


The Beauty of HOLINESS

A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE. A HOLY CALLING.

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026

Saturday, September 5

DAILY JOURNAL

Plenary Session · Bishop Consecration Service
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

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KUDO



Plenary Session

<https://qrco.de/bgyc5q>

TODAY'S SCHEDULE — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:30 AM – 7:00 AM	GC26 Shuttle Off-Site Lodging
6:45 AM – 9:30 AM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
7:00 AM – 1:45 PM	Exhibit Hall Opens
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Arrival Break
7:00 AM	Agenda Committee
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Hospitality
7:45 AM	Consecration Prayer
7:45 AM	Doors open to Worship
8:15 AM – 8:45 AM	Worship • Simon Mafunda preaching • CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: WE DIE TO LIVE • Matthew 16:24-25; Galatians 2 (especially 2:19-21); Colossians 3:1-11
8:45 AM – 9:05 AM	Transition
9:05 AM – 10:30 AM	Plenary • Report of the Agenda Committee • Legislative Committee Actions • Election of General Conference Secretary - Jessica LaGrone
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Plenary • Adopt Proposed Plan of Organization Legislative Committee Actions
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch provided on-site for those with the meal plan
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
1:15 PM	Consecration Prayer
1:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Plenary • Legislative Committee Actions
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break for set up
3:00 PM	Consecration Prayer
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Bishop Consecration Service • Bishop Greenway preaching • CONSECRATED TO SERVE • 1 Kings 3:1-14
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
5:00 PM	Break down of all areas

Sunday, September 6

5:15 AM – ?	Hotels to Sandton Train Station
7:00 AM – 11:00 AM	All GC Attendees must check out of hotels (unless other previous arrangements have been made)

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

CORRECTION TO PETITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

One petition reported in an earlier edition carries a committee action that has since changed. The action printed was correct as recorded at the time; the record has moved since.

Petition 1025 — Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Training (Report page 344)

- Reported in Thursday's Daily Journal as Referred, with a vote of 8 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions. Correctly: Referred, with a vote of 25 Yes / 1 No / 1 Abstention. The disposition is unchanged.

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION

FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

The session was called to order at 10:00 AM. Bishop Carolyn Moore opened the session in prayer and presided over the morning. Norma Morrison (Upper Midwest), chair of the Agenda Committee, presented the day's agenda: commission and committee elections, followed by legislative petitions, in a pattern to continue for the rest of the day; break and meal times as on previous days; and, depending on the day's progress, a possible evening session from 7:30 to 9:30 PM, on which a decision would be made in the afternoon. Bishop Moore would preside in the morning and Bishop Mark J. Webb in the afternoon and potentially the evening. **The day's agenda was approved by a showing of hands.**

Delegates devoted time to perfecting the printed Commission and Committee Nominees list before proceeding to balloting. The complete list of corrections will appear in the Comprehensive Minutes of GC2026.

Rev. Tom Lambrecht, General Conference Secretary, explained the process for electing members of the General Conference's commissions and committees from the corrected Commission and Committee Nominees list printed in the day's Journal, on the same worksheet method used for the Episcopal election.

Rev. Tsvetan Iliev (Bulgaria) moved to postpone the commission and committee elections until the nominee list could be reprinted. Rev. Matt Seel (Mid-South) spoke for; Rev. Jeremy Auvil (North Alabama) and a delegate of Central Russia spoke against. **The motion to postpone was not approved by a showing of hands.**

Sam Gregory (West Plains) asked the chair to allow additional time before each vote so that non-English-speaking delegations could properly deliberate, noting that the previous day's pace had left some delegations behind. Bishop Moore replied that the day's pace would be slower than under Bishop Jeff Greenway.

Rev. Jason Burnham (Trinity), aligning himself with a concern previously raised by Rev. Ryan Barnett (Mid-Texas), moved that on any commission, committee, or council for which the Book of Doctrines and Discipline requires only that clergy make up at least half the membership, clergy and laity nominees be voted on together on a single ballot, restricting the count of clergy votes only at the end of the process if the required number of clergy had not yet been elected. **The motion was seconded.** Rev. Forbes Matonga (Zimbabwe) rose to speak against the motion.

Rev. Tom Lambrecht clarified that the Book of Doctrines and Discipline does not require the General Conference to elect commission members that are "at least half laity." Rather, the Discipline requires that each connectional commission's final membership be at least half laity. The slates proposed are in fact at least half laity, with some more laity than clergy; the additional members elected by the Connectional Council will determine each commission's final makeup and influence the extent of its lay membership. The election process being used, Lambrecht said, complies with the Discipline. Burnham restated his motion: that where the Book of Doctrines and Discipline calls for a commission to be at least half laity, clergy and laity nominees be placed on one ballot together, unless a point arrives where a clergy nominee must be elected to satisfy the disciplinary requirement. **The motion, put to an electronic ballot, was not approved.**

The body then proceeded to the election of commission and committee members from the corrected nominee list, opening in prayer.

CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL — CLERGY (4 SEATS)

Ballot 1: Rev. Gabriella Kopas (Central Europe) | 210/337 (62.3%) | ELECTED

Ballot 1: Rev. Jessica LaGrone (Trinity) | 201/337 (59.6%) | ELECTED

Ballot 2: NO ELECTION (340)

Ballot 3: Rev. Henriette Okele (Dem. Rep. of Congo) | 239/346 (69.1%) | ELECTED

Ballot 3: Rev. Luciano da Silva (Panama) | 236/346 (68.2%) | ELECTED

CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL — LAITY (4 SEATS)

Ballot 1: Gene Floore (Alabama Emerald Coast) | 271/314 (86.3%) | ELECTED
Sheela Shankar (India) | 266/314 (84.7%) | ELECTED
Juliet Jere | 259/314 (82.5%) | ELECTED
Tammy Stott (North Carolina) | 254/314 (80.9%) | ELECTED

More than four laity candidates cleared 50% on this ballot. **The chair ruled that the top four vote-getters were elected**, and named the four above.

The Connectional Council having been elected, the body turned to the Council on Appeals, which elects four clergy and three laity, per the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. An initial clergy ballot was cancelled and reopened after delegates noted that asterisks had not been cleared from the displayed slate; Matt Kearns (Upper Midwest) asked how the alternates process would work, and the chair said the body would return to it later.

COUNCIL ON APPEALS — CLERGY (4 SEATS)

Ballot 1: Richard Jones | 180/334 (53.9%) | ELECTED
Ballot 1: Steven Bell | 172/334 (51.5%) | ELECTED
Ballot 2: Rev. John Kalambo (Zambia) | 232/336 (69.0%) | ELECTED
Ballot 3: Daniel Fulton | 250/363 (68.9%) | ELECTED

Rev. Dr. Jerry Kulah (Grain Coast) led the body in prayer before the lunch recess. Tom Lambrecht announced that the body would reconvene at 1:45 PM.

LUNCH BREAK

The body reconvened from the lunch recess at 1:46 PM, Bishop Webb and Bishop Kenneth Levingston presiding together. Bishop Webb read from Philippians 2 and Bishop Levingston prayed. **The two bishops agreed to share the presiding chair for the remainder of the day, with Bishop Levingston handling all elections.**

The body returned to the election of the Council on Appeals, now voting for its three lay members.

COUNCIL ON APPEALS — LAITY (3 SEATS)

Ballot 1 (316 valid, 159 needed): NO ELECTION
Ballot 2 (316 valid, 159 needed): Ron Enns | 182/316 (57.6%) | ELECTED
Ballot 2: Beatrice Iliya (Northern Nigeria) | 168/316 (53.2%) | ELECTED
Ballot 3 (349 valid, 175 needed): Vicky Johnson | 187/349 (53.6%) | ELECTED

On the request of Rev. Michael Sawicki (Great Lakes), the body gave permission for a guest to address it. Doc Abiade, a guest, asked that his name be withdrawn from consideration, citing his own sense that his season of service had ended.

Tom Lambrecht explained that Council on Appeals alternates would be elected and seated in order of election, and that members may also serve on their own annual conference's boards and agencies — a change from the prior quadrennium — provided they recuse themselves from any case touching that conference.

COUNCIL ON APPEALS — CLERGY ALTERNATES, IN ORDER OF ELECTION (4 SEATS)

359 cast, 305 valid, 153 needed
1st: Rev. James "Jay" Therrell Jr. (Florida) | 192/305 (63.0%) | ELECTED
2nd: Rev. Paul Yerima Idi (Northeast Nigeria) | 176/305 (57.7%) | ELECTED
3rd: Rev. Ebenezer Belleh (Grain Coast) | 167/305 (54.8%) | ELECTED
4th: Elliot Chikwenjere | 162/305 (53.1%) | ELECTED

COUNCIL ON APPEALS — LAY ALTERNATES, IN ORDER OF ELECTION (3 SEATS)

Ballot 1 (339 valid, 170 needed): James Bannister | 170/339 (50.1%) | ELECTED

Ballot 2 (343 valid, 172 needed): Gideon Salatan | 182/343 (53.1%) | ELECTED

Ballot 3: NO ELECTION (354 valid, 178 needed)

Ballot 4 (356 valid, 179 needed): Martina Lukic | 233/356 (65.4%) | ELECTED

The body then elected the Conferences Commission — six clergy and six laity, per the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

CONFERENCES COMMISSION — CLERGY (6 SEATS)

358 cast, 284 valid, 143 needed — all six elected

Jonathan Lee, Rev. Clark Atkins (Trinity), Rev. Wilton Odongo (Kenya),

Michael Morrissey, Londa Yagoza,

Rev. John Howard Jr. (North Carolina) | 168/284 (59.2%) | ELECTED

CONFERENCES COMMISSION — LAITY (6 SEATS)

359 cast, 300 valid, 151 needed:

Lori Smith (Mississippi-West Tennessee) — ELECTED

Kristen Mains (Great Lakes) — ELECTED

Brayan George Mwakalinga — ELECTED

James Massaquoi — ELECTED

Pauline Ntombura — ELECTED

Mickey Wheeler — ELECTED

Bishop Webb resumed the chair for legislative business. Rev. Beth Ann Cook (Great Lakes), chair of the Conferences Legislative Committee, presented supported petitions on Consent Agenda 4A. On the request of David Gibson, supported by ten delegates, **Petition 1028 was removed from Consent Agenda 4A. Consent Agenda 4A, as reduced — Petitions 1228 and 1456 — was approved by a showing of hands.**

