriano, Mel Bowdan, Kentucky Conference, lay delegate. In the next 45 minutes, Bishop – or 45 minutes or so – we will proceed to elect new members to the Judicial Council. The voting process is rapid and complex, and I rise to a question of procedure.

Each vote will require up to (*unintelligible*) votes which will require a multiple number of nominees in some cases. Many of our brothers and sisters from the central conference will hear your instructions through a translator. I suggest, Bishop, a procedure that worked very well in producing clarity and understanding in our legislative committee. After your instructions have been given, pause, giving ample time for the translators in the booths to your left to make that translation; then ask each translator to hold up his or her

hand when their translation is complete.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Thank you for that, and we will do that. Alright. Let's proceed now.

First, you look up the names on page 1762. There are corrections there. The first correction I would like to make is the spelling of names. And there is layperson No. 5, that is Beth Capen. It should only be one "p," not double "p," alright? Beth Capian, only one "p."

The second is in the Judicial Council clergy column, and that is in No. 2. It reads, "Dennid Blackwell." That should be "Dennis" not "Dennid." You change the "d" to "s," alright? That's clear now?

Let me make now the instructions of how to proceed to these elections. We are going to elect two laypersons and two clergy members, and we are going to elect six reserves for each categories.

Now, in one ballot, there are two parts. The first part is, you look into the list, and you're going to punch the number that corresponds to the name of the one you are voting for. You will have ten seconds to do that. And after that, you will do it again for the second name. You have ten seconds to do that. And after that, that constitutes the first ballot.

Furthermore, if you would look into the list, there is list one, two, three, until nine. That is only one digit. When you punch, you must have two digits, and so, you must first punch zero before the digit. For instance, example, you are voting for no. 1, Raymundo Annang. Do not just punch no. 1. You punch 01 so that you have two digits because this has been programmed in the computer. So from one to nine, there must always be two digits, and the first digit should be zero—01 or 02 until nine.

All right now. We'll open the first ballot. It's in your screens. If you are ready to vote for your first nominee, vote now. You have ten seconds. Yes, please.

JEFFREY GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): Jeff Greenway, Western

Pennsylvania clergy delegate. I thought that we had come to a place of common agreement that the translators would be asked to signify that they have completed the translation.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you for that reminder. May I request the translators that if they have translated please raise their hands so alright, they have translated that. And you may proceed to vote now for the first ballot

Please vote now. Alright. Now you can do it again for the second one.

Yes.

EDDIE FOX (Holston): Eddie Fox, Holston. On my machine, it said number two. It did not say number one. Therefore, I request that we start again with number one. It is very important that we do not disenfranchise any voter.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. We are starting it all over again. This is the part one. You are now voting for the first name of the two names that you are supposed to vote. If you are ready please vote now. This is the first one.

Alright. If you are ready for the second name, please vote now.

There is no election. We do it all over again. This is the second ballot. If you are ready to vote for the first name, please vote now.

If you are ready to vote for the second name, please vote now. [*Elected Jon Gray, 424*]

(*applause*)

BISHOP SORIANO: We will proceed with one more name. And if you are ready—if you are ready to vote for that name, please vote now.

Alright, we need a few minutes to list the ballot. Yes?

AMY VALDEZ BARKER (Wisconsin): Amy Valdez Barker, Wisconsin. I withdraw my name as Judicial Council nominee for three reasons. I have been shown that the leaders in this church has closed hearts, closed minds and closed doors—closed hearts when a prominent leader tells me that vengeance rather than mercy and forgiveness are more important;

closed minds when an episcopal leader implies that the Judicial Council isn't really a place for young people; and closed doors when this is the only place in our church where fresh new perspectives of young people are not welcome. My hope is that General Conference 2008 will learn to live open hearts, open minds, open doors rather than just pay these phrases lip service. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you.

Alright. Are we ready for the next ballot? If you are ready, please vote now for the second name.

There is no election. We will do it all over again. If you are ready, please vote now.

Still there is no election. We will do it again and if you are ready, please vote now.

There is no election. We will do it over again and if you are ready, please vote now. [*Elected Beth Capen 429*]

(applause)

Beth Capen is elected. We proceed to elect the reserves and there are six names. So you have to elect six times this time. For the first part, if you are ready.

Not yet. Alright, not yet.

Alright, we are ready now. Please vote now—the first name. Please vote now.

Alright. For the second name, please vote now.

For the third name, please vote now.

For the fourth name, please vote now.

For the fifth name, please vote now.

For the sixth and last name, please vote now.

(pause)

Just a minute now, we are consulting with our election people.

Please be silent now. We are still checking what is happening in the computer.

Problem With Ballot

Here is our further instructions now. I will now rule that this ballot is invalid and here is the reason. Some of you have voted for the same person twice or three times. You have to vote for the person only once. And you have to vote six times. There are six names—different names. You are not allowed to vote for the same person twice or three times, just once. And you have to vote in all six parts of this ballot, alright? Is this clear? If you don't vote for all six then the entire ballot is invalid. Yes. No, where to go. Mic. 1

DONALD C. COTTRILL (Louisiana): And granted I am still learning technology. My question is: how do you clear the keypad in the instance wherein you punched the wrong number? Well, evidently my keypad needs to be checked. Or either my fingers are too big because in punching one I have had several instances of getting one recorded twice. And punching clear doesn't clear it.

