

MINUTES

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Business Session Minutes

SESSION	June 10–11, 2026
PRESIDING	Bishop Mark Webb · Rev. Dr. Scott Pattison, Conference Superintendent
RECORDED BY	Jill Davis, Annual Conference Secretary

DAY 1 · BUSINESS SESSION 1

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 · 11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Bishop Webb called the session to order and set the bar.

PET-01: Conference Organization and Special Rules of Order

Rev. Chris Gadlage, Legislative Coordinator, introduced PET-01: Conference Organization and Special Rules of Order and made a motion on behalf of the Sessions Team to adopt PET-01.

Motion to Amend

Rev. Chris Gadlage introduced PET-02: Floor Nominations for General Conference Delegation, submitted by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey R. Neufeld, which would amend PET-01: Conference Organization and Special Rules of Order.

- A vote by a show of hands was taken.

- **Motion to Amend is adopted.**

- A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **PET-01: Conference Organization and Special Rules of Order is adopted as amended.**

Reports Introduced for Day 2 Action

Rev. Chris Gadlage, Legislative Coordinator, introduced 2 reports and the budget to the body as a matter of transparency and efficiency.

- **Finance and Administration Report and Budget.** Rev. Don Wolfgang, Chairperson, represented the Finance and Administration Committee.

- **Nominations Report.** Rev. Beth Ann Cook, Vice-Chair, represented the Nominations and Leadership Committee.

Action on these reports will occur on Day 2.

Consent Calendar 01

Rev. Chris Gadlage, Legislative Coordinator, presented Consent Calendar 01, which included the following reports:

- REP-01: Certified Lay Ministry Program Report
- REP-02: Conference Superintendency Committee Report
- REP-03: Finance and Administration Committee Report
- REP-04: Board of Ministry Report

An objection was heard on the inclusion REP-01: Certified Lay Ministry Program Report.

Rev. Chris Gadlage moved on behalf of the Sessions Committee to adopt Consent Calendar 01 as amended.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.
- **Consent Calendar 01 is adopted as amended.**

RES-01

Rev. Chris Gadlage introduced RES-01: Replacing BDD Paragraph 302.3, which was then ruled out of order by Bishop Webb. The General Conference petition deadline had already passed, and the conference would not be able to fulfill the necessary action if the resolution should pass.

REP-01: Certified Lay Ministry Program Report

Rev. Chris Gadlage, Legislative Coordinator, introduced the Certified Lay Ministry Report.

Point of Information

Kirsten Mains requested clarification on semester designation. Clarification was provided from two members of the Discipleship Team.

Hearing no objections, Rev. Chris Gadlage moved to accept REP-01: Certified Lay Ministry Program Report.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.
- **REP-01: Certified Lay Ministry Program Report is accepted.**

Other Business

Bishop Webb provided information about the role of Bishop in the Global Methodist Church and designated Rev. Dr. Scott Pattison, Conference Superintendent, to lead the remaining business sessions.

Rev. Chris Ritter presented a gift of a hand-made map from Rev. Jerry Kula and the Grain Coast Annual Conference in gratitude for the partnership between the Grain Coast Annual Conference and some Great Lakes Annual Conference churches.

The Business Session was recessed until Wednesday afternoon.

DAY 1 • BUSINESS SESSION 2

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 • 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Scott Pattison, Conference Superintendent, called the Business Session to order.

REP-05: Strategic Plan Report

Rev. Tyler Best, Director of Operations, Ellen Harbin, Rev. Ben Palmer, and Rev. Patricia Tristand presented the Strategic Plan Report. Rev. Tyler Best made a motion on behalf of the Strategy Team to accept the Strategic Plan Report.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.
- **REP-05: Strategic Plan Report is accepted.**

Funding Ministerial Education and Equipping Presentation

Rev. Bob Phillips, Senior Status Connector, gave a presentation about “Formed & Sent”, a new initiative to raise funds for the Candidate Training Endowment Fund and the Equipping Endowment Funds.

Motion from the Floor

Rev. Stan Pegram, Interim Dean of the Cabinet, made a motion on behalf of the Cabinet to approve the addition of Grace Global Methodist Church in New Albin, Iowa, into the Great Lakes Annual Conference. Seconded.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.
- **Motion is approved.**

Rev. Ethan Larson, Grace Global Methodist Church in Iowa, thanked the body for approving the inclusion of Grace GMC into the Great Lakes Annual Conference.

REP-06: Clergy Compensation Guidelines

Rev. Stan Pegram, Interim Dean of the Cabinet, presented REP-06: Clergy Compensation Guidelines and made a motion on behalf of the Cabinet to accept REP-06: Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.
- **REP-06: Clergy Compensation Guidelines is accepted.**

Discipleship Team Report and PET-03: Updating Child Protection Policy

Rev. Arthur Collins, Discipleship Team Lead, presented the Discipleship Team Report. He also presented PET-03: Updating Child Protection Policy and made a motion to adopt PET-03: Updating Child Protection Policy.

Point of Inquiry

Rev. Keith Chanley asked how the requirements concerning mobile phones could be practically implemented. An answer was provided by Rev. Arthur Collins, Discipleship Team Lead.

