

BISHOP ODEN: This motion is before you to send this communiqué as read. Please vote when the light is on. It is so ordered. And let us take a moment in our own way to reflect on our experience last evening of confession and repentance, and how that reality is at the very heart of the good news as we send this communiqué representing that indeed, my friends, in the Christian community we're not better than nor lower than any other expression of the faith. All of us are distinct in our own ways. All of us have our own histories. And in this communiqué that you've sent, we are indeed bonded together in Christian love with all of humanity, but a special bonding with those that confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Let's think about that for a moment to gether.

(Prayer)

We turn now to a special responsibility for the nominations for Judicial Council and the University Senate. First of all, I would like to call your attention to paragraph 2602 in the *Book of Discipline*, and I'm reading, "At each quadrennial session of the General Conference, the Council of Bishops shall nominate by majority vote three times the number of ordained ministers and lay persons to be elected at such session of the General Conference. At the same session at which the above nominations are announced, nominations of both ministers and lay persons may be made from the floor, but at no other time. The names of all nominees identified with the conference to which each belongs and a biographical sketch that does not exceed one hundred words, shall be published by the *Daily Christian Advocate* 48 hours prior to the time of election." This is the paragraph we're dealing with at this time. Now we'd like for you to turn to page 1749 in your *DCA*, Volume 4, Number 3, 1749, in the lower right-hand corner. These are the nominees of your Council of Bishops which stand as nominees for election. There is one change. The fourth person nominated, Wesley Bailey, is not nominated. You should draw a line through that name and instead a Central Conference person, Rodolfo Beltran, from the Philippines, is a replacement nominee by the Council of Bishops. To facilitate this nomination process, I would ask persons who have other names to place in nomination to move to mikes and I will rotate through the mikes. And as the nominations are made, you need to identify who you are as a nominator, the category, lay or clergy, to which you are nominating, the person's name and conference. And that is all you need to say. There are no speeches at this time. As the nomination

tor, you are responsible for the biographical statement that will be printed along with all others in the *DCA* 48 hours prior to the election next week. The floor is open for nominations to the Judicial Council. You have a nomination, please move to the mikes. Mike four.

BILL COUCH (North west Texas): A lay person for the Judicial Council, Ed Hill, from North west Texas Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, I need to make one more explanation. Write your nominee down on a sheet paper—the information that you have given—that we are assured that we get the correct spelling and the correct reference. So thank you. Nominators, be sure to bring that immediately. Send it by page, to the Conference Secretary. Now turn to Mike two.

ALDO MARTIN (Florida): Nominate Daniel Ivey-Soto, New Mexico Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Lay or clergy?

MARTIN: Lay.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. Mike eight.

TYRONE GORDON (Kansas West): I'd like to nominate Elsie Crickard, clergy from South Central Jurisdiction, Kansas West.

BISHOP ODEN: Number five.

MEL BOWDAN (Kentucky): I'd like to make a lay nomination. Mary A. Daffin, Texas Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike six.

DAVID RICHARDSON (California Pacific): I'd like to nominate the Honorable Ted Todd, lay person.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike four.

ALVIN HORTON (Virginia): I'd like to nominate Lonnie D. Brooks, lay member of the Alaska Missionary Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike two.

LEICESTER LONGDON (West Michigan): I'd like to nominate a lay candidate, Steven Lett, from West Michigan.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike six.

INEZ DAWES (Iowa): I'd like to nominate a clergy candidate, Rev. Tom Grifith from the Cal-Pac Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike one.

BARBARA LEMMEL (Troy): I would like to nominate the Rev. Francine Taylor-Thirus from Northern Illinois Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike four.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): I would like to place a name in nomination, the name of James Holsinger from the Kentucky Conference. Lay.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike six.

NOE VALDERAMA (North-West Mindanao): I'd like to nominate attorney Oscar Ferrer from the Philippine Central Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike one.

RUBIN PERRY (North Georgia): I'd like to place a nomination. The name of Paul Ervin who is a lay.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike four.

MAXIE DUNNAM (Kentucky): I'd like to nominate a clergy, Rev. Keith Boyette from the Virginia Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike three.

SHARON MOE (Pacific Northwest): I'd like to place a nomination, lay member Sally Geis of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Mike one.

