

Proceedings of the 2000 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

Corrections

Page 1779, column 2, paragraph 4:
Add the name Grant J. Hagiya.

Page 1914, column 2: Speeches attributed to LUKASO MEMBELE and ASHEMA ASOPO were actually made by AKASA J. UMEMBUDI.

Page 1923, column 2, paragraph 2:
DR. WIL LIAM MCCLAIN is United Methodist.

(Continued from p. 1938)

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, I would like to call the body's attention to the bottom of p. 1257 and the top of p. 1258. In your handbook, *DCA*. Normally the decision on appealing the decision of the chair in Robert's Rules of Order is debated. But in the authority of the chairperson, in our own rules, "The Bishop presiding shall decide points of order raised by the delegates and shall rule on points of order not raised by delegates, as the chair deems necessary to conform to these rules of order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the Conference by any delegate without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions." Therefore, I will recognize the person who made the motion. I will recognize the chairperson for a response—those will be the only two. Right. I will speak and then the appellant will speak and then you will vote. There will be no other recognition of the matter.

When the motion was made, the reason that I took it as a unit—the motion had two parts. One having to do with "Living into the Future," and the second, which is the point of contention here, is that the first section of the report be referred to the general church Covenant Council proposed in the "Living in the Future" section. Those were tied together in terms of the first section referring to the Covenant Council in the second section. OK, the motion to refer was to deal with the covenant council issue in the legislative committee. Therefore, it is my ruling that there was no request to divide the two issues. I accepted it as a matter of reference to the committee, the whole motion, and that is my statement of rationale. Now we turn to the appellant to make his state-

ment and then there will be a vote. Mike two.

MAC BRANTLEY (North Georgia): Bishop, I would ask if it would be possible for the secretary to read the motion that was made by Chris Harmon.

BISHOP BLAKE: That will be done. Yes. She read it once. Is it now in the hands of the secretary? Yes. Carolyn will read the motion.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: "I move that we refer the section of the CPT report titled 'Living into the Future' to Legislative Committee Number 6, General and Judicial Administration, for scrutiny, perfection, and return to the plenary through our normal legislative process." And then in parentheses, "It begins on p. 18 of the *red DCA* and is also printed on p. 1686 of daily *DCA*, May 3, where it is noted as petition 31967."

BISHOP BLAKE: All right. Continue.

MAC BRANTLEY: Given what the secretary just read, I think it's clear what the person who made the motion had in mind and asked for this and was accepted. And I think it is in contrary, in contradiction to what was ruled by the chair, and I ask for it to be referred.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, the matter is before you. If you support the appeal, which means you support the appeal that was just stated, you will vote "yes." If you support the chair, you will vote "no," because technically it's a motion before the body, so we're honoring the motion. If you support the appellant, you will vote "yes." If you support the chair's ruling, you will vote "no." Vote when the light comes on. (Voting) OK, the matter is—you sustained the appeal. So p. 1, 5 through 17; one through the first column on p. 18 is now before the body. [Yes, 546; No, 374]

BISHOP BLAKE: We're going to rotate. I recognize the person over here, one without a coat on. I mean, some times you have to use what you can see, ya know. (Laughter) Mike 4. Yes.

JOHN W. EDGAR: (West Ohio) I move non-concurrence on the remainder of the report.

BISHOP BLAKE: It's been moved and seconded that there would be nonconcurrency on the remainder of the report. You want to speak to your motion? OK, is there a person who would speak against this motion, of nonconcurrency with this section of the report? Clear back, clear back in that

section move up to where four cards are being held up to number 7. Please state which side of the motion you're speaking to.

EILEEN WILLIAMS: (Minnesota) I am speaking against the motion. When we vote against process, as we would be in this motion, we are stopping the imagining and dreaming that can happen in our denomination. We have tried, through the CPT process, to raise issues and ideas that would help this church move to a different place in the future. What we are recommending this morning is that we keep that process going, not making a decision on ideas in the first part of this report that we realize are not to the point of decision making but to keep the process open by having this portion considered in the next four years with additional ideas, different recommendations and possibly different legislation coming to the 2004 General Conference. I therefore, ask the body not to stop the process but to enable it to go forward by voting against this motion.

BISHOP BLAKE: Is there a person to speak in favor of the motion? Looking right here. You move to the mike. Mike 2.

Substitute Motion to Refer Entire CPT Report

JOEL GARRETT (Western Pennsylvania): I would like to make a substitute motion that p. 5 through the whole CPT report be referred to legislative committee 6 for the same reasons as stated in the Chris Harmon amendment a few moments ago.

BISHOP BLAKE: Is there a second? OK, do you want to speak? No, OK, hold on just for a minute. On this substitute motion, we have a main motion for non-concurrence. Now we have a substitute for a referral to legislative committee 6. OK, the substitute is before us. Basically our responsibility when we have a substitute is to first protect, perfect, the main motion. In this case it might not need perfecting but we've got to give that opportunity and then perfecting the substitute. We've got to go in that order. Do you want to make your statement concerning the substitute at this time?

GARRETT: Not yet.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, what we have now is the substitute. Is there, I must give the opportunity of any perfection of the main motion. I do not believe there would be any perfection, it is a simple motion of nonconcurrency. Left, way back. OK, mike 7.

WILLIAM C. SMALLWOOD (Mississippi): I'm reading Rule 25 on p. 1713, the last sentence. "To substitute shall be alternative to what is before the house and not simply a negation of the main motion." I believe this is out of order.

BISHOP BLAKE: Now I would rule that a motion to refer is not simply opposite to the main motion of non-concurrence; would be a motion to concur. I would rule that the motion of reference to a committee (does not fall) under Rule 25.

BISHOP BLAKE: Point of order. I'll recognize you. Go to Mike 4.

GREGORY D. STOVER: (West Ohio) I move that we postpone debate on the body of the report until the recommendations are returned from the section on General and Judicial Administration and that the entire report, the recommendations to, or the section 'Living into the Future,' and all petitions pertaining to the CPT report be dealt with at that time.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, that is a long motion. I would ask for you to restate it and then be sure it is written out to the secretary so the body can understand it is a motion to postpone.

*A Motion to Postpone Discussion
of CPT Report is Approved*

STOVER: Thank you. My motion is: "I move that we postpone debate upon the main body of the CPT report until that time that the report on 'Living into the Future' is returned from the legislative section on General and Judicial Administration. And that at that time, the full report 'Living into the Future' and all petitions related to the Connectional Process Team report be considered."

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, the motion to postpone is before you, is there any one who would like to speak against it.

STOVER: If there is a second I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP BLAKE: It is seconded, thank you. You may speak to it.

STOVER: My concern is what we are doing legislative at this point is that we are separating portions of this report and legislation and that we are going to spend much additional time, perhaps debating this whole issue two or three times along the way. It is going to be difficult for us to keep up with what portions we are dealing with, where other portions of the legislation are and I believe that we need to set a time when it can all come before us. We can have our debate and make our decision.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, is there a person who would speak against the motion to

postpone? Clear at the back, mike 8. Recognize mike 8.

BEVERLY L. WILKES: (Illinois Great Rivers) I'm speaking in opposition to the motion currently on the floor in support of the previous motion to put sections, pp. 5 through 18 all in the same legislative committee, number 6, so that committee can bring back one report that covers the entire document. So rather than stop the dialogue, the legislative committee would be studying p. 5 through the end of the CPT report and bringing that back. So I am in opposition to this motion.

BISHOP BLAKE: Does any one want to speak for. Number 4. Number 4.

SCOTT J. JONES: (North Texas Conference) I am also vice-chair of the legislative committee on Faith and Order. I think the motion to postpone allows us to leave this debate and resume work in our legislative committees. I also think it does what the previous speaker was seeking to do. It, in effect, allows for the committee on General and Judicial Administration to consider all these things; bring back to the body and let us look at it all at the same time, in a holistic way. I have lots of concerns about the CPT report. I want a chance to air those and do it a way that is clear and decisive. And so I hope you will postpone debate and take it up as a whole package after the legislative process has had its chance. I am ready to get to my legislative committee. How about 'all'?

BISHOP BLAKE: I'll recognize a person speaking against postponement. Over here.

BISHOP BLAKE: One, microphone one.

EWING WERLEIN JR. (Texas): I would oppose postponement for the reason—and also the motion to refer, which preceded it—for this reason. It is not, it seems to me, as if we have not had deliberation. We devoted the better part of a morning session in our groups the other day to careful and deliberate consideration of this over-all issue. I don't know what happened in all of the groups, of course. But I know in mine, and those that I heard about from others, these cross-sections of groups had almost unanimity in their feelings that this was not a report that should go forward. It seems to me that if that is in deed the sense of the body, after deliberation in the plenary, that we should decide that now and conserve our resources and energy in legislative committees for other matters that are important, and also, and that do need the deliberative process of the committee. On the other hand, if the motion to non-concur fails here in this plenary after all of the deliberation we've given to it, then of course, it would make sense for it to go for further study to the leg-

islative committee and for us to resume that legislative process. But this is not a new motion, this is not something that we have not had long and careful consideration and as an entire Conference deliberated carefully in our study groups. So I would support a voting against the motion to postpone and the motion to refer.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, now, you have had two speeches for and two speeches against postponement. Your rules allow one more. Who would speak for postponement? I'll refer to the back left, clear at the back... clear at the back. No—microphone seven? How move you?

YONG S. LEE (Iowa): I rise to speak in support of the motion, postponement. As you see here, this is a very large body. The CPT report is fairly complex. And also, yesterday, from the reflecting groups, we did gather a number of interesting comments, suggestions, and also questions. I believe these things can best be handled in a legislative committee for clarification, for perfection, so that this large body can deal with these issues more orderly and responsibly when that preliminary legislative work is done. If we violate this due process, I'm not really sure how this large body can actually work as a committee of a whole to deal with all the specific issues of this complex report. So I—

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, OK, you need to bring to sum up.

LEE: ... so I support the postponement of this debate to the legislative committee, and then let the legislative committee bring it back to the floor when it is—when the work is done.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, now there's time, there... you will have one more statement against the motion. Against? Microphone number four, please move to the—are you speaking against the motion? And then we will put the question before you.

PHYLLIS S. FERGUSON (Pacific Northwest): Bishop, I move the previous question and all that is before us.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, on all that is before us. Your pending motions are all before us. This is a nondebatable motion; it is a motion to cut off debate. If you—"yes," number one; "no," number two—if you move the previous question. Vote when the light comes on. [Yes, 787; No, 137] It passes, 85%. Now the motion... yes. The motion to postpone will be the first motion that we deal with, and then depending on what you do with that, we may or may not go to other motions. The chairperson of the committee has a right way to speak, even when the previous question has been called. So, Mi-

nerva, you have the right to speak on this—on the matters before us.

