

## **230th Session of Annual Conference Proceedings**

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

of The United Methodist Church

June 16 – June 18, 2016

Lancaster Marriott and Convention Center

25 South Queen Street, Lancaster PA 17603

Thursday, June 16, 2016

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Clergy Session, Laity Session

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:45 p.m. Gathering Music (“Jesus Trending” from Hopewell UMC)

### **Opening Worship**

The service began with a procession and traditional Native American Friendship Dance. This was followed by an opening prayer by Barry Lee, translated into English by Barbara Christy, from the Munsee and Munsee/Seneca people. The names of the Conestoga people who died in Lancaster in 1763 in what is known as the “Conestoga Massacre” were then read. After this, a call to repentance was read. This was followed by the hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory.” After Sandy Cianciulli, from the Lakota people, prayed, Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett, of the Seneca Nation, preached on John 1:1-5, with the title of the message being “A New Beginning.” After the message, Bishop Peggy Johnson and David Koch, Conference Lay Leader, led the body in a responsive confession. Members of the body were then asked to tie a gray ribbon on each other’s wrist as acknowledgment of the commitment to “to complete the circle” so that such atrocities would never be committed again. A list of potential ways to make this commitment a reality was then read. This was followed by the hymn “Amazing Grace,” and communion (with the praying of a Native American version of the Great Thanksgiving). The hymn “O God the Creator” was then sung, and the benediction was pronounced.

### **Convening/Organization**

Following a short break after the opening worship service, Bishop Peggy Johnson called the 230<sup>th</sup> Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference to order.

### **Hymn**

Those gathered sang “And Are We Yet Alive.”

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Bishop Peggy Johnson greeted the body. She then offered an opening prayer in which she acknowledged those persons who had been recently killed in Orlando, as well as mentioning the victims of several other recent tragedies.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Bishop Peggy Johnson called on Rev. Lloyd Speer, Conference Secretary, to present the agenda. It had been printed in the annual conference packet. It was approved.

### **Presiding Table Introductions**

Bishop Peggy Johnson then introduced those at the presiding table: Tamara Wims (Conference staff and Youth Delegate), Rev. Lloyd Speer (Conference Secretary), Rev. Bruce Rogers (Parliamentarian), and David Koch, (Conference Lay Leader).

### **Guest Introductions**

Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced several people. The first was Rev. Edward Bailey, pastor of Bethel AME, in Lancaster. Rev. Bailey addressed the body, sharing greetings from his church and his denomination. Bishop Johnson then introduced Rev. John Calhoun, the Northeast Jurisdiction Mission Specialist.

### **Rules of Order**

Rev. Lloyd Speer presented the Rules of Order that had been printed in the annual conference packets. He moved their adoption. The Rules of Order were approved.

### **Resolution 2016-01**

Rev. Joe DiPaolo addressed the body to present a resolution to add a process for voting for General Conference Delegates to the Rules of Order. Since doing so, required suspending the rules in order to amend them, Rev. DiPaolo began with a motion to suspend the rules. After the motion had been seconded, it was followed by questions and discussion. The body approved suspending the rules for this purpose.

### **Organizational and Procedural Motion**

Rev. Lloyd Speer defined the area from within which voting should take place, and made a motion to establish that area as the bar of the conference. The motion was approved.

### **Consent Calendar**

Rev. Lloyd Speer moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar, which consisted of Resolutions 2016-02, 2016-03, 2016-04, and 2016-13). It was seconded and approved.

### **Resolution 2016-20**

Rev. Lloyd Speer presented the resolution, and made the motion that it be tabled to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference, as the maker of the motion was not able to be in attendance. The motion was seconded, and approved.

### **Points of Personal Privilege**

Bishop Johnson asked that requests for personal privilege be brought to the Conference Secretary, with a brief description of the request, and she would recognize those requests prior to adjournment.

