



## HOST COMMITTEE RECEIVES CONFERENCE THANKS

Chairmen of 28 local committees were presented to the Conference Friday morning by Fran Faber, Minnesota Conference lay leader and chairman of local arrangements. He praised the work of the 200 Minnesota Methodists who worked on sub-committees. J. Wesley Hole expressed the thanks of the General Conference for the thorough preparations made for the coming of two thousand out-of-state delegates and visitors.

## Conference Elevates Seven to Judicial Council

Methodism's Judicial Council, sometimes called the "supreme court" in the three-branch structure of the church, has five members elected by this General Conference.

Elected on the first ballot was J. Ernest Wilkins, lawyer and assistant Secretary of Labor, highest government post ever held by a Negro. He is secretary of the Judicial Council and was re-elected for an eight-year term.

Rev. A. Wesley Pugh, pastor of First Church, Marion, Ind., was also elected on the first ballot. He is serving his first year in Marion. From 1949 to 1955 he was superintendent of the Fort Wayne district.

### Second Ballot Results

On the second ballot Rev. Lester A. Welliver, former president of Westminster Theological seminary and now superintendent of the Williamsport district, was elected.

The third ballot brought the election of Rev. R. F. Curl, superintendent of the

San Antonio District. The same ballot resulted in the election of another layman, Donald A. Odell, an attorney of Los Angeles.

Rev. J. Russell Throckmorton, Hays District superintendent, was chosen on the fifth ballot, which completed the election of ministerial members of the Judicial Council. Judge Ivan Lee Holt of St. Louis, Mo. was elected in the seventh ballot to complete the lay group.

Ministerial reserves elected were: Rev. H. Hughes Wagner, for 20 years pastor of Trinity Church, Springfield, Mass.; Rev. Ben. H. Christner, executive director of Methodist Homes and Institutions in the Colorado Conference; and Rev. Walter G. Williams, professor at the Iliff School of Theology.

Lay reserves chosen include: Paul R. Ervin, lawyer of Charlotte, N. C.; Robert D. Blue, attorney of Eagle Grove, Ia.; Leon E. Hickman, businessman of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Samuel W. Witwer, Jr., lawyer of Chicago, Ill.

## J. Ernest Wilkins Heads Judicial Council

J. Ernest Wilkins is the new president of the Judicial Council, elected May 5. Mr. Wilkins, a member of St. Mark's church in Chicago, is assistant secretary of labor of the United States government. His address is United States Department of Labor, Room 3104, Washington 25, D.C.

Vice-president is Clarence M. Dannelly, 127 Magnolia Curve, Montgomery 6, Ala., North Alabama Conference.

Rev. Ralph M. Houston, pastor of the Hempstead (N.Y.) church, was elected secretary. His address is 112 Long Drive, Hempstead, N.Y., New York East Conference.

## Worldwide Prayer Vigil Undergirds Conference

Following a suggestion made by missionaries, a prayer vigil for the General Conference is being held around the world.

A missionary from near-by Canal Zone reports: "The official board of the Seawall Methodist church voted unanimously to sustain you and every one who has a responsibility in the General Conference with our prayers."

A cable from Okinawa states that "Church of Christ leaders and missionaries

### PROGRAM FOR TODAY

Monday, May 7

#### MORNING

8:30 a.m.—Morning Devotions  
Bishop Donald H. Tippett

9:00 a.m.—Business of the Conference



Presiding  
This Morning

Bishop  
Ivan Lee Holt  
Missouri Area

in Okinawa praying for General Conference."

Miss Florence Chen, a member of the prayer groups organized by Madam Chiang Chai-shek, is here. Miss Mary Cullen White, a long-time missionary in China, has headed a prayer group at Oxford, Ga. And there are many other that have grown out of missionary experience.

"This conference has been undergirded by a spirit of prayer," says Rev. Thomas Carruth of the Board of Evangelism. "If there had been a national prayer movement in 1843-44, the Methodists might not have split at that time."

## Will Seek \$1,000,000 for Four-year TV Program

Methodist hope that a churchwide fund appeal will produce a million dollars a year for the denomination's expanded "television ministry." Permission for a special fund campaign, but with no financial goal stipulated, has been granted by the General Conference.

"When the more than nine million Methodists in the United States have a chance to respond, I believe they will provide at least a million dollars a year for television," said the Rev. Dr. Robert E. Goodrich, Jr., Dallas, Texas.

He is chairman of the television production committee of the Methodist Television, Radio and Film Commission, which has its studios in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Goodrich said the million-dollar goal is more than three times as much as Methodists were asked to give annually to the church's television projects in a special fund appeal during the last two years.

A Methodist series, "The Way," is currently appearing on more than 100 television stations. The 30-minute dramas, stressing religion in every day life, are released through the National Council of Churches. An earlier series, "The Pastor," is still appearing on numerous stations.

### MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Monday, May 7

THE PRELUDE: The people in devout meditation

HYMN Number 17

THE PRAYER

THE MESSAGE: Bishop Donald H. Tippett

HYMN Number 469

THE BENEDICTION

# An Open Letter to Women Ministers

FROM ONE OF THEM

Dear Friends:

Since it has been my high privilege to be a visitor at the 1956 General Conference, and since I was given the courtesy of visiting the Committee on the Ministry when the memorials concerning clergy rights for women were being discussed, I feel impelled to share these observations with you and with our whole church.

First, let me say how deeply I appreciate the friendly welcome given to me during the Conference by pastors and laymen alike, and how grateful I am to those who sent me to Minneapolis.

Now it is up to us to prove in clear and deep witness to the whole church our consecration and our loyal devotion to the work of the Kingdom of God. Those Conferences and District Superintendents who have had experience with women pastors were on the whole favorable to this legislation. Those who had not had women on their Approved Supply list were, and still are, wondering how it will work out.

It seems to me more important than it has ever been for us who are now in the active ministry to prove our sincerity and our effectiveness by joyful and grate-

ful diligence in our appointed tasks. We must recognize that we are "on trial" not only in our Conferences but before the world-wide church. Let us resolve to be ministers in every fine and high sense of the word. Let us avoid the sin of aggressiveness which will certainly detract from our Christian witness, but rather with modesty and quiet dignity so conduct ourselves in the Conference that our brothers will be glad they have enacted this legislation. Let us be especially careful not to ask for nor expect what one brother called 'petticoat privileges'.

We are being given the same Conference relationship as the men. Let us be equally ready to carry our share of Conference responsibility, and remember our Lord's word about seeking the lowest place. It is a responsibility that calls for maturity of attitude and allows no self-pity on any score. In small things as well as in great we must walk worthy of the high calling, in the sight of the Church as well as in the sight of the Lord. To this end let us labor and pray in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sincerely,  
MARGARET HENRICHSEN

## Four Jurisdictions Organize "Colleges of Bishops"

Bishops of four of the six jurisdictions of The Methodist Church have organized their several "Colleges of Bishops" in meetings held during the General Conference. The other two will hold their elections in connection with the coming Jurisdictional Conferences.

Officers by Jurisdictions are as follows:

North Central: president, Bishop D. Stanley Coors, St. Paul, Minn.; vice-president, Bishop Edwin E. Voight, Aberdeen, S.D.; secretary, F. Gerald Ensley, Des Moines, Iowa.

Northeastern: president, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, Philadelphia, Pa.; secretary, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Syracuse, N.Y.

South Central: president, Bishop William C. Martin, Dallas, Texas; secretary, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Oklahoma City.

Western: president, Bishop Donald H. Tippett, San Francisco, Calif.; secretary Bishop Gerald Kennedy, Los Angeles.

Announced earlier were the elections to the Council of Bishops—president, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Syracuse, N.Y.; president-designate, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Oklahoma City, Okla.; secretary Bishop Roy H. Short, Nashville, Tenn.

## Newspaperman's Name Omitted

The name of the *Wichita* (Kansas) *Eagle* was inadvertently omitted from the list of newspapers which have reporters covering the General Conference. The Rev. Dr. Albert E. Kirk, church editor, has been here throughout the conference and has filed full stories to his paper.

## DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
METHODIST CHURCH, 1956

T. OTTO NALL ..... Editor  
GRANT J. VERHULST ..... Managing Editor  
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If you will approve, lift the hand; contrary, like sign.  
It is approved.

**Opportunity for Evangelism**

RAY RAGSDALE: Calendar Report No. 78, which is our Committee Report No. 16, concerning the Opportunity for Evangelism.

It has been spoken of before that we have faced an unprecedented opportunity for evangelism with the anticipated population growth in the United States, 63 million people in this country in the next 20 years, and nearly 70 million people unchurched now which is more than the total population in 1890.

We call upon the General Conference to request its boards and agencies to emphasize the reaching and developing of the spiritual life of these people in expanding America, and we request our Board of Evangelism to give particular attention to assisting the local churches in motivating their members, leading them in an intensive and extensive evangelistic program which will result in thousands of new churches and adequate supply of new ministers and the reaching of millions of unchurched people for Christ and his church.

I heartily recommend the adoption.

BISHOP HARRELL: I recognize the Brother here. Give your name and conference.

RALPH TAYLOR ALTON (Wisconsin, NC): With regard to this matter and the matter just adopted, they are a part of a group of recommendations which my study indicates to me will be presented by different commissions concerning quadrennial emphases; and in implementing them I wonder if it is the plan that these be referred to the Quadrennial Commission on the Local Church in the Annual Conference which we adopted the other day on the recommendation of the Coordinating Council.

RAY RAGSDALE: I am sure, sir, this could be done very well. It was our thought not to be in competition with the Quadrennial Program at all, but simply to give additional grist to the mill.

RALPH TAYLOR ALTON: As I read the report of that Quadrennial Committee on the Local Church, it indicated as points of emphasis to which this seems to me to refer, and I would like to have a correlation between this recommendation and that of the Quadrennial Committee on the Annual Conference level, which would seem to me to implement this motion.

BISHOP HARRELL: Would you accept that?

RAY RAGSDALE: I accept that.

BISHOP HARRELL: It is accepted.

Did we vote on report no. 16, Mr. Secretary?

RAY RAGSDALE: Not yet.

BISHOP HARRELL: If you will ap-

prove report no. 16, Committee on Membership and Evangelism, lift the hand; contrary by a like sign.

It is done.

RAY RAGSDALE: Calendar report No. 79, and our Committee report No. 17, concerning Membership of Abandoned Churches.

