



PHOTOS BY TONY RICHARDS

# UMConnection DAILY

235th Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church • Transformed lives, transform lives • Thursday, May 30, 2019



TONY RICHARDS

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling opens the 235th Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference with worship.

## Clergy approves candidates

BY MELISSA LAUBER

**I**N A CLERGY session Wednesday afternoon, Baltimore-Washington Conference clergy voted to approve two deacons and nine Elders as candidates for commissioning and one Deacon and 11 Elders for ordination.

Included in those approved were T.C. Morrow, a provisional Deacon and Joey Heath-Mason, a full Elder. Both candidates are married to people of the same gender and were

*See Clergy Session, page 2*

## Opening worship takes BWC on a journey down 'the road to love'

BY MELISSA LAUBER

“OH, THE WONDER of it all,” said Marcia McFee as she called the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to worship.

It’s safe to say we’re experiencing a mixed bag of emotions — joyful, sorrowful, ambivalent, hopeful,” she said. “Here we are.”

In a darkened ballroom, with galaxies illuminating the ceiling, McFee marveled at the conference’s theme “We are One,” in a church that lately feels divided. She reminded the congregation that all things are created by God, with the essence of love at their center.

“Art, religion, science, all agree we are one. We are made of the same stuff of the universe ... We believe that God is the maker, the potter, the artisan, the architect, the Holy One and Creator of All. ... This is the reality, whether we perceive it or not,” she said.

Together, the worship took people on a symbolic journey on the road to love, past three basins of water (a basin of tears, the baptismal basin, the servant’s basin) and Communion — from wonder to praise to lament to strength to joy.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

*See Worship, page 2*



ALISON BURDETT

During ordination rehearsal, Bishop Easterling, left, lays hands on candidate Joey Heath-Mason.

# Clergy Session: Morrow, Heath-Mason affirmed

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not approved at last year's clergy session.

Their approval this year came, in part, from a motion brought by the Rev. Katie Bishop to consider the candidates recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministries together as a block, rather than as individuals, as has been the practice in the past.

Rev. Bishop and several others argued that the district and conference Board of Ordained Ministries did their due diligence and that the BOOM's examination and evaluation of the candidates' qualifications, fitness, and readiness for ministry should be trusted.

This method of considering the candidates was approved in a vote of 245 to 122.

The class of provisional members was approved by a 79 percent

majority, in a 285 to 77 vote.

The class of ordinands was approved by an 87 percent majority, in a vote of 315 to 47.

"The vote today demonstrates the powerful work of the Holy Spirit and God's vision for building a loving and just church and world," said Morrow who expressed her profound gratitude to the BWC for affirming her call to the ordained ministry.

Heath-Mason also expressed his gratitude. "This is one small step toward justice in the UMC and a sign of hope that God is still moving," he said.

Rev. Loretta Johnson and others asked how this move might be affected by the Traditional Plan passed at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

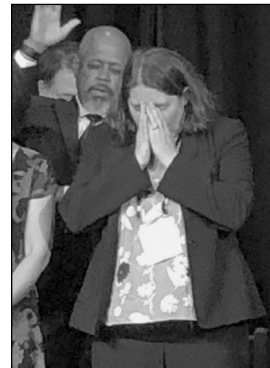
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling answered that the portions of the Traditional Plan that did pass will

not take effect until Jan. 1, 2020.

Following the votes, the Rev. Chip Aldridge of Wesley Seminary in D.C. spoke about his own same-gender partnership and their hopes to be married. "I'm so tired of having this conversation as if Lesbian, Gay, Bi- or Transgender people weren't in the room. We are in the room," he said. "See us."

The Ordination Service is scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m.

*A more in-depth story will appear in the June UMConnection.*



T.C. Morrow receives word of her affirmation as Deacon.

DEB SCOTT

# Worship: 'Love is an act of the will,' Bishop says

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preached to the congregation singing. "Earth has no sorrow, heaven cannot cure," was her refrain.

She spoke to all the United Methodists, in pain over the continuing repercussions of the 2019 special General Conference and others feeling hurt or damaged and encouraged them to recognize

that one of the most precious of human freedoms is the ability to choose one's attitudes in each moment.

"The question becomes what will we do



Conference members come together around the Communion table at opening worship.