### **Episcopacy Report**

Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark reported that a survey was taken in the Northeastern Jurisdiction about issues related to the episcopacy in the jurisdiction, the results of which were discussed with Bishop Johnson. She also said that a survey about the needs and issues of our annual conference related to possible future episcopal appointments was also filled out, and returned to the jurisdiction. Rev. Clark also reported that it would not be known what would happen in relation to episcopal appointments in the next quadrennium until the Jurisdictional Conference, but decisions would be announced on July 15, 2016. The Episcopacy Committee then presented Bishop Johnson with a prayer shawl, and also gave a gift to Rev. Michael Johnson, and Amy Botti.

### **General Conference Report**

Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm and Judy Ehninger, along with the rest of the General Conference delegation, presented a report about the 2016 General Conference. In the report, they shared personal reflections about the event, as well as some of the milestones that were celebrated, such as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Disciple Bible study, and the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Africa University.

### **Jurisdictional Conference**

Judy Ehninger introduced the members of the EPC Host Committee to the body, and invited additional volunteers to join them in presenting hospitality to the jurisdictional delegates on July 11 to 15, 2016.

After announcements, and the meal grace by Luki Cotto, Bishop Peggy Johnson adjourned the session.

6:15 p.m. Gathering Music (“Jesus Trending” from Hopewell UMC)

6:30 p.m. Video presentation of General Conference proceedings and decisions

### **Teaching Session**

Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett. His teaching session was based on the act of repentance, explaining why it is necessary, and how it affects both the Native American community and the Church as a whole. He explained that the issues he was addressing are not just limited to our nation, but are issues that exist around the world, although the American context is the one on which he would be focusing. Rev. Fassett went on to explain that “being saved” or “born again” means we must think not just about ourselves, but others as well, and how our actions effect other people. He then explained that history is not just a record of the past, but also a representation of our theology, and the role we believe the Church should have in the world. After reviewing the many ways that the history of our nation shows that we have not lived up to the theology we claim to hold, he challenged the body to do better in the future, although achieving this may be painful as it will require significant changes to both thought and behavior.

7:45 p.m. Holy Conferencing

Bishop Johnson called the body back into session, and introduced Youth Delegate Jose Tirado. Jose then opened the session with prayer.

### **Nominations Report**

Dr. Carol Black asked the Conference Nomination Committee members to rise so they could be recognized. She thanked those who were completing their terms. Then she presented the Nominations Report for the 2016 to 2020 quadrennium. Several corrections were made to the published written report, and it was explained that the report would be voted on later in the session.

### **Statistical Report**

The Rev. Dr. Bronwyn Yocum presented the statistical report for her husband, Gordon Yocum, who was not able to be present. Highlights of the report were that while worship attendance in all of our districts has continued to decline, 10% of our churches reported 10% or greater growth, and 20% grew in attendance. Sunday School attendance and persons received by profession of faith have also been continuing to decline. There has been growth in missions, however, in terms of "VIM" teams, and in the number of lives touched, as well as in the amount of money given to benevolences of various types.

### **2017 Budget Report**

Kip Craven addressed the body, and explained that the Conference Council on Finance and Administration was still revising the 2017 budget. He, therefore, moved that it be tabled to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference. The motion was seconded, and approved.

### **Apportionment Formula Resolution**

Kip Craven explained that the Council on Finance and Administration was still revising the resolution, and moved that it be tabled to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference. The motion was seconded, and approved.

### **Redistricting Plan**

Kip Craven explained that the redistricting plan proposal is not yet complete, and moved that it be tabled to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference. The motion was seconded, and approved.

### **Treasurer's Election**

Kip Craven explained that according to paragraph 619 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, the Annual Conference is to elect a treasurer at the beginning of each quadrennium. He then stated that the Conference Council on Finance and Administration moved to continue Jim Cruickshank in that position. The body then elected Jim to that position for the 2016 to 2020 quadrennium.

## **Trustee Report**

Alan Kingcade explained that with the possibility of redistricting before the conference, the Board of Trustees has been looking into options for any excess property that might result from downsizing the number of districts. He also said they have been looking at how the office requirements for each district would be handled in a newly configured district arrangement. He then laid out a potential process for handling such issues should the proposal to go from six to four districts be approved. There was no vote taken, as the presentation was merely for informational purposes.

