


The Beauty of HOLINESS

A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE. A HOLY CALLING.

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026

Monday, August 31

DAILY JOURNAL

Morning Worship · Legislative Committees · Mission Experience
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Today's Schedule 3

Changes and Corrections 4

Petitions for Consideration 7

Minutes of the Plenary Session 9

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

6:30 AM – 7:00 AM	GC26 Shuttle Off-Site Lodging
6:45 AM – 9:30 AM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Arrival Break
7:00 AM – 7:30 PM	Exhibits Open
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Hospitality
7:30 AM	Shuttle pick-up to Clergy & Leadership Training (Mission Experience) — SCC Street Entrance
7:45 AM	Consecration Prayer
7:45 AM	Doors open to Worship
7:30 AM – 9:00 PM	GC 26 Office open
8:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Communications Office
8:15 AM – 9:20 AM	Worship • ENCOUNTERING A HOLY GOD: TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES (Rev. Portia Kuzanga) • Exodus 3-4 (especially 3:1-10)
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Clergy & Leadership Training (Mission Experience) — Soweto
9:20 AM – 9:30 AM	Transition
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Legislative Committees
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Legislative Committees
11:30 AM	Shuttle to Health Checks (Mission Experience) — SCC Street Entrance
11:30 AM	Shuttle to Children's Bible Camp (Mission Experience) — SCC Street Entrance
11:30 AM	Shuttle to Christian Discipleship Discussions (Mission Experience) — SCC Street Entrance
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch provided on-site for those with the meal plan
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Health Checks (Mission Experience)
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Children's Bible Camp (Mission Experience)
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Christian Discipleship Discussions (Mission Experience) — Alexandra
1:00 PM	Shuttle returns from Clergy & Leadership Training
1:15 PM	Consecration Prayer — Boardroom 4
1:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Council on Appeals
1:45 PM – 3:15 PM	Legislative Committees
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Legislative Committees
4:30 PM	Shuttle return from Health Checks
5:00 PM	Shuttle return from Children's Bible Camp
5:00 PM	Shuttle return from Christian Discipleship Discussions
3:45 PM – 10:00 PM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels — SCC Street Entrance
6:00 PM	Deadline for Submitting Committee Actions
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner provided on-site for those with the meal plan
7:00 PM	Consecration Prayer — Boardroom 4
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Legislative Committees (as needed)
8:00 PM	GC26 Shuttle Off-Site Lodging — SCC Street Entrance

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

DELEGATION CHANGES

Aldersgate Europe Emerging Area

- Withdraw clergy representative Guillem Correa and replace him with Will Sallee.

Central African Republic

- Withdraw clergy alternate Pahouala Zaman Claude Bertrand and replace him with Sophie Clarisse Ndenguilo as the new clergy alternate.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Withdraw lay delegate Nicolas Munongo Susika and replace him with Kankolongo Johnson, serving on the Constitution, Connectional Organization, and Finance Legislative Committee. There are no further alternates or reserves.
- Withdraw lay delegates Therese Bidiaku Pangi, Marthe Alombe Ilima, Platini Masapu Bindanda, Kassi Pyodi Nadege, Kankolongo Muela Johnson, and Claudette Kon Kand. There are no further alternates or reserves.
- Withdraw clergy alternate Lokoto Lowa Armand Pierre.

East Russia and Eurasia

- Withdraw clergy delegate Dmitrii Lysin and replace him with Ekaterina Zubkova, serving on the Superintendency Legislative Committee. The new clergy alternate is Ivan Kochkin.

India

- Withdraw lay delegate Grace Sweetie Ann Nesaraj and replace her with Godpearl J Merlyn Stephy, serving on the Doctrine and Sacraments Legislative Committee. There are no further reserves, leaving India with one lay alternate.

Florida

- Withdraw lay delegate Tim Smith and replace him with alternate Cassie Yde, serving on the Social Witness Legislative Committee. There are no further lay alternates or reserves.

Mississippi-West Tennessee

- Withdraw lay delegate Don Dalton and replace him with Lori Smith, serving on the Conferences Legislative Committee. There are no further alternates or reserves.

