

Proceedings of the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

**Monday Evening,
April 28, 2008**

(continued from page 2346)

DAVID V. VALERA (Pacific Northwest): Bishop, I'd like to speak for this petition. We in the Pacific Northwest have several Pacific Islander communities of faith, and one of the most common problems we have, is finding resources by which we can help and equip our Pacific Islander sisters and brothers. And I think this study that we will allow this group to formulate ways by which we can learn how we can be in better ministry to work with our Pacific Islander sisters and brothers, is going to help us understand in how we can welcome Pacific Islanders into our community of faith.

BISHOP BROWN: Does anyone wish to speak against? All right, in Section C, right straight back, please go to mic eleven.

JOHN W. BISHOP (Greater New Jersey): This is an example of an item that came so late, it's not even on the list of all of the things that have been identified as potentially identifying the budget. This agency had the opportunity to go through with the connectional table in the GCFA, and so forth and have their conversations, and they chose not to make this a priority in favor of other things. If we're going to have budget discipline, we need to insist on budget discipline, which means they should have gone through that process. I think we need to be mindful of the fact that when we get home, we have to explain to our churches why the apportionments are what they are. And I urge you all to vote against this.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, in Section A, I recognize this young lady, green card. Going to mic 6. That was against.

MELE MAKI (California-Pacific): Bishop Brown, the member

of the General Conference, it is on p. 1883, under GCFA, it's on there in response to his, but I'm voted for this petition because Pacific Is...first of all, I'm a Tongan American. And West Pacific Islanders have been steep in the Wesleyan tradition for generations. In search for their new land and opportunities, they have brought that faith tradition with them. They have been in our midst for over forty years, practicing and living out their faith in United Methodist Connection. Most of these practices are in the churches and the same practices that have been in their native islands for many generations. We have many young adults, and youth who are caught between these 2 worlds, and are, and we are losing them to drugs and gangs, and I urge the General Conference to vote for this petition.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, we've heard all the speeches we can hear, we now must go to the vote, the chair gets the final statement and then we can present this matter.

JOHNSON: Yes, the Legislative Committee would encourage you to adopt the petition as amended, particularly in the fact that as you will notice, the amendment includes an amount that's less than what the group had originally asked for, so there was quite a bit of collaboration in terms of getting to that figure as well as the indication of need doesn't always fit a calendar, particularly so we did feel it was an important action.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, I see an inquiry in Section B. Would you go to mic 1 and state the purpose of your inquiry?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Carolyn answered my inquiry. I was going to ask about the discrepancy between the amount listed and the amount that she identified in the amendment, but she answered it, thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, thank you. If you would now be prepared to vote. There's a question in Section A, would you go to mic 2 and state your question?

SELMAN: Bishop, I'd like to make an amendment to the petition.

BISHOP BROWN: We have exhausted the time for debate by our rules. We've had our speeches. It's out of order.

SELMAN: OK.

BISHOP BROWN: If you would now prepare to vote. What is the purpose of your inquiry? A question? Please go to mic. 1. What's your question?

BILLY RATCLIFF (North Texas): Madam Chair, was this not one of the items that the GBGM said that they could contain within their budget?

JOHNSON: Yes, it was; but it was . . . it could . . . would be . . . could be contained within that budget. Let me explain what . . . Bishop, should I go ahead and explain the—?

BISHOP BROWN: Please.

JOHNSON: Yes. The drop from the 400,000 to the 300,000 was to cover potential administrative costs that could be shared within the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which was why the amendment and why you will notice that in the original petition there were specific line items for each of the categories you see in the amendment. In the amendment there are not specific dollar amounts assigned to each of the categories, but that those categories would be adjusted within that and that every attempt would be made to make those within the existing budgets; however, the petition comes to us outside of that, so . . .

BISHOP BROWN: All right, thank you. Please prepare to vote. If

you would support the petition as it has been amended, presented to you as amended, would you press “1” to vote yes; if you oppose it, press “2” to vote no. Please vote when the light comes on.

(pause)

[Yes, 386; No, 430] The petition is not supported. Please continue.

Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry

JOHNSON: The next item that you have is on the same p. 2177, p. 2177; and it's Calendar Item 778, Calendar Item 778, which is found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 1085, 1085. I'm going to ask the chairperson of the subgroup that worked on that to come and bring it to you. I would indicate that you will see a quite lengthy amendment; and the nature of that is that as the petition came, there was a major part of the petition that was left out, and it was then forwarded to us by the petition secretary. So the chairperson will further explain that, so, Betty Katiyo.

KATIYO: Thank you, Bishop. As indicated by my chairperson, we are dealing with Calendar Item No. 778, which is on p. 2177; and it can be found in the *DCA*, Vol. 2, on p. 1085. OK, the petition as indicated earlier on by my chairperson, we amended. It's found on the report, which is contained from p. 1041 to 1051. We added language there which was missing when the petition was submitted. So it wasn't like we amended, but it was just addition of the language on those pages. And we are recommending adoption of the petition as amended.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. The committee is recommending adoption as amended. Does anyone wish to speak to it? I see none. I think you're ready to vote then. Let's try doing this by hands. If you would support the . . . this petition as amended, would you lift your hands? All right. Thank you. If

you oppose, same sign. [*hand vote, approved*] It is adopted, thank you.

(pause)

Who's next? Please give the p. no. first.

Town and Country Ministry

KATIYO: OK, the next petition is Petition No.—

BISHOP BROWN: P. no. first, please.

KATIYO: OK, p. 2178, 2178. The middle column, Calendar Item 779, which is Petition No. 80198 found in Vol. 2 of the *DCA*, p. 1086. The committee recommends to adopt the petition as it is, Bishop.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. The committee is recommending that this be adopted as submitted. Do you wish to speak to it? I see none. If you're ready to vote, let's try a show of hands. If you would support the petition, would you lift your hands? Thank you, hands down. If you oppose, same sign. [*hand vote, approved*] It is supported, thank you. Next?

Comprehensive Plan Latin America and Caribbean

JOHNSON: Thank you, Bishop. It's the same p. 2178, 2178. This is Calendar Item 780, 780, A Study Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean; and we will ask the chair of that committee, Aida Irizarry-Fernandez to bring that document to you. I would say one thing, Bishop, the general, I mean, sorry, Global Ministries Legislative Committee, our work is growing. We continue to get new petitions, and this is a brand new one that we had received. The *ACDA* reference for you is not printed in the *DCA*, so let me tell you where it is, 1188, p. 1188, 1188, which originally was in Independent Commissions and has been reforwarded to us.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, thank you.

AIDA IRIZARRY-FERNANDEZ: P. 2178, and the committee move for adoption.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, this has been recommended for adoption as submitted. Anyone wish to speak to it? All right, I see none. If you would support this, would you lift the hands? Thank you. Opposed, same sign. [*hand vote, approved*] It is supported. Next?

Native American Comprehensive Plan

JOHNSON: Bishop, our last item under the suspension of the rules—although we do have other items—our last item is Calendar Item 782, which is 2178, p. 2178, that same page, the Native American Comprehensive Plan. And again, I'd like that Legislative Subcommittee chair to come to the podium in case you have other questions. Bau Dang.

BAU DANG (California-Pacific): Bishop...

BISHOP BROWN: Please speak into the mic.

DANG : Bishop and delegates of the General Conference, my name is Bau Dang from California-Pacific Annual Conference, and the first Vietnamese American ever been elected as a delegate of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

(applause)

It is my honor to represent our committee to move that you would adopt Petition, let me get you the page first, p. 2178, Petition No. 81505. You can also find it in the *DCA*, p. 1091-1093.

BISHOP BROWN: All right.

DANG: I move to adopt this petition.

BISHOP BROWN: OK, the committee is recommending that you adopt this petition as indicated. Does anyone wish to speak to it? All right. I see, first of all, a yellow card in section C. Would you go to mic. 9, please?

KIM S. CAPE (Southwest Texas): Bishop, I'm just curious: A question of information? Is this in the budget already?

DANG: Yes, it is.

CAPE: OK.

DANG: I was told that this is built in the budget by GCFA and this is just to move from the GBGM to GBOD.

(pause)

BISHOP BROWN: OK, with the permission of the body, I would like to inquire of the General Secretary or Deputy General Secretary from GCFA, that might be able to answer that question for, I am getting conflicting information around that. So, with the permission of the body, would you allow that? If you would give permission, would you lift a hand? Thank you. Opposed, same sign? It is granted. [*Passed by hand vote*] Would you speak at mic. 12, please.

TERRY BRADFIELD: Yes, Bishop. The speaker was correct. The amount for this petition is already included in the budget. The technical aspect of this is that the amount was originally included in the budget of the General Board of Global Ministries but has been shifted to the oversight of the General Board of Discipleship.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, thank you for your assistance on that. Does that clarify the matter? Anyone else wish to speak to this? OK, I see a red card in section C. Would you go to mic. 9?

*Cost of Native American
Comprehensive Plan*

BRYAN D. COLLIER (Mississippi): I actually brought both cards cause I'm not sure which this is, and I think you'll understand when I say what I have to say. I'm from Mississippi. We are proud to share the state with those who were there before us in two reservations in our state. A tremendous ministry in Mississippi

that they have both to us, and us to them. I think this is a point of frustration on my part. I have somehow lost count of the untold dollars we spend studying how to do ministry, and come to the conclusion that we should maybe figure out a way to give money to people who come to us with devised plans to actually do ministry. We have a \$300,000 budget when only \$100,000 will be spent on ministry. We're going to spend \$300,000...sir?

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up.

COLLIER: Yes, sir. I will count it as a point of clarification and speak neither for nor against, just a point of frustration.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, anyone else wish to speak? All right, I see in section B, please go to closest mic. mic. 2.

JOSEPHINE DEERE (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): I am just curious why the other ones passed without anyone questioning them, and when it comes to the Native people, we get questioned.

BISHOP BROWN: OK, anyone else wish to speak? I see, anyone wish to speak against, that was for. OK, I only see green cards. We've had one and one. No one else wish to speak against? We'll take one of the green cards. I'll go to this one right here in section A.

MATTHEW G. KUZMA (Northern Illinois): I speak in favor of the petition, because of the general principle we've been working on tonight, that if funding is within the budget, that we approve it, and if it is outside of this magical \$642 million number that we do not. So I rise in favor. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Now just so that you're aware, we have had one against and not another one that is indicated, and two for. I think this would normally put it ready for a vote, but I saw a yellow card in section D. In section D? What is the point of your inquiry? Mic. 11.

CHARLIE (CE) E. MCADOO (Arkansas): A point of information, Bishop.

BISHOP BROWN: Name and conference, please.

MCADOO : CE McAdoo, Arkansas.

BISHOP BROWN: All right.

MCADOO: Bishop, the news today...

BISHOP BROWN: This is a question, right?

MCADOO: No, it is a point of inquiry. Is to say that we are here talking about finances and the inquiry is that if United Methodists...

BISHOP BROWN: Excuse me, let me just be sure that you are not making a speech. If this is an inquiry, that means a question.

MCADOO: Well, the question is could The United Methodist Church, those in America, who are going to receive their economic stimulus check, if they would tithe...

BISHOP BROWN: Pardon me, I am going to have to rule you out of order. That sounds like a speech to me. Thank you.

(laughter)

Now these other inquiries, I recognize in section B, would you go to mic. 5, there, right behind you, it's right behind you? There you go.

GUY C. AMES III (Oklahoma): This is a question directed to the subcommittee chair. As I was a part of the committee, I'm trying to remember, the call that gave the intent that there was money that was needed, was a typographical error? Am I right about that? I know we've had discussion, but I just . . . I thought that was a part of the problem. Am I correct?

DANG: Thank you. It should not be in DCA, because it has been built in the budget, and other national caucuses has been accepted and approved, but this come to, Native American, we have a problem. So I have a little bit concern about this,

because throughout our history, Native Americans have been treated with, well, I don't want to say anymore.

BISHOP BROWN: OK, I think it's been clarified. This is in the budget. I think you are ready to vote. Can we, by a show of hands, try to deal with this one? If you would support it, would you lift the hands? Thank you. Opposed, same sign. It is supported. [*supported by show of hands*] Thank you very much. We thank Global Ministries. Oh, we have some more. I am sorry. We got to these special ones and we have a few more.

Darfur/Sudan Awareness

JOHNSON: Yes, we do, and those will be found on p. 2050, p. 2050, two-zero-five-zero, and we will look at Calendar Item 177, followed by 178, and then come back and pick up 176.

DANG: The content of that petition is in p. 1093 in the *DCA*. We move to adopt this petition with this amendment. First of all, we would like to delete Item No. 2 and No. 3 in the petition. In the last paragraph, we would like to ask you to make a correction in your *DCA* as follow: "We applaud funding for these actions already been provided by The United Methodist Publishing House, the General Board of Church and Society, and the General Board of Global Ministries."

BISHOP BROWN: All right. So the committee is recommending it be adopted with these amendments?

DANG: Yes.

BISHOP BROWN: That's it. OK. It is before you. This is Calendar Item 177. It is recommended for adoption by the committee with the amendments that you see in the book and have just been shared with you. Anyone wish to speak to it? All right. I see none. I think we're ready to go. Ah, there in section B. Would you go to mic. 2, please?

KASAP'OWAN TSHIBANG (North West Katanga) (*simultaneous translation*): I propose we adopt this petition because the issue in Darfur is a very serious issue. In Africa, as well as in lots of other countries, we are worried about it. There are widows, there are orphans from the war, and that must be a topic of prayer as well.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. That was a speech in favor of this. Is anyone else wishing to speak? OK, I see none against. In section D? I can't tell. Is that yellow or green? All right. There's a yellow card. Go to mic. 8, please.

J. MONTGOMERY BROWN (West Virginia): I'd like to ask why we're only designating a Sunday and doing away with making information available?

BISHOP BROWN: Can you answer that?

In the deletion of Items 2 and 3.

DANG: Yes, our committee do not want to give specific directions for the related general boards and agency how to do . . . how to carry out the mandate of this petition. We expect them to use all means that they have in their capacity to make our denomination and the world aware of this situation in Darfur and Sudan.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Thank you for the answer to the question. Thank you. Ready to vote on this matter? Ah, yellow card in section B. She's going to mic. 4.

JOAN E. CARTER-RIMBACH (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I have something different. I served in this legislative committee and what a couple of us have is that we in no. 2 and no. 3, after the parentheses in no. 2 and 3, we wrote the word *continue* and then we deleted the last paragraph, which begins with "We suggest."

BISHOP BROWN: I would ask the committee,

CARTER-RIMBACH: So, if I can get some clarification from the committee, from the subcommittee chair?

BISHOP BROWN: Can you clarify this easily?

DANG: We accept that.

BISHOP BROWN: Is this an editorial correction?

CARTER-RIMBACH: Yes.

DANG: Yes.

BISHOP BROWN: OK, this is an editorial correction. OK, the committee says that is a editorial correction. That is correct and that should have been shown that way.

CARTER-RIMBACH: Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Thank you. All right, I think you're ready to vote. If you would support the, this item, Calendar Item 177 as it has been amended, would you lift your hands? Thank you. Oppose, the same sign. It is approved. Thank you.

Global AIDS Fund

DANG: I have one more to go. In your *DCA*, p. 2050, Calendar Item 178. Global AIDS Fund and Comprehensive Education; you can find it in the *DCA*, 1093. Our committee move that you would adopt this petition with the amendment as follow: Look at the end of the p. on the right column. Please strike out, "A total of \$100,000 from World Service Funds will be allocated to this effort." The reason is we have asked the staff of the General Board of Global Ministry and they said that mandate on has already been built in their budget. So, there is no need to add, additional \$100,000 toward this effort.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, thank you. So, the committee is recommending approval with this deletion. This amendment. Anyone wish to speak? All right. I think you're ready to vote. Let's vote by hand. If you would approve Calendar Item 178, would you lift the hand? Thank

you. Oppose, the same sign. It is approved.

DANG: Thank you.

The Advance

DEVIN W. MAUNEY (Desert Southwest): My name is Devin Mauney and I'll be introducing the last item.

BISHOP BROWN: Would you restate your name there and speak right into that mic.?

MAUNEY: Sure. My name is Devin Mauney and I'll be introducing the final item from the Global Ministries Committee. Today we heard witness of the wonderful and—

BISHOP BROWN: Would you give the p. no. first and the calendar so we can be finding it?

MAUNEY: Sure. It's on p. no. 2050, 2050, and the no. is 176, entitled "The Advance." And today we saw the great works around the world that The Advance can do so it is altogether appropriate that we deal with legislation today that will align the Advance with our church structure and allow it to continue to work in the future.

Just a few notes before we continue. With this piece, the bolded text that you'll see on p. 2050 that says, "Cultivation for the Advance shall be through channels of the church other than United Methodist Women, who have other means of mission giving." That already occurs in the *Discipline* in paragraph 1310.3b. This is just reallocating it to the new paragraph, where the rest of the language for The Advance will lie. And that is the . . . that is not a substantive change. It's just moving the paragraphs. And I would also like to note that all of the money required for the changes that you see in this item are already included in the budget. The committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. The Committee recommends adoption of Calendar Item 176 with these changes. Anyone wish to speak? Section B, please go to mic. 4.

RUSS GRAVES (Florida): I thought I had broken the code and understood how these individual calendar items were marked, stating whether they were funded or not. I'm either confused, or we have a number of typos. The last calendar item we voted on had an exclamation point following the "A." We were told that the one prior to that had been funded and that that was a typo. Am I incorrect in believing that those that are marked with a dollar sign are funded and those that are not, or have an exclamation point, are not?

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Your understanding is incorrect, sir. The dollar sign indicates that it affects an existing line item. The exclamation point is the symbol that it creates a new dollar impact.

GRAVES: That was my understanding. The item we just voted on had an exclamation point.

BISHOP BROWN: Well, I'm sorry, the item we just voted on is beyond us. We're on 176 now.

GRAVES: Yes, sir. I'm just trying to get ready for the next ones that come.

BISHOP BROWN: OK. Well, thank you.

GRAVES: All right. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, 176 is before us. I think you're ready to vote. If you would approve 176, would you lift the hands? Thank you. If you're opposed, same sign. It is adopted. Thank you. And we thank the committee for their work. Yes, please.

CAROLYN STEPHENS: Bishop, the Global Ministries Legislative Group has miles to go before we sleep. And we will be meeting fifteen minutes after the adjournment of—whenever this session ends.

BISHOP BROWN: Surely, thank you. Continue to work in the Spirit. All right, we call upon the Superintendency Legislative Committee. Frank J. Beard is the chairperson.

Retirement of Bishops

FRANK J. BEARD (North Indiana): Bishop, delegates, and visitors, I am Frank Beard of the North Indiana Conference, Chair of the Superintendency Legislative Committee. Joining me are Evelyn McDonald, secretary, Janet Forbes, subcommittee chair of group one. Our item is found on p. 2051, p. 2051. The next item is Calendar Item 184. No. 184, found on p. 2051 of the *DCA*. This item refers to Petition No. 81433, Petition No. 81433; which can be found in the *Advance* edition of the *DCA* on p. 1542, 1542. The petition's subject is retirement of bishops. The committee recommends to adopt Calendar Item 184. The Committee vote was 49 for, and four against. Janet Forbes will come and share the rationale.

JANET L. FORBES (Rocky Mountain): I'm Janet Forbes, clergy delegate from the Rocky Mountain Conference, and chaired the subcommittee that has to do with the recommendations from the task force to study the episcopacy. This petition deals with mandatory retirement for our episcopal leaders. You will remember that our bishops are assigned by quadrennium; so this petition increases the marker age for retirement from 66 to 68, rationale being a justice issue for our bishops. It moves them closer to the mandatory retirement age for elders. Also allows experienced episcopal leaders to continue in an active relationship thus providing cost savings for the Episcopal Fund.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, the committee is recommending adoption as submitted. Do—anyone wish to speak? OK. In section C I see a yellow card. This is the woman in the yellow sweater. Going to mic. 9.

DEBORAH HEISLEY-CATO (Central Pennsylvania): I would like to move to amend by addition at the end of the submitted text. And I would amend it in this way— and then I'll explain. "The provisions of Paragraph 409.2 (c) are suspended until January 1, 2009. This legislation shall take effect immediately

upon adjournment of the 2008 General Conference.' The reason would be—

BISHOP BROWN: Is there—let's get a second. There is a second. All right, now speak to it.

HEISLEY-CATO: The reason would be that the Legislative Committee has expressed their belief that raising the retirement age is a benefit to the church. This amendment will allow us to realize this benefit immediately. The suspension of paragraph 409.2 (c) until January 1, 2009, will allow those bishops who were under mandatory retirement and therefore did not need to give the six-month notice for voluntary retirement, but who still want to retire, to do so.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. You've heard the amendment. Does anyone wish to speak to it? I see none. I think you're ready to vote on the amendment. We'll give the representative of the committee an opportunity to speak if they wish.

FORBES: I believe that this amendment comes from recommendation of the General Council and it is in order.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Thank you. You've heard the amendment, if you would support the amendment, would you lift your hands? All right. Thank you. If you are opposed, same sign. The amendment is adopted. Thank you.

Any further discussion of this item? It is before you. If you would adopt the recommendation of the committee, would you lift the hands, I mean, adopt this calendar item as amended, I'm sorry. Thank you. Opposed, the same sign. It is adopted as amended. Thank you. I appreciate the work of the Superintendency Committee. And we are now calling upon the Discipleship Legislative Committee. Tyrone Gordon is the chairperson.

DMYP Membership

TYRONE D. GORDON (North Texas): Bishop, I would like to thank the Discipleship Legislative Com-

mittee; and if I might, I'd like to just present our Luke Wetzel, the vice-chair from Kansas East, and Phebe Crismo from the Northern Philippines Central Conference, who served as our secretary. And we thank them for their work.

Bishop, our first item is found in the *DCA* on p. 1988. That's p. 1988. Petition No. 81306, which can also be found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 603. It's Calendar Item No. 44. The committee recommends to reject Calendar Item 44, and Matthew Johnson will come, who chaired the subcommittee, to explain the rationale.

MATTHEW G. JOHNSON (Western Pennsylvania): My name is Matthew Johnson. I'm a lay member from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. The discussion on our subcommittee centered on several things. This legislation would change the proportions by which membership is put in place for the Division on Ministries with Young People. We voted to reject this in order to keep the ratio the same. As at this point, this same representation comes from each jurisdiction, and as we had conversations we felt like from each jurisdiction at Central Conference. Pardon me. We felt like this was a very positive thing for the Division as a whole. This is at a cost savings to the church of about \$103,000 that would be the additional monies that would be required if this legislation passed.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, the committee recommends that you reject this Calendar Item 44. Does anyone wish to speak? I see none. If you would remember we're voting—if you agree with the committee—I mean if you disagree with the committee, and you want to support this as presented, you would vote "yes." If you agree with the committee's recommendation to reject, you would vote "no." If you would want to disagree with the committee and vote "yes" on this one, would you lift your hand? OK. If you agree with the committee and want to re-

ject this one, would you lift your hands? It is rejected. Thank you.

GORDON: Bishop, our next item is also on p. 1988 of the *DCA*, it's Calendar Item No. 45. That's 1988, Calendar Item No. 45, Petition No. 81307. It can also be found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 603. The committee recommends to reject Item No. 45. I'm going to ask Matthew Johnson to come also and explain the rationale.

JOHNSON: Our rationale for this petition was very similar to that of the last one. We felt like we should continue to keep our proportions as they are. This piece of legislation by rejecting also stands at a cost savings of approximately \$55,000.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, any one wish to speak, the committee is recommending you reject it.

(pause)

I see no one. Calendar Item 45 is before you. If you disagree with the committee and want to support it, would you lift your hand? All right, thank you. If you agree with the committee and you vote to reject it, would you lift your hands? It is rejected. Thank you.

Committee on Older Adult Ministries

GORDON: Bishop, the next item is found on p. 2047 in your *DCA*; p. No. 2047. Calendar Item 154. Petition No. 80264. It can be found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 601. The committee recommends to adopt Calendar Item No. 154. And George Howard who chaired the subcommittee will come to explain the rationale.

GEORGE G. HOWARD (West Ohio): Bishop, the Conference that offers \$600 for the basketball.

(laughter)

This petition that is on the committee is the committee on older adult ministries. This is an existing committee which aligns efforts of

different agencies and boards around older adult ministries. The General Board of Discipleship has incorporated money into its existing budget for the grants, as have the other agencies for their travel to this meeting. We have stricken 'the Connectional Table.' Our rationale is that Connectional Table is not a program agency and doesn't belong in this petition.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Committee is recommending that you adopt with this amendment. Does anyone wish to speak to it?

(pause)

I see none; I think you're ready to vote. If you would approve Calendar Item 154, as it has been amended, would you lift your hands? Thank you. If you oppose, the same sign. It is approved. Thank you.