## **Capital Campaign**

The body "listened in" as the Rev. Dennis Emrick and Kip Craven had a "conversation" that explained that a net result of \$2,086,022 had been raised in the "Fulfilling the Covenant Campaign" for the pre-1982 retirement indebtedness. This allowed the conference not to raise the direct billing amounts billed to local churches, but still possibly meet the \$3,000,000 goal that was originally set for the campaign.

## **Resolution 2016-08**

Barbara Drake presented the resolution from the Church and Society work team, which encouraged the Pennsylvania Legislature to provide health care coverage for all children residing within the state, even if they are not documented citizens. The body approved the resolution.

## **Superintendents Report**

Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced the Cabinet, and explained that the Rev. Gary Nicholson would be leaving the Cabinet to return to local church ministry, and because of the possibility of downsizing the following year would be replaced by Rev. Joe Tyson, who would temporarily come out of retirement to serve the Northwest District.

Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell then began the Superintendent's Report, which was titled "A Tribute to God and A Testimony of Thanks." She shared several activities of the cabinet, and their leadership goals. She invited the body to sing "Spirit of the Living God." Each of the District Superintendents then reported some of the ministry accomplishments that have been occurring on each of their respective districts.

After announcements, and the meal grace, Bishop Peggy Johnson adjourned the session.

Friday June 17, 2016

7:30 a.m. Communion Service with the Order of St. Luke

8:45 a.m. Gathering Music (David Bryant, organist at First UMC, Phoenixville)

## **Teaching Session**

Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced Bishop Linda Lee, retired Episcopal leader, and currently the Bishop in Residence at the Garrett Evangelical Divinity School. Bishop

Lee then came forward to speak. Her message was based on Ephesians 2:13-16, and was titled "A Church and World For All People." She began by saying that we are living in an era when the most important thing we can do is find solutions for how to handle our differences. This is especially important in terms of differences of race. To move in this direction, however, we need to seriously address interpersonal and institutional racism. This means looking at everything from how resources are used globally to whether or not there are supermarkets in ethnic communities, as well as the impact of relationships that are not healthy or holy. She then led the body through a series of issues, and had the body talk at their tables about several different topics. Finally, she summarized some of the things that need to still be done to make the hope of racial reconciliation a reality. She then closed by reminding the body that when they joined the church, they committed themselves to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of their sins," and to "accept the freedom and power God gives to resist evil, injustice, and oppression," for this was part of their commitment to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. She then led the body in a closing song

After a short break, Bishop Peggy Johnson called the body back into session. Youth Delegate Matthew Lynch offered a prayer.

### **Monitoring Report**

Marilyn Wilt presented the monitoring report, a collaborative effort of the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Religion and Race, and the Disability Concerns Committee. She explained that the purpose of the report is to help the Annual Conference intentionally model "the beloved community," as it will not happen accidentally or through wishful thinking alone, and to give a voice to those not being heard. Some of the things noted in the report on Thursday's sessions were:

- During the laity session, there were equal numbers of male and female presenters, but there were six times as many white persons involved as there were persons of color.
- The video in the laity session showed whites helping, and African Americans being helped.
- In the clergy session, there were virtually equal numbers of men and women participating, but no male persons of color spoke at the microphones
- There is only one person of color being commissioned, and no person of color being ordained.
- While the laity session had video screens so all persons could see and hear what was occurring, this was not the case in the clergy session.
- The inclusion of gluten-free bread, and water as well as juice, was helpful so all persons could participate.

Marilyn concluded the report by reminding the body that "presence does not always guarantee or ensure participation."

### **Resolution 2016-01**

Rev. Joe DiPaolo presented the resolution to add a rule about voting for General Conference delegates to our standing Rules of Order back to the floor. After discussion and questions, a substitute motion was offered. After additional discussion, the matter was tabled until a printed version of the substitute motion was available for comparison.

