DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church



Charlotte, North Carolina

Thursday, May 2 2024

Vol. 5, No. 9

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Agenda for Thursday, May 2

6:30 – 8:00 A.M. – Breakfast

6:30 A.M. – Committee on Agenda and Calendar 7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M. – Registration

8:00 – 9:00 A.M. – Worship

- Commissioning of Missionaries
- 9:00 10:00 A.M. Plenary Session
 - Opening Prayer
 - Monitoring Report (3 minutes)
 - Mission Bicentennial (15 minutes)
 - Administrative Committee Reports
 - Calendar Items & Conference
 Business

10:00 – 10:20 A.M. – Break 10:20 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – Plenary Session

- Opening Prayer
- Calendar Items & Conference Business

12:00 - 1:30 P.M. - Lunch

• Organization of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters

1:30 – 3:40 P.M. – Plenary Session

- Opening Prayer
- Recognition of New Judicial Council Members and those members completing their service
- Calendar Items & Conference
 Business

3:40 – 4:00 P.M. – Break

4:00 - 6:10 P.M. - Plenary Session

- Opening Prayer
- Calendar Items & Conference Business

5:00 P.M. – Daily Deadline for *DCA* Printing **6:10 – 6:30 P.M.** – Evening Devotion **6:30 P.M.** – Adjournment **6:30 – 8:00 P.M.** – Dinner

Errata May 2

DCA Volume 5, No. 8, p. 2250, Additional Nominations for the Commission on the General

Conference, "Dave Uriel" should be "Dave Uriel Rombaoa."

Remembering Those Who Have Died

Jean Stockton

Following are the names of those who have died since we were last together. These names were read during worship on May 1 as part of our service of remembering. We honor their memory and give thanks for their faithful service to Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church. We hold them in our hearts as we commend them to God and the hope of life eternal.

Bishops and Spouses

Bishop William Wesley Morris

Julia Wilke

Eunice Mathews

Bishop Federico J. Pagura was elected in 1969 to The UMC but then became an autonomous bishop when his area went autonomous.

Louise Baird Short

Kathleen Thomas-Sano

Bishop Franz W. Schäfer

Bishop Emerson Colaw

Ruth Thomas

Gwen White

Bishop Moisés Fernandes

Thelma H. Newman

Bishop John Wesley Hardt

Angelina Nacpil

Dorothy S. Lee

Bishop Ruediger Minor

Lucile Wheatley	
Bishop Bevel L. Jones III	
Melvena Nagbe	
Mary Ann Hunt	
Bishop Benjamin Chamness	
Bishop William B. Oden	
Mary Jean Russell	
Bishop Judith Craig	
Bishop Dale White	
Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks	
Lila Elaine Hicks	
Linda Carder	
Bishop R. Kern Eutsler	
Bishop Mike Coyner	
Virginia Clymer	
Sherrie Dobbs Johnson	
Marie Webb	
Betty Boulton	
Ruth Handy	
Bishop John K. Yambasu	
Martha Carson Hardt	

Bishop J. Woodrow Hearn

Ina Schowengerdt Polly Hodapp Anne Hearn Brad Kiesey Bishop F. Herbert Skeete Bishop Daniel C. Arichea, Jr. Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel Bishop Beverly J. Shamana Jeffrey Swenson Dania Aben Soriano Jack D. Middleton Bishop Wilbur Choy Marji Tuell Rose King Shimba Ntambo Annegret Klaiber **Bishop John Russell** Bishop Robert H. Spain Christiana K. Dabale Socorro Granadosin Syble Spain Zoe Wilson Bishop Marshall (Jack) Meadors, Jr. Etta Mae Mutti Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Bishop Melvin Talbert Lurleen L. Juan **Bishop Thomas Stockton** Bishop João S. Machado **Bishop William Boyd Grove** Bishop Calvin D. McConnell Bishop Solito K. Toquero Velma McConnell **Bishop Timothy Whitaker Judicial Council** Ruben T. Reyes **Delegates** Yed Esaie Angoran Doudoue Gabriel Basse Eugene Niagne Lasme Susan Elizabeth Brown Junius Boyd Dotson Nathan David Stanton Anna K Kpaan Cyprus Saye Chijika Clement Kongolo Fidele Mpwej Ngandu Autura Eason-Williams Turner Arant