PHOTOS BY TONY RICHARDS



Marcia McFee begins worship with heartfelt prayer. "We see God's love in everything," McFee said.

with our pain," she said. "Will we allow it to paralyze us into a state of victimhood" or will we offer it to Jesus?

"Love is an act of will," the bishop stressed. "We can't choose to banish the

dark, but we can choose to kindle the light."

As part of the worship, Janay Parker shared with the congregation how the BWC's West River Camp became a place of refuge and hope for her when she struggled with a mother who was addicted to drugs and died in 2016 from an overdose.

Camp, she said, "is a place where I found myself again." An offering raised \$9,858 for camperships.

# Laity stand at the heart of worship, says McFee

By LINDA WORTHINGTON

**W**ELCOME TO THE best part of annual conference,” said Delores Martin, conference Lay Leader. “Where would it be without us?” The nearly 500 laity filling the Harborside Ballroom couldn’t agree more.

Most of the afternoon was turned over to Marcia McFee, this year’s worship director. “I believe in the ministry of lay persons,” she said, explaining she chose not to be ordained in order to pursue her called ministry of worship design and leading.

Leading a worship service singing “Stay with Me” and the Scripture passages of Jesus and a few disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus repeatedly said to his disciples, “stay with me,” McFee gave the audience a few minutes to discuss with their neighbor the most memorable worship service they had experienced.



The laity gather for laughter and learning Wednesday afternoon.

Why did you remember the moment you shared? What are the reasons you remember the worship experience? The audience shouted their answers.

The mission of worship is to build up the body of Christ, McFee said. “We can’t make pleasing everybody the one goal of worship.” The reason we don’t perceive worship experiences the same is that “we are all wired differently.”

Six different ways brains perceive are verbal-linguistic, musical-rhythmic, logical-mathematical, visual-spatial, bodily-kinesthetic and personal (intra- and inter-). All are present in a given congregation and affect the way each person experiences the worship.

For the most effective worship – meaning touching the lives of most in the congregation – “layering” is important. Music, color, words, symbols, timing, sequence, environment, action – all are part of the worship experience. All need to work together.

How do you do that? Make worship m-m-m-good, McFee said.

# 20 retirees celebrated

By MELISSA LAUBER

**A**T A SPECIAL celebration lunch Wednesday, 20 clergy retirees were honored for their 545 total years of service in the ministry. Bishop LaTrelle Easterling said thank you to the men and women who said, “yes” when God’s voice called them, and who went where they were sent.

The Rev. Edwin Ankeny, a retiree who served from 1959 to 2004, shared his wisdom. “You cannot be retired from your faith, your ordination, or your covenant,” he said. “You are being sent out once more, with the yoke of ordination still around your neck.”

The retiring class of 2019 has varied plans for their new season of ministry. Some are continuing to serve in local churches, others are moving to homes they’ve been dreaming of for years.

Each is anticipating God working anew in their lives. They echoed the words of the Rev. Bob Hunter, who reflected upon his past and future ministry with the thought, “God doesn’t need us to be worthy. He just needs us to be willing.”

## Retirement Class of 2019

### YEARS OF SERVICE

Kay Francis Albury	40
Kimberly Ann Brown-Whale	37
Richard Edward Brown-Whale	40
Steven Ted Cochran	37
George Edward Hackey, Jr.	23
Esther M. Holimon	35
Robert Henry Hunter III	27
Guy W. (Whit) Hutchison	32
Pamela Jean Marsh	25
Martha Knobel Maxham	20
Denise M. Yepsen Millett	23
Jeffrey Allen Paulson	26
Arthe “Taysie” Phillips	8
Sandra Elizabeth Smith	13
Ian Grant Spong	6
Wilhelmina Street	2
Bruce Carl Thompson	41
Mark Robert Waddell	40
Mamie Alethia Williams	39
Jane Elizabeth Wood	31