### **Guest Introductions**

Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced Dr. Virginia Samuel, Associate Dean at Drew Theological School. She brought greetings from the seminary

### **Resolution 2016-07**

Lauren Ballester presented the resolution, and moved its adoption. After she had spoken to it, the body approved the resolution.

### **Resolution 2016-19**

Rev. Beverly Andrews presented the resolution, and moved its adoption. After she had spoken to it, there was discussion and questions. After an amendment had been approved, Rev. Jim McIntyre asked for a Ruling of Law as to whether the amendment changed the Book of Resolutions. The request for a Ruling of Law was not supported by the body. The body then voted to approve the resolution as amended.

### **Order of Deacons 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Rev. Tiffany Manning made a presentation, celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Deacons. In the Eastern Pennsylvania, there were 6 Deacons in the first class, and the order has grown to over 30 Provisional and Ordained Deacons, with more in the candidacy process. A video of the work of Deacons in our conference was then shown.

Rev. Lloyd Speer shared announcements, and Rev. Tiffany Manning offered the meal grace.

1:30 p.m. Gathering Music (David Bryant, organist at First UMC, Phoenixville)

2:00 p.m. Holy Conferencing

### **Conference Lay Leader Report**

David Koch opened his report by saying that it was not just a good time to be a United Methodist, but a great time to be a United Methodist. The 2015 Laity Academy had 150 attendees, 40 first time attendees, 85 Christ Servant Ministers, 17 Local Church Servants, 4 Certified Lay Ministers, and one clergy person. There were also ten instructors. The format for the 2016 academy will be held over two days instead of three, to reduce costs for participants. Each district held "Toolkit" events this past year that offered practical courses for local church leadership and outreach. The Northeast District even offered a "poverty simulation" in the afternoon. David then shared a number of local church programs that minister to the community. He also invited the body to look at the future as an opportunity to do even more as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and not just a time of scary change.

### **United Methodist Women**

Barbara Drake, past President, presented a report on behalf of Gladys Hubbard and Susan Zook, current co-Presidents, who were not able to be present. She shared that the United Methodist Women's group is the largest group of organized Christian women in the world, with about 8 million members worldwide, and about 4,000 members in the Eastern PA Conference. In addition to being involved in their own congregations, the members of United Methodist Women worldwide gave an additional 12 million dollars to mission causes through the organization, and here in the Eastern PA Conference gave over \$165,000. In 2019, the United Methodist Women will celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In anticipation of that, over \$426,000 has been given toward a "Legacy Fund." Its purpose is to create an endowment fund that will cover the administrative expenses of the organization beginning in 2019. This would allow all future giving to the organization to go fully to mission causes. Here in the Eastern PA Conference, the three main programs of the organization are: "Mission U," formerly the School of Christian Mission; "Girls on the Go," a retreat for teenage girls; and the Ingathering.

### **United Methodist Men**

Clifford Hubbard began his report by noting the contributions of Ross Brightwell to the organization through the years. In the past year, the group created a constitution for the organization. They are planning to resume having an annual gathering. They are also looking to continue some of the other programs that have been occurring over the years, such as the night at the 76ers, United Methodist Day at the Phillies, the Day at Dorney Park, and the annual softball tournament, which will be renamed the "Ross Brightwell Memorial Tournament." The potato drop was not able to occur because St. Andrews is no longer sponsoring it, but another organization may be offering such a program in the future. He also spoke about other possible conference-wide programs and ministries that are being considered.

### **Resolution 2016-01**

Bishop Johnson explained that a copy of the substitute resolution had been placed at each table in the room, and would be brought up on the video displays. She then asked Rev. Andrew Foster to speak briefly to the substitute resolution. After he had done so, several questions were asked. Bishop Johnson then asked Rev. Joe DiPaolo to speak to the original resolution. After several more questions were asked, the body voted not to approve the substitute resolution. After the vote, a motion to amend the resolution was made, and after discussion the amendment was approved. An additional amendment was then offered, but after discussion it was not approved.