This provides for the district superintendent to transfer into another Methodist church any members remaining from an abandoned church who have not already elected to arrange for their own transfers.

I move its adoption.

BISHOP HARRELL: Is there any discussion?

If you will approve, lift the hand; contrary by a like sign.

It is done.

Brother Smith, were you speaking to this motion?

**Smith Asks Reconsideration**

CHESTER A. SMITH (New York, NE): Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: I desire to move an amendment on page 373, column 3, by striking out—

BISHOP HARRELL: Wait one minute, Brother Smith. The chair certainly desired not to cut off any discussion, but this has already been approved and if you wish to go back to it it will be necessary for us to move reconsideration.

CHESTER A. SMITH: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP HARRELL: Is it seconded?

It is moved and seconded that report no. 17 of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism be reconsidered.

If you approve lift the hand. Contrary-minded by the same sign.

It is not reconsidered, Brother Smith.

CHESTER A. SMITH: I was trying to get the floor. I tried to get the floor after the chairman moved to accept the report. You did not recognize me, sir.

BISHOP HARRELL: The chair did not hear you, Brother Smith.

If the Conference does not move to reconsider, I do not see by what rule we could hear an amendment at this time.

CHESTER A. SMITH: I trust that henceforth you might recognize me when I make—

BISHOP HARRELL: I do not think the chair has been derelict at any time in recognizing you, Brother Smith.

Is the secretary ready?

CHARLES D. WHITE: The Committee on Ministry, Calendar No. 26—

BISHOP HARRELL: The secretary has the floor. He will finish the report and then I will recognize you.

CHARLES D. WHITE: —and 54, 128. The report, calendar No. 26, is found on page 192 of the DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

BISHOP HARRELL: Did someone ask for the floor here? Will the Chairman of this committee come forward?

I will recognize this person here. Please go to microphone no. 1.

MRS. HELEN C. WATERS (Delaware, C): I would just like to ask Mr. Ragsdale a question. What became of our report on the evangelists, and how they would be secured? We did have that.

RAY RAGSDALE: This is coming later. This does not complete our work.

MRS. HELEN C. WATERS: Thank you.

BISHOP HARRELL: We also have here on item 26 a minority report. Will the Secretary please direct us so that it may come before us—or the Chairman?

Can some one give us the page on which the minority report appears?

JAMES A. CHUBB (Nebraska, SC): Page 439. Mr. Chairman, whoever the chairman is for the minority report, I think he should come to the platform.

BISHOP HARRELL: Now, my friends, the minority report did not appear until this morning. I do not see how we can proceed with this matter unless we suspend the rules so that the minority report may be before us.

JAMES A. CHUBB: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP HARRELL: Is there a second? It is seconded.

If you will suspend the rules in order that the minority report may be considered, lift the hand; contrary by like sign.

It is done.

**Report on Clergy Rights for Women**

JAMES A. CHUBB: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Leiffer has suggested that we change one word at the bottom of this report on page 192, No. 26, under paragraph 313, and it should read this way, with your consent—this is purely parliamentary:

“Women are included in all provisions,” changing the word “foregoing.” He tells me it is better language and I think you would accept that.

Now, you have before you, of course, the report to which all of us have been looking forward. It has been discussed pro and con. I think there is nothing new about it. It is before you now and in order that you might have the story of how we worked on it in this Committee of the General Conference, I have asked Dr. Marvin Stuart of the California-Nevada Conference, chairman of the subcommittee, to present it.

MARVIN STUART (California-Nevada, W): Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: I must confess that when I was made chairman of this particular subcommittee and looked at the number of memorials we had to consider, I felt as if the roof had fallen in on me.

This might not have been true had I had more experience in prior conferences in working with either a committee or subcommittee, but I immediately recognized, as did the members of our subcommittee, that we had an issue before



Miss Cornelia Russell, executive secretary of Town and Country Work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, thanks Mrs. M. F. Pederson of Minnehaha church, for helping her find her lost earring, which was turned in to the Lost and Found desk

us which must be considered very carefully.

As you know, there were more than 2000 memorials on this subject.

Our first decision was to divide these memorials among members of the committee in groups of two members of the committee, and each memorial was considered; that is, we looked at all the memorials.

After we had done this and following a period of informal discussion, we decided that we would ask each member of the committee to express his or her opinion about this matter, raising questions or more particularly at this point indicating the point of view held by each person.

After this was done we agreed that we would take a straw vote on one matter, a clearcut straw vote on full clergy rights for women—Period!—or not.

When we had taken this straw vote by ballot, we realized that we had seven on one side and seven on the other.

We then came back and spent a number of hours in working on this.

Let me say that each one continued, without any thought of pressure, to think about this and to consider each point carefully.

I'd like to say that out of the Committee on Ministry, two members of that committee are on this particular committee.

One woman on our subcommittee said, "I came here to fight for full clergy rights for women," but she said it with a smile, which is quite different from an experience I had in the seminary when I had the opportunity to preach my first sermon.

I had come from a conservative background, and when I arrived at the seminary I was under the false impression that the faculty members and student body lacked a real religious experience, and so I could hardly wait until my first opportunity in preaching clothes when I could at least convert the professor and members of that class.

I worked hard on that sermon. I remember the subject, "Redemptive Creation," from the text "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

When I finished what I thought was a very persuasive presentation, my professor sat on the edge of the desk and said, "Marvin, your sermon would have been much more persuasive when, as you spoke about love, you had not gritted your teeth and pounded the desk so hard."

Now, the women on our committee presented the point of view which they had come to present in the spirit of love.

#### Committee Faced Two Decisions

After we had worked through this carefully without any thought of making a motion, turning especially to the district superintendents, who are on our committee, we recognized, as we went along, that we were up against two decisions; one, is this right as a matter of principle, the matter of full clergy rights for women. I think that almost, if not all, were persuaded that in principle we could not object to it.

The question then was faced, was this, are the difficulties, the practical difficulties in the way of this principle insurmountable?

We turned again, as I say, to our dis-

trict superintendents and as they presented very carefully, very persuasively some of the problems, practical problems, involved, it seemed to us that we were moving toward a conclusion which would, we realize, still be discrimination, would still be a compromise for some, but nevertheless which might be the most effective step which could be taken at this time.

Therefore, after hours of consideration, we finally came to the point where a member of the committee presented the action which you have before you. And this committee, which earlier in its deliberations had been divided on the more clearcut issue, seven to seven, now unanimously approved what you have before you.

I think that gives you a careful and a complete report on the subcommittee and the action taken by the subcommittee on Full Clergy Rights for Women.

JAMES A. CHUBB: You can see what the vote was. It was 40 for and 32 against and one not voting.

I think the parliamentary situation is that the minority report should be presented.

BISHOP HARRELL: The minority report should be presented.

JAMES A. CHUBB: I called for whoever is representing them.

BISHOP HARRELL: Brother, we are having the presentation of these reports. We are not open for argument yet, unless it is a question of information.

WILLIAM R. CANNON (North Georgia, SE): In Rule 23 it says the report should be perfected before the minority report is heard, is that correct?

BISHOP HARRELL: We are presenting the reports. We will perfect the majority report and perfect the minority report before a vote is taken.

WILLIAM R. CANNON: I wanted to add an amendment to this report before it is finally put.

DEWEY MUIR (Illinois, NC): My name is Dewey Muir from the Illinois Conference, a ministerial delegate, presenting, Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference, the minority report which you will find on page 439 of the DAILY ADVOCATE, Report No. 2. This is numbered 26 and 2.

DEWEY MUIR: I am requesting, Mr. Chairman, if it is possible, that in this report, if the substitute report is not adopted the privilege of presenting to the General Conference another substitute report, which would not come from the minority committee but from myself, will be granted.

BISHOP HARRELL: I do not know a rule by which that may be done.

DEWEY MUIR: I will ask for the privilege later.

BISHOP HARRELL: Very well, you ask for the privilege later and the Conference can act as it sees fit.

### Muir Presents Minority Thinking

DEWEY MUIR: I will not take your time to read the preliminaries. It is the recommendation of the minority group, nine of us who have participated or are participating in this, calling to your attention that in the general committee the vote was 40 to 32, which does not indicate any unanimity of opinion.

Our recommendation is that therefore it be resolved that this General Conference retain its present policy as it relates to candidates for the traveling ministry as stated in paragraph 313, "Discipline" of 1952.

The ability to preach and to give leadership in the church is not in any sense determined by sex. This is acknowledged. That some women have done excellent and outstanding work and service, is recognized. Ability to preach, to give leadership, have little to do with the real issue of granting full ministerial rights to women.

The General Conference has been deluged with a multiplicity of memorials dealing with this question. Not all of these memorials were in agreement that full right should be granted to women. Without examination, however, one might assume that the multiplicity of these memorials is a mandate from the churches and Conferences.

Upon examination of these memorials, because of their similarity of statement, one may well conclude that they have come from a limited segment of the church. Since the burden of these memorials has to do with full clergy rights for women, let us raise this question: what are full clergy rights and how are they constituted?

Ministerial rights we believe are vested in ordination rather than in Conference membership. Ordination is now available to the women of Methodism. We remind you that ordination, either as deacon or elder, gives to every recipient thereof, male or female, traveling preacher or local preacher, exactly the same rights, privileges, and prerogatives. There is no ministerial function or service which can be performed by an ordained elder who is a member of an Annual Conference, which cannot be performed by a local elder, man or woman.

The issue then becomes the sole matter of ministerial membership in an Annual Conference. It is the judgment of the ministerial members of the Committee on the Ministry that such request as has come before the General Conference is based upon a general theory that basically no privilege should be granted one sex which is denied to the other. In that noble sentiment we share. However, we are facing the realistic problems of administration of the law of the church. It is at this point that our conclusions differ from the majority report.

We submit to you that the proposed legislation is an admission of the administrative problems involved, for it proposes that admission to Conference membership shall be restricted to unmarried women and widows, and further provides that upon marriage, Conference membership of a traveling woman preacher shall be discontinued.

We remind you that our traveling ministry operates within an appointive system in which ministering to churches where appointed, and churches accept pastors appointed to them. If the proposed legislation is enacted, let us not assume that women preachers will be sent to little churches, to undesirable churches, to undesirable circuits, or places no one else wishes to fill.

Rather, let it be assumed that any church to which a bishop sees fit to appoint a minister will accept that appointment without raising any question as to the sex of the minister. In other words, admitting women to the traveling ministry ought never to be restrictive as to appointment, but opens the way for appointment of a woman minister to any church in Methodism.