Cook then presented Petition 1059, Fair and Equal Delegate Representation, previously removed from a consent calendar Thursday and recommended by the committee not to be supported, 1 in favor to 38 against. Larry Wells (Mid-South) moved to postpone action on the petition until Petition 1281 was decided. **The motion to postpone was not approved by a showing of hands.**

On Petition 1059 itself, Ben Bowman (Mid-South) spoke in favor, arguing that proportional representation would extend the equal lay-clergy partnership already practiced in the church's commissions and annual conferences to the General Conference itself. Holly Joy (Heartland) and Rev. Michael Sawicki (Great Lakes) spoke against, both citing the legislative committee's own deliberations and warning that proportional representation would work against smaller and growing annual conferences. Rev. Matt Seel (Mid-South) spoke in favor. Cook closed by urging a no vote, arguing that proportional representation, not equal representation, was the fairer standard, while affirming the General Conference's commitment to giving every conference a voice. A delegate identified only as Israel, a layperson of Mexico, rose to speak against the petition. **Petition 1059 was not approved, by a showing of hands.**

Rev. Beth Ann Cook (Great Lakes) returned to present the Conferences Legislative Committee's final item, Petition 1245, a constitutional amendment on the procedure for electing delegates to General Conference (Book of Doctrines and Discipline paragraph 207.4), rejected in subcommittee 13 to zero and by the full committee 36 to one. **Petition 1245 was not supported.**

The body then returned to commission elections, five clergy and five laity to Discipleship, Doctrine and Just Ministry.

DISCIPLESHIP, DOCTRINE AND JUST MINISTRY — CLERGY (5 SEATS)

Ballot 1 (272 valid, 137 needed):

Rev. Suzanne Nicholson (Mid-South) | 220/272 (80.9%) | ELECTED

Virgilio Olonon | 164/272 (60.3%) | ELECTED

Rev. Dennis Obadiah (Southern Nigeria) | 151/272 (55.5%) | ELECTED

Ballot 2 (356 cast, 334 valid, 168 needed): Rev. Kenneth Collins (Mid-South) | 176/334 (52.7%) | ELECTED

Ballot 3 (348 valid, 175 needed): Rev. Martin Longanga (Democratic Republic of Congo) | 187/348 (53.7%) | ELECTED

DISCIPLESHIP, DOCTRINE AND JUST MINISTRY — LAITY (5 SEATS)

360 cast, 316 valid, 159 needed

Nolizwi Stofeca | 256/316 (81.0%) | ELECTED

Elena Melnikova | 253/316 (80.1%) | ELECTED

Pau Ayi-Bonte | 241/316 (76.3%) | ELECTED

Kathy Rohrs | 242/316 (76.6%) | ELECTED

Krista Pettit | 230/316 (72.8%) | ELECTED

Tom Lambrecht reported that one of the seven clergy named on the original Conferences Commission ballot record is not yet ordained and so **was never validly elected**. Rather than hold a new ballot, the body confirmed from that same original ballot record that John Howard had also cleared the threshold for election, and he was seated in the resulting vacancy without a further vote.

The body then elected four clergy and four laity to Ecumenical Relations.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS — CLERGY (4 SEATS)

358 cast, 331 valid, 166 needed

Rev. Samson Muzengeza (Zimbabwe) | 301/331 (90.9%) | ELECTED

Rev. Debo Onabanjo (Allegheny West) | 292/331 (88.2%) | ELECTED

Vatroslav Zupancic | 289/331 (87.3%) | ELECTED

Sakiusa Vakadewatabua, Jr. | 271/331 (81.9%) | ELECTED

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS — LAITY (4 SEATS)

Ballot 1 (357 cast, 320 valid, 161 needed):

Kankolongo Johnson (Democratic Republic of Congo) | 269/320 (84.1%) | ELECTED

Debbie Smalley (Alabama Emerald Coast) | 268/320 (83.8%) | ELECTED

Elena Sokolova (Northwest Russia and Belarus) | 258/320 (80.6%) | ELECTED

Ballot 2 (359 cast, 180 needed):

Bridget Douglas (Great Lakes) | 230/359 (64.1%) | ELECTED

Rev. James “Jimmy” Towson (South Georgia), chair of Judicial Administration, presented the committee's report. Petition 1115, on the definition of “good standing,” was rejected — its substance was folded into Petition 1130 instead. **Petition 1115 was not supported.**

Towson then presented Petition 1130, the committee's central piece of legislation: a combination of Part Nine of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline (Judicial Administration) and the separate Judicial Practices and Procedures document into one. An ad hoc committee, drawn largely from members who served on Judicial Administration at the 2024 convening General Conference, began the rewrite in late 2024; Towson particularly thanked Rev. Chris Gadlage (Great Lakes) and Brad Folsom (South Georgia) for carrying the bulk of that work. The draft was reviewed by the Connectional Council on Appeals, the General Episcopacy Committee, conference superintendents and Tom Lambrecht before ever reaching this General Conference, and this week's Judicial Administration Committee incorporated 44 further amendments. **Towson moved Petition 1130, as amended, for approval.** Rev. Matt O'Reilly (North Alabama) spoke in favor. **Petition 1130 was supported.**