Oasis

- Restored Mammadou Sow as the lay delegate. Moussa Sow becomes the lay alternate. Mohamed Aanaya becomes the lay reserve.

South Carolina

- Restored Elizabeth Sullivan as a clergy delegate. Scott Allen moves from being a clergy delegate to being a clergy alternate. Laura Geloni moves from being a clergy alternate to being a clergy reserve.

Tanzania

- Withdraw lay delegate Deusi Emmanuel and replace him with Joshua Musimo, serving on the Superintendency Legislative Committee. The new lay alternate is Fausta Miowosa.

West Plains

- Withdraw lay delegate Doug Hayes and replace him with Justin Burch serving on the Ministry Legislative Committee. The new lay alternate will be Trey Wilson.

CORRECTIONS TO THE SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, September 1 – the start time for Plenary or Legislative Committees after the break is 11 AM, not 11 PM.
- Friday, September 4 – the correct spelling of the preacher's name is Rev. Mark Sorensen
- Friday, September 4 – the start time for Plenary after the break is 11 AM, not 11 PM.
- The Luncheon with Ecumenical Guests scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, at 12:30 PM has been moved to Thursday, September 3, at 12:30 PM and combined with the Luncheon with Covenant Partners. The room location has changed to Boardroom 5.

CHANGE TO NOMINATIONS

- Mack Parker has withdrawn from consideration as a laity nominee for the Connectional Council.
- Danjuma Juji has withdrawn from consideration as a nominee for bishop.

CHANGE TO EXHIBITORS

- The exhibitor for booth 18 is Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, www.gordonconwell.edu, kkiefer1@gordonconwell.edu, (704) 940-5835, 130 Essex St, South Hamilton, MA 01982.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS ADDED

Local Church Legislative Committee

Subcommittee A

- Jeff Brotherton, chair (North Carolina)
- Margaret Jillo, secretary (Kenya)

Subcommittee B

- Allen Cason, chair (South Georgia)
- Teresa Auten, secretary (North Carolina)

Subcommittee C

- Jill Davis, chair (Great Lakes)
- Amy Gearhardt, secretary (Virginia)

Subcommittee D

- Debbie Smalley, chair (Alabama Emerald Coast)
- Abby Seel, secretary (Mid-South)

Subcommittee E

- Ben McGehee, chair (Trinity)
- Kristina Ellis Bannister, secretary (South Carolina)

Subcommittee F

- Diana Briselli, chair (Northeast)
- Drew Samuel Holland, secretary (Mississippi-West Tennessee)

Conferences Legislative Committee**Subcommittee A**

- Holly Lee Joy, chair (Heartland)
- Michael Thomas Sawicki, vice-chair (Great Lakes)
- Katrina Elizabeth Jackson, secretary (Alabama Emerald Coast)

Subcommittee B

- Allen Newton, chair (Alabama Emerald Coast)
- Bill Lee Brown, vice-chair (Heartland)
- Sue Hershberger Guttag, secretary (Allegheny West)

PETITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Committee Actions

Sunday, 30 August 2026

Day 1 of the General Conference. In a consent-agenda identifier the digit is the conference day and the letter its disposition, A supported and B rejected. A petition may be moved off a consent agenda from the floor, in which case it is taken and recorded on its own.

MINISTRY | PETITIONS COMPLETED

Consent Agenda MIN-1A — Petitions Supported

Petition 1309 Page 226 **Clarifying the Nature of Ordained Ministry and Clergy Relationship to the Church**
Supported as Amended: 58 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

Provisions that changed:

THIS PETITION ADDS A NEW ~~¶503~~504, RENUMBERING SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS

ADD NEW Paragraph ~~503~~504

~~¶503~~**¶504** – Clergy Relationship to the Church. Ministry in the Christian church flows from Christ's ministry. Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd and not a hireling (John 10:11–15). ~~In keeping with this understanding, the Global Methodist Church calls and ordains clergy to serve as shepherds of Christ's flock within the covenantal and connectional life of the Church. In keeping with this understanding, the Global Methodist Church affirms the call to ministry and ordains clergy to serve as shepherds of Christ's flock within the covenantal and connectional life of the Church.~~

Ordained ministry therefore represents a sacred calling under the authority of Christ and his Church rather than exclusively an employment relationship.