Américo Julião Nhassengo	Betty Spiwe Katiyo
Heath Andrew Husted	Themba Siwela
Glenn Leland Ethridge	Clara Zamchiya
Gypsin Kyenge Nsungu Ilunga	John Mark Lawson
Rebecca Kamwang Mwad	Previous Staff
John Herschel Beard	David Atkinson
Noriko Yokokawa Lao	DeWayne Woodring
Ntshakal Yav	Faith Richardson
Cornelia Anne Clark	Beth Steed
Donna Fay West	Debra Tyree
Darlene Vancamp Amon	Leonard Young
Carl Lee Moravitz	Ellen Natt
Allen Alvaro	Mary Catherine Dean

Election Results from May 1

The following people were elected for the Judicial Council, University Senate, Secretary-Designate of the General Conference, and the John Street United Methodist Church Board of Trustees.

Judicial Council

Laity:

Harriett Jane Olson (8-year term)

Molly Hlekani Mwayera (8-year term)

Bill Wadell (4-year term)

Andrew Vorbrich (4-year term)

Clergy:

Angela Brown (8-year term)

Susan Henry-Crowe (8-year term)

Jonathan Ulanday (8-year term)

Øyvind Helliesen (4-year term)

Luan-Vu Tran (4-year term)

Lay Alternates:

Erin Hawkins

Jessica Vittorio

Kent Fulton

Thomas Lee

Thomas Starnes

Laurie Day

Clergy Alternates:

Tim Bruster

Taylor Walters Denyer

Paul Perez

Beverly Wilkes Null

Mark Grafenread

Kate Croskery-Jones

University Senate

Chief Executive Officers of United Methodist-Related Educational Institutions:

Bishop Grant Hagiya Candace Lewis

Other Positions Relevant to Academic or Financial Affairs or Church Relationships:

Kim Ingram Lisa Garvin

Secretary-Designate of the General Conference

Aleze Fulbright

The John Street United Methodist Church Board of Trustees

Alan Stapler, Manhattan

Jim Hohenstein, Manhattan

Jay Cardwell, Peconic, New York

Rosalie Bonner, Manhattan

Jackie Landler, Longmont Island City, New York

Ray Rogers, Sea Cliff, New York

Andrew Bain, Brooklyn, New York

Scott Slobodnyak, Manhattan, New York

Sheryl Parkinson, Manhattan, New York

Resident Bishop of the New York Annual Conference – *ex officio*

GCORR Equity Monitoring Report No. 9

The power of words that stigmatize, marginalize, and diminish the full humanity of people can never be underestimated. When words are codified into rules, policies, and practices of discrimination, harm prevails over love. Equity is about creating access. Actions of the General Conference on May 1, 2024 changed systems, policies and practices that had excluded an entire group of people since 1972.

Within the history of our beloved Church are examples of codified exclusion of groups of people viewed as too dangerous, sinful, weak, impure, broken, unworthy, and/or defective to be fully included in the ministries, leadership, and membership of the denomination. Racism, xenophobia, sexism, and homophobia mark our evolution as a denomination. We acknowledge Indigenous women, children, and men; captured/ enslaved African women, children, and men; African Americans; immigrants from many lands; women; and LGBTQIA+ individuals who have been deeply harmed by the Church. Our denomination has evolved to acknowledge active participation in racism, colonialism, xenophobia, sexism, and homophobia, sometimes with apology and repentance, sometimes not.