MINERVA CARCAÑO: The Connectional Process Team was asked to guide, manage, and promote a transformational direction for The United Methodist Church. At the same time, the 1996 General Conference asked all of us as United Methodists to together discern God's will and God's vision for the church. You have heard the deliberations of the CPT, our efforts to guide the church in the transformational direction, our efforts to listen to the church as a confirmation of God's vision and God's will. Together, we heard this morning in the chair of the Committee on General and Judicial Administration say to us that she was asking for referral of the "Living Into the Future" section and considering the previous section of the report as information helpful, helpful to the ongoing work of that legislative committee. Because of all of these things, the CPT would oppose the recommendation for postponement and support the recommendation that the entire report go to Legislative Committee number six.

BISHOP BLAKE: Now we will vote on the motion to postpone; one for "yes," two for "no." Please vote when the light comes on. . . . That fails. Now the motion to substitute is before us. That motion to substitute was to refer these pages to Legislative Committee number six. Vote one for yes, and two for no, if you would approve that motion for substitution. Vote when the light comes on. [Yes, 562; No, 365] Now the substitution is the main motion. Because you are under the previous question, it is not debatable. You are now voting as you have approved the substitute as the main motion. Now you will vote again on it as the main motion. If you would approve the referral to Legislative Committee Number Six of the pages before you in this motion, you will vote one, yes, and two for no. You're voting on it as the main motion. Please vote when the light comes on. [Yes, 597; No, 346] That is the main motion. Let me clarify for the body: The first section of the report goes to Legislative Committee number six; the last part of the report goes to the Judicial and Administration Legislative Committee, and that's the action that you have taken, and we want to thank the Connectional Process Team for their leadership and their contribution. Now . . .

(Applause)

BISHOP BLAKE: When—let me say that we don't have free time here. Hold steady. When you approved your agenda and committee report this morning, it was stated in that report that following this re-

port, there shall be no other business before the conference. The reason for that was that if we have time this morning, the legislative committees need that time rather than other time in the plenaries; so therefore, I'm going to turn to the Committee on Presiding Officers and the secretary of the Conference for announcements. Are there . . . Does Paul Extrum-Fernandez have any report for the body? No report? Carolyn Marshall, any announcements? Carolyn, do you have any announcements?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Yes.

BISHOP BLAKE: She's getting organized. All of us need that every once in a while.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Thank you, Bishop. We have been requested to clarify the fact that the United Methodist Higher Education banquet is scheduled for tonight at 5:30 in Ballroom D at the Convention Center.

Then in today's *DCA*, on page 1797, there is the announcement, the printed announcement of the one that was made verbally yesterday about the meeting of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. However, unless all of you are clearer on days than I am, tomorrow night is not May 5, and you may read that wondering which was correct. It is tonight, May 5, at 10:00 in Room 205A.

The travel checks have been distributed, I believe, to the heads of delegations, but we have been asked to let all of you know that they may be cashed at the Fifth Third Bank, located at 1404 East Ninth Street—it's the corner of Ninth and Rockwell, with the directions here to go past the Sheraton Hotel and take the first right, the bank is located about one-and-a-half blocks on the right. Banking hours are 8:30 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. The bank is closed Saturday and Sunday.

Habitat for Humanity Offering Totaled

The offering which was taken yesterday for Habitat for Humanity totaled \$12,787.75.

(Applause)

And the closing one, Bishop, regards the bios for University Senate and the Judicial Council. A word of explanation comes in that regard. The *Discipline* does specify that the bios must be published for the Judicial Council; however, the 1996 General Conference requested that the same process apply for University Senate, and that is being implemented. The bios are to be no more than 100 words and are to be in the Secretary's office, Room 204, by 3 p.m. today.

BISHOP BLAKE: I know several of you are trying to get the floor. Let me explain that any extension of time, there will have to be a move to extend the time because of the adoption of the agenda you made. I will see what the matter is—please go to microphone three. Microphone three, please.

General Conference Moves Against Confederate Battle Flag in South Carolina

TIM MCCLENDON (South Carolina): I believe it's a worthy extension of time. I move that we extend the time and suspend Rule 29 to take up a matter that our entire delegation has voted on unanimously, to make the resolution in keeping with last night's wonderful service to take the Confederate battle flag off the statehouse in South Carolina.

BISHOP BLAKE: If you would . . . are you making the motion to extend the time to deal with this matter?

MCCLENDON: If a motion to suspend the time is necessary. But also . . .

BISHOP BLAKE: I think because of the rules, it is. If you would extend the time and suspend the rules to deal with this matter, vote "yes" or "no" on that motion when the light comes on. "Yes," 630; "No," 275. You have ordered it.

MCCLENDON: I also move to suspend Rule 29, so we can quickly deal with the resolution from the South Carolina delegation.

BISHOP BLAKE: Standing Rule 29?

MCCLENDON: Yes sir.

BISHOP BLAKE: The motion is to suspend the rules for this purpose. If you would suspend the rules, indicate your vote when the light comes on. Yes, 722; No, 176. Proceed, microphone number three.

MCCLENDON: Bishop, we hoped to do this last night before the worship service, because of its theme . . .

BISHOP BLAKE: Speak right into the mike, and microphone number three, technicians.

MCCLENDON: Bishop, we hoped to do this last night, before the worship service, because of the theme of repentance and reconciliation, but the matter and the issue of the Confederate Flag over the statehouse in South Carolina is still before us, and therefore, on behalf of our entire delegation, I wish to offer the following resolution: Whereas the Confederate battle flag is offensive to many, and whereas the South Carolina General Conference delegation unanimously supports the removal of the flag from the South Carolina statehouse, and whereas the South Carolina Annual

Conference has previously adopted and voted its support of the flag's removal, be it resolved that the 2000 General Conference support the efforts of Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, the South Carolina Annual Conference, other faith communities, organizations, and political leaders in the removal of the Confederate flag from the South Carolina state house.

BISHOP BLAKE: Is there—it is seconded. Care to speak to it? I believe it speaks for itself on behalf of all that we stand for as United Methodists. Anyone else wish to speak to the matter? Vote when the light comes on. [Yes, 861; No, 67] The resolution has been adopted.

(Applause)

Thank you. I'm going to recognize back at mike 5, and then I would really want to encourage us that that's the only other recognition that I saw when I recognized the person over here. So again you are under the order of the day of no other business. If anything is considered, you will have to make a motion to make that possible. Mike five.

PEGGY SEWELL (Rocky Mountain): I move to suspend the rules to address a process that would allow the General Conference to address the difficult situation we find ourselves in; we presently can not work with specific '96 disciplinary paragraphs; in order to bring them into alignment with the rest of the *Discipline*.

BISHOP BLAKE: OK, it's a motion to suspend the rules, which would—I'm not going to ask for a separate motion on extending the time; by implication you would be doing this. Is there a second? It is seconded. The motion is to suspend the rules for this purpose. If you suspend the rules, vote yes or no. Vote when the light comes on. [Yes, 482; No, 439]

It requires two-thirds. It does—the rules are not suspended. The legislative committees will meet. The chairs will meet you there in terms of the announcement of the schedule. I'm going to turn—There is a session here tomorrow morning at 8:00 during the rest—rest of this day in your legislative committees. And I've asked Bishop Jim Ault to offer a closing prayer.

BISHOP JAMES MASE AULT: Let us rise for a benediction.

Go forth in peace to serve God
and your neighbor in all that you do.

Render to no person evil for evil;
but in so far as it depends upon you, live
at peace with all.

Lift the fallen. Speak a word of hope to
the discouraged.

Visit the sick and the prisoner.

Comfort the dying.

And the grace
of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be
with us all. Amen.

STEVEN BRYANT: Take another half a minute, and then we'll conclude in prayer. *(Pause)* Let's all be silent for a moment together. Let's pull our conversation to a close and be quiet and begin to listen to God for a closing moment. We listen to God in one another and we listen to God in silence. Let's be silent for just a moment and listen quietly, and listen deeply to how God is speaking to us, how God is calling us to day.

(Pause)

First, lift up the persons with whom you are sharing in love. Bring them into your abiding, in love, *(pause)* and listen for what God is saying to you; or how God is calling you; or God's longing of love within you today. *(Pause)* And listen for what difference that may make in your life, and your attitudes or actions or in the actual process of decision-making today. *(Pause)* John writes, "No one has ever seen God and yet, if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us.

(Prayer)

BISHOP WALTER KLAIBER: Be loved, let us love one another, for God loves us. Be loved, let us love our neighbor, because God loves them as well as us. Be loved, let us love those who are foreign to us, even our enemies, because God loves them as well as us. God loves us. He has blessed us with the liberating grace of his son Jesus Christ; with the life-giving love of the Creator; with the loving fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Let us receive this blessing again this morning. Please stand as you are able. I will speak this blessing in German:

*Die Gnade unseres Herrn Jesu Christi
und die liebe Gottes,
und die Gemeinschaft des Heiligen
Geistes
sie mit euch allen. Amen.*

(Song)

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please be seated.

(Music)

Saturday Morning May 6, 2000

BISHOP CORNELIUS L. HENDERSON: *(Applause)* The greatest need on this earth is the need for affirmation. To see this large number of young people here on a Saturday morning is an incredible witness, and I would like for all of us again to say thanks to these wonderful young people. *(Applause)* Let's hear it. Thank you. *(Applause)* They belong to us and we belong to them. Bishop Woody Hearn has a granddaughter in this choir. Where are you? Laura, wave your hand. Where are you, Laura? Stand.

Well, we thank God for all the granddaughters and daughters and as well the grandsons and sons, thank you. And thanks to those persons responsible for giving leadership to this wonderful group. Thanks to Bishop Jordan for his powerful message to us all. There is a young lady in the choir who is from Denver, Colorado. Where are you Miss Bennett? Or maybe she is in the delegation. Where are you? OK, would you stand for just a moment you are near mike 5. We want to have just a second or two of special prayer. Let us all be in order as we remember Columbine and remember a thousand such places all over this world that do not receive press coverage, where our children are being slaughtered. Yes, ma'am, Miss Bennett.

Columbine, Colorado, Remembered

JANA BENNETT (Rocky Mountain): Thank you Bishop. I am from the Littleton, Colorado, community, and was deeply saddened to hear that on Thursday, two weeks after the anniversary of the Columbine school shooting, a youth from Columbine took his own life. While this is not directly connected to the shootings last year, this event inhibits the healing of the community as a whole, and so I am asking for a moment of silence and then for us to be led in prayer. *(silence followed by prayer)*

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you so much. What a great honor it is for me as the episcopal servant assigned to the Florida Area to be in the chair this morning. And what a marvelous delegation you have been since this General Conference session commenced. And I want to express to you a word of personal gratitude for the splendid way that you have conducted the business of this General Conference. It's such a delight. I wish you could sit here where the secretarial staff and the bishops of the church sit, to see how beautiful you are. It is incredible. Thank God for The United Methodist Church and here witness of

power all across the world. And thank you for being such a splendid group. Mrs. Mary Alice Massey will come forth now to bring us a report from the Committee on Agenda.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Bishop Henderson and delegates: The calendar, the agenda is on the inside page of your *DCA*. I would move its approval with one slight alteration. To enable the plenary and legislation to flow more smoothly, you will not be hearing from the financial administration chair this morning but on Monday. With that, bishop, I move the approval of the agenda for today.