BISHOP SORIANO: If your keypad has a "clr" button in it, you have to punch that for clearance. Right? That is the response. We will now proceed to the next ballot. Point of order, yes?

JAMES EHRMAN (East Ohio): (*unitelligible*) General Conference that the program that is counting our votes is flawed. It is counting votes not ballots. In order to have the total number that showed up there for total number of valid votes was an odd number. That is impossible for a good program. It should be counting valid ballots. However many valid ballots there were, the number of valid votes should have been a multiple of six of that number. An odd number is impossible. Because it is counting somehow what it calls valid votes, and it is dividing by some number, we get the anomaly that it takes only 271 votes—less than a majority—to show up as a majority of valid ballots. This program is flawed; it cannot produce a legitimate result. And therefore, I think we're going to have to go to written ballots or another program.

BISHOP SORIANO: At this point, brothers and sisters, we have to defer the election and proceed to the next item. And that would be the report from Central Conferences legislative committees. And I would now call on Bishop Ntambo if you are prepared to proceed with the report of the Central Conferences. Bishop Ntambo. Yes, yes please.

BOB W: I move that the entire ballot be invalidated. And that we vote for judicial council by written ballot.

BISHOP SORIANO: Are you including the first two have been elected? Is there a second? All right, this is the motion that is in order. It has been properly seconded. It is before you now. That we invalidate the previous election, and then we do the election by ballot—by written ballot. Alright, that is what is before you. Any discussions? Yes.

KENT MILLARD (South Indiana): Kent Millard, South Indiana Conference. I would like to ask our technicians if it's possible to rewrite the program in a timely fashion so that we could continue to vote electronically with the proper kind of program. Is that, a technician would have to answer that, I suspect.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Technicians? All right, yes please.

JAY BORHEES: My name is Jay Borhees. I'm with the secretarial staff. We are in conversation about this. One way that we can get ourselves out of this in terms of whether we do electronic or written ballots is that we can take individual ballots so that we just elect (*applause*) until we get the first person elected. We then take another individual ballot until we get a majority and work in that direction. And if the body would be open to that, that would be one way out of this possibility.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, that is the response to your inquiry. And if there is any further discussion? Let us proceed. There is a motion before us is to invalidate all that has been done and we will do it by secret ballot. This is what is before you. Yes.

JOE M. WHITTEMORE (North Georgia): Joe Whittemore, North Georgia. Bishop, I am trying to understand where the problem is. It's my understanding that on this ballot that we just took, the rules call for the top six people to be the alternates. Therefore I don't understand why it makes any difference what the 271—or whatever the number was up there on the plurality—because on this ballot we only take the top six is my understanding of the rules. Am I incorrect?

BISHOP SORIANO: No, they have to be elected by majority. Alright, let us proceed. Alright, are you ready to vote on the motion before you? No, alright. Yes, please there.

KRISTINA J. GONZALEZ (Pacific Northwest): Kristina Gonzalez, Pacific Northwest, lay. Bishop, I would move to amend the motion that's before us to apply only to the election of reserves.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. Is there a second to that? Alright. That is the amendment. That we would only invalidate the ballot that was for the reserve but not for those who have been elected already. Alright, that is what is before you. Yes?

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Mary Alice Massey, lay, from Florida, head of the agenda committee I would speak against this amendment, not because I don't think that we should carry on with the business, but I think we should give our technicians some time to see if we can solve the problem. And, come back to this in the afternoon when we will meet for plenary session. If they can't solve it, then perhaps we will need to go to a written ballot. But let's give them some time to solve the problem.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, that was a speech for, against, alright. Alright, are you ready to vote for the amended motion? No, alright, here again. Mic 4 please.

JONATHAN RISS (New York): Jonathan Riss, New York Annual Conference, layperson. I would amend this amendment—excuse me, I would amend this amendment so that we

invalidate the ballot that was just taken for alternates and then we take a one by one ballot to elect the alternates by majority.

BISHOP SORIANO: That is in order. Is there any further discussion? Yes, please.

MAXIE D. DUNNAM (Kentucky): Maxie Dunnam, clergy, Kentucky Conference. I move that we table the two amendments and the motion concerning the balloting until we get a report from our technicians and come back to this in the afternoon session.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, all of those who would table this two amendments and the main motion. If you are ready, please vote now. Alright, it is tabled. [*Yes, 619; No, 300; Abstain, 7*] Now, let us proceed to the next item in the agenda—that is to listen to the reports of the legislative committees of the Central Conferences. Bishop Ntambo.

Central Conferences Calendar Items

BISHOP NKULU NTAMBO (North Katanga Area): Thank you, Bishop. We have two items and I would like to call upon the secretary Sally Dyck to come to present the first item.

SALLY DYCK (East Ohio Conference): Please turn to p. 1545, 1545, in your *DCA*, to no. 15 under the Consent Calendar B01. It's been lifted from the consent calendar. You can find that action on p. 1581, no. 15. The subject is the concordat between The United Methodist Church and The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. It's Petition No. 41475 on p. 1407 of your *ADCA*, and the committee recommends concurrence. And I would like to ask Bishop Martinez, who is a member of the commission, to speak to it.