With the need to move to an Order of the Day, the resolution was temporarily set aside.

### **Introduction of Candidates & Historic Questions**

Rev. Mindy McKonly (chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry) presented to the body those persons who have been approved by the clergy session for commissioning toward Elders and Deacons orders, those persons who have been approved for full membership, and those persons who have been approved for ordination. Bishop Peggy

Johnson then asked the candidates for ordination John Wesley's historic questions. This was followed by a 'passing of the mantle' ceremony, and a time of prayer in which those who were retiring at this annual conference prayed for and anointed those who were being ordained.

### **Retiree Recognition**

After an instrumental prelude of "To God Be the Glory," the service began with a call to worship and the hymn "The Summons." After a unison prayer, Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and John 1:1-14 were read. This was followed by the hymn "Eternal God Transcending Time." This hymn was then woven into the celebration of clergy service milestones of 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years. This was followed by the recognition of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women, especially those who were first ordained in the Eastern PA Conference, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Deacons, and those who were first ordained in the Eastern PA Conference. A video was then shown of some of the clergy who were retiring. In the video, the retirees answered several questions: "What do you miss in your first appointment?" and "What is the weirdest thing that happened to you in ministry?" and "what do you hope the next generation of pastors gets to experience in their ministries?" They then closed the video by reciting John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. Each retiree was then brought forward for recognition, followed by the retirees "passing the mantle" onto those clergy being newly ordained. This was followed by the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and the closing benediction.

### **Conference Council of Ministries Report**

Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, Director of Connectional Ministries, explained that the Eastern PA Conference's ministries include 35 board, agencies, and commissions. He then shared a sampling of what local churches in the conference are doing titled "It Works For My Church." As part of this, David Piltz introduced a video about the Mission of Peace. This was followed by video presentations about a number of other ministries and programs. The videos were followed by a praise dance team.

### **Denman Evangelism Award**

Suzette James presented the award for effective evangelism to clergy Mike Netznik of Allentown: Emanuel UMC, and lay person Tamara Wims of Midtown Parish United Methodist Church.

### **Kim Jefferson Evangelism Award**

Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien presented this award for effective urban ministry work to Tindley Temple United Methodist Church and Arch Street United Methodist Church.

### **Discipleship Ministries Award**

The One Matters Ministry Award celebrates stories of transformation in the United Methodist Church. This year's award was given to Manfredo Martinez to continue ministries to Latino ministries in Allentown.

After announcements, Bishop Peggy Johnson adjourned the session.

## **Ordination Service**

The service began with the processional hymns "O For a Thousand Tongues," and "Crown Him With Many Crowns." Rev. Joe DiPaolo then welcomed everyone to Lancaster First UMC. After an opening prayer, the body was led through a litany titled "Recognition of Common Ministry and Reaffirmation of Baptism." This was followed by the song "At the Font We Start Our Journey." The persons who were to be commissioned, ordained, and recognized were then presented. The persons were: Diane A. Esposito (for commissioning toward Deacon), Angela Kellie Ebo, Bradley Matthew Leight, Nina Patton-Semerod and Julia Lynne Singleton (for commissioning toward Elder), Edward Locke Cameron, Gregory Scott Ellis, and Nichole Kelly Kleinberg (for ordination as Deacons), and Marcia Carol Lincoln-Heinz, Susan L. Moore, and Jared Earl Stine (for ordination as Elders).

After all the candidates were presented, Bishop Peggy Johnson led them through John Wesley's "General Examination." This was followed by the solo "Eternal Life." Following the reading of Ephesians 2:12-22 and John 4:3-30, and 39-42, the body sang "Fill My Cup Lord." Bishop Peggy Johnson then preached, with the title of her message being "Water Works." Following the message, the body sang "We Are All One in Mission." This was followed by the offering. After this, the various candidates were examined and commissioned, ordained, and recognized. During the hymn that followed, "In the Midst of New Dimensions," anyone experiencing a call to ministry was invited to come forward to the altar, where members of the Board of Ordained Ministry were available to meet with them. The benediction was then pronounced, and the recessional hymns "Go to the World" and "Lead on, O King Eternal" were sung.