~~Clergy do not serve as employees of a local church, district, or annual conference. The Church appoints clergy to serve, and clergy remain accountable to its doctrine, discipline, and mission. The Bishop appoints clergy to serve, and clergy remain accountable to its doctrine, discipline, and mission.~~

Civil authorities and other entities may classify clergy as employees for limited legal or regulatory purposes such as taxation, benefits, or insurance. These classifications do not define the nature of ordained ministry or alter the relationship between clergy, the annual conference, and the congregations they serve.

~~Ordained ministry therefore represents a sacred calling under the authority of Christ and his Church rather than an employment relationship.~~

Renumber current paragraph ~~503~~504 and all subsequent paragraphs in part 5 to reflect the insertion of a new paragraph ~~503~~504.

Petition 1229 Page 278 **Addition of Christological Question to Ordination as Deacon Examination**
Supported as Amended: 48 Yes / 5 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

¶509.1 Ordination Questions. The stem and questions (a)–(c) are unchanged. Provisions that changed:

(d) What is your understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ?

(e) What is your personal experience of Jesus as Lord and Savior?

~~(df)~~ How do you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and in the Church?

~~(eg)~~ What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God?

~~(fh)~~ What significance do you believe that the resurrection holds?

~~**(g) What is your understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ, and what is your personal experience of him as Lord and Savior?**~~

- (~~ghi~~) What is your understanding of the nature and authority of Scripture?
- (~~hij~~) What is your understanding of the nature and mission of the Church?
- (~~ijk~~) What gifts and graces do you bring to the work of ministry?
- (~~jkl~~) What is the meaning of ordination?
- (~~klm~~) What is the role and significance of the sacraments?
- (~~lmn~~) Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity and will you support and maintain it?
- (~~mno~~) For the sake of the church's witness, are you willing to dedicate yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, exercising self-control in your personal habits, integrity in all of your relationships and if married, fidelity in your covenant with your spouse, or if single, chastity in your personal conduct?

The closing paragraph on the board of ministry's evaluation is unchanged. The list now ends at (o); in v1.30 it ended at (n).

CONFERENCES | PETITIONS COMPLETED

Consent Agenda CONF-1A — Petitions Supported

Petition 1071 Page 377 **Petition Deleting Outdated References in 700s Paragraphs**
Supported as Original: 32 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION | PETITIONS COMPLETED

Consent Agenda JUD-1A — Petitions Supported

Petition 1114 Page 570 **Additional Flexibility for Unresolved Complaints**
Supported as Original: 25 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1327 Page 571 **Full Biblical Accountability**
Supported as Original: 29 Yes / 1 No / 1 Abstention

Individual Consideration — Not on a Consent Agenda

Petition 1045 Page 572 **Petition to amend Paragraph 905 from the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.**
Supported as Original: 21 Yes / 8 No / 0 Abstentions

Reading the Marks

Committee insertion	<u>The Bishop appoints clergy to serve</u>
Committee deletion	Clergy do not serve as employees
Committee deletion of a petitioner insertion	(g) What is your understanding of the person and work...
Petitioner insertion (v1.30)	<u>...nominated by the conference superintendent...</u>
Petitioner deletion (v1.30)	The committee shall be nominated by the bishop...

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION

SUNDAY, 30 AUGUST 2026

Prior to the Plenary Session, the Conference gathered for worship and a Concert of Prayer. Bishop Kenneth Levingston delivered the message, "Holiness Begins With God," from 1 Chronicles 16:23-33 (Psalm 96:1-13). Bishop Eduard Khegay and Dr. John Beyers officiated Holy Communion.

Bishop Jeff Greenway called the opening plenary session to order at 10:55 AM, joined at the platform by Bishop Mark Webb, Dean of the Assembly of Bishops; John Moore, parliamentarian; General Conference Secretary Rev. Tom Lambrecht (Trinity); and Assistant Secretary Rev. Lamar C. Oliver (West Plains). Marking the tenth anniversary of the gathering at The Woodlands Methodist Church near Houston that began the formation of the Global Methodist Church, Bishop Greenway read Philippians 1:3-11 and described a church now numbering 7,200 congregations.

