

Proceedings

Morning Proceedings for April 27

Worship

TONI OPLINGER (Susquehanna): Good morning. Please rise in body or spirit, and join with us responsively in reading the call to worship. As we come to worship, we invite you to respond in the language of your heart. We rejoice because God is steadfastly good!

ROSA LEE (Northern Illinois): With every breath and thought we rejoice!

ALL: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again we say, rejoice!

OPLINGER: We rejoice in the things God values!

LEE: Love and compassion! Holiness and righteousness! Peace with justice! The way of Jesus!

ALL: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again we say, rejoice!

LEE: Let us sing our opening hymn together.

(music)

VIENNA MUTEZO (Zimbabwe West): We experience the vibrancy of joy in the blaze of sunrise, in the burning colors of the sunset, and in the beautiful faces of creatures who bear the image of their creator.

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength!

STEPHANIE HAND (Western North Carolina): We find the sound of joy in music that inspires, in laughter that lightens, in voices that encourage, and in stories that reveal.

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength!

MUTEZO: We savor the goodness of joy in the bread of compassion, in the cup of forgiveness, in the banquet of peace and justice.

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength!

HAND: Joy is born, in the steadfastness of God's love.

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength!

MUTEZO: Joy comes from the Lord, whose voice speaks, whose love sings, and whose grace dances.

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength!

HAND: We rejoice, because rejoicing is our soul's best response to the one whose salvation is our greatest joy.

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength!

Hand: Would you sing with us "Every Praise"?

(music)

(applause)

MICHEAL POPE (California-Nevada): Amen. God is good.

Will you stand and join me? Oh, you're already standing.

Will you join me in prayer? Open our eyes, most holy God, that we might glimpse afresh the signs of redemptive work. Open our ears, that we might hear your word through scripture. Most of all, open our hearts, that we might receive your living presence into the deepest portions of being and rejoice anew in the goodness of grace. In the name of Jesus, your Word made flesh, we pray. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

(music)

(applause)

(pause)

POPE: Our scripture reading from this morning comes from Philippians 4:4-8. Hear these words: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Come, Holy Spirit. Bring the word of God to our waiting hearts and minds! Help us.

Join me.

ALL: Help us to rejoice in the goodness of who you are and what you reveal!

POPE: Amen.

(pause)

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP EBEN NHIWATIWA: We are going to greet each other a little bit differently so that together we get involved in rejoicing in the Lord. So what I will do, I will name a country or a continent, their response will be "hallelujah." I say, "Good morning, Europe" or "Good morning, Philippine." Their response wherever they are, they say, "Hallelujah." OK, with life in it, with life in it.

(laughter)

This will go alphabetically so that we rejoice in the Lord, all of us.

ALL: Amen

BISHOP NHIWATIWA: Good morning, Africa!

ALL: Hallelujah!

BISHOP NHIWATIWA: Good morning, Europe!

ALL: Hallelujah!

BISHOP NHIWATIWA: Good morning, Philippine!

ALL: Hallelujah!

BISHOP NHIWATIWA: Good morning, United States of America!

ALL: Hallelujah!

BISHOP NHIWATIWA: Wonderful. Wonderful. I feel honored and humbled to be given this opportunity to preach at this United Methodist Church General Conference.

A story is told of a church goer who found it difficult to sit through a sermon without standing up and shout, "Praise the Lord." Some people were annoyed by his behavior. One of them decided to enter into an agreement with that man. The agreement was that if he could stop shouting, "Praise the Lord," he was going to get a pair of new shoes. The agreement was sealed. He agreed to keep quiet through all the sermon. Come Sunday they took their seats and the sermon progressed. It did not take long before the man stood up, scanned the congregation a little bit to be sure nothing will happen to him if he violates that law. He stood up: "Shoes or no shoes, praise the Lord!"

(laughter and applause)

United Methodists, we have passed a lot of very difficult times. We've passed a time when things were a bit unusual. Philippians had gone through difficult times. There's a point that Saint Paul noticed, noticed that the only way to rescue them is to remind them that they have to stop arguing, stop arguing amongst yourselves. Each time, I now observe, each time you go through a problem you enter into arguments and arguments and arguments. Stop arguing!

Jesus, stop arguing.

(laughter and applause)

Don't you know this, don't you know that no matter how much you argue, you will not change anything? Stop arguing, and instead praising the God. Praise the Lord! United Methodists, I think we have argued enough. We have really argued enough. In fact if there is anything we should be surprised about is why these arguments never destroyed this church. It should have gone a long time ago. It should have gone a long time ago. Even before this disaffiliation, United Methodist Church should have a long time ago. We are specialist in arguing.

(laughter)

Saint Paul is saying something to the Philippians which can be said directly to us here, which can be said to us. You know there is something happening at this General Conference. As I walk in the hallways, a voice comes from this side, "Bishop Nhiwatiwa, Bishop Nhiwatiwa." Another voice from this area and all

the people from all the countries,-name Philippines, name Europe, name Africa, and different countries, name United States and so on. Joy and joy and joy. I'm pinching myself to say, "Are these United Methodists or..."

(laughter)

Honestly, I'm pinching myself as I walk in the hallways. Am I at a different General Conference or what?

(applause)

I can't argue. I think I am at a different General Conference. I am. I do think so. Well, if I am at a different General Conference and it produces joy in all the corners, I say "Hallelujah!"

ALL: Hallelujah!

(applause)

BISHOP NHIWATIWA: To emphasis the point, Saint Paul did not say it once, "Rejoice!" As if he was saying, "They might not have heard 'rejoice!' And I repeat Rejoice!" We have a lot to rejoice about. When I observe some of the ways I get so amazed. I see some level of competition: You have less people than us. More people are coming on our side. I say this is too bad. This is very unfortunate for the church of God. Very unfortunate. There is no competition in the kingdom of God. There is no competition in the kingdom of God. If you don't know church, get down on your knees and pray to find what church is all about. It is about wherever you are my friend, bring more people to Christ; it's not destroying another denomination in order to build another denomination. That's not what evangelism is all about.

(applause)

May I say it again in a slow voice, in a slow voice? You remember that story when the voice of God came in a soft voice? It's not about competition; it is about going out there and reach out to people who still need to hear this good news. It's not about rushing to the United Methodist who're—oh my goodness, Jesus Christ. Africa, you need to know how the gospel got to Africa. Before you send people there to pull people out of The United Methodist Church.

When I go to visit my—if I use this example of Zimbabwe—I visit my district called Murewa-UMP. There I pass through a well which a missionary dug some years ago. Dr. Samuel Gurney, Dr. Samuel Gurney, from this country. He dug a well in the midst of a village. That well is still there, which he dug in 1909. 1909! When people don't know the beginnings of these, institutions they try to play with them. I ask the elders, I say, "What was going on here?" They say, "Also 1909 is a long year ago." They said. "Well, they heard the stories that Dr. Gurney dug a well together. Here it is African who—an African young man who was accompanying him—so the two of them dug because others were looking from a distance. You know missionaries, people ran away from missionaries. On first encounter, they ran away. So they want come to look what they were doing. They dug that well because no one was giving them water until they got water. I went there to say Dr. Gurney—as if I was talking to Dr. Gurney—I said that, "I am a bishop to witness the work, which made you to drink water in the midst of this village when people were running away from you." I was with my administrative assistant, and I said, "Go and borrow a cup there," and I scooped some water and drank.

I have lots of these stories. On another side of Zimbabwe a missionary and with some Africans. No one could open doors to them because they were strangers. So they went up a mountain and found a cave in Marange. I find that story being misused. That we want to leave The United Methodist Church because some missionaries lived in the caves for us to take people out of The United—my goodness, stop that. Stop that if you don't know this story. So Rev. Billy, he went to the university at Hamline, Hamline University, somewhere in this country. They stayed in a cave for months and months so they get down from the mountain sleeping in a cave, take the gospel into the villages, come back to sleep. Until the chief, Chief Marange said, "What, what is that you live and sleep up in that cave? You must have something very important. Come, I give you my sons. The daughters, well you know what happened in those days. I give you my sons, the Marange sons. You can take them and preach to them. Give them the word. But you see for me because of my traditions, I'll not accompany." Up to now we have a lot of Marange pastors in our United Methodist Church.

To cut the long story short, Africans, to you, I'm an elder. I'm going to join (indecipherable), the Kulahs, and others very soon. So see me as an elder, not only a bishop. Don't be advised by people who don't know your roots.

(applause)

I repeat this. I repeat this: Don't be advised by people who don't know your roots, please.

(applause)

You have your fathers and mothers, you have the Kulahs. We have lost the Machados. We lost the Yambasus, but they're still there. De Carvalho, sometimes I see him write—Bishop Carvalho—"What are you doing?" he writes. He cannot move around anymore. He writes, and I see those emails, I say, "O my father, our children, your children are going haywire."

If you want to know, I want to end with my testimony, because you get so surprised. Why is Bishop Nhiwatiwa so passionate about this? Because I love The United Methodist Church. I love The United Methodist Church. Not because I'm a bishop, before I became a bishop. Before. I received Jesus Christ personally in 1964. I was counting that it is now sixty years when Jesus is reaching me through The United Methodist Church. Jesus is reaching me through The United Methodist Church. Do you know another reason? I know people will say, "Oh, he is going too far." I say freely, through my personal witness, there is no other denomination on the earth who does ministry so well than The United Methodist Church.

(applause)

I see some doubting faces somewhere. I say it again—

(laughter)

There is no denomination on this earth, from my own witness, which does ministry more than this denomination. If I can again give the example of Zimbabwe by talking about an institution briefly—I'm about to end because we still have to see some pictures, which will be shown to us.

When you talk of African University, you are talking of a denomination which pioneered in a given country if not in the world. When Africa University was instituted, it was the first private institution for

the government to give what they call a charter to allow you to open it legitimately as a university. All other universities in Zimbabwe which are now opening, they are now following a well-paved path by The United Methodist Church; we're pioneers! Please tell your friends, "Don't to come to Zimbabwe." You will not get—you can get one or two people. Well that doesn't matter; there are always people who may think different. But I have been telling Zimbabweans, they can tell you—these delegates who can here to see me—that I advise you—I don't stop you—but I advise you, which the same thing other bishops are doing that. We have been taking lead because we know, we know how the gospel came to our continent. When we were in Sierra Leone before Bishop Yambusa passed on, we released a press release that we are not going to support an attempt to dissolve The United Methodist Church. We did not do that secretly. At Africa University, we declared openly that there are some organizations which we thought were in the line with us. We disassociated from them. Openly! We don't lead like we are cowards. We don't lead like we are cowards, we say things openly! Those who love us, they love us; those who hate us, they hate us. Because we love this church. OK, technicians, let us move to the photos where we get joy, where we get joy. You can see whilst I'm drinking water here.

