

160th Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference – Sacramento, California,
June 17-21, 2008

Extending Christ's Invitation for a Joyous Life
The Daily Proceedings of June 21, 2008

Saturday Morning – Plenary Session 8:30 AM

On this last day of conference, Bishop Shamana opened plenary with a word of thanks for the celebration the evening before. She followed it with a time of prayer.

Larry Pearson reviewed the daily agenda.

A question was raised regarding yesterday's "call for the question of all that is before us." The Bishop responded that when this item is addressed the steps will be clear.

Jeff Kunkel thanked the 20 churches, two individuals, one museum and a gourd farm for their contribution to "An Artful Presence." John Emerson has written a song for Bishop Shamana. Three paintings of Hilda Robinson are still available.

Charlene Virts, hand weaver, led the plenary in a braiding project.

"Riding Lesson" by poet Henry Taylor was read by Ron Parker.

The CORR monitoring committee reported on the prior day's proceedings. Diane Knudsen shared that some of the administrative staff was not present on stage, reflecting a greater diversity than initially reported.

A prayer request was received for a 2 ½ year child in Sonora who suffered from a massive seizure last night. A prayer from the floor was offered.

The General Conference delegation report was introduced by Odette Lockwood-Stewart. A video presentation was shared. Odette and Randall Miller, first elected lay delegate to General Conference, shared the work of the delegation at this past General Conference. Much of the work revolved around the amending the *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Resolutions*. The theme of General Conference was "A Future With Hope: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World" and there were 992 delegates, with 278 from other countries and 714 from the U.S. Odette recognized our delegates and others who attended General Conference. Program highlights and important legislation were shared by members of the delegation: the first-ever Young People's Address, that challenged the denomination to overcome theological and regional divisions; an address by the president of Liberia – a United Methodist and the first woman head of state in Africa – who spoke passionately about rebuilding Liberia; the Bill and Melinda Gates \$5 million seed grant to help prevent children in sub-Saharan Africa from contracting malaria and to help prevent AIDS; creative worship; establishment of full union with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; and anniversary celebrations of historic programs. The legislative actions highlighted were:

election of a new Judicial Council, with Angela Brown from California-Nevada Conference as a part of this Judicial Council; restructuring relationships with the church from the United States and other churches throughout the world; and the fact that official church polity related to human sexuality was divisive but a spirit of holy conferencing led to work towards healing – but unfortunately was not passed by the plenary body due to procedural matters.

The Kids at Conference processed through plenary to the stage. Approximately 50 kids gathered on stage, but up to 80 children were part of the program. Helen Mansfield introduced the staff and reminded the plenary that these children are our future. The kids shared some of their favorite activities. The children presented banana gourds painted by the children and a handmade stole to Bishop Shamana as a farewell gift. Bishop Shamana offered her own “poeticus interruptus” as she read a few poems from “Children’s Poetry from the United Methodist Church of California.”

Fixing of Appointments, Delta District

Scripture was read in Tongan by David Niu. Superintendent Ted Virts and Bishop Shamana alternated reading the appointments, each pastor stood in place, followed by laying-on-of-hands, and the Bishop’s Prayer.

Poeticus Interruptus – Ron Parker read a poem by Rumi, “Who Says Words with My Mouth?”

Nominations Report

Laddie Perez-Galang presented the Nominations Committee report and thanked the members of the committee as well as the staff support, Linda Wiberg and Dina Stenwick. The corrections have been noted but not yet printed. Change forms are available for members to submit corrections and additions. The changes will be printed in the *Journal*. Laddie read the changes that have been received to date. Several changes were presented from the floor and will be listed in the *Journal*. Laddie moved the following: (1) I move to suspend the 2007 Standing Rules, Div. 1, Section C.2.b., so that amendments to the Nominations Report may be received at this time in order to perfect the report before you. Seconded. The motion passed by 2/3. (2) In accordance with paragraph 603, section 7 in the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, I move the election of Kristin Sachen as Conference Secretary. Seconded. The motion passed. (3) In accordance with paragraph 618 of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, I move the election of Diane Knudsen as Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Service. Seconded. The motion passed. (4) In accordance with paragraph 603, section of the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, I move the election of Scott Allred as Conference Statistician. Seconded. The motion passed. (5) I move that the Conference Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the classes of 2009 to 2012 of the Conference Board of Trustees, and to fill vacancies as listed in other classes. Seconded. The motion passed. (6) To maintain continuity in leadership during the transitional period, I move to suspend the 2007 Standing Rules, Div. 5, Section A.10 to extend Rev. Deborah Weatherspoon’s term for one more year to serve as Chairperson of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and in Clergy Class of 2010. Seconded. The motion passed by 2/3. (7) I move the election of the new officers