BISHOP JOEL N. MARTINEZ (San Antonio): Bishop Ntambo, our chair, asked that I make some brief comments about the concordat proposal. Mission requires vital connections, vital communication, and vital cooperation. The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico represents a legacy of that missional connection within The United Methodist

Church that dates back 104 years when the island became a territory of The United States. The Puerto Rican people are citizens of the United States of America. They have participated fully in our life as a denomination for over a century. One-half of the Puerto Rican people live within the bounds of the other 50 states of the United States. In the last 25 years over 200 pastors from Puerto Rico have come to labor among us in extending ministry to the Hispanic community, not only Puerto Rican communities, but many other communities of the Iberian heritage.

The concordat that was considered in a series of conversations between the representatives of the church of Puerto Rico and the Council of Bishops, as well as close consultation with a number of our general agencies is before you. It calls for a continuation of relationships of mutual respect, mutual engagement in ministry, and a commitment that we believe as we considered it in The Council of Bishops and certainly affirmed it in the Central Conference's Commission, is vital for our future in reaching the growing Hispanic-Latino population within the bounds of the UMC. So we would urge that you consider carefully our need to walk together, to learn from one another together, and to labor together in extending the kingdom of Christ, our Lord among us all. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, yes please. You go to mic no. 4.

JANET STEPHENSON (Iowa Conference): I would like to amend...

BISHOP SORIANO: No, I have recognized the gentlemen here, and I instructed him to go to mic no. 4.

RANDOLPH NUGENT (New York Conference): Thank you Mr. Bishop. Randolph Nugent, New York Conference. I'd like to speak in support of the action of the committee on the central conference commission for several reasons. First, this particular concordat is the work of, result of, two general conference actions which precede this one in which there has been a carefully worked-out relationship

between The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and The United Methodist Church. This church in Puerto Rico has a close, collaborative, relationship with The United Methodist Church. For example, in mission, in which in Honduras, Panama, Peru, and other places, the, the missional impact and relationship between the two churches is carried out with close work and the concordat would help to enable that.

In addition, I think we should know that when Bishop Martinez indicated, spoke about the number of pastors; I think in 20 years, 200 pastors have come from this church in Puerto Rico and have provided for The United Methodist Church that kind of ministry on our behalf. More than half of the Hispanic material sold by Cokesbury and through Discipleship are purchased by this church in Puerto Rico. I think that it would be well for us to continue the close working relationship fashioned as a result of the concordat with The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and The United Methodist Church. Therefore, I speak in support of this report. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. That lady that was speaking earlier. I will recognize you now. Where are you? Here, alright. Mic no. 1, please. No. 1, alright.

RAE LYNN SCHLEIF (West Ohio Conference): Bishop, I rise to seek a point of clarification. I affirm the concordat and celebrate our many partnerships around the globe. I spent some time reading about affiliated, autonomous churches, annual conferences, and central conferences, and it appears that the concordat before us contains provisions that give The Methodist Church in Puerto Rico rights and privileges not extended to other affiliate, autonomous churches or even to our central conferences. Those provisions are on 14, p. 1408, the Advance DCA, Volume 2, Section 2 under Special Provisions, Roman numeral 2, and they are C, D, and G. Has the commission and legislative section discussed these issues so that we are

aware of their implications, and I'm asking that the chairperson would please respond. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Bishop Ntambo, are you ready to respond to these inquiries?

BISHOP NTAMBO: I think that (*unintelligible*) historical background of these items would be Bishop Martinez, and I'd like his help on this matter.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: In brief, The Commission on Central Conference Affairs discussed the whole and each part of the concordat agreement, and the matters that you may be referring to; there may be more than one, we discussed them all and reaffirmed that because of the unique relationship historically and currently between the church in Puerto Rico and The United Methodist Church that those provisions were in order including the right to have a delegate seated in the General Conference which we think the Constitution supports. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. Yes, please.

BARBARA GARCIA (Tennessee Conference): Barbara Garcia from the Tennessee Conference. I would like to support this because of serving in the Southeastern Jurisdiction in particular we depend heavily on the leadership from Puerto Rico. They have a surplus of around 100 pastors in Puerto Rico at this time. We have a tremendous lack of Spanish-speaking persons in leadership in the United Methodist Church here in the United States. Therefore, in order for us to help meet the needs that we have with the tremendously-growing population, we need this closer-working relationship with Puerto Rico.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, that was a speech for. That was the second one. We need a speech against this time. Here, yes. Are you speaking against? Please go to mic no. 4 please.

Amendment to Puerto Rico Concordat

JANET STEPHENSON (Iowa Conference): Bishop, I would like to propose amendments to this item.

They're lengthy. Could we have permission to distribute copies on the floor?

BISHOP SORIANO: You wanted them to distribute copies to the floor?

STEPHENSON: Yes, please.

BISHOP SORIANO: If you want it right now, it's impossible.

STEPHENSON: We asked to have them put on the screen, but were refused. I can give them to you. Would you please turn in your blue book, p. 1408.

BISHOP SORIANO: Will you please say that again?

STEPHENSON: 1408.

BISHOP SORIANO: 1408

STEPHENSON: Yes. The action begins on the page before. It is item 41475. The amendments will be on the next page, 1408.

BISHOP SORIANO: Or if you have your copies 1408.