During Wednesday's Plenary session, an historic event occurred in the quiet act of approving Consent Calendar A05 by a vote of 692-51 (93%). Among the items in the calendar was one that

finally removed the "incompatible with Christian Teaching" language used against LGBTQIA+ people for 52 years. Then the quiet moment erupted into song and celebration. As delegates voted on this impactful legislation, it likely brought about what psychologists refer to as cognitive dissonance, when a person or group holds two seemingly opposing ideas at the same time. When the consent calendar was overwhelmingly approved, removing the incompatibility language from the Book of Discipline, there were moments of deep release and acknowledgment that after 52 years, new freedom is now possible, particularly for the United States and European regions of the UMC. This is one of the ideas in cognitive dissonance. The other is our desire is to maintain a vibrant and genuine relationship among regions worldwide. The 93% affirmation is clear and required votes from all across the worldwide conferences present. Yet, we do not know yet how the decision to remove the language will be received in some Central Conferences and Annual Conferences when delegates and bishops return home. Maintaining unity and strong genuine relationships requires that we understand that regions may process the understanding and impact of the decisions at a different pace over time.

As these discussions and those on the projected changes to the pension program for clergy from the United States, we have observed a greater diversity of delegates coming forward to speak to the issues. This is an encouraging sign.

Bishop David Wilson, Great Plains Episcopal Area, and first Indigenous (Choctaw Nation and Cherokee heritage) Bishop of The United Methodist Church, challenged delegates to make decisions with a mindfulness of how those choices will affect the next seven generations, not on selfinterest. Last evening we rejoiced in the installation of Bishop Tracy Smith Malone as the first Black woman President of the Council of Bishops. A new day has dawned. Then, as delegates and observers departed the building, a rainbow appeared over the Convention Center, giving hope in the promise of calm after a storm. It prompted one observer to post a devotional scripture on social media:

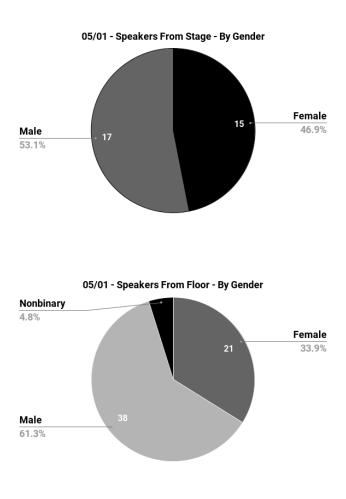
"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79 NRSV)

GCSRW Monitoring Report, May 2

Our Wednesday morning worship carried the theme of us all being surrounded by a rich cloud of witnesses. The Oklahoma Indian Missionary General Administration Choir, the sermon by Bishop David Wilson, and the music of the choir from the Philippines all caused us to remember those who have gone before us and who now witness our actions. Hearing Bishop Wilson speak of our "Creator God" allowed us to move beyond gender-limiting language. As the names of the Bishops, spouses of Bishops, and delegates who now watch over us from the other side were read, we were reminded of the great faith heritage that brought us to this day.

As we moved into the plenary session, we greeted many of our friends from other Methodist denominations. By their presence today, we were reminded of another circle of witnesses born out of our Wesleyan roots, and we give thanks.

The morning saw historic action as the delegates voted to approve the Consent Calendar, and by that action, removed the hurtful language toward our LGBTQ+ siblings from the *Book of Discipline*. That action demonstrated that sometimes the "cloud of witnesses" is as close as the other side of the voting bar of the conference, and even within the bar.



Now, this report turns to how we extend our witness by examining the voices that get heard in our gathering during these two weeks. Today we saw a balance of voices who spoke from the platform during the plenary session. At the time of this submission, 17 males and 15 females had spoken. However, that story continues to be different from the balance of speakers from the floor of General Conference. We have seen the speakers from the floor dominated by male speakers—61.7% of the speakers were male, 33.3% of the speakers were female, and 5.0% of the speakers were nonbinary. We must continue to be more cognizant of how our individual decisions to speak may be preventing another's voice from being heard. We heard a word of invitation from the afternoon's presiding Bishop, Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, who encouraged the body to create space for those who have not spoken yet. Selfawareness for those who tend to speak often was encouraged. Thank you, Bishop!