Rev. Clark Atkins (Trinity), chair of Constitution, presented Consent Calendar CCOF 4A (14 items). On the request of Rev. Jason Burnham (Trinity), Petition 1458 was removed; on the request of Rev. Chris Akers (Florida), Petition 1216 was removed. **Consent Calendar CCOF 4A, as reduced to twelve items, was adopted by a showing of hands.** Atkins then presented Consent Agenda CCOF 4B, 26 petitions the committee recommends not supporting. **Consent Agenda CCOF 4B was adopted by a showing of hands, and the petitions on it were rejected.**

Atkins brought seven petitions for individual consideration. **Petition 1004 (Wednesday's Daily Journal, page 8) was supported**, on the committee's recommendation. **Petition 1025 (Thursday's Daily Journal, page 14) was referred to the Kingdom Advancement Commission**, continuing the work of a related Global Unity Commission referral made the previous day; the petitioner, a member of the Constitution committee, consented to the referral.

Petition 1088 (Thursday's Daily Journal, pages 14-15), a constitutional amendment granting annual conferences authority to set minimum standards for clergy wellbeing — compensation, housing, health insurance and other benefits — was next. Brad Folsom (South Georgia) rose to flag, without moving anything, that the petition's lay-delegate qualification language was inconsistent with a differently worded definition in Petition 1028, separately pulled for individual consideration; the chair counted this as a speech against. Rev. Erik Grayson (South Carolina) then moved to amend Petition 1088 by striking the new wellbeing-standards language and restoring the Book of Doctrines and Discipline's current paragraph 8, limited to parsonage and ministry-housing standards, arguing that a benefits study already commissioned this week should finish its work before the disciplinary text changes.

Atkins spoke for the committee against the amendment, explaining that the committee had adopted the broader language unanimously on the view that clergy wellbeing is best handled at the annual-conference level. Rev. Edward Bromley II (Mississippi-West Tennessee) and Rev. Steven Taylor (Northeast) spoke in favor of the amendment; Rev. James Noble (Mid-Texas) spoke against. Josh Gross (Mississippi-West Tennessee) spoke in favor, and Rev. Wilton Odongo (Kenya) spoke against, citing the absence of any pension standard for clergy outside the United States and two of his own petitions on the subject that did not survive committee. **Grayson's amendment, put to an electronic ballot, was not supported. Petition 1088, as presented by the committee, was then supported by a showing of hands.**

Atkins presented Petition 1097 (bottom of page 16, Thursday's Daily Journal), a long-term rewrite of the constitutional-amendment process itself, replacing the amendment this body adopted Sunday. He read the proposed Article 12 language in full:

A proposed amendment to this constitution may be submitted to the General Conference only through the following: an annual conference upon approval by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a duly convened session; an annual conference delegation upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the delegation, with the vote certified by its chairperson and secretary; or the General Conference acting upon the recommendation of one of its legislative committees, approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of that committee present and voting. No individual person shall have standing to submit a proposed constitutional amendment directly to the General Conference. An individual may present a proposal to an annual conference or an annual conference delegation, but the proposal shall become eligible for consideration only upon the formal approval and certification required above.

Petition 1097 was supported by a showing of hands.

Petition 1197 (page 16, Thursday's Daily Journal) was supported, on the committee's recommendation. **Petition 1281 (page 438 of the pre-conference workbook) was supported**, on the committee's recommendation.

On Petition 1286, the committee's recommendation was not to support. Rev. Beth Ann Cook (Great Lakes) asked the chair to clarify the vote record, which the printed handout showed as "0-0-0"; Atkins clarified the committee's actual vote was 39 to zero. **Petition 1286 was not supported by a showing of hands.**

The body returned to elections, four clergy and six laity to Finance, Administration, Pension and Benefits.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, PENSION AND BENEFITS — CLERGY (4 SEATS)

360 cast, 317 valid, 159 needed
Harrison Bell | 272/317 (85.8%) | ELECTED
Rev. Matt Seel (Mid-South) | 236/317 (74.4%) | ELECTED
Vivian Kinnear (Trinity) | 235/317 (74.1%) | ELECTED
Rev. James Noble (Mid-Texas) | 226/317 (71.3%) | ELECTED

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, PENSION AND BENEFITS — LAITY (6 SEATS)

361 cast, 289 valid, 145 needed
Olander Boyce (Grain Coast) | 259/289 (89.6%) | ELECTED
Sherry Austin | 242/289 (83.7%) | ELECTED
Lindsey Clark | 235/289 (81.3%) | ELECTED
Sam Gregory (West Plains) | 235/289 (81.3%) | ELECTED
Joy Perry | 232/289 (80.3%) | ELECTED
Luvo Thwetwha (South Africa) | 223/289 (77.2%) | ELECTED

The body then opened voting for the General Conference Commission — six clergy, to be followed by ten laity. While the clergy ballot was open (Ballot 1), **an electronic-voting-system malfunction forced the chair to invalidate the ballot entirely; no General Conference Commission clergy were elected on this record, and the laity ballot was never opened.**

Tom Lambrecht closed the afternoon with a reminder that delegates and guests are in South Africa on visas personally guaranteed by a South African church leader, and must not overstay them. Bishop Kimba Evariste prayed over the meal, and the body recessed for dinner, to reconvene at 7:30 PM.

