

Proceedings of the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

**Sunday Morning,
April 27, 2008**

BANKSTON: Yes. We have items that we have to complete, both approving committee reports here and perfecting Legislative Committee reports within our legislative committees—both items have to be done, many today. And it seems, given the explanations, the most efficient use of time is to continue with the printed agenda.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Anybody speaking against? I would recognize anybody speaking against. There is none, we can . . . yes, yes sir. Mic. 8 please.

MATTHEW A. LAFERTY (East Ohio): I move to call the question on all matters before us.

BISHOP SORIANO: It is out of order, sir. We are still in the debate.

LAFERTY: Point of order, Bishop.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes.

LAFERTY: If you move, a motion to call the question is in order.

BISHOP SORIANO: No, we have not. There are still those others speaking and we have not reached the maximum of three speeches against or for.

LAFERTY: I would respectfully disagree. A motion to call the question forces us to end debate.

BISHOP SORIANO: I have said it earlier. You must have a minimum of two speeches for each side. We have not listened to a negative one.

LAFERTY: Would a motion to suspend the rules to allow us . . . OK, I'll sit down.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right.

(laughter)

Anybody who is speaking against? Then if nobody is speaking against, then you can now call the question. I will now put this matter

to a vote. If you would so approve that we go back to the original agenda as proposed, you press "1" and if you disagree, you press "2." You may vote when the lights appear. Now.

(pause)

The motion passes. [*Yes, 634; No, 128*] Now let me put you into a parliamentary procedure now. This now becomes the main motion which you still have to approve and if you will approve it, will you just raise your hand? [*Passed by hand vote*] It is done. Then we have an agenda. Let us proceed to the next item which is to listen to the Legislative Committee reports to the plenary and I would call on the Discipleship Committee, Rev. Tyrone Gordon.

TYRONE D. GORDON (North Texas): Bishop, morning General Conference. God is good.

ALL: All the time.

GORDON: And all the time.

ALL: God is good.

GORDON: My name is Tyrone Gordon, member of the North Texas Annual Conference.

(applause)

*Strengthening the Black Church
for 21st Century*

Yeah, right on. I chair the Discipleship Legislative Committee and I stand before you to present to you the first item for our consideration today. It is found on DCA p. 1988, DCA p. 1988, Calendar Item 43, Petition No. 80270, can also be found in the *Advanced DCA* p. 607. You have just heard the tremendous report of the Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century Coordinating Committee. The Discipleship Legislative Committee believes this ministry is transforming congregations who in turn transform their communities and the world. And on

behalf of the Legislative Committee, I move, Bishop, that we adopt this calendar item.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, it is before you now. Any remarks, discussion, comments? All right, then let us proceed to vote. If you will adopt it, press "1" for yes, press "2" for no. You may start to vote when the lights appear.

(pause)

All right, here are the results. It passes. [*Yes, 739; No, 15*]

GORDON: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you very much. It is time for us to take a break, and a . . . five-minute break, standing break. We have a committee to lead us in this break. It's a five-minute break, so . . . simply a stretch break. We are behind schedule so you don't have to go far.

(pause)

. . . and sisters, five minutes is gone. Let us be in order now and go about our proper places.

(pause)

Please come in now, and find your places.

(pause)

We will continue with our business, and so if you would please find your seats so we can proceed immediately.

(pause)

Let us be in order now.

(pause)

Please sit down now, brothers and sisters; we have business to do. I would now call on Legislative Committee reports. We will listen now to

Independent Commissions. Calendar Item 46, and I will call on a—Arnetta Beverly.

ARNETTA E. BEVERLY (Western North Carolina): Good morning, Bishop, members of the General Conference. I'm Arnetta Beverly, clergy delegate, Western North Carolina Conference, and chair of Independent Commissions. The item for your consideration today is found on p. 1988—1988—Calendar Item 46—Calendar Item 46. This is a petition to fund an item that was previously adopted. Bishop, I move, on behalf of the committee, that we adopt this calendar item.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, it's properly before you. Any discussions about this request to funding?

(pause)

Any speeches for or against? Is there a tag price there? All right, if you are ready to vote. If you will approve it, press "1"; if you do not, press "2." And you will vote when the lights appear. [*Yes, 421; No, 59*]

(pause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SORIANO: It passes, thank you. All right, you proceed, next. We will now—is she there now?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry?

BISHOP SORIANO: Where do we go next?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Church and Society.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, we'll call on Church and Society for Calendar Items 39 and 40. That is Julius Trimble.

JULIUS C. TRIMBLE (East Ohio): My name is Julius Trimble, serving as chair of Church and Society 1. On the stage with me are Beth Quick, Sally Haynes, JoAnn Fukumoto, who are also from Church and Society 1. The first item for your

consideration is found on the *DCA* p. 2045—p. 2045—Calendar Item No. 40. Petition No. 81085-C1; the topic is global warning—warming. You can also find it on p. 199 of the *Advance DCA*. The committee recommends that we adopt the item that is before us and it now has no financial implications. On behalf of the legislative committee, Bishop, I move that we adopt.

BISHOP SORIANO: It's properly before you now. The numbers appear on your screen. It's Calendar No. 40, Petition 81085, the *Advance DCA* p. 199. Are you ready to vote? If you are, if you approve it, press "1"; if you do not, press "2." You may vote when the lights appear. [*Yes, 521; No, 89*]

(pause)

Thank you, it passes. You may proceed, brother.

TRIMBLE: The second item for your consideration is found in yesterday's *DCA* p. 1096—1096, Calendar Item No. 39.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 1986.

Immigration Video Vote

TRIMBLE: 1986, Calendar Item No. 39, Petition No. 81504, found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 200. The topic is immigration video for usage by annual conference—conferences. The committee moves to reject.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right.

TRIMBLE: This petition.

BISHOP SORIANO: The numbers appear in your screen. That's in *DCA* p. 1986, Calendar Item 39, Petition No. 81504, in *Advance DCA* p. 200. And the committee recommends rejection, right? If you are prepared to vote now, you press "1" for yes; and press "2" for no.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait, wait, wait.

BISHOP SORIANO: Please vote, all right. Yes, yes please, point of order. No. 1 please, yes.

JAMES OTTJES (North Indiana): The—well the point of order is we are confused as to whether we are voting pro or con on this issue so we need to clarify, if you will, are we voting in favor of the committee's reje—report or are we voting in favor of the motion—or the petition?

(pause)

BISHOP SORIANO: You are voting to support the committee's report, which is to reject, and so if you vote "yes" you are actually rejecting the petition—that's the meaning. All right, I hope that clarifies it. Let us now proceed to vote. Press "1" if you would reject the petition; press "2" if you would not like to reject the petition. Vote when the light appears.

You have rejected the petition. [*Yes, 496; No, 153*] Yes, please, you ma'am. Mic. 11, please.

ODETTE LOCKWOOD-STEWART (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. I am wondering if it would not delay our . . . things are moving very quickly and we just voted on the production of an immigration video following Bishop Carcaño's sermon this morning. I am wondering if it's possible when the committee . . . if there's even a phrase of rationale that can be given when the committee gives its recommendation without delaying the proceedings too more, just so that I can understand why this, why . . . if that would be possible I would appreciate it . . . would help me.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. For the next report, that will be possible. Thank you. Next, yes. Yes, ma'am.

MELODY N. ADAMS (Nebraska): The way I understand the way we're supposed to vote is that the committee makes a recommendation, whether it's either to reject or to adopt or adopt as amended. But we're only supposed to consider that information and we are acting as if the petition that's in front of us is the

motion. So if, that's the way we did it in our committee.

(applause)

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, any further speeches now? Yes, sir, you. Yes, yes, mic. 5.

JAMES BRANSCOME (Virginia): According to our rules of voting on the petitions as printed in the DCA, we did not reject the last vote, we approved it.

BISHOP SORIANO: You approved the recommendation and the recommendation is to reject the petition.

BRANSCOME: No, we are not voting on the . . . according to the rules, we are supposed to vote on the motion as, as the petition as printed in the DCA. We are not voting on the recommendation made by the committee. So we voted to, by our rules, we approved this last motion.

BISHOP SORIANO: You please set the rules, sir. I made the statement clear before you voted that when you vote yes, you are actually rejecting the petition because that is the recommendation of the committee and we have done that. Yes sir, will you please cite the rule.

(pause)

BRANSCOME: I'm sorry, I cannot recite the rule; I have to find it. I just was doing it from memory of what we approved. When somebody or I find it, I'll let. . .

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, thank you. They want the back, please, with the red shirt.

JOE M. WHITTEMORE (North Georgia): Bishop, I served on the Rules Committee for this quadrennium. My friend down here is correct. We changed from supporting or not supporting the committee to a vote in here of either approving, rejecting, or referring the petition itself. So today when we're in here, we're supposed to be voting on the petition, not voting on the recommendation of the committee as we

have in the past with concurrence and nonconcurrence.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, the point is well taken and now we will take a . . . We'll do it again. We'll revote and now the vote is on the petition and not on the recommendation of the committee.

TRIMBLE: Bishop?

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, yes, please.

TRIMBLE: Would it be helpful if the body heard some, the rationale? There was great discussion and passion and energy around the issue of immigration. We have a brief. . .

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, you may do it now.

TRIMBLE: Ask JoAnn Fukumoto to come.

JOANN YOON FUKUMOTO (California-Pacific): The committee felt because the General Board of Discipleship called in partnership the boards of Global Ministries and Church and Society and UM Communication, that the funding would come from their agencies' budget, and because we know their agencies worked tirelessly on immigration issues and have their own resources, we therefore rejected this petition.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, well did that help? We are going to take a vote again and now you will vote on the petition. Let us summarize these things. What is the petition about? So it be clarified. It's petition, Calendar Item 40.

TRIMBLE: Calendar Item 39.

BISHOP SORIANO: 39, all right. What is it about?

TRIMBLE: Petition No. 81504, immigration video, and the committee, we recommend to the body to reject.

BISHOP SORIANO: It's about immigration video. Now we are taking a vote and the vote you are going to take now is on the petition, and not on the recommendation to reject. All right, if that is clear enough. Yes, yes, please.

H (EDUARDO) E. BOUSSON

(Kansas East): I have a question. I understand the rationale from the committee and appreciate that. But the resolution is about the creation of a video and my question is if the Board of Discipleship and all these boards have a plan to create a video with the resources that they already, they already have in putting into immigration issues?

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, will you respond to that?

FUKUMOTO: The General Board of Church and Society and Global Ministries already have videos on the issue of immigration.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, are you ready now to take a vote? Remember the vote is on the petition and not on the recommendation of the committee. It is about immigration video. If you are ready to vote now, you press "1" if you will approve it. Press "2" if you disapprove it. And you will vote when the lights appear.

(pause)

The petition is rejected. [*Yes, 177; No, 626*] All right, will that end the report? Thank you very much, brother. We now proceed. We now proceed to listen to the central conferences calendar items by Bishop Streiff.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: I am Bishop Patrick Streiff from the Central and Southern Central Conferences of Central and Southern Europe. I chair the Central Conference Affairs Committee. With me here on the stage are Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the vice chair, and Byrd Bonner, the secretary of the Central Conference Affairs Committee.

*Central Conference Affairs
Committee Proportional
Representation Debated*

We have two items to bring to you. You can find them in yesterday's DCA on p. 1987, 1987. It is Calendar Item 41, Petition 80405.

The original text is on p. 1163, but you need to look at the amended text on p. 1987. First, let me share three small corrections in the printed text you have here. In the petition in the right column under subpoint three, it reads in the beginning: “the commission shall” and it should be, read, it should read: “the standing committee shall be composed,” “the standing committee shall be composed.” And in the same paragraph, before some bold text comes, there is one sentence which should also be deleted: “The chairperson of the commission shall be a bishop.” In the nonbold, the end of the nonbold text, the last sentence should also be deleted because it comes later on in the bold text again. The third correction is on the next page, 1988, after the disciplinary text in what are information, at the end of this first paragraph, it is said, “be changed to reflect this new name” and then strike out “and placement in the *Discipline*” because the placement in the *Discipline* remains the same. The text is as corrected before you. As it is amended the membership of the Central Conference Affairs remains the same as it is today, in the *Book of Discipline*, but the new petition and the new text would give the Central Conference Affairs Committee the possibility to meet in between the quadrennium to prepare its work and then bring the petitions to General Conference.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. It’s properly before you now. Yes? Yes, go to mic. 8—11. All right.

JOE W. KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Friends, my name is Joe Kilpatrick, North Georgia Conference laity. I wish to offer an amendment.

BISHOP SORIANO: Let us hear it.

KILPATRICK: I would like to move that we strike the initial sentences, and this is in paragraph 2201.3 on p. 1987, the paragraphs that the bishop was just referring to that discusses the composition of the committee. I would like to strike the

initial wording there right down to the sentence that said, “The chairperson of the commission shall be a bishop.” And substitute then the following information: “The standing committee shall be composed of one bishop from each Central Conference and Jurisdictional Conference plus 14 ordained clergy and 14 laity, who shall be allocated in proportion to the membership of the Jurisdictions and Central Conferences. The members shall be General Conference delegates named by the Council of Bishops and shall be persons with the church’s global perspective and with international experience. The commission shall elect its officers and executive committee.” If there is a second, I’ll speak to it.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, you may proceed, sir. I hear a second.