We remind you that when any person is admitted as a ministerial member of an Annual Conference, the presiding bishop must appoint that person to a pastoral charge. If our charges operated upon a call system, the proposed legislation would present no problem, for under such a system a church would issue a call only to a minister whom the congregation desired.

### Implications of Appointive System

Under our appointive system, every ministerial member of an annual conference must be appointed to a pastoral charge or some special appointment of the Conference, whether there is a charge that wants that minister or not.

I am keenly aware of the problems involved in appointing some men to churches, yet no church has said, "No, we just do not want a man preacher." (Laughter) Yet in trying to appoint even good women ministers—and I remind you that I come from one of the Annual Conferences of Methodism which has in its ministerial membership a woman member, plus our quota of women who are approved supply pastors—yet in trying to appoint good women pastors, ministers, it is not uncommon for the answer to be, "We just do not want a woman minister."

In this, if they are—which we agree to, aside from the fact of the differences dependent on the fact that God created his children male and female, there ought to be no difference of standard or privilege based upon differences of sex.

### Asks Retention of Present Legislation

Practically, until those demanding such legislation are committed not only to the

legislation but to the receiving of women traveling preachers, not in general but in particular as pastors of their own particular charges, we are of the opinion that our present legislation, which does provide for ordination of women with all the rights appertaining thereto, but without membership in the ministerial membership of an Annual Conference, is best for our particular church.

I trust that the General Conference, not out of any spirit of division, not out of any spirit of ill-will, but only with a sense of the importance of the problem of administration, will see fit to adopt the substitute report.

Thank you.

BISHOP HARRELL: Let me call the attention of the Conference to the fact that we are within five minutes of the time for adjournment. Is there any desire to extend the time?

(Cries of "No," from the floor.)

BISHOP HARRELL: I recognize the brother over at microphone 4.

LEONARD D. SLUTZ (Ohio, NC): Mr. Chairman, I can say what I have to say long before the time for adjournment. I wish to move a substitute for report No. 2 as follows:

Paragraph 313 of the "Discipline" be amended to read as follows:

"Women are eligible for all orders of the ministry and full Conference membership, provided, however, that a woman may be left without appointment, and will be not located, whenever the Bishop and cabinet are satisfied that all reasonable efforts have been made and no suitable appointment for her can be found.

"Her status and pension rights shall then be the same as those of a minister who has located at his own request."

If I may have a second I would like to speak to it very briefly.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

LEONARD D. SLUTZ: Mr. Chairman, we have had the issue very well defined for us by these two presentations. We have been told that both groups desire to end discrimination but they are concerned with a practical problem, so we have been told we will reduce discrimination.

I submit that we would retain discrimination at one of the most important points. If my children are to be educated in the Sunday school, I would prefer that to be under the leadership of a married woman, rather than a single woman. I feel that a married woman with a normal family life is on the average better fitted to lead our church than is a single woman.

We have been told, however, that there is a distinct problem, a practical problem, that of obtaining appointments. I have talked with many district superintendents on that score who say that that is the real objection.

Then, on the other hand, I have talked with as many as I could reach, of the

They say this substitute would be discrimination, but would be acceptable. They say that what they are looking for is to be treated as equals. They want equal right and equal opportunity, where they are acceptable. They say they do not want a guaranteed appointment or a sure job or a guaranteed annual wage. But they want a right to be accepted where the church is willing to have them and where they can serve.

Therefore, I move this substitute.

**BISHOP HARRELL:** Wait at the microphone one moment. You are offering this as a substitute to the substitute?

**LEONARD D. SLUTZ:** No, I am offering this as a substitute to the main report, which is the item before us for perfection.

**BISHOP HARRELL:** The minority report is in the form of a substitute. It may be offered as an amendment to the minority report, if you so desire.

**BISHOP HARRELL:** Now we are at the time of adjournment, and the Chair can recognize no one else.

The secretary will please make the necessary announcements.

(Announcements)

**BISHOP HARRELL:** Let me thank the Conference for your courtesy and for the efficiency with which we have moved this morning. (Applause)

The gavel I hold in my hand is not an old one. It is not connected with the past, but with a dream and a future. It speaks of a glorious piece of work that has been approved by our church and that is being undertaken, a liberal arts college in Alaska. Let it be the symbol of that task achieved.

I will ask Bishop Baker to come forward and pronounce the benediction.

**BISHOP JAMES C. BAKER (R):** Now may God who is our source of hope fill us with all joy and peace in our faith that we may be filled to overflowing with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The Conference thereupon adjourned at 12:30 o'clock p.m.)

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

May 4, 1956

The session convened at 2:30 o'clock, Bishop Willis J. King presiding.

**BISHOP KING:** The Conference will be in order, please.

Dr. Houghton will announce our hymn. **JAMES R. HOUGHTON:** May we join in singing Hymn No. 324, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"?

(The Conference joined in singing Hymn No. 324, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind".)

**BISHOP KING:** We shall be led in our

prayer by Bishop Edgar A. Love, of the Baltimore area.

**BISHOP EDGAR A. LOVE:** You will remain standing.

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all earth. When we consider the heavens the work of thy hands, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou visitest him?

And then we hear the answer to our question, for thou hast made him a little lower than God and hast crowned him with glory and with honor. We rejoice in this hour that Thou hast crowned us with glory and with honor and we beseech thee, our Father, that thy glory may be reflected in us. We come to thee, our Father, that thy glory may be reflected in us. We come to thee, our Father, because we oftentimes lack wisdom and thou hast said if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally. Pour out upon us thy wisdom, let us see the way before us and then throw the light of thy presence in our pathway and give us the courage to walk in that light. Grant that we may ever hold close to thee in all that we do or say, that thy name may be honored and thy kingdom advanced in the earth. Let thy blessing rest upon all who are looking toward us in this hour. May we not fail them. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

**BISHOP KING:** Are there reports from any of the Administrative Committees? The Committee on Rules!

**A. WESLEY PUGH:** Mr. Chairman and members of the General Conference: The Committee of Chairmen feel that we have begun to make real progress in our consideration and adoption of the reports of our legislative committees, and we urge you to continue this very fine record that you have been making so that we shall give proper attention to all important matters and get through on time and without too much haste.

The committee would like to say this, that our Committee on the State of the Church has worked long and hard and had intended to have printed in this morning's *ADVOCATE* three reports. These reports your Committee feels should be presented tomorrow morning. They will be printed in the *ADVOCATE* tomorrow. The chairman of the committee feels that while these are very important and have to do with the social creed, family life, and matters of that kind, that probably only one of these reports will elicit debate. I am simply alerting the Conference now to the fact that tomorrow morning, at the suggestion of the Committee of Chairmen, we shall ask that the rules be suspended and that these three reports be considered following the recess probably of tomorrow, and following the order of the day which we have established then.

(Secretary Estes conferred with Dr. Pugh.)

**A. WESLEY PUGH:** I just said that it would be after the order of the day, following recess.

The point is that if you can find an occasion before the session tomorrow morning or sometime during the morning to read these three reports from the State of the Church carefully, you will then feel that you had an opportunity to think about them, and after 12 o'clock, after noon then, we will ask that they be considered.

### Resume Debate on Women

**BISHOP KING:** We shall resume the General Conference by calendar No. 26. The report is No. 2 that is before us. That has to be presented. There was an amendment made. I think we were under process of discussing that when we closed.

**ALLEN B. RICE (Northwest Indiana, NC):** I am one of those peculiar individuals that is neither fish nor fowl. I am a district superintendent, neither minister nor layman so far as I can see. I am speaking to this last amendment that was made. I am against discrimination, any kind of discrimination, and particularly that which throws in the lap of the cabinet the solution of such a ticklish and difficult problem as would be involved in the matter of deciding on their part whether or not a woman in such a position was or was not capable of being appointed.

I think that is the kind of a difficult spot to put the cabinet of any Conference in without the action of the Conference in particular. I certainly would be opposed, and I have a feeling that the district superintendents who are here in some numbers have enough trouble of their own already without being given this extra onerous kind of duty. I certainly am opposed to it.

**CLAUDE GARRISON (Ohio, NC):** Mr. Chairman—

**BISHOP KING:** The man in the rear, are you for the amendment or against it?

**CLAUDE GARRISON:** I am for it.

**BISHOP KING:** You may come to No. 4.

**CLAUDE GARRISON:** Members of the Conference, I belong to this same class which Brother Rice described as neither fish nor fowl, but I differ in opinion with him. It seems to me that under this amendment the cabinet, the bishop and the cabinet have a directive that if and when it becomes impossible to make an appointment for a given individual and all possibilities of such an appointment have been exhausted by the bishop and his cabinet, it is clearly out of their hands. I favor the amendment as it has been presented.

### Boyd Offers Substitute

**BISHOP KING:** Are you for the amendment or against it?

**MARVIN L. BOYD (Northwest Texas, NC):** Against.



The Choir from Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Ill., sang Saturday afternoon

I would like to offer a substitution and to inquire whether it is in order at this time.

**BISHOP KING:** There can be, as I understand it, one amendment to an amendment.

**MARVIN L. BOYD:** Yes, sir.

**BISHOP KING:** You have a substitute motion already. A substitute would not be in order; but if this is an amendment, we can hear it.

**MARVIN L. BOYD:** I wish to offer it as a substitute when it is in order.

**BISHOP KING:** Yes, sir. Well, it would not be in order now.

**MARVIN L. BOYD:** My point is I would not want the previous question to be ordered and not have the privilege of offering it later.

**BISHOP KING:** We will give you opportunity, sir.

**ROBERT H. DUNCAN (Holston, SE):** Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: I am opposed to the amendment.

I do believe that it raises a question that is not fair to men and women. I would not vote for such a rule applying to us men.

I have an idea that other people, other Conferences, find the problem we have; namely, that many men would not get appointments except that we have a rule now that every man must be given an appointment.

I feel like we should not have a rule, a law, that would label people and suggest that churches might close their doors to these pastors.

I am against the amendment, Mr. Chairman, because I believe it does not get at the problem before us. It seems to me that the problem is the matter of women rearing a family and that is avoided in the original majority report when it applies to women who are not rearing families.

I am opposed to the amendment.

**BISHOP KING:** If you will hold your

point, my Brother, we have promised to recognize Dr. Lambdin who is representing the committee that is presenting the report.

**HENRY LYLE LAMBDIN (Newark, NE):** Mr. Chairman, a great question can be discussed on any one of several different levels.