JULIUS ARCHIBALD (Troy): I'd like to nominate a clergy nominee, Rev. Tom Shanklin of the Troy Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Sally Geis is already nominated, so that nomination will not come from the floor. She is on the list already. Is there any one else at mike one? I see no other persons at mikes. Therefore I will declare that the nominations for the Judicial Council. Do you have an additional nomination? Please move to mike eight.

SAM WYNN (North Carolina): I'd like to nominate Belton Joyner, clergy.

BISHOP ODEN: What conference?

SAM WINN: North Carolina Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: OK. If you have nominations, please move to the mikes. We're trying to facilitate this. I see one person here. I don't see any one else moving to the mike. OK, person at number two and then we'll turn to mike one.

DAVID WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): A laity, Miss Ann Saunkeah from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Lay or clergy? David?

DAVID WILSON: Laity.

BISHOP ODEN: Number one.

NIPPY-TOE JACKSON (Liberia): I would like to nominate James Lamark Cox of the Liberian Annual Conference, Monrovia, Liberia. A layperson.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. I would declare that the nominations for Judicial Council are closed.

BISHOP BLAKE: No one else at the mike. Now we turn to ... (pause), yes, did

you want to make a nomination? I did not, (pause) OK, move to number five, please.

MARK TROTTER: (California Pacific) I'd like to move to suspend the rules, if that's in order, Bishop.

BISHOP BLAKE: What you are doing is to suspend the rules for what purpose?

TROTTER: To allow the General Conference to consider the petitions related to membership that are before them.

BISHOP BLAKE: Is there a second? (Pause) It is seconded.

TROTTER: That the motion is to permit the legislative committees that have been assigned petitions seeking to amend the 1996 *Discipline*, paragraphs 215, 222.1 through 5; 227.2; 231.1 and to consider them as petitions to delete the 1992 *Discipline* paragraphs 216.4; 222 through 224; 232.1 and 2 and replace them with the language of the 1996 *Discipline* paragraphs which include the amendments proposed in the DCA.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, now this item; that's the subject of the reason for the suspension of the rules. If you suspend the rules to deal with this matter, you are suspending your agenda and the rules to deal with this matter. If you will suspend the rules to deal with this matter vote accordingly when the light comes on.

#### *University Senate Nominations*

BISHOP BLAKE: The rules are not suspended for that purpose.

Now let's go to the University Senate nominations. These nominations are also in your DCA on p. 1749 and in the Judicial Council, I mean in the University Senate, in the *Book of Discipline*, the members elected by the General Conference shall be nominated and elected by the following procedure, reading from paragraph 1417: "Twelve persons shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops . . ." and the qualifications for those persons are identified. Then, "At the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor but at no other time."

On page 1749, in the right hand column, you have the nominations by the Council of Bishops for University Senate. Please note those names. These persons are already in nomination.

Now, the floor is open for additional nominations for the University Senate. We will follow the same procedure. Please move to mikes and I will rotate among the mikes. Again, be sure you give the name of the person and mark on this card of nomination "University Senate," so we will be sure

to distinguish those from those who were nominated by the Judicial Council for the University Senate. I see some one at mike six. Mike six, please.

CONNIE DIXON: (California Pacific conference) I would like to nominate Dr. Willie Jones, lay person, California-Pacific conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Would you, as nominations are made, we have categories of persons to be nominated. Would you identify in your nomination the position that this person holds in relationship to higher education. The elections are for persons who are chief executive officers of United Methodist related educational institutions and persons holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationships. I think that reference would be helpful in terms of the nominating process. We have returned to mike six. You have made your nomination. Position, and the relationship to higher education that this person holds?

CONNIE DIXON: Dr. Jones is a dean at Compton College in Compton, California.

BISHOP BLAKE: Please include that in your nomination sheet. Number 8.

BEN ALFORD: Clergy delegate, Tennessee conference. I would like to place in nomination Dr. Ted Brown, president, Martin Methodist College.

BISHOP BLAKE: Mike 2.

FLO MARTIN: (South Georgia Conference) I would like to place in nomination, Dr. Charlene Black, lay, South Georgia, assistant . . . as sociate vice president for academic affairs and dean of undergraduate studies at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia.

BISHOP BLAKE: Mike 8.

DAVID E. PEÑALVA: (South Indiana conference) I would like to nominate Dr. David Maldonado. He is the newly appointed president of Illiff College, Illiff School of Theology, excuse me, and he's from the Rio Grande conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Mike one.