KILPATRICK: Friends, there is, I think, a problem. The commission’s membership is based 100 percent on geographical models and does not respect the fair, just concepts of “one person, one vote” proportionality. In this old model, the 3.2 million members in Africa have no greater voice than Europe’s 69,000 members. That’s a 50 to one membership comparison. It is too colonialistic. Neither is there any recognition of the large variation of membership between U.S. jurisdictions, that is 2.9 million in our largest and 400,000 in our smallest. I believe the solution is to have an appropriate integration that requires that our table include all the geographic areas, yet also reflects the size of the various branches of our family. Therefore, this amendment includes a bishop from every central and jurisdictional conference, as we have now. The balance of the committee is then shared proportionately. Every voice is heard, but no voice is given extraordinary privilege. I believe this is the best integration for our unity and health. The proposed formula will keep the episcopal voice of the small areas of Europe and the Philippines. There will be two members from the Western Jurisdiction and from Africa

Central. The SEJ will add five members. The South Central, North Central, and Northeast Jurisdiction would each add two members. The Congo Central Conference would add one member and West Africa would add two members.

BISHOP SORIANO: Please be aware of your time limit, sir. Please summarize now.

KILPATRICK: All members chosen by our bishops would have international perspectives and experience. All would be at a balanced table and the 50 to one disparity would be corrected. Please vote for this amendment. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, thank you. This is an amendment that has something to do with membership of this commission. Yes. Brother Charles Boayue.

CHARLES S G BOAYUE (Detroit): Bishop, the amendment being proposed is very significant and I do not remember to copy down correctly the essential composition being recommended. Could motioner repeat it slowly so that we might have the actual data again?

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, will the mover please repeat the motion and read it slowly? A little louder.

KILPATRICK: I would love to, Bishop, but they just took it away from me.

(laughter)

Did you? Did you? You were asking about the numbers?

BISHOP SORIANO: Please speak louder sir, into the mic.

KILPATRICK: They’re, they’re bringing it back.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, that’s better now.

KILPATRICK: You want me to repeat the motion?

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, that’s the request of brother Charles.

KILPATRICK: The standing committee shall be composed of one

bishop from each Central Conference and Jurisdictional Conference plus 14 ordained clergy and 14 laity who shall be allocated in proportion to the membership of the Jurisdiction and Central conferences. The members shall be General Conference delegates named by the Council of Bishops and shall be persons with the church's global perspective and with international experience.

JOE W. KILPATRICK (North Georgia): ...standing committee shall be composed of one bishop from each central conference and Jurisdictional Conference plus 14 ordained clergy and 14 laity, who shall be allocated in proportion to the membership of the jurisdiction and central conferences. The members shall be General Conference delegates named by the Council of Bishops and shall be persons with the church's global perspective and with international experience. The commission shall elect its officers and executive committee.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. (*unintelligible*) Let us consider your request. OK. Yes, sir. Yes, ma'am. You're the one. Mic 5, please.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): I just have a question. Mary Alice Massey, lay, from Florida. How many people does this increase, how many new members would that mean that the committee would have? What is the difference in the number in the committee, therefore affecting the cost of this committee?

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Will the mover please respond to that?

KILPATRICK: The present committee has 39 members. This motion calls for 40 members.

BISHOP SORIANO: Just a difference of one. All right.

KILPATRICK: A difference of one.

BISHOP SORIANO: Anymore?

KILPATRICK: If you wanted me to speak to the cost, I believe that the cost would probably reduce.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, the one with red card, please.

MATTHEW A. LAFERTY (East Ohio): I rise to speak against the amendment. I'm intrigued that we're talking about the way that the current committee is set up, in facts, makes it colonialistic. To me, creating a proportional system, in facts, makes it colonialistic, because by making it proportional, we're beginning to give more power to certain regions. I would urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Thank you. Now will anybody speaking for? Yes, sir, yes.

FRANK O. DENNEY (Oklahoma): Would it be possible anytime there is money involved to tell us whether it is within the budget that has been proposed, or if it's money outside of the budget that we have received?

BISHOP SORIANO: Anybody could respond to that. Yes, Bishop.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: You have at the end of the petition a rough estimate of budget, which gives you at about the figures, it would cost for having the possibility to meet in between the General Conferences. This number will be reduced by less spending on-site here when the Central Conference Affairs Committee does not have to meet for an entire day earlier to the beginnings of the General Conference. So it's a rough estimate you have on the bottom line, and it is something which is not in this way until now in the budget. But that is additional, and therefore the petition will have to go to the General Council on Finance and Administration after our vote here.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. All right. Yes, sir? The one at the back. This would be the second speech for, I guess. Yes, sir.

DALE WEATHERSPOON (California-Nevada): Bishop, just a point of clarification. I'm understanding from our rules that what we're supposed to be voting on is in the origi-

nal DCA, so I'm still a little confused because what we're working on is what's in our consent calendar for today that we're amending. The amendment that just came said we're increasing from 39 to 40; but what's in the original DCA says there's 37 members. So which document are we supposed to be working from? I thought I heard you to say that we don't go with the recommendation of the committee but that we go with what's in the original DCA.

BISHOP SORIANO: What is before you now is the amendment. All right? All right? Anybody? Bishop Streiff, yes.

BISHOP STREIFF: The petition has been amended by the Central Conference Affairs Committee when it met earlier last week, and therefore you find the text on p. 1987 of the DCA; and so please refer to the text on p. 1987. And to that typed text we have now received an amendment.

BISHOP SORIANO: An amendment. That's right. All right. Anybody else? Yes, please. Yes. You may go to mic 11. Are you speaking for or against? Against, all right. Yes, you may proceed.

SARAH E H MCKINNEY (Western North Carolina): Sarah McKinney, layperson, Western North Carolina Conference. This petition is setting the stage for several issues that we're probably gonna discuss here. It's an issue of fairness. Are we gonna be fair and proportioned to membership or fair from a biblical, theological standpoint? For example, the teaching of Jesus about the vineyard, about all receiving equal pay for different proportions of work. And I'm searching for other examples that I could list as well, but that's the one I'm gonna stay with.

We claim if we do proportional membership, that it's a global perspective, but I'm not sure that's true. So I'm voting against his substitution.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, thank you. I will take that as a

speech against. Yes, anymore? Speech for at this time? All right, then I can consider the one against. Yes, sir? All right, all right, I'm sorry. Yes, yes, sir. The green one. Yes. You're the one. Pardon us. We cannot see very well because of the lights here. Yes, you may go to mic 5. And you're speaking for?

STEPHEN P. WENDE (Texas): Yes, sir.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right.

WENDE: I just want us all to be clear when we talk about proportional representation. What that means is that every person matters to God. No one is more important; and so the feelings and the thoughts of somebody from the Congo are as important as somebody from Russia, as important as somebody from Texas, as important as somebody from California or anywhere else. Let's not play games with words. In the political process, if we start giving one group more power than the other, we are disenfranchising people Jesus died to save. Let us not play games with words. There is nothing colonial about trusting the people, and proportional representation trusts the people rather than treating them in a patronizing and truly colonial way. I speak in favor of the amendment, and I invite the delegates to listen for the meaning behind the words. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Now another speech against, there at the back, please. Yes, at the back—the red one. I guess this would be the third speech against, and this must be the last one.

TIMOTHY J. RISS (New York): My name is Timothy Riss. I'm from New York Annual Conference.

BISHOP SORIANO: I guess this will be the third speech against and this must be the last one.

RISS: I am opposed to this amendment because it will increase the jurisdictional membership of this committee and I would prefer to see a majority of the members of this committee coming from the central

conferences. There are, right now, as I read the amended calendar item, fourteen delegates from central conferences and ten from jurisdictional conferences. If we go to a proportional system, there will be 70 percent from the U.S. and 30 percent from outside the U.S. Therefore, I consider it fairer to increase the representation of those people most directly affected by the work of this committee, and I urge that we reject the amendment.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Now we have reached the limit for those speaking against and we have one more for those in favor, just one more. Yes, sir, and you will be the last speaker now. The one here. No more, you don't want to speak? All right, then we are ready to take a vote, but before we do that just give us a few seconds. Yes please, Bishop Streiff.

BISHOP STREIFF: In addition to what has been said against the amendment, I would just point out for clarity for you that in the wording of the membership of the commission, it is quite clear that each central conference is represented. Each central conference is at the table, as we propose it, with a bishop, with a lay, and with a clergyperson. And the situations in the central conferences are so diverse that it helps us in our work as a central conference Affairs Committee if we have at least that minimal participation from each central conference with one bishop, one lay and one clergy person. And therefore, I would ask you to reject the amendment.

BISHOP SORIANO: And so it is properly before you now. If you are ready to vote and if you would approve the amendment, press "1," and if you would reject it, press "2," and you will vote when the lights appear. You may vote now. [*Yes, 275; No, 570*]

(pause)

The amendment is rejected. You may proceed, Brother—Bishop Streiff.

Financing the Central Conference
AFFAIRS Committee

BISHOP STREIFF: So we are back to the petition as it is printed in your *DCA* on p. 1987—8-7—87 and 88.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Yes, you at the back.

THOMAS B. GRIEB (Kentucky): Asking a question, will the monies budgeted there in the last paragraph of the petition—will that be contained within the 642 million ceiling or will it be beyond?

BISHOP SORIANO: Can you respond to that, Bishop Streiff?

BISHOP STREIFF: Well, as I understand, all petitions with financial matters have to go to the General Council on Finance and Administration, and for the moment, it is additional money which is requested but perhaps, in the process, they find a way to deal with it within the bottom line, which the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration had set up. So when you agree to it, it will go through that budget process as the other additional petitions with—which have money issues linked to it.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right.

GRIEB: I am wondering if I could try a motion to contain the budgetary requirements for this group to be contained within the \$642 million ceiling that's already been brokered.

BISHOP SORIANO: Let us hear it. Let us listen to it.

GRIEB: Well, I would move that the finances required to fund this central conference committee would be within the \$642 million ceiling that has already been stated by GCF&A and the Connectional Table.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. I will take that in order and a second? Any discussion then?

GRIEB: The only comment would be that the ceiling, the 642 million, has been carefully brokered

out. I think there has been a covenant within all groups represented that it would not go above that and in keeping faith with that, all other items, including this one, needs to be within that ceiling.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, ma'am.

CHARLES S G BOAYUE (Detroit): I think it is—I rise to speak against the motion just placed. I think it is inappropriate for the General Conference on one petition to selectively direct the Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table in this way. Those two bodies are elected and appointed by this General Conference. They know their job and if the speaker just before me is right, and I believe he is on this matter, that there is a covenant to stay within the budget, I would rather have the General Conference trust them to continue to do their work rather than to selectively restrict them in this way. I think that the Council on Finance and Administration will bring a balanced budget here, reflecting all of the petitions approved by the General Conference. And I will vote with every blood in my being to defeat this selective motion on that basis.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. That speaks against. All right. If there are no other speeches, now we will put this matter to a vote. The motion that—to put the budgetary requirements of this petition within the proposed budget of the GCFA. Are you ready to vote now? All right, another speech against. Yes, sir. This would be the second—second speech against.

RONALD BRETSCH (North Central New York): It has been my privilege to have served in the past quadrennium on the Commission on Central Conference Affairs. We also met for three or four days last August, which was a very special occasion because it was the first time in the history of the denomination that this commission has met except for the one day prior to General Conference. Given the growth of the church

in Africa, given the rising international or global (whichever term you prefer) nature of our denomination, it's simply impossible to attend to all of the diverse concerns of the church outside of the United States in one day in four years. The budget must be increased if we are—or if the Commission is to do its job for the denomination properly. The Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy sometimes gets rapped as being the “do nothing” commission, but the Commission on Central Conference Affairs has been grossly hindered by its inability to do what it wants to do by meeting only one day in four years. Yes, this may cost a bit more, but are we serious about the growth of the church in many, not all, but many of the central conferences or will we still remain primarily a U.S.-based church?

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Yes, we can consider this now. Speech for. Yes, sir. You.

C CHAPPELL TEMPLE (Texas): The question is to the amendment. If we mandate that this money go into the budgeted money already, are we not asking GCF&A to take something else out?

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, thank you for that speech. There are no more speeches? Yes, the back. You may go to mic—

LARRY P. HOMITSKY (Western Pennsylvania): 10.

BISHOP SORIANO: Ten, all right.

HOMITSKY: My name is Larry Homitsky, I happen to be a delegate from Western Pennsylvania but also was asked to be the chairperson of the subcommittee on the budget. I feel responsible for what that committee's action has been and it has not been *reported* to this body yet after hours of deliberation and that was *raised* in our committee as a concern because if you turn to p. 1883 you will find close to \$57 million of requests, all of which are very important and, I am assured by many, will have passionate speeches;

however, none of those items, including the one we're presently discussing—in fact if you wish to find it, it's the Committee on Central Conference Affairs, p. 1163, it's about a third of the way down the column—it's listed as one of the ones that's not part of the \$641 or \$642 million budget that the subcommittee will be bringing to you later this next week for approval. So there's some confusion. I'm hoping this helps, and therefore I would suggest either we hear from our subcommittee and vote that budget up or down before we consider additions. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. There are no more speeches now? So we can proceed to take a vote. And the vote is on the proposal to keep this budgetary requirement of this proposal within the proposed budget. All right. We have heard speeches for and against. And if you will approve that motion to keep it within the proposed budget, you press “1,” and if you're against it you press “2.” You may vote when the lights appear. [*Yes, 349; No, 461*]

(pause)

All right, the motion is rejected. Now we are back to the main petition. I will put this matter to a vote now; that this Item 41. If you are ready to vote on this petition, Item 41 on central conference affairs—press “1” and if you are against it press “2.” You may vote when the lights appear. [*Yes, 693; No, 151*]

(pause)

All right, you have voted on the petition. And now, Bishop Strieff, you may proceed with the next.