BISHOP HENDERSON: It is before the body if you will approve press one, if you disapprove press two. Vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 791; No, 18.*]

MASSEY: And now we will hear from our calendar chair person, Gere Reist.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: For those of you who are of German descent or background or currently living in Europe, Reist (*pronounced rye-sht*) is the family name, but it was Anglicized to Reist (*pronounced reest*), and I answer to either one. Please turn in your *Daily Christian Advocate* for yesterday, Friday, May 5, 2000, Vol. 4, No. 4, top, 1834. The first Consent Calendar begins there. Consent Calendar A01 begins on page 1834 with calendar item 3. Calendar Items 1 and 2 on p. 1834 and Calendar Items 12 and 14 on p. 1835 have been removed at the request of delegates.

MASSEY: I move the approval of this Consent Calendar with the exceptions that have been lifted up.

BISHOP HENDERSON: If you will approve press 1. If you disapprove press 2. Vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 783; No, 33*]

FITZGERALD REIST: Consent Calendar B01 begins on page 1838 with Calendar Item 48. Calendar Item 67 on page 1840 has been moved to Consent Calendar C02 found in today's *DCA*. This calendar was incorrectly reported with the recommendation of concurrence, the actual recommendation was for nonconcurrence. Calendar Items 76 and 77 on page 1840 have also been removed. These calendar items were incorrectly reported as having no financial implication. They do have financial implication.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): I move the approval of the Consent Calendar B01 with the exceptions mentioned.

BISHOP HENDERSON: If you approve, vote by pressing 1. If you disapprove, vote by pressing 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 181; No, 14*]

FITZGERALD REIST: All right, Consent Calendar C01 begins on page 1841 with Calendar Item 83. Calendar Item 85 on page 1841, and Calendar Item 98 on page 1842, and Calendar Item 141 on page 1846 have been removed at the request of delegates.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: I move the approval of Consent Calendar C01 with the exceptions mentioned.

BISHOP HENDERSON: If you so approve please vote by pressing 1. If you disapprove, vote by pressing 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 818; No, 32*]

FITZGERALD REIST: I have one concluding announcement to explain something that some of you may find confusing in today's *DCA*. You will notice that after some of the Calendar Items, where the sub-paragraph indication should be, there is a minus 1. In those instances you may refer to the petition number for the correct sub-paragraph number. Thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you very much. GCOM report number 2, will indeed be presented at this point. I'd like to first recognize Mr. Danny Soliz. [*Pause*] Just one moment. The mike here at the podium, please.

DANNY SOLIZ (Rio Grande): Bishop Henderson? Danny Soliz, from the Rio Grande Conference. I move to suspend the rules to allow the distribution to delegates, and to those on the platform, materials which will be part of the report of the GCOM, which will come before the General Conference now, and early next week, including the report on the Advance for Christ and His Church.

BISHOP HENDERSON: There's a motion to suspend the rules to allow for distribution, requires a 2/3 vote. Is that motion seconded? It is seconded. If you approve, please vote by pressing 1; 2 if you disapprove. Please vote when the light appears to suspend the rules. [*Yes, 792; No, 38*] I did not major in mathematics but that clearly passes. Thank you very much. You may distribute the material. Ms. Laura Simmons.

LAURA SIMMONS (West Virginia): Hello, I am from the West Virginia delegation and my home church is Woodland United Methodist.

SOLIZ: From Dallas, Texas. I'm a lay person and a delegate from the Rio Grande Annual Conference.

MARIA DE CARVALHO (Western Angola): Member of GCOM from Western Angola Annual Conference, Africa.

SIMMONS: We are members of the GCOM. We come to you today to celebrate with you the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church and to witness to you how God is working in our midst. The GCOM is the place in the church where the program agencies all gather to assure collaboration and coordination to prioritize for funding. We get to see the whole church come together. We experience the parts becoming a whole. As United Methodists, we are connected to the church. Each of us is connected to the ministry of every other local congregation, through our annual conference, central conference and General Conference linkage. Within this room are thousands of stories of mission and ministry. In this gathered community we could never complete the telling of stories of how our lives have been changed because of The United Methodist Church. We want to share just a few of these stories as we celebrate our connections. They reveal the breadth and depth of mission and ministry in our church.

SOLIZ: We also want to introduce to you a document that is the product of our life together these past four years. You should have that document before you. "Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the Life of The United Methodist Church" was written through an ongoing process of clarification and consultation and conferencing in the United States and in the central conferences. It is ours to use as we together continue to discover all the ways available to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us begin our journey through our connection by reading the opening paragraphs together. You can read from the brochure or the words on the screen. Join me.

UNISON READING: Glimpsing God's movement in the world in the 21st century, United Methodists, as a part of the church universal, are called to discern and join in God's mission. We will be a worldwide church, which provides for full and just participation throughout our connection. We will strive for deeper relationships with other churches in the Methodist family.

SOLIZ: What follows will be stories, clips, images, and music that report on what is being done and will be done as we attend to the crucial effort that will bring people closer to Jesus Christ. We invite you to celebrate these stories of ministry. To tell the story we will use the categories of mission and ministry that many of you are already using in your local settings, outreach, witness, nurture, administration, and finance and leadership. First, let's reflect on the part of fulfilling Christ's mission that deals with outreach.

(Music)

DECARVALHO: As United Methodists, outreach is a natural part of our commitment. The GCCUIC helped the church to deal with theological differences through dialogue these past four years. United Methodism has been re-established in the capital of Lithuania. The North Carolina Conference contributed \$50,000 to the project, an amount matched by the GBGM Millennial Fund. The United Methodist Church is in mission in 162 countries. The Shared Mission Focus on Young People is working with others to advocate for the church to re-order its life so that ministry with young people becomes a priority. Restorative justice ministries have increased our commitment to both victims and perpetrators of crimes.

SIMMONS: Every day, some of the nearly ten million United Methodists gather for mutual care. As the "Fulfilling Christ's Mission" document puts it, they "invite and nurture people in spiritual growth centered in scripture and our Wesleyan heritage, practice hospitality, celebrate differences, and affirm gifts." We are a nurturing church. Our Wesleyan heritage demands that we live out a biblical mandate to care for each other's soul.

Over a half a million United Methodists serve as leaders for educational work in local churches.

Nearly a million United Methodist Women gather on a regular basis for support and mutual care.

The new Commission for United Methodist Men enriched the lives of many at the Black Men's Conference.

The Commission on Archives and History continues to preserve our past—for the future.

Approximately 60,000 mission volunteers served in 48 countries in 1998.

And did you know that the Summit United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ohio, serves breakfast to Ohio State University students from 1 to 3 a.m.?

There are now 61 annual conferences serving Hispanics compared to 38 in 1993. We anticipate therapist shifts in population.

The Commission on Religion and Race and Commission on the Status and Role of Women continue to make our lives together better as we learn new skills to relate across our differences.

We grow as we celebrate diversity.

(Video Presentation)

SOLIZ: As United Methodists, we witness to the power of the Risen Christ in multitudes of ways. Throughout the time zones of our world the story goes on. While I am sleeping, Marilina is telling the story and while Marilina is sleeping, Bishop Arichea is about the work of witness.

*(Video Presentation and Singing)
Variety of UMG Global Ministries*

SOLIZ: The General Board of Global Ministries has an initiative to remove land mines in Mozambique. Over 1,800 mission personnel serve The United Methodist Church across the world through the support of the General Board of Global Ministries. With 32,000 children dying of preventable causes every 24 hours, the bishops have prophetically held children before the church these last four years. With up to 65 million adults in the United States unchurched, we are reaching for more in no viable ways to communicate. Public announcements, radio, programming, Igniting Ministries, video, web sites, brochures, books, and magazines, and in many different languages. The General Board of Church and Society developed, designed, and implemented 138 seminars and workshops during these past four years. Asian American United Methodists now represent more than 15 languages and cultural groups. This challenge is partly addressed by a proposal to come before you shortly.

Our Korean leaders come to us at this General Conference with a plan for the future of this growing part of our church. The General Board of Discipleship plans to develop 25–30 new print and other media resources each year to assist the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ, building communities, providing spiritual leadership, and supporting various renewal efforts.

DECARVALHO: As we attend to the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ, we must, "develop lay and clergy leaders empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead the church in spiritual transformation and service."

United Methodists and Higher Education

Through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry we are helping thousands of students attend college each year. In 1999 alone, 3,346 students were awarded over \$4 million in scholarships while many others received low-interest loans. Fifteen thousand students benefit from the Black College Fund, and we rejoice that 40% of all African American physicians and den-

tists in the U.S. are graduates of United Methodist-related Meharry Medical School. Let us hear from a few students who are benefiting from our commitment. The women of college scholarships and mentoring program has enabled many women to get Ph.D.'s. United Methodist seminaries now have faculty members from this program. The General Commission on Status and Role of Women, ethnic caucuses, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Men continue to empower men and women to develop leadership skills for the church in the world.

United Methodist seminaries—those in the United States and in Balkans, Russia, Poland, and Africa—are providing essential leadership training. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry plans to expand United Methodist student movement at over 450 Wesley Foundations and campus ministries, 270 local churches, and 300 ecumenical campus partners.

And did you know that Margaret Paguida, a biotechnology researcher at Africa University, is teaching the cultivation of mushrooms to orphans in Zimbabwe? The General Commission on Religion and Race continues to strengthen leadership development on racial ethnic persons through the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund. These are just some of the exciting stories about leadership in the church.

GCOM Plans Quadrennial Budget

SIMMONS: The General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration worked with the general agencies to collaborate on budget-building for the next quadrennium. That process was exciting and reflects these statements in fulfilling Christ's mission: "Teach stewardship as a grateful response to God's generosity that evokes abundant gifts for ministry throughout the church; practice collaborative, consultative decision-making processes and implementation in all facets of church life."

As United Methodists we are communities of gratitude and generosity. During the past four years United Methodist congregations gave over \$16 billion, and we all rejoice that the percentage of giving to World Service has increased each year.

(Video Presentation)

Later in this conference the program and budget proposals developed by the General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration, working with the program agencies, will be before you. It reflects a very small increase from the last four years. While this process

was good, we need to remind you that there are several other vital ministries of the church that did not make it into the budget. These innovative ministries are among our most creative and hopeful ministries. They represent significant collaboration between local churches, annual conferences, and several program agencies. GCOM's next report will highlight for you some of these programs that are not currently in the recommended budget.

(Video Presentation)

BISHOP HENDERSON: Microphone six, please.