WIL LIAM H. HINSON (Texas Conference): I would like to nominate Dr. Maxie Dunnam, who is president of Asbury seminary.

BISHOP BLAKE: Number six.

CHEOL H. KWAK: (California Pacific Conference) I would like to place a nomination for Dr. Leong S. Lee, from Iowa conference. He's a professor at Iowa State University in Political Science also serving as CPT.

BISHOP BLAKE: I see no other persons on mikes, therefore I will declare that the nominations for University Senate are closed. Thank you for the participation in this process. Again, these will all be published in the DCA and the elections will take place in plenary next week.

BISHOP BLAKE: Now, friends, many of you have been here since eight o'clock. It's 10:30. I would like for you to look at your watches, because in thirteen minutes we will have the action before us on the Connectional Process Team Report, so look at your watches, thirteen minutes, we will begin our session exactly at that time.

(Singing)

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you so much, and please be seated, as we continue the agenda as you adopted. Let the conference be in order. Not quite everybody is here yet.

We would like to announce for delegates that the deadline for the biographical information for the nominees for Judicial Council and the University Senate, the deadline is 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. I will ask Carolyn Marshall, our secretary, to make that announcement again at the end of the morning. But some of you who are responsible for that need to be attentive to that, three o'clock this afternoon. Now we're under an order of the day at this time, an order that you prescribed in your rules on Tuesday. And let me remind you what you voted on Tuesday in terms of your rules. The rule relating to Friday morning is as follows:

"On Friday, May 5, following the Africa University Report"—if you want references, this is on page 1730 of your DCA—"the floor of the conference shall be open for debate upon amendments to or any other action upon the report as the conference may direct. This action shall precede any legislative committee's action on specific petitions related to the CPT report." This has been fulfilled, the last half of that motion, in that there are no legislative committee actions concerning this report. So that has been fulfilled.

Now we turn to the Connectional Process Team. Minerva Carcaño is a representative of the team who will put the matter before us from the team. This Connectional Process Team was authorized by the 1996 session of General Conference, so it has the standing of a committee that the General Conference has authorized. She will put the matter before us from the committee, and then we'll have an opportunity to speak to putting the matter before us. So we turn to Minerva Carcaño.

MINERVA CARCAÑO (Rio Grande): Buenas días. I greet you in the name and in

the peace of Je sus Christ on this fifth day of May, Cinco de Mayo, a day of great lib er a tion and cel e bra tion for Mex ico.

(Applause)

And the peo ple of God say viva México y viva la grande Iglesia Metodista de México.

*Adop tion of “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” Rec ommended*

I would refer you to the report of Connectional Process Team, which is found in your Ad vance Edi tion of the *Daily Chris tian Advo cate*, volume one, section one, pages 5 through 21. The Ad vanced Edi tion of the *DCA* vol ume one, sec tion one, pages 5 through 21. In an ef fort to fa cil i tate the del i ber a tions of this Gen eral Con fer ence on this morn ing, the Con nec tional Pro cess Team has a rec om mend a tion. The Con nec tional Pro cess Team rec om mends the adop tion of the sec tion of its re port ti tled “Liv ing Into the Fu ture.” This sec tion is found on pages 18, be gin ning on the sec ond column, and ex tending through page 20. We would fur ther rec om mend that the first sec tion of the re port, pages one through 18, be referred to gen eral church Cov enant Coun cil pro posed in the “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” sec tion for its fur ther study and con sid er a tion. I would like to speak to the mo tion if I am al lowed.

BISHOP BLAKE: Yes, is there a sec ond?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sec onded.

BISHOP BLAKE: It’s sec onded.

CARCAÑO: The CPT has sought to lis ten to God’s will for The United Meth od ist Church through prayer and the study of Scrip ture, through the good work of our sis ters and our broth ers who worked tire lessly on the Con nec tional Is sues Study, as well as through the vi sion ary work of the Coun cil of Bishops in their study of the global na ture of The United Meth od ist Church.

We have also attempted to hear God’s will through Christian conferencing with United Meth od ists through out the con nec tion, and now as we gather as the Gen eral Con fer ence. We are clear on the fact that God has placed on our col lec tive heart the need for change. Change not for the sake of change, but for the sake of the mis sion of the church: to make dis ci ples of Je sus Christ, faith ful fol low ers of Christ who pro claim that in Je sus Christ is found our sal va tion, dis ci ples who live in God’s reign of jus tice in vit ing oth ers to do the same for the peace of all of God’s cre a tion.