A word to those who are presiding: It has been called to our attention the need for those who preside to address all delegates in a uniform manner. On Wednesday, we heard a presider call on speakers, identifying them as "Delegate (last name)." This approach treated every delegate with equal dignity and respect.

As we go into a new day, nearing the end of our time together, let us work hard to guard each person's dignity.

Calendar Items Voted Together

During the morning plenary session on May 1, a motion was made to bundle all remaining calendar items supported by their legislative committee with 20 or fewer votes against, with the exception of items with constitutional impact, items with minority reports, items already moved from a consent calendar, and items that had been requested to be brought to the floor that were not supported by the legislative committee.

The list below was prepared and distributed to delegates at the afternoon plenary session on May

1. Delegates were given the opportunity to review the list and submit a form to remove an item from the bundle with signatures from 20 delegates.

Calendar items 241, 442, and 451 were removed because the plenary had already taken action on them that morning. Calendar items 454, 461, 535, and 554 were removed from the list by request.

All remaining calendar items on the list were bundled and voted together. They were adopted on May 1 by a vote of 606 Yes, 91 No.

Calendar	
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Petition # Page Sub 21062 1577 Clai 21063 1577 Clai 21053 Nev Clai 20053 203 Nev 20053 223 Nev 20053 223 Nev 20054 23 Nev 20055 233 Nev 20056 1311 Sus 20986 1367 Res 20985 1367 Res 20985 1367 Res 20985 1367 Res 20985 1366 Res 20167 621 Atli 20167 621 Atli 20167 621 Atli 20346 881 C00 20346 881 C0	PageSubject/Sujet/Assunto/Sujets1577Clarifying Central Conference Adaptability of Theological Texts1577Clarifier l'adaptabilité des textes théologiques à la Conférence centrale1577Clarifier l'adaptabilité des textes théologiques à la Conférence centrale1578Esclarecer a Adaptabilité des Textos Teológicos da Conferência Central1579Kufafanuwa Kubadilika kwa Maandishi ya Theologique ya Mukutano Mukubwa223New Social Principle on Guns and Gun Violence223Nouveau principe social sur les armes à feu et la violence armée123Novo Princípio Social sobre Armas e Violência com Armas	Accine+
1577 223 223 1311 1311 1367 1366 1366 621 621 881		Against
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223 1311 1316 1366 1366 621 621 881	<u> </u>	
1311 1311 1367 1366 1366 621 881	Vouveau principe social sur les armes à feu et la violence armée Vovo Princípio Social sobre Armas e Violência com Armas	19
1311 1367 1366 1366 621 881	Vovo Princípio Social sobre Armas e Violência com Armas	
1311 1367 1367 1366 621 881		
1311 1367 1366 1366 621 881	Kanuni mupya ya kijamii ku Violence ya Mabunduki na Bunduki	
1367 1366 1366 621 881	Sustainable Practices for Annual Conference Sessions	17
1367 1366 1366 621 881	Pratiques durables pour les séances de la Conférence annuelle	
1367 1366 1366 621 881	Práticas Sustentáveis para as Sessões da Conferência Anual	
1367 1366 621 881	Mazoezi Endelevu kwa Vikao bya Mukutano wa Kila Mwaka	
1366 621 881	Resolution on the Protection and Equity for Hispanic/Latino Clergy	19
1366 1366 621 881	Résolution sur la protection et l'équité pour le membre du clergé hispanique/latino	
1366 1366 621 881	Resolução sobre a Protecção e Equidade para os Clérigos Hispano-Latinos	
1366	Azimio ya Ulinzi na Usawa kwa Wachungaji wa Kihispanique/Latino	
621	Resolution for a Better Church: Strengthening the Work of Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministry	12
621 621 881	Résolution pour une meilleure église : Renforcer le travail du ministère interracial et interculturel	
621 621 881	=	
621 881	Azimio ya Kanisa Bora: Kuimarisha Kazi ya Huduma ya Ukabila/Benye Binaweza Tumika mu Culture Zote	
881	ALL BELONG: Expansive Ministry Contexts	13
881	TOUS SONT MEMBRES : Contextes de ministère expansif	
881	TODOS PERTENCEM: Contextos de Ministérios Expansivos	
881	BOTE APPARTENANT: Contextes ya Ministere yenye Inaongezeka	
	COSROW Support for Central Conference Women	11
	COSROW : Soutien des femmes dans les conférences centrales	
Apc	Apoio da COSROW à Conferência Central Mulheres CGEPM	
Mu	Musaada ya COSROW ku Banamuke ba Conférence Centrale	
20411 944 lmr	Immediate Family Definition	11
Déf	Définition de la famille immédiate	
Def	Definição de Familiar Imediato	
Ufa	Ufafanuzi wa Familia ya Karibu	