GREG PALMER (East Ohio): We are part of an incredible church, and for the past four years I have chaired the group of the General Council on Ministries that has had the privilege to meet on an annual basis with each of the general secretaries of the program agencies. At this stage in the report it feels like we need to thank them and all of our other general secretaries for their leadership. Will the general secretaries stand up where you are and let us express our deep appreciation for your leadership and witness?

(Applause)

SIMMONS: Our church is certainly an exciting place to be. I wish we could go on and hear the stories. Each one of us, each one of you is in these stories. As United Methodists our blessings send us out to be a blessing. We do rejoice that these are our stories. The United Methodist Church is incredible. Our long-term commitment to mission and ministry makes us part of the fabric of the future. We are an essential part of God's plan. Celebrate with us.

(Song)

(Applause)

BISHOP HENDERSON: Please take your seats. Thank you. Worship is a verb, worship is a verb, v—e—r—b. Let's give God some praise.

(Applause)

Who said that Christians can not have fun in worship? Thank you very much. We are indebted to this leadership team, Ms. Simmons, Mr. Soliz, and Mrs. DeCarvalho and all who have participated in bringing this splendid report to share it with us today. I recognize now Bishop Kim.

Report on Korean American Ministries

BISHOP HAE-JONG KIM (New York West): Good morning, I am here to bring you the report of the General Conference Task Force on Korean American Minis-

tries. Remember last General Conference you commissioned a task force to do research and bring back the report of what would be of need and vision for the Korean American churches, so here we have the report now. We are proposing a new initiative called Advancing United Methodist Ministries among Korean Americans. In 1835 (*music*) the first missionary, Henry G. Appenzeller, was sent to Korea by the Methodist church. He arrived in Incheon Harbor on Easter Sunday that year and began to preach the gospel to the Korean people who have never heard the gospel. Methodism began to take root in Korean soil. One of the first churches was Neri Church in Incheon. Through the efforts of Methodist missionaries, the first group of Korean American immigrants journeyed from Korea to the Hawaiian Islands in 1903. They worked in pineapple plantations. Then the Neri Church in Incheon sent a missionary pastor with several thousand Korean immigrants in Hawaii, and that was the first Korean immigrant church. Seventy years later, a new wave of immigration began to arrive on these shores, not by ship this time but by Boeing 747. Year 2003 will mark the centennial of the Korean immigrants' arrival. We celebrate the growth of Korean American churches along with the growth of the immigrant population.

To day there are more than 1.4 million Korean Americans in North America or United States, and in 1970 there were only six Korean United Methodist churches in the U.S., including the first church in Hawaii, established in 1903. A new wave of Korean immigration began around 1970 and continues until this day. This provided The United Methodist Church new opportunities to minister to Korean population. Through the pioneering and dedicated leadership of Korean American pastors, assisted by the faithful partnership of The United Methodist Church and a timely response of EMLC, the Ethnic Minority Local Church emphasis, there has been exciting congregational development among Koreans. As a result today we have some, oops, we're already out of date: We have 400.

(Applause)

We have experienced the growth in pastoral leadership as well. Presently there are more than 500 Korean American pastors in The United Methodist Church, of which 90 are clergywomen (*Applause*) and 25 young, next-generation ministers. We have been very fortunate that Bishop Duecker from the Council of Bishops was assigned as a consultant and has given us a lot of help, especially in the area of research, and he is here to give us the report.

BISHOP DUECKER: Thank you, Bishop Kim. I was asked to serve as the chair of the research committee for the task force, and during 1998 we conducted a national survey, and we also held 12 focus groups around the country to determine the needs, the challenges, and the aspirations of Korean American clergy and laity. The survey was sent to 429 pastors and also to 290 laypersons from randomly selected churches. Forty-three per cent of the pastors and 39% of the laypersons returned their questionnaires. Let me share some of the key findings from the survey.

We found that church attendance is increasing in the majority of our Korean American United Methodist churches. We found that both laity and clergy emphasized the need for bilingual skills to serve the next generations and also to participate in the total life of our denomination. We learned that most clergy express satisfaction with their pastoral appointment and likewise most laypersons were found to be satisfied with their current pastoral leadership. But three out of four respondents emphasized the need for a better understanding of the appointment process. Three quarters of those surveyed agreed that training for lay-clergy partnership in leadership is a very high priority need. A significant number of respondents indicated the desire to know how this United Methodist Church of ours works. Four out of five laypersons and pastors reported that their churches are supporting mission programs through our connectional system. When people were asked to identify three priorities for ministry, these were the ones identified:

- the need for the partnership of laity and clergy in mission
- evangelism
- leadership training for laypersons

Half of those surveyed see a need for leadership training that will assist them and aid them in decision making, cross-cultural communication and stewardship development. Just over 50% of the clergy state that their congregations operated in shared facilities. Through the focus groups we learned that many shared-facility arrangements are unsatisfactory and sometimes even very difficult. There's a desire on the part of Korean American leaders to explore mutual participation in ministry with host congregations. Next-generation ministry was rated as a very high priority by both clergy and laity. We have taken the results of this survey, we have met together and consulted, and we have now an action plan to present to you and that will be presented by SongJa Park, a lay woman who served as vice-chair of this task force.

SONGJA PARK: Thank you, Bishop Duecker. In a nut shell, the study we conducted in 1998 led us to focus on the key concerns. First is the challenge to develop new leadership patterns. Second is the challenge to develop and nurture new congregations. Third is the challenge to foster next-generation ministry.

Developing New Leadership Patterns in the Korean Church

Let me elaborate on each of these concerns. There is the challenge to develop new leadership patterns. The history of Korean American ministries is essentially the history of the Korean immigrant community, which spans three generations. There is conflict where the traditional Korean culture meets the American culture. This is being experienced in the environment of Korean American churches today. Some illustrations of this change are: the demand for bilingual or English-language services, as well as—or in place of—the Korean language services; the challenges to the traditional clergy-dominated leadership to a clergy-lay partnership in ministry; the change from a male-dominated clergy establishment to the demand for the acceptance and recognition of clergywomen.

(Applause)

It is urgent for the future of the United Methodist ministries among Korean Americans that we take steps to address these matters now.

Developing New Korean Congregations

Second, is the need to develop new congregations. One of the major achievements of Korean American ministries to date has been the development of new congregations. Within the past twenty-five years the Korean American community has established more than 400 congregations and 80 mission congregations. These numbers are very impressive, but we acknowledge that we have not done enough to nurture them into mature congregations functioning within the United Methodist connection. Our study reveals that both clergy and laity wish to be in mission in partnership with a larger United Methodist Church.

Fostering New Korean Christians

The third is the need to foster next-generation ministry. Our study shows there is a silent exodus of the next generations. Exodus begins when Sunday worship services are conducted in a language that young people do not understand. If only the home language is used, Bible study loses touch with reality, youth activities lack creativity and relevancy. As the language, cultural,

and leadership gap widens between the first generation and succeeding generations, the exodus begins. There is an old Korean adage which says, "It is easy to lose; it is much harder to find." Next-generation ministry is the biggest challenge facing Korean American ministry now and in the future.

The future of Korean American ministries depends on how we address these three concerns today. To the Korean American community they appear to be monumental challenges which require the investment of the resources and energy of The United Methodist Church.

How shall we address these three concerns? The task force proposes six action goals for the next quadrennium.

- One: Implement a comprehensive leadership development program for clergy and laity with an emphasis on the United Methodist connection, partnership in ministry, and cross-cultural communications.
- Two: Implement a vigorous leadership program for Korean American clergywomen.
- Three: Establish 20 new next-generation congregations and 15 campus ministries.
- Four: Strengthen existing mission congregations, and work toward establishing 30 new congregations.
- Five: Recruit 40 next-generation Korean Americans for ordained ministry.
- Six: Continue to create culturally relevant resources and a data bank to support Korean American ministries.

Plans to Implement Korean UM Goals

To implement these goals, the task force recommends that the General Conference authorize the establishment of a United Methodist Council on Korean American Ministries for the 2001–2004 quadrennium and authorize it to work in close cooperation with the Council of Bishops, Colleges of Bishops, jurisdictional and annual conferences, and all relevant general boards and agencies and commissions, by planning together or seeking their consultation and advice. The 1996 General Conference reminded us that the mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. The task force firmly believes that this initiative advancing United Methodist ministries among Korean Americans offers a clear direction, specific goals, and a viable structure to fulfill this mission.

Thank you.

(Applause)

(Song)

BISHOP KIM: As we conclude this report, I ask two next-generation Korean Americans to come here and give us one-minute witnesses. Brandon Cho.

BRANDON CHO (California Pacific Conference): Good morning.

RESPONSE: Good morning.

CHO: I'm here to put a human face to the report by sharing with you my life story in one minute.

(Laughter)

I'm a trans-generation, also known as a 1.5 generation Korean American. I was born in Seoul, Korea, and moved to Hawaii with my family at the tender age of 14 back in 1969. I grew up missing my parents, who sought to give their children a better life in the States. They endured through a challenging life coupled with language barrier and cultural shock in their newly adopted homeland.

I remember one Friday night when I went to help my mother in a restaurant where she worked and saw her literally pass out on the kitchen floor from exhaustion. She had been working three jobs non stop in order to support her five young children. And yet she kept on going and this is one small example of the sacrifices that many of our first-generation immigrants have made. I am thankful to my mother who, through her dedication, sacrifice and example of faith, enabled me to be come who I am today.

I also had my own struggles in a search for identity between the traditional Korean culture and an ever-changing American culture. I was too Americanized for my family and too Korean for my non-Korean friends. While struggling with this reality in life, I discovered that my bicultural skills and my multicultural experience were indeed God's gift to me for the ministry of Jesus Christ in this world.

(Applause)

I have to remember the rain bows that I saw during my growing up years in Hawaii. Those rain bows gave me the vision of the ministry of unity, harmony, and hope among all God's peoples. God has blessed me to engage in such rain bow ministry as a pastor, district superintendent, and a community servant leader. Now I look at my own son who thinks he is a big American and a small Korean. He just earned a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do last week. And he jokingly told me, "Dad, don't make me upset. I don't want to hurt you."

(Laughter)

Come to think about it, I was about his age when I held my parents' hands and moved to Hawaii from Korea. Now 30 years, 31 years, later to day I look at him and wonder, "What will his future hold for him—both opportunities and challenges—as a Korean American disciple of Jesus Christ? What will he take on, on for himself, and what can I pass on to him?"

(Applause)

*Esther Cho's Story
as Korean American UM*

ESTHER CHO: Before I say my name, I'd like to tell you who I am. I am a child of an immigrant Korean community, Reverend Cho's oldest daughter—the good daughter—who took care of all the children in her father's church and taught Sunday school from the age of ten. What could a ten-year-old know to teach Sunday school? But we had no other teachers. Our parents spoke Korean. We were taught English in school. We had no one to teach us bilingual in both languages, so we made do by teaching one another. We were poor. Our families were different from the American kids, but at church we belonged; we fit in. Church was our home—my father in the pulpit, my mother appropriately in the kitchen. The church family served, shared almost everything in common. To day, I am Reverend Esther Miyahara-Cho.