(pause)

What you are seeing there, you see Tongogara Refugee Camp visit. To —you give a preacher like me twelve minutes, who told you to do that?

(laughter)

Huh? I was thinking, if I had power, I would have suspen—Bishop Bickerton, I would have suspended the rules.

(laughter)

Because I can't handle a sermon in twelve minutes. Twelve minutes is introduction to tell you where I come from.

(laughter)

How can a preacher stand before you (*indecipherable*) without telling you where he or she comes from, when he or she receives Jesus Christ. Oh no no no no no.

(laughter)

Sorry, come back.

All right, I here take your time here. That is story you need to get it. Why we rejoice in the Lord? I went to our—that woman you are seeing in white gown is a district superintendent of the Chimanimani-Chipinge District, far east of Zimbabwe, and that's where the refugee camp people who are coming to Zimbabwe as refugees, they go to that settlement. So I went there not knowing what was there. I went there to dedicate a church, so when I was dedicating the church, I saw the people who were singing. I tried to look; they were different. I said to them, "Dears, who are these people? Where is the choir coming from?" She said, "From a refugee camp." I said, "What?" "From a refugee camp," she said. I said, "Singing like this?"

Anyway, from there, when they were giving a protocol of vote of things the leaders from the refugee camp we shall see again, when we go to the next thing. They said, "Bishop, we are inviting you to visit us

and you see where we are.” There was no protocol like going through episcopal committee or things like that no. I said to them, “I will come this year,” meaning last year in 2023. Move it a bit—we are still there, so that you see, what they are giving there are the items which is Zimbabwe Episcopal Area gathered together and then I said to you that we are going to bring a lot of gifts here and that church which they built, you see. What they wanted me to go and see was that they built a United Methodist church without the pastor knowing anything about it. You know? When the pastor wanted to visit them, what he saw is sign of the cross with the flame, really which you don’t like here in the United States. It is liked there in a refugee camp.

Move it a bit on. Yes, now that is the day I went there with the church leaders and cabinet members, other leaders, and that’s the choir there in a refugee camp. Huh? Can you really thing that they’re coming from a refugee camp; they were really celebrating the African way there. We didn’t have time to turn it into some movement.

OK let us go on to another stage. Right. There you need to listen to them. This is the result of partnerships, partnerships, the Chabadza partnerships. You don’t come to Zimbabwe to work alone. If you want to help Zimbabweans, you see them already at work, as you are seeing Mount Darwin, Rushinga, (*indecipherable*). This is West Pennsylvania! We have partnership with West Pennsylvania, which is started during the times of Bishop Bickerton and now Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, and they are now drinking fresh water. In Mount Darwin, one of our driest places in Zimbabwe, and you tell me I go to tell those people may you disaffiliate because that was what they did, the conference.

(*pause*)

Let us move to another.

(*laughter*)

Oh my goodness. Mutare clinic dedication. There’s now—we were dedicating that, we will see another, you are seeing that corner—there was virtually nothing until Baltimore-Washington as our partners, starting in the days of Bishop Schol, Bishop Matthews, Marcus Matthews, and now Bishop Easterling. They carry on. We don’t have partnerships which break. Beautiful clinic in the midst of a reserve, rural area. You know, Bishop Schol, you know the areas. Bishop Bickerton, you know the areas. Bishop Marcus, you know the areas. And many other people. They’re coming; people are coming from all over to come to that clinic for health (*indecipherable*). Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot have the courage to tell them that that church you wanted to stay in, they told us let us disaffiliate.

(*laughter*)

Let us move on.

(*applause*)

Oh my my our lips still on because we have already witnessed to what we need to witness there. It’s too high; it’s too high. That is a women hostel to make young women of Africa have somewhere to get accommodation, so that they can be educated. You don’t tell that The United Methodist Church is so bad; it is bad in your own home.

(*applause*)

And if that dormitory is named, is named Tracy Smith Malone, the one you are seeing. She drove our leader, our bishop drove the conference, drove a conference, within a short expanse of time raised over one million to build a women hostel at Africa University.

(applause)

May the good Lord continue to bless this denomination. May The United Methodist Church survive forever and ever. Amen.

(applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Friends in Christ, our service in worship now concludes, yet our spirit of rejoicing continues. May our work become a doxology. May our lives become songs of praise. because, friends, this is indeed the day that God has made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it.

(pause)

(music)

(pause)

Plenary

BISHOP THOMAS M. BERLIN: Well, good morning, General Conference.

(crowd response)

Good morning to the delegates, the episcopal leaders, United Methodist clergy and laity, and all who are joining us by live stream. We welcome you to this space, and we're so glad you're here.

My name is Tom Berlin. I serve as the bishop of the Florida Conference in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

(applause)

And I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is the fourth plenary session of the postponed '22 [2020] General Conference, and it is called to order at this time.

Directly behind me, I've asked Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth to join me, as we do our best to preside this morning. I'm grateful for their presence here. I'm also grateful for our parliamentarian, who is next to me, Maurice Henderson, who asked me not to name him and I did it anyway.

I am a White male. I am 60 years old. I am young at heart, and I strive for the wisdom of my elders. I defy description on my best days. But I wake in the morning with the knowledge that I am a child of God, and I see that in you as well. And I believe that as long as all of us see that in each other, we're going to be fine today.

I want to give thanks to Bishop Nhiwatiwa for a fabulous opening to the morning and to our worship team as well. If Bishop Nhiwatiwa has a book that's in Cokesbury, looks just like this, by the grace of God

you might stop by the display and see if that would be helpful to you. And I also want to share one other item. The delegation in Sierra Leone, today is their independence day, and I think that just should be mentioned and honored, and I want to make sure that that is acknowledged.

(applause)

Now at this time, the chair invites—at this time, I’m going to have an opening prayer, and then I’m going to invite our first speakers. Let us pray.

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you’re working for good in the world. Stir up in us a desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Monitoring Report

BISHOP BERLIN: At this time the chair invites Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, General Secretary of the Commission of Religion and Race, and Ms. Dawn Wiggins Hare, General Secretary of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women to provide the morning report.

GIOVANNI ARROYO (Baltimore-Washington, General Secretary of the Commission on Religion and Race): *Buenos días.*

DAWN WIGGINS HARE (Alabama-West Florida, General Secretary of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women): Good morning.

ARROYO: General Secretary Giovanni Arroyo, Baltimore-Washington Conference, Latinx, clergyman, adult.

WIGGINS HARE: General Secretary Dawn Wiggins Hare, Alabama-West Florida, laywoman.

(applause)

Thank you. White, older adult.

ARROYO: Welcome to the last day of legislative committee work. No excitement?

WIGGINS HARE: None.

ARROYO: It is Saturday for those of us who are wondering what day of the week it is. We are sure that you want to be inside working your way through petitions, making sure that you have filled out all the proper paperwork to prepare us for next week’s plenary sessions.

We want to remind you that GCORR and GCOSROW and our teams of monitors have been filing monitoring reports with the *Daily Christian Advocate*. And again today you can read a summary of our observations, celebrations, and challenges across the plenary and legislative sessions.

WIGGINS HARE: Friends, over the last two days you have had a chance to organize, to prioritize, to divide into subcommittees, to rearrange furniture, to greet one another, and to seek to protect—excuse me—to seek to perfect those petitions through holy conferencing. Holy conferencing viewed through the lens of the rules of General Conference, and again through the default lens of Robert’s Rules. You have now had multiple opportunities to practice inclusion, and we wanted to report back on one of

them —gender inclusion. Who was called upon to speak and who actually did speak in the plenary and legislative committees. So how did you do?

ARROYO: Combining the data from across fourteen legislative committees, here is our report card today.

WIGGINS HARE: Can you believe that?

(applause)

Yes. Hey, folks, come on! You saw it here first! We've been working a long time for this.

(applause)

Can you just pause and see how beautiful that chart is?

ARROYO: 51.1 [percent] female speakers. 47.9 [percent] male speakers. 1 percent non-binary speakers. Church, you get an A.

WIGGINS HARE: I agree.

(applause)

Yes, give yourself applause.

(applause)

Yes, and let us point out that not every committee had an even distribution of speakers. One committee had no women called upon for an entire session. But when the aggregate data is combined, these were the findings.

ARROYO: Yes, and our monitors are reporting and indeed many of you have reported directly to us that there is still a difference in the balance of power with titles being used for some people, usually males, and White females are referred by their first names, while males are used by titles. The language we choose establishes the power dynamics of the room, including this room.

WIGGINS HARE: On this last day of legislative committee work, you may find yourself tired and ready to finish your work quickly. Sometimes this leads to our forgetting to following our good practices of speaking slowly, listening carefully, and making sure that all voices in the room have an opportunity to be heard.

ARROYO: So, delegates, here is our opportunity today. Stop and ask yourself, Whose voice have we not heard? For these are important decisions to be made in faithful ways, and we want to ensure that all voices in lived experiences are honored in the deliberations of our holy conferencing.

WIGGINS HARE: On the first day, Gio and I shared with you the code of conduct, the values and ethics, and the personal boundaries that were needed for respect and safety of delegates and for the integrity of our work here at this General Conference. As a reminder, we want to remind you if you see something, say something. And if you need to report harassment of any kind, including sexual misconduct, that report should be made to the office of the Secretary of General Conference in room 103. But, friends, our monitors will walk along beside you, so will Gio or I if you need us.

ARROYO: Delegates, church. It is Saturday, and we are off to a great start.

(clap)

Where is the excitement? I hear someone clap. We are off to a great start.

WIGGINS HARE: *(laughing)* I know, really!

ARROYO: I know I'm tired, but let us continue to focus on our self-awareness and caring for others, and we will move closer to perfection together.

(simultaneous interpretation from Spanish) God, give us this day our daily bread that we need to end in a strong way, and then we can rest.