The tendency in the discussion of the question concerning the admission of women into full conference membership tends to drift always to the administrative level. The arguments seem to center around the perplexity of the district superintendent who is trying to promote the Reverend Jane Doe, let us say, from Hard-scrabble Circuit to the First Church of Licksillet.

Pity the poor district superintendent, is the sum and substance of most of the arguments that have been presented. When I was a district superintendent the only time I needed any pity was when I was at the mercy of my fellow district superintendents, but I could always say, "Wait, for your day is coming."

After a district superintendent has had his first round with what someone has called the Attack Order of Pastor Relations Committees, he should have developed an epidermis that is tough enough to move a rhinoceros to envy. I don't pity the district superintendents because these men are a sturdy breed.

**BISHOP KING:** I beg your pardon. Are you speaking to the amendment?

**HENRY LYLE LAMBDIN:** Whatever their limitations, they are specialists in human relations.

**BISHOP KING:** Are you speaking for or against the amendment, sir?

#### Lambdin Speaks

**HENRY LYLE LAMBDIN:** I should like to suggest that there is another level at which the amendment and the whole question needs to be considered, and that is the sort of level that seems to me to be

expressed by Dr. Bosley's fine phrase of "hard final ground." Is this conference—in other words, is this conference prepared to say in the year of our Lord 1956 that no woman, however well qualified educationally, whatever demonstration she has given of gifts and grace and loveliness, no woman shall be called to God, to spiritual leadership within that part of the organizational structure of The Methodist Church that we call the Annual Conference?

Now, that is the issue, whether any woman, no matter what her qualifications—make the qualifications as exacting as you may—no woman shall be called to spiritual leadership within the organizational structure of the Methodist Church that we call the Annual Conference.

Are we prepared to say that no woman regardless of her qualification is not fit to be a member of an Annual Conference? That is the question before us.

**BISHOP KING:** As I understand it, may I state the situation as I understand it? You have the amendment offered by Dr. Slutz.

The rules say that we may have two speeches on either side, or both sides. I am not quite clear whether we have exhausted that or not, that is the situation.

**CHARLES F. GOLDEN (Lexington, C):** Mr. Chairman, I should like to move that we suspend the rules affecting this amendment in order that we might have ample debate at any point necessary.

**BISHOP KING:** Is the rule suspended? Is there a second?

As many as will approve the motion to suspend the rules let it be known by a show of hands. Opposed, the same sign.

The rules are not suspended.

**JOHN R. WILKINS (California-Nevada, W):** I have a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The point is that we have already had more than two speakers on each side of this amendment. It seems to me that unless we do suspend the rules that speeches should be at an end on the amendment.

**BISHOP KING:** I wasn't quite sure about the speakers.

**JOHN R. WILKINS:** I have a point of information here that might be very important.

Reading from the Constitution of our church, which is paragraph 22 of the "Discipline":

"The Annual Conference is the basic body in the church, and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of ministerial and lay delegates to the General and the Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, on all matters relating to the character and Conference relations of its ministerial members, and on the ordination of ministers, and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution."

Now, under the Constitution this matter is in the hands of the Annual Conference. Can a General Conference legislate and delegate that to the cabinet?

BISHOP KING: The matter before us at the moment, sir, is the vote on this amendment. By the rules we have had two speakers on both sides. The question now before you is the vote.

MERRILL C. JOHNSON (New York, NE): I have a point of information or interpretation. When an amendment is to substitute, sir, that limits debate on the original report, does it not? If we adopt the substitute we do not debate the original report.

BISHOP KING: This, sir, is not a substitute. It is an amendment, and we are clarifying the original motion.

MERRILL C. JOHNSON: It is an amendment to substitute. If we adopt this, we do not adopt the other.

BISHOP KING: The Chair understands that it is an amendment to the original report and this discussion is made with a view of clarifying and perfecting the original report.

MERRILL C. JOHNSON: I beg to differ.

BISHOP KING: We shall now listen to the chairman of the committee before the vote is taken.

JAMES S. CHUBB: Mr. Chairman, we did not quite know what to say about this. This is very much in the spirit of the same legislation you find in the majority report. We find ourselves inclined to enthusiastically continue to support the majority report because it is a compromise legislation. It opens the door and enables us to get rid of another form of discrimination. I hope you defeat the substitution.

BISHOP KING: We are ready for the vote, sir.

LEONARD D. SLUTZ (Ohio, NC): I made the motion and I ask the consent of the body to incorporate the amendment suggested by Dr. Wilkins. I am willing to accept the amendment if the body will permit me, and we would merely insert the words "left without appointment and with approval of the Annual Conference thereby located."

I ask permission to incorporate that in my motion.

BISHOP KING: Do I understand that you are asking that this be incorporated in the main report?

LEONARD D. SLUTZ: No, Bishop, in the motion that is now before you, the motion that I made, the substitute, the amendment. I ask that that be incorporated in the amendment that we are now about to vote upon.

Dr. Wilkins suggested there might be a constitutional question and we don't want to run into that trouble, so we can add those three words, and I ask permission to do so.

BISHOP KING: Is that right granted by the Conference by common consent?

I hear no objection.  
DELEGATE: May we have the amendment read with that insertion? Will the secretary give us that amendment with the insertion he suggested?

BISHOP KING: You will have to bring it to the desk, sir.

We shall have the amendment read at this time.

ERNEST W. PETERSON: This was written rather hurriedly. I will try to read it correctly. If this is incorrect, will the delegate who wrote this please correct me.

Many of the delegates have been given this mimeographed sheet during the noon recess. It reads in full:

"I move to substitute for report no. 2 of the Committee on the Ministry the following:

"That Paragraph 313 of the "Discipline" be amended to read as follows:

"Women are eligible for all orders of the ministry and full Conference membership; provided, however, that a woman may be left without appointment, and with action by the Annual Conference thereby located whenever the bishop and cabinet are satisfied that all reasonable efforts have been made and no suitable appointment for her can be found. Her status and pension rights shall then be the same as those of a minister who has been located at his own request."

BISHOP KING: The amendment is before you. As many as will support it let it be known by show of hands; opposed. It does not carry.

C. ANDERSON DAVIS (East Tennessee, C): Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP KING: C. Anderson Davis, East Tennessee Conference.

C. ANDERSON DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a substitute motion to the original report, if I am in order.

BISHOP KING: You are not in order, sir. There is a substitute, which is the minority report. You can only make an amendment at this time.

C. ANDERSON DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, I wish to amend by striking out the words, "that only unmarried women and widows may apply."

BISHOP KING: Is there a second?  
(Motion duly seconded)

C. ANDERSON DAVIS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: I am of the opinion that if we should pass this legislation without striking out this particular sentence we would still be discriminating against a large group of our women. In our own Annual Conference of the five women who are preachers, four of them are married women. These four married women have no children, or no home responsibility.

It seems there are many women who are married who would be more capable of carrying on this ministry than the women who are not married and those who are working.

NORMAN L. TROTT (Baltimore, NE):

Mr. Chairman, point of order.  
BISHOP KING: Norman Trott, Baltimore Conference.

NORMAN L. TROTT: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it we have a minority report before us, a substitute for the majority report. This gentleman is submitting an amendment to the majority report and should be out of order.

BISHOP KING: No, it is the majority report that is being perfected, sir, and being clarified. So he is in order if he is offering an amendment to the majority report.

C. ANDERSON DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, before I was interrupted—

BISHOP KING: I think you have exhausted your time.

C. ANDERSON DAVIS: I do not believe, Bishop and members of the Conference, that we should discriminate against any of the women. It is the same type of thing that prevailed when women were trying to get suffrage, to vote. If we discriminate against our women in this particular thing it does away with the whole principle of women having equal rights in any field.

Women who go into the field of medicine, into the field of law and similar fields do not crowd it and do not create a problem.

BISHOP KING: You have half a minute, sir.

C. ANDERSON DAVIS: I do not feel they would create a problem in the ministry. I feel that they would bring much dignity and add much to it. The district superintendents and the bishop have great problems at times placing our men who are in the ministry, and I am sure they would not have any more trouble placing the women. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: The amendment is before you.

OLIN D. JACKSON (Minnesota, NC): Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question on the minority report.

BISHOP KING: On the amendment?

OLIN D. JACKSON: On the minority report.

BISHOP KING: The minority report is not before us, sir. We are trying to perfect the majority report.

Everett W. Palmer, Southern California-Arizona Conference.

EVERETT W. PALMER (Southern California-Arizona, W): Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak in support of the amendment. We are in agreement, I think, by and large, that the principle at stake we support. Our problem is at the point of administration. We say it is more difficult to administer. However, we have two paragraphs in the "Discipline," Par. 375 and Par. 377, which will enable us, district superintendents and bishops, to deal with any woman who cannot be appointed satisfactorily. She can be dealt with exactly as a man can

be dealt with, and that is what they want.

We give them opportunity to have full rights in the clergy and to have full rights as members of the Conference. Then with the full rights come the responsibility of meeting the standards and being able to be appointed. If they cannot be appointed as acceptable they may be persuaded to accept voluntary location, and if they cannot be persuaded there is always the possibility of resorting to involuntary location.

I believe they may be dealt with when there is an administrative problem exactly as men are dealt with when they are administrative problems.

I hope we support this amendment. We need to do this thing and we will have to do it some day. Why not do it now and do it graciously?

BISHOP KING: Does anybody wish to speak against the amendment? We have exhausted the time of those who are to speak against it, I think.

#### Question of Location

JOE BOWERS (Oklahoma, SC): Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP KING: Joe Bowers, Oklahoma Conference.

JOE E. BOWERS: Mr. Chairman, theory is one thing and practice is another. We are all familiar, of course, with the fact that the "Discipline" does provide that a person may be located because of inefficiency or unacceptableness, but we also know the embarrassment that is brought to an Annual Conference when such a situation does arise.

A good deal of talk has been made about the predicament of the district superintendent in this matter. He is not the one who is on the spot at all. Actually it is the local church. I think it should be made perfectly clear here, as was made clear formerly in a statement concerning this originally, that if we support this we should support it with the understanding that it means the local church is willing to accept the appointment of a lady as a minister.

If we have the situation, as we have all had in our Annual Conferences and will have more repeatedly in our Annual Conferences if this substitution should pass, where an individual is unacceptable, it will not be as easy as one might think to simply bring about the embarrassing situation of publicly announcing that this person is not acceptable to be appointed, and therefore must be located.