Bishop Greenway reported flash flooding in Nepal since the body had gathered. Eleven Global Methodist congregations have been affected, one of them losing thirty members, with 675 dead and more than 2,400 missing as of that morning. Bishop Greenway recognized those present with us from Nepal. He further reported that Faye Olanan, traveling as a guest of the Covenant Philippines delegation, had broken her hip the previous day; her husband, Vergilio Olanan, is conference superintendent of Covenant Philippines. Bishop Greenway led the body in prayer for Nepal and for Mrs. Olanan. Later in the session he reported that the Kingdom Advancement Commission had already released disaster-response funds to Nepal, and encouraged local churches to receive special offerings for the relief effort.

Rev. Lambrecht oversaw the distribution of the electronic voting devices and instructed the body on the use of motion forms. Procedural motions were taken while distribution continued.

James Pollitt (Allegheny West) was recognized. Mr. Pollitt offered the following motion:

I move that the conference sets the bar as the area in the plenary hall bounded by the ropes within which the delegates are seated and the stage areas for the delegates making presentations.

Bishop Greenway determined the motion was properly before the body and called for a vote by show of hands.

There was no opposition to the motion setting the bar of the conference.

Rev. Jill Jackson-Sears (Mid-Texas) was recognized. Rev. Jackson-Sears offered the following motion:

I move that in order to cast a valid vote, a delegate must be within the bar of the conference or on the stage to make a presentation. No delegate may take a voting device out of the bar of the conference.

Bishop Greenway determined the motion was properly before the body and called for a vote by show of hands.

The motion was approved with no opposition.

Dr. John Beyers (North Georgia) was recognized. Dr. Beyers offered the following motion:

I move that we allow our covenant partners from Costa Rica and Korea to sit within the bar with voice, but without vote in accordance with our terms of the covenant.

Bishop Greenway determined the motion was properly before the body and called for a vote by show of hands.

The motion was approved with no opposition.

Heather Carter-Young (North Carolina) led the body in training on the electronic voting system, working through the four ballot types the conference will use, and four practice ballots were taken. Connectivity proved unreliable throughout. On the practice ballot requiring two selections, Rev. Lambrecht reported that approximately 360 voters should have produced more than 720 votes but that 678 registered; the final practice ballot was ended early, the Secretary noting that the internet was overloaded and that the difficulty was being worked on.

Norma Morrison (Upper Midwest), chair of the Agenda Committee, presented the day's agenda. She described the committee's composition — four laity and four clergy elected by the Connectional Council, the chairs of the eight legislative committees, and Bishop Greenway — and noted that the committee meets each morning to set that day's agenda. The agenda provided for the report of the Credentials Committee, the report of the General Conference Commission and adoption of the revised Plan of Organization and Covenant; an afternoon plenary carrying the Episcopal Address, the episcopal renomination ballot and a proposed constitutional amendment to ¶ 213; and legislative committees through the evening.

Rev. Julius Nelson (Grain Coast) was recognized. Rev. Nelson moved to amend the agenda to provide that the Global Episcopacy Committee report to this first plenary of the General Conference, for the period since Costa Rica, on the evaluation of the interim bishops before the renomination process takes place. Speaking to his motion, Rev. Nelson expressed appreciation for the committee's work with the superintendents and the Assembly of Bishops and argued that the body was about to take a renomination vote without having received any report on the committee's major actions or on the evaluation of the superintendents. No one spoke against the amendment. **The amendment was added to the agenda by a showing of hands.** Bishop Greenway noted the Agenda Committee would determine the placement of the added report over the lunch break. **The agenda, as amended, was approved by a showing of hands with no opposition.**

Luvo Thwethwa (South Africa), chair of the Credentials Committee, reported two actions of the committee. In response to travel delays, the committee established a pathway for heads of delegation to seat elected reserves temporarily until the elected delegates arrive and check in at the General Conference. On an appeal regarding a clergy person's eligibility to serve as a delegate, the committee restored that clergy person to delegate status in accordance with the annual conference election and the pastor's current good standing. Mr. Thwethwa moved the report, which came from the committee and required no second. **The report of the Credentials Committee was approved by a showing of hands with no opposition.**

Rev. Lambrecht offered announcements concerning the noon recess and the translated editions of the Daily Journal. Bishop Greenway prayed a blessing over the meal.