and members of the classes of 2009 to 2016 on all Conference boards, commissions, committees and agencies. The motion passed. (8) I move the election of all District Council and Ministries chairs, vice chairs, secretaries, and coordinators. The motion passed. (9) I move the election of all District Boards of Church Location and Buildings, District Committees on the District Superintendency, District Committees on Lay Speaking Ministry and District Committees on Ordained Ministry and other affiliated committees. The motion passed. (10) I move the confirmation and acknowledgment of the Board of California-Nevada Methodist Homes, Clergy Spouse Association, Conference Claimants' Endowment Board, Ethnic Caucuses, Fred Finch Youth Center Committee, Glide Foundation, Retired Clergy Association, Conference United Methodist Men and Conference United Methodist Women. The motion passed. (11) I move the election of the classes of the Board of Directors of UC Berkeley and UC Merced Wesley Foundations. The motion passed. (12) I move to receive the entire 2008 Nominations Report as printed as amended. The motion passed. (13) I move the remaining vacancies and other occurrences following the adjournment of the Annual Conference Session may be filled by the Ministry Staff of the Conference in consultation with the Bishop and the Conference Nominations Committee. The motion passed.

All who are listed in the report are asked to stand as Susan Foster offers a prayer.

– Break –

John Emerson authored a song titled, “The Power in Her Name” in tribute to Bishop Shamana.

Bishop's Award

Bishop Shamana presented the Bishop's Award to Bob Cary. Madeline Elsie shared that Bob Cary will soon be 95 years old.

Extending Christ's Invitation with Our Treasure

Deborah Brady, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, used the metaphor of “paint by numbers” art as a way to explain her sense of ministry in relationship to the budget. Debra presented Item A, the Shared Conference Budget. This budget is built upon a flat apportionment, assuming the same amount apportioned in 2008 will be the amount apportioned in 2009. CFA encourages churches to improve their apportionment giving by 15% for churches that were not paying full apportionment. Debra moved Item A for approval.

A question was raised regarding the 15% increase. Debra responded the 15% is not based on a formula, but it comes from a conversation with the District Superintendents about what was reasonable to ask.

Doug Sibley moved an amendment to divide line 20 into two lines – new church development and revitalization. A question was asked regarding the amount of the split. Doug would leave it to CFA. Linda Wiberg spoke against this recommendation since this item is not supported by a complex set of funds. Another speaker spoke against the

amendment, referencing unintended consequences and the need to keep the flexibility for the funds where they are needed. The vote was taken and the amendment failed.

Jola Bortner raised the question of a flat budget. Does this mean the apportionment will remain flat? Debra responded that the budget was not flat but the apportionment is flat. Also, for the individual churches, apportionment might increase or decrease.

The question about the General Church askings was raised. Diane Knudsen responded that these are askings for 2009 and they will go up 1.2% every year of the quadrennium.

Jeannie Blackwell (Paradise) raised a question about a wage freeze. Debra responded that CFA was more likely to reduce positions rather than freeze salaries.

Doug Sibley was concerned that page 5 showed 100% went for New Church Development and none for church revitalization.

Colin Kerr-Carpenter raised a question regarding staff salaries, noting inequities. Diane responded to the question by deferring to Linda Wiberg.

From the floor, a member referring to the 2010 budget said it should be based on a visionary program rather than historic expenses.

Janette Saavedra proposed to our staff that they stand in solidarity with our pastors, who have not had a raise in four years and have laid off staff and yet will pay 100% apportionments this year, and suggested that Conference staff voluntarily take a pay freeze. One member urged a no vote for the budget, saying it is too optimistic since churches like his own are facing significant shortfalls.