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ltem #	Page	Petition #	Page	Subject/Sujet/Assunto/Sujets	Against
				Reporting Church's Progress on Facilities Becoming Carbon Neutral and/or Having Net Zero Greenhouse Gas	
244	2100	20417	947	Emissions	13
				Compte rendu des progrès de l'église relativement à la quête d'un bilan neutre en carbone et/ou d'un niveau d'émission zéro dans ses installations	
				Comunicar o Progresso da Igreja relativamente às Instituições que se tornam Neutras em Carbono e/ou com Emissões de Gás de Estufa Líquidas Zero	
				Kuriporti Maendeleo ya Kanisa juu ya Vifaa vya kuwa carbon Netral na/au kuwa na Uzalishaji wa Gesi Nyeusi ya Zero ya Zero	
245	2100	20413	944	Annual Carbon Footprint and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Audit for Local Churches	14
				Audit annuel de l'emprunte carbone et des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans les églises locales	
				Auditoria Anual da Pegada de Carbono e Emissões de Gases de Estufa para as Igrejas Locais	
				Utaratibu wa ukugazi wa kaboni kila mwaka na ukaguzi wa uzalishaji wa gesi chafu kwa makanisa ya kienyeji	
247	2100	20928	1656	Make Current the Readmission After Termination Process	13
				Mettre à jour le processus de réadmission après suspension	
				Atualizar o processo de readmissão após o processo de conclusão	
				Fanya Busomaji wa Sasa Baada ya Processus ya Kukomesha	
442	2177	21087	1359	Remove Disaffiliation Agreement	12
				Supprimer l'accord de destitution	
				Remover o Acordo de Desfiliação	
				Tosha Makubaliano ya Mugawanyiko	
445	2177	20121	395	Building a Fully Inclusive Church	18
				Bâtir une Église pleinement inclusive	
				Construir uma Igreja Totalmente Inclusiva	
				Kujenga Kanisa Entièrement Inclusive	
446	2177	20122	396	Building a Fully Inclusive Church	18
				Bâtir une Église pleinement inclusive	
				Construir uma Igreja Totalmente Inclusiva	
				Kujenga Kanisa Entièrement Inclusive	
447	2178	20123	396	Building a Fully Inclusive Church	20
				Bâtir une Église pleinement inclusive	
				Construir uma Igreja Totalmente Inclusiva	
				Kujenga Kanisa Entièrement Inclusive	