WIGGINS HARE: Give us this day the daily bread we need to finish our work strong, and then rest.

ARROYO AND WIGGINS HARE: Amen.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you, Dawn and Giovanni.

Committee on Agenda and Calendar

BISHOP BERLIN: The next item of business is some of our administrative committee reports.

The first committee report will be presented by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. The chair recognizes the chair of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, Emily Allen, and the coordinator of Calendar, Susan Brumbaugh to present their report. As they approach the microphone, please have your voting devices prepared and ready.

EMILY ALLEN (California-Nevada, Chair of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar): Thank you, Bishop. The schedule for today is printed on p. 2067 in today's *DCA*. That's p. 2067. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar recommends the following changes for the remainder of today:

Following administrative committee reports, we will take care of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy Elections, followed by nominations. After that, we will hear the report from the Jurisdictional Study Committee, and then we will continue to work through calendar items as time allows. The Wespeth—New Retirement Plan Overview will be moved to a later day.

Bishop, I move the adoption of today's agenda with the changes I have described.

BISHOP BERLIN: It is moved to adopt the agenda with the changes as described. In a moment, we're going to open the pool so that if you wish to speak, you may register.

I saw a couple of checkered flags, if you are not receiving attention, would you please raise those higher to make sure that we're all attended to?

We have—The question is on the adoption of the motion to adopt the agenda with the changes as described. You may now register to speak. Is there any discussion? We do have one person who is in the pool. This person would like to speak for, and so I call Gilbert Cedillo to mic. no. 4.

(pause)

I don't see anyone in the pool or at the microphone. I am assuming that person has now withdrawn their name from the pool.

We will now proceed to the vote. The motion requires a majority vote.

The question is on the adoption of the agenda with the changes as described.

Those in favor, press *one (1)*. Those opposed, press *two (2)*. You may vote now.

(pause)

Have all who wish to vote done so?

The voting is now closed. We will now have the results of the vote on the screen.

700 votes in the affirmative; 18 votes in the negative.

[*Yes, 700; No, 18*]

And the motion passes. The affirmative vote has it and the motion is adopted. The agenda is adopted.

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico, Coordinator of the Calendar): Good morning. I'm Susan Brumbaugh, coordinator of the calendar. Lay, White, female, adult. And today is—say it with me—Saturday.

(crowd response)

So let's prepare to vote on Consent Calendar A02 that was printed in yesterday's *DCA*. French, Kiswahili, and Portuguese translations are on p. 2063, and the English translation is on p. 2061. 2063 or 2061.

All of the Consent Calendar items are correct as presented. Although a request to remove an item was received, it was received after the deadline, and therefore no items were removed.

Bishop, I move that we accept the actions on Consent Calendar A02.

BISHOP BERLIN: The question on the adoption of the Consent Calendar is—this Consent Calendar is A02. Please get your voting device. We will now proceed to a vote. This motion requires a two-thirds vote.

The question is on the adoption of Consent Calendar A02.

Those in favor, press *one (1)*. Those opposed, press *two (2)*. You may vote now.

(pause)

Have all voted who wish to do so?

I see a flag on the right. I see two flags on the right. Continue to hold your flags up if you're in need of assistance so that you can easily be seen. Section A.

(pause)

I see a flag in section C.

(pause)

It takes a moment to make sure everyone has the capacity to vote. That's why we're pausing.

(pause)

Have all voted who wish to do so?

I still see a flag on my right in Section A. Oh, I've got a plus sign. So all right.

Voting is now closed. May we have the results of the vote?

There are 671 in the affirmative and 57 in the negative.

[Yes, 671; No, 57]

There are two-thirds in the affirmative, and the motion is adopted. The Consent Calendar is approved.

(applause)

BRUMBAUGH: Again, more things we did; just now. I want to also draw your attention to the consent calendars printed at the end of today's DCA. If you will turn to p. 2084; all languages, 2084. You'll find Consent Calendar A03 for items related to *The Book of Discipline*. Consent Calendar B03 for items related to *The Book of Resolutions* begin on p. 2090. So B03 is on 2090. Today, we have a Consent Calendar C03, which contains motions to refer, and that appears on p. 2098.

And as a reminder, if you would like to remove an item from any of today's consent calendars, delegates can request that form in room 103. It must be returned to the room, that same room, 103, by 3:00 [P.M.] on the day the item is printed, so 3:00 [P.M.] today.

Now if you will turn to p. 2099. 2099. I would like to share some information that may be helpful to new delegates and maybe, maybe all of us. At the top of the page it says, "Calendar Items R03." The "R" that you see tells us that these are regular calendar items. That's what the R stands for, and I recognize that in other languages that might not make any sense at all. These are the items that will be available for discussion on the plenary floor starting Monday. And the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, in consultation with the legislative committee chairs, determines what order to consider these items and other regular calendar items that were published earlier last week. So I just wanted you to have that information.

Thank you, Bishop. That concludes our report.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. The next administrative committee report.—Let me pause. There is a point of inquiry. I call George Howard to mic. no. 3.

GEORGE HOWARD (West Ohio): Bishop, George Howard, West Ohio, lay, older adult. My question is: I understand that constitutional amendments carry a two-thirds vote to pass. I'm just curious why consent calendars also carry a two-thirds vote required to pass.

BISHOP BERLIN: The reason is that we are amending something that was previously adopted, and that requires that two-thirds threshold.

HOWARD: Previously adopted by the committee.

BISHOP BERLIN: By the body.

HOWARD: Thank you.

Committee on Journal

BISHOP BERLIN: The administrative report is the Committee on Journal Report. The chair recognizes the chair of the Committee on Journal. This is Rachel Bootes Miller.

RACHEL MILLER (West Ohio, Chair of the Committee on Journal): Thank you, Bishop. I'm Rachel Miller, an ordained deacon from West Ohio.

(applause)

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Happy Birthday!

MILLER: Yes, twenty-nine and holding forever and ever, amen. I am thankful that it is Saturday, and Sunday is coming for a much needed day of rest for all of us. And once again I bring the report from the Committee on the Journal.

Our daily proceedings will not be printed but will be posted in the *DCA* website under the Proceedings tab. This is a great tool, and we encourage all of you to take advantage of it by logging into dailychristianadvocate.org. And again, that's dailychristianadvocate.org. The most current proceedings will be posted at the top, and our goal is to have all proceedings posted by the beginning of the day on Monday.

The *errata* for today can be found on p. 2068 of the April 27 *DCA*.

DCA, volume 5, no. 1, p. 1858. In the list of petitions submitted by persons who are no longer United Methodist, the submitter of petition 20406, Amy Land, is incorrectly listed as withdrawn clergy instead of disaffiliated laity.

We have some additional corrections to share from the legislative committee and subcommittee officers found in *DCA* 5, no. 3, p. 2006. The General Administration Subcommittee Chair 1 is incorrectly listed as Bev Williams. The correct name is Ben Williams.

The Church and Society 3 legislative [vice-]chair is incorrectly listed as Stephen Quipp, and the corrected name is Stephen Quigg.

The elected Assistant Secretary of the Higher Education and Superintendency Legislated Committee was omitted from the list of officers. The following should appear before Subcommittee Chair no. 1: Assistant Secretary Francisco Neto.

DCA, volume 5, no. 2, p. 1991 and *DCA*, volume 5, no. 4, p. 2061. The description of Rule 33(7), Removing a Calendar Item from the Consent Calendar, incorrectly states that the Consent Calendar Removal Request forms are in room 104, and you've heard that correction, I think, earlier this morning from Susan as well. These forms should be picked up and dropped off in room 103. And again that's room 103, not 104.

Bishop, I move the adoption of the schedule as corrected.

BISHOP BERLIN: It is moved to adopt the proceedings as corrected. In a moment we're going to open the pool, so if you wish to speak, you may register.

The question is on the adoption of the proceedings as corrected.

We will now proceed to a vote. The motion requires a majority vote.

The question is on the adopting of proceedings as corrected. Those in favor, press *one (1)*. Those opposed, press *two (2)*. You may vote now.

(pause)

I am observing persons who need assistance, delegates who need assistance, and they are receiving that. But we're pausing to make sure that everyone is able to vote.

I don't see any more checkered flags.

Have all who wish to vote— to the right, section A.

Have all voted who wish to do so?

The voting is now closed. May we have the results of the vote?

There are 703 votes in the affirmative. There are 25 votes in the negative.

[Yes, 703; No, 25]

And the affirmative vote has it. And the motion is adopted.

Thank you, Rachel.

MILLER: Thank you, Bishop.

Committee on Courtesies and Privileges

BISHOP BERLIN: The next administrative committee report is the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges. The chair now recognizes the chair of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges, Raquel Feagins.

RAQUEL FEAGINS (Rio Texas, Chair of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges): Hi, good morning. *(speaking in Spanish) (speaking in Portuguese) (speaking in French) (speaking in Kiswahili)*

I am Raquel Feagins, and I am a clergywoman in the Rio Texas Conference.

Friends, it has been really great being with you this week and to see the light of God shine through you. A couple of weeks ago, we had a total solar eclipse in parts of the United States, and I live in San Antonio, which is in the path of totality. It was cloudy, so we didn't get a full view, but we did experience darkness, like nighttime, for over two minutes. And I was able to see the ring just for a couple of seconds, and it brought me great joy. It lifted up my spirits. The sun was obscured, but only for a little bit, not permanently. Sometimes, in a big space like this you might feel invisible, or others might make you feel invisible. But I want to echo what Bishop Berlin said, and I want to invite you to be intentional about truly seeing one another and listening to one another.

So I'm going to ask you to turn back, turn around, and see who's sitting behind you. And at the count of three, I want us all to say, "I see you." I see you! I see you!

(audience participation)

Siblings, we are so grateful for this time of holy conferencing. And we have many visitors and observers. We have observers here in the room; let us wave to them. And also at home. And they are praying for us and wishing us well.

We have received greetings from representatives of the Church of the Nazarene who are here as observers. So, hello, Church of the Nazarene. And let us greet them.

(applause)

Thank you so much. And if you have any request of privilege or courtesy, you can email them to gccourtesies@gmail.com. Or find me at section A2. Thank you so much.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you, Rachel. Grateful for your work. Raquel! Oh, I'm so sorry. Names really do matter. Do you ever miss names? Yeah, me too. And so thank you for your grace on that.