In my honest opinion the women would be in a much poorer position with this substitute than they now are.

ASHOK B. SINGH (Bengal, OS): Mr. Chairman.

#### Mr. Singh of Bengal

BISHOP KING: The Bengal Conference.

ASHOK B. SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I want to make just a short statement. It will be for you to find out whether I am for the amendment or against the amendment. All I am for, Mr. Chairman, is for full clergy rights for women.

We from the far-flung ends of the world look up to America for inspiration and guidance in matters of progress and forward movement. I am amused at myself by the fact that I should come from the back woods of Bengal to champion the full clergy rights of the all-powerful American woman. (Laughter)

The sentiments displayed by some of the masculine men of this Conference can be traced to our country also.

Some 50 years ago, there goes a story, a friend went to a village on a hunting expedition. There by the side of a river stood a master boatman. He asked, "Do the crocodiles in the river cause any harm to human life?"

The master boatman smiled and casually replied, "No harm to human life. They occasionally carry away goats and women."

BISHOP KING: One-half minute.

ASHOK B. SINGH: I have not yet stated my case. This is just an introduction. (Laughter)

Mr. Chairman, I can trace this splendid sentiment of masculine men back to England. Samuel Johnson, the famous English writer, was told that a certain woman preached remarkably. He replied, "It may be remarkable preaching, sir, but it is not natural. Like a dog walking on his hind legs, you do not ask whether it is well done, but you are surprised that it is done at all."

I was wondering whether such is the sentiment that you express here.

BISHOP KING: Your time is exhausted, sir.

ASHOK B. SINGH: I should support full clergy rights for women. (Applause)

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE, (Ohio, NC): Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP KING: Are you for the amendment or against it?

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: I am neither for nor against it. I move to amend the amendment.

BISHOP KING: I think we have exhausted our rights to do that, Brother Radcliffe.

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: No, we have not, sir. An amendment to an amendment is in order.

BISHOP KING: All right, let's hear the amendment.

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: I move to amend Par. 313 to read, "Women are included in all provisions, except that married women can only be so included by a three-fourths vote of the Annual Conference."

Mr. Chairman, if I can have a second I would like to speak to that amendment. (Motion duly seconded)

BISHOP KING: If you will proceed, please.

#### Radcliffe Would Amend

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: A day or two ago this Conference took historic action, action that moved forward upon a great principle. We moved forward against discrimination in one realm.

I believe we should with equal seriousness and similar Christian spirit face the principle involved today. It is long since the battle has been fought for equality for rights of women. In this Conference I hope that we may take equal pleasure in moving forward, in our action today, in this realm.

I have put in the safeguard of a three-fourths vote of the Annual Conferences involved. Certainly if you have that much democracy at work I can trust it and so can you.

The principle, Mr. Chairman, is a great one. Let us not be confused on this issue. Let us not lose our way in the multiplicity of amendment and parliamentary situation. The principle is, does Jesus Christ treat woman as a child of God, entitled to the same privileges and rights as a man? I hope that we will not merely vote for the majority report and extend this right to unmarried women, but that we will likewise extend it under this safeguard of a three-fourths vote to the married women of our Methodism.

BISHOP KING: The amendment to the amendment is before you.

FARRIS F. MOORE (Tennessee, SE): Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP KING: Farris Moore, Tennessee Conference.

FARRIS F. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I am against the amendment which has been proposed by Brother Radcliffe, but I want to ask a question. In the matter of our talking about non-discrimination, if you will simply turn to the back of the "Discipline," on page 725, and take the word "deaconess" and move it down the page, you will discover that there is a category that is set up specifically for women. They allow no man to invade it. There are dozens of categories within the work of the church that no man is allowed to invade. If we are going to talk about discrimination let's talk about discrimination in all of the phases of the church's life.

I am against it. (Applause) I am in favor of retaining in the "Discipline" that which we already have.

#### Would Open to All

W. JACKSON HUNEYCUTT (West North Carolina, SE): Mr. Chairman, I am speaking against this amendment to the amendment, because I favor full clergy rights for women, without respect of their marital status. (Applause)

I would like to tell the Conference of a married woman approved supply pastor, who works in Western North Carolina, who in 1953 was selected as the rural minister of North Carolina for the year. Her name is Mrs. C. O. Newell. She worked on the Crabtree charge and the Waynesville district for a period of six years. Part of that time was as associate to her husband who was a Methodist minister.

During her ministry there, four weak churches of four-point charge were revived; two new churches were built. At the other two points, extensive renovations were made on the sanctuaries, and educational facilities were built.

I am heartily in favor of full clergy rights for women, regardless of whether they are married or unmarried.

**BISHOP KING:** We have had two speakers against the amendment. There is opportunity for one more in favor of it.

Are you in favor of it? Microphone No. 4.

**LANCE WEBB (Ohio, NC):** Mr. Chairman and members of this Conference: I would like to speak to this issue in favor of this amendment, to bring up a point which I do not think has yet been brought up—that is, concerning our lay preachers.

In Ohio we have had an increase in accepted supplies of about 73 per cent in the last few years. I assure you we have had some very fine local women preachers who have served acceptably in local charges, but it seems to me if we give them the full rights of belonging to the Conference, that we will be making it possible for many more women who have the ability and the training and all the qualifications, to respond to our need. Therefore, I believe that we should open the way.

This amendment, it seems to me, will remove the objections, or at least will make it possible for at least three-fourths of the vote of any Conference to decide whether a woman has the qualifications and does not have the drawbacks that would hinder her from serving acceptably. Therefore, I hope that we vote for this amendment.

**BISHOP KING:** We now hear from Dr. Chubb to close the debate on this amendment.

**JAMES S. CHUBB:** Mr. Chairman, I find myself very favorably impressed in its favor, but we have worked on the Committee and we got the type of compromise you would find in the majority report. I think perhaps on that basis and because we recognize here that we have a compromise, it would be well for the house to continue to support the majority report by continuing to reject the amendment.

**BISHOP KING:** The report is before you.

(Point of order called for.)

**BISHOP KING:** You have a point of order?

(The previous question was moved on all matters pertaining to the question.)

**BISHOP KING:** The previous question is called for. As many as will support the amendment—this is the amendment to the amendment—let it be known by a show of hands.

(Cries of "State the amendment," from the floor.)

**BISHOP KING:** The secretary will state the amendment to the amendment.

#### Reads Amendment Texts

**ERNEST W. PETERSON (Oregon, W):** The amendment to the amendment, offered by Mr. Radcliffe is as follows:

"Women are included in all provisions except that married women can only be so included by a three-fourths vote of the Annual Conference."

**BISHOP KING:** As many as will support the amendment to the amendment, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

The amendment to the amendment does not carry.

The amendment is before you.

**ERNEST W. PETERSON:** The amendment by C. Anderson Davis: "I move to strike out the words, 'that only unmarried women and widows may apply.'"

**BISHOP KING:** As many as will support the amendment let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

It does not carry.

Now we come to the original.

**JAMES A. CHUBB:** Now the majority report?

**BISHOP KING:** Now we are ready for the minority report.

The gentleman in front, microphone No. 2.

("This man right here was promised the floor," from the floor.)

**BISHOP KING:** We will let him speak afterwards. I have given this man at microphone No. 2 the floor.

**LACY H. BURNS (West Virginia, NE):** Mr. Chairman, I have lived too long and too happily to suggest to any woman at this late date that she probably doesn't know her mind. But I do have some serious questions as to whether this has been considered carefully on the part of those who are recommending it.

I especially would like to address my remarks to one of the speakers who has spoken.

**JAMES S. CHUBB:** Mr. Chairman, I have a point of order, sir.

**BISHOP KING:** Point of order is called for.

**JAMES S. CHUBB:** I think the parliamentary situation is that now the substitute for the majority report is before you.

**BISHOP KING:** I was trying to find out what was being said.

**LACY H. BURNS:** I am attempting to support the minority report.

**BISHOP KING:** That will come before us in just a moment, sir. I want to get the gentleman over here.

#### Boyd Offers Substitute

**MARVIN L. BOYD (Northwest Texas, SC):** I desire to introduce a substitute for the majority report. I was told that it was not in order at that time, and you had promised me the privilege of introducing that substitute when it comes to be in order.

The question had been called for on the perfecting of the majority report. I do not want to have it perfected without the privilege of offering the substitute.

**BISHOP KING:** There is before us this minority report, which is a substitute for the majority report.

**MARVIN L. BOYD:** And you are ruling that under the rules —

**BISHOP KING:** That it would have first consideration, sir. That the minority report would now need to be perfected before we could consider another substitute.

The minority report is before you now for clarification and for perfection.

**DEWEY MUIR:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know that there is much to do in perfecting the minority report, for the minority report simply calls for the retaining in the legislation of the church, that legislation which already is in effect, to continue Paragraph 313 as it is presented stated.

I would like, Mr. Chairman, to make just one or two observations. First of all, I again remind you that the report coming as the majority report, was adopted by the very slim majority of the committee of 40 voting for it and 32 voting against it.

I also would call to your attention the fact that the very discussion which we have had this afternoon is at least in some measure indicative of our contention that such legislation as is proposed in the majority report would be very difficult to administer. Hence, Mr. Chairman and Members of the General Conference, it is for this reason that we bring before you this minority report, feeling that it should be lifted up and in your consideration, and that lest we be swept off our feet through just sentiment without considering all of the implications that are involved in administration, we submit to you this minority report for your decision.

**BISHOP KING:** The minority report is before you.

I recognize the lady here, at microphone No. 3.

#### Mrs. Ebner for Minority

**MRS. HENRY D. EBNER (New Jersey, NE):** Bishop, first of all I would like to say that I think this is a very serious question that is before us, and although we have had some funny things happen-

ing, I think we should consider it in a very serious light.

I would also like to say that as a woman, as a local preacher in my church, I have never felt that my church has discriminated against me, but that wherever I wanted to serve, there seemed to be a door opened to me, to be able to serve.

I would remind you all of the many times that you have sat in a meeting where you have been privileged to see great groups of missionaries coming to the platform, as well as groups of deaconesses, and we have been impressed by the great number of years of service that they have given to our church. But we have also been impressed with the fact that many of these women are beyond 50 years of age and we do not seem to be able to attract the younger women to fill up the ranks.