Stewardship Education

GORDON: Bishop, the next item is also found on p. 2047, Calendar Item No. 155. That's p. no. 2047, Calendar Item No. 155, Petition No. 80196; and can be found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 626. The committee recommends adoption. George Howard, will also come again and explain the rationale.

HOWARD: This is a petition around stewardship education. The amendment, the amended petition, is intended to align efforts around stewardship education with the current way the boards and agencies are structured. The General Board of Global Ministries no longer has an office of field service and finance. The General Board of Discipleship has staffing for stewardship but not these offices as they are previously listed. Materials will continue to be available in print and on the Web. The amendment eliminates the formation of a team to do this work.

BISHOP BROWN: All right—

HOWARD: Again, it's within the budgets.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. The committee is recommending that you approve this—that you adopt this with the amendments. Anyone wish to speak to it? I see an inquiry at section C. Would you go to mic. 10? The gentlemen that's standing—I'm sorry that's 12. Mic. 12.

EDWARD A. KAIL (Iowa): Thank you, Bishop. Ed Kail, Iowa Conference, clergy.

BISHOP BROWN: Would you restate please?

KAIL: Ed Kail, Iowa Conference, clergy.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you.

KAIL: On behalf of the Rural Fellowship, I'd like to offer an amendment to restore the words 'and the General Board of Global Ministries' that was stricken before.

BISHOP BROWN: OK, is there a second? And then you can speak to it. There is a second; would you speak to it? And be clear—help us find, it's on 2048.

KAIL: 2048

BISHOP BROWN: OK.

KAIL: There is the 'Therefore, be it resolved'; there is a section of strike-through, and toward the end of that, I want to restore 'and the General Board of Global Ministries.'

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Please give your rationale.

KAIL: Yes. The Board of Global Ministries has an office of town and country ministries, which is very active in relating to the United Methodist Rural Fellowship and rural people all over; and they, too, have an interest in stewardship development, along with channels for communication.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? I see none. I think we're there. Any comment, George? Ready? All right; the amendment is before you. If you would support the amendment to place 'Board of Global Ministries' back into this one, would you lift your hands? All right; oppose, same sign. It is amended.

(pause)

I think the whole matter is before you. The main report is now before you; does anyone else wish to speak on it? All right, George, any final words on it? All right, we're ready to go. If you would approve the report as amended, would you lift your hands? Oppose: the same sign. It is adopted as amended.

Hymnal Revision

GORDON: Bishop, the next item is found on p. 2048, that's p. 2048, Calendar Item 156; Petition No. 80250; and it's found in our *Advance DCA* on p. 605. The committee recommends to adopt Calendar Item No. 156, which is an amended version of the original petition. Thomas Andy Langford will come and explain and give the rationale.

THOMAS A (ANDY) LANGFORD III (Western North Carolina): As a staff member, a consultant to the current *United Methodist Hymnal*, an editor of your *Book of Worship*, I am excited to present this petition to you this night. We're getting ready to revise the *United Methodist Hymnal* again. You'll make a difference in the life of our congregations. We have spoken with staff of General Board of Discipleship, with the United Methodist Publishing House, heard their rationale. Our committee, subcommittee, are excited about the prospects of this book to invite—revitalize the worship life of our congregations. It has an asterisk behind it indicating there are financial implications. The United Methodist Publishing House has committed itself to use current funds to fund the development of this project. The General Board of Discipleship will use staff and other funds already in its budget. We present this to you for adoption with excitement.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, the committee is recommending that you support this with the amendments as noted. Section A, I see a yellow card. Please go. The closest mic. there; I think it's mic. 5.

IRENE KRAFT (Germany North): I would like to move an amendment in—towards the end of the petition, where it reads, “Throughout its work, the hymnal . . .” and then later it says that “The committee shall report to the delegates of the 2008 General Conference.” I like to move to delete these words, and I, if I get a second, I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP BROWN: Is there a second? It is seconded, please speak to it.

KRAFT: I have been shipped so many material to Germany before this General Conference and I always wondered about the cost of this. So I think it doesn’t make sense to send material to delegates outside the U.S. and also the delegates now here won’t . . . may be not be present at the next General Conference. So I think it’s enough that it says in the petition that the whole connection should be, should get informed.

LANGFORD: Let me respond. What that paragraph refers to is at least some of the people who will be consulted in the development of this resource. The 2012 General Conference will adopt this. All of this petition says is that, for example, that line “The delegates of the 2008 General Conference and the whole connection will engage in serious dialogue to ensure that its work reflects the aspirations of our church.” We are not asking anybody to approve anything; we’re just making sure that everyone is included in the development of this work.

BISHOP BROWN: OK. The maker of the amendment, did that clarification affect your desire to amend this? Did that clarification affect your desire to make this amendment? You wish your amendment to go forward? All right, the amendment is properly before us, does anyone else wish to speak to it? I see none. If you would support the amendment, would you lift your hands? All right, thank you. If you oppose the amendment, would you lift your hands? The amendment is not supported. All right. This matter

is before us. I see in section C, I see a red card there. Let’s go to mic. 9, please.

CASEY ANDREWS (Missouri): I wish to speak against this petition, and I offer the following reasons why. First, the petition states that a new hymnal will recognize the changes that are occurring in music and liturgy throughout our connection. However, I believe that as soon as the committee reports back to the 2012 General Conference and the hymnal is printed, the contemporary worship elements will be outdated. Second, the petition indicates that future work for other regions of the worldwide unit United Methodist Church will occur, possibly in the form of official hymnals like the proposed *Africana Hymnal*. However, I believe the work for other regions that currently have no official resource in their native language should take priority over a new U.S. hymnal revision. My global ministry subcommittee could barely move forward at times because half of our delegates did not have the *DCA*, the *Book of Discipline*, or the *Book of Resolutions* printed in their native language, and I suspect that many didn’t have a hymn—

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up.

ANDREWS: —hymnal either way. I think that our resources could be spent other ways to create new resources for other people. I also think that this is not going to be something that will transform our ministries and if we want to align our priorities with that goal, I think we should reject this. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, thank you. In section D, I see a card in favor. Would you go to mic 7? Oh, there were two of you. OK. I’m going to recognize the woman in the white.

MARY BROOKE CASAD (North Texas): I was the youngest member of the Hymnal Revision Committee. I am now a grandmother. I believe its time for a new hymnal. How well I remember the

day 21 years ago when the Hymnal Revision Committee completed its report to the 1988 General Conference. We spoke on that day of a distant time when another new hymnal would be created. That time has come. Our 1989 hymnal has, I believe, served as the chair of the committee, Bishop Rueben Job, hoped it would, as an icon, a window to God; but a new hymnal is needed for a new generation, especially if we are to be a church that reaches more people, younger people, and more diverse people. The 1989 Hymnal will be a cherished part of our church’s history—

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up.

CASAD: —and certainly of my own faith journey, but I want to vote for a new hymnal for my grandchildren. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. We’ve had one speech in favor and one against. All right, section C, would you go there at mic 12?

SHANNON MEISTER (Missouri): While I appreciate the UMPH and GBOD efforts in this, I don’t think it will accomplish what we want. First, the argument has been made that a new hymnal will appeal to young people. A new book isn’t going to make more young people come to our church. Relationships are. Don’t applaud, but thank you, its out of order.

(laughter)

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you.

FLOOR RESPONSE: You go, girl!

MEISTER: Many youth and young adults that I surveyed from the Missouri Conference at an event we had, said this, that using a book is not as effective as screens, and don’t care how old the books are. Second, if this is supposed to incorporate new technology and new contemporary songs, it will be outdated by the time it takes four years to produce this survey or committee or whatever they want, and more time

to print it. The implications of the digital and emerging technologies it uses for worship and congregational singing will be obsolete. Third, many rural and inner city—

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up.

MEISTER: —urban churches who are poor can't afford new hymnals. This is not the way to a future with hope. We need to do something sooner. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. I see a green card here in section A. Mic. 6.

KUZMA: I agree with my sisters that new technology is very important in music ministry, and screens are great, we're looking at one for our church, too. But nothing in this petition precludes the church from exploring new technologies, and a new hymnal is still necessary in churches that don't have screens and serve maybe populations that use books.

BISHOP WARNER H. BROWN JR: All right. I see a green card here in Section A. Mic. 6.

KUZMA: I agree with my sisters that new technology is very important in music ministry and screens are great, we're looking at one for our church, too. But nothing in this petition precludes the church from exploring new technologies, and the new hymnal is still necessary in churches that don't have screens and serve maybe populations that use books. So, I don't think there's anything wrong with it, it's in the budget, and the multi-media experience can still go forward. Thanks.

BISHOP BROWN: Under your rules, we are ready to vote. The committees last word?

LANGFORD: I give thanks for the words of Mary Brooke Casad. Like Mary Brooke, I did this hymnal when I was significantly younger. Both of my daughters grew up singing out of this book. The first one has now graduated from seminary and the second one is in seminary, having been shaped in their

faith by this document. I hope that we will create a book that uses all the new technologies, all the new languages of worship that help my grandchildren also discover God through this resource.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. The committee recommends that you adopt Calendar Item No. 156 as they have amended it. If you would adopt 156 as amended, would you lift your hands? Thank you. Opposed, the same sign? Think we are gonna have to use the machine. If you would support 156, you would press "1", if you would oppose, press "2". Please vote when the light appears. Please vote now.

(voting pause)

[Yes, 450; No, 336]

BISHOP BROWN: You have approved it. Let us move now to the last item for this committee.

Africana Hymnal Proposal

GORDON: Bishop, the last item for tonight, for us *(laughter)* is found on p. 2048, that's p. 2048, Calendar Item No. 157. Petition No. 80217, found in the *Advanced DCA* on p. 604. The committee recommends to adopt. And Thomas Langford will come to present the rationale.

LANGFORD: The General Board of Discipleship and the United Methodist Publishing House know that no one book meets every set of needs. There has been increasing conversation growing out of the church from persons within the United States of African descent who have asked about the possibility of an Africana hymnal. These plans are not as well developed as they were for a vision of the United Methodist Hymnal, and so the United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Discipleship are using current monies, no new monies, to spend this next 4 years developing the possibility of doing an Africana hymnal.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. You have heard the recommendation of the committee to adopt this as submitted. Does anyone wish to speak? In section C, I see a yellow card? I see a person in section D also, C first, and then I'll come to you. Lets, mic. 9.

CASEY ANDREWS (Missouri): I just have a question on the research that the GBOD did for the overall hymnal? I found that of the twenty top least favorite hymns, about half of them were cultural songs. Will there be non-Africana culturally, cultural songs in the Africana hymnal? Like we have cultural diversity in our hymnal, will they also be experiencing our favorites?

BISHOP BROWN: Anybody answer that?

LANGFORD: That simply has not yet been determined, the committee to work on that has not yet been decided. If you will look at the petition, in the *Advanced DCA*, it'll talk about both hymnity from our United Methodist tradition, but also out of the greater Pan Methodist tradition, the CME, the AME, the AME Zion, to see if there is a possibility of creating a hymnal that could be used by persons in the United States of African descent, but, what that would look like, what it would be shaped, what the contents would be, its far too early to tell.

ANDREWS: OK. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. In section D, the person that was wanting to go to mic. 11, would you go now? State your inquiry.

ERNESTO P. CONTRERAS (Mexico): Just want to ask if it's going to be affordable, because in Mexico, we have had at least half of our, our congregations where people cannot afford not even a paperback, hymn, Methodist hymn. By the way, we love the translations of the Wesleyan hymns and other classical hymns in Spanish.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. Looking . . . ok. In Section C, I see a yellow card? Your inquiry please? Why don't you go to mic. 11.

ROSA WASHINGTON-OLSON (California-Nevada): Bishop, I'm Rosa Washington-Olson, and I have a question.

BISHOP BROWN: Conference, please?

WASHINGTON-OLSON: I'm from Cal-Nevada. We did *The Songs of Zion* quite some time ago, and my congregation is predominately Anglo. And the songs of Zion are up on the shelf. Now, are we coming up with the new book to put in everybody's church, and they're gonna put it up on the shelf, because they said the new hymn book had all the African American songs in it. I just wanna know, are we doing something to appease someone?

BISHOP BROWN: I, I take that as a speech against. Thank you. Does anyone else wish to speak? All right. I think you're ready to vote? Last word?

LANGFORD: The United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Discipleship see this not as an appeasement, but as an attempt to meet the needs of the persons in this denomination who are seeking to worship God in their own heart language, but also in the language of others.

BISHOP BROWN: All right. On Calendar Item 157, if you would approve it, would you lift your hands? Thank you, hands down. If you oppose, would you lift your hands? It is approved. Thank you. We thank this committee for their work, and as they leave, we call for the Central Conference Affairs Committee, and Bishop Patrick Streiff will be speaking on behalf of the committee. There is an inquiry at mic. 11, what's the point of your inquiry? Mic. 8, then. Mic. 8, please.

RONALD BRETSCHE (North Central New York): This is a plea that we use electronic balloting, which we use not only for the sake

of efficiency, but when we instituted electronic, or rather, secret balloting, there were other reasons on the table for doing so. I appreciate the chair's wanting to speed us on our way, and voting by hand is appropriate sometimes, but there are other advantages for electronic voting.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you. The chair will hear your remark as an objection to using vote by hand, and so we will use the ballot for the remaining items. All right, thank you, Bishop Streiff? Would you please?

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: Sir, the first 2 items will be introduced and presented by the secretary Byrd Bonner. And then the 3rd item by the Vice Chair, Bishop Minerva Carcaño.

BONNER: The next item is Calendar Item No. 32...

BISHOP BROWN: Page first, please.

Adding Episcopal Areas in Congo

BONNER: Thank you, p. 1986 of the *DCA*, 1986, Calendar Item No. 32.

This item refers to Petition No. 80001, 80001 which can be found in the *Advance Edition of the DCA* on p. 1164. The committee recommends referral of this item to the Commission on Central Conference Affairs in consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration. You might note that this item is on 1986 on Consent Calendar D01. Today it was pulled off of the consent calendar on the last page of today's *DCA*, p. 2179, at the bottom of the page, removing Consent Calendar Item No. 32.

This petition seeks to add a new episcopal—two new episcopal areas in the Congo Central Conference. There are financial implications that can be found on p. 2073 of your *DCA* in the list—in the list of financial implications you will see the amount on the very first line, being that it's Petition No. 80001, of

\$1,782,000 for the quadrennium. That figure is the apportioned amount for two Central Conference bishops for the four years of the coming quadrennium. The petition seeks the addition of the two episcopal areas where there is currently one bishop serving four annual conferences. Bishop Katembo currently serves the Lukoshi Annual Conference, the North West Katanga Annual Conference, the South Congo Annual Conference and the South West Katanga. The petition seeks to split the North West Katanga and the South West Katanga annual conferences into separate episcopal areas.

Just for a bit of background information on this area, the Congo Central Conference covers approximately 4.2 million square kilometers, which is two—approximately 2.6 million square miles. In addition, there are just over 346,000 professing members in this current one episcopal area.

The Commission on Annual—on Central Conference Affairs on Tuesday of last week gave significant consideration to this and other petitions seeking new episcopal areas. After their deliberations and input from some resource persons, the decision on recommendation from the Commission on Central Conference Affairs was to refer all of these petitions to this coming quadrennium's Commission on Central Conference Affairs in consultation with the Council of Bishops and GCFA, not just to consider the request for these specific new episcopal areas and their related financial implications, but to do a broader study of all of the needs of all of the central conferences and the annual conferences that the bishops in the central conferences serve, so that we are not faced from quadrennium to quadrennium with requests that come directly from the central conferences for new episcopal areas without the benefit of a broader, more pervasive study of the needs of the episcopal areas within the central conferences.

The committee recommends referral of this petition to—

BISHOP BROWN: OK, in this case—

BONNER: The new commission.

BISHOP BROWN: We need you to move referral then.

BONNER: The committee moves referral of this petition to the 2009-2012 Commission on Central Conference Affairs or the Committee on Central Conference Matters and, (which is its new name—would be its new name) and in consultation with the Council of Bishops and GCFA.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, that motion to refer is properly before you. If you would refer this matter, would you lift your hands? Thank you. Opposed the same sign—

REIST: I'm sorry, we had promised to use the machine.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you. If you would refer this matter would you vote "1," press "1"; if you oppose referring would you press "2." Please press it when—thank you.

[Yes, 725; No, 78]

(pause)

New Episcopal Area in Zimbabwe

BISHOP BROWN: All right, you have referred it; thank you. Now with Calendar Item 33, that is immediately following that one, I would ask the representative of the committee, does your rationale for that one, the same rationale that you have just given us?

BONNER: Yes, it does, Bishop, the same rationale, and it's—

BISHOP BROWN: All right would you make your motion then?

BONNER: We recommend that Calendar Item No. 33 relating to Petition No. 41829 be referred to the coming quadrennium's Committee on Central Conference Matters in consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, so that's a motion to refer. Thank you, if you would refer this?

FLOOR SPEAKER: Inquiry.

BISHOP BROWN: OK, there's an inquiry, please go to mic. 3.

A MARK CONARD (Kansas West): This is actually a point of personal privilege. I just invite the General Conference to pray especially for our delegates from Zimbabwe, the churches they represent, and the nation that is undergoing such excruciating challenges. And also to remember in prayer all of the others in central conferences. Thank you.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you, we appreciate that. We'll include that in our closing prayers. The motion before us is a motion to refer.

(pause)

BISHOP BROWN: All right. I think if you would refer this, would you press the button—

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: There's a card.

BISHOP BROWN: Oh. All right. Section A please, red card.

(pause)

BISHOP BROWN: Mic. 3.

(pause)

KATIYO: Thank you, Bishop. I want to talk against the motion which has just been moved by the speaker. If I heard him well, he indicated that during the session of this commission, there are people who actually rendered the information. It happened to be sitting in that commission and all of the people who spoke against, there was none from the central conferences concerned. And if you allow me, Bishop, I can explain why we have these petitions.

BISHOP BROWN: Please continue.

KATIYO: Thank you, Bishop. Since we came to this General Conference, in most of the same ones

which we have been given and in some of the presentations which have been given, it's very clear that the church is growing in Africa in numbers, and the numbers here are going down. In terms of technology for communication, it's easier to communicate here, but in our Africa Central Conference—

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up.

KATIYO: You actually have to move from place to place, and it's not easy to move. We actually need more bishops. Nearly every year at our annual conferences we are creating new circuits and we have a lot of untrained pastors manning our local churches, and these would need the guidance of a bishop. And this is why we bring these petitions over. And also, a point to take into account: these petitions, well they've come earlier on, so the excuse which is given that the GCFA has not considered it, I would have thought—whenever we get these petitions, it's natural they have a financial bearing, and the people concerned should be approached. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you, thank you; that's— All right, I see a green card on . . . is that green you are raising, sir? Yes. I see a green card on Section B. Please, mic. 2.

KASAPI AWANT (Northwest Katanga): Bishop, [translated].

BISHOP BROWN: Do it—OK, just a moment. Our translator is moving back to a mic. She'll be there in a moment.

AWANT (*simultaneous translation*): Africa should not be considered a country. Africa is a big continent, and those who have never traveled in Africa in a vehicle do not understand how difficult it is to move around; but those who *have* traveled that way know how much the church is suffering in such instances. What we have learned from this, from the Central Conferences is that the petitions have not been studied in their context. There was the

petition from Congo, from Zimbabwe; but these petitions were studied as a block. I think that was a mistake.

Let me come back to the problem for Congo. The Congo is a big country with big distances. The problem that we have in Congo are not the same as in Zimbabwe. They are the same problems that we have in Zimbabwe. The distances are very long. In Congo, now, we have five conferences. It is not four. Imagine women who are going to the conference by riding a bicycle 500 kilometers to 1,000 kilometers.

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up.

AWANT (*simultaneous translation*): That, we tell you that there are delegates who are here now who spent 10 days in a truck in order to get to the airport to take the plane to fly here. Also there are statistics that increase day after day in Africa. When there is a war, people find refuge in the church. The other problem is the problem of the delegates here. They, those from Congo—there are 88 of them. The *African Discipline* says that if there are at least 32 delegates at the General Conference, we can have an African Conference.

BISHOP BROWN: Please sum up now.

AWANT (*simultaneous translation*): Congo has 88 delegates. Bishop, I believe that the commission did not carefully study the problems of Congo and Zimbabwe. I know it is an issue of finances that is raised here; but the church is growing, and I think the conference should consider that point. We are suffering and traveling long distances to reach conferences that are in rural locations.

BISHOP BROWN: You are at the end of your time. Thank you. Now let me test the house for something. We are coming to the end of this evening's session. We have had one speech in favor of referral and one against. The recommendation before

us is referral. One way is for us to put the vote as quickly as possible. I recognize the person. Please go to mic 1. See if you can help us here. What's your inquiry?

BETH ANN COOK (South Indiana): I do have something that I think would be helpful. I would like to see if it would be in order to table this until after we deal with the recommendation of the Task Force on Episcopacy. If we were to accept their recommendation—

BISHOP BROWN: Don't—let me just ask you if you're going to make a motion, you can't speak to it first, so you've asked the question. Let me answer your question. It is in order for you to move to table.

COOK: If it is in order, I would like to move to table this until after we deal with the items brought by the Task Force on Episcopacy, because if we are approving that, there will be a substantial cost savings, which could then be used for an Episcopal Fund for Central Conference.

BISHOP BROWN: Is there a second to this motion? It's not debatable. It is seconded. If you would table this matter, would you indicate it by punching "1" on your voting pad. If you are against tabling this matter, would you press "2."

(*pause*)

[*Yes, 587; No, 204*] It is tabled. Thank you.

We're at the last one for this committee. Do you have the energy to, to let us try to get that one done? Let me just test the house. Do you have the energy to get it done, raise your hand. Thank you. If you've had it for the night, would you raise your hand? I think we need to get ready to rest for the night.

I want to ask—all right. My colleagues are asking me to put this to you. We are at the one last item for our work tonight. If we do one more, we're, we've done our job, and we'll be back on schedule. Can we bail through that?

(*applause*)

All right. What is your inquiry in Section C?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Bishop.

BISHOP BROWN: Just a minute, Bert.

GEORGE G. HOWARD (West Ohio): Bishop, would it be in order for us to reconsider Item 32, in light of what we did with Item 33?

BISHOP BROWN: Please restate it. I was distracted by a question here. Restate what you said.

HOWARD: Would it be appropriate—

BISHOP BROWN: What, what did you say? Please restate it.

HOWARD: I move that, to reconsider our action on Item 32 in light of our action on Item 33.

BISHOP BROWN: All right, is someone seconding that? I—

BISHOP BROWN: I heard a second. If you wish to reconsider that—you voted in favor of it, I mean, voted in the prevailing side, George? When that was voted?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: He can't remember.

HOWARD: Yes.

(*laughter*)

BISHOP BROWN: Oh, OK. Thank you. It's properly before us, then. If you would reconsider Calendar Item 32, would you press "1" on your voting pad. If you do not wish to reconsider, would you press "2" when the light appears. Vote now.

(*pause*)

OK. All right. OK. OK.

[*Yes, 611, No, 190*]

BISHOP BROWN: OK. Is that? All right. It is reconsidered as is before us now. OK. Is he going to make a motion? OK.

HOWARD: George Howard, West Ohio.

BISHOP BROWN: No one's recognized at this moment. Just a minute. OK. George, go ahead George.

HOWARD: I move to table this until we reconsider both it and Item 33 at the same time.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you. Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS:
Second

BISHOP BROWN: All right, if you would support tabling would you press "1", if you oppose, press "2".

(pause)

[Yes, 740, No, 39]

BISHOP BROWN: OK, thank you. All right. You have tabled it until the other is completed. All right friends, I've learned that the other item that was calendared for us does not have financial implications and so I'm going to suggest we carry it forward. So, we can give it our full attention when we're fresh and ready to go. I'm going to ask permission of the body for a matter of privilege. Earlier, we have requested assistance of from our Deputy General Secretary from GCFA and he was very helpful. At one point that was, that was done a little bit out of order and he requests permission of the body to, to, to say something briefly about that. Would you grant him permission to speak briefly? If so, would you say "yes"?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS:
Yes

BISHOP BROWN: And opposed, "no." OK, Terry Bradfield, would you please go to mic. 12 and speak to us?

TERRY BRADFIELD (Deputy General Secretary of the General Council of Finance and Administration): Thank you, Bishop. Bishop, I wish to apologize to the chair and to this body for my oversight and failure to respect the rules of the General Conference earlier this evening

I also wish to thank both the chair and this body for the gentleness of the rebuke that I certainly deserved. I am grateful for your kind indulgence.

BISHOP BROWN: Thank you for that apology. And we are grateful for your leadership in the church. Thank you, Terry.

(applause)

BISHOP BROWN: I ask the secretary for announcements.