EVENING SESSION

The Secretary reported that the previous General Conference Commission clergy ballot, invalidated for an electronic-voting-system malfunction, would be redone, reporting that the voting equipment had since been working correctly.

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION — CLERGY (6 SEATS, BALLOT 2 — REDONE AFTER BALLOT 1'S INVALIDATION)

345 cast, 277 valid, 139 needed
Rev. Joy Griffin (North Georgia) | 259/277 (93.5%) | ELECTED
Mike Grant (Allegheny West) | 253/277 (91.3%) | ELECTED
Charles Puno | 233/277 (84.1%) | ELECTED
Nicholas Munongo Sukisa | 219/277 (79.1%) | ELECTED
Ben Huebner | 206/277 (74.4%) | ELECTED
Mbingeleli Diko (South Africa) | 201/277 (72.6%) | ELECTED

Rev. Jeremy Auvil (North Alabama) moved to suspend the rules for the General Conference Commission's ten-seat laity ballot, so that the ten already-nominated laity could be elected as a slate by a show of hands rather than by the voting device. **The motion to suspend the rules was approved, unopposed, by a showing of hands, requiring a two-thirds vote. The full slate of ten General Conference Commission laity nominees was then elected by a showing of hands, unopposed.**

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION — LAITY (10 SEATS)

Elected by a showing of hands, unopposed — all ten elected
Elizabeth Ashley Fink (Trinity), Gilliam, Mike Dio Jen (Southern Nigeria),
Kim, Kirk, Nelson, Walter Khalonyere Oduke (Kenya),
Rajan, Taylor, White

The body then turned to the Global Episcopacy Committee, electing six clergy at a 60% threshold — the higher supermargin this committee alone requires — and six laity. Holly Joy (Heartland) raised a point of order asking whether campaign materials could properly be distributed at delegation tables, reporting that lists endorsing certain nominees had been passed down some tables. The chair replied that this is not part of holy conferencing, that nothing further could be done about materials already distributed, and asked that it not happen again; no action was taken against the ballot already in progress.

GLOBAL EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE — CLERGY (6 SEATS, 60% VOTE)

359 cast, 300 valid, 180 needed

Rev. Robin Parr (North Georgia) | 265/300 (88.3%) | ELECTED

Joanne Turmalip Valenzuela | 262/300 (87.3%) | ELECTED

Rev. Chris Ritter (Great Lakes) | 261/300 (87.0%) | ELECTED

Aaron Opa Yankee | 253/300 (84.3%) | ELECTED

Rev. Kira Yufereva (Central Russia) | 251/300 (83.7%) | ELECTED

Rev. Jason Burnham (Trinity) | 247/300 (82.3%) | ELECTED

GLOBAL EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE — LAITY (6 SEATS)

358 cast, 312 valid — all six elected

Don Bourland (Mississippi-West Tennessee) | 289/312 (92.6%) | ELECTED

Patrick Chibhagidhi | 279/312 (89.4%) | ELECTED

Brad Folsom (South Georgia) | 279/312 (89.4%) | ELECTED

Tyson Heins (Heartland) | 264/312 (84.6%) | ELECTED

Sarah Maher | 263/312 (84.3%) | ELECTED

Ievgenli Semashko | 250/312 (80.1%) | ELECTED

The body then elected Kingdom Advancement, five clergy — corrected up from four seats on the floor, “because we took one off” — and six laity.

KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT — CLERGY (5 SEATS)

364 cast, 319 valid, 160 needed

Saffel | 226/319 (70.8%) | ELECTED

Magaqa | 224/319 (70.2%) | ELECTED

Failuma Afeaki | 197/319 (61.8%) | ELECTED

Rev. Joy Griffin (North Georgia) | 187/319 (58.6%) | ELECTED

Rev. Martin Wakubatwa (Democratic Republic of Congo) | 183/319 (57.4%) | ELECTED

KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT — LAITY (6 SEATS)

359 cast, 295 valid, 148 needed

Diana Briselli (Northeast) | 244/295 (82.7%) | ELECTED

Bill Brown (Heartland) | 228/295 (77.3%) | ELECTED

Robby Kalitongi (Zambia) | 226/295 (76.6%) | ELECTED

Elena Lyovushkina (South Russia) | 232/295 (78.6%) | ELECTED

Mariela Mihaylova-Siderova (Bulgaria) | 234/295 (79.3%) | ELECTED

Angelo Perez (Covenant Philippines) | 230/295 (78.0%) | ELECTED

The body then elected Ministry in Higher Education, five clergy and five laity, the final commission election of the night.