BISHOP STREIFF: The next item is the following in the calendar 42, on p. 1988 of the *DCA*, Calendar Item 42, Establish Malawi Missionary—

BISHOP SORIANO: Excuse me, Bishop Strieff, somebody's waving at the back. Yes, please.

BISHOP STREIFF: On Malawi Missionary Conference, and you find the original text on p. 1166—

BISHOP SORIANO: Just a moment, Bishop Streiff, somebody is speaking.

BISHOP STREIFF: Oh, sorry.

BISHOP SORIANO: I'm sorry because I could not see you very well because of the lights. All right, you may proceed, Brother.

GEORGE G. HOWARD (West Ohio): Bishop, my name is George Howard, layperson, West Ohio Conference, and member of the Central Conference Commission. I rise for a point of privilege.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, you may proceed.

HOWARD: It saddens me that the whole debate has not heard from one central conference member delegate of this body except the presenter. We talk about colonialism. It's the United States that's speaking.

Malawi Missionary Conference

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, thank you. Bishop Streiff, you may proceed.

BISHOP STREIFF: So, the next an—item is on p. 1988, Calendar Item 42, a petition to establish Malawi Missionary Conference, and the original petition is on p. 1166. The committee moves to adopt.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, it is Petition Calendar Item No. 42 found in *DCA* p. 1988, Petition No. 81388, *Advance DCA* p. 1166. All right, you have found it. Are you ready to vote on that? And if you will approve it press "1," and if you're against it press "2." You may vote when the lights appear. [*Yes, 729; No, 65*]

(pause)

All right, you have voted to establish a Malawi Provisional Conference.

BISHOP STREIFF: OK, that concludes for today.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Yes?

ROBERT E. LONG (Oklahoma): I'd like to offer a motion, if I could, that I think will help us through the rest of our business.

BISHOP SORIANO: Let us listen to it.

LONG: If the motion has financial implications, the presenter will tell us if this money is in the proposed budget of \$641 million or if it's an addition. And if it is an addition, how much. If I have a second, I'd speak to that.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. You're in orders.

LONG: Rather than capping us and saying we can't feel led to create something new—I think we've expressed our desire for that not to happen, that we want to be creative and make good decisions—but in order to make those decisions we need to know, if it is addition beyond the proposed budget, how much we'd be spending for that creative program. And I think we would all feel better then about the decision that we make.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, this is a motion that's properly before you now. Any remarks, discussion? All right, yes, yes ma'am.

CAROLYN JOHNSON (North Indiana): Bishop, the petition numbers are already coded so that a dollar sign indicates it's already in the budget and an exclamation point that it's new money. There's also in the *DCA* a chart that shows all of the proposed petition items as they're in the *ADCA* that would be—what that dollar amount would be if they were passed and they're already outside the budget, so other than that, I'm not sure what the intent of the motion would be.

BISHOP SORIANO: I will simply take this as a motion—as a speech against the motion. Any more? All right, if you're ready to

vote, let us vote now. And if you are in favor of the motion that the reporter—the presenter of the petition would mention with, if there is a dollar involved or not, you'll press "1" for yes and you press "2" for no. You may vote now. [*Yes, 520; No, 301*]

All right, this is now, you have passed the motion; and therefore all presenters here would mention if there is a dollar involved or not in the report. Yes, at the back, please? Yes, sir?

Discrepancy in Rules on Referrals to Legislative Committee

DAVID A. BARD (Minnesota): Thank you. Thank you, Bishop. I'm a member of the Rules Committee, and it has been pointed out to me that there is a slight discrepancy between two of the rules, which created the confusion on the earlier vote. According to Rule 32 on p. 1926, "legislative committees are required to bring to the plenary a motion to adopt, reject, or refer." According to that rule, the committee that did bring that motion to reject was, in fact, in order. According to Rule 22, however, committees were given permission to bring motions of different kinds. I think it would be more consistent if we were willing to suspend the rules to allow us to amend the rules of order on that point. It would be a simple operation, and would, I think, help clarify our process from here on out. So I would move a suspension of the rules so we could consider an amendment to the rules of order.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. I will take this as a motion and that there is no debate here. And we need two-thirds to approve it. If you're in favor of suspending the rules in order for us to correct these things, press "1" for yes; and press no—press "2" for no. [*Yes, 627; No, 164*]

All right, you have suspended the rules. You want to correct these things now.

BARD: Yes. Then I'd like to make a motion on p. 1926 of the *DCA*, the very first sentence, we change the word *shall*—no, we change the word *with a motion* to *a recommendation*. So the first sentence would read, "Every matter referred to a legislative committee shall be reported to the plenary with a recommendation to adopt, reject, or refer."

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, so—

BARD: Just—and if I could—if there's a second, I would say a brief word about that.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes, is there a second? All right, you may speak to it.

BARD: Not—thank you—not only does that make the rules consistent with one another, which was the hope and goal of our Rules Committee over the last four years, we're still going on to perfection. It does allow that—it—committees will then bring recommendations. We would vote on petitions in the affirmative. The petition would be before us—either in its original form or as amended by the committee—and then votes "yes" would be for the petition; "no" would be against the petition. I think legislative committees have been working that way. I think it's the understanding of the body that we will be working in that way. *Robert's Rules of Order* recommends that process. The one exception to that would be on our consent calendars. We have separate rules in our rules of order which allow consent calendars for rejection. That would be the only exception to this.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Let me summarize that if I understood it: Your motion is to change the word *motion* to *recommendation*.

BARD: That's correct.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Any further discussion. Yes? The one with the red card. Yes? Yes, please. You may proceed. You're speaking against the motion?

JOE M. WHITTEMORE (North Georgia): I'm speaking *for* the motion.

BISHOP SORIANO: *For*? All right.

WHITTEMORE: I think we have discovered that our bishops do read our rules, and they read them well. This would be a nice cleanup of what we had tried to do, and I would hope that you would support this. Thank you.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Yes, sir? Would you please transfer to mic 6? All right. All right.

M KIM MOORE (Kansas West): I'd like to move to refer this to the Rules Committee so we can be sure that we have a real cleanup here. I think we have members of the committee making the motion, but I think the committee should have an opportunity to be sure it's correct.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. It's a motion to refer. Any second to that? All right. Any further discussion? If there is not, then we can simply take a vote. We can simply have a show of hands. Those who would refer this motion to the—to the Committee on Rules of Order, raise your hand. Those against? All right. [*Motion is defeated*]

It is not referred, so we continue discussing. No more—yes?

TOM J. WATSON (Nebraska): I would speak against this, I think, because someone needs to make a motion, and it seems most logical to me that the committee starts us with a motion. So if we're voting—otherwise, someone from the floor needs to move to adopt or reject. So I would speak against this because I think we should start with a motion from the committee.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. Are you prepared now to take a vote? Yes, sir? There in the back, mic 10.

CHARLES D. (DENNY) WHITE JR. (Western North Carolina): I thank the Chair. Would someone—either the Chair or a representative of the committee—please clarify for me—and hopefully for the house—the meaning and operation of Rule 18, which seems clearly to me, at

least, to mean that a legislative committee comes to this body with a report, either recommending that we agree—agree or adopt or that we agree or adopt with amendments or that we reject or refer the calendar item. This is in line with the comment made earlier by the previous speaker. It's the way we've always operated. So if someone could clarify this for me, and why it is that Rule 18 is apparently now to be ignored, I would be most grateful.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. We would request somebody from the Rules of Order.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: David Bard back there.

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes?

BARD: It does ask for a report from the Legislative Committee. It doesn't mandate the form of that report from the Legislative Committee. You're right: A motion does need to be made. What we would ask is that the committee make a motion to adopt or refer. And I'm sorry, I should have also—I need to do that with a separate amendment to my own motion; but—and I apologize for that. The committee can move to adopt and then make their recommendation to reject. It seems a little bit difficult, but I think people follow that pretty well. And so Rule 18 would not be violated in that case.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Thank you.

BARD: And if I could, I would like to make a brief amendment to my previous motion. And I think it's a friendly amendment.

(laughter)

BISHOP SORIANO: All right, you may proceed.

BARD: I would like that sentence on p. 1926 to read: 'Every matter referred to a legislative committee shall be reported to the plenary with a recommendation to adopt or reject, or a motion to refer.' And I will have that written out for you shortly.

BISHOP SORIANO: Any second to that amendment? All right. It's before you now. If you will approve it, will you please raise your hand?

[*Passed by a hand vote.*] If you're against this (*unintelligible*), which is before you now. This is not the main motion. You want to adopt it now. And if you would so do it, you will press "1" for yes; press "2" for no. [*Yes, 753; No, 56*]

(*pause*)

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. [*Yes, 723; No, 56*] It passes now. All right. There's nothing left for us now except announcements. Yes? Mic—is that 9?

KENNETH W. CHALKER (East Ohio): Thank you, bishop. I have a motion to refer.

BISHOP SORIANO: Let us listen to it.

CHALKER: In regard to an earlier response to the motion by Joan Carter-Rimbach, I move that the Committee on Agenda and Calendar schedule before adjournment on Friday not more than ten minutes for Bishop Chamness to outline the reasons that the IRS does not permit the opportunity for clergy to designate a portion of their individual pension funds for clergy brothers and sisters in Africa. And if I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. You may proceed.

CHALKER: I suppose I'm being very simplistic, but it seems to me it's our money. And number two, when it comes to financial matters in this country, we tend to forget how to spell God. We spell God *IRS*.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. This is a motion to refer to the Committee on Agenda. If you would so refer it, please raise your hand. If you're against it, raise your hand. It is lost. All right. Yes, sir, you are the first. [*Motion defeated by vote of hands.*] Yes.

WE HYUN CHANG (New England): Bishop?

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes?

CHANG: I'm on?

BISHOP SORIANO: Yes.

Motion Against the Word "Defeat"

CHANG: Oh, OK. I would like to make a motion. I regret that I have to make this motion. I move that we refrain from using the language of defeat from all our meetings and gatherings throughout this General Conference. If I have a second, I'll speak for it.

(*pause*)

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. That is in order. Any second to it?

CHANG: I have tried as nicely at the beginning of this plenary. I can understand the passion; but throughout the Legislative Committee meeting and even this morning, I have heard twice that we are using the language of defeat even with the vocabulary of blood. I can understand the passion that we all have about our people and the issues, but we are not here to defeat one another. I think no one should leave this place feeling defeated or victorious, because we are not here for the holy war; we are here for the holy conferring.

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. It's properly before you. Any remarks? Discussion? The motion is to refrain from using the word *defeat*. If you will approve it, press "1" for yes; press "2" for no. You may vote now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When the timer appears.

BISHOP SORIANO: When the timer appears. All right. Now.

(*pause*)

Point of order? [*Yes, 517; No, 262*] All right. The motion passes. So from now on, you'll refrain from using the word *defeat*; and if you use that, you will be out of order.

(*laughter*)

Yes? At the back.

PHILLIP F. CONNOLLY (West Ohio): West Ohio would like to congratulate Kansas on their narrow last-second squeaker victory in the NCAA tournament.

(*laughter*)

Unfortunately, we weren't invited to be a part of that tournament; but we had a resounding win in the NIT. In honor of our Bishop Ough, we'd like to say, 'O, we'll raise your bid to \$500.'

BISHOP SORIANO: All right. Thank you. And now this team defeated their opponents.

(*laughter*)

All right? This is the last thing now. We are up on our time, and we have nothing before us. Yes, sir.

ANDREW (ANDY) R. HERNANDEZ (Texas): Bishop, my name is Andy Hernandez from the Texas Conference; and all I want to say is this, is that when we're considering petitions that require funding, I just want to say one thing. I'm part of GCFA, the Order Review Committee; and when the agencies or the Connectional Table and GCF—GCFA came together, they brought in a budget of \$680 million. We struggled with it because the money wasn't there, and we dropped it down to \$642 million. Now, there's a list in my hands, where we've taken all of the petitions that have been submitted outside of the budget; and we're talking about \$65 million by the time the conference is over. You've got to keep that into consideration, because in the next few days there'd be a many coming through us; and somehow GCFA is going to have to struggle, something's gotta give, something's gotta come off the budget in order to be able to include it, so someone is gonna get hurt. So if they choose, the people chose to come around the budget, then they're gonna have to face the consequences of defeat, some—one way or the other.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you for that information. It's 12:00; but before we adjourn, I will call on the secretary to make some announcements.