The re port of the Coun cil of Bishops, the re port of the la ity, the Gen eral Coun cil on Min is try re port, have pointed to the need for change. Our con ver sa tion through Wed nes day’s re flec tion groups of discernment have

held up the need for change. Our con ver sa tions as a Con nec tional Pro cess Team with United Meth od ists from across the church spoke the need for change. In this spirit of seeking con firm a tion of what we un der stand to be God’s will by lis ten ing to God’s peo ple, we are also clear that change in The United Meth od ist Church must come grad u ally. By adopt ing the “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” sec tion of the Con nec tional Pro cess Team re port, the Gen eral Con fer ence would ini ti ate a pro cess of grad ual change that would enable The United Meth od ist Church to move in a trans for ma tional di rec tion, in those ar eas where the dis cern ment pro cess of this very Gen eral Con fer ence has af firmed that there is con sen sus—mainly, our need of God’s trans for ma tion; sec ondly, the need to pray er fully and to geth er discern God’s vi sion for the church; the need for us to model a new style of lead ership that makes us part ners in mis sion—la ity and clergy United Meth od ists in the U.S., in the Phil ip pines and Af rica, and in Asia, part ners in mis sion to all the globe.

Adopting the “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” sec tion would also en able us to con tinue our Chris tian conferencing on that point which we are yet not clear—on which we are yet not clear: How do we live to geth er, work to geth er, serve to geth er as United Meth od ists who by the grace of God now rep re sent not only the di ver sity of the United States, but also the rich di ver sity of God’s peo ple in the Phil ip pines and Af rica and in Eu rope. The adop tion of the “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” sec tion of the CPT re port would es tab lish a Cov enant Coun cil whose life as di rected in the re port would span only for the next quad ren nium and that would be ac count able to the 2004 Gen eral Con fer ence, with the added re spon si bil ity of re port ing its progress an nu ally to all of the annual con fer ences of the de nom i na tion as well as to the Coun cil of Bishops.

The CPT ear nestly be lieves that the adop tion of the “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” sec tion, with the re fer ral of the bal ance of the CPT re port to a tem porary Cov enant Coun cil, faith fully and with in tegrity re sponds to God’s call for God’s peo ple called United Meth od ists on this day.

*Pro posal to Refer “Liv ing Into the Fu ture”  
Gen eral and Judi cial  
Ad minis tra tion Com mit tee*

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, this mat ter is be fore you. Let me state the mo tion for our clar i fi ca tion. Moved, that the adop tion of the sec tion of the re port ti tled “Liv ing Into the Fu ture,” and the sec ond part of the mo tion, that first sec tion of the re port be referred to the gen eral church Cov enant Coun cil pro posed in the “Liv ing Into the

Fu ture.” OK, let’s start over here, at mi cro phone five.

CHRISTINE HARMAN (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. I move that we refer the section of the CPT re port ti tled “Liv ing Into the Fu ture” to Leg is la tive Com mit tee Num ber Six, Gen eral and Ju di cial Ad min is tra tion, for scru tiny, per fec tion, and re turn to the ple nary through our nor mal leg is la tive pro cess. This again is the sec tion that be gins on page 18 of the red *DCA* and is also printed on page 1686 of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> daily *DCA*, where it is noted as pe ti tion num ber 31967.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, if there’s a—is there a sec ond? Would you like to speak to your mo tion of re fer ral, and then—this is what’s be fore us now, just a mo tion to refer. Yes, mi cro phone five.

HARMAN: Here. Since the printing of the sec tion in our daily *DCA* came af ter this amend ment for the pro cess that we were deal ing with, I think that the in ten tion was to get this in pe ti tion form to a leg is la tive com mit tee where we could work on it in a nor mal pro cess and then bring the whole of that piece back to this body for del i ber a tion. That is what I would like to see hap pen.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, is there a . . . Now we need a state ment against the mo tion to refer. I don’t see any one seek ing that. The mo tion to refer to the leg is la tive com mit tee the sec tion is be fore you. Vote when the light comes . . . I am sorry, the maker of the main mo tion al ways has the right to the last speech, but no speeches will be allowed from the floor. Do you wish to speak to the mo tion to refer?

MINERVA CARCAÑO: In be half of the CPT, and in a spirit of Christian conferencing and in sup port of our leg is la tive pro cess, we would ac cept that rec om mend a tion.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, you cannot ac cept it, it’s in the po si tion of the floor . . .