MINISTRY IN HIGHER EDUCATION — CLERGY (5 SEATS)

Ballot 1 (358 cast, 305 valid, 153 needed):

Rev. Daniel Gildner (Allegheny West) | 238/305 (78.0%) | ELECTED

Rev. Kora Mujinga (Democratic Republic of Congo) | 193/305 (63.3%) | ELECTED

Rev. Leslie Tomlinson (Mid-Texas) | 180/305 (59.0%) | ELECTED

Rev. Thadius Sales (Northeast) | 175/305 (57.4%) | ELECTED

Ballot 2 (348 cast, all valid, 174 needed): Rev. Brian Ebel (Mid-South) — ELECTED

MINISTRY IN HIGHER EDUCATION — LAITY (5 SEATS)

359 cast, 314 valid, 158 needed

Cabauatan | 270/314 (86.0%) | ELECTED

Kofi | 259/314 (82.5%) | ELECTED

Leesa Judd (South Carolina) | 250/314 (79.6%) | ELECTED

Thomas Finley (Great Lakes) | 245/314 (78.0%) | ELECTED

Catherine Sullivan (Trinity) | 203/314 (64.6%) | ELECTED

Rev. Keiwhan Ryoo (Korean American), speaking on a personal privilege, thanked the nomination committee for including a Korean American slate for consideration, noting that although none of that delegation's nominees was elected to a commission or committee this quadrennium, they were nonetheless considered. He asked that, when the Connectional Council and the five commissions later add members for expertise, balance, and diversity, they look to whichever Korean American nominee drew the most support within his delegation, and noted that other annual conferences — Korean American among them — may go entirely unrepresented on these bodies for the next six years.

The Secretary reported that Rev. James “Jay” Therrell Jr., elected 1st clergy alternate to the Council on Appeals in “Friday PM 1,” must resign, since he is a conference superintendent and the body adopted a rule Thursday, 3 September 2026, disallowing conference superintendents from serving on the Council on Appeals. Therrell has resigned; the 2nd, 3rd and 4th alternates move up one slot each, and the body elected a new 4th clergy alternate.

COUNCIL ON APPEALS — 4TH CLERGY ALTERNATE

Ballot 1 (355 cast, 355 valid, 178 needed): NO ELECTION

Ballot 2 (358 cast, all valid): Rev. Sungwon Nam (Korean American) | 242/358 (67.6%) | ELECTED

This concluded the evening's elections. The body turned to legislative business, welcoming Rev. Matt O'Reilly to present for the Doctrine and Sacraments Legislative Committee.

O'Reilly moved Consent Agenda DS4B, five petitions the committee recommends rejecting. Rev. Wilton Odongo (Kenya) moved to pull Petition 1455 (a resolution asking the Commission on Discipleship, Doctrine, and Just Ministry to establish a GMC commentary on the Articles of Religion) from the consent agenda for separate consideration; the motion did not draw the support of nine other delegates required to pull an item, and O'Reilly explained the committee's view that a commentary is unnecessary given the resources the Assembly of Bishops and the Commission are already expected to provide once the Articles of Faith themselves pass. **Consent Agenda DS4B was adopted.**

Petition 1454, a resolution defining what “movement” means for the Global Methodist Church, was then taken up individually — a resolution, requiring a three-quarter majority vote. Odongo spoke against, arguing no formal definition is needed for a concept already well understood. Rev. Zachery Kingery (Upper Midwest) and Israel Yadan Chacon Ruiz (Mexico, a committee member) both spoke in favor, arguing the Global Methodist Church is a movement not yet fully realized and that the Book of Doctrines and Discipline can offer encouragement and direction, not only enforceable rules. **Petition 1454 was not supported.**

The body then welcomed Rev. Brandon Nichols (Virginia) to present for the Local Church Legislative Committee. Nichols moved Consent Agenda LC4A, petitions the committee recommends adopting, **which was adopted**, and Consent Agenda LC4B, petitions the committee recommends rejecting, **which was likewise adopted** — ratifying the committee's recommendation to reject each of those petitions.

Petition 1149 — amending the Book of Doctrines and Discipline to allow, rather than require, a pastor to help a college student find a church or campus ministry while away at school — was taken up individually, as amended by the committee (changing “shall” to “may”). Rev. Victoria “Vicki” Harrison (Florida), a committee member, spoke in favor, calling pastoral guidance for students leaving for college a critical responsibility. Holly Denise Killough (Mid-Texas) and William “Will” Bennett Gregory (Mid-Texas) both spoke against, arguing the provision is redundant with paragraph 432 (adopted Thursday, requiring pastors to assist members living away from home generally) and unnecessary for a category — college students — no different from young adults in the military or professional sports already covered there. **Petition 1149 was not supported**, first by an inconclusive hand vote, then by the voting device.

Petition 1385 — removing the Book of Doctrines and Discipline's existing, narrower paragraph 431 on college students, which the committee recommends rejecting so that paragraph 431 is retained alongside paragraph 432 — was then taken up. Killough and Isabella “Bella” Josephine Duke (Mid-Texas) spoke in favor of Petition 1385 (i.e., in favor of removing paragraph 431 as redundant, now that Petition 1149 had failed and paragraph 432 alone stands). Amy Christine Gearhardt (Virginia), a committee member, spoke against, arguing the specific attention to college students in paragraph 431 is worth retaining even if campus ministries are few. **Petition 1385 was not supported** — leaving both paragraph 431 and paragraph 432 exactly as they stood before the evening's debate.

Well after 9:00 PM, the chair thanked the body for its work and turned to the Secretary for closing announcements. The hotel shuttle was reported to end at 10:00 PM; delegates were strongly encouraged not to walk back to their hotels alone or any distance. The delegations and volunteers of Episcopal Area 8 were invited to Boardroom 5 after the session to meet and pray with Bishop Carolyn Moore, welcoming her to the area, composed of Allegheny West, Heartland,

PETITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Committee Actions

Day 6 calendars. In a consent-agenda identifier the digit is the conference day and the letter its disposition, A supported, B rejected and C referred. Placement on a consent agenda is permissive, not mandatory. Committee actions taken earlier in the week and reported in previous editions are not repeated here.