FITZGERALD (GERE) REIST: The dress for the Area Night is Western wear or casual dress. The Area Night program will be held in the Grand Ballroom on the south end of the convention center. Seating will begin at 6:30 P.M. and the program at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to the reception following. The internationally known Texas Boys Choir will be featured at this evening's Area Night and reception. If you have purchased tickets and not picked them up, or if delegates have not picked up their complimentary ticket, please come by the sales booth located across from Room 104 before 3:00 P.M. today. Any remaining tickets will be available at the door for \$20 on a first-come basis.

Some of you may have noticed some technical difficulties with the video earlier today. We are still unable to show that video; but we're going to work on it, and we'll show it at another time.

The 30-minute Communion services take place each day at 12:40, the beginning of the lunch break, at the round table in the center of the arena. Delegates and visitors may enter the floor of the arena at that time for Communion. Music for Communion comes from the songbook *For Everyone Born* that was provided for every delegate by GBGM's Global Praise program. Mark Miller, director of the General Confer—of General Conference music, is organizing a young person's choir of delegates, marshals, pages, visitors, and anyone else who is under . . . forty

(laughter)

or thereabouts.

The General Conference Young Person's Choir will sing one anthem at Wednesday morning's worship service. Rehearsal will be on Mon-

day and Tuesday from 2:00 to 2:25 P.M. on the arena stage.

And we are now in a bidding war, because there are two \$500 bids that have been received. So if someone wants to up the ante, we'll consider those bids and you can post them—well, I'm not authorized to conduct bidding on the floor of General Conference, but we are keeping track of them outside the secretary's office.

BISHOP SORIANO: Thank you. I want to thank all of you for your participation and especially my mentors here, Brother William and Brother Jack, for guiding me. Let us now rise for our prayer, and then we are in recess.

(prayer)

We are at recess.

(music)

Monday Morning, April 28, 2008

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: Do no harm. Do good.
Stay in love with God.

(music)

(prayer)

(music)

(applause)

MARK MILLER: In the beginning was God.

(music)

(worship)

(Scripture)

Bishop Lyght's Sermon

BISHOP ERNEST S. LYGHT: Then he said, "Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; an old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don't

have a thing on hand.'" My sisters and brothers I greet you this morning in this Holy place, in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Some years ago, it was well past midnight when my wife and I awoke to the sound of knocking at the front door. The constant knocking summoned us to get out of bed, but before we could do anything, the knocking stopped. I sensed that perhaps there was trouble in the air because it was well past midnight. We soon learned that the knocking was a neighbor whose house was on fire. First he knocked at the door of his immediate next-door neighbor; so not getting a quick response, he went to the next-door neighbor—our house—and then back to the first neighbor. He kept knocking until finally he got an answer, and a telephone call brought the fire department. The knock sounded the alarm that there was a crisis. The house was heavily damaged by the fire; but, more tragically, one family member died because of his severe burns suffered in the fire. It was midnight in their lives, the surviving family members.

Our parable is about the resultant power of perseverance in prayer. On the other hand, there is another important human dynamic couched in the text. Let us unpack the story and gain entrance into one of life's realities. We observe that it was midnight. There is a knock at the door. A man goes to the familiar home of a friend, knocks at the door, and the friend at first will not answer the door. It will take persistence to get an answer at the door, especially at midnight. The man wants his friend to let him borrow three loaves of bread because one of his friends has stopped by unexpectedly and he has no food to set before him. Now, this man desires to practice hospitality in his own home so he goes in search of bread, but it is midnight. He wants to share some food with his friend, who is no doubt tired and weary from his journey. The man's

friend did not want to get up because he did not want to be bothered, even by a friend. The man only asked for three loaves of bread. The three loaves of bread would be enough to feed his friend with perhaps some left over for another meal. The man did not have any bread in his house. But he was certain that his friend had some bread—at least three loaves of bread—in his house. So he knocked on the door at midnight. Surely his friend would get out of his bed, even at midnight, and loan him three loaves of bread. The man did not ask his friend for anything elaborate and expensive. He asked for three loaves of bread. He asked for bread.

Fond memories remain about Mr. and Mrs. Whittington who used to take care of my sister and me for a day during our summer visit with our grandfather. This couple, by all standards, was poor. Very poor. But they had lots of love; lots of love. They lived in a very modest home. They were willing to care for us for a day. They were more than willing to share what they had, but they didn't have very much. When it was time to set the table, they invited us to the table. The delicious meal consisted of flour bread and molasses. We knew that the bread had been made with tender loving care; baked and served with a deep sense of radical hospitality. They shared what they had: bread, made with Mrs. Whittington's hands.

In the case of the prodigal son, the young man found himself facing the midnight hour. There was no one to give him bread to stem his hunger. In the midst of his personal crisis, he got a job feeding a farmer's pigs. He was so hungry that he would have eaten the pods that he was feeding to the pigs. No one gave him anything. He realized that it was midnight in his life, and it was time to get help.

He decided to go home to his father, not knowing whether his father would welcome him home. He had no idea his loving father would pre-

pare a great welcome-home banquet for him. "Welcome home, son! There is plenty of food to eat, and this meal has been prepared in your honor! Your midnight is over!" The father had faith in his son. He gave the son an opportunity for a new future with hope, and he bathed his prodigal son with his extravagant love.

Now, when the congregation of the Israelites set out from Elam and made their way out of Egypt—you know what we do in church. They began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. They lamented that it would have been better to have died in Egypt. Imagine that. They remembered how they had sat by the flesh pots, eating their fill of bread, so they accused Moses of bringing them out in the wilderness to kill them with hunger.

Well, the Lord decided to provide bread from heaven for the Israelites. The instructions to Moses told him that there would be enough bread provided for them each day. Enough for that day. Don't worry about tomorrow. God is saying, "I will provide bread for you today." God gave them meat to eat in the evening and bread in the morning.

Friends, I can taste my mother's biscuits even now. When we were growing up, my mother often would bake biscuits on a daily basis, sometimes for breakfast and again for dinner. But listen, we never had biscuits left over from breakfast for our dinner. Mom always made fresh bread for each meal. You hear me, church? Fresh bread for each meal. God gave the Israelites fresh bread on a daily basis, because God loved them and wanted to care for them in their midnight hour. God was providing deliverance from slavery and bondage for them. God was a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God provided them with access to the promised land, a future with hope.

At that time, however, they were lacking faith in God and unable to comprehend the scope of God's love

for them. Sometimes in our churches, we don't comprehend the scope and the depth and the abundance of God's love for us. It was midnight in the lives of the displaced Israelites. Sisters and brothers, it is midnight in the lives of many persons, and it is midnight in the historical moment of some nations.

The late theologian Carl Michaelson has helped me to understand the concept of a personal midnight, where he defines a personal crisis as a crucial situation. We can equate the midnight hour to Michaelson's crucial situation. A crucial situation is a situation that requires a decision. It is a matter of whether a person will live or die, and it puts to the test a person's relationship to God. Have you been there?

Oh, many people are in that midnight hour right now. Some people have their back to the wall. They are down and almost out. In the midst of a personal crisis, folk look for a helping hand. Where, and to whom, can they turn? Quite often, whether you realize it or not, they will turn to the church in an effort to find illumination and healing. When they come, the church must recognize that it is midnight in their life. The United Methodist Church must be prepared to respond, because someone's knocking at the door. Avery and Marsh, in their popular hymn "We Are the Church," remind us that the church is not a building, but the church is a people. We dare not play church, but brothers and sisters, in some of our churches, we're playing church. And it's time to stop playing church! We must boldly practice the church's ministry.

What is the church's ministry? When there is a knock at midnight, the church must be prepared to respond. It is not a matter of the time of day; what matters is the time of crisis in the life of one of God's children. In our parable, the man knocking at midnight wants to borrow three loaves of bread. Three loaves of bread! People come to church looking for bread. They want a little

bread to help them through the night and through the crisis.

Martin Luther King Jr. portrayed the church as having three loaves of bread: the bread of faith, the bread of hope, and the bread of love.

What is this bread of faith? Hebrews tells us that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Paul reminds us that we walk by faith, not by sight. So many people do not have this faith that we all pray for daily. They have little confidence in the future.

What is the bread of hope? Paul has this to say about hope: "And we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our suffering, not knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. And hope, hope, hope does not disappoint us!" Because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, and has been given to us. What a joy it is to know that our hope rests on Jesus Christ, the solid rock. Without hope, there can be no future.

What is the bread of love? It seems that all of God's children want to be loved. I know I do, and I suppose you do, too. God is love, and we are the recipients of God's extraordinary love. Jesus commands us to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Love is the pinnacle of our God relationship, and our human relationships.

What about those folk who have little or no faith? What about women, men, and children who have no hope? What about folks that do not have the strength to love? The strength to love? It is midnight, and they come knocking on the doors of our United Methodist Churches in Europe, Africa, the Philippines, and the United States.

Remember now, remember now, that we are a church that dares to say to the world, "Open hearts, open

minds, open doors," to people of The United Methodist Church.

People are dealing with a variety of human crises: personal crisis, anxiety and fear, guilt and shame, faith and doubt, marriage and divorce, suffering and pain, the prospect of losing their job, the reality of no job, life and death. But there are other personal crises: health—including HIV/AIDS, malaria, poverty, hunger, homelessness, displacement, refugee status, and teenage depression, just to name a few. Nations are in crisis: Zimbabwe and hyperinflation; Darfur and ethnic cleansing; Darfur's refugee crisis; child slavery in Africa; the war in Afghanistan; the war in Iraq.

Now, let us glance back and check up on the parable at the point where the man knocked at his friend's door and asked for three loaves of bread. The sharp response he got was, "Do not bother me. The door has already been locked and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." Well, wake up church! Get up, church! There are knocks at the door and folks are asking for bread: the bread of faith, the bread of hope, and the bread of love.

On one occasion, Jesus taught the disciples that the real bread comes from God. Some people talked about the bread from heaven that Moses gave to his people. Jesus told them he was the bread of life. This is the bread that people in nations need at midnight. Because folks who come to Jesus will never be hungry and his believers will never be thirsty.

John Wesley had a passion for the gospel and he urged his preachers always to offer Christ to the people. So Wesley could be found preaching in a variety of places, including the churches, the coal fields, and the open fields. When men, women, and children knock on the doors of the church, they are looking for bread, fresh bread. They want to encounter a vibrant faith. They want to embrace hope for tomorrow. They want

to experience extravagant love that includes them. Listen, brothers and sisters! The church cannot afford to offer stale bread, only fresh bread.

(applause)

We must keep the bread fresh! If we do not want to eat stale bread for a meal, why would the church offer stale bread to feed the soul? How do we keep the bread fresh? Well, I want to tell you brothers and sisters, right now: I don't like stale bread. Don't give me any stale bread! And when I go to church, I don't want to go to a dead church. I want to go to an alive church where they are serving fresh bread!

(applause)

How do we keep the bread fresh? Wesley espoused a ministry of reaching out and forming disciples through small group ministries. He urged every Methodist to follow the general rules: Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. Are you living by the general rules? Do you know what they are? They'll help us keep the bread fresh for those persons who knock at midnight.

As we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we must lift up Christ. Yes, give them Christ. I believe that God's world is hungry for the living bread. DT Niles said, "Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." And remember, when they find that bread, let it be fresh. So we must share the living bread, and we must keep the bread fresh. We keep the bread fresh by remembering the words of Ackley when he said, "I serve a risen Savior. He's in the world today." We know that Jesus lives because he lives in our hearts.

Living as Jesus' pilgrim, disciples, is a sign of fresh bread. We keep the bread fresh through our participation in a devout prayer life, regular Bible study, worship opportunities, small group experiences, fellowship, and Christian education.

From a spiritual point of view, we—you and me—need fresh bread daily. Transformed lives will assist in the transformation of God's world.

We United Methodists must respond to the midnight hour in the lives of people and nations. We are The United Methodist Church and we strive to facilitate courage for the soul. Remembering the words of Charles Tindley when he said, "Courage, my soul, and let us journey on, though the night is dark, it won't be very long. Thanks be to God, the morning light appears, Hallelujah!" It is a new day. And each new day, each new day requires fresh bread, especially when you are passing through the storms of life.

When The United Methodist Church established Africa University, it began to provide the bread of education for African students. When The United Methodist Church responded to the UMCOR Katrina appeal and the bishop's Katrina appeal, it provided the bread of hope for thousands of displaced people. When The United Methodist Church introduced the "Nothing but Nets" campaign, it began to provide the bread of survival to thousands of children and adults. When The United Methodist Church established the Global AIDS Fund, we began to provide the bread of love and compassion for those who are suffering and dying.

The people of The United Methodist Church must offer the bread of life and it comes in three main varieties: faith, hope, and love. Sisters and brothers, keep the bread fresh. Someone's knocking at the door. Keep the bread fresh. Keep the bread fresh as we seek to develop new leaders for the church and the world. Keep the bread fresh as we strive to reach new disciples of Jesus Christ by starting new congregations and renewing existing congregations. Keep the bread fresh as we boldly engage in ministry with the poor. Keep the bread fresh as we partner in ministries to stamp out

killer diseases by improving world health.

My son is a firefighter. I said, "Son, do you have any trouble getting up in the middle of the night?" He said, "Dad, in the middle of the night when the bell in the firehouse rings, it is loud. All of the lights come on, and it tells us to wake up. It further tells us to get up." So I'm saying today, my brothers and sisters, in our churches, 'Wake up!' Not only must you wake up; you've got to get up and keep the bread fresh. Amen.