STEPHENSON: OK, the paragraph beginning with the word thus, fifth line, beginning with the words "do hereby," delete "renew the special provisions drafted in 1992," after "do hereby," delete "renew the special provisions drafted in 1992" and substitute the word "establish". The sentence would then read "and to enhance mutual collaborations do hereby establish a concordant agreement, etc". Yes. Bishop Soriano, (*unintelligible*)

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright that's an amendment. If it's in order.

STEPHENSON: Do you want to act on this one or shall I give you the others?

BISHOP SORIANO: Are you ready to vote this amendment now? Calling for the vote: Yes sir, will the committee? Do you want to respond to that proposed amendment? Bishop Ntambo?

BISHOP MARTINEZ: I am again as ask by Bishop Ntambo to say a word our commission, as I said earlier, carefully considered the whole document. This matter was discussed, in terms of the continuation of some of the provisions that were part of the 1992 agree-

ments, not all of them, but some of them and we believe that that language honors the continuing relationship and so we would ask you to vote against the amendment.

BISHOP SORIANO: Point of order, yes.

CARL SCHENCK (Missouri): Thank you Bishop, I'm Carl Schenck from Missouri, and I rise to challenge the amendment. I think it is out of order. A concordant is a relationship that has been negotiated between two parties. One party on the floor of this conference cannot renegotiate the details of the agreement because the other party to the agreement is not a part of this conversation. I believe the amendment therefore is out of order.

BISHOP SORIANO: The chair takes that as a speech against the amendment. Anymore further speeches? Alright if you're ready, please vote now: The amendment is defeated. We will proceed with the report. [*Yes, 216; No, 556; Abstain, 23*]

Now, we are now voting for the concordant (*unintelligible*). If you are ready, please vote now. All right, it passes. It's approved. [*Yes, 682; No 191; Abstain 22*]

At this point, brothers and sisters, we will declare a 20 minute break, alright. Please be back in precisely 20 minutes from now.

(break)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen. Won't you come in?

BISHOP SORIANO: Brothers and sisters, will you please find your proper places now?

We will now proceed with our agenda. Item and I'm calling on the report from Higher Education. Central Conferences, yes, they're not yet called over. OK?

Yes, please.

REBEKAH L. MILES (Arkansas): Please turn in your *DCA* to p. 1545, 1545. The *DCA* Item No. 16 under "Calendar Items," Petition No. 40262, "Central Conferences Communications Initiative," found on p. 1406 in the Advance *DCA*.

And the committee recommends concurrence as amended.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, it's before you. And the committee recommends concurrence. It is in *DCA*, p. 1545, Calendar Items 0016, Advance Daily Advocate, Volume 2, No. 2, p. 1406, Petition No. 40262.

If you're ready, let's vote now.

All right, the petition passes. [*Yes, 450; No, 35; Abstain, 13*] Next? That completes the—yes? Yes, please? Go to mic 4.

TWILA M. GLENN (Iowa): Thank you. Twila Glenn from Iowa. I rise to a point of order on the two votes that were taken as we were released to recess. I believe that a motion for an amendment had been made, and a point of order was asked and ruled as a speech against the motion for the amendment. But the amendment maker of the motion was never allowed to speak to the motion, and we went directly to the vote. But when we returned to the main motion, we did so having had three speeches for and no speeches against, and again went directly to the vote. So I believe that, I would suggest that, the votes, those two votes, were out of order when they were taken.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. We have to proceed. I will now call on Higher Education to present the report at this time. David Beckley.

*Higher Education and Ministry
Calendar Items*

DAVID BECKLEY (Mississippi): Bishop and members of the General Conference, I'm David Beckley, a lay member of the Mississippi Annual Conference; and I have the honor of chairing the Higher Education and Ministry Legislative Committee. I'm pleased to report that we dealt with more than 300 petitions, and we thought we had finished our work but we have one more to do today.

Before we present our eight calendar items today, Bishop, I wish to introduce our leadership team for the committee that will share with me in making our

report this week. And I will call their names and ask them to please stand wherever they may be. Dr. Rebekah Miles, a clergy member from the Arkansas Conference, is our vice chair and chair of the Subcommittee on Elders in Chaplaincy. Rev. Robert Snase from the Southwest Texas Conference is the co-chair of that subcommittee. Miss Alissa Bertsch, a lay member of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference is our secretary. Our subcommittee chairs of Higher Education: Dr. Maggie Jackson, a lay member from East Ohio; local pastors, Rev. Gary Henderson, a clergy member, East Ohio; deacons, Rev. Laurie Haller, West Michigan Annual Conference; candidacy and probationary members, Rev. Judy Sands, Central Texas Annual Conference.

Bishop and members of the General Conference, we have eight petitions for action today. Dr. Maggie Jackson will start our presentation, followed by Rev. Gary Henderson and Rev. Judy Sands, please.

MAGGIE JACKSON (East Ohio): Bishop. First, DC page 1580, 1580, Calendar No. 152, 152, Petition No. 40989, 40989, Advance *DCA* 1231, 1231.

Recommendation: concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. Have you found the pages? Have you found the petition? The committee recommends concurrence. If you're ready to vote, please vote now.

The petition passes. [*Yes, 302; No, 213; Abstain, 19*] Point of order is?

EWING WERLEIN JR (Texas): Ewing Werlein, Texas Conference. Point of order, Bishop, is that the rules require the bishop to survey for cards that wish to speak on a matter. The card was up. No one was called on. No one had opportunity to debate the matter. I would ask that the vote be set aside and debate the committee.