Saturday, June 18, 2016

7:30 a.m. Communion Service with the Order of St. Luke

8:45a.m. Gathering Music (Lima UMC Praise Team)

9:00 am Holy Conferencing

Bishop Peggy Johnson opened the session, and Youth Delegate Jose Tirado offered prayer. She then introduced Bishop Marcus Matthews, former episcopal leader of the Eastern PA Conference, and preacher for the memorial service.

## **Monitoring Report**

Barbara Skarbowski began the report by explaining the mission of the Disabilities Committee, and thanked all those who helped compile the information for her report. She then noted the many positives that had been reported about this year's sessions, especially related to access and disability concerns. She noted that cost continues to be an issue, however, making it hard for some people to attend. She reported that most people at the microphones spoke slowly, which was appreciated, but the pace of the

proceedings seemed too fast at times. Speakers mostly reflected the diversity of the annual conference, she said, and most people enthusiastically engaged in the discussions on race during Bishop Lee's teaching session. Most persons who spoke at the microphones were white males, however. The United Methodist Men's report and the United Methodist Women's report were diverse in what they displayed.

### **Resolution 2016-01**

Rev. Joe DiPaolo brought the resolution back to the floor. He then made the motion to commit the resolution back to the Eastern PA delegation for further refinement, in consultation with such persons as the Bishop recommends for purposes of inclusion, and resubmit the resolution to the 2017 Annual Conference session.

### **Episcopal Endorsement Recommendation**

Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm addressed the body to say that the Eastern PA Jurisdictional Delegation moves the following process:

- Open the floor for nominations
- Vote on each nominee separately by paper ballot
- If the nominee receives a 2/3 vote, they will be endorsed by the EPA Annual Conference
- The floor will then be reopened for nominations and the same process will be followed until nominations are closed.

After several questions, the body approved the motion. After the vote, Judy Ehninger reported that the delegation had interviewed two potential candidates for endorsement, but after three ballots there no decision was reached. Bishop Peggy Johnson then opened the floor for nominations. Nominations were made for, and accepted by, Rev. Dr. Jeff Raffauf, Rev. Tracy Bass, and Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto. After each candidate had shared a brief biography, an individual ballot was taken for each candidate.

### **Nominations Report**

Dr. Carol Black presented the nominations report. She noted that the corrections that were submitted in the time between the original presentation of the report and this presentation had been made. She also had a number of additional changes and corrections displayed. With those changes noted, the body approved the nominations.

### **Resolution 2016-05**

Rev. Coleen Painter presented the resolution. She then made the motion that it be referred to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference. The motion was approved.

### **Resolutions 2016 - 06, 2016 - 11, 2016 - 12, and 2016 - 21**

Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell, Rev. Gary Nicholson, and Rev. Irving Cotto presented resolutions for closure for Spring City United Methodist Church; West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church; William Penn United Methodist Church; and Park United Methodist Church of Freeland. After each resolution had been approved, a final prayer of thanksgiving for the ministries of these churches was offered. Then, as a candle was

lit in remembrance of each church, persons in the body who had a link to each church were asked to stand.

### **African University Report**

Bishop Peggy Johnson reported that in 2015, the Eastern PA Conference paid 100% of its apportionment asking for Africa University. A love offering was then taken for a sports complex at Africa University in honor of Bishop Marcus Matthews. This was followed by a video about the university.

### **Memorial Service**

The Service began with the songs “Heroes,” and “Worth It All,” and “You Can Make It.” This was followed by “the Words of Grace,” and the opening hymn “Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above.” After a unison prayer, Revelation 22:1-5 was read, and the song “When We Are Living” was sung. After Romans 8:31-39 was read, Bishop Marcus Matthews, former episcopal leader of the Eastern PA Conference, delivered the message, titled “Nor Death nor Life.” The message was followed by a Litany of Remembrance, and a celebration of the lives of those who had entered the Church Triumphant. As their names were read, family members and friends participated in a liturgical act of remembrance and honor that added the sand of individual containers into a common vase. The service then closed with a final prayer and the hymn “We’ll Understand It Better By and By.”