Call for the Question. This motion passed.

The motion is to support the whole budget A. The motion passed.

Diane Knudsen shared the Treasurer's Report. Diane presented a variety of perspectives to view the Conference financial situation. On the short term, the Conference was not in a financial crisis, nor was it a "slam dunk." Historically, compared to 1977, numbers show our churches are spending more now than in 1977. From a CFA standpoint, our churches are financially stronger now than 1977. In these past 30 years, non-pension apportionment giving actually decreased since 1977. This fact has driven some of the decision CFA made related to the budget just presented. The goal is for all churches to participate fully in the apportionment giving.

Suk-Chong Yu Religious Education Scholarship Award

Blanche Farnam presented the Suk-Chong Yu Religious Education Scholarship to George Bennett, Sparks NV, third year seminarian.

Conference Claimants Board

Cory Parish, on behalf of the Endowment Board, expressed his appreciation to the Bishop and Conference for their support. Using a Power Point presentation, he explained where the Endowment Board receives its funds.

Clergy Benefits Task Force

Don Cunningham presented the work of the Clergy Benefits Task Force. The Clergy Benefits Task Force exists when the Consent Calendar is adopted this afternoon. The CBTF supports clergy pensions and benefits and was brought into existence by the Board of Pensions for this explicit purpose.

Dave Bennett gave instructions for room breakdown, set-up and clean-up in preparation for the Ordination service.

– Lunch –

Afternoon Plenary

Bishop Shamana opened the afternoon plenary by sharing her experience with the arts on her tour of Italy.

Jurisdictional Pool

The Conference Secretary, Roger Morimoto, presented the Jurisdictional Pool. The Jurisdictional Pool was voted on and approved as a slate. A question was asked regarding the absence of youth in the Jurisdictional Pool. Roger responded that the Jurisdictional Pool is organized by a member of the Jurisdictional delegation. In the future, this individual and the youth delegation might need to be more mindful of working together on this process.

UM Foundation

Celeste Maia Cron reported on the work of the United Methodist Foundation. She opened by reporting on a change in the investment manager from Bear-Stearns Securities. The UMF is still exploring options for a new manager. She went on to share the exciting work the Foundation has been doing in this past year.

Susan Peters, Gift Planning Director, shared stories of working with churches this past year on their capital campaigns. Neal Harrell shared his experience with the Foundation at the Point Pleasant UMC.

Betsy Schwarzentraub said she is wearing “two hats” as the Director of Stewardship for the Conference and Development Director for the Foundation. She reported on the Master Builders Endowment Fund and the work with local churches during their annual stewardship campaigns. One of those churches, Half moon Bay Community UMC, with Larry Thomas through their “Common Hope, Common Trust” program increased their pledges by 10.3%.

Mark Bollwinkle reported on the work of the Episcopacy Committee. He shared a video explaining the Episcopal Fund.

Fixing of Appointments for the San Jose District

Scripture was read in Japanese by Motoe Yamada. Bishop Shamana, before the reading, acknowledged in absentia Rev. Dr. Nymphas Edwards, the previous District Superintendent. Superintendent Kristie Olah and the Bishop alternated reading the appointments, each pastor stood in place, followed by laying-on-of-hands, and the Bishop's Prayer.

Presentation from the Shasta District will be done in The Cabinet Setting.

Bishop Shamana greeted Bishop Ntamburi from Kenya.

The Filipino-American Ministry presented to Bishop Shamana a portrait of Bishop Shamana and sang a song in appreciation for her leadership and ministry.

Rev. Nymphas Edwards shared his appreciation for the Conference and for his work as the San Jose District Superintendent.

Section Reports

The section reports began with a few words from the Bishop. She reminded us of the power of word and that our deliberations are done in the spirit of Holy Conferencing.

Mark explained item 21 as perfected was now to be reconsidered. Two persons spoke in favor of item 21, lifting up a commendation for the retired clergy who have made themselves available and commending them for their compassion. Two persons spoke against item 21, expressing concern for ecclesiastical obedience, the prior departure of several highly effective evangelical pastors and congregations, and how divided this issue has left us. Dave Bennett called for the question. Second. Passed. As the author of the resolution, Don Fado spoke last, according to our rules. He cited how this resolution has been in effect for the last three years with respect to Holy Unions, since retired clergy have given their names to the Bishop on record. The Bishop called for the vote. Item 21 passed.