BISHOP SORIANO: All of that is in order. We'll do it again. Alright, here. Please go to mic 8, yes, please.

BISHOP LEO A. SORIANO: We'll do it again. Alright. Please go to mic no. 8. Yes, please.

R. WADE PASCHAL (Oklahoma): Bishop, Wade Paschal of Oklahoma. Earlier we passed a motion that any legislation with financial implications, it would be explained whether the budget item was on the GCF&A budget or beyond that, and how much it was. We've now passed this item and the previous item, both of which had budget implications, neither of which were addressed as the conference asked.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, would you please respond to that?

JACKSON: It is a budgetary matter. It is not in the GCFA report at this time.

PASCHAL: How much is it?

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you, any more?

JACKSON: An amount has not been given to us. It is simply calling for a commission to be appointed.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, please. Just go to mic 7.

CHARLES N. CRUTCHFIELD (New Mexico): Charles Crutchfield, clergy, New Mexico. We, we really must have some kind of figure in terms of the financial implications of this and of everything, in fact, that we pass. The financial administration committee struggled to deal with a budget that we thought, on the basis of both history and good economic theory, would be sustainable by our church, and if we keep adding things to this, not knowing what we're adding, we're being absolutely irresponsible. I would call for defeat of this.

BISHOP SORIANO: Here, yes. Please go to mic 5.

JILL HICKS (North Alabama): Jill Hicks, North Alabama. We know that legislative committees and other groups will report on items with financial requests that have not been included, thus far, in the GCFA 2005-2008 budget. I move that, from this point on, that they report to the General Conference why the item was not included in the 2005-2008 budget as printed for General Conference delegates.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. Any more on this issue? Second? Are you

ready to vote on this motion? If you are ready, please vote now. [*Yes, 514; No, 274; Abstain, 18*]

The motion passes. Alright. We need to respond to this inquiry. Yes, please. The motion was asking you to explain why no budgetary item was submitted.

Budget-Related Question

JACKSON: We apologize to General Conference for not being thorough in our work. We simply have the petition, tried to respond, and that's where we are. We do not have that data before us.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, that's the response. Yes, yes, ma'am. Please go to mic no. 1.

BEVERLY L. WILKES (Illinois Great Rivers): Bishop, I'm Bev Wilkes from Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and I think I have a question. I would like to know if it would be in order to move that we support this Item No. 152, with the understanding that no new money, for the Methodist Federation, the group that actually submitted it, that no new money would be used for the creation of this task force. And if I have a second I'll speak to that.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. Yes, that is in order.

WILKES: Yes, the organization that—MFSA—that put this report before us, thinking in terms of the needs of those that this task force could serve, could certainly then be free to shift or to change other monies that they have already requested without asking for new monies to do this task force. I think the task force itself is needed just to inform our local churches, but I also understand that we are under financial constraints and since there was no budget submitted, I would move that we just would support this 152 with the understanding that no new monies would be used for the creation of the task force.

BISHOP SORIANO: Any speeches against? Yes, yes please. You go to mic no. 7. Yes, yessir. You.

WILLIAM M. CAMPBELL (New England): Scott Campbell, New

England. I just wanted to point out to the previous speaker that MFSA receives no church budgetary funds. It's an independent organization with a very small budget.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, thank you. Yes, you may speak now. Yes sir, you. You go to mic 6.

RON HARDMAN (Virginia): Ron Hardman, from the Virginia delegation. My question, Bishop, is this. I, before I can cast a vote on this issue, need to hear what other programs might at a disadvantage, because the funds will have to be found within the existing budget to cover a new item. I think it's only fair for the body to hear what decision is made to cover the cost of voting this item.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. I realize—yes, yes. From this part? Go to mic 4, please.

DON J. CUNNINGHAM (California-Nevada): Don Cunningham, California-Nevada. Bishop and members of the house, I've been looking at the p. 1655, of the *DCA*, rules regarding the General Conference budgeting process. I am looking at paragraph 3, "All legislative committees, including Financial Administration, report legislation with financial implications to the calendar for action in the GC plenary. If GC concurs, then the item is referred to GCFA for a recommendation. These items are not reported back to any legislative committees." I think we can move ahead on this item.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. Will the committee please respond to that?

BECKLEY: Bishop, in view of the questions raised on the floor, I'd like to withdraw this motion, this petition, at this particular time, for further consideration by the committee and get with GCFA to see if we cannot put a dollar amount into it, if that's OK with the house.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, they are withdrawing that and now we go the next calendar item. You may proceed.

JACKSON: *DCA* p. 1580, 1580, calendar item 149, 149, Petition No.

40627, 40627, Advance *DCA* 1222, 1222. The recommendation is non-concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: Any discussion? The committee—the committee recommends non-concurrence. No discussion, now? If you're ready to vote, please vote now. [*Yes, 680; No, 180; Abstain, 16*]

The recommendation passes. You may proceed to the next.

JACKSON: *DCA* 1580, 1580, calendar item 150, 150, Petition No. 40975, 40975 Advance *DCA* 1221, 1221.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *ADCA* 1221, 1221: Recommendation non-concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: You have heard the recommendation. If there are no further discussions, please vote now. [*Yes, 697; No, 182; Abstain, 13*].

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: The recommendation passes.

You may proceed.