(Applause)

The name in itself a social statement, not only one of those hyphenated names but hyphenated to a Japanese surname. Recall the history of East Asia in recent decades, and a clergywoman at that.

We are in deed breaking new ground in the next generation. The first time I was asked to identify my childhood heroes—influential role models—I was saddened to know that I could not name a single Korean American—a woman, much more. No, all my heroes were White, not like me. To day we have a small, yet dedicated, core of second-generation Korean American leaders in our community. We have even ordained Korean women as part of this leadership. Working in partnership our mothers and our fathers who have paved the way before us, we hope that perhaps the next generation will be able to name some role models that are like them.

And today Korean American families are not all the same. For one thing, my husband, the Reverend John Miyahara-Cho, makes a much better pastor's wife in the kitchen than I do, hands down!

(Applause; Laughter)

And our church struggles to meet the challenge and the promise of change. And yet the Korean American church still remains our home, a source of our rootedness and our strength.

Most of all, I am a United Methodist, part of The United Methodist Church, seeking to be an inclusive community of faith. Together we seek to minister to all God's people, working towards a day when we will all be able to come to the table together in a meaningful way—each from a place of strength, each offering strong and unique identities in mutual affirmation. A day when each community will embrace the challenge and the promise of the other. Open to being transformed and transforming the other in shared lives. Is this not what it means to be a truly inclusive community of faith? This is the hope and the goal, I believe, not of the Korean American church but of The United Methodist Church of which you and I, and all of us here gathered, are proud to be a part. The dream of this possibility is what we bring before you. Thank you.

(Applause)

BISHOP KIM: Now I would like to ask for equal time. As a first-generation Korean American male pastor, let me try to give one minute's witness.

As I stand here, and looking back to last General Conference, when the Koreans asked for a missionary conference, and General Conference rejected it, there was a lot of pain and disappointment. But the hindsight is better than foresight. After four years, I think this plan is much better, more inclusive, more comprehensive.

I am personally grateful that I was asked to lead this task force. I am grateful as I stand before you as one of the bishops of The United Methodist Church. Only in The United Methodist Church, the first-generation Korean American can become a bishop and share this time with you.

(Applause)

I was born in Korea, came to this country in 1961 as a student, only \$50 in my pocket. I came to Ohio, then to Methesco (Applause); was ordained in Lakeside, Ohio, by Bishop Warner; married in Ohio, in Columbus, Ohio, and my wife and I journeyed to New Jersey and became a family of the Northern New Jersey Conference. (Applause) I came the same year when Bishop Taylor came to Northern New Jersey. I served a two-point charge, a three-point charge, urban, rural, all kinds of churches,

and then organized a Korean American-language church and served that church for eleven years. And then Bishop White appointed me to be a district superintendent, and then I was elected to this position in 1992 by the grace of God. I have three children, all of them "made in USA."

(Laughter, Applause)

My two sons are United Methodist pastors—next-generation pastors. And it is my honor to be a part of this task force and bring this report to you. I'd like to recognize some of the wonderful people that worked with the task force very faithfully. I'd like to—we have three bishops working with this, and Bishop Sano was chair of the writing committee, and Bishop Ann Sherer was also . . . would you stand up to be recognized? And Sang E. Chun, and Jong Sung Kim, staff of this committee. And, let's see, who else? Sang E. Chun is there. Is there any other person in our audience that served the task force, would you stand up? Let's give them a big hand.

(Applause)

BISHOP CORNELIUS HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Bishop Kim, and those who have worked with you on this very significant and important task force. The chair would like at this time to get your response to suspend the rules to allow the distribution of materials. If you would allow that, please press 1; if you would not allow it, please press 2. Please indicate so by voting when the light appears. [Yes, 855; No, 36.] You have approved by 96% in favor of allowing that to be done. Thank you very much.

You have been such an attentive and kind and hospitable delegation, we would like at this time to give you a fifteen-minute break. Is that all right?

(Applause)

All right. Just—just one moment, please. Hold your places just one moment to allow the distribution of the materials. Hold just one moment. Yes, mike five, please.

DONALD MESSER (Rocky Mountain): I'd like to ask for a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of handing out a bookmark during the break, not to wait.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, what is the bookmark, please, sir?

MESSER: The bookmark is from the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Sure. All right. If you will allow that, please press 1; if you would not allow it, please press 2. Please

in di cate so when the light ap pears. [*Yes, 780; No, 49*] You have ap proved by 94.1%. Yes. Mrs. Massey? Vote—mike 2.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Bishop, I need some clar i fi ca tion. Do we still . . . we had an or der of the day for the Ko rean hym nal, and . . .

BISHOP HENDERSON: Yes.

MASSEY: . . . do we still have that . . .

BISHOP HENDERSON: Yes.

MASSEY: . . . to do af ter our break?

BISHOP HENDERSON: Yes, ma'am. Yes, Ms. Massey.

MASSEY: Just so the del e gates un der stand. Thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you, thank you, Mrs. Massey. Thank you very much.

All right All right, let's be at re cess for fifteen minutes. Please come back promptly.

(*Song*)

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you. Thank you very much, Rev er end Wil son. Let the con fer ence be in or der. Del e gates, please find your places. Thank you, thank you so much. Bishop Kim will come again and now will share with us re gard ing the Ko rean hym nal.

Thank you so much for the kind and sweet-spir ited group you are. Thank you so much. Bishop Kim.

BISHOP KIM: OK, I am wearing an other hat, here. I am very pleased that the Gen eral Board of Dis ci ple ship and Gen eral Board of the Pub lishing House has de cided to listen to the needs of Ko rean Amer i can churches, for the needs of their hymnbook, to pub lish the new est United Meth od ist hymnbook in Ko rean and in Eng lish. And Dal Joon Won, who is a staff mem ber of Gen eral Board of Pub lishing House—United Meth od ist Pub lishing House—is the gen eral editor of this hymnbook. And I'd like to intro duce to you so that he can in tro duce to you about this new hymnbook, Rev er end Dal Won.

*Announcement of Publication
of Bi ling ual Ko rean Amer i can Hym nal*

DAL JOON WON: It is my honor and priv ile ge to re port to you about the Ko rean Amer i can United Meth od ist hymnal, which be gan July 1998, and will be com pleted by No vember 2001. The Gen eral Board of Dis ci ple ship and The United Meth od ist Pub lishing House be gan to as sess the need for a re source to sup port the wor ship of Ko rean Amer i can United Meth od ist con gre gations that would, first, sup plement the exist ing

ecumenical Ko rean hymnal pro duced in Ko rean; second, include more recent hymnody. Two-thirds of the 360 selected hymns are com posed in the 20th cen tury; and you may won der what are some of those one-third. We cannot bring back Charles and John Wes ley to the 20th cen tury when we use many of those hymns. Third, we would sup port bi ling ual wor ship. Eng lish-speaking Ko rean con gre gations and Ko rean-speaking con gre gations would ever have been ea ger to come to gether and cel ebrate wor ship to gether. Fourth, we would pro vide a stan dard Ko rean trans la tion of the of fi cial United Meth od ist rit u als, Baptism, Holy Com mu nion, con fir ma tion, mem ber ship, and ser vice of death and res ur rec tion, Chris tian mar riage, and morn ing praise and eve ning praise.

In ad di tion to that, 95 re spon sive read ings in cluded ac cord ing to the Chris tian Year and oc ca sional ser vices and gen eral usage. These United Meth od ist rit u als will of fer a tre men dous op por tu nity to use com mon ter mi nol o gies and theol o gies among Ko rean Amer i can United Meth od ists. This new hym nal will pro vide op por tu nities of think ing, talk ing, and ex press ing of those ter mi nol o gies and United Meth od ist the ol o gies in the wor ship set ting. The twelve Ko rean hym nal-com mit tee mem bers and four stand ing com mit tee and 28 of the ad vi sory group im ple mented a care ful pro cess of delib eration, eval uation, and re search. And they gathered more than almost 6,000 hymns and pro cessed and se lected 360 hymns out of al most 6,000 hymns and songs with in a year and a half. And also they iden ti fied the needs and con cerns and prefer ences of lo cal con gre gations to en sure that the new hym nal will be bal anced and tar geted to ward the needs of the per son in the pew. In other words, to all of them are sing able hymns. Thank you for your sup port and pray ers.

(*Applause*)

BISHOP KIM: In this re spect our church, United Meth od ist Church, is a light year ahead of the Pres by ter ian churches. The Ko rean Pres by ter ians are en vy ing with the green eyes at this point. We are even co-opt ing some of these Pres by ter ian lead ers to work with us so that even tu ally when this hym nal is pub lished the Pres by ter ian broth ers and sis ters will also use our bi ling ual hym nal. (*Applause*) I'd like to, be fore we go to sing ing some sam ples, I'd like to rec og nize some peo ple from the pod ium who have been very in stru men tal in help ing this to hap pen. First there is Ezra Earl Jones, the gen eral se cre tary of Gen eral Board of Dis ci ple ship, and Neil Alex ander, the pres i

dent of the pub lishing house; and [Board of Dis ci ple ship] staff mem bers Dan Ben ed ict and Sang E. Chun. These per sons have been sup port ive and sup port ing and also Harriett Olson from the Pub lishing House. They are there so lets give them our ex pres sion of thanks. (*Applause*) Now Cynthia is go ing to lead us in sam pling the sam pler, sing ing 2 or 3 hymns.

(*Singing*)

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you very much. Thank you Bishop Kim for your ef fec tive lead er ship, in shar ing the gifts and graces that God has so em pow ered you as we have now com pleted our agenda items deal ing with the or der of the day. We are grate ful to you sir, and we are in deed en riched as our church con tin ues to widen the cir cle of love and con cern. At this time we will hear from some of the leg is la tive com mit tees, be gin ning with Lo cal Church, the Rev er end Mr. Tyrone Gordon, the chair.

TYRONE D. GORDON (Kan sas West): Thank you, Bishop Henderson. To the Gen eral Con fer ence. We have the dub ious honor of be ing the sac ri fi cial lamb be ing the first leg is la tive com mit tee to re port.

(*Laughter*)

We have—I, my team—

(*Laughter*)

The vice-chair, Joel Kilpatrick, from North Geor gia, and sec re tary Judy Benson from Ok lahoma. I'm Tyrone Gordon from Kan sas West.