(applause)

(music)

MARCIA MCFEE: Indeed, we're gonna build. I invite you to be seated. We've traveled thus far with the rhythms of opening and planting and nurturing and residing; and we come today to this theme of building. Building. Indeed, we're gonna build; but the question is: What will we build together, my friends? What will we build? Building hope, building the reign of God, building new life, building the body of Christ. And at times, rebuilding, putting things back together. As Isaiah prophesied, 'They, they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord.' Rebuilding the ruins and restoring the devastated places, building hope.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP LYGHT: As brothers and sisters who wake up and get up and answer the door at midnight, I invite you to go forth. Climb into the boat of faith, put up a sail of hope, embark on the tide of love, and follow the light of Christ. Amen.

(music)

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

BISHOP COYNER: I invite the conference to please come to order. The theme of today is "It's Only Monday, but Friday Night Is Coming."

(laughter)

So we have a lot of work to do this week, and I'm Mike Coyner, and I am backed up by bishops Davis and Craig to help us out.

(applause)

And those are Indiana people over there.

(laughter)

Before I turn to the reports of courtesies, privileges, and other committees, let me remind you of a couple rule changes that you voted yesterday that will impact the way we work today, and I'll remind you of those again when we vote on actual calendar items later in the morning. One of the things you voted was to change the way we present to you calendar items for action, so this is the way it will work: I will present to you the calendar item and the Legislative Committee will tell you what they recommend and why, if they are recommending you vote 'Yes' or you vote 'No'; but what you will vote on then will be the calendar item, not their recommendation. So they will present the calendar item, they'll tell you which way they recommend you vote and why, but you will actually vote on the calendar item, not the recommendation. So we are calling that 'The Jesus Rule,' who said, 'Let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no.'

(laughter)

And you only have to vote 'Yes' in order to vote yes on a calendar item. You don't have to vote 'No' to vote no on a no-recommendation to vote yes.

(laughter)

My apologies to the interpreters.

(laughter)

The second thing you voted yesterday was a recommendation that we be careful with our language with one another, that we particularly not use language of victory and defeat. That we may vote an idea up or down but we're not causing each other to be winners or losers. So we will try, I will try, to not use the word *defeat* or other such language and I invite you to try the same. That's what we voted yesterday. I have to confess that I already goofed on that this morning. I already said to someone, 'With all the walking we do at General Conference, it's very hard on "da feet."'

(laughter)

Again, my apologies to the interpreters—that will not make sense in most languages. Perhaps not even in English. So we will watch our language and try to treat each other with the due respect even while we debate, at times, difficult issues. Let me turn now to the report of the Committee on Privileges, and Rosa is here for that report, I believe.

ROSA WASHINGTON-OLSON: Bishop and delegates, and visitors, the Committee on Courtesy is honored this morning, (*speaking to someone else*) come on up, to present to you the Rev. Emanuel Cleveland, United States congressman from Missouri.

(applause)

WASHINGTON-OLSON (California-Nevada): In addition to serving in the House of Representatives, he is also the senior pastor of the St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Missouri.

WASHINGTON-OLSON: Oh, they put Kansas on the paper so I'm just reading what I have. But he's in Missouri. So today, he will be your

speaker at the luncheon for the General Board of Church and Society here in this convention. So I present to you the Rev. Emanuel Cleveland, the United States congressman. Clea—Clever, not Cleveland.

(applause)

REV. EMANUEL CLEAVER (Missouri): Thank you. I am from Missouri—Kansas City, Missouri. Bishop Robert Schnase is the episcopal leader of our area, and I am pleased to be here. I am actually only a few miles from the place I was born and this is very familiar territory for me. I was born down the street in Waxahachie, Texas, and went to high school, college here in the state. 'Waxahachie,' for—particularly for people who are from the United States, is difficult to pronounce, so we can forget the people from foreign lands. In fact, not long ago a young couple left from here, Fort Worth, Texas, on their way to Houston, and after they got on the Highway 287, the woman told her husband that she wanted to stop and have lunch. And so they pulled off an exit and he said, 'Well, we'll go and have lunch here in Wichichichie.' And she said, 'This is, that sign does not say Wichichichie, that's Wickahitchie' and, unlike Christians, they begin to argue over the pronunciation of this place. So, they pull off and they pull into a restaurant and they sat down at a table and the argument continues. And so, the wife—the husband—says, 'Look if this is not Wichichichie, when we get to Houston, I'll spend a thousand dollars on anything you want.' And she said, 'OK, well if this is not Wickahitchie, I'll buy some socks for you when we get to Houston.' And so the bet was on; and so, as they sat at the table a waitress walked by and so the husband said, 'Ma'am, I am going to ask you a question. A thousand dollars swings in the balance. Please, take your time and tell my wife and me where we are.' And the waitress said, 'Bur-ger King.'

(laughter)

REV. CLEAVER: We do serve the King, and I look forward to those of you who will be at the luncheon. God bless you.

(applause)

BISHOP MICHAEL COYNER: Thank you. I now call on Harriet McCabe to bring the report of the Committee on Presiding Officers. Harriet?

HARRIET MCCABE (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop Coyner. With deep appreciation to all of our episcopal leaders, I am pleased to report to you those who will be leading us tomorrow. At 9:20, we will be led by Bishop Michael Watson. In the afternoon we will be led by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson. And, in the evening, we will be led by Bishop Scott Jones. Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: Now we'll hear from Youngsook Kang, who is the chair of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar.

YOUNGSOOK C. KANG (Rocky Mountain): Thank you Bishop Coyner, the Council of Bishops, and the delegates, and the visitors. I think this is higher than other times. I just noticed. I just noticed. Today's schedule is as approved yesterday. This morning's calendar starts with Katrina Report, and I see that many people are wearing shirts—green shirts—for that. And then there will be elections. Three elections: the Judicial Council, the University Senate, and the Trustees of John Street Church. When the election is done, we will start considering calendar items printed in yesterday's *DCA*. Most items before us today will be those with financial implications. As reported yesterday, this afternoon there will be two special celebrations: There will be a celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Advance, and Hope for Africa Children's Choir will sing. In terms of the work of the legislative committees, over half of the com-

mittees completed their work. In fact, seven committees finished, so we have six committees who still need to complete their work. So they meet to—they will need to meet today to complete their work. So the meeting schedule of these six committees is as follows: Those committees meeting over lunchtime—lunch hour—are three committees: Global Ministries, Judicial Administration, and Ministry and Higher Education. Those members of Ministry and Higher Education Committee are asked to go to their meeting room immediately after the adjournment—lunch, I mean lunch recess. And then Judicial Administration and Global Ministries members, please go to your meeting rooms in 30 minutes—30 minutes after the adjournment. And those committees meeting over dinnertime—over dinner recess—are Financial Administration and Church and Society 1. And Church and Society 2 will be meeting in the afternoon and on—until you're finished.

(laughter)

And thank you for your hard work as we continue to move ahead with our work. May God's wisdom guide us in our deliberations. So now Susan Brumbaugh (*unintelligible*) now make a report on consent calendar items.

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH: Good morning everyone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Good morning.

BRUMBAUGH: I am coordinator of the calendar. And I invite you to turn in your *DCA* to p. 2038. That's p. 2038 in yesterday's *DCA*, Consent Calendar A02. That's Consent Calendar A02. If you vote to adopt Consent Calendar A02, you will be voting to adopt the calendar items contained therein. All of the items on Consent Calendar A02 are correct as printed.

KANG: Bishop, I move approval of all the actions on Consent Calendar A02.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. This is properly before you. If you'll use your keypads now, you'll push "1" for yes, and "2" for no. The question is before you and when the clock appears, please vote.

(pause)

Thank you. The "yesses" prevail, and you have adopted Consent Calendar A02. [*Yes, 859; No, 14*]

BRUMBAUGH: Now, we will turn to Consent Calendar B02 in your *DCA* on p. 2040. That's p. 2040, Consent Calendar B02. If you vote to adopt Consent Calendar B02, you will be voting to adopt, as amended, the calendar items contained therein. All of the items on Consent Calendar B02 are correct as printed.

KANG: Bishop, I move that we accept the actions on Consent Calendar B02.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. Consent Calendar B02 is now before you. If you support this action, you'll press "1" on your keypad; if you do not, you'll press "2." Please vote when the countdown clock appears.

(pause)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Thanks.

Thank you, the motion carries. You've approved Consent Calendar B02. [*Yes, 864; No, 19*]

BRUMBAUGH: Now, if you will turn to p. 2041. That's p. 2041. You will see Consent Calendar C02. If you vote to adopt Consent Calendar C02, you will be voting to reject the calendar items contained therein. All of the items on Consent Calendar C02 are correct as printed. . . . There's a question.

BISHOP COYNER: I see yellow cards in the back. I believe that would be mic. 10. I don't know who's wanting the spokesperson.

Full Communion with ELCA

TRACY R. MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I'd like to

rise for a moment of personal privilege regarding one of the items we've just taken action on.

BISHOP COYNER: From Consent Calendar B02?

MERRICK: That's correct.

BISHOP COYNER: Let's hear your privilege, please.

MERRICK: I wanted to take a moment to recognize the historic vote we've just taken within the consent calendar we just passed has included a petition for full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This particular relationship has been decades in making and reflects the deeply embedded commitment to ecumenism of our church. It is particularly appropriate we pass this today because tomorrow is ecumenical day and we'll be hearing from presiding bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA as the featured preacher. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. And you can applaud that. That is a wonderful celebration.

(applause)

KANG: Now we are on C02, so Bishop, I move approval of all of the actions on Consent Calendar C02.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. C02 is before you now. If you approve of that calendar item, you will press "1" for yes; if you disapprove, you'll press "2." Please vote when the countdown clock appears.

(pause)

[*Yes, 858; No, 33*]

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. You've approved that motion.

BRUMBAUGH: And our final consent calendar for today appears on p. 2045. That's p. 2045, Consent Calendar D02. Consent Calendar D02. If you vote to adopt Consent Calendar D02, you will be voting to refer the calendar items contained therein. All of the items on Consent Calendar D02 are correct as printed.

KANG: I move approval of the action on Consent Calendar D02.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. That's now before you. If you would vote to refer those as indicated, you would press "1." If you do not agree, press "2." Please vote when the countdown clock occurs. [*Yes, 866; No, 28*] Yes, the motion passes; and those items on D02 are referred. Did you have a question, sir? Could you go to mic. 2, please?

DANIEL A. IVEY-SOTO (New Mexico): Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, sir.

IVEY-SOTO: Bishop, I have, I was reviewing tomorrow's consent calendar; and there is a small typographical on one of the ones that came out of General Administration and another one that I think I just want to clarify that it is going to be voted on the way we intended. I was hoping that this may be a good time to do it just to make sure so that tomorrow there's not confusion.

BISHOP COYNER: I understand. Could you answer his question?

BRUMBAUGH: Generally, when there's an error in the calendar item, you fill out a form and the correction is printed. So I don't know if there's a need to do sooner, because once it's printed, then it can't be considered until the next day. So—

IVEY-SOTO: Well, let me try one thing first, that is on p. 2134 of today's *DCA*. That's p. 2134 of today's *DCA*, Calendar Item 254, Calendar Item 254.

BISHOP COYNER: Could you state the page number again, please?

IVEY-SOTO: Yes, sir. 2-1—I'm sorry, p. no. 2136. Sorry.

BRUMBAUGH: That's 2136 for the translators.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you.

IVEY-SOTO: Calendar Item 254. The intent of the committee was not to delete the language in Paragraph 706; it was to remove the reference to Paragraph 706 in the petition. It could be interpreted one of both ways, and I just want to make sure

that that's not interpreted as a deletion but simply removal from the petition.

BISHOP COYNER: Let me suggest, sir, if these are editorial to correct the committee's intent that perhaps you might speak to the officials during the morning time or break; and if there are corrections, we can get those before the body this afternoon—either verbally or as a printed addendum—so everybody has it in time to act on it tomorrow, 'cause I think you want it to be clear what the committee actually voted. Is that what you're asking for?

IVEY-SOTO: That is correct. I'm not trying to change anything. I just—

BISHOP COYNER: I understand.

IVEY-SOTO: —want to make sure that we, that we're all on the same page.

BISHOP COYNER: If you could work with the committee members and maybe we could have an errata sheet or a verbal announcement, if it's not too complicated. I believe that would suffice to meet the rules so it could be acted upon tomorrow. If I could ask you to do that with 'em off break so we don't take the whole conference's time this morning. Would that be acceptable?

IVEY-SOTO: Perfectly acceptable. Thank you very much, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: That work for the committee?

KANG: Yes.

BISHOP COYNER: OK. Thank you very much.

KANG: Thank you. Thank you, Bishop. This concludes the report from the Agenda Committee.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you for your good work. Yes? I don't know which one of you is up first. It looks like maybe mic. 8. The gentleman in the red shirt. Mic. 8. I don't think we're hearing yet. Mic. 8. Could you go back to mic. 11, sir, and let's see if—oh, maybe they're fixing it. Mic. 11, perhaps, is working.

KEVIN GOODWIN (Peninsula-Delaware): And I might be jumping the gun here, Bishop, but it looks like we were getting ready to move on. I believe there's a calendar error on A03.

BISHOP COYNER: Would you give us the page reference, please?