Amendments are printed beneath the petitions that carry them, generated from each committee's FINAL rather than typed. Plain underline and strike are the petitioner's own markup; bold underline and strike are the committee's later layer.

CONFERENCES — 1 PETITION

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1188 | ¶709.2 | Page 387 Clarifying Financial Responsibilities of an Annual Conference

Supported as Amended: 32 Yes / 2 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~**2. Determine the connectional funding rate for the annual conference (¶ 711.1), identify other methods of funding the annual conference, and pass a budget describing how funds may be distributed to conduct the work and mission of the annual conference.**~~ **2. Determine the connectional funding rate for the annual conference (¶ 711.1), identify other methods of funding the annual conference, and pass and publish a budget describing how funds may be distributed to conduct the work and mission of the annual conference.**

CONSTITUTION, CONNECTIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND FINANCE — 9 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA CCOF-6B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1133 | ¶8XX | Page 466 (NEW) Global Prayer Network

Rejected in Favor of: 47 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1256 | ¶813.3 | Page 536 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Elimination of ¶813.3

Rejected in Favor of: 47 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1470 | ¶805.5 | Page 495 The Celebration of Holy Marriage

Not Approved as Original: 47 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• CONSENT AGENDA CCOF-6C — PETITIONS REFERRED •

Petition 1026 | ¶8XX | Page 461 Global Unity Commission

Referred to the Kingdom Advancement Commission: 47 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1177 | ¶8XX | Page 467 (NEW) Creating the Council of Annual Conference Lay Leaders

Referred to the Connectional Council: 37 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1243 Page 562 NEW ¶8XX Establishment of a Connectional Young People's Ministry

Referred to the Connectional Council: 37 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1330 Page 566 Resolution Establish Pension Benefits for Non-USA Clergy and Staff

Referred to the Finance, Administration, Pensions, and Benefits Commission: 29 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1333 | ¶8XX | Page 470 (NEW) Establishment of Young People Commission

Referred to the Connectional Council: 37 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1093 | ¶210.1 | Page 442 Clarifying the Powers and Responsibilities of the Connectional Council on Appeals

Supported as Original: 47 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Full text as filed:

THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶210.(1)

~~(1) To determine the constitutionality, or the meaning, application, or effect of any action or decision of the General Conference upon an appeal of one-fifth of the members of that conference present and voting, or upon a majority of the active episcopal leaders of the church.~~

(1) To determine the constitutionality or the meaning, application, or effect of any action or decision of the General Conference upon an appeal of one-fifth of the members of that conference present and voting, or upon a majority of the Assembly of Bishops.

DOCTRINE AND SACRAMENTS

• PETITION 1434 — REPRINTED IN FULL, NOT A DAY 6 ACTION •

Petition 1434 | ¶108 | Page 29 Locate Revised General Rules in Foundational Principles Section of BDD

Supported as Amended: 52 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

This is the full text of Petition 1434's amendment, omitted in error from the Wednesday, 2 September 2026 Daily Journal, which printed only the committee's vote and disposition.

Full text as amended, in its entirety:

THIS PETITION DELETES ¶108 AND PLACES ITS CONTENT IN A NEW ¶404, RENUMBERING CURRENT ¶404 AND SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS

Delete ¶108 from the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline, 2024*.

Insert the following as a new paragraph following ¶403 and renumber the following paragraphs.

The Nature, Design and General Rules of the Global Methodist Church

In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley, in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together, which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on Thursday in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them, and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

This was the rise of the United Society, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society was no other than "a company of [persons] having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation."

That it may the more easily be discerned whether they were indeed working out their own salvation, each society was divided into smaller companies, called classes, according to their respective places of abode. There were about twelve persons in a class, one of whom was styled the leader. It was his or her duty:

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least, in order: (1) to inquire how their souls prospered; (2) to advise, reprove, comfort or exhort, as occasion may require; (3) to receive what each individual was willing to give toward the relief of the preachers, church, and poor.
2. To meet the ministers and the stewards of the society once a week, in order: (1) to inform the minister of any that were sick, or of any that walked disorderly and would not be reproved; (2) to pay the stewards what they had received of their several classes in the week preceding.

There was only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies: "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits.

Over time, among many Methodists, class meetings were widely abandoned, while Wesley's General Rules for these accountable small groups became increasingly treated as a vestigial dead letter, to which lip service was often paid without serious expectations of commitment. But the early twenty-first century saw renewed interest in reviving class and band meetings among the people called Methodists. These energies were important for the formation of the Global Methodist Church as a new denomination continuing in the historic Methodist tradition, firmly committed to basic doctrinal orthodoxy, integrity in church governance, missional effectiveness, and renewed intentionality about Wesleyan spirituality and theology. It was observed at this time that some parts of the General Rules for

Methodist societies written by John Wesley were very reflective of the peculiarities of his context in eighteenth-century England, and/or were not consistently appreciated and understood by many Global Methodists. In 2024, the inaugural General Conference of the Global Methodist Church, held in Costa Rica, adopted legislation calling for a process to produce revised set General Rules “that honor and continue the core values of the historic General Rules ... while better addressing today’s realities, being intentionally globally applicable, and focusing on commitments we realistically expect all of our clergy to actually keep when they promise at their ordinations to ‘keep the General Rules of our Church.’”