JACKSON: *DCA* 1580, 1580; Calendar Item 151, 151; Petition No. 40987, 40987; Advance *DCA* 1227, 1227: Recommendation non-concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: You have heard the recommendation. If there are no further discussions, please vote now. [*Yes, 708; No 183; Abstain 8*].

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: The recommendation passes.

JACKSON: *DCA* 1580, 1580; Calendar Item 153, 153; Petition No. 40629, 40629; Advanced *DCA* 1225, 1225: Recommendation nonconcurrency. [*Yes, 699; No, 193; Abstain, 6*]

BISHOP SORIANO: The committee recommends non-concurrence. If there are no further discussions, please vote now.

(pause)

The recommendation passes. You may proceed with your report.

GARY R. HENDERSON (East Ohio): Members of the conference I would like to place before you *DCA* page no. 1580, 1580; Calendar Item 154, 154; Petition 41011, *ADCA* 1185, 1185; The recommendation from committee is concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: You have heard the recommendation. Do you want to discuss that further? If there is no further discussion, please vote now [*Yes 785; No 115; Abstaining 10*].

(Pause)

The recommendation passes.

HENDERSON: The next item was reported twice in the *DCA*. The corrected page no. is 1645, 1645. The Calendar Item is 155, 155; Petition No. 40604; the Advanced *DCA* p. no. 1181, 1181. The recommendation is for non-concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. If there is no further discussion, please vote now [*Yes, 649; No, 220, Abstain, 20*]

(pause)

The recommendation passes.

LAURIE HALLER (West Michigan): Calendar Item 532; page no. 1643; Advanced *DCA* page no. 1160. Petition No. 41427 The committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: You hear the recommendation. It is for concurrence. If you do not want to debate that further, please vote now. [*Yes, 729; No. 115, 22, Abstain*].

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: The recommendation passes.

BECKLEY: Bishop, this completes our work for this morning.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Thank you very much. Let us proceed to the next agenda. That would be Disciples. I call now on Jeff Greenway. Yes, please. Just go to microphone no. 2. That's right.

PATRICIA MILLER (South Indiana): Thank you Bishop. Patricia Miller,

South Indiana. I am watching the interpreters. I'm not seeing them raise their hand. I'm barely keeping up with current pages; so I would ask us again to slow down.

(applause)

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. Yes, you may proceed, please.

Discipleship Calendar Items

JEFF GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop and members of the conference, Jeff Greenway, Western Pennsylvania clergy delegate and chair of the Discipleship Legislative Committee. We have four items for your consideration today that will all be found on pages 1639 and 1640 on the *DCA*. You'll have three presenters today. The first will be Ida Easley, clergy person from the South Indiana Conference and is one of the co-chairs of our Hymnal Ordinal Committee. The second will be Asa Whitaker, lay person Arkansas Annual Conference. He was one of the co-chairpersons for the Lay Ministry Sub-committee, and the third person presenting will be Arthur Jones, lay person North Texas Annual Conference, and one of the co-chairpersons on the Committee on Ministries With Young People. Ida.

IDA E. EASLEY, (South Indiana Conference): Bishop and members of the General Conference, I will be referring to *DCA*, page no. 1639; Calendar Item 494; Petition No. 41003. (*unintelligible*) *DCA* page no. 1639, Calendar Item 494; Petition No. 41003; Advanced *DCA* 487.

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: Would you like to discuss that now? The committee recommends referral to General Board of Global Ministries.

EASLEY: All right. Our committee's vote was referral to the General Board of Discipleship. There are no financial implications because this would be considered among the regular work of the board, nothing to be published, just a study.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. The committee recommends referral to the General Board of Discipleships. If you are ready to vote, please vote now. [860, Yes; 47, No; 7 Abstentions]

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: The recommendation passes this report.

ASA WHITAKER (Arkansas) My name is Asa Whitaker, Arkansas Conference, lay. I would invite your attention to p. 1639, 1639, in your *DCA*; Calendar Item 495, 495; Petition 40810. In your Advanced *DCA* you'll find this on p. 476, 476. It is the recommendation of concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: If there is no further discussions, the recommendation of the committee is concurrence. If you are ready, please vote now. [Yes, 846; No, 30; Abstain, 6]

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: The recommendation passes. You may proceed. Yes. Please go to microphone no. 1.

(unintelligible)

ANTHONY ALEXANDER (Central Pennsylvania): Anthony Alexander, Pennsylvania clergy. Bishop, I'm still concerned about our central conference people hearing and being able to respond appropriately when it's time for us to vote.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, we will do it slower this time to give time for the translator to translate the language. Yes, please.

WILLIAM C. SMALLWOOD, (Mississippi): This is Bill Smallwood from Mississippi. I would like to request that the presenters present the page number of the *DCA* before they present the petition number. I believe we could all find our places quicker. Thank you

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. You may proceed now.

District Scouting Committee

ARTHUR JONES (North Texas): I'll try. My name is Arthur Jones with

Texas Annual Conference. Please turn to your *DCA*, page no. 1639; the Advanced *DCA* page no. 474; Calendar Item 497; Petition No. 40320.

(pause)

The committee originally changed the language from "shall" to "may" but then feared that we were populating *The Book of Discipline* with recommendations; therefore, as a committee we move non-concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, the committee votes non-concurrence, yes? Please go to microphone no. 8.