I want to go back to Delegate George Howard and a question that he asked the chair earlier. The chair was provided incorrect information in answer to Mr. Howard's inquiry. And regardless the vote requirement for the changes to *The Book of Discipline* that are not constitutional memories—amendments, excuse me. They are sort of constitutional memories, too, but that's a different matter. Our parliamentary authority requires a two-thirds vote for such a motion. However, Rule 31 only requires a majority vote. And so, Delegate Howard, thank you for your question and the opportunity to correct that.

I now see a point of inquiry, Jerry Kulah. When you come forward, sir, you will need to state your point of inquiry. It is a question.

JERRY KULAH (Liberia): Good morning, Conference. I am the Rev. Jerry Kulah from the Liberia Annual Conference. I have a point of inquiry. The point of inquiry is this: Is it true that at this General Conference no delegate is allowed to ask for a moment of privilege? Rather, he or she has to send it over to the courtesies to speak on his or her behalf? If so, I would like to know why.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for your point of inquiry. There is a process by which a delegate can do that. Plan of Organization p. 2028 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* states, The responsibility of the Committee on Courtesies and Resolutions is—and I'm reading line 214 and 215, "To consider all matters of privileges appropriate to recommend to the Conference that they may be heard." Furthermore, lines 225 through 227 state, "No person or persons shall be presented whose request has been denied by the Commission on the General Conference, nor after the sixth day unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Conference." That is the answer to your question. That applies to all delegates. We thank you for your question, and I ask you now to be seated.

Committee on Presiding Officers

The next report is the report of the Committee on Presiding Officers. The chair recognizes the chair of the committee, Jasmine Rose Smothers, to present their report.

JASMINE SMOTHERS (North Georgia, Chair of the Committee on Presiding Officers): Good Morning! Seriously? Good Morning! This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. I'm Jasmine Smothers, adult, female, African American, clergy delegate from the North Georgia Conference in the United States. Y'all are so kind. My pronouns are she/her. Audun Westad and I lead the

Committee on Presiding Officers, and our team of twelve people represent each central conference and each U.S. jurisdiction.

AUDUN WESTAD (Norway, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Presiding Officers): Good morning! My name is Audun Westad, and I'm a lay delegate from the Norway Annual Conference. A wise woman once told me that in heaven, we will all speak Finnish because it takes an eternity to learn. But, I will try and give you, my dear friends, a head start with this. (*speaking in Finnish*).

Bishops Burgos-Núñez and Bishop Palmer led us so well yesterday. Let's all give them a big round of applause.

(*applause*)

In fact, let's thank all the bishops who have led us through this first week.

(*applause*)

SMOTHERS: On Monday, we will welcome Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai—

(*applause*)

—from the North Central Jurisdiction. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball from the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

(*applause*)

Bishop Mande Muyombo from the North Katanga area.

(*applause*)

And Bishop Frank Beard from the North Central Jurisdiction.

(*applause*)

As a reminder, please speak slowly, concisely, and without idiomatic expressions like, "God willing and the creek don't rise." We love that one in the South, too.

WESTAD: Thank you for your cooperation with our presiding officers. We will see you all next week. (*speaking in Finnish*).

Election of Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you, Jasmine and Audun. We now turn to the next item of business. It is the election of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. The chair recognizes the Secretary of the General Conference to direct our attention to the *Daily Christian Advocate* and to provide some corrections to the list of nominations.

GRAVES: Thank you, Bishop. If you have ever tried to track a list names this long over eight or nine years, and keep track of every single change that has come in, you will know the challenge we have had on this particular list.

We have been updating this list as we have been notified, and I'm sure there may be one or two additional changes. I would like to announce to you the three corrections that I have received since this list has been printed.

On p. 2076, for the Great Plains Conference, the layperson, remove Oliver Green and replace with Lisa Maupin. For the clergy, replace David Livingston with Amy Lippoldt.

For the North Georgia layperson, on p. 2077, left column, about two-thirds down the page it says, "To Be Named, North Georgia". Please place the name Rachel Fullerton in that location. Rachel Fullerton. If you have editorial corrections, such as spelling of name or preferred name that is not something we need to care for at this moment, but you can supply it to me and we can correct the record.

As we move into this set of elections, I do want to you know that, when Susan reminded us that it was Saturday, it is also important to remember that today is day five of General Conference. And by *Discipline*, the group of people we are about to elect must organize within the first five days. So, your meeting will be at 6pm tonight in Richardson AB, and dinner will be provided. It is simply to organize and then to schedule your working meeting that will occur next week. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Delegates, as stated by the Secretary of the General Conference, if you observe any misspelled names on any nomination list, we apologize for that. If there are such instances, please communicate with the Secretary of the General Conference, or his staff, and those will be corrected. If you're in the speaker recognition pool with a request to make a correction, we would ask you to remove your name if it's an editorial correction that can be handled in that manner. Thank you for doing that.

I'm going to turn to a point of inquiry now. Jasper Peters, please go to mic. 2. From Rocky Mountain.

JASPER PETERS (Rocky Mountain): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Jasper Peters, I am a Black man, an Adult. Clergy person from the legacy Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. Not an editorial, but a substantive correction on p. 2077. Havea Tukutau is listed under the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. This should read Gayla Jo Slauson. This correction was submitted prior to General Conference, as well as via email this morning.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you.

PETERS: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Jasper, Thank you. 2077. Gayla Jo Slauson is the appropriate name.

Now those of you who are in the pool—I'm observing four persons in the pool. If these are editorial questions, I would ask you to take your name out of the pool. I'm observing the time as 9:40, and so we want to use our time well. And so, I'm going to start with a point of information from Jethro Muyombi. Please go to mic. 2. From South Congo.

JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation from French*) Thank you for giving me the floor. My name is Jethro Muyombi, layperson from the conference of South Congo. I'm taking the floor with a question.

I just want to ask a question, if the conference allow to add one other name to the list that we have in the report that we received. If it is yes or not? And if it is yes, what is the process to add them. That is my question, Bishop. Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for the question. The answer to the question is no. Nominations are not allowed from the floor. In accordance with paragraph 512 of *The Book of Discipline*, nominees must be

nominated by their annual conference delegation. They had to come through their conference. I'm noting another point of inquiry. Rebecca Trefz, mic. 1, please. The Dakotas.

REBECCA TREFZ (Dakotas): Rebecca Trefz, clergy, Dakotas Conference, White female adult. And I'm noting a change to the names listed for the Dakotas Conference. Our layperson should be Beata Ferris, and our clergy delegate should be Rev. Sara Nelson.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for that. Those are noted. And I assume that you'll give the proper spelling to the Secretary of the General Conference so that we can make sure that all is cared for.

I'd like to recognize Erica Shannon Stueve to point of inquiry, mic. 5 from Iowa.

ERICA SHANNON STUEVE (Iowa): Mic. 6. Thank you, Bishop Berlin. Erica Shannon Stueve, White laywoman, Adult, Iowa. And my fellow NCJ member here, Paul—I'll let you introduce yourself.

PAUL PEREZ (Michigan): Paul Perez, Michigan, clergy, deacon, Latinx, adult man.

SHANNON STUEVE: And we have two corrections on behalf of the Northcentral Jurisdiction. On p. 2076, for Indiana, the clergy person should be the Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright.

PEREZ: And on p. 2077 for the Northern Illinois Conference—

BISHOP BERLIN: Come closer to the microphone, please, to make sure they hear you.

PEREZ: On p. 2077, for the Northern Illinois Conference, the lay delegate should be Ronnie Lyall, and the clergy delegate, Rev. Brian Gilbert.

BISHOP BERLIN: We thank you for those corrections, and please bring those names to the Secretary of the General Conference.

GRAVES: Bishop, I'm sorry to interrupt, I could not hear, and I don't have the last name that was just said at the microphone.

BISHOP BERLIN: Can you please return to the microphone and speak clearly into it, and closely to it.

SHANNON STUEVE: And I'll walk them up there, Gary. For Indiana, the Rev. Dr. Elise Fulbright, clergy; Northern Illinois, Ronnie Lyle for lay; and The Rev. Brian Gilbert for clergy.

BISHOP BERLIN: Since the body should note that the chair was not in error when he recognized these two speakers. They were both in the speaker pool. I was taking points of inquiry and information first, and then I was moving to those who had the amendments that were just shared.

Please get your voting devices ready. In a moment, we will cast one ballot vote to elect the nominees as printed. We will now proceed to vote. The motion requires a majority vote. The question is on the adoption of the motion to elect the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy with the noted corrections as announced by the General Secretary of the General Conference and by those delegates who have been recognized. Those in favor, may press *one (1)*; those opposed, press *two (2)*. Please vote now.

I do not see any checkered flags. Oh, here we have some. Checkered flags I see now seem to have assistance. We are pausing to make sure those delegates are cared for.

(pause)

Certainly grateful to all those pages and those who work with the voting devices for providing prompt and careful attention. I know that we have one or two individuals who are receiving attention at this time, but have all voted who wished to do it otherwise?

(pause)

I think we're cared for in D. I think that's right. Voting is now closed. May we have the results of the vote. There are 690 in the affirmative; there are 33 in the negative. The affirmative vote has it. The motion is adopted. The nominees listed are elected Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

[Yes, 690; No, 33]

Nominations of University Senate

BISHOP BERLIN: The next item of business is the nominations of the University Senate. The chair recognizes the General Secretary of the General Conference to provide of the General Conference to provide details of the nominations and elections.

GRAVES: Thank you, Bishop. We will be turning to p. 2072 in today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. P. 2072 in today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. For University Senate, four names have already been placed and appointed by the Council of Bishops. Those names are printed here for your information, and you would not want to consider those as we are making the next set of nominations, should you make any from the floor. This group is divided into two sections. We received six nominations from the Council of Bishops in each of the two sections, and from each of those lists of six, we will be electing two persons. If you wish to nominate other people to be placed in addition to those six names in either category, we need to be very clear that one group needs to be Chief Executive Officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, and the second group is other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationships. We are ready to open the floor.

BISHOP BERLIN: Delegates, you may register using option number seven, "other parliamentary", to register in order to be recognized to make a nomination for the first group, which is the position of the chief executive officers of the University Senate. Again, this is nominations for the position of chief executive officers of the University Senate. The chair calls on David Grout, mic. no. 5 from Kentucky.