It is as a result of this process that we now have these General Rules of the Global Methodist Church:

It is therefore expected that all clergy and laity should continue to evidence our desire of salvation, by receiving the grace of God through faith in the following way:

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced, such as:

The taking of the name of God in vain.

The profaning the day of the Lord, by ignoring the responsibility to attend corporate worship or participating in practices that hinder others from participating in corporate worship.

Drunkenness: recreational intoxication from alcohol or other drugs; otherwise using alcohol or other mind-altering or addictive substances in such a way that one’s thoughts and deeds no longer glorify Christ; or consuming alcohol excessively without moderation.

Abusive economic exploitation, particularly any exploitative, demeaning, or dehumanizing treatment of workers, participation in the enslavement of others including sex trafficking, and any participation in or patronization of the pornography and prostitution industries, which are inherently immoral and exploitative.

Engaging in any form of sexual relations outside the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, engaging in either trivial or vindictive lawsuits with brothers and sisters in Christ; abusive or bullying treatment of others; engaging in racist words or behaviors; returning evil for evil.

The buying or selling of goods illegally, evading any payments we rightfully owe, or otherwise failing to be scrupulously honest in all business interactions, payment of taxes, and other financial matters.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation or gossip; particularly speaking in harsh, slanderous, or exaggeratedly negative ways about divine image bearers, including those who serve in government or spiritual leadership; or otherwise engaging in conversation that is detrimental to the holiness of myself and others.

Behaviors that we know are directly contrary to holiness and/or to glorifying God as:

Dressing immodestly or flaunting one’s wealth.

Engaging in activities that are detrimental to the holiness of ourselves or others.

Engaging in media and other social diversions that stir up sinful passions in us or distract us from a focus on God or are otherwise detrimental to holiness.

Laziness or excessive self-indulgence.

Greed: laying up treasure upon earth beyond what is necessary to care for others or oneself in retirement. Hoarding wealth for ourselves, seeking to acquire riches without regard to crossing boundaries of morality or hurting others, excessive shopping, gambling and refusing to contribute generously per our ability to church and charity, or trusting in our material resources rather than in God.

Borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

73a. Ridiculing or disadvantaging another person or group on the basis of race, tribe, or gender.

73b. Neglecting one’s children (biological or adopted), withholding parental love, and neglecting the

responsibilities appropriate for a Christian parent.

73c Abusing one's spouse, whether emotionally or physically.

It is further expected that we should continue to evidence our desire of salvation, by receiving the grace of God through faith in the following way:

Secondly: By doing good; by doing unto others as you would have them do unto you; by honoring all people as fellow bearers of the image of God, being in every kind merciful after our power; as we have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all people:

To their bodies, of the ability which God gives, by being generous to both the church and those in need, giving food to the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting or helping those who are sick or in prison, and caring for the vulnerable in society.

To their souls, by finding appropriate ways to instruct, reprove, or exhort all we have any interaction with; trampling under foot that aberrant doctrine that "we are not to do good unless our hearts be free to it."

By doing good, especially to those who are of the household of faith or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others; buying one of another, helping each other in business, and so much the more because the world will love its own and them only.

By continual diligence and frugality, that the gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race which is set before us, accepting the cost of discipleship, denying ourselves, and taking up our cross daily; being willing to be criticized and mistreated, and for people to say all manner of evil about us falsely, for the Lord's sake.

90a By nurturing Christian marriages that are loving, faithful, and mutually respectful.

90b By teaching children the Christian faith and raising them up to become Christian adults.

90c By protecting the unborn.

It is expected of all who desire to continue in these societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, by receiving the grace of God through faith in the following way:

Thirdly: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are:

The public worship of God and Christian fellowship

The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord.

Family and private prayer.

Searching the Scriptures.

Fasting or abstinence.

These are the General Rules of our church; all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written Word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice.

SOCIAL WITNESS

- PETITION 1111 — REPRINTED IN FULL, NOT A DAY 6 ACTION •

Petition 1111 | ¶302.3 | Page 56 Supplying Language to Further Protect the Unborn and the Mother

Supported as Amended: 38 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

This text replaces in its entirety any 1111 references in prior daily journals.

Full text as amended, in its entirety:

THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶302.3

3. ~~We believe that all human life, regardless of level of development or ability, is sacred. The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion. The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion.~~ except in ~~In the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life when the well-being of the mother and the child are at stake, premature delivery may be necessary with the baby cared for as a separate patient. In the cases of tragic conflict of life against life when the mortality of the mother or the child is at stake, premature delivery may be necessary with the baby and the mother cared for as separate patients. We do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection, and we call upon all Christians as disciples of the Lord of life to prayerfully consider how we can support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources. We call upon all Christians, as disciples of the Lord of Life, to prayerfully support mothers and fathers facing unintended or unwanted pregnancies by prayerfully providing them with care, counsel, and resources. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 9:5-7, 22:22-23; Exodus 22:22-23, Ps. 139:13-16; James 1:27.) (Ex. 22:22-23; Ps. 139:13-16; James 1:27).~~



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