HARRIS (Oklahoma): Joe Harris, Oklahoma Conference. This petition is to put a scouting committee on the district level and then a similar petition would be to put one on the conference level.

Over six hundred thousand youth meet in eight thousand United Methodist churches for scouting ministry. Over three hundred thousand of these youth come from unchurched families. Our church has a long and established history in relationship with scouting ministries. It's a proven program for outreach and evangelism in the United Methodist churches worldwide. Currently, scouting is affirmed and celebrated in other areas of our *Book of Discipline* and is coordinated under the auspices of the General Commission on the United Methodist Men. Just as the pastor needs to do the work of the church effectively, just as a Girl Scout leader cannot nurture Christian youth in isolation; it takes interest and committed volunteers. So it is with the conference and district scouting coordinators; they, it must have a committee structure in place that includes representation for all four youth agencies as well as representatives from local churches, districts, and annual conferences. We urge the conference to reverse the decision of the committee and vote concurrence so that we might continue to put young people from our church communities and neighborhoods into our churches, utilizing the structure of the churches in

both the annual conference and the district level for scouting ministries.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. Now I would recognize someone who would speak for the committee's recommendation; for concurrence. Yes. You may go to microphone number 3. Are you speaking for, ma'am?

ELIZABETH SWEET (New England): I am speaking for non-concurrence. Betty Sweet, New England. There is nothing that prohibits a district from having a scouting committee. However, we have many, many other organizations that we work with and if we have a committee mandated, or in there, for every one of those, it would go on forever. Our district lines for scouting are different from our district lines. Those places where this is desired can certainly organize one and have one on the district; but we have 4-H. We have Camp Fire Girls. We have Habitat. We have AA. We have all sorts of things in the church that we support; that we use the facilities for and we don't need to keep adding to our *Discipline* and our districts, other committees.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, yes, please. Are you speaking for or against the recommendation?

JOE W. KILPATRICK (North Georgia): I'm speaking against the recommendation of the committee and on behalf of the petition as it's printed.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, you may proceed.

KILPATRICK: My name is Joe Kilpatrick, North Georgia Conference, laity. I just wanted to say that in the Southeastern Jurisdiction about 20 years ago, the jurisdiction approved a similar procedure and that many of the annual conference, several of them; I know I was the North Georgia Conference coordinator of scouting for about ten years; and this kind of structure was applied in the North Georgia Conference. District committees were formed. Scouting committee at the annual conference level was formed and there was significant growth in the churches'

use of scouting. We had a significant growth in the number of young people that were involved in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. It has been a source of contact and evangelism so far as families. I remember one testimony of a man who came to Scout Sunday with his son, received Jesus Christ as Savior and subsequently went into the ministry; fantastic results. I think we should not support the committee in its recommendation and instead adopt the petition as it's printed here; fantastic results can occur. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. Yes, does. Yes, please. Please go to microphone 8. Yes.

MARK HOLLAND (Kansas East): Mark Holland, clergy from Kansas East. This is not a referendum on the Boy Scouts of America. We have a troop in our church. We have a conference scouting coordinator in Kansas East. What we're talking about is when the committee moved this from shall to may, we made it a recommendation and one of the things we're struggling with at this General Conference is what is law and what is not. Our *Discipline* is our law book and our *Book of Resolution* is for recommendations. This properly belongs in *The Book of Resolutions* or elsewhere; but we cannot continue to encumber a *Book of Discipline* with recommendations for all great ministry. We cannot legislate great ministry. We can get out of the way. And I would encourage us to get out of the way and not specify every great ministry that districts and conferences can do. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. We already have two speakers for and against. We need just one more for each side. Yes, please. Are you speaking for or against? Please go to microphone no. 1.

JAMES C. LENDERMAN, (Arkansas): Jim Lenderman, Arkansas Conference. It's more of a request when it's time to vote. I speak English. I may be from Arkansas, but I do speak English. And I understand you clearly

when you speak and yet I believe sometimes I'm confused and I'm sure that sometimes the central conference folks who do not speak English are confused. If we vote yes on a committee decision, on non-concurrence that has implications that may be backwards to what people intend. When we take a vote, could the chair specifically state if you vote *yes* this means this. If you vote *no*, this means this.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, I'll take that as an advice. . .

(pause)

Alright, now the committee will have to have their final say before we take a vote on the recommendation.

JONES: Thank you, Bishop. We would like to reiterate the fact that this is not a referendum on scouting. It was unanimous consensus in our committee that scouting is a great thing that we need to be working for. But we did not feel that it is necessary to populate *The Book of Discipline* with recommendations about 501c)3 organizations: that we do or do not work with on a regular basis in every single one of our churches. So, I would recommend we vote non-concurrence on this. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, yes, please. Yes.

LENDERMAN: Jim Lenderman, Arkansas. This is my first year on conference. I guess I need to move that the chair explain what a yes vote on a particular ballot means and what a no vote means. If you vote yes, it means this. If you vote no, it means.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes. I'll do just that. Right. Are you ready to vote? And if you are going to vote; and if you vote yes, you are voting for non-concurrence, Because that is the recommendation of the committee. Alright? I hope that explains it and helps. If you are ready, please vote now. [*Yes, 716; No, 204; Abstain, 8*]

(pause)

The recommendation passes; non-concurrence. Can we proceed?