DAVID GROUT (Kentucky): David Grout, Kentucky Conference, White male. My question may be out of order because I didn't realize there was an order about how we were going to be voting. My question, though, is: "Is from the floor nomination restriction applicable across the board?" I think you answered no. My question has to do with Judicial Council.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. If we would move now to Jeffrey Kuan. Kuan? It's mic. no. 5 from California-Nevada.

JEFFREY KUAN (California-Nevada): Bishop, Jeffrey Kuan, Asian-American male. Older adult. I would like to nominate Dr. James E. K. Hildreth, President and CEO of Meherry Medical College.

BISHOP BERLIN: The nomination of Dr. James. E. K. Hildreth is now nominated. I now turn to Delegate LaNella Smith, North Carolina. Please go to mic #2.

LANELLA SMITH (North Carolina): LaNella Smith, lay delegate, African American female from the North Carolina Conference. I nominate Dr. Dennis Blackwell of the Greater New Jersey Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: Dr. Dennis Blackwell is nominated.

Now, I would like you to come back to the microphone and share that person's role and their institution. If the delegate would return—this delegate Smith. If you would return to mic. no. 2, and for any nominations just provide their role and their institution.

SMITH: Dr. Blackwell currently is on the Judicial Council and a pastor in Greater New Jersey. I'm not sure what institution I need to provide.

BISHOP BERLIN: What are you nominating for? We just want to make sure that we're really clear. What is this nomination?

SMITH: It's not the first group that is executive officers, and I thought I could nominate him for the second group.

BISHOP BERLIN: I'm going to ask you to return to your seat, and when we come to that second group, that will be the appropriate time to come to the microphone.

SMITH: OK, thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: We want to make sure that your person gets in the right spot. We are currently talking about chief executive officers of the University Senate. Earlier I said that Dr. Blackwell was nominated. That was incorrect. We've corrected that. I see no one else in the speaker pool. If there is no objection, nominations for the position of chief executive officers of the University Senate will be closed. Since there is no objection, nominations of the chief executive officers of the University Senate are closed. I am recognizing a point of inquiry. Pacis-Alarine Irambona. Please go to mic. 5. From Burundi. And you will begin of course by stating a question. This is a point of inquiry.

PACIS-ALARINE IRAMBONA (Burundi): Thank you Bishop. My name is Pacis-Alarine Irambona. I'm a layperson, young adult, from the Burundi Annual Conference. I want to ask a question if the nomination have to come from seated delegates? Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for the question. The answer is no.

I see no one else in the speaker pool. Delegates you may now register using... I'm going to pause for just a moment.

(pause)

If the delegate from Burundi would please come back to the mic, we would like to ask you a follow-up question, just to make sure we are giving you the correct information. Please repeat your question when you come to the mic. Repeat the question.

IRAMBONA: Thank you, Bishop. My question was a question of clarification. I wanted to know if people that are being nominated here to be in that committee have to be seated delegate at this General Conference?

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for that clarification. They do not have to be seated delegates. Thank you for the question.

Delegates, you may now register using option seven, “other parliamentary”, to register in order to be recognized to make nominations for the position or other positions relevant to academic, financial, or church relationships of the University Senate. Again, this is nominations for other positions relevant to academic, financial, or church relationships of the University Senate. Nominations are now open. You may register using option seven, titled “other parliamentary”, There is one person in the pool. Darlene Alfred, please go to mic. 1. The delegate is from Central Texas.

DARLENE ALFRED (Central Texas): Darlene Alfred, lay, Central Texas Conference. African American female. I would like to nominate Maria Dixon Hall, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief Diversity Officer at Southern Methodist University. She’s clergy. From the North Texas Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: Maria Dixon Hall is nominated.

ALFRED: Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair calls on Ian Urriola, Upper New York. Mic. 5 please.

IAN URRIOLA (Upper New York): Is mic. 6 OK, Bishop?

BISHOP BERLIN: Yes.

URRIOLA: Ian Carlos Urriola. Lay. Young Adult. Latinx. Male. From the Upper New York Annual Conference. And I would nominate the Rev. Dr. Stephen—

BISHOP BERLIN: Let me interrupt you for just a moment. Stay where you are.

URRIOLA: Sure.

BISHOP BERLIN: We’re going to come right back to you. But we have a point of order. And when a point of order appears in the pool, it’s important to answer it at that moment. So, thank you for your patience. The point of order has now disappeared.

(laughter)

What a wonderful thing. I didn’t know that could just happen. Let’s savor the moment, shall we? And now back to mic. 6. We’d love to hear your nomination.

(laughter)

URRIOLA: My nomination is for the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady. He is clergy member of the Upper New York Annual Conference, and he is the President of Bright Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Stephen Higgy [Cady] is nominated.

URRIOLA: Cady.

BISHOP BERLIN: That's even better. Kiggy [Cady]. We really do want to receive those names appropriately. I'm going to turn now to delegate Ken Nelson, mic. 4 and South Carolina. From South Carolina.

KEN NELSON (South Carolina): Ken Nelson, clergy member, African American male. Pronouns "he." I'd like to nominate the Rev. Dr. Peter Mageto Maiko, Vice Chancellor President and CEO of Africa University.

BISHOP BERLIN: Delegate Nelson, please state that name again.

NELSON: Dr. Peter Mageto Maiko. M-A-I-K-O. Vice Chancellor President and CEO of Africa University.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for the nomination. Dr. Peter Mageto Maiko, Vice President and Chancellor of Africa University is nominated. We're going to pause for one moment. There is a question about the previous nomination. I'm going to check that and come back to you.

(pause)

So friends, here is where we are. Some of you have nominated persons who are CEOs. Those persons would have been appropriate for the first category. Now just a moment ago, we closed those nominations. If you want to nominate a CEO, you will need to reopen those nominations for the first pool, and then we can do that work. And so if that's your desire, you can do so, but CEOs are not appropriate for this pool of nominations. That is my understanding from the general secretary. While you're thinking on that, I'm going to move on to some other nominations. I call on Joe Daniels, Baltimore-Washington Conference. Mic. 6. And I would observe to you at this moment there are five persons in the pool, including Delegate Daniels who is coming to mic. 6. Thank you.

JOE DANIELS (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you, Bishop. Joe Daniels, Baltimore-Washington Conference. I rise to nominate Dr. Dennis Blackwell for this—

BISHOP BERLIN: Delegate Daniels, come a little close to that microphone. We're not hearing you well.

DANIELS: Yes, can you hear me now?

(laughter)

I rise to nominate Dr. Dennis Blackwell for this category. Dr. Blackwell is a member of the Judicial Council and pastor in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: What academic institution?

DANIELS: Dr. Blackwell is affiliated with Asbury Theological Seminary.

BISHOP BERLIN: Can you say it a little bit louder, with Asbury.

DANIELS: Dr. Blackwell is affiliated with Asbury Theological Seminary.

BISHOP BERLIN: And what is his position, please? I'm not trying to be particular, I'm trying to make sure the person is properly nominated.

DANIELS: Right. I am not clear of the position he holds.

BISHOP BERLIN: Let me ask the delegate to please find that out and then return, put yourself back in the pool. I'm going to call on you later. Let's make sure the person is properly nominated.

DANIELS: Will do.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. And now I'm turning to Kalaba Chali, the Great Plains Conference. Please go to mic. 4.

KALABA CHALI (Great Plains Conference): Bishop—

BISHOP BERLIN: Let me pause you. We have a point of order that has appeared. George Lockward. Oh, I'm so sorry. Jorge Lockward, if you would please go to mic. 3. The New York Conference. Jorge, thank you.

JORGE LOCKWARD (New York): Thank you, Bishop. And is this loud enough? Can you hear me? Can you hear me well?

BISHOP BERLIN: I can, yes. Thank you.

LOCKWARD: This is Jorge Lockward and I'm cisgender male, lay delegate from the New York Annual Conference. My point of order has to do with the information we just received from you, from the secretary.

BISHOP BERLIN: You will need to cite a rule to make this point of inquiry. That's in the rules that have been adopted. Do you have a rule?

LOCKWARD: I'm asking the assistance of my friend Tim Riss to help me with that particular point. With this information that was given.

In the plan of order, we have two different categories, Bishop. So this is not part of the rules, but is part of the document that we have before us, and it states that we're nominating chief executive officers of the United Methodist-related educational institutions. So Bright University, which was just referred to with Stephen Cady, and my understanding that is not a United Methodist-related educational institution. So I would say that, I would ask the chair to consider the nomination to be in order instead of not in order.

BISHOP BERLIN: The information that has been brought to us is that the document states that these need to be persons who serve a United Methodist institution. Jorge, am I hearing you correctly that that's your primary point and that's your qualifying aspect for these nominations?

LOCKWARD: Yes sir, just to be double clear, in the case of Stephen Cady's nomination, it was stated from the chair that the nomination was not in order because he was a chief executive officer of the United Methodist-related institution, which is the category that we are not looking at right now. But because he is not in a United Methodist-related institution, I would ask the chair to consider that the nomination is in order because he becomes to other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationships, which is the matter we are nominating for at this moment.

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair thanks the delegate. The point is well-taken. Thank you. So the person is eligible. The chair stands corrected and is grateful for the correction so that we can do our best work together. Thank you. We have another, just to let you know what I'm looking at. We have two points of

inquiry. I'm going to take those and then we have, well we have a number of points of inquiry, so let's go here. Gomer Chamusa from South Congo, you are at mic. 2, please. You'll need your headphones, is my guess.

GOMER CHAMUSA (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation from French*) Thank you, Bishop. Gomer Chamusa, South Congo Annual Conference. I need a clarification because I do not understand. You had stated from the podium that somebody could not nominate, somebody could not be nominated, but at the same time, the nominations are taking place. I would like to have clarification because I am confused. Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: So what I said is that some persons were not eligible. We just actually had a correction to one of those individuals. But nominations are still open. We are moving group by group and so we are in the second group now, I believe. And so that's why we are continuing to receive these nominations. Thank you. I have another point of information. Effie McAvoy, please go to mic. 1. The New England Conference.

EFFIE MCAVOY MCCLAIN (New England): Thank you, Bishop. I am smiling, Effie McAvoy, clergy, New England. You didn't use my full government name; I am grateful.