REIST: I'm asked to remind finance and administration that they do have a meeting immediately after the plenary. And that the rules committee will meet immediately after this plenary. And that the last bus leaves at 1 A.M.

BISHOP BROWN: All right.

REIST: The Global Ministries also meeting after this plenary.

BISHOP BROWN: Thanks to all of you for the wonderful way you have served the church during this difficult evening session. I want to thank my colleague Bishops who have assisted me in the evening.

BISHOP BROWN: Bishop Judith Craig and Bishop Dan Solomon and thanks to all of the leadership of your legislative committees and your administrative team. Thanks to all. You've done an excellent job. Let us pause in prayer as we prepare to go forth.

(prayer)

BISHOP BROWN: This session is in recess.

**Tuesday Morning,
April 29, 2008**

(applause)

MARK MILLER: This morning, directing the orchestra, will be Robert Walters, and later on you'll see the Director of Music, Kevin Bogan. We welcome them to Texas.

(music)

(applause)

(laughter)

MILLER: We also welcome this morning, our friends from Colombia, that's in the Southern Hemisphere, from Cali, Colombia, we greet Unidos and Cristo; they are led by Louis Castro, and they are here to be with us in worship this morning. Let us greet them.

(applause)

(music)

MARSHA MCFEE: I invite you to stand for the invocation prayer as we begin our worship.

(prayer)

(music)

Bishop Mark Hanson Sermon

BISHOP WILLIAM B. ODEN: Our preacher this morning is Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Bishop Hanson is also president of the World Lutheran Federation, is a highly respected ecumenical leader, and a friend of United Methodism. Mark has been elected for a second six-year term as the ELCA Presiding Bishop, and in his address to their churchwide assembly, he said the following, and I want to quote, "Let us move toward full communion with The United Methodist Church and continue the conversations with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, so that this sent church will bear witness to our unity in Christ so that all might believe."

It is especially appropriate for Bishop Hanson to be the preacher for this ecumenical service, as yesterday our General Conference voted overwhelmingly to enter full com-

munion with the ELCA, which will also vote on this relationship at its next churchwide assembly. The Lutheran Churchwide Assembly is held every two years. It has 1076 delegates and meets for a full week. Bishop Hanson presides over the entire churchwide assembly and—listen to this, United Methodist bishops—by himself, in every session, standing up. And he once presided over an especially heated session of the assembly for five straight hours without a break. Now, Bishop Hanson, we don't expect that long a sermon this morning . . .

(laughter)

. . .but we await a word from the Lord and we hear you gladly.

(applause)

BISHOP MARK HANSON

Grace to you and peace, in the name of our crucified and risen Christ. Amen.

It is a great joy to be with you, to be joined by ecumenical colleagues whom you will meet shortly, to give thanks to God for the relationship of full communion that you overwhelmingly voted to adopt on Sunday. And as Bishop Oden said, we will anticipate a similar vote in 2009. What an opportunity to make visible the unity that is ours in Christ, to begin to imagine new possibilities for ministry and mission that might come from this relationship of full communion. I want to say a special word of thanks to Bishop Oden for his ecumenical leadership. He is an ecumenist extraordinaire. He has a passion for unity, a vision for mission; and I think it's appropriate that you join me in thanking Bishop Oden for his ecumenical leadership.

(applause)

I also want to thank all those who have served over 30 years on the Lutheran Methodist dialogues, especially Bishop Talbert and Bishop

Bjornberg who have cochaired the recent dialogues, for their thoughtful and now successful work. I also bring you greetings today from the 67 million Lutherans in the world, who make up the Lutheran World Federation, and 140 churches in 78 countries. We were delighted in July of 2006 when the World Methodist Council signed an official affirmation associating itself with a joint declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, which had been signed earlier, October 31, 1999, by the Vatican and by the Lutheran World Federation. Now, together with you, we can imagine how the removal of these past barriers can make possible our shared witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So I'm curious. Would you describe your life today as rooted or rootless? What about your congregation? How would you describe The United Methodist Church? We're learning that with each succeeding generation there's a growing experience of being rootless in our society—moving from place to place, frequently changing careers. The lasting attachment to the church in which one was raised is no longer binding, even to the faith. All are factors that contribute to this experience of being rootless. We're certainly experiencing that in the Hanson household. We have six children. Our oldest son, 31, recently called long distance, said, 'Dad, would you and Mom mind if I move home? I lost my job and my apartment. I can't afford to stay here.' My first response was, 'Again?'

(laughter)

Then I said, "OK, but just for one month this time." Praise God, that's all he stayed;—

(laughter)

but he kept the key.

Think about the world in which we live. How famine and war, poverty and natural disasters cause millions to live as migrants, moving

over the face of the earth in search of safety and shelter, rootless. In a rootless, restless, hopeless world, we have good news to share. Did you hear Jesus? 'I am the real vine, and my father is the farmer. Live in me; make your home in me just as I do in you. I am the vine; you are the branches. I have loved you the way my father has loved me. You didn't choose me. Remember, I chose you.'

My mother was a high-school English and Latin teacher, so I was one of those nerdy junior-high kids who loved to diagram sentences. Come on, there's a few more of you out there. All right!

(applause)

We'll be caucusing during the break out in the lobby.

(laughter)

I love to find the direct object and the indirect object, the subject, the predicate. Pull 'em out on those lines. Yet, I remain so appreciative for that foundation she gave me, for she helped me always to pay attention to the grammar of God's grace, for in the grammar of God's grace God is both the subject and the predicate, the actor and the action, the doer and the deed. Listen to the grammar in Jesus' speech: 'I chose you. I love you. I have called you friends. I am the vine.'

The danger for us, of course, is to drowned and drain the life out of those wonderful promises and affirmations by turning them into mere possibilities, conditional upon our cooperation, awaiting our completion. I don't know about you, but when I heard you stayed up 'til midnight last night debating whether bishops should have the right to retire or not—

(laughter)

—you prob—but it's good. I always learned that if you get in full communion with the Methodists, the Methodist bishops will have the

Lutheran bishops' backside, so thanks for that!

(laughter)

I know you didn't come this morning for a lesson in grammar, but allow me just one more insight. If not helpful to you, then at least it'll be respectful for my mother's memory. And that's that many of us today in our life of faith succumb to the disease of subjunctive-itis. Have you ever been exposed to the virus yet? Do you know what the symptoms are? It's when we take the indicative voice of Jesus' promises and turn them into the subjunctive voice. Now just a reminder, if it's been a long time since grammar, the indicative verb form represents an act as a fact, a given, a truth. The subjunctive verb form represents an act as a contingent possibility, maybe even desirable but not yet fully complete. Jesus didn't catch a bad case of subjunctive-itis when he spoke to his disciples. He didn't say, "I'm the vine, and you *may* be the branches if you'll just ascribe to these theological principles upon which the Methodists and Lutherans will agree."

(applause)

He didn't say, "You *may* be one of my branches if you involve yourself in the daily acts of devotion, or if you make a personal decision to invite me into your heart." One of our New Testament scholars says, "You know, it's all right that we invite Jesus to come and live in our heart. The only problem with it is no place in the Gospels does Jesus ever say, "May I come and live in your heart?"' The trouble with Jesus inviting us—we inviting Jesus into our heart—is we tend to get a little bit of Jesus, a microscopic Jesus, then we take Jesus where we want him to go. No, Jesus invites us to *die* and come and live in him—

(applause)

—so that Jesus can take us where he wants us to go. Jesus promises

when you're joined with me and I with you the relationship is intimate and organic and the harvest is sure to be abundant. Friends, that means we've got good news to share. The good news is you are rooted in Christ. Your life is deeply planted in the soil of God's grace and mercy; and being rooted in Christ, you will bear fruit, fruit that will not spoil.

As I move throughout the ELCA, I listen to our pastors; and they're increasingly discouraged because they feel great pressure to attract and hold their market share of members in this competitive, consumer-oriented religious marketplace in which we live. And part of that pressure is to preach some other gospel, some self-help gospel, some feel-good-about-yourself gospel, some prosperity gospel—

(applause)

—rather than the radical gospel that you have died to Christ, that you have been freely justified for Christ's sake through faith. This is the radical gospel that we heard from the reading from Colossians, when we were buried with Christ in Baptism, you were also raised with Christ, through Christ in the power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

What if every morning upon arising, you stood in the shower or before the mirror and placed your hand on your head—would you do that, please?—recalling how water was poured over you in Baptism; and then you said, 'I am baptized.'

ALL: I am baptized.

BISHOP HANSON: Church, that wasn't very overwhelming. I am baptized!

ALL: I am baptized.

BISHOP HANSON: I am chosen.

ALL: I am chosen.

BISHOP HANSON: I am a child of God.

ALL: I am a child of God.

BISHOP HANSON: I belong to Jesus Christ.

ALL: I belong to Jesus Christ.

BISHOP HANSON: And then make the sign of the cross. The one who died chose and loves you. Friends, I have good news to share. Lives rooted in Christ, the vine, will bear fruit. Listen to Lesslie Newbigin in *The Light Has Come*. He writes: "The gracious indwelling of God with his people is not an invitation to settle down and forget the rest of the world. It's a summons to mission for the Lord, who dwells with his people, is the one who goes before them. For Jesus, who chose and called them, did so not for themselves alone, but that they should go and bear fruit."

This is why our theologians have worked for over 30 years in dialogues to prepare the way for our full communion agreement. This is why we as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and you as The United Methodist Church vote on full communion; because we believe that together we might more imaginatively, evangelically, prophetically and abundantly bear fruit for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the life of the world. Establishing full communion is not an end, but a means of manifesting visible unity that is God's gift to us in Christ. It's a means of being faithful and fruitful in God's mission.

Every time we read statistics, such as the Pew Study, which remind us that we as mainline churches are declining and aging in membership and becoming more peripheral in our culture, it's tempting to then begin to dwell on what we lost and what we lack. We could easily then succumb to nostalgia; may be no nostalgia in the Methodist Church but we got a heavy dose of it among Lutherans.

But rather than succumbing to nostalgia, let us be shaped by the living memory as it comes to us in God's living word. Nostalgia needs to be *pruned* so that we can bear fruit. As Christopher Lasch reminds us, nostalgia is the abdication of memory. He says the nostalgic per-

spective *freezes* the past and so avoids confrontation with the changing realities of the present. While memory *embraces* the past in order to understand and inform the present, nostalgia dwells in an idealized past, by definition unattainable, and nostalgia disparages the presence.

Jesus' invitation is not to nostalgia, but to memory born out of God's word engaging us today. If you make yourselves at home with me, said Jesus, and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. That means no matter how worthless and restless our lives become, we have a home as Christ's word dwells in us richly. That is Jesus' word of promise. You didn't choose me; I chose you; go and bear fruit. Did you hear that? Do you believe it? In Jesus God has chosen life, chosen you, chosen you to live in Christ faithfully and fruitfully as you are engaged in God's mission for the life of the world.

My eight-year-old granddaughter was visiting in Chicago. We went to the library to use the computer terminal; both were busy, so we waited. At one was a Muslim woman with her daughter, at the other, a Jewish man with his son. How did I know their religion? She had a head scarf on—a *hijab*; he had a *yarmulke*—a skull cap—on. I stood there thinking, 'When they turn around, how are they going to know I'm a Christian?' I thought, 'We Christians have got to get ourselves some headgear!'

(laughter and applause)

And then I remembered my Baptism; and I remembered the sign of the cross being placed upon my brow. And I recalled, 'That's all the headgear we're ever going to need.'

(applause)

Because it's the mark of the One to whom we belong. It's the sign of the One who bids us to come and die and follow him, and live in him so

that we might bear fruit for the sake of the world.

Colleagues will tell you that I'm no techno-genius. But I'm committed to learning how to use the computer as a tool. And I'm learning that when a computer boots up or starts, the computer looks to a specific location called the root directory for a simple file that contains the most basic commands called the root commands that literally bring the computer to life—that is, to a functioning state whereby all of its capacities can be put to use for whatever needs doing. Did you hear Jesus' words as they are paraphrased in the message? 'But remember the root command: love one another.'

(applause)

Yes, in giving us this word, God literally brings us to life—into a functioning state where we can live as disciples of Jesus in service to others. Now of course, if a computer is unplugged from its power source, the root command remains silent on the hard disk of the computer. In the same way, apart from Jesus—apart from his life, his death, his resurrection, and the power of the Holy Spirit, the root command to love one another will fail.

Rooted in Christ, you will bear fruit. Rooted in Christ, we will also be pruned. Oh, if only we could bear fruit without having to be pruned! Without the indwelling of God that Newbigin spoke of, without moving from being a settled church to a sent church, it won't happen. My colleague and friend Bishop John Hopkins first told me about Methodists; he said 'You Lutherans think of yourselves as a call church; we Methodists are a send church.' Well praise God, with full communion, now together we can be a call and send church!

(applause)

But without being pruned, we will not bear the fruit of new life and God's mission. The ELCA is 97 per-

cent White, as the denomination is predominately made up of descendants of European immigrants. When our church body was formed 20 years ago, we made a commitment to becoming increasingly multicultural, and I believe that many and most of our 10,500 congregations that are predominately White would love to become more ethnically, racially diverse. The problem is, we White folk expect that persons of color will be welcomed into our churches but they will gradually become like us, should they choose to stay.

(applause)

If we truly want to become the diverse body that Christ has created us to be, we White folks must be pruned of our power and privilege.

(applause)

We will not bear fruit in mission if we are not pruned of the racism within ourselves, our church, and society; and if we let the society continue to say African American prophetic preachers are separatists, rather than proclaiming the Word of God, then we got some work to do.

(applause)

Being rooted in Christ nourishes our broken branches; strengthens us to live and witness to the power of the gospel. Rooted in Christ, bearing fruit, being pruned, experiencing joy, yes, in this life of faith, rooted in God's grace, where God's life flows both in you and through you, your life is full. Your life is full of promise—full of life, full of people, full of purpose, full of joy, full of Christ's presence; that's why Jesus said these things. He wants you to know them for the unshakable promises that they are—to trust them, to abide in them, to dwell in them, to draw your life from them, so that they might bear fruit in you. Friends, in a rootless, restless society we have a powerful testimony to give; our witness is when we are rooted in

Christ, bearing fruit—bearing fruit, being pruned, experiencing joy—there is a life that is faithful and fruitful. *That's* our shared testimony as a sent church; let's tell it to the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

(applause)

MCREE: One of the vision pathways of our church is reaching and transforming the lives of children. But yesterday afternoon, I saw that when we were growing weary, the *Hope for Africa Children's Choir* came and transformed us. Amen?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
Amen

MCREE: We were filled with the spirit that they brought us. We were reconnected, reminded that we are all branches of the same vine. And so, we have asked them to lead us in prayers of God's children this morning.

(prayer)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
Amen.

(applause)

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP HANSON: Please rise for the blessing. Now may almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you forevermore. Amen.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP B. MICHAEL WATSON: Thank you very much. And I call this session to order. But let's express to our ecumenical guests again, and to this powerful sermon that's been preached to us, appreciation for the Lord God.

(applause)

Good morning.

FLOOR RESPONSE: Good morning.

BISHOP WATSON: I hope you slept well and I hope you slept fast.

(laughter)

Sisters and brothers in Christ, you may be a bit weary this morning because we did go a while last night. But I want to commend this conference for your holy conferencing. And I want you to commend yourselves, because you have conducted yourselves in such a very fine way and we are pleased that we can gather in holy conferencing and remember this is our call. I would call your attention to your *Daily Christian Advocate*, to p. no. 18, the guidelines on holy conferencing. Those guidelines also refer to Colossians 3, beginning with the 12th verse, and I hope that you are keeping those before you as we proceed with all of the business of the conference. Because we do deal with difficult issues, we do deal with divisive issues, we deal with issues that have tension involved in them, and you have done that well thus far. One of the most tension-filled issues in human life is money. And we have been dealing already with the issues of money, and you have done that lovingly and creatively and I thank you for that. I want to call our attention this morning to one other passage of scripture. Those over whom I preside know that I use this a lot but I want you to listen to it, 'cause I'm going to ask you to do something with it. First Peter, the 2nd chapter, the 9th and 10th verses. Is it all right if I read the Bible here? Is that OK?

(laughter)

All right. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's

people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

I hope you heard those words that were there. I hope you heard "chosen," "royal priesthood," "holy," "God's people." Turn to the person next to you and look at them just a moment. This is what the church looks like now. And then say to them this morning, "Good morning, your Royal Highness."

ALL: Good morning, your Royal Highness.

BISHOP WATSON: For that is who we are as the people of God. And in holy conferencing, we treat each other like we are. Thank you for doing that thus far. And we will continue to do that as we move through this conference.

I call now on the Committee of Courtesies and Privileges, Rosa Washington Olsen. Are you with us? Do we have anything this morning? I don't believe so, so we will move to the Committee on Agenda and, is she, is she back there? All right, I see a yellow card. In Section C. Mic. Oh no, that is not a, before we, is,

ROSA WASHINGTON-OLSEN (California-Nevada): I'm right here. Here. Over here. Yoo-hoo.

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: I'm sorry.

OLSEN: It's 11.

BISHOP WATSON: On mic. 11. All right. There you are. Yes, you are back there, but behind that mic., aren't you?

OLSEN: Yes.

BISHOP WATSON: Yes.

OLSEN: Nothing today. I'll see you tomorrow.

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Thank you very much. God bless you. All right. I'm going to move on to . . . I see some yellow cards but can we hold it just a minute and let us get into the day just a moment? And I'll come back to you, if that's

all right. We'll turn to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. The vice-chair, David Wilson.

DAVID M. WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Thank you, Bishop. Good morning, Bishops, delegates and friends. Our business today will begin with our first order of the day of the presentation and greetings from our ecumenical guests. We will then continue with our calendar items and conference business. Our next order of the day will be the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the General Commission on Religion and Race at 12:10. The afternoon plenary will begin at 2:30 with the report from the Inter-jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. We will then continue with calendar items and conference business. We'll be privileged and honored to hear an afternoon address of the president of the Republic of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, at 4 P.M. It is very important to note that the floor doors will be locked at 3:55 and will remain locked throughout her address. Following the 5 P.M. dinner recess, we will continue with calendar items and conference business at 7:30 until 11 P.M. Bishop, I move the adoption of the agenda for today.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. This is properly before us. I hope that you noted that about this afternoon. Would you say that one more time about the doors being closed, where everybody will be very aware of this?

WILSON: Yes, Bishop. The doors will be locked at 3:55 P.M. and will remain locked throughout her address.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. The report is before you. If you would adopt the agenda and calendar would you say . . . oh well, I'm going to ask you to hold your hand up unless you want to vote on the keypad. But if you'll adopt it, will you hold your hand up? All in favor, yes. All opposed. And it is adopted.

WILSON: Bishop, we would like to hear from the secretary of the

General Conference, Alan Morrison, who will share information with us regarding the president's arrival this afternoon.

ALAN MORRISON: I think I just got a promotion, but that's all right. Alan Morrison, business manager of the General Conference. This afternoon, we have the pleasure of being addressed her Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of the Republic of Liberia. I've asked for this moment to share some building restrictions with you as we prepare to receive her Excellency. The arena and the Exhibit Hall F, which is the back stage area, will be closed to everyone from the conclusion of communion until 2:15 P.M. When we are permitted to re-enter the Exhibit Hall and the arena, the Exhibit Hall F may only be entered by bishops, pages, and marshals; the worship and music team and the plenary tech crew, provided that they are wearing their proper credentials to do so. No one else, whether official participants or visitors, should be in that area at that time. The Commerce Street arena lobby and the 121 rooms which are to my right, your left of the building, will be closed to public access from twelve noon to 5:45 P.M. As a result of this closure, there are three legislative committees that need to pay attention to your arrangements. Financial Administration will meet in room 202 A/B for any meetings you have today. Financial Administration, 202 A/B. Judicial Administration will meet in room 202 C/D. Judicial Administration will meet in room 202 C/D. Global Ministries will still be able to meet in the Exhibit Annex. Any delegation meetings that have been scheduled for the 121 rooms during the lunch break will need to find an alternate space and you may have to look around to simply see what's available at this point. Dinner break gatherings in the 121 rooms may meet starting at six o'clock. The food court will be open for its regular hours. However, please use the restrooms located in the west concourse during the dinner

break rather than the restrooms along the back wall of the Exhibit Hall. Now this next part is very important. Vested volunteers from the Host Committee will be assisting and directing persons away from those areas that are closed. It will be in your best interest to follow their direction since I will not approve payment of bail as a part of your travel expenses.

(laughter)

MORRISON: I will, however, once I'm able to visit you in jail.

(laughter)

At least if they tell me where you are. Thank you for your cooperation in all of these matters as we welcome President Sirleaf to the General Conference.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you very much.

WILSON: Bishop, we will now hear from Janet Stevenson, chair of the Rules Committee.

BISHOP B. MICHAEL WATSON: Thank you very much.

DAVID M. WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Bishop, we will now hear from Janet Stevenson, chair of the Rules Committee.

Clarification of Rules for Distribution of Unapproved Materials

JANET STEPHENSON: Good morning. Bishop, the Rules Committee is aware of the impossibility of legislating all of the many activities of the conference; but, nevertheless, we did submit a set of guidelines to you at the opening session, which you adopted. However, since then some folks have engaged in activities, while not illegal, have violated the spirit of the conference. And because of these activities, yesterday a referral to the Rules Committee was made by a delegate from the floor to clarify distribution to the seats of seated delegates. After a late-night meeting, the Rules Committee presents the following: Please

turn to p. 1913 in your *DCA*, look for XI, 11, the middle of the page. I think we have that on video, but I'm not sure. If you will look at XI, it says 'After the first day, only the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be placed on the desk of the seated delegates with additional copies available for the first clergy and first lay reserve delegate from each delegation.'

The committee recommends that you delete the next sentence, the sentence that reads 'Other materials relating to the General Conference may be distributed to the desk of delegates.' Please delete that, if you adopt it, and insert, and—I was hoping this would be on the screen, but I guess we don't have it. OK, I'll go slowly, we are going to insert, after that first sentence in XI, 'Pages will facilitate personal communication with seated participants under the following conditions. (1) The communication is handwritten. (2) The communication bears the name and location of both the recipient and the sender. Multiple copies of duplicated material will be distributed to delegates at their desks only when requested by an official body of the General Conference and approved by the Office of the Secretary of the General Conference. Do you want that again?

BISHOP WATSON: I believe we understand it. Do you want her to repeat that? I believe we've got it.

STEPHENSON: Very good. This is the recommendation from the Rules Committee.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. This is the recommendation. Is there any discussion? If not, if you would approve this, would you lift your hand? Those opposed, no. [*Vote passes by hand vote*]. All right. Thank you very much.

STEPHENSON: Thank you very much.

BISHOP WATSON: And you have approved this report from the Rules Committee. Before we turn now to the items for consent, I did

see a hand back here in section C, mic. 12, I believe it is. Is that where you would like to go?

(pause)

Correcting the Date

MAIDSTONE MULENGA

(Western New York): I rise on a personal privilege to—as a first delegate—as a first-time delegate to announce that as a person from Zambia, I'm happy to see that there's a delegate seated for the first time from Zambia. But my question, Bishop, is on today's *Daily Christian Advocate*. You can see I'm very nervous. The date on the front p. says Tuesday, April 28th. I believe today is Tuesday, April the 29. Since this is an official record of the General Conference, I suggest that we make that editorial correction.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you very much. Now, my *Daily Christian Advocate* says Tuesday, April 29. Oh, look above it. I see above it. We will make that correction. Thank you for your attention. You may be nervous, but you are meticulous; and we are grateful for that. Thank you.

(laughter)

(applause)

All right, did I see another card back here? OK. I believe that's section C, first row of section C. Move to mic. 5 if that—or 8, either one that's closest to you.

BENEDITA NHAMBIU

(Mozambique South): I would like to rise for a moment of personal privilege. After so many moving sermons and messages and celebration urging us to be transformed and look for a future of hope for the needy, we . . . when I say 'we,' I mean the delegates from Mozambique, from Virginia, and from Brazil. You may ask why are we the three together. We have been working in partnership for the last few years struggling against poverty in ministries to help to develop communities in our coun-

tries, and we decided to make a collection for the fund, for the program of Nothing but Nets. We have put together the amount of over \$1,500, and we are bringing this amount to this wonderful program.

(applause)

BISHOP WATSON: Amen. Amen. Thank you, what a wonderful spirit. Thank you very much. Now I believe we're to the order of the day, at this point, so we'll have to wait on the consent calendar, because we have a 9:30 order of the day. And I'm going to turn to our ecumenical officer to present our ecumenical guests. After this, we will come back and deal with the consent calendar.