Conference Scouting Committee

ARTHUR JONES: Thank you. Please turn to your *DCA*, page no. 1640; calendar item 498; the Advanced *DCA* page no. 473; Petition No. 40318. The committee recommends non-concurrence. This is the same issue, just on the conference level with conference scouting coordinator. Therefore, the committee moves non-concurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: You have heard the recommendation. Do you want to debate that? There are no further discussions. The committee's recommendation is non-concurrence. And if you put yes, it is for non-concurrence. Alright, if you are ready, please. Yes, yes, please.

KILPAKRICK: Joe Kilpakrick, North Georgia. Same argument. This is a program that works. I think it is proper to populate the *Discipline* as you say, with things that work, things that improve our church, things that help us in evangelism, things that help us in the work that we do. I see no objection to putting into those *Discipline*, things that have worked, and worked to bring thousands of people into the church. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, yes please, in the back, microphone 7, that's right.

BEN ADAMS (North Carolina): Ben Adams, North Carolina Conference.

In Paragraph 2302.5a, talking about the Commission for Methodist Men and the issue with Boy Scouts, it says that we must provide training. And I really think that a committee doesn't really need to be there to do that. I think a coordinator. I'm in support of a conference coordinator, but not a conference committee, because I think that a coordinator can do that. Also, I ask us to be in partnership with the BSA and support what it does. I believe we already do that and I believe that if we form a conference committee on that, they wouldn't really know what to do without overstepping their boundaries of what BSA, particularly Boy Scouts

of America has to do and what the conference would have to do. Also, the committee, other than supporting it, there's no need to plan events because Boy Scouts of America already plans their own events and Boy Scouts of America already provides their own leadership. And I speak of Boy Scouts of America because that's the one I'm most related to. And I really think that, we'd be overstepping our boundaries to try and change anything that Boy Scouts of America do or anything like that; so therefore, I support non-concurrence with this petition.

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright, thank you very much. We have no questions, discussion? Yes, please. You may go to Mic no. 5.

LELAND MCKEOWN (Florida): Leland McKeown, Lay Delegate from the Florida Conference. Again, as Joe has mentioned, I don't see why we have any objection to this. United Methodist Men have annual conferences and have come together and suggested this. And scouting works, as Joe says. It brings young people in and we keep talking about Boy Scouts. We're talking about Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, 4-H, the whole bunch. And why anybody can have any objection to doing this is more than I can see. We talk about wanting to get our young people in the church.

We're a dying church because of our age situation. This is just another way to facilitate that and to get districts to work on the matter and get you more young people involved in The United Methodist Church. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much (*unintelligible*). Yes, please, in the back. You go to mic 8.

MARK HOLLAND (Kansas East): Bishop, Mark Holland, Kansas East. Same argument as my brother said. Another issue that was raised in our

committee that I think is worth every-one hearing. It was raised by a central conference delegate from Russia who said, these organizations are an American organizations. If we are in an international church and our *discipline* is international, then the things that we encumber it with ought to be international, because there's no way to list every great organization. Boy Scouts of America is a great organization and there are many others. And we would need volume 2 and volume 3 of our *Discipline* to put all of them in. So, I would just encourage us to keep this as the book of law for the whole church around the world. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. Then we are ready to vote.

HOLLAND: Bishop, may I have a last word, I believe?

BISHOP SORIANO: Alright. There is one behind them. I will recognize you. Yes, please, the back. Let's go, yes. Yes, go to mic 8.

(*pause*)

BISHOP SORIANO: This will be the last speech now.

WILLIAM C. SMITH (South Carolina): Bishop, my name is Bill Smith, the South Carolina Conference. I happen to be conference president of the United Methodist Men, and we have a very strong scouting coordinator and a scouting program in South Carolina. However, I'm advised that a great many conferences do not.

And while this is an extremely important program, we've got to realize, it's not simply boy scouting. It's (*unintelligible*) a specific youth organization which includes the words mentioned but it also includes others not mentioned. And I think scouting is a ministry or youth organizations, specific youth organizations, are a ministry. And we should stand behind our young

people. We voted yesterday—I believe it was yesterday or Saturday—to establish a youth division. And we are committed to the importance of ministry to youth. I understand adding layers of bureaucracy to the church and we don't need any more of that. But, I do think by coming up with this suggestion, and having our scouting coordinators and our committees; we are making a commitment to our youth that this is important. I read somewhere a while back that 25 percent of all the boys that are eligible to be boy scouts were boy scouts. And from those 25 percent, anywhere from 75 to 95 percent of the leadership in this country and every category you care to mention whether senator, legislature, president, astronaut, CEO, or whatever, was—at one time or another—a scout. So, I think we ought to get behind and support this. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. We need just one more speaker for. Yes, please, if you are speaking for I recognize you. Mic 1.

REBECCA KATHLEEN S. VIDAL (Pangasinan Philippines): Rebecca Vidal from the Central Philippines. I support non-concurrence for the reason that our public school system in the Philippines has a very good partnership with program of the scouting for both our boys and girls in public and public schools. And many of our church people are already involved in such program. As a church, I believe, we do not need to duplicate what the public school is doing. Let's just leave the program to them and concentrate on more important ministries for our youth in our church. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. That ends the debate. I will now turn to the committee to make the final speech.

(*continued with the May 5 issue*)