CARCAÑO: We would sup port it.

BISHOP BLAKE: . . . but that’s a state ment in re sponse to the team. The mo tion is to refer, vote 1 for “yes”; 2 for “no.” Vote when the light comes on. “Yes,” 566; “No,” 308. OK, you have re ferred the mat ter. All it takes is a ma jor ity vote on re fer ral. Now, what I un der stand is that now the mat ter is in the leg is la tive com mit tee. I want to be sen si tive to . . . I know as the chair of all kinds of re sponses that were con sidered, and now, for those of you who are new del e gates, we just want to ex plain that the whole re port will come back to you af ter the leg is la tive com mit tee deals with it, and that will be sub mit ted back to the floor in the nor mal

process of the legislative committee reports.

OK, does it have to do with the matter that we've already . . . Let me check, here, there's persons seeking the floor—I'll look over here, first of all, to microphone seven.

BILL SCOTT (Mississippi): I understood the motion to refer from page 18 to the end, not to the beginning of that report; so the whole thing is not referred, as I understood the motion.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, would the maker of the motion go to number five and restate the motion as you made it and have submitted it?

HARMAN: The motion was as follows: I move that we refer the section of the CPT report titled "Living Into the Future" to Legislative Committee Number Six, for scrutiny, perfection, and return to the plenary through our normal legislative process. As I understand it, that is where the actual action is recommended to be taken. The rest of the document—I understand, and certainly can be corrected to that—is background information that leads up to that plan of action which deals with the creation of the Covenant Council, and then the attendant responsibilities assigned to it for the next four years.

BISHOP BLAKE: The chair accepted the motion to refer in relationship to the main motion before the body. There was no request to divide that issue in the original main motion. It was recommended that the first section of the report be referred to the general church Covenant Council proposed in "Living Into the Future" section. There was no action requested in that part of the

report. So my ruling is that the motion to refer was not divided, and the main motion was before us, and the whole matter has been referred. The whole matter will come back to the plenary by the route of the legislative committee, and then the report will be before us.

OK, we'll turn here, to microphone four. These are procedural matters. State the issue, please, so we can move on. We're trying to protect legislative committee time, if at all possible. Yes. Microphone two? OK.

*Bishop's Ruling  
on "Living Into the Future" Appealed*

MAC BRANTLEY (North Georgia): I appeal the ruling of the chair on this matter.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK. In appealing the ruling of the chair, you simply—that is an incidental motion. And the matter is before you in terms of whether or not you would support the chair's ruling that I have just made. The matter has been seconded, so that is what is before us. It is debatable; this motion is debatable. Would someone like to speak on either side of this issue of appealing the decision of the chair?

BISHOP BLAKE: OK. Move to mike 7, please. This is only on the motion to appeal.

AILEEN L. WILLIAMS (Minnesota): Bishop, I would give a point of clarification. The "Living into the Future" material starts on p. 18; and in the motion to refer, that is the portion that was asked to be referred. The original motion, the original recommendation given by Mierva Carcaño, from CPT, was that the section be adopted by the body of the General Conference 2000, which would mean that we have moved it into leg-

islative committee to be dealt with, as is our process. The other part of the recommendation is for a future body, which would be created. Therefore, I think it's a matter of clarification of your decision that I would appeal to.

BISHOP BLAKE: Are you speaking in support or against the motion to appeal the decision of the chair?

AILEEN WILLIAMS: I've tried to give a word of clarification. I don't think that the decision of the chair was incorrect in our procedure, but in terms of which portion has been referred to the committee.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, I would register that on the side of opposing the motion to question the ruling of the chair. I see of no other person wanting to speak. OK, I'll see here on p. 5, please state which side of the issue you're speaking on. This is only on the appeal of the decision of the chair. Mike 1. I'm sorry; I said 5 and should have said 1. No. 1, please.

JAMIE E. JENKINS (North Georgia): In support of the motion for appeal, on p. 18, the first sentence under "Living into the Future," would cause me to conclude that the first 18 pages was not included in the referral because it says, "upon adoption of the foregoing document, transformational directions, . . ." etc., etc., which began on p. 5, so therefore it would seem to me that the previous 18 pages would not be included in the recommendation to refer pp. 18b, following, the "Living into the Future" section.

*(Continued in next issue)*