Now, if I were a young woman and God was calling me into full-time Christian service, I feel that the ministry would be a very attractive field for me. I won't go into all of the details as to why it would; but if we open up another field of service for our younger women, when at this time we do not have enough deaconesses to work in our institutions and when we are bereft of those we need to fill up the ranks of the older missionaries, I feel that we are making a big mistake.

I am not impressed, Bishop and members of the Conference, brothers and sisters included, by the number of memorials that have been sent in in regard to this question, because I feel that many of them were sent in without the people realizing all that would be involved if this legislation were passed. I do know that of those that I have interviewed, and some in this very Conference, they said, "Yes, we are in favor of full clergy rights for women, but I don't want a woman minister serving our church."

Now, we do not want to discriminate further against our women, but if we enact such legislation we will find ourselves in the very embarrassing position of belittling many of our women who would be very glad to serve.

Now, there is an opportunity in our great church for women to preach and we are very thankful for that. But before we vote on this question, those of us who might be tempted to vote to change our "Discipline" would have to answer yes to three very important questions, and I submit them in all seriousness.

First of all, if I voted yes, I would be able to say to my district superintendent, "Yes, send me a woman pastor."

Secondly, the ministers as well as the laymen would have to say, "I am willing to serve under a woman district superintendent," for if this goes through, we are not going to discriminate. (Applause)

I do not like even to use the word "discrimination" because in my mind it has

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always been connected with unhappiness and discontent. I have never felt that I needed as a woman to fight for equal rights with men. I feel I have far more rights than the men will ever have. (Applause)

Furthermore, Bishop, my last question that I believe the delegates of this Conference would have to answer in the affirmative if they vote yes, would be this: We are willing to elect a woman bishop. Now, you may think that is rather exaggerated, but, believe me, it is not. You have had reference to the power of womanhood. I leave that to your own thinking.

I would urge that this be considered very seriously, that no more joking about it be passed around, and that you vote no when it comes to the majority report and that you support the minority report for the sake of the women of our Church. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: I recognize you, Dr. Pugh.

A. WESLEY PUGH: Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question on the entire matter which is before us.

(Cries of "no" from the audience.)

BISHOP KING: You have the motion for the previous question. As many as will support it, let it be known by a show of hands.

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE (Ohio, NC): A point of order!

BISHOP KING: Dr. Radcliffe.

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: Do not our rules provide there must be two speeches on each side of a major question like this before we move the previous question? I believe they do.

#### Mrs. Anderson Against

BISHOP KING: I think you are correct, sir.

I saw a lady there.

MRS. EDWIN S. ANDERSON (New England, NE): I am President of the Conference Women's Society of Christian Service. In considering woman's place in the church, since the early days when she was not even permitted to sit in the pew

with the men of her family, to say nothing of having a voice in church policy, to the turn of the century when she was gradually given more recognition, the present time finds women being given more recognition in all areas of service and meeting the same standards as men.

Membership in our Methodist Church has increased by nearly two million in the past fifteen years, and as a result is far short of ministers to stock adequately the churches and expand its program. The reserve of well-trained women ministers is ignored because of tradition, thus losing valuable and much needed leadership.

Women are accepted as candidates for the ministry and are permitted to graduate from seminaries. They are permitted to perform all the services that men ministers perform, and they are required to attend the sessions of annual conference. Each woman minister brings her lay delegate. The lay delegate is permitted to sit within the bower of the church and has the privilege of the floor; but the woman minister has no privileges. Much of the opposition, I believe, to full clergy rights is based on difficulties which may arise, should women become Conference members. I believe that most of these difficulties are hypothetical and are magnified out of all proportion to their importance.

I should like to comment very briefly on one or two of them. We hear that the churches will not accept women ministers; but we know that some Conferences are already using them most satisfactorily. The Maine Conference, for instance, has Mrs. Margaret Henrichsen, who started out with two small churches and is now serving five additional churches which had no pastors. There are many other instances which I might cite, but time does not permit.

A woman Conference member is guaranteed an appointment is another one of the objections. But why not for women as well as for men, if they have equal opportunities and equal qualifications?

Occasionally a member has taken the supernumerary relation because for one reason or another he was not willing to accept the appointment offered. A woman member of a Conference would have the same privilege. A woman joining a Conference would understand the difficulties which might be encountered, and I feel sure that these difficulties would be in some way satisfactorily solved.

BISHOP KING: One-half minute.

MRS. EDWIN S. ANDERSON: The churches which have given full clergy rights to women have been greatly pleased with the results. The Methodist Church has always been able to adapt itself to change and should set an example in granting equal rights and opportunities of service to all its members, regardless of sex.

There is a definite trend toward giving full clergy rights to qualified women, and

I believe that Methodism should join that trend. After discussion with some of the district superintendents, I am, of course, well aware of the difficulties involved in full clergy rights. However, I feel that this majority memorial should be accepted and, therefore, I am speaking against the minority report. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: We are within five minutes of the time for recess, and you will have to decide whether you want to continue this discussion.

(Cries of "Go on" from the audience.)

BISHOP KING: I recognize the lady at No. 4.

### Deaconesses and Clergy Rights

MARY LOU BARNWELL (executive secretary, Commission on Deaconess Work): Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a statement regarding the second "Whereas" in the minority report on page 439, the reference to recruitment of deaconesses seems irrelevant to the subject of clergy rights for women.

There is no intention to seek to recruit deaconesses for the ministry, although full clergy rights will enable any qualified deaconesses to apply for full membership in an annual conference, if she feels called to do so. This privilege should evoke no fear that there will be a great group of these women making application. Of 500 deaconesses now active in The Methodist Church, all except 29 favor full clergy rights for women.

However, only 27 have any thought of possible consideration of assuming such relationship for themselves. They are primarily those who are serving in certain rural areas which are now handicapped because of the lack of sufficient number of well-trained ministers. Ten of the 27 are already serving as supply pastors. Full membership in the Annual Conference will enable a greater degree of effectiveness for any minister.

We trust that the program of deaconess work will in no way be confused with this issue on clergy rights for women; in no way do we believe that the extension of full clergy rights will affect the recruitment of deaconesses. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: There is room for one more person on the other side. We have had two persons to speak in favor. There is opportunity for one other person to speak on the other side.

HAROLD A. BOSLEY (Rock River, NC): You said there were two speeches on one side. We are talking about the minority report now, are we?

BISHOP KING: Yes.

HAROLD A. BOSLEY: I should like to speak against the minority report. Are those the two speeches? You have two speeches against the minority reports?

J. DEWEY MUIR: Mr. Chairman, a point of order. There have been two speeches against the minority report.

BISHOP KING: That is the point we wanted to make. We need one speech in favor.

HAROLD A. BOSLEY: I would like to say amen to those two speeches.

BISHOP KING: That makes two and one-half against the minority report.

Is there anybody who wants to speak on the other side?

A. WESLEY PUGH: I move we extend the time sufficiently to complete this matter.

BISHOP KING: It has been moved and seconded we extend the time sufficiently to complete this matter of the minority report. Are you ready?

JAMES S. CHUBB: Which of us gets the time?

BISHOP KING: Those in favor, make it known by holding up the hand; opposed, the same sign.

It is done.

JAMES S. CHUBB: Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: We are right now to the crucial issue which all of us recognize, as to how you vote. I suppose the issue is this, whether we are taking the daring or brand new opportunity to secure the type of woman who heretofore thought she could not actively enter the ministry.

I recognize the probelms. I am a minister. I wouldn't want every woman on my staff, but I know a couple in this Conference, if they will make application, they will get very good consideration and they would get their chance to preach regularly like the rest of us on the staff, and I do it because of their merit, and that is exactly where we are.

BISHOP KING: It is suggested the motion would close the matter of the minority report. (Applause)

JAMES S. CHUBB: Skip everything I said, and I will say it again.

BISHOP KING: This is the closing statement from the minority report.

### Muir Speaks on Minority Report

J. DEWEY MUIR: Let us understand that we move together, in whatever direction we move, seeking not only that here may be accomplished that which to the best of our ability and to the best of our particular judgment will fulfill the will of God as it relates to the ministry of The Methodist Church.

That we are of divided opinion, of course, is self-evident. Yet I am sure that those who are for this or for that are all of them trying to be motivated and guided by a spirit of love and a spirit of our Christ.

In presenting the minority report, the group doing so have brought in the report without any thought of malice, without any urge of contention, without any thought of anything other than that in our judgment it is to the best interest of our Methodist Church that we continue under the legislation under

which we now operate. We do not have in our minds any thought of discrimination.

As has already been pointed out to you, so far as the functions of the Christian ministry are concerned, it is ordination which grants that privilege, and there is nothing which an ordained woman who is a member of an Annual Conference can do which she cannot do without membership other than to vote in the Annual Conference.

Already she has the same pension rights. Already she has the same privilege of the sacraments. But we are convinced, as is evidenced even in the report which comes from the majority of the committee, that there are certain administrative problems which are involved.

We leave it to your hands and for your decision, and I have faith to believe that that which we propose and do shall be done only with the thought in all our minds that we are instruments in the hands of God trying to work out here not that which serves any special group, male or female, but that which serves the best interests of the church and on-going Kingdom of our God.

BISHOP KING: Dr. Chubb will close the debate on the report.

JAMES S. CHUBB: Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: I don't know, I find myself particularly proud of our Methodist women. I think they are about as capable, about as good-looking as any crowd of women I want to meet anywhere.

I don't know how the women are in your family but the one thing they don't get and want is the thing that makes them very unhappy. They tripped me up until I got smart and gave it to them. The one thing that many of them want, perhaps an overwhelming majority of them want, is the privilege, if they qualify, to become members of the Conference. Many of them think they do not get the church that they should—any Methodist minister must be used to that. We can't solve the practical problems until we have the opportunity to do so.

We have said for several quadrenniums now, "Some day we will do it." The time has come to do it now!

I hope you will reject the minority report and come speedily to a vote on the majority report.

I thank you.

And in the spirit of Dr. Muir, we say these things in the best of spirit, knowing that Methodists always do the things which in their judgment they think are wise and good and Christian.

Let us get on with the voting.

(Applause)

### Vote on Minority Report

BISHOP KING: We will vote now on the minority report.

Those who will favor that report, let

it be known by a show of hand. Opposed the same sign.

It looks as if, my brethren tell me, that the vote is lost, the minority report does not carry.

Is there some question?

(Calls for a count vote.)

BISHOP KING: There is a request for a count vote.

(Secretary Estes then outlined the procedure for the count vote and announced the standing-vote tellers as printed on page 10 of the DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, Wednesday, April 25, 1956.)