BISHOP ODEN: It's always a joy to welcome our guests from many faiths, and we do so this morning gladly, and have a good representation. This is always a significant time in General Conference, and I'm delighted to introduce to you our guests for the day that you might formally welcome them. I'll ask each one to stand as they are introduced. First is Rev. Darryl Coleman, the CME church, who is the pastor of Mother Liberty Church in Memphis. Second, the Rev. Richard J. Sklba of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, who is the chairperson for the Ecumenical and Interreligious Concern Affairs Committee; and also from the same body, the Rev. James Massa who is the Executive Director of the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs of the Roman Catholic Church.

You have already met and listened to a great sermon from Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA; and also ELCA, the Rev. Donald McCoid, ecumenical officer; and Dr. Michael Triest, who is the Director of Ecumenical Relations; the American Jewish Committee, Kim Kaymon; The Right Rev. Frank Brookhart of the Episcopal Church, who is also bishop of Montana and the cochair of the United Methodist Episcopal dialogue—Frank; the

Right Rev. Phillip M. Duncan II, who is the Episcopal bishop of the central Gulf Coast diocese of the Episcopal church; and Dr. Tom Ferguson, who is the Ecumenical and Inter-Relations director. Dr. Robert K. Welch, Disciples of Christ. And the President of the Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, Dr. Chita Milan. We also welcome from the World Methodist Council, General Secretary, Dr. George Freeman. Now are there guests who we've missed? That's good!

(laughter)

I'd now like to call on the interim general secretary of the Commission on Ecumenical Concerns and Interfaith Affairs, GCCUIC, is Bishop Fritz Mutti, for a very special presentation.

(applause)

Honors for Claire Chapman

BISHOP FRITZ MUTTI: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Special greetings to you from the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. It's a pleasure and an honor for me to make a special presentation this morning. I'd like to ask Claire Chapman if she would stand, please. Claire Chapman is presently the chief operating officer of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

(applause)

For a little while, about a year—no, just a few months, she served as the interim general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ until Dr. Michael Kinnamon assumed that office recently. We are sorry that Dr. Kinnamon is not with us today. He had a little health problem last week. Before joining the National Council staff, Claire Chapman was on the staff of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns as its associ-

ate general secretary for program and administration. She held several administrative positions with the commission over a period of 19 years. Eight of those years I was the director of the commission and Claire, I enjoyed working with you very much.

Claire Chapman has extensive ecumenical and interfaith experience. She has twice been an advisor to the United Methodist Delegation to the World Council of Churches. Currently, she serves the World Council of Churches Board of the U.S. Conference. This year, Claire was a member of the first official United Methodist delegation to the Vatican for discussion on Christian Unity. Claire says this: "My work has always been ecumenical, even though on behalf of the United Methodist Church and with significant denominational involvement. I have been enriched by the many colleagues and friends I have in The United Methodist Church at many levels, and look forward to deeper relationships within the National Council of Churches family of churches also. I am an ecumenist and a United Methodist Christian," she says.

Claire Chapman was chair of the drafting committee of "*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*," the National Council of Church's policy statement on human biotechnology that was adopted by the 2006 General Assembly of the National Council of Churches and Church World Service.

Claire likes going to school. She has four academic degrees. She received two bachelor of arts degrees from the University of Central Florida—I think she still calls Florida home, maybe—one in music, and in one in English. She has a master of music from the University of Arizona and she has a Juris Doctorate which she earned while she was on the staff at the General Commission. And her law degree served the commission and the whole church.

It's a pleasure for me to make a special presentation to you, Claire, if

you want to come and join me here. At each General Conference we present a special ecumenical award. And the citation reads: "On behalf of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, and in the presence of the General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, April 29, 2008, we present the Council of Bishops Ecumenical Award for 2008 to Claire J. Chapman, in recognition of her exceptional leadership both with the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of The United Methodist Church and the National Council of Churches in Christ in the U.S.A. We celebrate all she has done to promote the unity for which Christ prayed in John 17:21. Signed, William B. Oden, Ecumenical Officer, and Bishop Ann B. Sherer, President of the General Commission."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: Claire, blessings to you.
(unintelligible)

(applause)

CLAIRE CHAPMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. This is quite a surprise. I am reminded that we always stand on the shoulders of those that came before us. So I would like to start with a thank you to the clergy and laity of the Florida Conference, starting with Ed Pendergrass who baptized me, and all of those leaders who nurtured me in the Christian faith and as a United Methodist. I grew up in First United Methodist Church Orlando, which is a large church, but those in leadership there made it seem like a small one. One other word of gratitude to Dr. Claire Randall—the first woman to serve as general secretary of the National Council of Churches, who showed me that a laywoman could indeed serve in ecumenical leadership. And a final word of gratitude to Dr. Robert Houston, who was the first general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, who showed me through his life and mentoring that Christ's call to us to

live out his prayer that we all might be one is not optional. It's not "if we have time and money." It is God's gift already received that we are called to live out every day. Thank you all very much.

(applause)

BISHOP ODEN: I believe that there were three of our guests who were missed: Rev. Patrice Rosner, the director of the Churches United in Christ; the Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm, the director of Christian Churches Together; and Deborah DeWinter of the World Council of Churches American Committee. And appreciate you all being patient and thank you very much for being here.

(applause)

We'd like to call on two of our ecumenical guests to bring greetings to us this morning. First is Dr. Dale Coleman, of the Pan-Methodist Commission, who is the pastor of Mother Liberty Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Memphis. And Dr. Coleman, we welcome you gladly.

DR. DARRYL COLEMAN: Thank you very much Bishop Oden, to the bishops and delegates and visitors to this 2008 United Methodist General Conference. How good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in harmony and unity and how good it is to be here among the family. I bring you greetings from the alphabet soup we call Pan-Methodism. From the AME Church—the African Methodist Episcopal Church; The AME Zion Church—the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; the AUMP Church—The African Union Methodist Protestant Church; The CME Church—the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and the UAME Church—the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. Indeed, during this quadrennium we have shared in both the challenges and the triumphs of working toward a greater place of cooperation and unity. We've wor-

shipped together and we've shared together. We've had the opportunity to fellowship with students from the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary—

(cheering)

And also from—to share with you from Louisville, Kentucky. We've worked together on the cause for children as we shared in a ministry for children in poverty, and we are encouraged to see the increased involvement of our Pan-Methodist seminaries in this project. We conducted a survey among Pan-Methodist institutions of higher learning to reveal to us that there is a great need to do more work on fostering a better relationship of Pan-Methodism. We've learned about each other. We've learned to love each other. We've learned how to agree and disagree. And we realize that though we've come a long way, we still have much more to learn and a long way to go. Also, this quadrennium, we are proud to share that we welcome to the Pan-Methodist family two denominations from the Peter Spencer strand of Methodism: The Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, and the African Union Metho Protestant Church. Also we've fostered and shared in the leadership of the bishops of the Methodist denominations coming together in Atlanta on last year as they explored ways to engage in ministry across denominational lines. We also have shared and engaged in talks with the American Jewish Committee. We've been working together to put before this General Conference and the General Conference of our bodies a resolution to move toward full communion. Yes we're all Methodists; yes we are one body with many members. We have more work to do and we assure you that we will continue to work together that we can become Methodists with one voice for Christ. So we seek to continue to tear down the barriers that divide us and become one in Christ. So we bid you Godspeed as

you hammer out the issues of both word and faith, and order, to make a better witness of the Methodist community as we go forth to make real God's witness in this world. May God bless you and to God be the glory.

(applause)

BISHOP WILLIAM ODEN: And also, the Right Rev. Frank Burkhardt, the bishop of Montana and the co-chair of the Episcopal-United Methodist dialogue. Frank, welcome.

Episcopal Church Representative

RIGHT REV. FRANK

BROOKHART: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. What a pleasure and honor it is to be here among you and to greet you in the name of the risen Christ whom we all love and serve. Since I was a child I have heard about the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, but I never dreamed that one day I would be here bringing a greeting. I bring greetings and prayers from the presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. I am sure she misses being here. I also bring the greetings of my brothers and sisters of the House of Bishops, including my friend and colleague, the Right Rev. Phillip Duncan. And certainly the clergy and people of the diocese of Montana wish you every blessing. Over the past four years or so I have had the pleasure to work with Bishop Bill Oden, and what a great man he is, Bishop Oden. As co-chair of the United Methodist-Episcopal dialogue, that set of discussions has resulted in our current arrangement for interim eucharistic sharing. In that time I have come to value many things about United Methodists, but especially your high estimation of biblical preaching and of the necessity of a living and active faith in Jesus Christ, both of which are coupled with an intense

concern for issues of justice and social ministry. These are qualities I hope my own church will develop more deeply as we live into our eucharistic sharing. I am grateful to God for you being who you are. This morning I am surrounded here by an ecumenical cloud of witnesses. I believe I can speak for all of us as we salute you for your firm and long-term commitment to the unity of the church and your sense that this is a basic part of God's mission for the world. We all pray that God will prosper you and bless you in your work at this General Conference. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP ODEN: As we close this part of our order of the day, we will ask that our ecumenical guests go back with the Council of Bishops, who has requested that they sit with them that they might host them during the next part of our time together. And then during the break, accompany them to a time of refreshment and fellowship. We will be having a lunch together for them also to close out the activities. It's been a real joy to work with so many people as this day has progressed—and Bishop Watson, thank you for your hospitality and patience and we will turn it back to you.

BISHOP B. MICHAEL WATSON: Thank you very much, Bishop Oden. We appreciate our ecumenical officer and we appreciate these ecumenical guests and we give thanks to God for our partnership together in the work of God.

(applause)

Thank you. We turn now back to our Committee on Agenda and Calendar for action on the consent calendar. I see a card, mic. 4.

H. EDDIE FOX (Holston): Eddie Fox, Holston Conference.

BISHOP WATSON: I believe they want you to say that again.

FOX: Eddie Fox, F-O-X, Holston Conference. Two or three weeks ago, we heard Bishop Hutchinson—well no, it was just a few days ago—we heard Bishop Hutchinson preach to us a marvelous sermon and he began it with a, an incredible experience that many of us, several of us in this room experienced in our visit in the Summit of the Americas at Cuba a couple of years ago. And I was informed this morning, and I am delighted that Bishop Ricardo Vierra, our brother and presiding bishop of The Methodist Church of Cuba, has now been able, finally, to arrive, and I would ask that you introduce him to this conference so we could greet him.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Is he here?

FOX: He is here somewhere. There he is at the very back.

BISHOP WATSON: There he is at the very back. We greet our brother from Cuba.

(applause)

Thank you.

FOX: If we could ever meet with our brothers and sisters in Cuba, you would see a General Conference that can dance.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you, thank you. All right, hold on just a minute. Our ecumenical officer says he has one more item he needs to do.

Bishop McCloud's Absense

BISHOP ODEN: I have just been asked to let the General Conference know that Bishop Earl McCloud, the ecumenical officer of the ELCA—I'm sorry, the ecumenical officer of the AM, the African Methodist Episcopal Church—had to leave early to make a trip to South Africa, and requested especially that we let the General Conference know why he could not be here. Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, we will miss Brother McCloud.

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH: Good morning, everyone. I am Susan

Brumbaugh, coordinator of the calendar. I invite you to turn in your DCA to p. 2038. Today's consent calendars begin on p. 2038. You'll find Consent Calendar A03, we'll start with Consent Calendar A03. The following items have been removed from Consent Calendar A03, so you should strike through them. Those are 209, 209 has been removed. 219.

BISHOP WATSON: Susan, I believe the page no. is 2230, is that correct? No, 2127.

BRUMBAUGH: I am sorry. I apologize.

BISHOP WATSON: The previous DCA.

BRUMBAUGH: Look at the screen and don't listen to me.

(laughter)

I will look at the screen. 2127 is where it begins and we are starting with A03, on p. 2127. And now I will tell you which items are removed from Consent Calendar A03. They begin with 209 . . . there is a question. I don't know if you want to.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, we have a question, section C, mic. 9.

JENNIFER L. S. GREEN (Western New York): On p. 2275 of the DCA, petition no. 209, my name appears as removing from the consent calendar. I did not sign this, although I do not disagree; I want to bring that to the body's knowledge.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. We will take note of that, thank you.

BRUMBAUGH: So, Consent Calendar 209, and as I recall there were 21 signatures, so I think we are probably still OK with that. The next one is 219; that's Consent Calendar Item 219 has been removed. 246; 246; 271; 271; and the last one is 298; 298. Those five calendar items have been removed from the consent calendar and are reprinted beginning on p. 2275, for consideration at a later time. If you vote "yes" on Consent Calendar A03, you will be vot-

ing to adopt the remaining consent calendar items that are contained. All of the items that are on Consent Calendar A03 are correct as printed with the exception of the items that were removed.

DAVID WILSON: Bishop, I move approval of all the actions on Consent Calendar A03, except for those five items that were removed.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, Consent Calendar A03 is before you. I am going to ask us to vote by the keypad, and I understand that before we use the keypad for the first time in voting today, you need to wake it up. And in order to wake it up, you need to press any key. So I just ask you now to press any key on your keypad.

(pause)

BISHOP WATSON: All right, if you're having a problem with your keypad, if it didn't wake up, if you would lift it in the air, someone will come and see about it. I believe most of them are awake. All right. You can stand and lift that keypad if it would be helpful to. All right, I believe the keypads are awake, so Calendar Item, Consent Calendar A03 is before you. If you would support this motion of approval, with the exception—five exceptions that have been noted—please press “1.” If you do not approve the items on the Consent Calendar, please press “2.” You may vote when the clock appears. [*Yes, 834; No, 33*]

(pause)

Thank you. The motion carries.

BRUMBAUGH: Now, if I can get the page numbers on the screen, I can tell you where to turn. We're gonna start with Consent Calendar B03, and it starts on p. 2144. Turn to p. 2144, where you will find Consent Calendar B03. We have two items that were removed from this consent calendar. They are 371—I'll allow you to flip over and find 371,

which has been removed. The other item that has been removed is 459. That's Item 459, which has also been removed from Consent Calendar B03. If you vote yes on Consent Calendar B03, you will be voting to adopt the calendar items contained therein. Consent Calendar B03 is correct as printed, with the exception of the two items that were removed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bishop, Bishop, there's a question.

BISHOP WATSON: Question? Section B, mic. 1.

LODIVIN B. ROBINO (North-east Luzon Philippines): May I ask the beautiful lady over there to speak a little slower. We cannot follow. Thank you very much.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you. We will all try to do that.

BRUMBAUGH: Speak louder?

BISHOP WATSON: Speak slower.

BRUMBAUGH: Slower.

BISHOP WATSON: Those of us from the South don't usually get that request, but—

(laughter)

Thank you.

DAVID M. WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Bishop, I move that we accept the actions on Consent Calendar B03, except for those two items that were removed.

BISHOP WATSON: Consent Calendar B03 is now properly before you with the deletions that, those that have been removed. If you would support this motion, please press “1.” If you do not approve the items on this consent calendar, please press “2.” And you may vote when the clock appears. [*Yes, 839; No, 34*]

(pause)

Thank you. The motion carries.

BRUMBAUGH: Now, we—

BISHOP WATSON: Susan, I believe it's when you're referring to

numbers to remove to give them a little time to find those numbers.

BRUMBAUGH: OK.

BISHOP WATSON: I think that's the concern.

BRUMBAUGH: I won't slow the whole thing down, just the numbers that are being removed. OK, so now we turn to p. 2158, 2158, where Consent Calendar C03 begins. We have five items that are removed from Consent Calendar C03. The first one is Item 500, 500. Calendar Item 500 has been removed from Consent Calendar C03. Consent, or Calendar Item 544 has also been removed. Calendar Item 544 has been removed from the Consent Calendar. When I complete the list, maybe I'll read them one more time as a total. The third item is Calendar Item 642. 642 has been removed. The fourth item is 648. 648 has been removed. And finally, not very far away, 650 has also been removed. Calendar Item 650 is removed from the consent calendar. I'm going to read all five numbers again of the items that have been removed. They are 500, 544, 642, 648, and 650. These items appear on p. 2276 and will be considered in the future. If you vote yes to Consent Calendar C03, you will, ya'll finish, you will be voting to reject the cons—calendar items contained therein. And I believe there's a question.

BISHOP WATSON: I see a question. Mic. no. 4.

ANNE S. TRAVIS (Holston): As the editor of the *DCA Journal*, I would like to point out that Item 642 has an incorrect title. The petition being removed has to do with UMW in the local church and not with media resource centers.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you very much. Did you get that notation? All right, I'm going to come back to the center here, mic. no. 6. Then I'll come to mic. no. 3. Mic. no. 6—and I see a card in the far back.

EMILY DESALVATORE (Troy): I was wondering why No. 549 was not deleted—removed rather.

BRUMBAUGH: What I'd like to do is move on to Consent Calendar D03, if that would be OK; and I will check my files to make sure that I have not mistyped the calendar items that are being removed and will bring Consent Calendar 03 back. Can we do that?

BISHOP WATSON: All—yes, we can; we want to get it correct. So we will just, we will leave C03. We will leave Consent Calendar 0, 30, C03 unaddressed at this moment.

BRUMBAUGH: I suspect it's incorrect in my script; but it's—well, I just need to check my files, and then I will feel much better about this.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, thank you.

BRUMBAUGH: OK, so let's move on—

BISHOP WATSON: Was there, was, did, that took care of the questions dealing with that calendar, OK?

BRUMBAUGH: OK, so let's move on to Consent Calendar D03, which begins on p. 2172. Starts on p. 2172, D03. And this is correct as printed with no items removed. If you vote yes on Consent Calendar D03, you will be voting to refer the calendar items contained therein. Consent Calendar D03 is correct as printed.

WILSON: Thank you, Bishop. I move the approval of the action on Consent Calendar D03.

BISHOP WATSON: Consent Calendar D03 is before you. If you would support the motion, please press "1"; if you do not approve the items on this consent calendar, please press "2." You may vote when the clock appears.

(pause)

The motion carries. Thank you very much. [Yes, 863; No, 34]

WILSON: Bishop, the last item is a report from John Brawn, the coordinator of the legislative committees.

*Legislative Committee Recorders
Recognized*

JOHN BRAUN: Good morning, I've invited a group of people on the stage with me. Many of these folks will fly or drive home this afternoon. Most of them are here this morning. Some are from our host annual conference but still have driven hours to get here across the great state of Texas. Others flew for hours from the West Coast, the East Coast, and many places in between. As late as Palm Sunday, last month, none of these people knew that they would be here working in this capacity. Today, just five weeks later, nearly all of their work is done. These people are volunteers who have taken all the work that you have done from every legislative committee and carefully and faithfully entered it into CALMS, our conference software system. Various committee leaders have described them with words like *amazingly outstanding, calm, patient, tremendous, a dynamic team*, and *dedicated*. These words do not overemphasize their strengths. Without these people, there would literally be no calendar items in the DCA, and there would be no legislative work accomplished at this General Conference. They are the ones who kept all of your ducks in a row.

(laughter)

I invite the 2008 General Conference to join me in showing our gratitude to our Legislative Committee recorders.

(applause)

Thank you. Many people have asked me questions this last couple of days about how we are able to compile the information I present to you most mornings. Several of them have encouraged me to give you a quick overview here. Frankly, I debated with myself whether or not to give you all a peek at the back-office

process. Of course, it was two speeches for and two against.

(laughter)

I know that some people would enjoy all of the gory technical details, but I also know that there are others who prefer to live in total ignorance and simply believe in miracles.

(laughter)

In full awareness that I will satisfy neither group, I've put together a very short video to explain how we work on the calendar items, how we know how many are voted on, and how many are not. Can we have the video, please?

(video)

(laughter)

(applause)

Let's just take a minute to look at the totals on this chart. As of today, you have completed your first of five days of full-time plenary sessions. And as of this very minute and assuming you eventually pass Calendar Item C03 without very many changes, you will have already voted on 707 petitions. And that's about 45 percent of the total. Remember, we are trying to fill this chart with white; and you have made an excellent start. At the other end of the chart is the part my mother would surely have pointed out to me if this was my report card. She often says, "John, you've just gotta finish what you start." Well, the red part of the bar represents the 75 petitions which still had no vote recorded in CALMS as of 2 A.M. this morning when the last recorder left the building. You've heard my mother, and you know who you are. Enough said.

(laughter)

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for supporting and working with my volunteer recorders. They've had a

very challenging excitement; and with very few exceptions, I've heard nothing from them but positive words about your treatment of them and the working relationships you created. I thank you.

(*applause*)

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you very much. We now turn to Frank Beard or Janet Forbes. I'm not sure exactly which one will come in the name of the Superintendency Legislative Committee, who will guide us through their report. Frank, you'll come?

FRANK J. BEARD (North Indiana): And, Bishop, I feel a little bit like that nursery rhyme ditty that says "Mary had a little lamb, it ne'er became a sheep, / it followed her to General Conference, and it died from lack of sleep."

(*laughter*)

BISHOP WATSON: And the conference said,

AUDIENCE: Amen.

BISHOP WATSON: Amen.

Episcopal Areas

BEARD: Would you please turn with me to p. no. 2179, 2179. The calendar item is no. 790, 790. This item refers to Petition No. 81432, 81432, which can be found in the advanced edition of the *DCA* on p. 459, the red book, 459, the red book. The committee recommends to reject Calendar Item 790, 790. The committee recommends to reject; and Janet Forbes, subcommittee chair, will share the rationale for this rejection.

JANET L. FORBES (Rocky Mountain): Thank you, Frank. As the Subcommittee and then the full Committee of Superintendency dealt with this petition, there seemed to be some basic assumptions or affirmations undergirding the conversation that indeed our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and that

leadership is crucial to this task. It is crucial for the rebirth, regeneration—and as our theme for the day says—for the sustaining of hope.

We would like to express our thanks for the work of the Task Force on the Superintendency. This petition and the petition last night on the retirement age of bishops are the only two that, at this point, will come before the plenary, so a word of thanksgiving for their intentional and deliberate and focused work over the last four years is important.

I want you to note that the Task Force on the Episcopacy dealt with conversations about jurisdictional episcopacy, which is a part of, I believe, some of our reason for not wanting to move forward. There was conversation about membership differences in the jurisdictions, about the number of clergy superintended by each bishop, by geographical size and those differences in our areas, by signs of growth, membership increases in all of our jurisdictions in certain conferences. And then, the current reality of the percentage increases in the Episcopal Fund.

But again and again, we noted that this study affirms the spiritual and presidential leadership of our bishops for the mission of transformation; and we have borne witness to those gifts in our days together. So the Superintendency Committee asked two questions as a part of the rationale: (1) Is limiting leadership in any place ever an appropriate response in times of radical change and deep spiritual ferment? And (2) How can these conversations move from current reality, scarcity thinking, to a worldwide, mission-pulled mandate of hope? We move rejection.

BISHOP WATSON: You have heard the committee's recommendation. This Calendar Item No. 790 is now before you; and I see a card back in—I see a yellow card. I can't tell if this is in section A or C; but, yes, you who are standing, if you'll go to mic. no. 5.

Substitute Motion for Episcopal Areas

STEPHEN P. WENDE (Texas): Thank you, sir. I'm going to try to do this right. I rise to make an amendment to Petition 81432; an amendment to replace the petition. So, I don't know if I'm saying that right. I didn't study this in seminary.

BISHOP WATSON: I believe that is called a substitute and—

WENDE: OK. I rise to make a substitute motion?

BISHOP WATSON: Yes.

WENDE: Thank you. I move that the no. of active bishops be reduced among the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America in order to reduce United States' demands upon the Episcopal Fund. The reduction in the no. of bishops in each jurisdiction will reflect the needs for bishops reported in the report of the Task Force to Study the Episcopacy as recorded on p. 1526 of the *Advance DCA*. This reduction in U.S. demands upon this fund will free up over \$10,000,000 per quadrennium for episcopal leaders in areas of the world where our membership is expanding. This reduction will be effective no later than 2012, and if there's a second I will explain this motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Second.

BISHOP WATSON: It has been seconded.

WENDE: Friends, please breathe deep. Let's start off by saying we love bishops. We like bishops. Some of our best friends are bishops, and I think bishops are overworked. I think anybody that loves Jesus Christ and is trying to help the church is overworked. Having said that, wouldn't it be nice if this General Conference were remembered *not* for a group of votes and politicking that people will quickly forget what was at stake, but that this was the conference where we took a stand on becoming a "world church." If you'll look at the p. I

cited in 1526 of the *Advance DCA*, a work-study was done of our episcopal leaders. I'm *not* saying they're not overworked. They work incredibly hard; but we have lots of hard work that needs to be done in the church. And if you'll look at it, the only jurisdiction that—and my *own* jurisdiction would lose bishops; we're not talking about somebody else—my own jurisdiction would lose bishops. The only jurisdiction that would not lose bishops is the Southeast, and I think it's because those folks in North Carolina are hard to handle.