GOODWIN: Page is on 2132. It's Item 246, and I might need clarification from the officers of General Admin., if they agree or disagree with this; but this is my understanding: that this petition has financial implications, thus it should be on the calendar to be voted on and not on the consent calendar. It is changing the number of delegates to the boards and agencies from the central conferences, which would increase the cost to the agencies, thus it should not be on the consent calendar.

BISHOP COYNER: OK. Thanks for bringing that to our attention. We will check this afternoon. We're going to be voting on all items that have financial implications so they can be referred properly to GCFA in a timely manner. So we will check on that, and if that's the case, will get included with that list this afternoon.

GOODWIN: Then I have a second question.

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, sir?

GOODWIN: There are some of us who would like to pull this off the calendar. Would we then have extended time to do that, or should we proceed with the need to pull it off the calendar just in case?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: You would need to pull it off today.

BISHOP COYNER: You would need to pull it off today to get it pulled off, so if you wanna fill out the proper form to do that today, that could still happen.

GOODWIN: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, sir. We now turn to—is there another question in the back? Yes? Mic. 10.

*Call for Prayer to Begin
Legislative Sessions*

SUNSHINE S. BIRD (South Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. I respectfull—Sunshine Bird, South Georgia. Sunshine Bird, South Georgia.

(laughter)

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, you may proceed.

BIRD: Bishop, I respectfully request that we begin each plenary session in which votes will be taken, with prayer for God's guidance as we will vote during the specific session. May what we do enhance the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the formation of the world. Thank you, and God's blessings upon us all.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you very much, and we certainly will do that. We began this session with a full worship service, but we'll begin every session with prayer. You're right.

Report of Katrina Efforts

We turn now to the report of the Katrina effort. Let me call upon Bishop Bill Oden, who will speak briefly; and then there'll be a DVD to share with you how we're responding to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Bishop Oden?

BISHOP WILLIAM B. ODEN: August 28, 2005, Katrina slams into the Gulf Coast with screaming winds and swirling waters, devastating the area. Chaos, stench, and death spill over into all our living rooms. UMCOR provides emergency aid because of the generosity of United Methodists. Bishops Hutchinson, Ward, and Goodpaster then reported to the Council of Bishops the large number of local churches and parsonages that were totally demolished or severely damaged, all outside of UMCOR's mission.

The bishops' appeal for Katrina Church Recovery was then put in motion and the call went out. Con-

ferences and churches have responded generously and around \$3 million have been raised so far. Signs of hope abound; but Katrina fatigue has set in, and one of our most horrendous natural disasters has become only a word frozen in time. So this morning, we call on all of us to let images, memories, and reminders call us to recommit ourselves to renewed partnership in rebuilding and resurrection of this historic coastal area rich in United Methodism.

(video presentation)

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: We have treasure in earthen vessels. Power belongs to God and not to us. Therefore, we do not *(feedback)*, we do not *(feedback)*, we do not lose heart. I hold a broken thing from the Gulf Coast of the United States, and on your desk, delegates, this morning, you have been given a gift of a broken thing. Broken things like the one before you have been gathered into this cross. And as the artist gathered these things together, we see before us a beautiful example of God's healing and God's restoring power. I invite you to take that broken thing out, which you found on your desk this morning, and hold it, while we give thanks to God, who is the healer of hearts, the restorer of communities, and our strong hope.

On the Gulf Coast of the United States, we continue to hold in tension the lament for what we have loved and lost. Today, thirty-three months after Hurricane Katrina, in the State of Mississippi, 7,349 families continue to live in FEMA housing. We continue to receive 300 telephone calls a week asking for resis— for assistance. We give thanks that through the connection of the United Methodist people in the State of Mississippi, 11,000 families are back home.

(applause)

The 5-year-old son of one of our pastors asked his mother as she went

out for the 2nd anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, "Mama? How much longer will we have to remember Katrina?" Well, we give thanks that you continue to remember us, continue to join hands with us, continue to partner with us; your gifts matter. You are God's treasure to us.

Elizabeth Cumbest was fourteen years old on August 29th, 2005. God gave to her the idea to write songs and to sing those songs, and to invite offerings for the rebuilding of Seashore Mission, and to date, \$45,000 has been raised for Seashore Mission through Elizabeth's witness.

(applause)

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP WILLIAM W. HUTCHINSON: Those of us on the Gulf Coast are so grateful for everything that you have done in order to make our lives a little more tolerable over these past 3 years. You have given so much of yourselves. I would want to ask of you this morning that if you have been a part of a work team that has come to the Gulf Coast in order to work in the transformation of our area back to what it used to be, if you were in a work team, would you just stand where you are?

(applause)

Praise God, for your presence, praise God for your presence. Please remain standing. Now those of you who did not come to be as a part of a work team, but you did send a financial gift to help with disaster recovery, would you please stand? Those of you who sent financial gifts?

(applause)

We would praise your help. And now, if you would just remain standing, those of you who sent your prayers, your prayers for the recov

ery from these devastating hurricanes of 2005, would you stand? Those of you who prayed for this recovery?

(*applause*)

We are grateful to God for everything that you have done, for everything you continue to do, for the work is not finished, we continue to be in great need, we have much, much, much yet to do. So if you could join a team and come down and work, then come on down, because we need you. If you could continue to send your financial gifts, there will be an offering again this August for the Katrina relief; we continue to need great amounts of money. And if you will continue to pray for us, we need for you to do just that. Come on down to us on the Gulf Shore, continue to pray, send teams, and money. God bless, God keep you, and may God resurrect that whole area of God's world. Amen, and amen. We are going to sing now, just one quick little line of "*This Little Light of Mine*," and Elizabeth's gonna lead us.

(*music*)

TECHNICAL STAFF: Take this out with us.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. Well folks, we now turn to an election process that's going to take a lot of your patience and wisdom and also listening to these instructions. Let me invite you to turn in your DCA to p. 2004. That's p. 2-0-0-4 and 2-0-0-5, 2004, 2005. You'll see there the list of nominees for the Judicial Council and then for the University Senate. We'll be going through a voting process on these persons and I want to describe to you these instructions, so let me invite you to listen carefully.

Instructions for Judicial Council Balloting

The *Discipline* provides that no further nominations may be made besides these that are printed. The

number preceding each name is the ballot number, so when you want to vote for a name, you vote for the number in front of their name. That number will remain the same throughout the balloting process. You will be using your keypads. I have been assured they've been tested and audited for accuracy according to the rules of our conference. Let me remind you how that will work. You practiced it last Wednesday night when you voted for your favorite apostles. Do you remember?

(*laughter*)

You can push any number on the pad to activate it and then you will be entering the number corresponding to the first name in each category you want to vote for. You simply enter the number. If it has a two-digit number, you enter both digits like you would on a calculator. Verify the number. It will appear on your screen. It will be a little smaller than the ones and twos you've been seeing for voting 'yes' or 'no' because there's some multiple digits. The number will be a little bit smaller but you can still verify it. Make sure you have the correct number, and then you press the 'send' key. If you change your mind while the digital clock is counting down, you can enter a different number and press the 'send' key. The system will only register the last number that you sent from your keypad.

Because we're voting for more than one name in these categories—it'll be two in the layperson nominee for Judicial Council, for example—you'll need to vote twice. There'll be two countdowns of the clock. You'll vote for the first name, press 'send' by using the number for that name. After that countdown has done there'll be a second time to vote for your second selection. So, I will give you instructions at each time when to cast your vote. This is very important: If there are two names to vote for, you must vote for two different

people by using the numbers for their names or else your voting will be invalid. So, you'll have to respond both times when you're instructed to vote.

If for any reason you have a keypad that's not operating properly, you can raise it up in the air and technicians will come and either replace it or fix it for you. So you won't need to raise your yellow card to indicate you have a bad keypad. Raise your keypad in the air and we will send someone to fix it for you.

TECHNICAL STAFF: (unintelligible)

BISHOP COYNER: Because this voting is so important to our church and somewhat complicated, it'll be important for us to retain . . . remain silent during this process. So, once your questions are answered in just a moment, I will not recognize anyone else to speak unless it's a matter of urgent point of order because we really want to have a wonderful example of following God's spirits, guidance, and leadership as we conference around these selections. So, in just a moment we'll be voting first of all for the two layperson nominees for the Judicial Council. After we finish that—and they must be elected by majority so we'll keep voting 'til we have them—then we'll be voting on two clergy nominees. Then we will come back and vote on six alternates in the laity category and six alternates in the clergy. And in every case they must receive a vote, majority of votes. So you can see that we may be doing this repetitively for a while. Let me see if there's any questions about how the voting process will work. Yes, I see a yellow card here. Could you come to mic. 2, please?

KASAP' OWAN TSHIBANG (North West Katanga): (unintelligible)

BISHOP COYNER: Mic. 2.

TSHIBANG: Bishop, I will be speaking in French. (simultaneous translation)

BISHOP COYNER: OK, is our interpreter ready?

KASAP' OWAN TSHIBANG:
(*simultaneous translation*)

There is a mistake . . . because I should be on the first list. There is a mistake . . . I would request that my name appear under the chief executive officers rather than on the second list for the University Senate. We had noted that point to the secretariat but somehow it did not get changed.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. We're not yet ready for the University Senate but let me ask the secretary to research that and be prepared with an answer. The question is that no. 12 on the second list on p. 2005 is an executive officer of an educational institution and he believes he should be in the first list. So we shall research that and bring you an answer.

You have the answer now? Let's hear from our secretary.

REIST: He is the executive officer of a United Methodist institution. That has been researched. We were operating under a mistaken understanding that he had agreed to continue to have his name placed in the second portion of the list. The list was constructed based on the information we received from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. There is an error. He does belong in the first portion of the list.

BISHOP COYNER: OK, when we turn to those elections in for University Senate, we will try to remind you of that correction and see what we can do with it. Thank you, sir.

We are now ready to begin voting. On p. 2004 for the layperson nominees to the Judicial Council. You'll be voting in separate sequences for two different names. You'll be voting by the number next to their name. Those names will also appear, I believe, on the screen—

Back behind me. Yes, I have more questions at no. 11. Mic. 11, is there a question? I don't think she can get there. OK, mic. 11.

EVELYN MCDONALD (New York): Point of clarification. You said we were voting for two clergy. I believe we are voting for three.

BISHOP COYNER: We will be when we get to the clergy; you are correct, we will be voting for three in the clergy category, right now we are ready to vote for two in the lay category. You are correct, ma'am.

(*pause*)

I believe we have lost the video, but I think we will have to wait a moment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
There is, there is no video on the screen.

BISHOP COYNER: What we will be voting for in just a moment are the two lay nominees out of the 14 numbered choices you have on p. 2004. I am going to have to wait until we have a video feed to do that so it can show up on the screen for you. Do we have another question, sir, at mic.? He says he has a keypad not working. If you have a keypad not working, you hold it up and the technician will come help you with that. All right, if you have a keypad not working, I'm told that if you will stand and hold the keypad it will be easier to see you.

(*pause*)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We will proceed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
There is a question.

BISHOP COYNER: Mic. 5 for a question, sir.

WILLIAM (SCOTT) CAMPBELL (New England): Bishop, I believe that there is a mistake in the listing that is, there is a mistake in the listing that is before us.

Number 11, Ruben Reyes, is a nominee of the Council of Bishops, not from the floor.

BISHOP COYNER: You are correct, sir. Thank you. Yes, mic. 2. It is correct in the book, no. 11 is correct in the book. Yes, sir, mic. 2.

ROBERT E. LONG (Oklahoma): We just have a question. When we, if we punch in like if we want to vote for 10, 11, 12, none of us have it show the no. 10, 11, 12, it simply will register the first no. you pushed in. Is that how it's supposed to look? We're just, we're just a little confused before we start.

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, you're gonna be voting for one number at a time. So you'll vote, if it were, for example, I'll name a number that we don't have, no. 43, you would push "43" and "send" during the first clock operation. When that is finished, then I'll announce it's time to vote for your second choice, and you'll vote "enter" the second choice you vote for.

LONG: I understand . . . my . . . what I am saying is when we punch in 4 and 3, the first number 4 will show up, and then if you punch in the 3, the 4 goes away. You never see the no. 43 on your pad.

BISHOP COYNER: Let me ask our secretary to respond to your question.

REIST: I believe that when you use your pads and you go to double digits, you will find the numbers are much smaller and will appear in the corner of the screen, rather than in the center of the screen. So test that, and, you're not seeing anything at all? Then you have defective keypads. If you are not seeing anything at all.

(*laughter*)

BISHOP COYNER: Uh-oh.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: Sorry.

(*pause*)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not gonna appear?

BISHOP COYNER: I'm told . . . hang on folks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The keypads have not been initiated.

(laughter)

BISHOP COYNER: Let me tell you that I'm just being told that they are not activated yet, 'cause we haven't started the process, so hang loose.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But they will be smaller digits, right?

UNIDENTIFIED TECHNICAL STAFF SPEAKER: There will be smaller digits.

REIST: They will be smaller digits when you do them, when they're activated.

BISHOP COYNER: We're going to try it in just a moment. Let me see if there's a question, mic. 11, but we will make sure the technicians are ready before we start the voting process. Mic. 11, I believe, are you coming?