(*Applause*)

I'd like to call your at ten tion to Calendar Item 175. The *DCA* page num ber is 1849, 1-8-4-9, in yes ter day's *DCA*. Cal en dar Item 175, p. 1849, pe ti tion num ber 30099. And if you would like, in your *Advance DCA*, you will find it on page—the full peti tion—on 1135. It deals with adding the words *lay preacher* to the sec tion on the lay speak ers in trans fer ring cer ti fi cates. The com mit tee voted—re com mends—non con cur rence to this rec om men da tion. And the ra tionale be hind it is that this mat ter needs to re ally be cared for and ironed out in other ar eas be fore it comes to Local Church in deal ing with trans fer ring of cer ti fi cates. Bishop, this is our mo tion.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, the mo tion is for non con cur rence. You'll sup port the ac tion of the com mit tee, please vote 1; if you do not sup port their rec om men da tion then you, you will vote on num ber 2. Please vote when the light ap pears. [*Yes, 808; No, 62*] And you have sup ported the rec om men da tion from the com mit tee with

the vote of 92 percent. Thank you very much.

Discipleship, Reverend Jeffrey Greenway, the chair.

JEFFREY GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop Henderson and members of the General Conference, we have two calendar items to bring before you today. The members of our leadership team are Rubin Perry and June Wilson, who I was not able to reach before we came to the platform. She'll be with us tomorrow or on Monday. And I am Jeff Greenway from Western Pennsylvania.

Calendar Item 154 is found in yesterday's DCA, p. 1847. Calendar number 154, p. 1847. This is petition number 31016. If you want to see the full wording, it's found in your *Advance DCA* on p. 287. The motion of the committee is for concurrence. The rationale is that this language is being placed in the midst of the educational responsibilities and standards of the General Board of Discipleship. Thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions? If you'll support the recommendation coming from the committee, please press 1. If you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 839; No, 37*] You have voted to support the recommendation coming from the committee, vote of 95.4 per cent.

GREENWAY: The second item is Calendar Item Number 155 on the same page. This is petition number 31017. If you'd like to look at the full petition, this is on the *Advance DCA*, p. 290. The motion coming from the Discipleship Committee is for concurrence. The rationale is that this places a similar kind of language in the Curriculum Resources Committee section of the General Board of Discipleship in *The Book of Discipline*.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions to Reverend Greenway? I see none. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, press one. If you do not support, press two. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 788; No, 90*] And you have voted to support the recommendation coming from the committee, 89.7 per cent.

GREENWAY: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you very much.

Conferences, Dr. Charles Courtoy.

(Applause)

Report of Legislative Committee on Conferences

CHARLES W. COURTOY (Florida): It's good to have friends. Bishop

Henderson, brothers and sisters of the conference, I'd like to first introduce the leadership team of Conferences. Donde Ashmos is the vice-chair; from South West Texas Conference.

(Applause)

You have some too. Deborah Pritts, from North Central New York Conference, is the secretary.

(Applause)

We have seven petitions to present.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right.

COURTOY: The first petition will be found on p. 1846 in your DCA. It is Calendar Item number 145. It is petition number 30410; p. 179 in the *Advance DCA* contains the full text. The subject of this is having meetings outside churches in order to accommodate people with disabilities. We amended this as it originally appeared to us to read as follows: "Meetings scheduled by the annual conference and its districts, committees, boards, and councils should be held in places that are accessible to people with disabilities even if this means scheduling meetings outside church-related facilities." The committee recommends concurrence as amended. It is a justice issue that is the rationale.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you, Dr. Courtoy. Other questions? If not, if you will vote to support the recommendation from the committee, please press 1. If you do not support the recommendation from the committee, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 878; No, 22*] 97.6 per cent. You have indicated your wish to support the recommendation.

COURTOY: The next petition is found on p. 1846 in your DCA. It's Calendar Item 146; it is petition number 30815. The full text is found in the *Advance DCA* on p. 175. It is titled "Bishops may nominate ecumenical officers in good standing to assist in episcopal responsibilities." The rationale—the recommendation is nonconcurrence. Our rationale is that we—the bishop—can accomplish this now without adding additional legislation to the *Discipline*.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions? All right, if you will vote to support the recommendation from the committee, please press 1, this is for nonconcurrence. If you do not support that recommendation, please press 2. [*Yes, 859; No, 53*] By a vote of 94.2 per cent, you have supported the recommendation coming from the committee for nonconcurrence.

Provisional Conferences Debated

COURTOY: The third petition is found on p. 1847 in your DCA. It is Calendar Item number 148; it is petition number 31522. The full text can be found on p. 173 in your *Advance DCA*. The subject is to amend the current paragraph in the *Discipline* to increase from 10 to 20 the number of clergy members necessary to create a provisional conference, and to raise the number from 6 to 10 below which, if the clergy number falls, the provisional conference would be discontinued. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. The rationale: We believe this would be a disadvantage for the development of the church in many areas of our world. Finland and Russia were two areas that were cited.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, if you will support the recommendation from the committee—all right, I see a hand. Go to mike 4, please. State your name and conference please, sir.

ROBERT CASEY (Virginia): I'm the author of the petition. It just seems to me that the small number of persons required to form a provisional annual conference is really very, very, very small. And you realize that provisional annual conferences have representation at General Conference. Every time we have ten new persons—ten ministers—to form an annual conference, we're entitled to two delegates to General Conference. In addition, it seems to me that if we, if an annual conference is to mean anything, it's got to be a little bit bigger body. It's not really an, an annual conference. It's—you can't function as an annual conference in any great way with that few people, and maybe we need to grandfather those who are already in. But it seems to me that we need a higher level for forming annual conferences, divisional annual conferences, than we currently have. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Casey. Are there others who would like to speak? Yes, come to mike 4, please.

(Laughter)

That was a speech against nonconcurrence.

IRIS RAJAMAA (Finland-Finnish Provisional): If this petition carries, it will destroy our church, and I very much opposed to this.

BISHOP HENDERSON: You're speaking in opposition to the recommendation from the committee or in favor of?

RAJAMAA: In favor of the recommendation.

BISHOP HENDERSON: In favor.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, that's one on either side. Thank you very much. There's a delegate at the back. Come to mike 8, please. Yes. Presumably you are speaking against nonconcurrency?

BEVERLY WILKES (Illinois Great Rivers): Bishop, I have a question. Is an amendment appropriate at this point?

BISHOP HENDERSON: Yes.

WILKES: Well, I rise to make an amendment.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Let's hear it.

WILKES: The amendment would be "with the exception to the relationship of central conferences."

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, please get a copy of your amendment here to the stage area, ma'am.

WILKES: Yes sir.

BISHOP HENDERSON: That's an amendment which reads in essence with the exception of the central conferences. Am I—have I stated it correctly?

WILKES: Correct, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, let's see if we can get support for the amendment. If you will support amending this petition, please vote with number 1. If you do not support the amendment, please press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Voting] The amendment fails.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there others who would like to speak? Yes, please go to mike 4, please, sir. Yes, sir.

VANCE SUMMERS (West Ohio): Bishop, we should be aware as we consider this on the floor that in many of the annual conferences that would be affected by this, 10 members or 10 clergy often represent many, many persons in developing countries. I would be for the committee's report.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, that's a speech in favor of the recommendation from the committee. Thank you Reverend Summers. Yes sir, would you go to mike 4.

DONALD AVERY (Louisiana): I move the previous question.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, motion is for the call for the previous question, it's nondebatable. If you will support that recommendation or that motion from Donald Avery, please press 1. If you do not support the call for previous, please press 2. Please vote when the light appears. By 94.2% [Yes, 860; No, 53] you have called for previous question, which means all debate will cease. Now, Charles, anything else you would like to say?

COURTOY: No sir, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, if you will support the recommendation from the committee please press 1. If you do not support the recommendation, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 830; No, 93] By vote of 89.9% you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

Professing Membership Debated

COURTOY: Our next petition is found on p. 1846 in the *DCA*. It's calendar item 142, it is petition number 30314, it is found on p. 161 in the *Advance DCA*. This has to do with the use of "professing" to clarify membership calculation numbers for General Conference delegates. The committee recommends concurrency. Hear now the rationale and listen carefully, for it does have a bearing on our future. In 1996, General Conference unanimously affirmed *By Water and Spirit*, the baptismal report, and also adopted several paragraphs in the discipline that used "baptized" and "professing" members. Later the Judicial Council ruled in Decision Number 811 that this was unconstitutional because the Constitution did not provide for this. This amendment and two others we have dealing with the Constitution will place this language in the Constitution so that in the future General Conferences may decide to reconsider *By Water and Spirit*. Bishop, this is our recommendation of concurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Are there questions? Yes, right here. Mike 1, please, sir.

BILL HINSON (Texas): We are assuming with this committee's recommendation that the constitutional changes will be made, we are assuming that this body and then all of the annual conferences. Is this the assumption?

COURTOY: It's my assumption, yes, that this will be adopted by two thirds of this body and then be sent to the annual conferences for consideration.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there any other questions? Yes, go to mike 8, please, sir; or 6—whichever is more convenient—6, I believe.

TIM RESS (New York): I am wondering, is this "professing member" defined in another paragraph?

COURTOY: No sir.

RESS: Well then I would consider that to be a good reason not to support the committee.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, yes sir. You will be next, sir. Mike 8, please.

LARRY PICKENS (Northern Illinois): Bishop, this is an inquiry, could someone explain what this would mean in relation to the Judicial—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Brother Pickens, hold it one moment. Sir, you need to remain at your seat, I will call you next. I'm sorry. Thank you, I'm very sorry, sir.

PICKENS: The question is, what would this particular petition mean in relation to the Judicial Council Decision 885, which came out yesterday, which requires that professing member be defined.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, someone may want an answer. Charles, are you going to an answer that?

COURTOY: Bishop, the chair of the Legislative Committee on Discipleship is far more familiar with this than I. I wonder if he might be permitted to answer the question.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, if the body so allows. I don't see any objections. Mike 2, please.

JEFFREY E. GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): If you have a *Book of Resolutions*, you'll want to turn to number, page number 716, and there you will find the text for *By Water and the Spirit*. If you read through that, it clearly explains what is meant by professing membership, and that is what is being called for in this constitutional amendment; in these actions are this kind of understanding of professing membership, which was endorsed by the 1996 General Conference with *By Water and the Spirit*.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, so that is very helpful. Thank you. I owe a person over here a chance to speak. Mike 4, please.

MAXIE DUNNAM (Kentucky): What does our adoption of the *By Water and the Spirit* document, what kind of requirements does that make upon the General Conference and the church?

BISHOP HENDERSON: Do you want Reverend Greenway to speak to it?

COURTOY: I would prefer that he speak to it again. This has been in their committee. They worked it through in the past. He is very familiar with it. I would prefer that he answer your question, Maxie.

DUNHAM: All right.

(Laughter and long delay)

GREENWAY: That will teach me to eat a cracker after I sit down.