My question is would it be appropriate to ask that we refer to the previous vote to reconsider that, so we can then nominate those persons who were missed before because there was lack of understanding. That is my question, is that an appropriate motion.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for the question.

MCAVOY: Can I take my seat?

BISHOP BERLIN: You can take your seat.

MCAVOY: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: We're going to consult for just a moment.

(*pause*)

So, here's the answer to your question. Let's finish this pool of nominations, and when we finish this pool, then reopen the first pool if you desire.

All right. We have another point of order. Holly Grant, mic. 5, East Ohio.

HOLLY GRANT (East Ohio): Holly Grant, East Ohio. My question is why Dr. Dennis Blackwell was out of order.

BISHOP BERLIN: Delegate Grant, you will need to state a rule. That is always required with a point of order.

GRANT: I thought I just had to state a question. Well may I give a point of information, then? I went back and forth in the queue as to which one to use, and I was confused. So, I can go back to my seat and put in a point of information if that would be more appropriate.

BISHOP BERLIN: That is the appropriate thing to do.

GRANT: OK.

BISHOP BERLIN: Yeah. Thank you.

There is a point of order. Jim Salley, South Carolina. Please go to mic. 4.

JIM SALLEY (South Carolina): Bishop. Jim Salley, lay, South Carolina, Black African American. Rev. Ken Nelson from South Carolina provided a name. You had a conversation with the Secretary of the General Conference, and you conveyed that conversation to us. Was the name submitted by Rev. Nelson ruled out of order or does it still stand?

BISHOP BERLIN: So, Rev. Nelson nominated someone who was a CEO. That person is appropriate in the first pool. We are working on the second pool. When the second pool is complete, we can re-open the first pool, giving Rev. Nelson the opportunity to place that name in that space.

I'm not going to recognize you at this time because the point of order requires a rule to which you are referring, and we want to get through this second pool in a timely manner, and there are numerous people in the speaker pool at this time. I ask the delegate to move to this seat, and we will move to the next order.

There is a point of inquiry, or information, by Tom Salsgiver. Please go to mic. 1. Susquehanna Conference.

THOMAS SALSGIVER (Susquehanna): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom Salsgiver, Susquehanna, White, clergy, older adult. My inquiry is that the nomination of Dr. Blackwell was to Asbury Seminary. My question is around the rule of being United Methodist. Are they United Methodist? Or do they just accept United Methodist students? If they are not United Methodist-related, then I believe that is an inaccurate nomination.

BISHOP BERLIN: That is information helpful, should that person be properly nominated. They are not properly nominated at this time.

Point of inquiry, Holly Grant. Mic. 5, please.

GRANT: Holly Grant, laity, East Ohio. My point of inquiry is regarding Dr. Dennis Blackwell. He was nominated as an "other position", yet you did not accept that nomination because they didn't provide, or because he was associated with a college. I guess, I'm not sure. You told the other person that was nominating him that he needed to go in the next pool. They get up, they nominate him in the next pool, and you say sorry we're not going to nominate him, he's not appropriate. So, can you please explain that further, what you have against putting him in the nomination?

BISHOP BERLIN: Please define the category. The individual, I believe, is a CEO. Is that correct?

GRANT: It is my understanding that they were putting under the position of "other positions."

(pause)

And that he wasn't a CEO because when they put him under the first one, you said, no he doesn't go under that because she wasn't able to give the CEO position, and then they put him under that other position, and you said, no he can't go there because he is associated with a college. I am just trying to understand what you are doing.

BISHOP BERLIN: Then, I'm going to turn to the General Secretary of the Conference so that the body understands what is in each category. By doing this, I am not re-opening the first pool, you can do that if you choose.

Gary, I'd like for you to first describe what individuals are appropriately nominated for the first pool.

GRAVES: Thank you, Bishop. The listing that I have currently. In addition to the six that have been nominated by the Council of Bishop for the Chief Executive Officers List. We have a Dr. James, and I'm working on getting the last name correct, from Meharry Medical. For the second category, would you like me to go there?

BISHOP BERLIN: I'd like you to explain who goes in that category appropriately. So, you can give the names, but I'd like for the delegates to understand who is there. That's the point of confusion.

GRAVES: The category is defined as chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions. If they are chief executive officer of a United Methodist related institution they would be considered in the first category.

BISHOP BERLIN: So, you hear that. Now, the second category. Please define the category.

GRAVES: As I understand the second category's definition, these are other positions relevant to academic, financial affairs, or church relationships with educational institutions or United Methodist bodies. There is a question in paragraph 1414 as to how specific it is that it be a United Methodist relationship for the second category.

If you look at Judicial Council decision 589, there is a Judicial Council decision on a declaratory decision on the University Senate and The United Methodist Church. I have not been able to get fully into the digest but I have been informed that no. 589 of the Judicial Council decision would be of help to that.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Those are the definitions. We are in the pool number two that was just described to you. If you desire to nominate someone, you need to use the option number 7, "other parliamentary". I'm noting two delegates in the speaker pool that are not using number 7, and are not having point of orders. So, I would ask you simply to use number 7. Take yourself out of the pool and then put yourself, if you have a nomination, in number 7.

I'm going to return to Joe Daniels at mic. no.6, the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

(pause)

DANIELS: Bishop, thank you. I rise again to nominate Dr. Dennis Blackwell. I misspoke—it's Alvernia University he's affiliated with. I'm awaiting the rule from the secretary with regards to the United Methodist affiliation of the institution, if that's required.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you.

(pause)

Delegate Daniels, would you please come back to the microphone. Oh there you are. Would you please speak again and give us that name? I have never known you to be quiet, sir. *(laughs)* I'm inviting you to use that microphone as the preacher and pastor would and give us that name clearly.

DANIELS: Thank you. Can you hear me OK? OK. I nominate Dr. Dennis Blackwell. Dr. Blackwell is affiliated with Alvernia University. I am awaiting the ruling of the secretary in regards to whether or not there's requirement that the institution he is related to has to be United Methodist-affiliated.

(pause)

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair would like to call on Greg Bergquist to clarify if this person is properly nominated. Properly eligible, thank you. That is that appropriate terminology. Greg Bergquist is our General Secretary of the Board of Higher Education. No. 4, please.

GREG BERGQUIST (California-Nevada, General Secretary of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry): Greg Bergquist. White male, clergy, California-Nevada Conference. Older adult. So I think, in general, we have been using the practice that all University Senate members are working in a United Methodist-related or affiliated university. I have not had a chance to look at that judicial decision, but I have a staff member looking at it right now.

BISHOP BERLIN: When you have that response—we're going to work through the other those that are in the pool. When you have that response, would you please notify me so that we can come back and take care of this matter properly?

BERGQUIST: Be glad to.

BISHOP BERLIN: And if you could ask your staff to be expedient, we would be very grateful. I now turn to Lydia Muñoz Eastern Pennsylvania. Mic. 5, please.

LYDIA MUÑOZ (Eastern Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. Lydia Muñoz, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, clergy, Latina. Female. And L'Oréal says I'm still an adult, so I'll take it.

(laughter)

BISHOP BERLIN: Continue please.

MUÑOZ: I'd like to nominate Dr. Cristian De La Rosa, Boston School of Theology. The Associate Dean for Student Life.

BISHOP BERLIN: Please repeat the name.

MUÑOZ: Dr. Cristian De La Rosa.

BISHOP BERLIN: Dr. Cristian De La Rosa is nominated.

MUÑOZ: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. I'm going to turn now to Remember Masamba from West Zimbabwe. Mic. 4, please.

(pause)

REMEMBER MASAMBA (West Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Remember Masamba. Clergy. From Zimbabwe West Annual Conference, Zimbabwe. I stand to nominate Forbes Matonga, currently on the General Board of Higher Education in charge of Africa University and serving at Nyadire Mission Center. He is the secretary for Africa Central Conference. Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Can you please restate the name one more time? Thank you.

MASAMBA: Forbes Matonga.

BISHOP BERLIN: Forbes Matonga.

MASAMBA: Yes.

BISHOP BERLIN: And please state the institution again.

MASAMBA: He taught African University and is the General Secretary for Africa Central Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: Are you saying Africa University in the position? Is that a position with Africa University?

MASAMBA: No, he was a lecturer.

BISHOP BERLIN: So does that person have a position in the institution that you just named, and if so, please name that position.

MASAMBA: OK, let me inquire.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you.

MASAMBA: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Now I'm noticing the speaker pool has three individuals who have noted they want to speak for or against. We're not in that space right now. You use number seven. That tells the chair that you would like to nominate someone. And so those of you who have the for or against, please clear those and put back in if you desire to nominate someone. I'm going to turn to Nimia Peralta, Northwest Philippines. Mic. 6, please.

NIMIA PERALTA (Northwest Philippines): Good morning. Nimia Peralta. Northwest Philippines. Woman. Lay delegate. I respectfully nominate Dr. Junifen Gauuan, President of the Philippine Christian University.

BISHOP BERLIN: Can you restate the name?

PERALTA: Dr. Junifen Gauuan.

BISHOP BERLIN: Dr. Junifen Gauuan is nominated. Thank you.

PERALTA: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Let me ask you to come back. Did we not hear (indecipherable). OK, what we're observing is when you give the institution and the role, that just makes this go much, much faster. So thank you for doing that. The chair now recognizes Joe Daniels, please come back, mic. 5, Baltimore-Washington.

DANIELS: Thank you, Bishop. Joe Daniels, Baltimore-Washington Conference. Just trying to offer some clarity on the Dennis Blackwell nomination.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you.

DANIELS: Paragraph 414. Excuse me, 1414. And its explanation also refers to church relationships. Dr. Blackwell is pastor of the Asbury Church in New Jersey. Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. That would be a church relationship. So would that then make him eligible, based on the paragraph language?

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair does not believe that that would be sufficient.

(pause)

And the reason is this. The role has to be with the academic institution. That's what appropriately puts the nominee before the body.

DANIELS: OK, even though that paragraph does say "Church Relationships," that's what I'm... I'm trying to get clarity with regards to the disciplinary language and eligibility.

BISHOP BERLIN: You can see that we are conferring because our desire is to make sure that you've got the right information.

DANIELS: Sure.

BISHOP BERLIN: And the understanding of the chair and those assisting the chair is that the relationship has to be directly with the academic institution.

DANIELS: I understand what you are saying. Based on the *Disciplinary* language, it's suggesting that church relationship is also—

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair would now recognize Gary Graves to bring further clarity.