(laughter)

Yeah, thank you for that! Now, here's the thing. At some point we go beyond lip service if we're going to be the church. *People matter*; not geography, not territory. People matter! And we are spending \$10,000,000 *more* on bishops than we have to in this country that could be freed up for others. I want to say to you I know it would be inconvenient, I *know* it would be destabilizing; but let's be honest—most of the people most inconvenienced are right in this room.

BISHOP WATSON: You need to sum up.

WENDE: I thank you for being the church. I ask that you to take a deep breath and take this proposal seriously.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, thank you. As I read our Rule No. 26.2, a substitute motion is appropriate, but we will move—and the substitute is now on the floor, but we will move to perfect the original motion, get it in its proper order and then we will deal with the substitute. All right, we'll come back to the maker of the original motion. We will just make su—to the committee—we'll make sure that we have that in its appropriate form and it has been perfected. I see a question, here. I see it went away. No, it came back. All right, mic. no. 1.

BETH ANN COOK (South Indiana): Many of you will remember that last night I rose to ask that we table the issue on new episcopal areas in Africa and other growing regions; and the reason I did is that I believe, like my brother who just stood to make the substitute motion, that we need to sacrifice in the United States.

BISHOP WATSON: I believe that you're making a speech.

COOK: And it's in favor; it's a "green."

BISHOP WATSON: OK, I'm sorry. I should not have called on you for that yet. We will come back to the substitute, but we are going to perfect the original motion, then come back to the substitute and deal with it.

COOK: No, actually it's not on the substitute. It's on the original. It's a similar idea but what I would like to do is approve the original motion as it appeared in the *Advance DCA*, and as the Task Force put it forward, but take the cost savings of what is already in there and use that towards episcopal areas.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, I'll receive that as a speech in favor of the original motion as we are perfecting it. Is there any other discussion? If not the original—all right, mic. no. 3.

ELAINE J. W. STANOVSKY (Pacific Northwest): I'm asking for clarification of the substitute so we can be contemplating that while we perfect—

BISHOP WATSON: All right.

STANOVSKY: —the major motion. On p. 1526, am I clear that the proposed numbers are in the box at the top of the page?

BISHOP WATSON: Well, I've now been advised that this is a motion to reject, and therefore there is nothing to perfect about that. So we can now work on the substitute since the substitute is here; but this question still remains. Is that right?

STANOVSKY: I'm trying to clarify the substance of the substitute.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Let's ask the maker of the substitute if he can clarify that. Have you sent a copy of that to the table?

WENDE: Yes, sir, and the answer is yes, sir.

BISHOP WATSON: OK, we do have the motion here. All right is there any other discussion? Yes, in the back, mic. no. 8.

TIMOTHY J. RISS (New York): Bishop, I'm confused about what the effect would be of adopting the substitute because the calendar item referred to a petition which intended to replace Paragraph 405 in the *Discipline*. The motion is to reject the replacement of the paragraph. Therefore, nothing would happen. If we adopt the substitute, where does it go and does it replace Paragraph 405?

BISHOP WATSON: All right, I'll ask the maker of the substitute....

I have now been advised that this is a motion to reject.

WENDE: The answer is yes.

BISHOP WATSON: It does replace this paragraph. All right, mic. no. 11 in the back, the yellow card. With these lights it is difficult to see if the card is yellow or green.

SUSAN HUNN (California-Nevada): I believe I understood you to say that the motion before us is a rejection.

BISHOP WATSON: Yes.

HUNN: But I think by our new rules that the motion before us is the petition.

BISHOP WATSON: You are correct.

HUNN: So we're not working on a rejection, we're working to perfect a motion.

BISHOP WATSON: I think you're right.

HUNN: Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: I think you are right, thank you. All right, mic. 1.

KIM REISMAN (North Indiana): I just need clarification of what the

motion actually was; if it could be read again slowly, I expect we would greatly appreciate it.

BISHOP WATSON: Would you read it? We'll ask the secretary to read it.

GERALD WIEST: "Amend: 81432 Petition: To replace. I move that the number of active bishops be reduced among the jurisdictional conferences in the U.S. in order to reduce U.S. demands upon the Episcopal fund. The reduction in the number of bishops in each jurisdiction will reflect the needs for bishops reported in the report of the Task Force study of the Episcopacy on p. 1526 of the *Advance DCA*. This reduction in U.S. demands upon this fund will free up over \$10,000,000 per quadrennium for episcopal leaders in areas of the world where our membership is expanding. This reduction will be effective no later than 2012."

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Mic—I see a red card, mic. no. 5.

WE HYUN CHANG (New England): I speak against this substitute motion.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. I'm still going to say that we are working on perfecting the original, and that the recommendation is to reject the original. Is there any other comment on the original? If not, we will move to the substitute. I don't see any, so we now are going to move to the discussion of the substitute. We have had no speeches regarding the substitute, but we will ask for mic. 5—you're making a speech against the substitute. That's where we are now—a speech against the substitute.

CHANG: So, you mean I can speak?

BISHOP WATSON: You can speak.

CHANG: Thank you. We've been hearing this a couple of times and I think it's going to come back again, when it comes to the funding issue and how we can equitably disburse our offerings to correctly speaking.

To be fair, even before we look at this disbursement, we should look at our stewardship. I think an average United Methodist gives less than 2 percent of their income. If we all become tithing United Methodists, we don't have to worry about this. Without even tithing, if we were to try double that up for the next quadrennium to 4 percent on average, we will have more than enough to go around all over the world. So it is irresponsible for us, until we do our task of being a good steward, to just lay the burden on our structure and our bishops. I think it's not fair so I speak against for the motion.

BISHOP WATSON: A speech against the motion. All right, mic. no. 5, the yellow card.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): I have a parliamentary question.

BISHOP WATSON: All right.

MASSEY: The original petition is written in disciplinary language. The substitute motion is not disciplinary—is not written in disciplinary language. So, it would seem to me that it would need to be perfected if that is to be in the *Discipline*.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you. All right, in the very back, I saw a yellow card. Mic. no. 11.

THOMAS F. TUMBLIN (West Ohio): Bishop, if I may, I would like to amend the amendment, please.

BISHOP WATSON: To amend the substitute?

TUMBLIN: Yes, please.

BISHOP WATSON: All right.

TUMBLIN: I would like to amend the substitute. Rather than referring to the information on p. 1526 of the report, to instead use the data found on p. 1527.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

BISHOP WATSON: I hear a second, you may speak to it.

TUMBLIN: I support the need to

reallocate our resources for the needs of the greater denomination. Indeed I hope that we can help our African brothers and sisters in very tangible ways. At the same time, I believe the reductions suggested on p. 1527 are more reflective of the very real potential for evangelism and outreach in the United States. So I support using 1527 as our guide rather than 1526.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, this amendment is now before us. That's been a speech in favor of it. In the back, mic. no. 10, I believe that is. I saw hands in the back, yes? All right, yes? Now we're on the amendment. Is this on the amendment? I don't see anybody moving there. All right, I'm—maybe I do.

RICHARD A. HUNTER (North Georgia): Bishop, the amendment to this proposal would not reduce the number of bishops in the U.S. church and that's where it needs to come from, as a matter of stewardship for the sake of the central conferences. I move that we vote this down.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, that's a statement in the opposition. That's all right. Mic. no. 3 here.

IACOB IUPELL NORDBY (Norway): Just a question. Will this substitute be the new Paragraph 405? And if I understand it right, the substitute didn't say anything about the central conferences and the Paragraph 505 as it stands in the *Book of Discipline* says something about the central conferences.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, we are on the amendment, but your question applies to both, but we are on the amendment. Is there any other speech for or against the amendment? Yes, here, back to mic. 3.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Mic. 3.

DEBORAH L. FISHER (Northern Illinois): I speak in favor of the amendment because it does not reduce our current bishops. When we are in decline, we need to staff for

growth, not give in to the decline. Our own bishop is leading our conference to growth. Reduction in the number of bishops says we give in to decline, not staff for growth.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you, that's the second speech for the amendment and we've had one speech against the amendment. I see a red card here. Mic. no. 4.

JAMES A. HARNISH (Florida): Bishop, I would speak against this amendment. For the s— it seems to me that one of the fundamental decisions here is, does adding bishops increase church growth; or should bishops reflect church growth? I'm not sure that I've seen any empirical data that indicates that adding another bishop or increasing bishops has any direct effect on the increase of church growth. It seems to me that the number of bishops should reflect growth in the church. And where the church is growing, bishops should be added; until the church begins to grow, we should not increase the upper levels of leadership until there is growth in the bottom. I'd speak against this amendment.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, that's a speech against. We've had two for, and two against the amendment. I sense that you may be ready to vote on the amendment.

(pause)

BISHOP WATSON: I see a hand in the far back. Mic. no. 11.

CLIFTON HOWARD (Central Texas): Bishop, just a question: I believe the maker of—maker of the amendment meant the information on p. 1534. That's a question.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. We'll ask the maker of the amendment. Did you mean 1526 or 1534? 1527 or 1534?

THOMAS F. TUMBLIN (West Ohio): Bishop, he is correct, I did mean 1534. I apologize for that mistake. 1534, where the reduction of bishops was less than that reflected in 1526.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, that does change the data, there. All right, mic. no.—right here, this card, mic. no., which one do you want to go to? Three? Six. I see.

PATRICIA FARRIS (California Pacific): Bishop, is a motion to refer in order?

BISHOP WATSON: I believe it is.

FARRIS: Is it—, I just need your guidance here. Is it possible to refer all that's before us, meaning the original and the amendments, if I say—

BISHOP WATSON: We're dealing with the amendment now.

FARRIS: OK.

BISHOP WATSON: If you want to refer all that is before us, you can make that motion.

FARRIS: And could you describe for me what "all that is before us" includes?

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: That would be good to know.

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: Can we go back, can we do it all? I'm being advised that we can go all the way back to the beginning and refer all of it back to the committee, that that is possible for us to do.

FARRIS: All that we've been working on here?

BISHOP WATSON: Yes, everything that we've been working on.

FARRIS: Then I move to refer all that is before us to the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, I'm going to test the house on that. If you would refer, would you lift your hand? If you would not refer, would you lift your hand? And it is not referred. We're still on the amendment. We've had two speeches for and two against. Back in the very back, a red card, mic. no. 10.

JOHN W. EDGAR (West Ohio): I rise to speak against this amendment and in fact against all parts in the substitution. I think the most recent conversation underscores why this is not how we should be making the decision on the number of bishops. We are largely, I think, many of us still confused about which chart we're talking about at which time; and the reality is, if this amendment and the substitution prevailed, some chart is gonna replace an entire paragraph of our *Book of Discipline*. That paragraph is very well thought through. It may need modification, but it should not be replaced by a chart. That paragraph talks about central conferences as well as our bishops in the jurisdictions here in the United States, and it also gives a pattern for understanding how we not only have bishops right now, but how they might change, based on a formula. It is a discredit to us, and to what we give forward to the connection, to reduce a very well-developed paragraph that deals with a variety of implications, replace that with a chart—that's a fixed moment in time—and we're fighting over numbers that reduce us to regionalism at its worst, rather than a connection that cares for all. I encourage us to defeat the amendment and the substitution.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. That's a speech against the amendment. And we have one more speech that can be made for the amendment. I'm coming to mic. no. 8, over here, the card. Is this a speech in favor of the amendment?

THOMAS W. EBLEN (Kentucky): If the chart is on p. 1534, correct, is the amendment? I speak in favor of that amendment. We have had a task force studying this for four years. We've approved millions of dollars for other task forces that we said we're going to listen to four years from now; so they've studied it, they've made a recommendation, so let's listen to them. And also someone said, well, if you're declining, don't change the numbers, but it

sounds like status quo is getting us nowhere. So let's make this change; it seems a good compromise. It's not as big a cut as p. 1526 recommended, but it gets us off the dime. I support the amendment.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, thank you. All right, we've had three speeches for and three speeches against the amendment. Are you ready to vote on the amendment? All right. Got a question over here. Is this a question?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a procedural question.

BISHOP WATSON: Procedural question.

BETH ANN COOK (South Indiana): I don't know if this would be in order or not. I don't know if this would be appropriate or not, but the chart that they're all referring to has a formula that the task force came up with that underlies it. And I agree that we need to be very careful to keep the disciplinary language with a formula and in appropriate. So could we somehow get that formula in there?

BISHOP WATSON: Let me ask the maker of this amendment. This chart does refer to the formula—is that, is that your intent? I hear “yes.” All right. Are you ready to vote on the amendment? I'll come here. Mic. no. 5, or mic. no. 2, if that's where you'd like to come.

ROBERT E. LONG (Oklahoma): I just, for clarification on the Southeast Jurisdiction, they have 13 bishops; they would have qualified for 14, but I understood they wanted to stay with 13. If we pass this, are we forcing them to go to 14 bishops?

BISHOP WATSON: I would say no. All right, back, back in the very back, mic. no. 11, back, back in the furth—very back. We've had three and three. Is this a speech for or against?

ROY P. SMITH (Arkansas): It's a question.

BISHOP WATSON: That's that I thought.

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: OK.

SMITH: Roy Smith from Arkansas. I'm asking—

BISHOP WATSON: Would you repeat that?

SMITH: Roy Smith from Arkansas. Is not the original motion that we discussed based on the chart on 1534? The one that they chose to reject as a committee?

BISHOP WATSON: Turn to the committee. The answer is yes.

SMITH: Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. I'm going to come to the far back again. They were there first and then I'll come up here to the middle. All right? Yes. Is this a speech for or against? No more speeches. Mic. 8.

JUDITH A. STEVENS (New York): Bishop, I wonder if a motion to refer to the newly constituted task to study the global nature of the church would be in order.

BISHOP WATSON: That motion would be in order.

STEVENS: I so move.

BISHOP WATSON: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Second.

STEVENS: I believe that this is something that would be best referred to that committee and task force and to let them come back and report to us after studying the global nature of the church—how many episcopal areas we need in each area.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. I'm going to test the house. If you would refer to the study committee would you lift your hand? If not, would you lift your hand? And it is not referred. All right, I'm coming here. Yes, yes, mic. 5.

GIB WALTON (Texas): Bishop, in response to the parliamentary question that was asked over here about the form of the motion. If it's in order and if you'll help me, I'd

like to offer what I hope would be a friendly amendment; but I—otherwise I'll move for an amendment of the motion that's on the floor. Is that in order?

BISHOP WATSON: No, I don't believe that's in order now. We are—we've had three speeches for and three speeches against. I think we're to the point of voting on the amendment.

WALTON: I—and this was just to do with the form of the amendment.

BISHOP WATSON: I think we're to the point of voting on the amendment. You would be amending the amendment?

WALTON: Yes.

BISHOP WATSON: Would you like to hear the amendment to the amendment?

All right, you can try it.

(laughter)

WALTON: Thank you. Thank you, Bishop. In *The Discipline*—

BISHOP WATSON: Point of order! We've got a point of order here. Mic. 2.

ALEXANDER PLUM (Detroit): We have amended a substitute which he's now trying to amend that would be three amendments and that's out of order. A suspend—a substitute motion according to *Robert's Rules* is treated as—

BISHOP WATSON: I think we will rule in your favor.

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Are you ready to vote on this amendment?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

BISHOP WATSON: I sense that you are ready to vote. And so I'm going to call for the vote on this amendment. All in favor of this amendment lift your hand. You want to vote on the card—you want to vote on the—with the keypad. All right? If you are in favor of the

amendment, press "1." If you are not in favor of this amendment, press "2." You may vote when the light appears.

(pause)

BISHOP WATSON: All right, the amendment failed. And we are past our time for the break. We have tried to work our way through this and so I'm going to call for the order of the day of a break. We will be back in 20 minutes so at 5 minutes after 11 we will return.

(music)

BISHOP WATSON: All right, will you take your seats?

(applause)

Let me call us back to order. Let me call us back to order. Please take your seats. All right, if you will just hold off on your cards, just a moment. We still have people coming back in. Please come in and take your seats. All right, would you take your seats? It will be helpful to us. All right, I have an announcement or two or a comment or two. No. 1, we have received word here that there are delegates who are voting on two keypads. And I want to say this slowly; I want to make sure that our interpreters hear this, that all of us hear this clearly, and that we take the right time here. According to our rules, of course, you cannot vote on two keypads. You only vote on one keypad. We will make that announcement and make it clear. If it is seen that someone is voting on two keypads, you will need to let us know about that, because that is out of order. Each delegate is to vote only on one keypad. Also, as we've been discussing at the break where we are in this, it appears that we have some disciplinary language in the original petition that is now being adjusted with some language of resolution, resolution type language, not disciplinary language, and I believe that's where we have some confusion and we're going to

try to find clarity. I know that the body wants clarity and we want to help the body have clarity. So we will move to try to get clarity as we proceed. All right, I see some cards back here in the very back, mic. 10. We are going to try to find clarity. Help us with that. All right.

TRACY R. MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I would like to make a motion to refer all that is before us to the legislative committee to bring it back to us in disciplinary language form. If I have a second, I'd like to.

BISHOP WATSON: It has been seconded.

MERRICK: Bishop, it seems that it is rather difficult for a body of this size to resolve this problem and a logical place might be back in the Legislative Committee and the expectation is that they would bring it back to us for our consideration while we are here in General Conference.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, thank you very much. This is a motion to refer back to the Legislative Committee all that is before us and for some language involved in that. Would you be ready to vote on that motion? If so, would you use your keypads and if you would refer this back to the Legislative Committee, would you vote pressing "1"; if you do not want to refer it back, press "2." You may vote when the light appears.

(pause)

And you have referred it back to the committee. *[Yes, 478; No, 196]* Thank you for helping us with that because I know we got confused and we do want clarity and we do want to understand what we are doing. So thank you very much for that. All right, we're going to turn back now to the consent calendar, to, back to approve the consent calendar that we did not approve to begin with. So I am going to turn to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. Yes, all right, mic. 11 in the far back.

STEPHANIE DECKARD (North Central New York): Bishop, sir, I have two questions. Thank you. I have two requests. One: before we vote on an amendment, can we please hear the amendment again?

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you.

DECKARD: And two, may we please hear from the chair of the Legislative Committee before vote on it?

BISHOP WATSON: Yes, we would go back on the, to the chair of the Legislative Committee and we will repeat the amendment.

DECKARD: Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you, thank you. All right, let's go to our calendar items right here.

BRUMBAUGH: As you know, I am Susan Brumbaugh, coordinator of the calendar. And I would to thank those of you who asked the questions earlier that helped us clarify where we are. If you'd please turn to p. 2158, p. 2158, we will return to Consent Calendar C03. Please allow me to share the corrected list of items to be removed from Consent Calendar C03. First, turn to p. 2159, Calendar Item 500, Calendar Item 500 on p. 2159 has been removed. Next, on p. 2162, that's p. 2162, Calendar Item 549, not 544 as I said earlier, has been removed. That's 549 that has been removed from the Consent Calendar. The third item which appears on p. 2167, turn to p. 2167, is Calendar Item 642. Calendar Item 642 has been properly removed from the Consent Calendar. Our office received a request to remove a specific petition that is bundled together with other petitions under Calendar Item 642. The first petition in the bundle was "Media Resource Libraries," and that is the title that was used for the bundle. It contains multiple petitions. That item has been removed from the Consent Calendar. We can only remove a calendar item, not a specific petition. Finally, on p. 2168, that's p. 2168, there are two items that have been removed. They are

Calendar Item 648, that's Calendar Item 648, and Calendar Item 650, Calendar Item 650. Consent Calendar C03 is correct as printed with the removal of these five items.

YOUNGSOOK C. KANG (Rocky Mountain): Bishop, I move approval of all the action on Consent Calendar C03 except for those five items that were removed.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Question? Mic. no. 3.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Kansas West): I served as chair of the Local Church Legislative Committee. Is it possible to find out which of those petitions the question was raised, so that our committee could prepare for a response?

BRUMBAUGH: Yes, the petition no. is 81365. That's 81365.

BISHOP WATSON: This is on Item 642.

BRUMBAUGH: Calendar Item 642, which is on p. 2167. The petition no. that was referenced on the removal form is 81365. However, the entire item will come before the body with all the petitions underneath it.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, OK. Question? Mic. no. 2.

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas): I would move to suspend the rules in regard to Item No. 642 in that we only remove the Petition No. 81365 but that we leave—leave the remaining petitions on the Consent Agenda, if that is in order.

Make UMW Optional

BISHOP WATSON: All right, you do have a second. And, so this is a motion to suspend the rules. If you would suspend the rules, this will take a two-thirds vote, I believe, and did you understand what he's trying to do there? He is trying to take, on, on p. 2167, Calendar Item 642, he is wanting to suspend the rules to only take off of the Consent Calendar Petition 81365. That is the one that's been questioned, but it's in a group there. Did I express that correctly?

All right, if you would suspend the rules, would you lift your hand? If you would not suspend the rules, would you lift your hand? And the rules are suspended. And now we will vote to remove this from the calendar item, well—

BRUMBAUGH: It's been already (*unintelligible*)

BISHOP WATSON: I suppose so. All right, if you would vote to *do* this now, which is to remove, to leave on the sus— the Consent Calendar, everything except 81365, would you lift a hand? If you are opposed, would you lift the hand? All right; it is done. Now—

BRUMBAUGH: I wanna make sure that the recorders don't record the vote so that we can fix it in the computer, and then we'll figure out how to make that work.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. All right, Consent Calendar C03 is now before us. If you would support this motion, you may press "1." If you do not approve the items on this Consent Calendar, please press "2." You may vote when the clock appears.

(*pause*)

The motion carries [*Yes, 763; No, 38*] and Consent Calendar 603 is approved.

KANG: Thank you.

Alternate Structure

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you. We turn back to the Committee on Superintendency, Frank Beard chairing.

BEARD: Thank you, Bishop. Before I forget, by your actions, the Committee on Superintendency will be meeting over the lunch hour. Please grab your lunches and come immediately to our meeting room. Thank you. Bishop, before us now, if you turn to p. 2179, 2179 of the *DCA*, we'll be looking at Calendar No. 789, 789. This item refers to Petition No. 81234, 81234, which can be found in the *Advanced* edition of

the *DCA* on p. 2179. The committee recommends to reject Calendar Item 789. Carolyn Briscoe will come to share the rationale.

(*pause*)

CAROLYN BRISCOE (South Carolina): As you can see, this petition has to do with alternate structure. This is the closest vote that our committee had. The rejection vote—it was 28 to 25; but the committee ultimately made the decision that we simply did not see the need to make this change. There were some who felt that the confidentiality and the nature of this committee needed to be upheld and that certainly was done with retaining the name of the committee as is: the Committee on Episcopacy. So the recommendation is to reject.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, this Calendar Item No. 789 before us. The recommendation of the committee is to reject. Any discussion? I see none. If you would vote for the rejection as recommended.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: No! No!

BISHOP WATSON: If you vote for the item—you're voting on the item—if you vote on the item to approve it, you vote "1"; to reject, you vote "2." You may vote when the light is on. [*Yes, 241; No, 565*]

(*pause*)

And the petition is rejected. Thank you. Does that complete the work of the Legislative Committee on Superintendency?

BEARD: It does for the moment; but as the Governor would say, "We'll be back."

(*laughter*)

BISHOP WATSON: All right. I believe now we will move to Carl Frazier, the Legislative Committee on General Administration.

(*pause*)

Oh, I'm sorry. We will move to the Committee on Central Conferences. Bishop Carcaño. I'm sorry...that is...and Bishop—who's doing this? Bishop Streiff and Bishop Carcaño.

All right, in the very back, mic. 11.

SARAH E. STEELE, (Arkansas): Thank you. Thank you, Bishop. I have a request of you, Bishop Watson. Could you please, for our delegates in need of translation, slow down and pause right before we take a hand vote.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, we certainly will do that.

STEELE: Thank you, sir.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you. All right, I see another card back here. Mic. 10.

SUNSHINE S. BIRD (South Georgia): Bishop Watson, I have the perfect thing to help give clarity for our group here—and that is prayer. And I believe yesterday that we were granted that before every session that there would be prayer offered for clarity, discernment, wisdom, and guidance from the Holy Spirit because we are entrusted from our local churches to come and make decisions on behalf of them and the whole denomination. So could we please, as a loving and gentle reminder, remember to do this?

BISHOP WATSON: If there's no objection, we'll have a prayer right now.

(laughter)

BIRD: Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: I assure you, Mrs. Bird, I have been praying

(laughter)

(applause)

BIRD: Thank you, Bishop Watson.

BISHOP WATSON: Let us pray.

(prayer)

Thank you. All right, Bishop Carcaño.

*Declaration from the Church
in Africa*

BISHOP MINERVA G. CARCAÑO: Brothers and sisters, the matter before us is on *DCA* p. 1985. It's Calendar Item No. 27. It is Petition 81562, and it's found—the full text of it—is found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 1168. The title of this petition is “A Declaration from the Church in Africa.” The Commission on Central Conference Affairs did not stand with the maker of the petition. We stood against this petition for several important reasons. We, first of all, want to commend the submitter of the petition for calling The United Methodist Church to a commitment to Christ Jesus and a commitment to unity within The United Methodist Church; however—

BISHOP WATSON: Bishop Carcaño, can I hold just a moment? I don't believe we have the p. no. and the petition on the screen.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: Let me repeat that information. *DCA* p. 1985. It's Calendar Item No. 27. It is Petition No. 81562, and the full text is found on p. 1168 of the *Advance DCA*.