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON (New York): Bishop, I rise for a point of personal privilege. So that we are not inconvenienced, or, shall I say, concerned about the efficacy of the process. May we please have a dry run before we actually start the formal voting?

BISHOP COYNER: Let me check and see if that's possible.

(pause)

The answer I'm receiving is we're working with the computer technician to see if we can do a dry run. I agree with you, sir, that's a excellent idea, so if you will give us a moment we will make sure that is gonna be possible, and we'll see if we can try a dry run. We are ready for a dry run. Are there questions in the back that affect our doing a dry run? Number, mic. no. 10, then.

JEFF S. JERNIGAN (North Georgia): Maybe I can suggest that we all punch no. 10 to see if double

digits would work.

BISHOP COYNER: Let me see about the dry run.

(pause)

TECNICAL STAFF: When we, when we did the training at the first of the conference, we did apostles.

BISHOP COYNER: Right.

BISHOP COYNER: That's all right.

REIST: Let everybody vote for no. forty-three.

REIST: We don't want to skew it. *(unintelligible)*

TECHNICAL STAFF: *(unintelligible)*

REIST: We need a double-digit dry run, we're gonna have to do a double-digit *(unintelligible)*.

REIST: I don't know that we need to do a double-digit dry run, do we? OK, what do we got?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: We are repeating them already.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: How long will it take?

BISHOP COYNER: What we are checking on, folks, is we can do a dry run. May I have your attention? We can do a dry run using the apostles from the other night, but those were not double digits. We are checking to see if we can change that quickly to make the apostle choices a double-digit choice. We don't want to use the actual nominees as a dry run because we fear that would skew perceptions, and make that invalid.

(applause)

So we are going to try to do a dry run using the apostles. We are sure they would not mind,

(laughter)

but we're gonna see if we can do it, them, as double-digit numbers 'cause it seems to be there, the most

concern with your keypads is to make sure the double digits will work. So just give us a second and we'll let the technicians see what they can do.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, I see this *(unintelligible)* in here, please. If you will go to mic. 3, the person wishing to speak. We're still working on getting double-digit apostles. Mic. 3, ma'am.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Kansas West): While we were waiting, I wanted, I guess, a point of privilege. Is it possible to have a special offering during our time together on behalf of Katrina?

BISHOP COYNER: We will check on that and see if we can do that. I think we are just about ready to proceed with the voting though. Let me check on that.

BELL: OK, all right, that's fine, OK.

Testing the Voting System

BISHOP COYNER: OK, we're ready for a dry run. Are you ready? If you will put 'em up on the screen, please, the technicians. Here are your choices: you can choose the Apostle John, no. 11; the Apostle Thomas, no. 12; the Apostle James, no. 13; the Apostle Thaddeus, 14; the Apostle Judas—not Judas Iscariot, no. 15. You're gonna be voting for two, so it'll be a practice of the double sequence like we'll be doing for Judicial Council and later for legislative, for University Senate. So, are you ready? Let's see the numbers again and we'll again have you press your no. and "send" while the clock ticks down. I'll announce the first sequencing is done and have you do it a second time, and we'll get a dry run on voting for two persons. Any questions now about this dry run and how it works? Yes, I see a question back there, if you'd go to mic. 9, please. Again.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: Can you do that?

BISHOP COYNER: Again, we are going to be doing a dry run, voting for your 2 favorite apostles. Yes, sir, mic. 9.

RUDOLPH J. MERAB (Liberia): Bishop, my question is, could we have some single-digit numbers, to count down also because my fear is that it could be when you press 11 you could get a 1. So if you have 1 and 11 that would not (*unintelligible*) works.

BISHOP COYNER: Well I think right now, we are gonna try the double-digit ones first, to see if we have any issues there. That was the concern that we were trying to address. Let's try these.

MERAB: Bishop, the issue is, you could be pressing for 11 and you end up getting 1 in (*unintelligible*).

BISHOP COYNER: We'll give it a try. OK, let's see the list of the apostles again, and you'll prepare to vote for the first of your choices, and then we'll vote for the second of your choices.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: The list is on . . . the list is on the center screen.

BISHOP COYNER: The list is on the center screen, I'm told. So if you will now activate your keypads by pressing any button on there, they'll activate. Select your first choice of an apostle. Push those numbers and then press 'send.' You'll do that when the clock starts. When that process is finished, I'll have you do your second choice. Are you all ready? OK, when the clock starts now, press your first choice and 'send.'

(*applause*)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: (*unintelligible*) Going to go to 30 seconds for the (*unintelligible*)

BISHOP COYNER: OK, now be thinking about your second choice of the apostle. Don't enter that yet, 'til the clock appears; when the

clock appears, enter your second choice, and then you'll press 'send' again, and that'll enter your second choice for voting. Wait 'til the clock appears to vote. Now.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: A keypad down there needs (*unintelligible*). Have them stand if they have a defective keypad.

BISHOP COYNER: If you have a defective keypad, please stand and we'll get you help. All right, we'll wait for the voting results now. We realize a few of you had defective pads, we're fixing those. Let's see how the dry run worked.

(*pause*)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: We have the results.

BISHOP COYNER: Results are coming, I'm told. And there they are: [*Total ballots, 924; invalid ballots, 145; valid ballots, 779. Votes needed 390. Apostle John 478; James, 327; Thomas, 323; Thaddeus, 229; Judas, 201.*] We did elect . . . we had 924 votes cast, we had 145 invalid, so we need more practice, perhaps. Votes needed, 390; we elected the Apostle John as our first choice. You can tell by those totals that it worked, that it collected both of your votes. I see lots of people with questions and lots of keypads, so let me ask you to hang still for a minute. OK. Let's see if there are specific questions about the voting process. Yes, sir. If you would come to mic. 5, and then I'll go to the back to mic. 11.

GIB WALTON (Texas): Yes, Bishop, I just want to make sure that you don't have to vote zero-one, zero-two, zero-three, whatever the number.

BISHOP COYNER: You do not.

WALTON: OK. And it might give us a little more confidence, I would agree with the delegate in the back, if we could practice with single digits and double digits to make sure it works. But . . .

BISHOP COYNER: I'm gonna, I'm gonna trust you can do it. If you've been doing single digits for the yes and no, I think you can do that, and we just did the double digit. I had a person at mic. 11, I called upon, I believe? Are you still up? Same question, it was? OK, I see someone else at mic. 11?

STEPHANIE DECKARD (North Central New York): Bishop, I have a request that we change the time back to twenty-five seconds. I have a concern . . .

BISHOP COYNER: It'll actually be thirty, ma'am, it'll be thirty when we do the actual voting for Judicial Council nominees. So you'll have more time.

DECKARD: OK. Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: You're welcome. I wonder . . . pages in the back doors are open, and we're getting a terrible glare here, so I can't see the back rows of the auditorium. I wonder if the pages could shut the back . . . they just did. Thank you very much. I can see the back now. I see a question by mic., I believe it's 8? Sir, if you are standing, there?

TIMOTHY J. RISS (New York): Bishop, I am concerned that so many invalid ballots may be more the issue of technical problems rather than laity and clergy failing to punch in the numbers correctly.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. Our technicians are checking on that to see what was the cause of invalid ballots. Do we know any more?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: We (*unintelligible*) invalid ballots, and the entire system is checked two or three times, so they just, the delegates have to be careful with it.

BISHOP COYNER: It's primarily folks voting for the same number twice. So don't do that, as we now move, we are gonna now move to voting for Judicial Council. Are you ready to do it? We've practiced; I think you are ready.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE
SPEAKER: Now center screen.

BISHOP COYNER: We'll now put the Judicial Council nominee, layperson nominees in the center screen.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Get ready.

BISHOP COYNER: I'm really wanting to move into the voting process. Let's see, the back, very back row...mic. 11, I guess...or nearly the back row? I saw a yellow card? Are you going to the mic.? Yes. Mic. 11.

DALE WEATHERSPOON (California-Nevada Conference): We still have some folks here in the back that have key—defective keypads.

BISHOP COYNER: OK. If you have a defective keypad, if you'll please stand and hold it up, we have people coming. I only see one. Are there others?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Yeah, there's (*unintelligible*)

BISHOP COYNER: Back in the very back, on the, on my left, there are several. So we won't move to voting until you have those resolved.

(*pause*)

Are you having fun yet?

TECHNICAL STAFF: Tell them to push the 'clear' key.

BISHOP COYNER: I am being told if you are having trouble with the keypad, you might press the 'clear' key, to see if that restores it to good functioning.

TECHNICAL STAFF: It should, it should read 'Ready.'

BISHOP COYNER: And it should, then, read 'Ready,' when you press the 'clear' key, it should read 'Ready.'

TECHNICAL STAFF: In the upper right-hand corner.

BISHOP COYNER: In the upper right-hand corner. OK, anyone else? The very back, there's still a couple back there with keypad problems. The technician's coming to you

Meanwhile, we have a question at mic. 6, I believe.

MIKE F. CHILDS (Mississippi): Bishop, since we have more than a dozen keypads that were defective, and have not been tested, shouldn't we have another test run, to be sure they work, now?

BISHOP COYNER: No, we've test the whole system, we think it's just a matter helping the individuals operate them. The system's been checked two or three times, I think we're ready. As soon as the last couple in the back . . . I'm looking for the technician.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: He's there in the black shirt. So far each keypad ended being totally effective, it's been operative.

BISHOP COYNER: OK. You want me to say it? I am told that so far, every keypad that has been quote "defective" has turned out to be the person was operating it incorrectly. So, we believe the keypads are correct. There could be some human error involved, which is normal. I am reminded that John Wesley taught that perfection is not perfectionism; that he, in fact, raised the question that, as we move on toward perfection, he asked the question, 'Shall we then be flawless?' And he said, 'Indeed, not.' We are living proof of that today.

(*laughter*)

BISHOP COYNER: Are we ready, now, I believe? (*audible sigh*) I see one more yellow card waving at me, mic. 8? Mic. 8, please.

BISHOP COYNER: Mic. 8, please.

ILUNGA KANDOLO (North Katanga): [*Introduction and comment interpreted*]

BISHOP COYNER: May we have the translation, please?

KANDOLO: (*simultaneous translation*) Yes. If there are more—Kandolo from North Katanga—if there are more keypads in the room, could

this influence voting? Could people vote on two keypads?

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you for your question, but no—

KANDOLO: (*simultaneous translation*) I did not say if we vote on two keypads, but *in case* we vote on two keypads, would this influence?

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, one, one delegate, one keypad is our rule. Thank you. A question here, yellow card. Is it a question? Would you come to mic. 2, please. We really are gonna vote here in just a moment, folks. Mic. 2.

TARA SUTTON (Detroit): Bishop, I would just like to ask, can we just have a moment of prayer right now and go ahead and vote? Is that possible?

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, ma'am, that is.

SUTTON: Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: We're gonna, we're gonna move towards voting for the layperson nominees for Judicial Council, but I think you're right; we need settle ourselves in prayer. And then I'll give you the instructions after we pray, and you'll proceed to vote. Let's pray.

(*prayer*)

First Ballot for Judicial Council

When you see the timer appear on the screen, then, you can enter the first number of the first name you wish to vote for. The timer will count down, and then I'll be leading you into voting for the second choice. So, if you would make your first selection now. When the time appears, enter your selection and punch "send." You may vote when the timer appears. OK. We've concluded the first part of this ballot. If you would now look at the second person under the layperson nominees you wish to vote for, have their number in mind, and when the time appears enter their number and press send. You may vote when the timer appears. Vote now. OK. In just a moment we'll have the results. It is re-

quired that a person must receive a majority of the votes, so we'll see if we have anyone who's been elected on this first effort. Results are being certified; and as soon as they are certified by the technicians and the system, then they will appear on your screens. And the results are in numerical order. We have no elections. There were 960 valid ballots cast. Of those, only 58 were invalid, so you did well. 902 valid, 452 needed to be elected. There are no elections, but they're listed in numerical order of votes received, then are the votes. Let me read them to you. You may want to write some of these down in your book as you prepare to vote again. We'll do this voting again almost immediately. Angela Brown, 406; Ruben Reyes, 364; Mary Ann Daffin, 315; Raymond Mutombo, 304; Solomon Christian, 78; Daniel Ivey-Soto, 68; Deanell Tacha—forgive me if I mispronounce your name or these names—51; Jay Garrison, 51; William White, 45; Ron Enns, 33; Hananiya Gwandum, 32; Thomas Byerly, 20; Juliao Mauale, 19; and Jack Ryder, 18.

We're ready for the next vote. We're gonna do it again now. Yes, mic. 2. Is this a voting question? Otherwise I have to not take it. Mic. 2.

DEVIN W. MAUNEY (Desert Southwest): Bishop, I wanted to ask that before we take the next vote that we get a report from the technology folks so we can find out if those 58 ballots all had a similar rule that was not being understood by those people. It could just be briefly explained.

BISHOP COYNER: I will ask. I will ask the technicians if there was a particular issue.

(pause)

The answers is there's no way they tell you specifically whether one ballot was invalid for the same reason or not. Mic.—I guess, come down to mic. 2 perhaps. Three, mic. 3 in front.

JACK RYDER (Northern Illinois): Jack.

(laughter)

BISHOP COYNER: It's on.

RYDER: Yes, sir. Jack Ryder, Northern Illinois. Is it possible for me to withdraw from the voting for Judicial Council and remain on the ballot for alternate?