The body was then dismissed for lunch.

1:30 p.m. Gathering Music (Lima UMC Praise Team)

2:00 p.m. Holy Conferencing

Bishop Peggy Johnson called the body back into session, and asked Youth Delegate Matthew Lynch to pray.

### **Guest Introductions**

Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced Dr. Carol Lytch, President of Lancaster Theological Seminary. Dr. Lytch then brought greetings from the seminary, sharing about the various degree programs, and the fact that Lancaster has students from 19 different denominations. Bishop Johnson then introduced Dai Morgan, Coordinator of United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania. He explained how he helps United Methodists advocate the legislature for justice in our state.

### **Episcopal Endorsement Ballot #1 Results**

Rev. Lloyd Speer read the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> episcopal endorsement ballot:

Rev. Jeff Raffauf: 376 Yes, 196 No, 5 Invalid; totaling 577 votes, and reaching 65.2%

Rev. Tracy Bass: 307 Yes, 288 No, 6 Invalid; totaling 601 votes, and reaching 51.1%

Rev. Irving Cotto: 378 Yes, 214 No, 6 Invalid; totaling 598 votes, and reaching 63.2%

The vote did not result in anyone being endorsed since 2/3 approval was required.

A motion was made to lower the threshold to 60% to endorse a candidate. The motion was not approved.

Additional persons were then nominated, some of whom declined, with Rev. Dr. Jeff Raffauf, Rev. Tracy Bass, and Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto accepting the nomination. A motion to close nominations was then made, and it was approved. A ballot was then taken individually for each person. After the ballot, a motion was made to close balloting for episcopal endorsement. The motion was approved.

### **Youth Report**

David Piltz led youth from the conference in presenting information about a number of activities and programs that occurred in the past year. They promoted the 2017 youth rally, which will be April 22, 2017. A video was then presented that showed youth speaking at General Conference, addressing issues with young people.

### **Eastern PA Scholarship Offering**

Lenora Thompson explained that the EPC Scholarship Committee oversees the distribution of scholarship funds to students in our annual conference. Those funds come from the generous giving of the members of the Eastern PA Conference. Lenora then explained that we are currently providing scholarships to 15 students. Last year, \$7,000 was collected. This year's goal is to exceed that amount. The offering was then taken.

### **Camp and Retreat Ministry Report**

Rev. Sally Ott, Coordinator of the Camp and Retreat Ministry, presented a report on the ways that lives are changed through the various ministries they coordinate. A video was then shown that highlighted the work of each of the different conference camps. This was followed by a presentation on the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysallis.

### **Resolution 2016-16**

Rev. Andrea Brown moved the adoption of the resolution. After speaking to the resolution, the body voted to approve the resolution.

### **Resolution 2016-18**

Rev. David Krueger presented the resolution. After Rev. Krueger had spoken to the resolution, a motion was made to postpone it indefinitely. The motion to postpone was not approved. After more discussion, Rev. Joe DiPaolo made a motion to "commit the resolution to the bishop's office with the request that our bishop convene a process parallel to that recently entrusted to the Council of Bishops for the General Church, to discern a path by which we in the EPA can maintain our unity." After more discussion, an amendment was made to the motion by Rev. Robin Hynicka that this process occur by establishing "a commission that is inclusive of the full diversity of the Eastern PA Conference," and that the bishop report back by November of 2017. The amendment to the motion was approved. Then the motion to commit the resolution to the bishop's office was approved.

### **Resolution 2016-14**

Rev. Sukja Bang presented the resolution, noting that the scripture reference should not be to John 4, but Matthew 25:38-40. After speaking to it, Rev. John Longmire presented a substitute resolution with the intent to table the resolution. After more discussion, the substitute motion to table the resolution was approved.