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you.

BISHOP CARCAÑO: The Commission on Central Conferences did not stand with this petition. We stood against the petition. Again, we commend the submitter of the petition for a call to all of us to reaffirm our commitment to Christ Jesus and to working for the unity of the church. We did, however, find some problems, significant problems, with the petition. First of all, it is proposed as a resolution, and we did not find that it had the nature or function of a resolution. Historically, a resolution has enabled us to make a public statement to the world as we face life's struggles in the world. We

found this petition to be a critique of The United Methodist Church. We also found it to carry within it a judgment of certain members of The United Methodist Church, and we felt that this was not the kind of public witness we want to give. Certainly, these are matters that we would want to hold close in our holy conferencing.

Furthermore, we found that within this petition there were some very serious recommendations that were made, mainly that we reprioritize our program priorities, that we have a different funding plan—an undefined funding plan—if we look at this petition, and finally that we go through a restructuring of our agencies. We felt that all of those matters are better dealt with by the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration and other relevant bodies of the church as they do their quadrennial and ongoing work. We do not recommend this petition.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Calendar Item 27 is before you. The committee recommends that you reject it. If you are ready to vote, if you would, with your keypad, press “1” for yes—that means you accept or adopt the petition. Vote “2” to reject the petition, which is the committee's recommendation. The question is now before you. When the clock appears on the screen, you may vote.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, it is rejected. [*Yes, 208; No, 669*] Does that complete your reports? All right, very good. We'll turn to, now I believe, to General Administration, Carl Frazier.

ROBERT (CARL) FRAZIER JR. (North Carolina): Thank you, Bishop. And this week it has been my privilege to chair the General Administration Legislative Committee. We've had a strong leadership team, and I want to thank them for their work. Dorothy Watson Tatem has been our vice-chair; Daniel Ivey-Soto has been our secretary; and Debbie McLeod, Elijah Stansell,

and Renae Extrum-Fernandez have chaired our subcommittees.

General Agencies Petition

We have three items for you this morning. The first item we wish to present is on p. 2261 of today's *DCA*. It is Calendar Item 246, p. 2261 of today's *DCA*, Calendar Item 246. The item refers to Petition No. 81485, which may be found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 966. The committee recommends adoption of Calendar Item 246, which is an amended version of the original petition. The vote of the committee was 58 in favor and 2 against; and while the original petition is in the *Advance DCA*, the text that we are proposing is in today's edition. The committee's goal was the perfection of the petition and the correction of discrepancies found in paragraph 705 noted by the Judicial Council. A writing subcommittee studied several related petitions from the beginning of paragraph 705 through 705.5. Further, we received requests from the Commission on Central Conference Affairs for numbers of Central Conference representatives on boards and agencies and episcopal membership, which covered paragraph 705.5(c) to 705.5(d), and most of those requests were incorporated into the document that you have.

Finally, the committee took each board and agency paragraph and changed the numbers where necessary so that they would conform with the changes in 705.5(c). The petition, as amended, accomplishes several things. It ensures that all the numbers of representatives are in agreement in all areas of the *Book of Discipline*. It grants some flexibility to the Jurisdictional Committees on Nominations. It cleans up some superseded language, which was in conflict; and it grants about 10 more members on boards and agencies at the request of the Commission on Central Conference Affairs. Bishop, that is our recommendation.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, Calendar Item 246 is before you. The committee recommends that you adopt it. Are you ready to vote? I see a question over here. Mic. no. 3.

LONNIE D. BROOKS (Alaska Missionary): I move to amend the petition, the item in three places, inserting the same language in each of those places. The first place is in 705.5(e), following the sentence that says "after the election of Central Conference members as provided in 705.5(c)." I would insert at that point "50 percent of." And then further down in that same paragraph, after the phrase that says "that the portion of the membership of each board that includes the basic membership," and insert language there that says "50 percent of the additional membership." Bishop, would you want me to take these one at a time?

BISHOP WATSON: I believe it would be helpful for us to do them one at a time. All right, can you direct us again to where that is? Has everybody been able to find that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: No!

BISHOP WATSON: I don't think so. Could you give us the page number and direct us where that is? This is a very long petition and it's very difficult to find our place there.

BROOKS: I am shuffling two documents and trying to get the one in the *DCA*. All right, it's... Bishop, it's at the top of p. 2262.

(pause)

I'm sorry, Bishop, I was working from the document that was in the *ADCA*. And I think the language is identical between the two; and if the delegates could look at that p. in the *ADCA*—I can direct them to that place—and the language would be the same then. It is on p. 961 of the *ADCA*. I'm sorry to delay the process like this, but this is really important. It's at the bottom of p. 961, the second column. This is the

language that would go there. And it's—

BISHOP WATSON: Can the committee help us find this place?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The gentleman's got it here. All right.

DEBORAH A. MCLEOD (Florida): Lonnie, are you looking for 705.5?

BROOKS: Yes.

MCLEOD: P. 2262.

BROOKS: Good, thank you.

MCLEOD: Just slightly below half way down the first column, you'll see, after the big section that's crossed out, you'll see a no. 5. It is hard to read the way it all runs together, but that is 705.5. I do think, Bishop, we need to work from the document that is before the delegates.

BROOKS: Yes, I agree.

BISHOP WATSON: I believe we need to work with the document that's before the house, which is on p. 2262.

BROOKS: Yes sir, and I have the place there. It's at the top of the last column on that page, 2262; and it's the one, two, three, four, sixth line down.

BISHOP WATSON: Sixth line down?

BROOKS: Yes sir, sixth line down from the top where it says, "in paragraph 705.5c." Following that phrase, please insert "50 percent of."

BISHOP WATSON: All right, would you read the sentence again?

BROOKS: Yes sir, so it would read: "After the election of Central Conference members, as provided in 705.5c, 50 percent of the remaining number of additional members shall be allocated..."

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Is there a second? I didn't... is there a second? All right.

BROOKS: If I may speak to that.

BISHOP WATSON: Yes.

BROOKS: Thank you. The change in 2004 that required that the additional membership of the agencies be used to affect proportionality among the jurisdictions was a drastic change, and it assumed that the only basis of fair representation was proportional representation. I don't believe that to be the case, that there are examples, for example, in the United States in the Senate, where fair representation is equal representation for various areas.

Moreover, there's an issue here that the general agencies in these places are provided with the opportunity to have continuity from quadrennium to quadrennium and to select members in the additional membership category who have expertise in the particular area that the agency is working with. And this would provide that half of the additional members would be available to the agencies to carry out that mandate and choose people from anywhere across the church.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. That is an amendment and a speech for. All right, there's a speech against, I believe, in the back; red card, mic. no. 11.

K EDWARD TOMLINSON (North Georgia): It's very important to remember that before there are any allocations of the additional at-large board members, each jurisdiction and the central conferences are allocated basic membership in each board. Only after each jurisdiction has received basic membership, which is not proportional, are the additional remaining members allocated to bring about some degree of proportionality. Expertise, experience, and ethnic representation can be found in every jurisdiction. And to argue that such representation can only come from one area is to demean the abilities or possible ethnic representative in other areas. This amendment is to decrease the fair representation allocation, would reduce our fairness model in half. Fair representation is a matter of justice. I urge you, vote against this amendment.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. That's a speech against. Yes, over here. Section B, mic. 1.

MARY A. BALDRIDGE (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I rise to ask a question. I'm sorry, but I'm finding this to be rather confusing. And I wonder if, of, if someone could tell me how this, how many women's division directors would serve on the General Board of Global Ministries? How this would affect that number?

BISHOP WATSON: Can the committee respond?

BALDRIDGE: The reason I ask is because of the 1964 agreement that was made.

MCLEOD: The basic membership of women's division is 30. And, are you asking how that is allocated?

BALDRIDGE: No, I'm... what I'm asking is, would there then be 30 members still representing? Thirty women's division directors on the General Board of Global Ministries? Or, if this—either the original petition or the amendment—would affect that?

MCLEOD: Neither the original petition nor the amendment would affect the women's division members on GBGM, because they're part of the basic membership, which is the predominant membership that guarantees representation to each jurisdiction, and we do have the breakdown for each jurisdiction. But those 30 women's division members are assured in the basic membership and Lonnie's amendment is about the at large.

BALDRIDGE: Thank you very much.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, all right. Mic. no. 3. Is this a speech in favor?

STANOVSKY: Yes, Bishop. Agency membership serves a couple of purposes. Certainly the governance purpose is the explicit one and the one we focus on the most. But agency membership also serves a connectional purpose. The last time the Pacific Northwest Conference

had a voting member of the Board of Discipleship was in 1992. It took us a while to realize the unexpected—the unintended—consequences of the reduction of agency membership, but since that time our conference school of discipleship shriveled and discontinued. Our conference Board of Discipleship became inactive. Recently, it occurred to us that without representation on this crucial board of the church, our conference was losing knowledge of and access to the disciple-making resources of our denomination. Recently, we allocated funds to send the chair of our Board of Discipleship to every Board of Discipleship meeting next quadrennium, in case we don't have an elected member again. I encourage you not to narrow the access of annual conferences to the agencies of our church. Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: That's a speech in favor of the amendment. Here, I see a red card. Section A. Mic. 5 appears to be the closest.

STEPHEN P. TAYLOR (South Carolina) Bishop and delegates, I appreciate the work and the concerns of the others, but it just hit me, our *Discipline* says and the experience shows that ministry is active at the local church, not from a top down. Ministry does not begin on the General Board. The General Board coordinates, hears, directs, and enables the church to do the work. And so I, while I am sympathetic to those places where ministry may not be occurring as it has, I don't think the board is the place for that to begin; it's the local church. We have to talk about representation at times. Once everybody's at the table, the additional members need to represent those local churches. And I don't care if it's within the United States or beyond, we have to consider apportioning those other members to where the churches are and the people are. That is fairness. Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. That's a speech against. We've had

two in favor and two against. I sense that you're ready to vote on this. If you would vote for the...all right, we want to have the committee to speak?

FRAZIER: Thank you. I would just remind the conference of just a couple of brief things. The first is...the amendment deals really, as Debbie said, only with at-large membership, which is only about 20 percent of the total membership of the boards and agencies. Eighty percent of the membership is allocated to the jurisdictions and the central conferences already appropriately. If there is a concern about annual conference representation, that is a matter well brought up at a Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations meeting. We would urge that you defeat the amendment and that you retain the proposal as we presented it to you.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. If you are ready to vote, if you would press "1" to accept the amendment; "2" to reject it. Please vote when the timer appears.

(pause)

And the amendment is rejected [Yes, 287; No, 584]. All right, we are back to the original motion from the committee. Are you ready to vote? I see a card back in section D. Go to mic. 7. We're back to the original petition. Is this a speech in favor of the petition?

KEVIN GOODWIN (Peninsula-Delaware): Actually I'm standing to refer another amendment. Don't worry. We had holy conferencing on this one and it's going to be very well received.

(laughter)

GOODWIN: We did the good Methodist thing this morning. We holy conferenced on this one. This will be also on p. 2261. If you look at the third column...this amendment would be placed just below the bolded section you see at the top of the third column. Are you ready,

Bishop?

BISHOP WATSON: Yes, this is following the words "conferences of the jurisdiction"?

GOODWIN: Yes sir.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, has everyone found your place there? I believe it is just to the left of the word *calendar* that's in the vertical position. All right?

GOODWIN: You are correct. "Consideration should be given in this process to allocating at least three members to each annual and missionary conference within the jurisdiction." And for your reference Bishop, the committee on the plenary has a copy this for you.

BISHOP WATSON: All right.

GOODWIN: Would you want me to read it again for the audience?

BISHOP WATSON: Let's read it one more time and then we'll see if we have a second.

GOODWIN: "Consideration should be given in this process to allocating at least three members to each annual and missionary conference within the jurisdiction."

BISHOP WATSON: All right, is there a second? I don't hear a second. Second, all right. Thank you, you may speak to it.

GOODWIN: The only two comments I want to make, Bishop is, one, the current language in the *Discipline* mandates five members per annual conference. This amendment suggests three and it's left up to the jurisdiction to actually implement that.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. This amendment is now before us. We have a red card in the very back, section D. Mic. 11. We're speaking, this is on the amendment.

JOE M. WHITTEMORE (North Georgia): Greg, we had holy conferencing in another area this morning that came out with a different answer.

(laughter)

We have literally lived with uncertainty in this very complex matter for four years. We asked the secretary of the General Conference to speak to the General Administrative Legislative Committee. His only plea to us was that we be specific in our legislation. In our committee we worked out solutions as instructed by the Judicial Council. This amendment would build back into this very complicated area all sorts of uncertainty. Please vote "no" to this amendment.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, that is a speech against the amendment. Do I see anyone else? Is this a question? Mic. 7. Mic. 7.

GOODWIN: I wish to invoke my right to speak for a second time as defined in Rule 9.2.

BISHOP WATSON: All right.

(pause)

There is a limit of two times and you can do this.

GOODWIN: As well as I respect the gentleman from North Georgia, he is incorrect in his assessment. The language here specifically addresses the committee's concern that it was hard-coding this into the language of the petition. This is soft-coding. If the Jurisdictions decide not to implement this, and maybe that is a bad word to use, they do not have to. It is totally up to the Jurisdiction to decide whether they are going to consider allowing each conference to have three. If they decide to allow a conference to have zero, that is still within their rights under this amendment.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. Any other discussion? I don't see any other discussion, so I sense you're ready to vote. We'll turn back to the committee if you would like to address this. Then I'll read the amendment again.

FRAZIER: The language seems more permissive than mandatory and directive; we wouldn't object to it. We'll leave it to the body to decide.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. All right, as I'm going to read the amendment for you, it follows on p. 2261, following the bold print in the third column, at the top; this comes to almost in the middle of the page prior to the "A," after the word *jurisdiction* and prior to the "A." "Consideration should be given in this process to allocating at least three members to each annual and missionary conference within the jurisdiction." If you would vote for the amendment, press "1." If you are voting to reject the amendment, press "2," and you may vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 422; No, 439*]

(pause)

All right, I believe it does prevail. No, no, it does not prevail. The amendment is rejected. The amendment is rejected. All right, we're back to the petition. Is there any other discussion with the petition? All right, here in the center, section A, mic. 6.

EPHRAIM MALDONADO: I have a question in regard to the part in p. 2262, third column, on the liaison representatives.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, the third column on p. 2262, and where is the reference?

*Liaison Representative
UMC/Puerto Rico MC*

MALDONADO: In the, right below the middle where it say's letter "F," "Liaison Representative."

BISHOP WATSON: All right.

MALDONADO: The petition is changing the wording from "will have" to "be entitled," and my question is...the original wording is in accordance with the concordat between the Puerto Rico Methodist Church and The United Methodist Church, so this is changing the concordat.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, I believe that's a question to the committee.

DANIEL A. IVEY-SOTO (New Mexico): The reason for the change from the word *have* to the words *entitled to* is because these representatives are paid for by The Methodist Church in Puerto Rico. As a result, we cannot mandate that they will have the person present, but we can certainly ensure that they are entitled to have a person present, should they pay for that person to arrive. Thank you.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, does that answer your question?

MALDONADO: The point is that this is changing the concordat, and the concordat is an agreement between the two churches. So, to change the concordat it has to be changes approved by both General Conferences, Puerto Rico, and United Methodist Church.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, thank you very much. I am going to take that as a speech against this. All right, is there any other or are you ready to vote? Then the calendar item is before you but, all right, we have another speech here.

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas): Bishop, I'd ask you to rule as to whether or not this body has the authority to change a concordat agreement.

(pause)

BISHOP WATSON: Would it trouble you greatly to leave the word *have* in there?

FRAZIER: No sir. It would not.

(laughter)

BISHOP WATSON: It would not. The word will be *have*. Thank you. All right, the petition is now before you. Does the committee have anything else to say or are you ready to vote? If you would accept this petition, adopt this petition, would you press "1"; if you would reject it, press "2." The recommendation is to adopt. Press your keys when the light appears. [*Yes, 762; No, 99*]

(pause)

And the petition is adopted. Thank you very much.

Election of General Secretaries

FRAZIER: Our next item is on p. 2177 of the *DCA*. It is Item 775, p. 2177, Item 775. It refers to Petition 81192 on p. 79 of the *Advance DCA*. The petition addresses election of general secretaries of program agencies, and the committee recommends adoption of the amended text, which you have before you. The rationale of the committee was that quadrennial election will allow more strategic planning for the boards and agencies—the program agencies—rather than having to annually deal with that. Annual evaluations of the general secretaries are still performed by their personnel committees.

BISHOP WATSON: All right. The petition is before you, with no discussion, I believe we're ready to vote. If you would adopt the petition, which is the recommendation of the committee as amended. This is Item 775 as amended. Press "1" for adopting; press "2" to reject. You may vote when the light is on.

(pause)

[*Yes, 714; No, 139*]

BISHOP WATSON: Thank you, and it is adopted.

FRAZIER: Thank you, our next item is on the same page, p. 2177. It is Item 776. It refers to Petition No. 80164 on p. 952 of the *ADCA*. This petition was a constitutional amendment to address representation and proportionality, and the committee recommended rejection of this petition.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, Calendar Item 776 on p. 2177 is before you. The recommendation is to reject. If you will vote, press "1" to adopt; "2" to reject, which is the committee's recommendation. You may vote when the light appears.

*(pause)**[Yes, 243; No, 602]*

BISHOP WATSON: The petition is rejected.

FRAZIER: Thank you, Bishop. In our effort to obey the three simple rules and “do good,” that concludes our work for the morning.

40th Anniversary of GCRR

BISHOP WATSON: Very good. Hallelujah! Thank you very much. All right, I believe that we have come to the 12:10 hour, which is an order of the day for a celebration concerning the 40th anniversary of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

(pause)

Erin Hawkins, our General Secretary, I believe is prepared to lead us in this celebration. Erin.

ERIN HAWKINS: Yes, thank you Bishop. Before we begin, we have a little bit of unfinished business. On Sunday we attempted to show you a video about the Central Jurisdiction, and were unable to do so because we had some technical difficulties; but we’re ready to do that now. And I think that it’s fitting that that came at this point in time because this morning we are celebrating 40 years within The United Methodist Church, 40 years with the Commission on Religion and Race, and all of this goes together. Out of the Central Jurisdiction, Black Methodists for Church Renewal was formed, and then the Commission on Religion and Race. I’m out of breath. Woo! So now I think we’re ready to see the video, which you can also see if you log on to www.umc.org. Let’s watch the video now.

(video presentation)

We thank the United Methodist News Service for that flash video. And once again, if you’d like to see it, you can see it on www.umc.org.

(applause)

Which brings us to our reason for being here this morning. Forty years ago the inclusion into The Methodist Church demanded by African Americans was for many a radical challenge. Today in this body of Christ called United Methodists it is a radical expectation. The General Commission on Religion and Race illuminated for the entire church the meaning of being included: sisters and brothers of all racial ethnic backgrounds as members of the body of Christ with equal standing.

BISHOP LINDA LEE: Like all journeys, it hasn’t always been easy. The church has struggled with racism—both individual and institutional. The experience of racism has caused members of our United Methodist family to march and to preach and to speak out, infused with the energy of righting long-ignored wrongs. At times, as a body we have faltered, stumbling along roads rutted by prejudice. But at other times, with faith and perseverance, we have moved mountains. Black Methodists for Church Renewal enabled the creation of a Commission on Religion and Race at the 1968 General Conference. We have also widened the embrace of The United Methodist Church at every level of leadership, from the local church to national agencies, to include people of every shade and every hue. Our scriptures tell us that in Christ there is no Greek or Jew, no male or female, no slave or free. Jesus has broken down the dividing wall, making us one body. Through its commitment, GCORR, as a servant of the church, is helping United Methodists move toward higher ground, building toward what Martin Luther King Jr. described as the “beloved community.”

*(video)**(applause)**(music)*

HAWKINS: Our journey is far from over. It continues today with new challenges, cultural shifts, new directives and directions. The General Commission on Religion and Race recognizes that enabling full participation of all of God’s people throughout the church must mean expanding our work, confronting oppression that reaches past United States’ borders. To that end the commitment of this commission remains our most compelling proof that the ministry of antiracism—rooted in justice and bound by scripture and working with partners such as the five racial-ethnic caucuses of the church—will continue to move The United Methodist Church forward.

BISHOP LEE: Today, as we celebrate 40 years of growth and witness of The United Methodist Church through the work of the General Commission on Religion and Race, we would like to recognize those of you who have been part of the journey of the Commission on Religion and Race. So would you please stand as I call the categories? If you’ve ever served as a part of the Conference Religion and Race in your annual conference, please stand.

(pause)

Thank you.

(applause)

If you’ve ever been a part of the Board of the General Commission on Religion and Race, would you stand?

(applause)

Thank you.

(applause)

If you’ve ever been part of the staff of the General Commission on Religion and Race, would you stand now?

(applause)

Thank you. Together we would like to offer you a small token of our appreciation. The sun catcher should be at your place and was put at the place of each delegate today. Also, nondelegates can receive one. You can pick one up at the door as you exit today.

HAWKINS: We thank you for being with us and trusting in an ongoing commitment to stay on the journey, active in your personal life as well as our corporate life to bring about God's vision of wholeness. We hope you will join us for the continuation of our celebration by stopping in the lobby just outside of the exit doors for an anniversary cupcake celebrating the 40th anniversary of the church and of the Commission on Religion and Race. And just a reminder, if you haven't already, be sure to visit the Journey to Inclusiveness exhibit on display just outside of the exhibit hall. Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP WATSON: We thank the General Commission for this wonderful, wonderful celebration. Thank you very, very much. We'll turn to our secretary for announcements. We've reached our lunch recess and I'll ask the secretary for the announcements that are before us.

FITZGERALD (GERE) REIST: Thank you. Some of you may have missed the announcement earlier of the restrictions involved in this hall with the arrival of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of the Republic of Liberia. The arena and the Exhibit Hall F, the backstage area of the stage, will be closed to everyone from the conclusion of communion until 2:15 P.M. The Commerce Street Arena Lobby and the 121 rooms will be closed to public access from 12 noon to 5:45 P.M. Financial Administration will meet in Room 202A/B, Judicial Administration in Room 202 C/D for today. The food court will be open for regular hours. Vested volunteers from the host committee will be assisting

in directing persons away from those areas that are closed. Please cooperate with them. The Committee on Superintendency Legislative Committee has moved to Room 203 A and B, Room 203 A and B.

The 2008–2012 Judicial Council members will meet to organize on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 8 A.M. in Room 111. The 2008–2012 Judicial Council members will meet to organize on Thursday, May 1, at 8 A.M. in Room 111.

For this next announcement, you may want to open your *DCA* to make a notation. In today's *DCA*, on p. 2199, that's p. 2199, there is an error. Please note that the information contained in the columns labeled "Calendar Number" and "DCA Page Number" have been reversed. Brent Smith apologizes for that error on behalf of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

You're invited to join in the mid-day Eucharist from 12:40 P.M. in the center of the arena. Bishop Jane Allen Middleton will celebrate Communion. Noontime concerts in the food court will feature the Church of the Resurrection choir and orchestra, Leawood, Kansas; Unidos in Cristo, Columbia, South America; Hope for Africa Children's Choir, Uganda, Africa.

The Young Adults General Conference Choir for singers ages 15 to fortyish will rehearse in the choir rehearsal space in the area annex next to the loading docks. Due to the security checks today, please use the outside hallway around the arena to reach the rehearsal space rather than through Exhibit Hall F. And there is a special note here that "there is still time to sing with us." That concludes my announcements.

BISHOP WATSON: All right, thank you very much. I want to express my appreciation to Bishop Sharon Rader and to Bishop Joe Pennel for being with me in this very interesting and exhilarating experience. I also want to say to you how much I appreciate this confer-

ence and the holy conferencing and the love, mercy, and grace that has been experienced here. You have done your work this morning well, even though some of it has been difficult and confusing. But thank you very much for your spirit. As we prepare to take our lunch recess, let us pray:

(prayer)

Gracious Lord, we thank you that today we have experienced your presence. We ask, O Lord, that you would be with us as we go for our recess and for our refreshment. We ask that you would renew our spirits and renew our bodies that when we return to continue this, your holy work, that we may do so in a way that pleases you and builds up your holy church. This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen. God bless you!

(music)

Tuesday Afternoon, April 29, 2008

BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON: ...seconds. So come on in and take your place so that we might begin our afternoon session.