LUNCH BREAK

The afternoon session opened with Bridget Kirk (Heartland), on behalf of the General Conference Commission, introducing Mark Gorveatte of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation, a sponsor of the General Conference, who brought greetings and prayed for the body in the words of Ephesians 4. Bishop Greenway welcomed Bishop Scott Jones to the second chair.

Rev. Mike Grant (Allegheny West), chair of the General Conference Commission, presented the commission's report and welcomed the body to the Sandton Convention Centre for the first General Conference held on African soil. He recognized the fourteen teams and more than 150 volunteers who prepared the conference. Two weeks earlier, he reported, the commission had been preparing for a hybrid conference in Nigeria, only about three people from that nation then holding visas, with comparable concern for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia; the Nigerian, Congolese and Ethiopian delegates were now almost all present, and were recognized by the body. He described the mission experiences under way across Johannesburg — a vacation Bible school, a medical clinic, teaching for pastors and lay people, provision for women's needs and feeding programmes — and announced African Night on Wednesday. He noted the commission had deliberately not selected a site for the next General Conference, leaving that work to the next commission in concert with the Connectional Council. Rev. Grant then offered the following motion:

I move the adoption of the plan of organization and covenant for our life together. You will find that on pages 26 to 38 in the pre-conference workbook.

Bishop Greenway determined the motion came from the commission and required no second. **The revised Plan of Organization and Covenant for Our Life Together was approved by a showing of hands with no opposition.** Bishop Greenway presented Rev. Grant with a gift on behalf of a grateful church in appreciation of his leadership.

Bishop Scott Jones delivered the Episcopal Address as the unanimous recommendation of the Assembly of Bishops. Tracing the church from its preparations in 2016 and its founding in 2022, he called the body to sing “And Are We Yet Alive” and urged those still engaged in disaffiliation litigation, or carrying what he called post-denominational stress, to be healed rather than to re-fight old battles. He organized the address around eight terms — a Bible-believing, Jesus-following, Spirit-led, grace-filled, global, Wesleyan, mission-focused movement — giving thanks for the church’s progress in six and raising concern about the last two. He named the revision of the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith an important task facing this General Conference; observed that the church is now present in at least 47 countries, with ten languages in use at this meeting; and charged that the church must give far more trust and permission at every level, be willing to take risks and fail forward, and shake off habits learned in a declining denomination that made evangelism and church planting a low priority.

Rev. Chris Ritter (Great Lakes), chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee, brought the report the body had added to the agenda that morning, its written form having been provided in the pre-conference materials. He described a 360-degree evaluation process drawing input from conference-level leaders, lay and clergy leaders, superintendency committees and denominational staff, with the bishops also evaluating one another. He reported that for those bishops seeking reelection the evaluations were positive and evidenced signs of the continuing sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, and that there are no concerns among the members of the committee about their reelection for continued service. More specific information, he said, had been provided to the more than one hundred members of the area committees on episcopacy — one lay and one clergy person from each conference — who had access to additional material including information on complaints received and how those complaints were resolved. Rev. Ritter closed by acknowledging that the work of electing the next bishops now rests with the General Conference, and prayed.

Speaking as a bishop who will complete his service at the close of this conference, Bishop Greenway asked the body for a different culture around the episcopacy, asking delegates to expunge the phrase “running for the episcopacy” from their vocabulary: the church invites people to stand for election, offering their gifts to be considered by the church for an office of servant leadership.

Rev. Lambrecht explained the renomination process. The interim bishops elected in 2024 were to serve two years, the original intention being that all would step down; changes made at the convening General Conference allow up to half of them — three of the six — to be renominated. Three of the current interim bishops chose not to seek reelection, leaving three, the maximum that may be renominated. A bishop must receive 75 percent support to be renominated and so to appear on the episcopal election ballot later in the conference. The ballot as first displayed carried the name of Bishop Eduard Kheday in error; Bishop Greenway corrected it from the chair to Bishops Carolyn Moore, Leah Hidde-Gregory and John Peña Auta before voting opened.