(Laughter, Applause)

GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): I was present in the Legislative Committee

on Discipleship in 1996. My understanding of the . . . of that conversation, was that we were trying to, we were attempting to, come to a common consensus of what we believe as United Methodist about Baptism. And flowing out of that legislative committee were several other petitions that spoke of baptized members and professing members. In Decision 811 of the Judicial Council, all of the disciplinary paragraphs referring to those two kinds of membership—professing membership and baptized membership—were ruled unconstitutional, and since that time we've been back under the 1992 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs in relation to membership. This is a sincere effort on the part of the staff persons from the General Board of Discipleship and the members of the General Board of Discipleship as we've been trying to work together since Judicial Council ruling Number 811, to bring us to a place leg is la tively and in the *Discipline* where we live into the spirit of what General Conference affirmed unanimously in 1996. I don't know that I can answer the depth of what Maxie is speaking to regarding the binding nature of that resolution, other than, that we affirmed this, and we're trying to create a way in which we can reflect that affirmation in the *Book of Discipline* into the future.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Dr. Dunnam, mike four, again.

MAXIE DUNNAM (Kentucky): My point is that if that document is binding to us, then that does shape the kind of decisions we make.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, I . . . yes. Number—number three, please. Microphone three.

PATRICK STREIFF (Switzerland-France): I work in the legislative committee where we have paragraph 4 of the Constitution. And the question which we deal with is linked to paragraph 4, because the paragraph 4 of the Constitution is the one which has not been changed at the last General Conference, and where the question is before us—what we put in this possibility that upon Baptism some one is called baptized member, and taking the vows he will become professing member. So, the question is really linked on our decision we will do on paragraph 4 in the Constitution. And there fore, I think it would be better to talk about this paragraph of the Constitution after we have made a decision on paragraph 4. And so that we wait with this item 'til we have paragraph 4. I do not know how to say it in the Rules of Order. "Table"? If that is correct.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, thank you very much. You want to speak, Jeff,

again? For clarification? You'll be next, sir. You may be seated, and you'll be next. Yes.

GREENWAY: I would move to table.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right.

GREENWAY: So that the spirit of what was just mentioned could be acted.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. There's a move, a motion to table. It has been seconded. If you will support the motion to table, please press 1, if you do not support to table, please press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 801; No, 121] By a vote of 86.9%, you have voted to table.

CHARLES COURTOY (Florida): And I would assume, there fore, we will hold the other two amendments of—dealing with other paragraphs, which is the same subject, until we deal with the others . . .

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right.

COURTOY: . . . so we'll not report now. I've got one other, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, sir.

COURTOY: This one is found on page 846. I mean, 1846, Calendar Item number 147, Petition number 30937. The full content is found on page 170 in your *Advance DCA*. The title of this is "Of ficials of The United Methodist Church Shall Not Speak Publicly for the Church in Ways That Are Inconsistent with the Social Principles." The resolution says far more than that, I hope you will read it in page 170—or the petition does. The committee moves nonconcurrency. The rationale is that the wording is ambiguous; for example, what constitutes public support, which is one of the criteria used there, and it would be very difficult to enforce, and the question was, who would do the enforcing. And so we recommend nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Other questions? I do not see a card. If you support the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrency, please press 1; if you do not support their recommendation, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 706; No, 218.] Seventy-six-point-four percent, you have voted to support the recommendation for nonconcurrency.

COURTOY: Bishop, there is something I need to call to the secretary and the Conference's attention. We were told there'd be a voting pad here for those of us that . . .

BISHOP HENDERSON: That is correct.

COURTOY: Back over here? Is that where . . . ? Thank you. We need to in form the future ones where they are.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Dr. Courtoy, and members of the Committee on Conferences. The next

legislative committee is Higher Education, J. LaVon Wilson, chair.

*Report of Legislative Committee
on Higher Education and Ministry*

J. LAVON WILSON (Illinois Great Rivers): Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Good morning.

WILSON: I would like to introduce the other members of my legislative committee, the Reverend Kay Lehman as our vice-chair from Northern Indiana Conference, and the Reverend Al Gwinn is secretary from the Kentucky Conference, and I, J. LaVon Wilson, as chair, is from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right.

(Applause)

WILSON: If you would turn in your present *DCA*, for Calendar Item 166, on page 1848, Petition 30626, and in your *Advance DCA*, 945 is the page. This petition was on the term of the episcopacy, and the committee voted nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions to Ms. Wilson? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, please press "1,"; if you do not support their recommendation, press "2." Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 724; No, 181] By a vote of 80%, you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: Our next calendar item is on the very same page, 1848, in your *DCA*. It is Item 167, Petition 30409; in your *Advance DCA*, on page 979. This is on "In capacity leave resulting from health matters and disability conditions," and our committee recommends concurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions from the body? All right, if you will support the recommendation from the committee, press 1; if you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 878; No, 34.] By a vote of 96.3%, you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: Our next petition is on 1848, it is Item 168, Petition 30916; in your *Advance DCA*, 978. This is on the subject of "Before a leave is granted, clergy shall be appointed for at least one quadrennium," and the committee voted and recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Questions? If you'll support the recommendation from the committee for nonconcurrency press 1. If you do not so support press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 799; No, 113] Eighty-seven-point-six percent is your rec-

ommendation for support for nonconcurrency.

WILSON: Our next item is 169, at the bottom of 1848, and the rest of that is on the top of 1849. Petition 30741, *Advance DCA* 957. The committee recommends concurrence with amendment as follows: "especially members of the Churches of Christ Uniting." The committee voted in concurrence with amendment.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions? If you'll support the recommendation from the committee for concurrence please press 1. If you do not so support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 851; No, 57] By a vote of 93.7% you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: Our next item is 170, found on p. 1849. Petition number is 30638 *Advance DCA* 958, and this particular one is on adding "all covenant relationships" regarding examinations for deacons. The committee recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions? If you'll support the recommendation from the committee please press 1; if you do not support press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 772; No, 141] By a vote of 84.6% you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: On the very same page the next calendar item is 171. The petition number is 30640. The *Advance DCA* page is 962. This is regarding "all covenant relationships regarding examinations of elders." The committee recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee press 1; if you do not support press 2. Please vote when the light appears. By a vote of 84.8% [Yes, 764; No, 137] you have voted to support the recommendation of the committee.

WILSON: On the very same page the Calendar Item 172. Petition number is 30050. Your *Advance DCA* page is 968. The subject was delecting words *ineffective relationship*. The committee recommended non-concurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions to the chair? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, press 1; if you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 862; No, 48] A vote of 94.7%. You have voted to support the recommendation from the committee for nonconcurrency.

WILSON: Bishop, that concludes our items from yesterday's *DCA*. Thank you very much.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thanks, Miss Wilson, and thanks to the other officers of your committee. Thank you.

(Applause)

*Legislative Committee
on Global Ministries Reports*

BISHOP HENDERSON: The next legislative committee is Global Ministries; Miss Christine Dean Keels is the chair.

CHRISTINE DEAN KEELS (Baltimore-Washington): Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Good morning.

KEELS: The Committee on Global Ministries will be presenting from page 1848. My vice-chair is Reverend Youngsook Kang, from the Rocky Mountain Conference; my secretary is Jerry Russell, from the Holston Conference. In the spirit of shared leadership, in future days you will hear from the vice-chair and the secretary. This morning, I'd like to call on Paul Ervin, who chaired the Subcommittee on Community and Ecumenical Relations, and Phyllis Ferguson, who chaired Peace and Justice Committee, to walk us through the petitions.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you.

PAUL ERVIN (North Georgia): Calendar Item 160, page 1848. This is a petition—on page 914, was Petition number 31381; 31381. If you'll turn to that page, there was a related petition which will come up later on which concurrence is recommended, this particular petition we're on—and that, incidentally, is Petition 31731 on page 916. This petition, though, that we're currently looking at relates to the support of the International Day of Prayer, and it—it was voted nonconcurrency. Nonconcurrency. Now, this is Petition 31381. The reason, the main reason was, as we understood it—it was a close vote—but the main reason it was voted nonconcurrency related to the specifics mentioned in that resolution relating to countries. But we moved nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Are there questions to Mr. Ervin? Yes. I do not see a card. I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, please press 1; if you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 778; No, 139.] By a vote of 84.8%, you voted to support the recommendation from the committee for nonconcurrency. Yes? You may proceed.

PHYLLIS S. FERGUSON (Pacific-Northwest): The next petition is petition on page 1848, Calendar Item 164, in the *Advance [sic, Volume 4] DCA*, it's on page 1848. The petition number is 31715 [sic, 31751]. The petition concerns supporting the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. The committee voted concurrence because of what these sanctions do to very poor women and children.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions from the body? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, please press 1; if you do not support their recommendation, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 703; No, 213.] By a vote of 76.7%, you voted to support the recommendation from the committee, for concurrence. Yes.

KEELS: Bishop, this concludes our report for this morning.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Let's express our appreciation to this committee.

(Applause)

You've done a great deal this morning, and we are in debt grateful to you, not only for what you've done, but for the wonderful spirit under which you've done it. We have some announcements at this time, and we'll get ready for those, and we have some special words that you need to hear in just a moment. First of all, there is an urgent resolution that comes from the Philippines about the peace and order situation. Where is Joe Samson, where are you? Back, would you go to mike five, please? From the Kansas delegation. Bishop Arichea, where are you? Would you come down for just a moment, please sir, as this is being presented? Yes, would you come down, please sir? All right, you may proceed at mike number five.

*Resolution on Peace and Conflict
in the Philippines*

ANGELITO G. SAMSON (Kansas East): I move to suspend the rules for the purpose of presenting this resolution on the peace and conflict situation in the Philippines.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. That's a motion to suspend the rules. If you will so support, press 1; if you do not wish for the rules to be suspended, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. This requires a two-thirds vote. [Yes, 859; No, 41] A vote of 95.4%, the rules are suspended. You may proceed.

SAMSON: Resolution on the peace and conflict situation in the Philippines. We rejoice with the reported rescue of the fifteen hostages previously held by extremists

Muslim rebels of the Abu Sayyaf group. But with them were four dead, a priest and three teachers. We share the agony of those 21 hostages from Sipadan Island in Malaysia, among them, French, German, Lebanese, South African, Finnish, and Malaysian nationals who face continuing uncertainties. We lament the outbreak of violence involving Muslim rebels in the 14 localities of Mindanao, including those in Sulu and Basilan islands. And so, we are grimly reminded of what we stand for as members of The United Methodist Church.

Whereas “individuals are affirmed by God in their diversity, so are nations and cultures”; and “while recognizing valid differences in culture and political philosophy, we stand for justice and peace in every” situation [1996 *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 69, section A]. Whereas, “we believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. . . . and insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them; that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities” [1996 *Book of Discipline*, par. 69C].

Be it hereby resolved, that the General Conference 2000 of The United Methodist Church express its prayer that hostilities begin to cease, for there are only losers in wars, and those who claim to be victors must live with the threat of violent reprisals in an unending cycle of vengeance; that food, medicines, clothing, and safe refuge be ensured by all parties to those whose life are in their hands, and that humanitarian agencies be allowed to care for them until the ultimate return of peace in their disturbed lands; that we join all with this our resolution of the conflicts and sorrows—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Sir, you’ll need to sum—sum up your recommendation, please. Please sum it up.