Motion to Amend

Rev. Jason Rice made a motion to strike Section 4D in its entirety. Seconded.

Point of Inquiry

Kirsten Johnson, Indiana, asked a question concerning the effects of voting to strike 4D.

Motion to Substitute

Joy Hook, Michigan, moved to substitute the following motion for Rev. Rice's motion: Replace Section 4D with "The use of any device to capture images, video, or audio is strictly prohibited in private areas such as restrooms, locker rooms, and changing rooms." Seconded.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **Motion to Substitute is approved.**

Motion to Amend

John Hauck, Illinois, made a motion to strike the last sentence of Section 4B on p. 7, "Cameras, including cell phone cameras, should not be taken into bathrooms and changing areas." Seconded.

- A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **Motion to Amend is adopted.**

- A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **PET-03: Updating Child Protection Policy is adopted as amended.**

Nazrawiyan Annual Conference (Ethiopia) Presentation

Rev. Dr. Anbessu Tolla and Rev. Patricia Tristan gave a presentation about the Nazrawiyan Annual Conference in Ethiopia, a missional partner conference with the Great Lakes Annual Conference.

The business session was recessed until Thursday afternoon.

Rev. Scott Pattison, Conference Superintendent, opened the session.

Board of Ministry Report

Rev. Shane Frederick presented information about the Board of Ministry.

Bishop Mark Webb presented a Great Lakes challenge coin to Rev. Aaron Kesson, an army chaplain who recently completed an eight-month deployment. Bishop Mark Webb also recognized and prayed for all the Great Lakes Annual Conference military chaplains.

Candidates for Ordination Questions

Bishop Mark Webb asked Wesley's Historic Questions (contained in the GMC *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*) of the candidates for ordination and provided encouragement based on Wesley's Instructions for Clergy.

Disaster Relief

Rev. Rick Pressel, GLAC Disaster Relief Coordinator, announced an opportunity to provide disaster relief for communities in Lanesville and Corydon, Indiana, who experienced severe flooding on June 9.

PET-04: Conference Finance Policy

Rev. Don Wolfgang, Finance and Administration Chair, presented the Conference Finance Policy and made a motion on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee to adopt the PET-04: Finance Policy.

Point of Inquiry

Rev. Sean Barton asked about the three-year rolling average. The question was answered by Rev. Tyler Best, Conference Treasurer.

Point of Order

Rev. Jason Rice asked if this policy would be in violation of the GMC *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, paragraph 449.6. An answer was provided by Rev. Tyler Best, Conference Treasurer.

Motion to Amend

Peter Wells moved to replace in Section 6h of PET-04

"Conference Reserves Average" is defined as the three-year average of bank account balances (excluding designated funds)

with

"Conference Reserves Average" is defined as the three-year average of average daily collected balances of all Conference funds (defined in 6a) (excluding designated funds)

- A vote by a show of hand was taken.

- **Motion to amend is approved.**

▪ A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **PET-04: Conference Finance Policy is adopted as amended.**

PET-05: Budget

Rev. Don Wolfgang, Finance and Administration Chair, presented the 2026–2027 Budget and made a motion on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee to adopt the Budget.

▪ A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **PET-05: Budget is adopted.**

PET-06: Active Clergy Moving Policy

Rev. Don Wolfgang, Finance and Administration Chair, presented the Active Clergy Moving Policy and made a motion on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee to adopt the Active Clergy Moving Policy (PET-06).

▪ A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **PET-06: Active Clergy Moving Policy is adopted.**

REP-07: Nominations Report

Rev. Beth Ann Cook presented the Nominations Report, including the following additions/corrections. She made a motion on behalf of the Nominations and Leadership Committee to accept the Section 1: Boards and Committees Report.

▪ Additions/Corrections for Section 1 included: Add Peter Wells, Laity, Illinois, to the Finance and Administration Committee

▪ A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **REP-07: Nominations Report (Section 1) is accepted as written and amended.**

Rev. Beth Ann Cook made a motion to approve Section 2: Ministry Teams Report.

Additions/Corrections for the Ministry Teams of the Nominations Report:

- Add Gary Bondarenko, Clergy, Michigan, to the Discipleship Team
- Add Debbie Parker, Clergy, Indiana, to Session Team
- Remove Judy DeBres, Clergy, from Disaster Relief
- Add Sean Barton, Clergy, Michigan, for Missions Team
- Add Cory Chesser, Clergy, Indiana, for Missions Team

▪ A vote by show of hands was taken.

- **REP-07: Nominations Report (Section 2) is accepted as written and amended.**

Oasis Annual Conference Presentation

Rev. Dr. Dan Miller and Rev. Patricia Tristan gave a presentation about the Oasis Provisional Annual Conference in North Africa and their partnership with the Great Lakes Annual Conference.

Announcement

Rev. Ben Beeks, Conference Sessions Team Lead, announced:

2027 Great Lakes Annual Conference Session

June 9–11, 2027 · Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana

The 2026 Great Lakes Annual Conference session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Davis

Annual Conference Secretary · Great Lakes Annual Conference