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ltem #	Page	Petition # Page		Subject/Sujet/Assunto/Sujets	Against
448	2178	20124	396	Building a Fully Inclusive Church	20
				Bâtir une Église pleinement inclusive	
				Construir uma Igreja Totalmente Inclusiva	
				Kujenga Kanisa Entièrement Inclusive	
449	2178	20142	404	Building a Fully Inclusive Church	19
				Bâtir une Église pleinement inclusive	
				Construir uma Igreja Totalmente Inclusiva	
				Kujenga Kanisa Entièrement Inclusive	
451	2178	20199	509	Administrative Services	12
				Services administratifs	
				Serviços Administrativos	
				Huduma ya Utawala	
452	2178	20940	1447	Compensation for Extension Ministries Not to be Published	11
				Indemnisation pour les ministères spécifiques à ne pas publier	
				Compensação para Ministérios de Extensão que não será publicada	
				Mushahara kwa Huduma za Vulgurasation Azitachapishwa	
454	2178	20173	623	Chastity instead of "Celibacy"	19
				« Chasteté » au lieu du « célibat »	
				Chasteté badala ya "Célibat"	
459	2179	20657	920	Counsel for Complainant	19
				Avocat(e) du plaignant	
				Aconselhamento para o Queixoso	
				Ushauri kwa Malalamiko	
460	2179	20352	916	No Compensation for Judicial Council Members or Alternates	16
				Pas de rémunération pour les membres ou suppléants du conseil judiciaire	
				Sem Compensações para os Membros do Conselho Judicial ou Suplentes	
				Hakuna Compensation ku Bajumbe ba Conseil ya Mahakama ao	
461	2179	20357	918	Clarify Role of the Judicial Council as Related to Judicial and Administrative Appeals	20
				Clarifier le rôle du Conseil judiciaire en lien avec les appels judiciaires et administratifs	
				Clarificar a Função do Conselho Judicial relativamente aos Recursos Judiciais e Administrativos	
				Clarifier Rôle ya Conseil ya Mahakama ngizi Inahusina na Mahakama na Appels ya Utawala	

Potential Consent Calendar

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Calendar	DCA		ADCA		# Votes
ltem #	Page	Petition #	Page	Subject/Sujet/Assunto/Sujets	Against
462	2179	21054	1610	Clarity for Church Conference Authority	13
				Clarté pour l'autorité de l'assemblée de circuit	
				Clareza para a Autoridade da Conferência de Igreja	
				Uwazi kwa Mamlaka ya Mkutano wa Kanisa	
464	2180	20419	1021	Next Generation UMC #7-Candidacy	20
				Candidature n° 7 EMU de la prochaine génération	
				IMU da Próxima Geração N.º 7 – Candidatura	
				Kizazi kijacho UMC #7-Uraia	
535	2235	20730	208	Revised Social Principles-161 and 162	15
				Principes sociaux révisés-161 et 162	
				Princípios Sociais Revistos – 161 e 162	
				Kanuni Révisés za Kijamii-161 na 162	
536	2235	21090	1245	Aging in the United States: The Church's Response	2
				Vieillissement aux États-Unis : La réponse de l'Église	
				Envelhecer nos Estados Unidos: A resposta da Igreja	
				Kuzeekeya mu Etats-Unis: Wajibu ya Kanisa	
548	2237	20716	978	Local Discernment of Marriage and Wedding Services	16
				Discernement local des services matrimoniaux et de mariage	
				Discernimento Local de Cerimónias de Casamento e Matrimónio	
				Utambuzi Locale ya Huduma za Ndowa na Harusi	
549	2237	20315	982	Building a Fully Inclusive Church	12
				Bâtir une Église pleinement inclusive	
				Construir uma Igreja Totalmente Inclusiva	
				Kujenga Kanisa ya Entièrement Inclusive	
554	2237	20897	1637	Granting Sacramental Authority to Deacons in Their Ministry Setting	18
				Accorder une autorité sacramentelle aux diacres dans leur cadre ministériel	
				Conceder Autoridade Sacramental aos Diáconos no Seu Ambiente de Ministério	
				Kutoa Mamulaka ya Kisakramenti kwa Mashemasi katika Ma cadre ya Huduma Yabo	
556	2238	20471	1042	Retain Annual Conference Authority in Recognizing Ordination	12
				Conserver l'autorité de la Conférence annuelle en matière de reconnaissance de l'ordination	
				Manter a Autoridade da Conferência Anual no Reconhecimento da Ordenação	
				Boresha Mamlaka ya Mukutano wa Mwaka katika Kujuwa Udhibiti	