TOTAL YEARS OF SERVICE : 545

# 235TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • WE ARE ONE: UNITED TO LOVE

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 30			FRIDAY, MAY 31		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6 a.m.	Wellness Screening & Pre-Retirement Counseling	Laurel C&D	6 a.m.	Wellness Screening & Pre-Retirement Counseling	Laurel C&D
6:45 - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Harborside Ballroom	6:30 a.m.	Wesley Nexus Breakfast	Kent A
8:15 a.m.	Gathering Music begins	Grand Ballroom	6:45	Breakfast	Harborside Ballroom
8:30 a.m.	Bible Study	Grand Ballroom	7:45 a.m.	Gathering Music	Grand Ballroom
9:30 a.m.	Call to Order	Grand Ballroom	8 a.m.	Bible Study	Grand Ballroom
9:35 a.m.	Organizational Motion & Rules	Grand Ballroom	9 a.m.	Seeds of Security Presentation	
9:45 a.m.	Greetings			Resolutions & voting for delegates resume	
10 a.m.	United Methodist Communications Presentation		10:45 a.m.	BOOM report (Order of the day)	
10:10 a.m.	Holy Conferencing: Samoan Circle Process		11:40 a.m.	GBGM 200-year anniversary video	
12:15 - 1:45 p.m.	Lunch		11:45 a.m.	Black College Fund Ambassador – James Cogman	
2:00 p.m.	Plenary Session Begins - Greetings from Mayor		Noon-1:45 p.m.	Lunch	Harborside Ballroom
2:10 p.m.	Voting Device Instructions		2 p.m.	Holy Conferencing	Grand Ballroom
2:20 p.m.	Presentation of Resolutions and Delegate Elections			UMW video	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Table</li> <li>• Supporting Deliberations for New Expressions of Methodism</li> <li>• Rotating Venue &amp; Accommodation</li> <li>• Purchase a New Episcopal Residence</li> <li>• Unrestricted Bequest – Centre St. UMC</li> <li>• Amending the Rules</li> <li>• Consultations before Restructuring</li> <li>• Provide Nursing and Pumping Accommodations</li> <li>• Attending Meetings for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates</li> <li>• Called Back to Our Methodist Roots</li> <li>• Call for an Adjourned/Special Session of AC</li> <li>• Representation of LGBTQIA+ Persons on Conf. Commissions, Committees &amp; Agencies</li> <li>• Conservation of Conf. Ministry Funding</li> <li>• Use of Conf. Funds to Support LGBTQIA+</li> <li>• Do No Harm through the Ordination Process</li> <li>• Do No Harm Through Marriage Prohibition</li> <li>• Do No Harm Across the NEJ</li> <li>• Affiliate with the Western Jurisdiction</li> <li>• Constitutionality of Discipline Para 304.3</li> </ul>			Election of Delegates resumes	
				Laity Address	
			2:30 p.m.	Stewardship Reports	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Pensions</li> <li>• Council on Finance &amp; Administration</li> <li>• Equitable Compensation Commission</li> </ul>	
			3:05 p.m.	Africa University Presentation	
			3:15 p.m.	Cabinet Report on Closed Church Resolutions	
			3:45 p.m.	BWC Ministries Report	
				Call to Action	
				Connectional Ministries Awards	
				Discipleship Council	
				Nominations Committee	
			4:45 p.m.	Motion to receive all reports prior to closing (Order of the day)	
			5-6:30 p.m.	Dinner	Harborside Ballroom
			6:15 p.m.	Cabinet & Ordinand portraits	Heron Room
			6:30 p.m.	Doors open for Ordination	Grand Ballroom
			7 p.m.	Ordination	Grand Ballroom
				<i>“Rhythms of Love:” We will celebrate the necessity of our diverse gifts, which bring love in all its fullness to the world.</i>	
4:55 p.m.	Approval of Consent Calendar (Order of the day)				
5 - 6:45 p.m.	Dinner				
6:30 p.m.	Doors open for worship				
7 p.m.	Memorial Service				
	<i>“Pouring Out Love:” Through our remembrances of how the saints faithfully walked a purposeful path, we vow once again to make our journey steady, humble and sure.</i>				
8 p.m.	Youth Social sponsored by Wesley Theological Seminary				
	<i>Visit Wesley Table in Exhibit Hall for location details.</i>				

### WHAT UNITES US TO LOVE?

United Methodists believe that evangelical faith (which focuses on the Good News of God’s saving love) should manifest itself in evangelical living.

This can be accomplished with three simple rules:

1. Do no harm by avoiding evil of every kind;
2. Do good of every possible sort, as far as possible, to all;
3. Stay in love with God by attending upon all the ordinances of God.



We look at our cell phones  
All day long  
Scrollin’ and a-scrollin’  
singin’ worship songs  
All those blessed on Aliceanna St  
Wanna hear your thoughts with a tweet tweet tweet  
**#bwcumc19**