(music)

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, come to your places, come to your places. I am going to call us to order and to begin our afternoon session. I see empty chairs up front and I am eager for you to be in those chairs. Dearly beloved, dearly baptized, put your hand on your head. Dearly baptized of water and the spirit, yes indeed, yes indeed, you are chosen. You are children of God. You are those who when they call you in the middle of the night you wake up, you get up and you give and receive fresh bread day by day. Thanks be to God. You are rooted in Christ the vine and we will bear fruit. Oh, I am praying, we will bear fruit. This is my prayer as we start today. And I

remind you, too, of our scripture verses and our efforts in holy conferencing, that in all of the work that we do this afternoon, we will be clothed with compassion and with kindness and with humility. That we will bear with one another in love; that we will love and be thankful; that we will respect one another; that as we deliberate and listen and share, we will continue to grow to become more perfect in love of God and neighbor. This is my prayer and my goal as we begin our time together in this holy conferencing this afternoon. I'm pleased that Bishop Melvin Talbert and Bishop Jack Tuell are behind me to guide me in our time together this afternoon. And I do want us to begin in a special way, in a time of prayer, and so I have asked Bishop Edsel Ammons if he would come forward and lead us in prayer as we begin our afternoon session.

BISHOP EDSSEL AMMONS: Let us pray.

(prayer)

BISHOP SWENSON: Amen. Our first order of business this afternoon will be a report from the Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy. So I will invite Josh Davies, who is the vice-chair of that committee, to come and lead us in this report.

JOSHUA T. DAVIES (Rocky Mountain): Thank you very much, Bishop Swenson, and good afternoon delegates.

*InterJurisdictional Committee
on Episcopacy*

ALL: Good afternoon.

DAVIES: Thank you. My name is Josh Davies. I am the vice-chair of the Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy. I come to you today because of our chair, Darlene Amon, who has had to head home, and I wanted to also introduce up here Sandra Steiner Ball, who is our secretary from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

Before we begin our report, I just wanted to thank all of the members of our committee who joined us for what is typically a ceremonial meeting and were able to quickly evolve into the spirit of Christian holy conferencing in discussing a very challenging topic. I present to you this afternoon the report of our committee. You'll find it, if you would like to follow along, on p. 2074 of your *Daily Christian Advocate*. Once again, if you would like to follow along, you'll find it on p. 2074 of your *Daily Christian Advocate*. It's on the middle left-hand column on that side. You'll also notice, it's fairly short.

On April 26, 2008, the Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, pursuant with paragraphs 405 and 511 of the *Book of Discipline*, met and organized. Following election of officers and review of statistics from the General Council on Finance and Administration...discussed a motion presented by a delegate from the North East Jurisdiction. After discussion and prayerful consideration, the committee recommends that the number of Episcopal areas for the North East Jurisdiction be reduced to nine, no later than September 1, 2012.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, this recommendation is before us from this committee. Is there discussion? Are there questions that you have?

(pause)

Mic. 6.

(pause)

Is your mic. not on? Mic. 6? OK. Come up here to mic. 3 and see if mic. 3 will work for you.

(pause)

HENRY FRUEH (Troy): Considering action to reduce an Episcopal area due to membership loss, it's a sobering moment for a General Conference. And voting for that reduction in one's own jurisdiction is not

taken with joy. Yet I will vote to affirm this recommendation. And here's why.

Four years ago it became apparent that disciplinary mandates would likely require the loss of an Episcopal area in the Northeast Jurisdiction within one or two quadrennium. The members of the Northeast Jurisdictional Boundaries Committee, representing each of the 13 Annual Conferences in the jurisdiction, agreed to encourage grassroots boundary adjustments to develop in areas from within the jurisdiction, rather than to develop and propose such changes on their behalf. Four neighboring annual conferences responded to that call. The North Central New York, Troy, Western New York, and Wyoming Conferences encompass most of New York State, all of Vermont, and a portion of Pennsylvania. Their two bishops commissioned a boundaries task force in each conference. Their driving question was: What is God's yearning for United Methodist ministry in our part of the world? The four Conferences engaged in conversations with each other to explore how they might respond to that question. The result was a vision of a vibrant new conference existing to embody the Word and to give itself a way in love and service to the world.

We in those conferences came to believe deeply in a future with hope. We became willing to shed our four annual conferences as we know them. We envision one new annual conference created not by denominational mandate from above, nor by administrative efficiency from within, but by an urging of the Spirit inviting and pulling us toward a new understanding of what it means to share the love of Christ in a broken world. In the language of Brian McLaren, we imagined a new annual conference where congregations seek to live together in the way of Jesus, evidenced by order becoming opportunity; stability melting into movement and change; status quo giving way to a revolution of

community and neighborliness; policy bowing to love; domination descending to service and sacrifice; control morphing into influence and inspiration.

On October 6, 2007, the four conferences convened in separate but simultaneous special sessions of Annual Conference. By a combined 85 percent to 15 percent the four conferences voted overwhelmingly to propose to...

BISHOP SWENSON: Please sum up now, and come to close.

FRUEH: ...to the jurisdiction the creation of one Annual Conference from the four. In February, this was presented to the NEJ Boundaries Committee, which enthusiastically embraced it. It's our hope that this will create a model of conferencing congregation of re-creation. So indeed I will vote to affirm the proposal before us, if not with joy, then with deep hope.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you, thank you. Thank you so much. Is there anyone else that wishes to speak to it? Would you come to mic. 5?

(pause)

BONNIE L. MARDEN (New England): I rise just for a point of personal privilege. Henry mentioned four annual conferences impacted by this proposal. The reality is that six annual conferences will experience hopeful new change. So I invite the General Conference to hold all of us in prayer in the Northeast Jurisdiction as we live into new possibilities with hope, acknowledging the pain that comes from change, which can be transformed into healing. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. Thank you very much. Will you come to mic. 2?

(pause)

RUBEN S. MOSTRALES (Mindanao Philippines): I have a question about this very petition. It says

it's going to be a reduction in Episcopal area due to reduction of membership. Since the beginning of this General Conference we've been talking about making disciples of all nations and reaching out for people to come into the church. Does it mean this area will have come to a standstill and they will never move forward to make more disciples if you reduce this number of bishops in this Episcopal area?

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. Josh, you want to try to respond?

DAVIES: Well, I think really the comments made from our friends in the Northeast Jurisdiction, the Conferences who were impacted, speak to their vision of hope that by bringing these conferences together and by planning and working in a collaborative rather than forced way they're going to find a way to not only not continue to shrink, but hopefully to band their resources together and to grow as a result of this minor reduction in their midst.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, are you ready to vote? If you will receive the...and accept the report of the committee, the Inter-jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, will you lift the hand?

(pause)

If not, will you lift your hand now? It is received. Thank you. And our thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you experience the transition that this will mean and as you have worked together in this time of transition.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Bishop Swenson.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, I'm going to ask you to vote again for the record so that I can be clear in the wording that goes in our record. If you will adopt this report, will you lift the hand?

(pause)

Thank you. If not, show the same sign. Thank you. It is adopted.

Now let's go to the Committee on Conferences. Matthew Laferty...

Bermuda in Northeastern Jurisdiction

MATTHEW A. LAFERTY (East Ohio): Good afternoon, Bishop and General Conference. We move to our first constitutional amendment item this afternoon. If you would turn to p. 2176 in the *DCA*, that's p. 2176. It's Calendar Item No. 761. The item refers to Petition No. 80052, which can be found in the *Advanced* edition of the *DCA* on p. 452. The committee recommends to adopt Calendar Item 761.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, this is now before you. Is there discussion or debate that you wish to have? All right, will you come to mic. 2?

LAFERTY: Bishop, if I could speak before we have conversation?

BISHOP SWENSON: All right. Yes. All right. Let's have you talk about it before we begin our debate.

LAFERTY: The Baltimore-Washington Conference has been appointing pastors, superintending the congregations, and integrating the congregations of Bermuda into the life of the Baltimore Conference for nearly six years. The General Board of Global Ministries and the Baltimore-Washington Conference had been recognizing these churches as United Methodist congregations. This petition brought forward by the Baltimore-Washington Conference and many other conferences of the Northeastern Jurisdiction formerly recognize this relationship. And so we would urge adoption of this amendment.

BISHOP SWENSON: The committee recommends that you adopt. Now, it's time for your discussion. OK, mic. 5.

MARDEN: I would propose amending this item to indicate the

country of Bermuda and if I have a second, I'll speak to it. The listing of the members of the jurisdiction includes the names of states, so if we insert Bermuda without the words *country of* Bermuda, some people unfamiliar with the names of the United States might presume that Bermuda has become a state. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, thank you. So this is a motion to amend it by saying "the country of Bermuda." All right. Is there a discussion you would like to have on this amendment? Or, you want to vote on the amendment? All right, if you support this amendment to say "the country of Bermuda" would you lift the hand? If not, show the same sign. OK, so it is amended. So now the report is before you as amended and they recommend that you adopt. Are you ready to vote? This is a constitutional amendment so it requires a two-thirds vote. Yes, are you... want to come to mic. 2? Or...she's going to mic. 3.

CHRISTINE ELLIOTT (Great Britain): My name is Christine Elliott from the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Just a point. Bermuda is not a country. It is a protectorate of Great Britain.

(laughter)

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. That's an important point for us to hear. All right. What shall we call it now?

(laughter)

BISHOP SWENSON: Shall we correct the language? Mic. 5.

MARDEN: I would definitely take that as a friendly amendment.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right. Then we will make this the correct language that we will use. Thank you. All right. We want to make sure we put it exactly right. All right, I think now this time we are going to vote with your keypads, so you need to wake up your keypads. So you

press any key. If you'll tell me when they're awake. They're awake. OK, sounds like they're awake and ready. So it's time to vote. If you will vote yes, press "1"; if you vote no, press "2." Vote when you see the numbers on the screen.

(pause)

Oh, I can read it here. You have approved by 97 percent. The vote was 757 in favor and 27 in opposition. [Yes, 757; No, 27]

LAFERTY: J LaVon Wilson, the vice-chair of the Conferences Legislative Committee will bring us our next calendar item.

Eliminating Gender Bias

J LAVON WILSON (Illinois Great Rivers): Bishop, our next calendar item is found on p. 2176 in the *DCA*. And the item of the Calendar No. is 764. This item refers to the Petition No. 80280, which can be found in the *Advance* edition of the *DCA* on p. 439 at the bottom and the rest at the top of p. 440.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, do you have it there before you? Calendar No. 764. Go ahead LaVon.

WILSON: The membership of the Committee on Conferences voted 54 for and 1 against. This petition stands as submitted. And we recommend for the adoption of this petition.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right. The committee recommends that you adopt. Is there questions or a discussion that you want to make? Are you ready to vote? All right, if you will adopt this, will you lift the hand? If not, lift the hand. It is adopted. Thank you.

WILSON: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SWENSON: Yeah, let me have you do it on the keypads so that I can actually...since it is a constitutional amendment...so I can record the exact number. So, your keypads are ready?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (unintelligible)

BISHOP SWENSON: Oh, there is a keypad not working. If your keypad is not working, would you stand so that we can get you a keypad that's working? All right, here's the keypad that's not working.

(pause)

(laughter)

BISHOP SWENSON: All right. Is this keypad is working? All right. Now, we will ask you to vote. Press "1" for yes; press "2" for no. Vote when the numbers appear. [Yes, 804; No, 39]

(pause)

(Pause)

BISHOP SWENSON: You have voted 804 in favor and 39 against, so you have adopted this. Thank you.

LAFERTY: Sandra Steiner Ball, the chair of the Subcommittee of Annual and Jurisdictional Conferences will bring our next item.

Fair Process to Include Laity

SANDRA S. BALL (Peninsula-Delaware): Please turn to p. 2176. The next item is found on 2176 of the *DCA*. It is Calendar No. 763. This item refers to Petition No. 80040, which can be found in the *Advanced* edition of the *DCA* on pp. 445 and 446.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, this is now before you.

BALL: The committee recommends to adopt Calendar Item 763. This calendar item addresses the composition of the Committee on Investigation and the inclusion of lay persons on that committee. On April 29, 2005, the Judicial Council held that a calendar item from the 2004 General Conference, Item 1167, dealing with the composition of the Committee on Investigation in paragraphs 2703.1 and 2 unconstitutional. Calendar item from that General Conference in part gave lay professing members the right of

voice and vote on a Committee on Investigation where the respondent is a bishop, a clergy member, or a local pastor. When the Judicial Council holds language of General Conference legislation that amends a paragraph of the *Book of Discipline* to be unconstitutional, the language reverts to its prior form with respect to the portion held unconstitutional. Thus, what now appears in the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, in paragraph 2703.1 and 2, does not reflect what the 2004 General Conference originally adopted. Today's legislation, Calendar Item No. 763, makes the supporting constitutional changes in paragraph 33 for the red legislation originally adopted by the 2004 General Conference for paragraphs 2703.1 and 2. This legislation also reinstates the adopted language for these paragraphs and it brings into harmony paragraph 33, paragraph 602.6, and paragraph 2703.1 and 2, the disciplinary paragraphs that deal with the issues addressed in this calendar item. Our committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP SWENSON: The committee recommends that you adopt. Is there a discussion; do you have questions that you wish to ask? If not, if you are ready to vote, I'm going to actually have you vote twice and separated out because the first is a constitutional amendment and does require that we record your two-thirds vote. So the first will be on the amendment that paragraph 33, which is the constitutional amendment, and then I'll have us vote on the second part. So if your keypads are ready, vote "1" for yes and "2" for no. Please vote when the numbers appear. [*Yes, 812; No, 49*]

(pause)

OK, you have voted 812 in favor and 49 in opposition, so this is adopted. Thank you. Now I'll ask you for the second part and that's for the other parts of the paragraph that are affected, you know, paragraph 602.6 and 2703 that are the remainder of that. The committee recom-

mends that you adopt. If you will adopt, will you lift a hand? If not, will you lift a hand? OK, it is adopted, thank you.

Minimum Number of Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

LAFERTY: Last item on the conference's Legislative Committee report for today can be found on p. 2176, that's 2176. It's Calendar Item 762. This item refers to Petition No. 80082. The Committee recommends adoption of Calendar Item 762.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, the committee recommends that you adopt.

LAFERTY: The Committee believed it was important for the election of a bishop in U.S. jurisdictional conferences to be conducted, not by a small group of delegates. This amendment assures a minimum threshold for jurisdictional conferences. This amendment will not affect the number of delegates to General Conference, only the number of delegates to jurisdictional conference. The enabling legislation was adopted this morning on Consent Calendar A03, Calendar Item 196. The committee voted overwhelmingly to recommend adoption of this constitutional amendment.

BISHOP SWENSON: Once again, this is a constitutional amendment so it requires a two-thirds vote. All right, are there questions that you have, or discussion? OK, if you are ready to vote, I will have you use your keypad. Press "1" for yes; press "2" for no. Vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 821; No, 50*]

(pause)

You have adopted this 821 yes, 50 no. Thank you.

LAFERTY: Before we get lost in the Bermuda Triangle, we're going to sit down and let the next committee present.

(laughter)

BISHOP SWENSON: All right. Thank you, thank you, conferences

committee. We are going now to Faith and Order and I will call on Mary Elizabeth Moore.

(pause)

Mission of the UMC

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): Thank you, Bishop Swenson. My Bishop...my Bishop! I first want to thank the leadership team of Faith and Order who led us ably through complicated legislation about which we had many different points of view in our Legislative Committee. That, I'm sure, sounds familiar. They led us to a sense of unity with diversity and a sense of compassion and respect in the midst of our differences, so thank you to Ralph Oduor who was vice-chair, Susan Hunn who was secretary, and the three excellent subcommittee chairs: Jorge Lockward, Mary Council-Austin, and Linda Harker. Please turn to p. 2049 for our first item...p. 2049. This is Calendar Item No. 171; the Petition is 80832. I'm sorry...it's 80271 at the bottom of that page. Found on p. 917 in the *Advanced DCA*, p. 917.

BISHOP SWENSON: Great! Have you found it? It's there before you. OK. You want to speak to it?

MOORE: The committee recommends adoption of Petition 80271. The rationale is that the additions proposed better communicates the relationships between discipleship and transformation. Discipleship bears the fruits of transformation, and both are possible by God's grace. Further, the bishops have already been leading us toward this mission of discipleship and transformation of the world and we are ever more eagerly, as a body, living into it. We recommend adoption.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, the committee recommends that you adopt. Yes, I see a card. Go to mic. 11.

JOON-SIK PARK (West Ohio): Bishop, I would like to offer an amendment by addition.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, state your amendment.

PARK: At the end of the sentence that is after “the transformation of the world,” I would like to add “through sharing and living out the gospel.” As the new sentence will read as:

“A mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through sharing and living out the gospel.” If I have a second, I will speak to the motion.

BISHOP SWENSON: Is there a second? I hear a second; go ahead and speak to the motion.

PARK: I fully affirm the petition adopted by the Faith and Order Committee, but since our denomination’s mission is best served by having an integral mission statement, I will hope to further perfect it by adding “through sharing and living out the gospel.” First of all, our mission is the mission of God, before it is the mission of the church. It is God who has and continues to take initiative in mission, and the church participates in God’s mission as his agent and instrument. The mission of the church is to be grounded in, and shaped by, the nature of God revealed in the gospel event. That’s why I would want to add the word *gospel*.

Secondly, I believe both evangelization and social responsibility are essential elements of Christian mission. They are sufficiently distinct, yet inseparably inner-related. They are like two wings of a bird, without either of which, she cannot fly. We often find ourselves, in particular the churches in the U.S., willing to offer a cup of cold water, but reluctant to do it in the name of Jesus. We need to remind ourselves, that in 2004, 42 percent of United Methodist congregations in the U.S. did not receive even a single member by profession of faith. If there’s one thing, among many others, we could learn from the sisters and brothers in the central conference, it is their willingness to share the gospel for the transforma-

tion of the world. That’s why I would want to add a phrase “sharing the gospel.” Of course, we share the gospel, not simply verbally but also through our being and doing.

BISHOP SWENSON: Please sum up.

PARK: The mission of the church statement submitted in the petition appears to suggest that the church has already transformed the community, that it only needs to transform the world. There is so much of the world in the church, the church itself in need of continuing conversion. That’s why I would want to address...add a phrase “living out the gospel,” the church can become a missionary community. Only America continues to live out the gospel within as well as in the world. Thus with the addition, the new sentence reads as “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through sharing and living out the gospel.”

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, this is an amendment by addition. I see a red card, the one far in the back; I’ll do that one first, if you will go to mic. 12.

(pause)

KAREN N. DUNGAN (Iowa): Thank you, Bishop. I do not disagree with the brother, when he speaks about the need for evangelization, as well as social transformation. I was in the subcommittee that discussed this petition. We decided that that language would be redundant, because if we adopt the petition the way it is now, here’s how the *Discipline* would read: “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace”...oops, pardon me, I left out the phrase. “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and

neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world.” I believe the addition of those words is unnecessary. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. Is there someone who wished to speak in favor of the amendment. Yes, over here...would you come to mic. 5?

(pause)

YOUTH C. HARDMAN-CROMWELL (Virginia): The way that it was stated by the person who wanted to amend, it seems as if, if he amends then he may have intended to delete. Otherwise we have the situation that the person who spoke just before me says we have a redundancy. Does he mean to take out the words “*by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world?*” That’s my question.

BISHOP SWENSON: Does the proposer of the amendment wish to respond to that? At mic. 11. Yes, go ahead.

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): Confusing two petitions here because the petition that is before you is 80271 on p. 917 and the one that we just had quoted is actually the subject of the very next petition that we’ll bring next.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you, that is a very helpful clarification. So it is—it’s two different petitions. So at this point, it’s just an amendment to that first petition.

MOORE: Would you like me to read the . . .

BISHOP SWENSON: Yes.

MOORE: This petition that’s before you now relates to paragraph 120 in the *Discipline* and the paragraph presently reads—the first sentence presently reads, “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ” *period*. The petition recommends the addition of the

words “*for the transformation of the world.*” And the amendment would add the further phrase that was proposed, so the issues are somewhat different for this paragraph than they will be for the next paragraph which has the more complex sentence that was already read to the body.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you, thank you for that explanation. All right. Do you understand? Is there anyone who wishes to speak in favor of the amendment? I see the red cards in opposition. In favor of the amendment, come here to mic. 2.

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): I’m sorry I don’t have the books in my hand, but I believe the whole idea of the person who was trying to frame the amendment is to assure us that we are living out a life according to the Lord’s dictate, not just a transformation but a transformation according to the gospel. Because there could be transformations many. Like the Scripture say, Lords many but for us there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. So I will ask all of us to support the amendment.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, is there another speech in opposition to the amendment?

Call for Short Mission Statement

ADAM J. HAMILTON (Kansas East): When it comes to writing mission statements, shorter is better, more concise and to the point, something people can remember and then you elaborate on that in your preaching and your teaching. The way it’s currently stated as proposed by the Faith and Order Committee, I think does that. And we have an opportunity to expand on what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to transform the world? And we do that through our preaching and our teaching. I’ll just leave at that. I think we’re better off with a shorter statement. We could keep adding paragraph after paragraph of all the other things that we think should be added to that but somehow they ought to be incorpo-

rated into being a disciple of Jesus Christ and transforming the world.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you, thank you. All right, there’s a speech in favor of the amendment. Would you go to mic. 8 or 9, whichever is closer.

EVERLYN R. MCDONALD (New York): It is not a speech, it is a request. I know you can’t see the difference in the colors. When you are, Bishop Swenson, pointing to one of us, we cannot tell who in the back. It helps if you identify the section and front or back. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, thank you. I will certainly try to do that. Is there—I see some red cards but I’m looking for a green card so that we balance the number of speeches in favor or opposition. Is there anyone else that wishes to speak in favor? OK, there’s one more that wishes to speak in opposition? Would you go to mic. 8—yeah, that’s right, this mic.—this, yeah you’re in section D, mic. 8.

KAZADI KA KABAMBA (North Katanga): (*French*)

BISHOP SWENSON: We’re listening for the interpreter to give us the translation.

KA KABAMBA (*simultaneous translation*): I think that we need to avoid speculation. What is in the writings is already enough. The transformation is to share the Christ’s word across the world. So we need to avoid speculation.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, I think we’ve had the opportunity for the number of speeches in favor and in opposition. I’ll let the committee say a final word and then we will be prepared to vote.

MOORE: The discussion from the floor has reflected some of the discussion in the committee so I think this decision belongs to the body.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. We are now voting on the amendment, the amendment of adding the additional words “*through sharing and living out the gospel.*” If you

will get ready to vote. Vote, press “1” for yes, press “2” for no. Vote when the number appears. Vote now.

(*pause*)

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, the amendment does not pass. [*Yes, 295; No, 548*] So we are now with the major motion that is before you. The committee recommends that you adopt. Right...I see some cards in the back in section D. Would you go to mic. 11?

ROBERT F. ZILHAVER (Western Pennsylvania): I’d like to propose an amendment. In the bold print after the word *for*, add *the salvation of souls and* and then *the transformation of the world*. So it would read *The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls and the transformation of the world*.

And if I might have a second, I’d like to speak to that.

BISHOP SWENSON: There is a second. You may speak to it.

ZILHAVER: The United Methodist Church is part of Christ’s holy church, universal church, a church militant upon earth and a church triumphant in heaven. We have a task, not only as a church, to let heaven touch earth, but to invite to those in the streets, and the hills and valleys, and around the world to a heavenly banquet. And if I might illustrate that concept: as a pastor, I am a founder and president of an AIDS ministry in rural western Pennsylvania. And there was a young high school student who was—father, biological father, mother, and stepfather who all died of AIDS when she was a junior in high school. The hope of transforming the world was not enough to make the church mission real and present to her. But as we—I sang to her this song, you know, I’ve got shoes, you’ve got shoes, all God’s children’s got shoes, when we get to heaven, we’re going to walk around God’s heaven. You see the people that sang that didn’t have shoes but

they knew that they'd have shoes when they got to heaven. The people that said that they could walk around couldn't...when they knew when they got to heaven they could walk around. They couldn't walk around. And Crystal knew when she had that, that though she didn't have a mother or a father on earth, when she got to heaven, she would be able to have that. And that changed her life and she went to Brazil and we helped her go to Brazil and I can see her offering that hope to those orphans, not only the transformation of the world but the hope of heaven. And I believe that's the mission of our church—the hope of bringing heaven to earth and inviting those of earth to the hope of heaven. Our hope does not disappoint.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, that's a motion for...to amend by addition. I see a card in section A. Would you go to mic. 5 with the red card...the person in the green clothes. She was...she had her hand up first.