Bishop Shamana noted that the previous call for the Rule of Law on item 21 is still valid and in effect. She will respond in writing within the next 30 days to the person making the request and will forward her response to the Judicial Council.

Bishop Shamana introduced the Right Reverend Chester Lovelle Talton, Suffragan Bishop of the Los Angeles Diocese of the Episcopal Church and speaker for the upcoming Service of Ordination.

Myra Gaiser presented the work of section D. Items 8 and 18 as amended were placed on the Consent Calendar.

Bruce Pettit presented the work of section F. Items 13 as amended and 12 were placed on the Consent Calendar.

Jola Bortner presented the work of section G. Items 14 as amended and 15 were placed on the Consent Calendar. Item 14 was substantially amended and printed out for the session.

Jeffrey Kuan presented the work of section H. Items 16 and 17 as amended were placed on the Consent Calendar.

Mark Zier reported that item 19 has been removed from the Consent Calendar by a valid request according to our standing rules. The item has been amended. The section recommends the item by a vote of 60-Yes and 7-N.

Bishop Shamana reminded the session that ordination is scheduled to start in 25 minutes.

Susan Griffin moved to limit debate. Second. Lois Black was willing to withdraw the item if two questions are answered: (1) Is the alternate paragraph to be submitted at the next General Conference or is it to be activated in spite of the General Conference; (2) are we creating a precedent we do not want?

Jim Crawford would move to suspend the standing rules so we might vote to adjourn this session of the Annual Conference and ask the commission of the Annual Conference Session to bring back any items it deems necessary or to call a special session. Second. Bishop Shamana stated that Jim's motion was in order since no other motion currently exists, but then made a correction.

The Griffin motion to limit debate was before us. The Griffin motion was seconded. The Griffin motion was approved. The Crawford motion was now considered.

Donna Wood moved to table all that is before us.

The Bishop ruled the Crawford motion was before the session.

Jim Crawford withdrew his motion as he realized the Consent Calendar was still before us and it has financial items of vital importance to retirees and others.

Item 19 was then considered. Motion to table item 19 was now before us. Mark Zier explained that the motion to table item 19 until the next annual Conference is unusual since a tabled item is supposed to be removed from the table before the end of session if it is to be reconsidered. The motion to postpone item 19 is debatable. The motion was changed by the author to "postpone" item 19. Second. Passed.

Mark Zier presented the Consent Calendar as presented, with the addition of "Y" to item 16, and corrections to the item 12 amendments and item 19. A comment was made that

when an item is “postponed” it is done when this session is done. The Bishop commented that enough people are invested in this topic to be sure to bring it back. The vote on the Consent Calendar was received as a roar of “Hallelujah,” and was clearly approved by more than 2/3.

The Hymnal Committee reported the Hymn Society Conference will be coming to Berkeley next month. This will be the first such meeting in Northern California in its history.

Service of Ordination

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination began with a processional with Bishop Beverly J. Shamana, worship participants, and those being commissioned and ordained. The Right Reverend Chester Lovelle Talton, D.D., proclaimed the Word and participated in the commissioning and ordination. The following were commissioned as deacons: Donene Virginia Blair, Gayle A. Dee, Ann Marie Jordan, and Patricia Thompson Stout. Those commissioned towards Elder’s Orders are as follows: Carol Estes, Anthony Lawrence Jenkins, Sr., Gary L. McAnally, Chesung Justin Ryu, Matthew Morgan Smith, and Mai-Anh Le Tran. Those being ordained in Full Connection Elder’s Orders were Mark Corbin Cordes, Jennifer Elaine Murdock Edenborough, Rochelle Annette Frazier, Jennifer Irvine Goto, Karen Stoffers Pugh, and Kimberly Risedorph. The service closed with the recessional and the singing of the hymn, “We Are Marching in the Light of God.”

The 160th Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference concluded and adjourned at the conclusion of the Service of Commissioning and Ordination at 5:25 PM on Saturday, June 21, 2008.