GRAVES: As we are understanding these positions, they are positions with direct professional responsibility in the areas of academic affairs within a United Methodist-related institution, within financial affairs within a United Methodist educational institution, or a direct church relationship office that links the church to the institution. That would be the case of any of the connections such as ministerial service positions, boards of ordained ministry that link directly with institutions. It is not a small "c" any local church. Its "Church" relations affiliated to the institution.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for the clarification. Byron Thomas rises to a point of inquiry. Delegate Thomas is in the North Georgia conference, and I would like to invite you to go to the close microphone. I don't have a number for your microphone.

BYRON THOMAS (North Georgia): Mic. 5, Bishop.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you.

THOMAS: Thank you. Byron Thomas, North Georgia, Black African American male. Just a point of clarification. Earlier, a delegate from South Carolina mentioned Vice Chancellor Peter Mageto, who is CEO. Does a person being CEO only allow them to be in one category or can they be nominated in another category?

BISHOP BERLIN: Delegate Thomas, the complexity is, is that the rule is CEOs do go in category one. That's been the practice of the General Conference. Your question properly states: Can a CEO go into

another category? It is our understanding that CEOs go into category number one. That's what the Secretary of the General Conference has shared with the chair.

THOMAS: Then it makes them ineligible for another category is that my understanding?

BISHOP BERLIN: That is correct.

THOMAS: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: And, again, that pool, that number one pool, can be reopened if we finish these and number two. I am now turning to Sharon Austin, mic. 2, Florida Conference.

SHARON AUSTIN (Florida): Thank you, Bishop Berlin. Sharon Austin, African American, female, pronoun she/her, older adult, Florida Conference. I'd like to nominate the Rev. Sharon Bowers who serves as Director of Church Relations for Emery and Henry College.

BISHOP BERLIN: Rev. Sharon Bowers is nominated.

AUSTIN: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: We turn now to Greg Bergquist, returning to no. 4, bringing us information.

BERGQUIST: Thank you very much. We agree with Secretary Graves in his descriptions of the categories that he just gave. The Judicial Council does not apply to the question you are talking about right now. It was a specific case about a school trying to argue against being removed from the University Senate-approved listing, so it was a very specific case.

BISHOP BERLIN: Put a *therefore* at the end of that for the group, I want to make sure everybody understand where we are. Therefore...?

BERGQUIST: So Gary, can you just repeat what you just said for the categories?

GRAVES: I will be happy to attempt to do that. The chief executive officers of the United Methodist-related educational institutions would be in category one. Other positions related to academic affairs, to financial affairs, or to church relationship positions within the institution directly linked to a United Methodist Church situation. Not any local church will be understood to fill that category.

BERGQUIST: Correct, we agree.

BISHOP BERLIN: Friends, it is 10:35. We have a number of speakers in the pool. I'm turning now to Manuel André, Western Angola. Please go to mic. no. 4.

MANUEL ANDRÉ (Western Angola): Manuel André. Clergy. Black, African. From the Western Angola Conference. (*simultaneous interpretation from Portuguese*) I nominate João Manuel da Graça for Archives and History. He is a lecturer of the United Methodist University in Angora for more than ten years. We believe he has the capacity and intellect needed to occupy this position.

BISHOP BERLIN: Sir, may I ask you to repeat the name of the nominee?

ANDRÉ: João Manuel da Graça, that's the name.

BISHOP BERLIN: João Manuel da Graça is nominated. The chair now turns to David Grout with a point of information or inquiry microphone. Mic. 5, please. Kentucky.

GROUT: David Grout, Kentucky. White male. Point of information that may help clarify one of the questions on the floor. Dr. Bill Arnold was elected to the University Senate—

BISHOP BERLIN: Sir, the point of information is a question.

GROUT: OK

BISHOP BERLIN: It's not you offering information, is you seeking information, let me ask you to take your seat, and we're going to move on to the next person.

GROUT: Can I word that as a question? I'm simply asking does precedent speak to the question? There is the precedent.

BISHOP BERLIN: Please state your question.

GROUT: Does precedent speak to the question of institutional alignment? Can it be helpful?

(*pause*)

BISHOP BERLIN: The ruling that we are working with, the discussion that we are working with, is based on the current information that is been read by the General Secretary. It is not based on precedent; we are not pulling back. We are at this conference with the rules that you have appropriately adopted for this conference, and we're just attempting to uphold those rules. So I invite you to take your seat; I'm going to receive the other nominations so we can continue to move through this.

James Amerson, Rio Texas, mic. 1, please.

JAMES AMERSON (Rio Texas): Thank you, Bishop. James Amerson. Black clergy, male I rise to nominate Rev JD Herrera, who is the Dean of Enrollment at Austin Seminary. He is part of the executive cabinet overseeing financial aid, recruitment, and administration, admissions.

BISHOP BERLIN: Rev. JD Herrera is nominated. I turn to André Cassule Vieira. Eastern Angola. Mic. 5, please.

ANDRÉ CASSULE VIEIRA: (Eastern Angola): Thank you very much. I'm André Vieira Eastern Angola Annual Conference delegate. I like to... I will talk in Portuguese so I can feel comfortable. (*simultaneous interpretation from Portuguese*) I'd like to indicate that the name of Rev. Dr. Beauty Maenzanise She is affiliated to the university, African University, She's working on the Board of Global Ministries in the area of prayer. She worked at the faculty of theology as the dean. Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you, Dr. Maenzanise is nominated. We turn now to a point of inquiry Beverly Wilkes-Null. Mic. 4 from Illinois Great Rivers.

BEVERLY WILKES-NULL (Illinois Great Rivers): Beverly Wilkes-Null, African American clergy woman, Director of Church Relations, Mackendree Univeristy. My inquiry is, the universities related to The United Methodist Church outside of the United States, do they have their own university senates and if they serve on those university senate, are they eligible to serve on this university senate as we consider nominees?

BISHOP BERLIN: I'm going to ask General Secretary Bergquist to come to mic. no. 4 and answer your question. That is a great question.

I'm not sure the chair is supposed to actually say if it's a great question or not, but I did, so I apologize to you.

BERGQUIST: Thank you. I'm going to have to give you a complicated answer. The Philippines have a University Senate. The African region just recently began over the last year putting together the African Senate for Methodist education. That senate was just seated within the last week and will begin operations this month. There is no University Senate in the European region as yet. Right now we do have a history of central conference members serving on the University Senate in the United States. So it has happened in the past, but as you can I think we were preparing for the possibility of working in different regions because it makes sense, for example in Africa, the educational leaders in Africa to review, evaluate, do the peer to peer learning that's required in a University Senate.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you for your response, General Secretary. The chair now calls on Rita Smith, mic. 2. Northern Illinois.

RITA SMITH (Northern Illinois): Rita L. Smith, Northern Illinois Conference, laity, African American woman, older adult. I move that we close nominations.

(applause)

BISHOP BERLIN: Cheering is not our modality, friends. The motion has been made to close the nominations. We will now proceed to a vote. The motion requires a majority vote. The question is on the adoption of the motion to close nominations. Those in favor—

So I'm looking at the speaking pool—that's a requirement, that the chair share that. I am eliminating those who have said that they want to speak for or against because I've said several times that that's not a way to access this pool. There are four individuals in the pool who have chosen option number seven. And, I can't see my full screen, I apologize. There are seven persons who have chosen option seven, other parliamentary, and there are six persons who are saying they would like to close debate. So I have now told you what is in the pool. That helps you in your decision making.

We'll now proceed to the vote. The motion requires a majority vote. The question is on the adoption of the motion to close nominations. Those in favor, press *one (1)*, those opposed press *two (2)*. You may vote now.

I'm not seeing any checkered flags. If all... There is a checkered flag. Oh, I see it, the person in green.

Has everyone who desires to vote done so? I believe you, in the green. We still have a hand up or holding them? The flag has been cleared. Voting is now closed. May we see the results of the vote? There are 662 affirmative votes, there are 50 in the negative. The motion has been adopted. Voting on this category is closed.

[Yes, 662; No, 50]

Now because of the conversation that has occurred, the chair is reopening the first category for nominations to make sure you've done what you desire to do. Category one includes CEOs or executives. Gary, would you please clarify.

GRAVES: Yes, that is to open the CEO category once more to consider the nomination of whoever they should chose to do.

BISHOP BERLIN: So if you have a nomination you would use number seven on your voting device. I'm looking to see if anyone has a nomination for this first category. I'm calling Amie Stewart, mic. 2. I'm sorry, that's a different one. I have, I want to turn to Ken Nelson in South Carolina, mic. 4.

NELSON: Ken Nelson, African American male, South Carolina Conference. I'd like to nominate Dr. Peter Mageto, Africa University.

BISHOP BERLIN: Dr. Peter Mageto [Maiko]. Can you give us the role?

NELSON: Vice Chancellor, Africa University.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Peter Mageto [Maiko] is nominated. I don't see any other nominations in the pool. There is no one else in the speaker recognition pool. If there are no objections, the nomination for the position of Chief Executive Officer of the University Senate is now closed. Since there is no, since there is no objection, nominations for that position to Chief Executive Officer is closed. Delegates, before—

Nominations of Judicial Council

So friends, here is where we are, it's 10:48, it's your final day of legislative work. You have to be out of this building by 9:30 P.M. tonight. Our order of the day is at 10:50, and I'm receiving a note, and I'm going to pause and read it. So here's what we need to do. We must do the Judicial Council nominations, and so we're going to do that body of work. I'm looking to all the delegates and I'm asking you to do this in an efficient manner. So at this time we will accept nominations for the Judicial Council. Nominations do not require a second. Delegates to do this, again to be recognized you must use number seven to make a nomination. It's the other parliamentary button. That will allow me to recognize you to make that nomination. Nominations are now open and you may register using number seven, option seven. I going to turn to Susan Brumbaugh, mic. 1, New Mexico.

BISHOP BERLIN: She's coming to—Susan, you're not going to be able to use that microphone. We are going to ask you go down. I'm gonna call on someone else, and we're going to come to you. Jimmy Asbell, South Carolina. Mic. 3, please.

JIMMY ASBELL (South Georgia): Bishop, that's Jimmy Asbell, South Georgia.

BISHOP BERLIN: Well, thank you sir.