CAROL W. GOEHRING (North Carolina): Thank you, Bishop. As already has been said, mission statements are better when they are simpler and more concise. I would add that in the paragraphs following the one that is being considered, we hear an expanded rationale for our mission and then the process for carrying out our mission. Almost all of the words that have been offered for consideration in amendments are covered in these subsequent paragraphs in the *Discipline* without any proposed changes to those paragraphs at this time. I move that we reject this consideration. Thank you.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, yes, that's right. I see some cards in the back in section D. Are you wanting to ask a question or speak against the motion? Go to mic. 10.

TYRONE D. GORDON (North Texas): I'd like to speak against the amendment. I believe our job and our mission is to save lives. If you save a life, the soul is already saved.

I think people want to know how to live in the nasty now and now, and let God take care of the sweet by and by.

(laughter)

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. All right, are you ready now to vote on the amendment? We will vote on the amendment. I will ask for a call of hands. All right, no...all right...we will vote...oh, give the committee one more word first.

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): The committee's discussion of making disciples included the fundamental importance of offering the salvation of Jesus Christ and the understanding of the transformation of the world is that it is also part of God's salvation work. So that the amendment does seem redundant in light of the committee's discussion.

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. Now we will vote on the amendment. We will use the keypad. You would press "1" for yes; press "2" for no. Vote when the number appears. Vote now. [*Yes, 193; No, 690*]

(pause)

The amendment does not pass. Thank you. We have an order of the day. I was hoping we could vote on the main motion and then go to the order of the day but, if you have a lot more discussion that you want to do on the main motion, we are going to have to stop and go to the order of the day. So what is before you is the adoption of this paragraph. And I see a lot of people that want to ask questions. All right, yes, in section B, would you come to mic. 5?

GUY C. AMES III (Oklahoma): And in the words of John Miles, we have a lot of fish to fry. I call the question, all that is before us.

(applause)

BISHOP SWENSON: You would have to suspend the rules to do that.

AMES: Bishop, I move to suspend the rules and to call the question.

BISHOP SWENSON: The motion is to suspend the rules in order to vote. I will ask you to vote by lifting your hand on this. If you wish to suspend the rules in order to vote, lift your hand. If not, lift your hand. The rules are suspended. We are now ready to vote. If the committee would make one more statement about the main motion and then we will vote.

MOORE: We urge the adoption of the motion.

BISHOP SWENSON: OK, the committee urges for you to adopt. Now it is time for you to vote. You'll use your keypad. Press "1" for yes; press "2" for no. Vote when the light appears. Vote now.

(pause)

[*Yes, 776; No, 102*]

(pause)

BISHOP SWENSON: Thank you. You have passed this motion, so thank you very much. It is time for an Order of the Day and a very special celebration with the Katrina Communion table and so I would turn now to Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher for her to lead us in this celebration.

BISHOP SHARON R. BROWN CHRISTOPHER: Our meeting space for General Conference is filled with symbolic reminders of our history. One true touchstone for us is the Communion table which sits in our midst. Today we want to tell you more about the table and the history and the hurricane. And the hearts and hands that brought it to our gathering.

(video presentation)

(applause)

Connie Thomas is another Katrina survivor. As a pastor in New Orleans, Louisiana, she has known the

heartbreak of losing tangible things and so many intangibles after the biggest natural disaster to ever happen in the United States. And she has come back to help rebuild her church community, her city, and her own spirit.

(video presentation)

Let us remember to pray for those still struggling after Katrina and let us learn from the resolve and resiliency of our sisters and brothers like Connie when we face tragedy and transformation in our own lives.

BISHOP SWENSON: Amen, amen, thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP SWENSON: We'll turn to our secretary for announcements that he may have before we have our recess.

FITZGERALD (GERE) REIST: Financial Administration Legislative Committee is meeting in Room 208 A/B during the dinner break, Financial Administration Legislative Committee is meeting in Room 208 A/B during the dinner break.

At 5 o'clock, after our session ends, the prayer will be open for a Concert of Prayer at, I'm sorry, that will be open at 6 P.M. for the Concert of Prayer in Hall A, Hall A, a Concert of Prayer at 6 P.M. by the south end of Cokesbury.

Several delegates have asked if they can have some of the butterflies from the banners used in the Saturday's rural celebration. You may take strips of butterflies home with you. Please leave the banner poles in place.

(laughter)

Some folks like to play basketball and some folks like to go to auctions. Well, if everybody who's made a bid on the basketball would pay up, so far we would have raised \$6,200. North Carolina and Western North Carolina hold the highest bid—\$1,300—as of April 29 at 2:27

p.m. Bidding will end at 5 o'clock on Thursday and I would like to challenge everyone who's made a bid to pay up whether you get the basketball or not.

(applause)

Those end the announcements.

BISHOP SWENSON: All right, we're going to be in a break now and then we'll return to the plenary at 3:50 and when we come back then the doors will close. I see some people want to ask a question over in section B. Would you go to mic. 5 to ask your question? And then when we come back at 3:50 then the doors will close at 3:55 and we will stay in here for our wonderful presentation and the blessing that we have to receive the address from the president of the Republic of Liberia. Would you go to the mic.?

J DENISE HONEYCUTT (Virginia): I just wanted to ask the secretary if perhaps he missed what happened this morning. The Mozambique delegation, the Brazil delegation, and the Virginia delegation made a bid of \$1,500 for the basketball.

REIST: Thank you for that reminder. It wasn't posted and I forgot to check the posting. Please look outside my office where they're all posted and add that one to it.

BISHOP SWENSON: Good, thanks. OK, when you come back from your break, make sure you come in by 3:55. We'll close the doors at 4 o'clock. The doors will close at 4 o'clock so make sure you're in before then.

(music)

(cheers and laughter)

BISHOP SWENSON: All right! Yes! Praise Jesus! Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Hallelujah! Praise God for children! Praise God for life, and sunshine, and rain, and grass, and hope, and time to come together, coming together, coming together again. As we do come to-

gether again I am going to ask Bishop Clay Lee if he would come and offer prayer, that we might be in a spirit of prayer at the beginning here.

BISHOP CLAY F. LEE JR.: Let us pray.

(prayer)

BISHOP SWENSON: Amen. Thank you. I see someone that wants to ask a question, coming to mic. 5 in order to ask your question.

Prayer for Tornado Victims This Day in Virginia

MARTHA E. STOKES (Virginia): Bishop, I was hoping to get your attention before that prayer to ask for a specific prayer. We in the Virginia Conference have suffered a disaster of our own yesterday. While we were in the midst of doing the business of the church many of us received news that three tornadoes had ripped through southeast Virginia. And while we have been working today many in the Virginia Conference have been working with UMCOR to make sure that our presence through this connection is already in place and working there. So tonight at 7 P.M. at Beach Grove United Methodist Church, which is in the center of the area around Suffolk, Virginia, that was hardest hit, an area where there are as many as 200 reported injuries and much property loss, our denomination will be the loving presence in that community offering prayer. And we'd be able—love to be able to send them word that this connection of our church has also been praying for them.

BISHOP SWENSON: Yes, yes. Oh, thank you for sharing and you're right, and Bishop Lee would have kept praying but I will just do it with us. And let's just pause and pray some more. Let's just pray some more.

(prayer and music)

*Introduction of President Ellen
Johnson Sirleaf*

Amen. Yes, Lord.

Well, we are most blessed this afternoon to have an incredible special guest come to be with us. The Liberia delegation is down in the front with some of the bishops from Africa who are here and our beautiful children are here to share our blessings with her when she comes. We are going to be privileged to receive Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who is the president of the Republic of Liberia and a wonderful, active, faithful, United Methodist laywoman. We are going to invite the current bishop of Liberia, Bishop John Innis, if he would come forward to us and make the introduction of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Bishop Innis would you come forward at this time?

He's on the way. We can have our little moment of pregnant pause and waiting.

(laughter)

(pause)

BISHOP JOHN G. INNIS: Please be seated. God is good.

AUDIENCE: All the time!

BISHOP INNIS: All of the time

...

AUDIENCE: God is good!

CHILDREN: *(unintelligible)*

(laughter)

BISHOP INNIS: And all of the bishops have been preaching, so it is my time to preach.

(laughter)

Have you ever heard...in Africa that a woman was elected president of the Republic of Liberia?

(cheering and applause)

When we heard the news that she was elected, immediately, I called upon the president then of the Coun-

cil of Bishops, Bishop Weaver, and I said that the inauguration would be done on the 16th of January 2006; therefore, I want the council to be represented for the fact that this president is a daughter of The United Methodist Church and that she was educated by The United Methodist Church.

(applause)

And the bishop didn't hesitate. He said, "My brother, John, I am going to come."

Then I got the news across the West Africa Central Conference. I invited Bishop Boni, Bishop Humper; and of course Bishop Kulah, our retired bishop, was also there. Because she is your daughter, Bishop Weaver said, "John, we got to make sure that she comes to General Conference one of these days. Can it happen?"

I say, "Yes, it will happen and I'm going to make sure that she will be there." And today, friends, fellow United Methodists, you will soon be seeing somebody whom you have heard about to speak to our General Conference.

She began her career in banking and economic and financial management in 1965 at the then Treasury Department in Liberia. In 1979, as a minister of finance of the Republic of Liberia, this, our daughter, spearheaded a move to curb the mismanagement of government finances. After the military coup of 1980 she chaired as president of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, vice president of Citicorp Africa regional office in Nairobi, and senior loan officer of the World Bank where she was an initial member of the World Bank Council of African Advisors. In 1985 she took a sabbatical to contest for a seat in the Liberian Senate. She was placed under house arrest and then sentenced to 10 years in prison for speaking against the Samuel Doe regime.

After being incarcerated for a few months, she fled to the United States and chaired as vice president for Equator Bank and in 1992 she joined the UNDP as assistant administrator and director of its regional bureau of Africa with the rank of assistant secretary general of the United Nations. She left the post in 1997 to run as a presidential candidate against Mr. Charles Taylor. The official results placed her second in a field of 13 persons. In 2003 when Charles Taylor was exiled to Nigeria and the transitional government of Liberia was formed, Ellen was elected to serve as chairperson of the Good Governance Reform Commission where she led the country's anti-corruption reform, changing the reporting mechanism of the General Auditing Commission from the executive to the legislative thereby strengthening and reinforcing its independence. She left this position to successfully contest in the 2005 presidential elections, resulting in her historical inauguration on January 16, 2006, as the president of the Republic of Liberia.

(applause)

She has a wealth of experience and because of the time, I will not list all of these. But she was one of 70 international, internationally eminent persons designated in 1999 by the OAU, meaning the Organization of African Unity, to investigate the Rwanda genocide, one of the five commission chairs for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in 2002, and one of the two international experts selected by *(unintelligible)* to investigate and report on the threat of conflict on women and women's role in peace building. She was the initial chairperson of the Open Society Initiative of West Africa and visiting professor of governance at the Ghana Institute of Management. She is a graduate of Harvard, John F. Kennedy School of Government. She is also a graduate of the United Methodist high school named The College of West Africa. This school

was established in 1839. It was even established before the independence of Liberia. Meaning that your church, our church, was planted in 1822 but actually began operation in 1883—1833, when you sent the first missionary by the name of Melvin Cox.

She has also been successful in attracting resources from private foundations since she became president, and individuals in Europe, Canada, and the United States thus supplementing government's resources in support of activities and infrastructure, education, and health. After she delivered speeches, several universities have provided scholarships for the training of Liberians. Her strong support for private sector endeavor has resulted in a pledge of a \$31 million facility by Robert Johnson at the Clinton Global Initiative, in which she participated. Ellen Johnson is a mother of four sons and has seven grandchildren. She is a people person; she's people-centered.

Lastly, I just want to share with that, prior to me—prior to my coming to General Conference, I visited in the northern part of Liberia to visit with my churches, and while on my way back to Monrovia she was heading in that same direction to conduct her cabinet meeting. So there were a lot of cars, convoy coming in and then the security got to us and say you must stop because the president is coming. Who am I to say no, and I stopped. And then when she got closer, she saw my car and saw me and she stopped the entire convoy, got out of her car and walked very neatly to her bishop and said, "Bishop, I am so happy to see you. May God bless you and I look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth at our great celebration of United Methodist people."

Now I present to you the president of the Republic of Liberia, your daughter whom you educated and you ought to be very proud of her. Let the people of God say Amen.

(extended applause)

Address by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF:
Thank you very much, thank you.

(cheering)

Well, let me say a hearty good afternoon to all of you and to thank you, Bishop Innis, for the introduction. I can see we have in the room some that come from our part of the way with the special greeting that has just been given.

Bishops Chamness, Huie, past president of the Council of Bishops; Bishop Gregory Palmer, president of the Council of Bishops; clergy and lay delegates; distinguished leaders of the United Methodist denomination here assembled; my own compatriots, fellow Christians; ladies and gentlemen: I would like first to praise and thank Almighty God for the opportunity to be here in this great city of Fort Worth and for the rare opportunity and honor accorded me to address this important assembly. According to our United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, the General Conference is the only body in the global United Methodist Church that has full legislative power over all matters distinctively connective of The United Methodist churches, representing all races and all people of the global compact of Methodists. I thank Bishop Huie, the Council of Bishops, the General Conference Secretariat for the invitation to be here. I thank our own Bishop Innis for ensuring that it stayed on my schedule.

(laughter)

This event represents a special honor for me. I understand that I am the first African leader and indeed, the first female president to address the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

(applause and cheering)

Second, I am a United Methodist and I can see some of my bishop, my pastor; they are all here. I am the product of United Methodist education in Liberia.

(applause)

I, therefore, feel at home, very, very well at home with you, members of my United Methodist family. You're meeting in this convention at critical moments in the history of the Christian church and the human family. Today, poor countries, African countries, face an era of unpredictability and challenges in a world in which there is a widening gap between rich and poor nations on account of the new scramble for sources of energy, the unfolding specter of global warming and climate change, the rising number of unemployed youth, the threat of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and the spread of hunger against the rising backdrop of the increasing cost of food. Not the least is the challenge that our civilization faces to confront and together overcome violence in all its manifestations—especially against women, children, and the elderly—while fighting global terrorism.

These challenges are not new, but they present new urgencies. We must find appropriate responses to these challenges. Liberia, under my leadership, thus shares with you and with the global United Methodist compact, a commitment to a common but very significant response: the reduction of poverty. It is poverty that manifests itself not only in terms of income, but lack of access—access to education, to health services, to the exercise of choice. This is why I believe that in the midst of the monumental difficulties which have burdened and weighed Liberia down for much of its history and especially in the last quarter century, the greatest challenge we face as a post-conflict nation fall in three critical areas: the challenge of reducing income poverty through skills training and jobs, the challenge of helping our youth reclaim

their future through education, the challenge of nurturing and strengthening democracy through the exercise of participation and choice.

First, the challenge of poverty: As the world globalizes, the inequalities within and among nations are on the rise, intensifying poverty for the majority of the world's people and nations. The statistics are startling. The GDP of 41 heavily indebted countries, of 567 million people, is less than the combined wealth of the world's 7 richest people. Half of the world's population, nearly 3 billion people, live on less than \$2 a day. Nearly a billion people enter the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names. One in two children, or one billion children, live in poverty. Four hundred million have no access to clean water; 270 million no access to health services. Around the world 27 to 30,000 children die every day, equivalent to one child dying every 3 seconds.

We inherited a situation in Liberia that is equally dismal, the *coup d'état* of 1980 and 23 years of economic free fall reduced our GDP from \$750 million in 1980 to \$120 million in 2003, representing a decline of 90 percent. The unemployment rate in past years has been estimated as high as 85 percent. Preliminary results from the first census undertaken in our country in 24 years show that today still, 63.8 percent of the Liberian people live in poverty on less than \$2 a day. A full 47.9 percent live in absolute poverty on only \$1 a day. In addressing poverty, our challenge is to get our country's productive sectors working again—our mines, our forests, our rubber, oil palm, and other agricultural activities that will generate the jobs. We need to get our small farmers back to the farms and in the business of producing food for themselves and for the nation. We need a better living wage for our public servants. Our recently concluded poverty reduction strategy details the policies and the strategies

that will build upon the progress already made in this regard.

Second challenge is to give our youth a brighter future. The many years of war sent our country's skills to safer and better pastures so our children conscripted to wage war destroyed our schools and institutions of learning, introduced violence, dishonesty, and indiscipline as a way of life. The result is that in 2006, 65 percent of our population classified as illiterate are youth. A full 60 percent of our children, men, and girls were out of school. The great majority of our teachers have no more than a high school education, and 75 percent of our schools were destroyed or made nonfunctional. We have begun to meet those challenges. Enforcement of compulsory primary education has resulted in a 44 percent enrollment, the majority of which are girls. A teacher classification and training program and the return of the Peace Corps, specifically for teacher training, will enhance the quality of instruction in our schools. There are some of you in this room who probably have served the Peace Corps and we'd like to commend you for all that you've contributed to our education over the years. Renovation of technical training institutions will help to give hundreds of our forgotten youth an opportunity for skills and self-empowerment. Better compensation for teachers with incentives for those who serve in rural areas will open opportunities for our rural populations. The closure of bogus institutions of higher learning and better support for those that are *bona fide* will ensure more competitive graduates from our colleges. The mobilization of private funding to support scholarships for girls and literacy training for our grassroot market women will expand the number of girls who stay in school and the number of women who will be able to read and write.

Then there is the challenge of democracy. The first lesson we learned over the many years of war

is that development cannot succeed unless the people, the citizens, are involved at conception and implementation—that they are the ultimate prime beneficiaries of development. Successful development initiatives must ensure that people are its agent and its means. If people are the end objective of development, then their well-being should and must be made paramount in the formulation of the development agenda.

Distinguished United Methodists, for more than 175 years, you, the Methodist Church, have stood by and with the Liberian nation. The Church has worked and continues to work assiduously to meet these challenges for the betterment of all the people of Liberia through its ministries of education, health, and social services. The Church has been a forerunner and a leader in education in our country. Our country's first president, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, was a United Methodist. Our longest serving president, William V. S. Tubman, was a United Methodist. The establishment of the first secondary school, the College of West Africa in 1839, was made possible by The United Methodist Church. I'm a proud alumna of that institution and I now stand before you as the first democratically elected woman president in Liberia and in Africa.

(*applause*)

Thank you, Thank you.

True to its commitment to its educational ministry, the Church currently owns and runs 13 parochial schools that serve more than 27,000 students and operates one of our leading universities, with several colleges, including the schools of health services and theology, while simultaneously administering four mission stations in rural Liberia.

The Church in Liberia is also active in its healing ministry. The Church owns and operates a major referral hospital, Ganta United Methodist Hospital, in our south-

central region, as well as three clinics in other parts of our country. Permit me to mention also that the Global Church Missionaries of Hope Initiative, that recruited, trained, and assigned over 75 African men and women—many of them young adults—to serve in mission around the continent, particularly provided health and healing, hope and conflict resolution to many particularly vulnerable African children. This has served as a true testament of hope-giving. Liberia benefited from the Missionaries of Hope Program and I want to thank you for this critical ministry.

In Liberia, the Church has also fought to give democracy meaning and life. The Church has worked to give our citizens their dignity by addressing issues of poverty, illiteracy, and health. The Church has worked to give public voice to the voiceless, care and love to the needy and abandoned, shelter to the homeless, and education and hope to the young, the destitute, the underprivileged, and those in despair. The Church has provided leadership to the Council of Churches, instilling the return to family values, to those old-fashioned virtues of honesty and hard work. We applaud the work of the Church in education in health service.

We applaud the work of the Church in advancing and defending human rights in our country, in Africa, and around the world; in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and religious tolerance and coexistence. The Church work in Liberia is solid proof of its success in these endeavors. The Church university, Africa University in Zimbabwe, is a testimony to its commitment to eradicate ignorance and improve literacy and education in the African continent.

We thank you, all of you fellow United Methodists assembled in this hall, working throughout the world, for your support over the years, especially during our country's years of conflict and wars. However, I would be less than honest if I did not

tell you that we need the Church now as never before. This is because the task of national renewal, the task to deal with the financial, human, and technical neglect, is huge—well beyond our national capacity. The moment has, therefore, never been more opportune for the United Methodist Church to broaden its engagement in Liberia and its collaboration with government. As we plan and pursue programs to address poverty, improve education and health services, and give our people dignity.

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(applause)

We ask for your continued support for construction of the hospital in Ganta, a hospital that will continue the role of a primary referral facility in our rural area and carry on its historic life-saver rule. We thank the Illinois Great River Conference, the First United Methodist Church of Peoria, the Wesley United Methodist Church of Canton, the Wesley United Methodist Church of Macomb for the support already started in this regard and we look forward to others joining them in this endeavor.

(applause)

Fellow United Methodists, despite the enormous challenges which face the world, Africa, and Liberia, the good news is that the world is still today a better place. Many of you know that the universal bad news out of Africa has changed. Slowly but surely a growing number of African countries have begun to turn around, ending conflicts, installing good governments, implementing stronger economic policies, and getting back on their feet. But because of this good news and because of this happening gradually it generally does not get the attention it deserves. The recent good news does not guarantee long-term success, not by any means. Nevertheless, I assure you, the signs are encouraging and hopeful.

(applause)

Critically, these changes are structural, not cyclical. The first is political. Slowly but surely, more countries in Africa are becoming democracies and establishing accountable and transparent systems of governance. Today we focus on Zimbabwe, but it is more the exception than the rule. In 1989, there were just 4 democracies in all of sub-Saharan Africa; today there are about 18. In the space of a generation, Africa has gone from very few democracies to more than one-third on the continent.

(applause)

The second shift is vastly improved macroeconomic management by most African governments and the end of significant economic distortions. These macroeconomic problems are now distant memories for most of our countries. With a few unfortunate exceptions, countries have shifted to strong macroeconomic policies that will be sustained. The progress in Liberia is also real. In two years we have restored growth, reactivated the private sector, commenced the rehabilitation of roads and infrastructure, rebuilt institutions, tackled and received relief from long-standing domestic and external debt arrears. We have generally maintained peace and security, restored our country's international credibility, established good relationships with all bilateral partners, especially our sister African states.

(applause)

I am proud to say that we have moved Liberia from a failed state, from that awful flicker on your television screen of a nation in chaos, death, and destruction, to a potential post-conflict success story.

(applause and cheers)

To maintain this progress, our focus is and must be on the youth of our land. Drawing from lessons of our country's civil war, unemployment small or large, especially among young people, transformed them into a potentially ready and willing source of instability, violence, chaos, and destruction. If we fail to educate and give our young people opportunities for self-fulfillment, we deny them hopeful living, and a group that is without hope or has no reason to live falls for anything and does everything to give itself validity, relevance, meaning, and purpose. In Africa such groups have been used as pawns in furthering the power ambition of fortune

seekers, self-styled liberators, or freedom fighters. Our challenge is to ensure that our youths never again fall prey to these adventurists.

(applause)

Fellow Methodists, dear friends, during the early days of my presidency when my convoy approached a crowd with children there was pandemonium as they ran helter-skelter, afraid our security forces were on the way to harm them, to deprive them of their possessions, to take them into custody. Today it is a different story. When an advance team signals that my convoy is approaching, the crowds, particularly the children, gather to cheer, to urge me to get down and greet them, to talk to them. Instead of the dismay and distress that were in their eyes of yesterday, today their eyes light up. They smile.

(applause)

Liberia is on the way back.

(applause)

Africa is on the way back.

(applause)

There is indeed light at the end of the tunnel.

(applause)

Even here, in America, the unexpected unfolds before our eyes. Your politics have changed.

(laughter, cheering, and applause)

This confirms to me that our world can indeed be made a future of hope and promise. Let us work together to ensure that this hope is fulfilled, that God's will for the betterment of mankind will prevail. God bless you.

(applause)

SIRLEAF: If I may, I'm going to go down and greet the crowd as a

good politician.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP SWENSON: We have been blessed, blessed beyond measure. Our God is an abundant God. My cup overflows. The blessing of these children—our hope for the future. The blessing of the gift that has been bestowed upon us. Now as you go forth, go forth to your suppertime and to your meetings, but be blessed. Be blessed because we all have access to God's grace. Oops, our secretary does have an announcement.

(laughter)

REIST: I've got a correction to make. Finance and Administration will be meeting in room 202. Apparently there is no room 200A, so go to 202 if you're in Finance and Administration. And, friends, the bidding is only up to \$1,800. Can't we get at least \$2,000 out of this tonight?

BISHOP SWENSON: Go forth to dinner. Go forth blessed by this wonderful blessing. Go forth, children of God, rooted in Christ the vine, and bear good fruit. Peace be with you.

(music)

Tuesday Evening, April 29, 2008

BISHOP SCOTT JONES: Sisters and brothers, welcome back to holy conferencing for our evening celebration, business session, whatever it is we're doing tonight. If the house would please be in order and take your seats. I am Scott Jones, bishop of the Kansas area—

(cheering)

—and am very pleased. The Kansans are down front trying to be noticed and succeeding at that. Thank you for your support, sisters and brothers. If you would take your

(To be continued in next issue)