BISHOP COYNER: My understanding is that the system won't allow us to take your name off, but we will allow you to share that as a personal request, which you're just doing and invite people not to vote for no. 12—

RYDER: Number 12.

BISHOP COYNER: —on this round.

RYDER: Yes, sir, my seventeen friends. Thank you.

(laughter)

BISHOP COYNER: And that's, that is your request?

(laughter)

We don't have time for you to call all seventeen of your friends, but—

(laughter)

Thank you, sir. We're ready to vote again. If you would have your keypad in hand, select the first person you want to vote for again; and when the digital clock appears, enter the number and "send" while the clock appears. Vote now.

OK. If you would select a second name you want to vote for by number, it must be a different person, remember. And when the digital clock appears, enter that number and send. Vote now.

OK, just a moment. The results will appear, and we'll see if we have any elections on this second ballot.

(pause)

[Total Ballots, 964; Invalid Ballots, 50; Valid Ballots, 914; Votes Needed, 458]

And the answer is, we've elected two.

(applause)

I won't read the entire list. They'll be up there for a moment for you to see, but there were 964 ballots cast—50 were invalid; 914 valid; needed to elect, 458. And Angela Brown, with 483, and Ruben Reyes, with 458, are both elected as laypersons to the Judicial Council. You can applaud for them.

(applause)

[Angela Brown, 483; Ruben Reyes, 458; Mary A. Daffin, 353; Raymond Mande Mutombo, 334; Solomon Christian, 44; Daniel Ivey-Soto, 41; Deanell Tacha, 27; Hananiya H. Gwandum, 24; William F. White, 17; Jay Arthur Garrison, 16; Juliao V. Mauale, 9; Ron Enns, 9; Thomas K. Byerly, 7; Jack Ryder, 6]

OK, we're gonna move on now to clergy nominees; and in this category, these are, these members of the Judicial Council are in classes, rotating years, and so the numbers change each General Conference. In this case, for this General Conference, we'll be electing three clergy nominees; and those names are found on p. 2004, the same page you've been on. The clergy nominees are one through thirteen. Same voting process, except we'll be doing three sequences this time. So be thinking about which three names you will vote for by number; again, you'll enter their number and the "send" button while the clock is counting down. Are you ready? So now as the clock counts down, enter the first number of the first name you wish to vote for and then the word "send." Vote when the clock appears.

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

All right, now you'll be selecting your second name to vote for; and once again will be entering that number and pressing "send," so if you will select that number, and press "send" when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right then, you need to be preparing to select your third name. Remember these all must be different names. And once again, you'll be entering their number and then "send." You'll do that when the digital countdown clock appears.

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

All right, if you'll hold still, we'll wait for the results of the first clergy ballot to come up.

(pause)

I have a question back there. We'll try to respond to it. Is it a keyboard question? Got a keypad question here for someone? Thank you.

(pause)

If you'll wait till we get the results, ma'am, then we'll let you speak.

(pause)

[Total Ballots, 963; Invalid Ballots, 68; Valid Ballots, 895; Votes Needed, 448. Kathi Austin-Mahle, 395; F. Belton Joyner, 369; William B. Lawrence, 331; Keith Boyette, 328; Gloria Brooks, 304; James D. Karblee, 280; Joe May, 151; Robert F. Kohler, 149; John Harnish, 117; Rodney E. Wilmoth, 81; Larry Baird, 73; Vicki Woods, 67; J. Montgomery (Monty) Brown, 40]

Here are the results. There are no elections. Nine hundred and sixty-three ballots cast; only 68 invalid. Four, I mean, 895 cast valid, 448 needed. The elections results and numerical results are listed for you. Let me read them this first time. Kathi Austin-Mahle, 395; Belton Joyner, 369; William B. Lawrence, 331; Keith Boyette, 328; Gloria Brooks, 304; James Karblee, 280; Joe May, 151; Robert Kohler, 149; John Harnish, 117; Rod Wilmoth, 81; Larry Baird, 73; Vicki Woods, 67; Monty Brown, 40. So we will be voting again. There are no elections. You will once again be voting for three. Leave those results up on the screen just a moment so you can make your decisions, and then we'll move to the voting process.

(pause)

OK, are you ready to vote? Then once again, select your first choice, the first person you wish to vote for of the clergy nominees. Enter their number; and press "send" when the clock appears, so you will vote when the clock appears.

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

OK, we're ready for the second sequence. Select the second person you wish to vote for. Enter their number and the word "send" when the clock appears.

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

OK. We're gonna be ready now for the third sequence, the third name you want to select to vote for their number. When the clock appears, you'll enter their number and the word "send."

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

OK. We'll wait to the results to appear. Let me just give you a sense of my plan. My plan is we'll finish these elections, including the six alternates in each category; then we'll take the morning break and come back to do University Senate. So hopefully this will proceed quickly now that we've got our rhythm going; and we'll finish this Judicial Council selections first, and then we'll take a break. So when the results are ready, we'll see them.

(pause)

OK. The results are here for us. We have two elections. Nine sixty-one votes cast; invalid, 66; valid ballots, 895; votes needed, 448. Kathi Austin-Mahle, 478, is elected, as is Belton Joyner, with 451.

(applause)

Let me suggest for your own assistance on p. 2004 that you draw a line through the names of those who've been elected so you don't vote for them by mistake—so Angela Brown in the lay category and Ruben Reyes in the lay category, Kathi Austin-Mahle in the clergy and Belton Joyner in the clergy. The other results are listed on the screen, so you will be voting for only one clergy this time around. You will be voting for only one this time.

(pause)

[William B. Lawrence, 412; Keith Boyette, 376; Gloria Brooks, 330; James D. Karblee, 275; Joe May, 101; Robert F. Kohler, 88; John Harnish, 62; Larry Baird, 36; Robert F. Wilmoth, 29; Vicki Woods, 25; Angela Brown, 22]

OK. You ready? Select the one name you want to vote for, enter their number, and press "send" when the digital clock appears.

(pause)

Vote now.

BISHOP MICHAEL J.

COYNER: All right, we'll wait for the results to appear.

(pause)

There is no election. Nine thirty-three ballots cast; 467 needed. The highest vote-getter was William Lawrence, with 423; Keith Boyette, 227, and the others are as listed. [William B. Lawrence, 423; Keith Boyette, 277; James D. Karblee, 61; Gloria Brooks, 57; Joe May, 37; Robert F. Kohler, 31; Larry Baird, 16; J. Montgomery (Monty) Brown, 11; John Harnish, 10; Vicki Woods, 7; Rodney F. Wilmoth, 3] So we'll give you just a moment, and we'll be voting one more time—or more times than one—for one name again this time. Notice there was zero invalid ballots. Yeah!

(applause)

Almost perfection, but you didn't elect anybody.

(laughter)

All right, we'll prepare to vote. You'll be selecting only one name or number to vote for. Enter the number of the person you wish to select, press "send," and do that when the digital clock appears.

(pause)

Vote now.

OK, we're waiting for the results.

(pause)

(applause)

All right. The results, you've already read them obviously. Nine thirty-eight; zero invalid; needed to elect, 469; and William B. Lawrence, with 517 is elected. So you've elected the three clergy members of the Judicial Council. You may applaud. [William

B. Lawrence, 517; Keith Boyette, 329; James D. Karblee, 25; Gloria Brooks, 18; Joe May, 18; Angela Brown, 7; Robert F. Kohler, 7; John Harnish, 6; Larry Baird, 4; Vicki Woods, 3; Rodney E. Wilmoth, 2]

(applause)

OK. Now the hard part starts. We're gonna go back to the lay nominees, and we need to elect six more alternates. We've been doing some checking back here; and let me just tell you Paragraph 2603 of the *Book of Discipline* says they must all receive majority votes, so I cannot entertain any motions for, you know, the highest six voter or anything like that. We have to elect all six of 'em. So when you vote this time for cler—for laity, we're going to be voting for six alternates. We'll have six sequences of voting times. Do not vote for No. 1 or No. 11; they've both been elected already. If you do that, you'll be invalid. You must vote for six different names. Everybody understand what we're doing? We're voting for the laity alternates, six alternates at this time.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: He needs another minute, Bishop.

BISHOP COYNER: Just want to make sure everybody is clear what we're doing. So do not vote for No. 1 or No. 11. You can vote for any of the other numbers. You must vote for six different numbers, six different persons. The technicians are clearing the system out to absorb all this data. That was as technically as I understand what it is they're doing in that language right there. They're clearing it out. When they're ready, we'll have the voting screen in just a moment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You ready for center, center screen?

BISHOP COYNER: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: OK. Center screen is up now.

BISHOP COYNER: Center screen is up with the—center screen

is up with the names who are eligible for you to vote for. The others are blanked out, I believe. That hopefully will help you. Waiting for the computer to catch up with us here.

(pause)

Some of you may be old enough to have been here in the good old days when this all was done by printed ballots counted by hand.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you'd have to wait for days and days.

BISHOP COYNER: Anybody old enough to remember those good old days? Hanging chads and things like that?

(laughter)

Only in Florida, yes. OK. Are we ready? Not quite. Our technicians are excluding the people on the computer program that have already been elected, just to make sure we don't have a faux pas here, so that's what they're trying to do to help you out.

I'm asked to remind you again that you'll be voting for six, and you must vote for six different names. OK, we're ready for your first selection. If you would select the first name you want to vote for, enter their number on your keypad followed by the word "send." Do that when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right, now if you'll prepare to select your second name, enter that number and the word "send" once the digital clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

Thank you, if you'd select your third name you wish to vote for. And when the digital clock appears, you'll enter their name by number

and then press “send”; and you’ll vote for your third person. Please vote when the digital clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right, we’re ready for you to select your fourth name. If you would select their name and enter their number and the word “send” to vote for them once the digital clock appears. You may vote.

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

Thank you. If you select the fifth name you want to vote for and be prepared to enter their number and then press the word “send” once the digital clock appears, you’ll be ready to vote. Vote now.

(pause)

All right. If you’ll be prepared to select your sixth person to vote for, and when the digital clock appears, enter their number and press the word “send.” When the digital clock appears, you may vote.

(pause)

Vote now.

(pause)

OK. We’ll wait just a moment. It’ll take a minute for the results to appear. Again, same rules—they need to have a majority of votes to be selected.

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: OK. We’ll wait just a moment it’ll take a minute for the results to appear. Again, same rules, they need to have a majority of votes to be selected, and we have to finish the voting of these before we move to the alternates for the clergy. I am told it takes awhile to compile because Bishop Davis and Bishop Craig have run out of fingers and

toes behind me. Is that correct? Here are the results. We have elected a bunch—964 votes cast, 218 invalid, 746 valid, votes needed 374, we’ve elected all 6. [*Juliao V. Mauale, 185; Jack Ryder, 279; Hananiya H. Gwandum, 297; Solomon Christian, 312; Ron Enns, 314; Daniel Ivey-Soto, 337; Mary A. Daffin, 406; Thomas K. Byerly, 409; Deanell Tacha, 416; Raymond Mande Mutoombo, 439; William F. White, 487; Jay Arthur Garrison, 595*].

(applause)

BISHOP COYNER: Jay Arthur Garrison with 595; William F. White, 487; Raymond Mande Mutoombo, with 439; Deanell Tacha, with 416; Thomas Byerly, with 409; and Mary Daffin with 406 have all been elected, those will be the six laity alternates to the Judicial Council. Let’s applaud for those folks.

(applause)

And we will be ready in a couple of minutes to turn to the clergy nominees; we will do the same thing. Let me remind you again how this one works. It is also six alternates, according to paragraph 2603 in the *Book of Discipline*. You have already elected three, so don’t vote for any of those three. Those three you have elected are Kathi Austin-Mahle, no. 1; F. Belton Joyner, no. 7; and William B. Lawrence, no. 10. So don’t vote for any of those three or that will make your ballots invalid. You must vote for six different people. So you can vote for 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, or 13. Those are the valid ones you can vote for. And we will be using the same process as soon as they clear out the computer system. I asked them if, since you are getting so good, if they could speed up the clock. They said they could do that, but it would take several minutes to speed up the clock.

(laughter)

So it doesn’t seem worth it, does it? So as soon as they are ready, we

will have the voting screen appear and we will do the same process of selecting each vote individually, entering them followed by ‘send,’ and we will do the process and see how we do with the clergy alternates for the Judicial Council. We are ready. So if you will select the first name you wish to vote for, and when the digital clock appears, enter that no. and then press ‘send,’ do that when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right, if you will select the second person you wish to vote for, when the digital clock appears, enter their no. followed by pressing ‘send’ and that will be your voting. So vote when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right, thank you. If you will select a third person you wish to vote for as a clergy alternate for the Judicial Council, when the digital clock appears, enter their no. followed by pressing ‘send’ to vote. Vote when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right, thank you; if you would select a fourth name you wish to vote for, when the digital clock appears enter their no., press ‘send’ and that will cast your vote. Vote when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

Thank you; if you will select the next person you wish to vote for, enter their no. and press ‘send’ when the digital clock appears that will cast your vote. So vote when the clock appears. Vote now.

(pause)

All right, thank you; if you will select the sixth person you wish to vote for when the digital clock appears, push in their no. and the word ‘send’ and that will cast your vote.