DELEGATE: Point of personal privilege. Some of us do not understand just what we are voting on. Will you state it clearly, what the minority report proposes to do?

BISHOP KING: We are voting on the minority report which, if adopted, will become the majority report. We took a vote and there was some question as to whether it failed or not, and so we are taking a count, taking the count so as to be sure.

The minority report would leave us where we are.

Will the Secretary read the minority report?

(Secretary Estes read the "Resolve" of the minority report, Committee on Ministry, report No. 2, as printed on page 439 of the DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

ADLAI C. HOLLER (South Carolina, SE): I believe our rules call for a vote on whether we should have a count vote or not and it requires a third of our membership to call for that. Rule 11.

BISHOP KING: The rule is that we need a third of the House to determine whether we want a count vote. Is that your point? Shall we take that vote in that manner?

As many as desire a count vote let it be known by a show of hands. Oppose the same sign. It is fully a third, I think, sir.

(Secretary Estes continued with the outlining of the procedure for the count vote.)

(A count vote was then taken.)

BISHOP KING: As many as are in favor? Are you ready for the vote? As many as are in favor of the minority report please stand and remain standing until you are counted.

SECRETARY ESTES: As soon as the chairman of each section has completed the tally, please report to Brother Wilcox.

BISHOP KING: As many as are opposed to the minority report, please stand and remain standing until you are counted.

A. WESLEY PUGH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Conference: A while ago we moved to extend the time for the completion of this matter. But we did so with the idea that perhaps we were ready to vote on it. If it should develop that we

are still going to debate the main question, the majority report, I think we owe something in courtesy to the ladies who are outside here. (Applause)

We have told them that we would have a recess at 3:45. They have been so kind to us that I believe we ought to take recess after this vote is announced, if there are to be other motions or substitutes presented.

WILLIAM H. WILCOX (Oklahoma, SC): Mr. Chairman, the result of the ballot: 310 voting for; 425 voting against.

BISHOP KING: The minority report is not accepted.

(Recess taken)

(The Garrett Glee club, under the direction of Austin C. Lovelace, director, sang.)

BISHOP KING: The Conference will be in order.

### Present Majority Report

As the chair sees the parliamentary situation it is as follows: The minority report was not accepted. The majority report is before you. Before it is presented there are two matters I would like to have you indulge the Chair in. The first is a question of privilege to Dr. Muir who is the chairman of the minority report. The second has to do with a substitute to be offered by Dr. Boyd of the Northwest Texas Conference. We promised to let him have the privilege after recess, and we feel in honor bound to do that.

I shall now be glad to have Dr. Muir state his privilege.

J. DEWEY MUIR: Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference: I voice to you my very great appreciation for the very fine way in which you received the presentation of the minority report which has been before you, which you have rejected, and come now to a consideration of the majority report.

I am quite convinced of this: that Methodists ought not always to agree, but in this we really ought always to agree that we disagree agreeably. You have been a great crowd to present a minority report before, and I want you to know that personally I am deeply appreciative.

I also want to state my position: that the minority report having not been accepted I am, swinging my support to the majority report, and trust that without a great deal of further debate or deliberation you will enact it as the legislation of this General Conference. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: I now recognize Dr. Boyd, who will present a substitute report.

MARVIN L. BOYD (Northwest Texas, SC): Thank you, bishop. I will make a motion that the following be substituted for report 2, the Committee on Ministry, calendar 26, page 192, column 3, of the DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE: that all of paragraph 313 of the "Discipline" be deleted, and that a new paragraph be in-

serted in its place and/or at the proper place or places in the "Discipline," to read as follows:

Any Annual Conference may include women in the provisions of the "Discipline" which apply to the traveling ministry and may establish limitations for the inclusion of women in such provisions.

If that is seconded I would like the privilege of a very brief statement.

(Motion duly seconded)

BISHOP KING: It is seconded and the motion is before you.

MARVIN L. BOYD: Mr. Chairman and members of the Conference. I have no disposition to delay the final decision of this Conference. It is my opinion that this is one possibility which has not been before us for consideration and which should be considered before our final decision is made.

In all of these matters we have talked in terms of a principle and then of implementing that principle. It seems to me that when we permit women to be admitted in Annual Conferences anywhere we approve the principle of clergy rights for women.

The chief problem is not a problem of principle but a problem of obstacles which seem to many of us in some places to be almost insurmountable. Because of that fact we believe that the constitution of the church places great responsibility in the matter of the traveling ministry upon the Annual Conference, and that is where it properly belongs. It is the Annual Conference that assumes the responsibility of providing for a traveling preacher once they have been admitted into the membership of that conference.

### Substitute on Annual Conference Responsibility

Now, if any Annual Conference is ready at this time to admit married women without restriction, this substitute makes that possible. It makes it possible for any Annual Conference when and if it is ready to admit women either with or without restriction to do so.

It seems to me the Annual Conference being the body which assumes the responsibility should have this privilege. Those of us who do not think our conferences are ready certainly do not want to do anything that would prevent any conference that is ready from admitting women under these circumstances.

We feel that when and if we should be ready, this would give us the opportunity and provide the proper procedure to make that possible.

I simply offer this in the belief that it might represent the way that would most nearly enable every Conference to do the thing which it is ready and prepared to do, and which would ultimately bring about the best solution.

Some discussion has been made along

the line that if this majority report prevails, four years from now another step will be taken.

If this is adopted there would be no necessity for ever taking another step, for every Annual Conference would always be able to go as far in this matter as it is ready and willing to go, and it seems to me a very difficult matter to expect an Annual Conference to go any further than that until it is ready.

I think that is about all I have to say, sir.

BISHOP KING: May we keep in mind that we adjourn at 5:00 o'clock.

A. WESLEY PUGH: Mr. Chairman, point of order, if you please, sir. The point of order is that we are acting under the previous question made by Roy Roudebush and passed by the conference relating to the completion of the majority report. The presiding officer very courteously extended to Mr. Boyd the privilege of presenting his substitute.

It seems to me unless we back up on what we have already done, in ordering the previous question, that this courtesy should be curtailed pretty quickly.

BISHOP KING: Are you ready to vote? As many as will vote for the substitute let it be known by a show of hands.

I am sorry, we are under the previous question. As many as will vote to sustain the substitute let it be known by a show of hands.

Will you give us the substitute, Mr. Boyd?

MARVIN L. BOYD: Mr. Chairman, if we were acting under the previous question then I was out of order in presenting the substitute.

BISHOP KING: I admitted that to begin with, Mr. Boyd. It was a matter of indulgence.

MARVIN L. BOYD: I was then out of order, sir, I would like to withdraw it. I do not wish to present anything when I am not in order. I understood previously that I was out of order at that time, before recess, and that when the time came, before somebody offered a motion on the previous question on all before us—the very thing that has happened—I would have the privilege to present this substitute, when it would be in order. I do not wish to present anything if I am out of order. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: Will the body agree to reconsider the previous question? As many as will agree, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed.

You are in order now, Mr. Boyd.

#### Vote on Substitute

MARVIN L. BOYD: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to consume the time of the Conference. I would like to make a motion that this substitute be adopted. I do not even care to read it again, unless it is desired.

BISHOP KING: As many as will approve the substitute let it be known by a show of hands; opposed the same sign. It does not prevail.

WILLIAM H. ALDERSON (New York

East, NE): Mr. Chairman.

BISHOP KING: William Alderson, New York East Conference.

WILLIAM H. ALDERSON: Mr. Chairman, is a substitute now in order?

BISHOP KING: Technically it is, but actually I hope you will not do it. (Laughter)

WILLIAM H. ALDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I certainly will do nothing to embarrass my long-time friend, who is doing so splendidly in presiding over this Conference this afternoon. (Applause)

However, if I am allowed to present this substitute it will quickly settle all the problems of this Conference on this question.

JAMES S. CHUBB: The house can do as it pleases.

WILLIAM H. ALDERSON: Thank you very much.

I would like to offer a substitute for the majority report. I think we all know it is on page 192, report 2 of the Committee on the Ministry.

I move that we delete Paragraph 313 from the "Discipline." If I get a second to it I will say what I have to say in about 60 seconds.

BISHOP KING: Is there a second?

(The motion was duly seconded.)

WILLIAM H. ALDERSON: We have just voted in Conference by a vote of 345 to 310, I think it was, that we did not want this paragraph to remain in the "Discipline" as it is. I feel that that means we want some change at this point. If we delete paragraph 313, we have solved the problem of discrimination which some have been calling it, and both men and women are on an equal basis, when they come before the Annual Conference for admission. It is then wide open without any conditions whatsoever, for the Annual Conference to decide whether or not on the basis of qualifications, the man or the woman, the applicant—whoever it is—shall be admitted.

This Conference started out very cautiously on the question of discrimination. It then became very bold and, I think, Divinely led and took some great forward steps at that point. We have been very cautious on this question up to the present time. I think the moment has come for us to take this paragraph out of the "Discipline," which lets us start with everybody on an equal basis.

The Methodist Church has always been capable of handling situations by proper legislation, as these necessities have arisen, and if the elimination of this paragraph creates difficulties, then in future years we can take care of those difficulties.

I hope, sir, that this motion to substitute will prevail. (Applause)

JAMES S. CHUBB: I have nothing to say.

Microphone No. 2, Dr. Johnson of the Kentucky Conference.

ZACH T. JOHNSON (Kentucky, SE):



The Hon. Momolu Dukuley, delegate from Liberia, being greeted by Bishop Ledden and Bishop Willis J. King. Mr. Dukuley is secretary of state of the Liberia Republic and was a representative to the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations.

I agree with the gentleman as to the principle he is bringing forth, but I think he is wanting us to slip out the side door and leave the matter alone. I think we should meet this issue squarely and I would like to offer a substitute to the substitute! (Laughter)

BISHOP KING: As I understand it, sir, we did not vote on Dr. Boyd's substitute, so that the substitute that was offered over here would be an amendment to that amendment.

#### Johnson Offers Substitute

Am I correct in that? You voted down Dr. Boyd's substitute, sir. Then it is this substitute that is before us.

ZACH T. JOHNSON: I believe the gentleman will accept my phraseology because it is in positive language and reads as follows:

"That Paragraph 313 shall be amended to read: Women are included in the foregoing provisions and may apply as candidates for the traveling ministry as provided for in chapter 3 of the "Discipline", Title—Traveling Preachers, paragraphs 321-358."