### **Episcopal Endorsement Ballot #2 Results**

Rev. Lloyd Speer read the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> episcopal endorsement ballot:

Rev. Jeff Raffauf: 371 Yes, 182 No, 11 Invalid; totaling 564 votes, and reaching 65.78%

Rev. Tracy Bass: 268 Yes, 292 No, 2 Invalid; totaling 562 votes, and reaching 47.68%

Rev. Irving Cotto: 321 Yes, 237 No, 1 Invalid; totaling 559 votes, and reaching 57.42%

The vote did not result in anyone being endorsed, since 2/3 approval was required.

Rev. Jim Anderman made a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of dealing with Resolution 2016-15 and Resolution 2015-17 together. After discussion, the motion to suspend the rules was not approved.

A number of questions were then asked about the endorsement balloting process, the closing of the ballot for endorsement, and whether the ballot could be reopened. An issue was also raised about blank balloting cards, and it was asked if any blank cards were counted as invalid ballots, thereby skewing the results. The Judge of Elections, Ruth Daugherty, was asked to review the ballots to see if there were blank cards counted as part of the invalid votes.

### **Resolution 2016-15**

Rev. Lydia Munoz presented the resolution. This was followed by discussion and questions, including the correction that the scripture listed in the resolution is not from John 4, but Matthew 25:38-40. A motion to table was made, and the body approved tabling the resolution.

### **Judge of Elections Report**

Ruth Daugherty reported that she reviewed the invalid ballots. Out of the 11 invalid ballots for Rev. Dr. Jeff Raffauf, for example, there were four blank cards. If they were eliminated, it would take the total number of votes to 560, resulting in a percentage of 66.25% for the yes votes, so even with those votes being eliminated, there was no election. Similar results were tabulated for the votes cast for Rev. Bass and Rev. Dr. Cotto.

### **Resolution 2016-17**

Rev. Herb Snyder presented the resolution. He then invited persons to extend hospitality to LGBTQ persons, no matter what their theological position is on the issue. A motion was made to table the motion, but it was not approved. After more discussion a motion was made to amend the motion, and then an amendment to the amendment was made. Both were approved by the body. A final amendment was offered, but after discussion it was not approved. The amended resolution was then approved.

### **Resolution 2016-09**

Rev. Jim Wilkin presented the resolution on behalf of the Safe Sanctuary Committee. He also added a paragraph to the printed resolution, showing the additional language on the video screens. After doing so, Rev. Wilkin explained that most of the changes to the resolution had to do with the changing nature of state law on these issues. The new policy, therefore, no longer quotes state law, but merely refers people to its requirements at various points. That way, our policy does not need to change each time laws regarding child protection are amended. After discussion and questions, several amendments were approved. Because of a lack of time, the resolution was then tabled to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference.

### **Resolution 2016-10**

A motion was made to table the resolution to the 2016 Adjourned Session of Annual Conference. The resolution was approved.

### **Certified Lay Minister Program**

Judy Ehninger spoke briefly about the CLM program, and stated that there were 11 graduates this year. She also then thanked all the clergy who served as instructors, and asked the CLM graduates to join her at the podium.

The motion was then made by Rev. Lloyd Speer to adjourn the 229<sup>th</sup> session of Annual Conference.

### **Offerings**

**EPC Scholarship Offering:** \$6,800.00

**Fulfilling the Covenant:** \$205.00

**Ordination Offering:** \$1,662.00

**Deacon Service Project:** 215 kits, with 140 more being made after conference, and 8 churches taking supplies to make even more.

### **Secretarial Staff**

These minutes, with the processing of amendments offered from the floor, as well as the counting of votes at various points in the proceedings, would not have been possible without the help of the following persons: Carlotta Madison, Tracy, Duncan, Narie Grayson, Monica Guepet, Samuel Kofi Ashley, John Lewis Sr., Dorry Newcomer, Mark Terry, and Stephen Speer