Rev. Wilton Odongo (Kenya) rose to a point of order, seeking clarification on whether ¶ 604.8 requires the bishops to be voted upon individually or together, the paragraph not specifying the method. Bishop Greenway ruled that the process before the body permitted them to be voted upon individually within a single ballot, and Rev. Lambrecht confirmed that each bishop would separately require 75 percent.

Rev. Jason Burnham (Trinity) was recognized and asked that the mechanics of casting votes for more than one name be explained, which Rev. Lambrecht demonstrated. Rev. Burnham then offered the following motion:

I move that we take three separate ballots and each one of them would be yes or no.

Speaking to his motion, Rev. Burnham noted the body had already had trouble knowing whether votes were registering, particularly on ballots taking multiple selections, that no successful test run of the voting devices had been achieved, and that he would not wish so critical a vote to be in error on account of the devices. No one spoke against the motion. **The motion to take three separate ballots was approved by a showing of hands.**

Rev. Scott Pattison (Great Lakes) was recognized and moved that the results of all the votes be withheld until all the voting is complete, so that no one result should influence a later ballot, in keeping with the intent of the original single-ballot method. No one spoke against the motion. **The motion was approved by a showing of hands.**

Rev. Chris Gadlage (Great Lakes) rose to a point of personal privilege to explain that the amendment he was about to offer is wider in scope than the text printed at page 39 of the pre-conference materials, though the heart of it is the same. Rev. Gadlage then offered the following motion:

I move to amend paragraph 213 by replacing the first sentence with the following: Proposed amendments to the constitution may originate from any of the following sources, the general conference, a general conference legislative committee, an annual conference session, an annual conference delegation, a local church or a professing member. I further move that this amendment be effective immediately upon passage and that we request the Constitution, Connectional Organization and Finance Legislative Committee consider paragraph 213 and return with a proposal for a permanent list of potential origins for constitutional amendments to replace the wording of this amendment.

Speaking to his motion, Rev. Gadlage said that all of the amendments submitted for the constitution would be ruled out of order without it, and that the referral would allow the committee to return with a more permanent solution. No one spoke against the motion. **The amendment to ¶ 213 was approved by a showing of hands with no opposition, effective immediately upon passage.**

The body then took the three renomination ballots, the results of all three being withheld until the last had closed. Each required 75 percent of the votes cast.

QUALIFICATION BALLOT #1 — BISHOP CAROLYN MOORE (279 NEEDED TO QUALIFY)

291 in favor of 372 votes cast — 78.2%

QUALIFIED to stand for election

QUALIFICATION BALLOT #2 — BISHOP JOHN PEÑA AUTA (276 NEEDED TO QUALIFY)

294 in favor of 368 votes cast — 79.9%

QUALIFIED to stand for election

QUALIFICATION BALLOT #3 — BISHOP LEAH HIDDE-GREGORY (276 NEEDED TO QUALIFY)

269 in favor of 367 votes cast — 73.3%

NOT QUALIFIED

Rev. Lambrecht read the results aloud as well as displaying them, the translation system not carrying written material. **Bishops Carolyn Moore and John Peña Auta were renominated and will stand for election later in the conference; Bishop Leah Hidde-Gregory was not renominated.**

Rev. Lambrecht offered announcements, including that of 400 printed copies of the Petitions Report ordered, 200 were received and the remainder are unaccounted for; delegates able to work from the digital edition were asked to leave their printed copies at the front for those without one.

Rev. Nathanael Fugate (Allegheny West) was recognized. Rev. Fugate offered the following motion:

Request for a Declaratory Decision from the 2026 General Conference

WHEREAS ¶922.6 states, “The Connectional Council on Appeals may grant certiorari to render a declaratory decision as to the meaning, application, or effect of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* or any portion thereof or the legality, meaning, application, or effect of any act or legislation of an annual conference. Petitions for certiorari may be filed by: The General Conference upon the vote of one-fifth of the delegates present and voting;”

WHEREAS ¶922.2 states, “The Connectional Council on Appeals shall determine whether any proposed legislation is in conflict with this *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* when such a declaratory decision is requested by one-fifth of the members of the General Conference presenting and voting [...]”