If I may have a second, I would like to say a few words.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

BISHOP KING: You have a second to your motion.

ZACH T. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the General Conference: This is a positive approach to this, and it simply says we are willing to admit any woman who can meet the same conditions that men now meet, to enter any Conference. It leaves the matter for the Conference to decide on the basis of the general conditions laid down in the "Discipline," and the specific requirements for admission into any Conference.

Let us give the women the perfect right to apply on the same basis as any member of any Annual Conference in Methodism. This does that. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: You have a substitute for the substitute before you.

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question on all that is before us.

BISHOP KING: Will all those who will support the previous question on all before us, lift their hands; opposed.

It is done.

We come now to the amendment to the substitute.

As many as will support the amendment to the substitute . . .

All right, microphone No. 1.

MARVIN L. BOYD (Northwest Texas, SC): Are we to interpret the fact that a motion has been admitted for the previous question, to indicate that we have not been operating under the previous question?

It seems to me that we are either under the previous question or we are not under the previous question. We should have

these motions before us and permit debate. If we are under it, we should be under it.

BISHOP KING: Mr. Radcliffe at No. 4 microphone.

LYNN J. RADCLIFFE: I moved the previous question on the main motion. We must, under our rules, proceed to perfect the substitute which was the minority report.

After that is turned down, other substitutes are in order. My motion, however, precludes further discussion of substitutes and is on the entire matter that is before us.

BISHOP KING: Is this seconded?

(From the floor: It has already been voted on.)

BISHOP KING: That then is the understanding—we are under the previous question and it has to do with all before us.

As many as will it, then, shall proceed to vote on that last amendment to the substitute.

As many as will support the amendment to the substitute, let it be known by a show of hands—

(From the floor: let's have it read; it is not clear.)

BISHOP KING: The amendment offered by the last person?

ERNEST W. PETERSON (Oregon, W): The amendment to the substitute by Brother Johnson. Paragraph 313 when amended will read, "Women are included in the foregoing provisions, and may apply as candidates for the traveling ministry as provided for in Chapter 3 of the "Discipline," Title—Traveling Preachers." Paragraphs 321-357.

#### Vote on Amendment

BISHOP KING: The amendment is before you. As many as will support the amendment, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

The chair is not sure. Will you vote again, please:

As many as will support the amendment, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

The amendment seems to be lost.

(Cries of "No, no," from the floor.)

BISHOP KING: Will you have a count vote?

As many as will order a count vote, let it be shown by a raising of your hands; opposed, the same sign.

A count vote is not ordered.

The feeling is that there was one-third of the number that asked for a count vote. We shall proceed to have a count vote. (Applause)

SECRETARY ESTES: The same Chairmen and the same counters will proceed.

BISHOP KING: As many as will support the amendment to the substitute, stand please.

RUSSELL E. CLAY (Southern California-Arizona, W): Mr. Chairman, I won-

der if we could have a clear statement. We are now voting, am I not right, on the amendment to Dr. Slutz's motion?

BISHOP KING: Yes.

RUSSELL B. CLAY: I wonder if we could have a clear statement on what we are voting on.

BISHOP KING: Let the secretary read that statement again, please, the amendment to the substitute.

ERNEST W. PETERSON: A yes vote would be in favor of the Johnson amendment to the substitute which I read to you a few minutes ago.

A no vote would be in opposition to the Johnson proposed amendment to the substitute.

(Cries of "What is it?" from the audience.)

ERNEST W. PETERSON: Paragraph 313, when amended, will read: "Women are included in the foregoing provisions and may apply as candidates for the traveling ministry as provided for in Chapter III of the "Discipline," entitled "Traveling Preachers," paragraphs 321 to 356.

BISHOP KING: As the chair understands it, the substitute would eliminate 313. The amendment would keep 313, and add to it the words that have been read to you.

SECRETARY ESTES: Will the counters count.

W. RALPH WARD (Pittsburgh, NE): Mr. Chairman, I believe we should do as the brother in the rear has suggested. Before this count is taken, we should sit down and then have the right to stand again, if we choose, and count this so we will know how we are voting.

#### Clarification of Issues

BISHOP KING: It is suggested we be seated and then have this matter clarified.

You are now voting on the amendment to the substitute. The substitute proposes to eliminate paragraph 313. The amendment to the substitute proposes to retain much of 313, but rephrasing it, adding to it in the language that was read by the Secretary.

Are we clear?

(Cries of "No" from the audience.)

BISHOP KING: Will the Secretary read the amendment again, please?

Just a moment! We are going to have the amendment read.

ERNEST W. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, would you ask the Conference if they merely want me to read for the third time the amendment to the substitute or if they want me also to read the substitute?

LEONARD D. SLUTZ (Ohio, NC): Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question of parliamentary inquiry. I want to ask the chair, if the chair interprets this amendment to grant full clergy rights to women, which is what I understand it to be and is the reason I am for it.

BISHOP KING: My understanding is that this amendment grants full clergy rights to women. (Applause)

ERNEST W. PETERSON: Do you want this read?

BISHOP KING: Yes.

ERNEST W. PETERSON: If you will open your "Disciplines" to paragraph 313, you can follow me as I read.

Paragraph 313, when amended, will read: "Women are included in the foregoing provisions and may apply as candidates for the traveling ministry, as provided for in chapter III of the "Discipline," entitled "Traveling Preachers", paragraphs 321 to 356."

RALPH TAYLOR ALTON (Wisconsin, NC): Bishop, I would like to ask for a judgment from the chair, too, as to whether the substitute to which this is an amendment is not also an enactment for full clergy rights for all women.

BISHOP KING: I think so. What the substitute does is to eliminate any reference to women putting them in the same class as other candidates for the ministry. This proposes, as I understand it, simply to make it definite as to women.

RALPH TAYLOR ALTON: Then, this is discriminatory legislation in favor of women. (Laughter)

BISHOP KING: Are you ready to vote?

Those who will support the amendment, please stand and remain until you are counted.

Those who are opposed to the amendment rise and remain standing until you are counted.

Will you extend the time to hear the report of the vote? As many as will extend the time, raise your hand; opposed. We are extending the time to get the report.

WILLIAM H. WILCOX: Bishop, the result of the ballot is for the amendment 389; against the amendment, 297. (Applause)

BISHOP KING: The substitute as amended has carried.

CHARLES P. BOWLES (Western North Carolina, SE): Mr. Chairman, with a feeling this body is too weary to settle such an important matter, I move we do now adjourn.

(Cries of "No" from the audience.)

JAMES A. CHUBB: Mr. Chairman, I think you are under a point of order to finish all before you. We voted to extend the time and you are under a point of order to finish all before you.

#### Substitute Becomes Majority Report

BISHOP KING: Now, you have before you the matter of the substitute which now becomes the majority report, as I understand it.

G. ALFRED BROWN (Central Texas, SC): Mr. Chairman, I raise a point of order, I believe the secretary, if he has the wording of the motion that was made a little bit ago, will find that the extension

of time was so that we might report the results of that vote, not extend it until we had completed the pending legislation. If that be true, then the motion to adjourn would be in order.

BISHOP KING: What is the pleasure of the House?

Yes, Doctor; No. 5.

ASBURY SMITH (Baltimore, NE): I move we complete the matter before us. I move we extend the time to complete the matter before us.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

BISHOP KING: The motion is made to extend the time to complete the matter before us.

CHARLES P. BOWLES: Which of these motions will take precedence, the one to adjourn or the one that came later? We have before us a motion to adjourn.

BISHOP KING: We will take the first one first.

CHARLES P. BOWLES: The first one is the motion to adjourn.

BISHOP KING: As many as will vote to adjourn at this time, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

We do not adjourn. (Applause)

We have the motion to extend the time.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

BISHOP KING: As many as will approve, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

We stay. (Applause)

JAMES M. EWING (Mississippi, SE): I move the previous question on all previous matters.

BISHOP KING: The previous question is called for. The understanding is that we are under the previous question. If there is any doubt, we will put it.

As many as will move the previous question, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

The matter before us is the substitution of the amended substitute for the majority report. As many as will approve the proposal to substitute the amended substitute for the majority report, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

It is carried. (Applause)

Just one further step. As many as will adopt the new majority report as amended, let it be known by a show of hands; opposed, the same sign.

It is done. (Applause)

#### Speak of McCulloch Family Illness

JAMES A. CHUBB: Mr. Chairman, members of the Conference, may I express to you my sincere thanks for the courtesy and your good judgment. Will you please pause a moment. Gerald McCulloch, who was to have been on the platform with us, was called home as his daughter is very, very ill. May I not have the high courtesy of asking us to pause for one moment of silent prayer for him?

BISHOP KING: A matter of privilege. We will ask Dr. Henley if he will come forward to make a statement. Dr. Henley is the pastor of Mr. McCulloch.

DR. HENLEY: A host of you who are here know and love Gerald McCulloch. He was called home last night because of the severe illness, sickness of his daughter, Onita. Word has come this afternoon that Onita is at the point of death and the doctors give very little encouragement, and all of us who have heard that have been tremendously distressed.

Let me suggest, Mr. Chairman, a request to you that you invite all of us to stand in a few moments of silent prayer for this daughter of one of our own families and for the family and those who minister to her.

(The audience stood in silent prayer.)

BISHOP KING: Will you remain standing.

Will you permit the chair to express his appreciation of the courtesy shown him this afternoon, and then we will ask you to be seated for announcements. (Applause)

May I just say the gavel that we have used this afternoon was presented to the Chairman by the Liberian Annual Conference. It is made of ivory. We treasure it very greatly.

(Announcements.)

BISHOP KING: Shall we stand for a benediction by Bishop Springer.

BISHOP SPRINGER: Shall we look to the Eternal?

Now, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord, Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect to do his will in all things, working in you and through you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, to whom the glory and majesty both now and forever. Amen.

(The Conference adjourned at 5:10 o'clock.)

## FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

May 4, 1956

The session convened at 7:45 o'clock, Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy presiding.

BISHOP KENNEDY: Dr. Houghton is ill this evening, so Chaplain Carpenter of the United States Air Force will lead our singing.

(The Conference joined in singing Hymn 44, "Day is Dying in the West.")

BISHOP KENNEDY: Our evening prayer will be given by Bishop A. Frank Smith.

BISHOP A. FRANK SMITH (E): Let us pray: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we invoke thy presence with us and thy benediction upon us, as we enter into this evening's session.