SAM SON: —that we call upon all peoples to recognize one another, to be in community with each other, in the hope of a just world order, upholding how all persons and groups must feel secure in their life and right to live within a society if order is to be achieved and maintained by law, and if we especially express this hope to both Christians and non-Christians alike, we must leave the rigors of the sovereign Philippine community. Thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, thank you. If you wish by the body to respond with the vote to affirm your recommendation, press 1; if you do not support this request, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [Yes, 848; No, 53.] By vote of 94.1%, you

have voted to support the recommendation. Thank you.

*Dangerous Situation
in Sierra Leone Reported*

BISHOP HENDERSON: The next item is a similar item. Where is the delegate who brought me the news paper clipping? Where is Bishop Humper? Bishop Humper, where are you, sir—from Sierra Leone? Would you please come down in like wise fashion as did Bishop Arichea? This is about our situation that is very explosive in Sierra Leone. Where’s the delegate who brought me this news paper clipping? Where are you? Right here. Would you go to mike one and say just a brief word to us? Then we’ll turn to the secretary for announcements.

DIANE NUNNELEE (Missouri West Conference): I just request that we ask Bishop Humper to bring us a report on our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone—as the peace process seems to be falling apart—and then for us to be led in prayer for this desperate situation of the loss of peace.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you. Bishop Ray Chamberlain is going to lead us in prayer at the benediction in just a few minutes, so he can be inclusive in that request to Almighty God. Thank you very much. Bishop Humper, you want to say a word to us. Please, sir.

BISHOP HUMPER: Thank you, Bishop. Delegates of this great United Methodist Church, without wasting much of your time, I would only want to share with you where we are at this point in trying the peace process in Sierra Leone.

On July 7, 1999, after nine years of brutal war in Sierra Leone, the international community together with the Intelligence Council of Sierra Leone managed to have a peace agreement signed in Lomé, Togo, between the government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front led by Corporal Foday Sankoh. As a result of that document the United Nations put together the process whereby sustainable peace could be achieved in Sierra Leone. The ultimate result was to send in 11,100 United Nations peacekeeping forces in Sierra Leone, and with this withdrawal of ECOMOG that’s helping the government of Sierra Leone to prosecute the war.

Though the Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR) process was going on very slowly, what our people in Sierra Leone were hopeful that in the horizon there are signs of hope for sustainable peace. Suddenly, after the final withdrawal of ECOMOG on April 29, this past Monday the rebel leader Corporal Foday Sankoh ordered his boys, the rebel boys, to arrest or

detain some of the United Nations peacekeeping force. Up to this point of speaking, on Tuesday, four peacekeeping forces, coming probably from Kenya, were killed and three wounded with the detention of the helicopter and its crew.

Yesterday we learned that four of those crew members, together with the helicopter, were released. But a Gambian-Zambian contingent of 208 was heading for Makeni where you have the greater force shown of rebel forces for deployment at the United Nations peacekeeping force. The 208, together with their armored cars and ammunition, were seized. At this point in time, according to information we have received, over 300 United Nations forces are in the hands of the rebels. And, it is not known what the state of those people is at this moment. We have learned that the international community—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Excuse me, excuse me, Bishop Humper.

BISHOP HUMPER: —have sent in members there—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Excuse me, Bishop. How does a bishop tell another bishop that the time is up? I don’t know.

(Laughter)

But, I respectfully remind you, sir, that the time has expired. If you could wrap up your statement to us, please, sir, we would be grateful. I’m so sorry. Just, just a concluding statement or two, the body will surely accept.

BISHOP HUMPER: In conclusion, *(Laughter, Applause)* the peace process is fragile in Sierra Leone. I would hope and pray that the international community will do more to help one man—who is holding the whole nation ransom—to see reason and to bring peace in that land is my submission, Mr. Chairman. I thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: We thank you.

(Applause)

We thank you, sir. We thank you very much, and Bishop Chamberlain will surely remember that in just a few moments. Yes, mike number 6, please. Mike number 6. Yes? Yes, sir.

EDWARD KAIL: (Iowa Conference) Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Mr. Kail.

KAIL: Before we adjourn, could you remind us of the process for lifting items from the Consent Calendar?

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. The legislative committee bringing that report would make those in the form of recom-

men da tions to the body. The pre sid ing of fi cer will pres ent that rec om men da tion, and the body will so re spond—to lift items from the con sent cal en dar. Are there other ques tions from the body? I'll, I'll turn to my big brothers in the epis co pacy and see if I've stated that cor rectly. That is cor rect ac cord ing to Bishop Thomas and Bishop Looney. All right, our se cre tary, Mrs. Mar shall.

Carolyn Mar shall Turns Up the Heat

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Several an nounce ments, Bishop, first one be ing, any one in terested in at tending the Africa University Choir concert at the United Meth od ist Church of Berea is re quested to see Dawn Barbara Swartz be tween 1:30 and 2:00 this af ter noon at the in for ma tion booth. There will be an at tempt to try to work out car-pooling pos si bil ities. Wanting to let you know since some sev eral of you have been very will ing to share the fact that some of you are very warm, and some of you are very cold.

(Laughter)

And if you've ever tried making com fort-con trol ex actly per fect for this num ber of peo ple, you know the pos si bil ity is—of hav ing it per fect is prob ably not there. How ever, this is to advise you that the blow ers have been turned down. At this par tic u lar point—

(Applause)

while you are re joic ing at that, let me tell you that there are—there is ab so lutely no air mov ing on the stage,

(Laughter)

and there is no air-con di tion ing up here at all. The bish ops be hind this par tic u lar table will be even more un com fort able, and we are sit ting under heavy lights with ab so lutely no air. So at least re mem ber that if you feel a bit more com fort able.

(Laughter)

BISHOP HENDERSON: I don't think you ought to tell them that; they may want to turn the lights up.

(Laughter)

MARSHALL: Another point: All sub com mit tees of Fi nan cial Ad min is tra tion, the Fi nan cial Ad min is tra tion legis la tive com mit tee will meet in the com mit tee room one and a half hours af ter ad jour nment of this ple nary—all sub com mit tees of fi nan cial in ter pre ta tion.

Recognizing Prayer Concerns

Then, just a word to sim ply share and of fer the ser vices of the se cre tarial staff. Across the last sev eral days, and I can see it coming even more as we go into this last week—yes, we have a week to go—per sons have come ex press ing their concern, and right fully so, about per sons in their del e ga tion who have had to go home, who are not here because of an emer gency, either of their own—physical—some thing to do with some body in their family who has passed away—you can im agine the mul ti tude of con cerns in a body of this size—and asking that we as a body of con cerned Chris tians meet ing in this Gen eral Con fer ence would share our love and con cern with them. I've got sev eral pieces of pa per with names and so forth on them and the spe cif ics. If you would like to have that done for whom ever is in your del e ga tion who would be so af fected, and you would get the name to me on a piece of pa per—please don't stop me in the hall—I'll be glad to take the piece of pa per there, but men tion a name in the hall and say you will re mem ber that—that's a lit tle hard to do. If you'll put it on a piece of pa per and hand it to me, if the ad dress is the same as is in the hand book for del e gates, we can look that up very sim ply. If it's dif fer ent, let us know. But we will be glad to re spond to those con cerns from all of us gathered here as a Gen eral Con fer ence. Bishop, that com pletes the an nounce ments.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Madame Secretary. Where is Micheline Baussam from Haiti? Would you stand, please? You were not rec og nized the other night, Tues day—the other day when our spe cial guests and del e gates were rec og nized, vice-president of the Methodist Church of the Ca rib bean and the Amer i cas Con cordat Church from Haiti. You are more than wel come. We are glad you are here to join us. Would you greet greet her so.

(Applause)

Thank you, del e gates, for that won der ful ap plause for a sis ter of ours. Let me ex press to Bishop James S. Thomas and Bishop Rich ard Looney my ap pre ci a tion for serv ing as back ups for the pre sid ing chair this morning.

This has been a very, very spe cial honor for me. Just the site on which we gather is ex tremely spe cial. Cleve land, Ohio, is my sec ond home. My fam ily, many mem bers of my fam ily, moved here dur ing the forties—the mid-forties and early fifties—and three out of five boys of the Henderson clan set tled here in Cleve land.

Many of these are now gone on to the Church Tri um phant, and I have bit ter and sweet mem o ries of this city as we gather here. I ex pressed to a mem ber of the Com mit tee on Pre sid ing Of fi cers, "Please don't do that to me. Don't sub mit my name"; and it was done any way. I will deal with that preacher later.

(Laughter)

But it has been a sig nal honor, and I want to thank you, mem bers of the Gen eral Con fer ence del e ga tion, for be ing so spe cial and so dear. There is noth ing on this earth that we can not ac com plish as The United Meth od ist Church if we ever set our minds in the right di rec tion; and we're do ing that. And let me ex press to you my ap pre ci a tion. Bishop Thomas has been a bishop for 36 years. I was there when he was elected on the cam pus of Bethune-Cookman Col lege in 1964. I was ob viously a very, very, very, very young preacher.

(Laughter)

Bishop Noah W. Moore was pre sid ing when the read ing of the bal lot took place. He has been in the trenches a long time. He's a hero, not just of mine, but of many others gathered here and scattered across the face of the earth. Bishop Richard Looney has given tremen dous lead ership for the church in Holston, and then as a bishop of the church in the South Geor gia Con fer ence. Would you ex press to these two giants of the church—pun in tended—let's say thank you to these two. Would you do that?

(Applause)

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you. You may remain standing. Bishop Ray Cham ber lain, the Holston Area. Yes, Mrs. Massey? *(Pause)* All-rightie, if it's about me, you can't do it.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: (Florida) I'm go ing to do it any way. *(Laughter)* Point of personal privi lege as head of the Florida dele ga tion. Many of you do not re al ize that Bishop Henderson has been se ri ously ill in the past year. We are grate ful to him for his lead ership and for God for his bless ing of heal ing dur ing this time. Thank you, Bishop Henderson, we're proud of you.

(Sustained applause)

BISHOP RAY W. CHAMBERLAIN JR.: Our send ing forth will be in three parts: a pe ti tion, and then a ques tion, and then a man date. First, the pe ti tion. Let us wait, in si lent prayer, re mem ber ing God's hurt ing chil dren all over the world, es pe cially those

that have been mentioned here this morning. Let us be in prayer.

(Prayer)

BISHOP RAY W. CHAMBERLAIN JR:
And now for this question. And you may answer, I hope in the affirmative. Are you blessed? *(Congregation responds "yes")*
Try it one more time. Are you blessed? *(Congregation responds louder, "yes")*
Then go in the name and spirit and the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to your neighbors, wherever and whenever. Amen *(Congregation responds, "Amen.")*