THEREFORE The Connectional Council on Appeals is requested to rule on the meaning, application, and effect of ¶¶103.1, 203, 212-213 as they apply to Petitions 1441, 1231, 1094, 1095, 1444, 1447 and their legality. Specifically, the Connection Council on Appeals is asked the following:

1) What is the meaning of “combination” as defined in ¶212.1?

- 2) Can a combination under ¶212.1 entirely revoke, by deletion or removal, sections or ideas of the *Articles of Religion* and *Confession of Faith*, or can a combination under ¶212.1 alter or change the *Articles of Religion* and *Confession of Faith* by adding in entirely new sections or ideas?
- 3) Are Petitions 1441 and 1231, which revoke, by deletion or removal, sections or ideas of the *Articles of Religion* and *Confession of Faith*, and which alter or change the *Articles of Religion* and *Confession of Faith* by adding entirely new sections and ideas, considered a combination as defined in ¶212.1?
- 4) Under ¶¶ 212.1 and 213 of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, what is the voting threshold required to adopt either petition 1441 or 1231?
- 5) Do either petition 1441 or 1231 explicitly or implicitly revoke, alter, or change Part One of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* ¶¶103.1 and 106, the Constitution ¶203, or the Restrictive Rule ¶212.1 and if so, in what way?
- 6) If petitions 1441 or 1231 do not revoke, alter, or change ¶¶ 103.1, 106, 203, or 212.1, what is the meaning, application, and effect of those paragraphs once either petition 1441 or 1231 is adopted?
- 7) If adopted, do either petition 1441 or 1231 amend the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* to remove all references to and the substance of the *Articles of Religion* and the *Confession of Faith* as currently printed from the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*? If not, what is the meaning, application, or effect of the references to the *Articles of Religion* and the *Confession of Faith* in Part One and Part Two of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*?
- 8) What is the voting threshold required to adopt Petitions 1094, 1095, 1444, and 1447 specifically with reference to ¶212.1 and ¶213?
- 9) What is the meaning, application or effect of ¶212.1, if any, to proposed amendments to Part One of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*? Does the entirety of Part One of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* constitute the constitutive standards referenced in ¶212.1 and ¶203?
- 10) If either petition 1441 or 1231 is adopted or rejected, what is the meaning, application or effect of ¶212.1 on the ability of General Conferences convening after the adjournment of the 2026 General Conference to present and adopt new combinations of the *Articles of Religion* and the *Confession of Faith*?

Speaking to his motion, Rev. Fugate said his purpose was that the body vote in a way that protects its actions from being reversed by legal scrutiny, so that its work on the Articles of Faith stands firm and is not later overturned.

Rev. Dr. David F. Watson (Allegheny West) spoke against the referral, calling it an unnecessary complication predicated on a manufactured lack of clarity; he noted that the concerns had not arisen through the vetting the Articles of Faith received, and read ¶ 212.1 as already clear in requiring a three-fourths vote of the General Conference for any successor document to the Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith. He urged the body not to outsource its decisions. No further delegate sought the floor.

Bishop Greenway noted the referral required the support of one-fifth of the body and put the question to the voting devices. **The motion failed, receiving 66 of 361 votes cast — 18.3 percent — short of the one-fifth required. The request for a declaratory decision fails.**

Bishop Emeritus Robert Hayes closed the session in prayer. Bishop Greenway declared the body in recess at 3:55 PM.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS



This page intentionally left blank.

Esta página está en blanco intencionalmente.

Cette page est intentionnellement laissée vierge.

Esta página foi intencionalmente deixada em branco.

Ukurasa huu umeachwa wazi kwa makusudi.

이 페이지는 의도적으로 비워 두었습니다.

ይህ ገጽ ሆኖ ተቀላቅሎ ባዶ ቀርቷል።

Эта страница намеренно оставлена пустой.

หน้านี้ปล่อยว่างโดยเจตนา