ASBELL: Clergy, male, adult. I would like to enter into nomination Warren W. Plowden, Jr.

BISHOP BERLIN: Warren W. Plowden, Jr.—

ASBELL: Plowden with a "P." Southeastern Jurisdiction.

BISHOP BERLIN: —is nominated. Lay or clergy, sir?

ASBELL: Lay.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Joseph Harris, Oklahoma. Mic. 1, please.

JOSEPH HARRIS (Oklahoma): Joseph Harris, clergy, Oklahoma, African American male. I rise to nominate Kent Fulton, a lay delegate from Oklahoma who is Chancellor of the Oklahoma Conference, who has been alternate to Judicial Council, and who has helped with—

BISHOP BERLIN: That's fine. Thank you. Kent Fulton is nominated.

Now turn back to Susan Brumbaugh if she would come. We'd like to receive your name please.

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico): Thank you, Bishop. I'm Susan Brumbaugh from the New Mexico Annual Conference and I nominate Gary Graves, clergy.

BISHOP BERLIN: Gary Graves, clergy, is nominated. I'd like to turn to Tonya Murphy, mic. 5, North Georgia.

TONYA MURPHY (North Georgia): Tonya Murphy. Lay. Female. African American. North Georgia Conference. I rise to nominate Harriett Jane Olson, layperson, NEJ.

BISHOP BERLIN: Harriett Olson—

MURPHY: That is correct.

BISHOP BERLIN: —is nominated.

MURPHY: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: I would like to turn now to Rukang Chikomb, mic. 2. North-West Katanga.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Bishop, Rukang Chikomb, North-West Katanga. I would like to nominate Muyombi Tshimbu Jethro, layperson in the South Congo Annual Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: Please state the name again, lay or clergy.

CHIKOMB: It is a lay. The name is Muyombi Tshimbu Jethro. (*spelling last name in phonetic alphabet*) Mike, Uniform, Yankee, Oscar, Mike, Bravo, India.

(*applause*)

BISHOP BERLIN: The person is nominated, and if you bring the name forward I would be very grateful. And I thank you for your kindness and patience to the chair. David Grout, mic. 5, Kentucky.

GROUT: David Grout, Kentucky Annual Conference. White male. I rise to nominate Solomon Christian for Judicial Council.

BISHOP BERLIN: Lay or clergy?

GROUT: Laity.

BISHOP BERLIN: Solomon Christian is nominated. I would like to turn to delegate Elie Musombu the North-West Katanga Conference. Mic. 2, please. I'm sorry, you have indicated a speech for which is not the appropriate category. Please return to your seat.

I am turning to Edwin Momoh, Sierra Leone. Mic. 5. Again you will need to use category 7.

EDWIN MOMOH (Sierra Leone): Bishop, the name is Edwin Momoh, clergy, male delegate, Sierra Leone Annual Conference. I rise to nominate Mr. Easmon Nathaniel Ngakui. Ngakui is spelled N G A K U I. Mr. Ngakui is a barrister and solicitor of the supreme courts of Sierra Leone and is also the conference chancellor for The United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone.

BISHOP BERLIN: Is this a clergy or layperson?

MOMOH: Layperson.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Edwin Ngakui is nominated.

MOMOH: Bishop, Easmon Ngakui.

BISHOP BERLIN: Easmon. Thank you very much. You have appropriately corrected. Make sure we have that name with the correct spelling. Thank you. Robert Kilembo from Zambia, mic. 2, please.

ROBERT KILEMBO (Zambia): Thank you, Bishop. I am here to nominate Kenneth Pembamoto, lay.

BISHOP BERLIN: Please give us that name again.

KILEMBO: Kenneth Pem-ba-moto.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you so much. The person is nominated. I turn now to Andrew Singh, mic. 5 from Kentucky.

ANDREW SINGH (Kentucky): Hello, Bishop. Andrew Singh, Kentucky Conference, clergy. And I would like to nominate Reverend Dr. Esther D. Jadhav, clergy on the Kentucky Conference. She is the Associate Vice President for Intercultural Affairs and Spiritual Development at Asbury University.

BISHOP BERLIN: Can I have the last name again, please?

SINGH: Jadhav. J A D H A V.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. Dr. Esther Jadhav is nominated. We turn now to Maxwell Mironga East Zimbabwe.

MAXWELL MIRONGA (East Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. Maxwell Mironga, lay delegate, Zimbabwe East Annual Conference, adult. I would like to nominate Molly Hlekani Mwayera, who is a sitting supreme court member in Zimbabwe, and she has been practicing in the judicial council for 32 years—

BISHOP BERLIN: Just the name and the office.

MIRONGA: She is lay.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you, and can you give me her name again please.

MIRONGA: Molly Hlekani Mwayera.

BISHOP BERLIN: Mwayera. Thank you. She is nominated.

MIRONGA: Thank you. I turn Katie Pryor, mic. 1. North Texas.

KATIE PRYOR (North Texas): Good morning, Bishop. I am Katie Pryor, lay delegate, North Texas Conference. I rise to nominate Jessica Vittoria, laity of the North Texas Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: Jessica Vittoria. Thank you. She is nominated. I turn now to Lindsey Kirkpatrick, mic. 2, Texas.

LINDSAY KIRKPATRICK (Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Lindsay Kirkpatrick, clergy, Texas Annual Conference, White woman, adult. I rise to nominate Reverend David Horton, young clergy, Texas Annual Conference. Writer of the famous *Horton Brief*. Pastor at Faith UMC—

BISHOP BERLIN: Stop. Lay or clergy?

KIRKPATRICK: Clergy.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you very much. David Horton is nominated. Thank you for understanding the need to stop so we can move on to others. I'd like to call on Judith Kenaston, mic. 1, West Virginia.

(*pause*)

JUDITH KENASTON (West Virginia): Thank you, Bishop. I'm Judi Kenaston. White, adult woman, from West Virginia. I rise to nominate Rev. Jeff Taylor, a deacon from the West Virginia Conference.

BISHOP BERLIN: Jeff Taylor is nominated. Thank you. I turn now to mic. 4, East Congo. Germain Mupasa.

(*pause*)

I would remind those of you who have things in the pool, only no. seven or a point of inquiry or point of order is appropriate. If you have anything other than that, I am not observing you. Please.

GERMAIN MUPASA (East Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation from French*) Thank you for giving me the floor, Bishop. Germain Mupasa from East Congo. I would to nominate the honorable Tunda Kasongo.

BISHOP BERLIN: Kasongo. And can you please tell us clergy or lay?

MUPASA: Clergy.

BERLIN: Clergy.

MUPASA: Lay, please. Sorry.

BISHOP BERLIN: To clarify, this person is a layperson?

MUPASA: A layperson.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. They are nominated.

MUPASA: Thank you.

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair now turns to David Beckley, mic. 6. Oh, I'm sorry. David, you have put "amend." And you need to clear that and put in something that we can deal with at this time. So let me turn to Susan... Let's turn to mic. 4. Sylvestre Muthoma. East Congo.

(*pause*)

Is that delegate here?

(*pause*)

All right, let's turn—

SYLVESTRE MUTHOMA: (*simultaneous interpretation from French*) Thank you. The person I wanted to nominate has already been nominated. So it is not applicable anymore.

BISHOP BERLIN: Thank you. If you've nominated someone who has already been nominated, you can simply take that out. I'd like to turn to Stan Copeland at mic. 1, North Texas.

STAN COPELAND (North Texas): Bishop, Stan Copeland. North Texas Conference. White male adult. And I would like to move that nominations cease, close.

BISHOP BERLIN: It's been moved that nominations be closed. Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

BISHOP BERLIN: There is a second. It has been moved and seconded to close nominations. The motion is before you. Before we vote, there are six people in the pool—let me read this to you—who have nominees they've indicated with number seven (“other parliamentarian”). There are two persons who would like to close debate. And those are those in the pool. So you have that information. We will now proceed to the vote. This motion requires a majority vote. The question is on the adoption of the motion to close nominations. I'm sorry, it is a two-thirds vote. We apologize. Those in favor, please *press one (1)*. Those opposed, *press two (2)*. You may vote now.

(*pause*)

I am not seeing any checkered flags. Have all those who desire to vote done so? I see a checkered flag over in row 2, section A. We still have time. I see one in section B, back corner there. We're voting on whether to close nominations. Alright, I think everyone has received help. We still have a couple of voting devices being moved about.

(*pause*)

I believe the delegates that need help are receiving help at this time. Those who are helping the delegates: are we clear or can we proceed? OK, I think we are there. The voting is now closed. May we have the results of the vote?

There are 672 votes to the affirmative, 58 votes negative. The motion carries. We have closed the nominations for Judicial Council. Before we adjourn the plenary session, the chair recognizes the Secretary of General Conference, Gary Graves to provide any announcements.

[*Yes, 672; No, 58*]

GRAVES: Thank you, Bishop. In regard to the business we have just completed, if you made a nomination, please be sure to take a motion form from a page at one of the microphones and write the name of the person that you nominated, and please make sure you provide us their email address. We will be sending out emails to them with instructions for submitting the information we will need to print the final list of nominees in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. They will be instructed to submit the biographical sketch that does not exceed one hundred words, and they will be sending it to a secured Dropbox link, and the instructions will be in the email. If the email and the bio is not received by 4 P.M. today, that name will not be able to be included as a nominee because we are required to print

the one-hundred-word bio in order to complete the eligibility. Please be sure to pick up a motion form if you made a nomination, and we will compare it to the record we have here to make sure we have correct spelling and instructions for the one-hundred-word bio.

If you are needing to find any item or you find an item and you need to get it to someone else, our lost and found is in room 103.

If you are submitting announcements to be made, they need to be related to the work of the body and approved materials that have been covered by agenda and calendar, or the Commission on General Conference, so we can be careful and be sure that we're announcing only official items related to the work of the General Conference.

For our Upper Room Holy Communion prayer service at lunch, our officiant this morning will be Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, assisted by Denise Nicole Stone. We encourage you to participate. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP BERLIN: The chair would like to thank everyone for their patience as we've made it through some essential work of the General Conference this morning. Please make sure that you get to your legislative committees as soon as possible. Please do not trickle in slowly as it was said this morning at an earlier meeting. Please go to those rooms so that you can get started. The fifth plenary session, with gratitude to all involved, is now adjourned.

(applause)