



UMConnection DAILY

235th Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church • Transformed lives, transform lives • Friday, May 31, 2019

BWC considers five resolutions

By MELISSA LAUBER

THE RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED by BWC members yesterday reflected a broad range of conference ministries as members debated hospitality at the Communion Table, a new episcopal residence, the stewardship of annual gatherings, how to best disagree, and how to best use the generous legacy of a closed church.

The afternoon began with a resolution on the Common Table and members voted to require gluten-free, egg-free, dairy-free and nut-free bread at all conference, regional and district gatherings.

They also gave the greenlight to the Conference Trustees to purchase a new episcopal residence for the bishop. The current parsonage has been remediated after being infected with mold.

Conference leaders were also asked to research a more geographically central location for the Annual Conference Session, besides the cities of Baltimore and Washington, and to explore how to provide free accommodations for lay and clergy who can demonstrate need. They will report their findings at next year's session.

The Conference has a contract with Marriot to meet in Baltimore

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The Samoan Circle included: Rebecca Iannicelli, Jessica Hayden, Michele Johns, Tom Price, Joe Daniels, Delores Martin, and Kevin Baker. They offered their points of view about the church after the 2019 General Conference.

Leaders share broad perspectives on the church and its future

By MELISSA LAUBER

THE SPECIAL 2019 General Conference, which upheld and strengthened the denomination's stance on homosexuality, caused the Church's foundations to shift, said Bishop LaTrelle Easterling. To acknowledge this sea-change in the church, the bishop opted to open the Annual Conference Session with the gift of listening.

In a Samoan Circle process, seven conference leaders with varied and diverse perspectives shared — heart and soul — about what they believe is unfolding within and lies ahead for The United Methodist

Church.

The group did unite about what is at stake for the church. "Everything, absolutely everything," they said.

The panelists included: the Revs. Rebecca Iannicelli, superintendent of the Washington East District; Jessica Hayden, chair of the Discipleship Council; Michele Johns, a Deacon at Silver Spring UMC and member of the UM Queer Clergy Caucus; Joe Daniels, pastor of Emory UMC in D.C.; Kevin Baker, of the Wesleyan Covenant Association; laity Tom Price, a long-time lay leader of ROCK; and Delores Martin, the

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Legislation: Work begins on 19 resolutions

From page 1 through 2022.

Members also voted to distribute \$25,000 given to Centre Street UMC, which closed this year, to non-urban ministries in Allegany County.

A resolution on “Supporting Deliberations for New Expressions of Methodism” was tabled.

During the consideration of the resolution to purchase a new parsonage, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling passed the gavel to

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, a daughter of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, who was elected to the episcopacy in 2016.

Moore-Koikoi thanked the body. “A few decades ago, when I was baptized into the Washington Conference, only God knew I would be sitting here presiding over the BWC,” she said. She noted that her father, the Rev. Maurice S. Moore, who died last year, “is beaming down from heaven today.”



Matt Sichel offers a substitute amendment.

TONY RICHARDS

Circle: Leaders share their hurts and hopes

From page 1 conference lay leader.

Several of those speaking got emotional when they spoke about the pain they experienced from the actions of General Conference.

Citing the harm she believed was “planned and done with great intention,” Johns spoke about holding her breath when the votes at the session were taken. “When I got home, I realized I was holding my breath. It had made me feel as if I was unworthy of breath. This kind of harm impacts us on a cellular level,” she said.

Daniels shared his anger and pain at the church’s continued lack

of courage to tackle the issues of supremacy and racism, “which is the source of every other ‘ism’ we experience,” he said. He is hopeful the church will begin to seriously pursue justice — both soul justice and social justice.

Baker was concerned about the clouded narrative that claims, “unless I approve of everything you do, I can’t love you.”

But in spite of the pain, members of the circle process said they did feel hope.

Hayden is looking for the moment when the church is going to decide to be the church. “We, who are recipients of grace, are called to be

the means of grace,” she said.

For Iannicelli, this hope is reflected in the ministries at the grassroots level. “God is still speaking. What’s happening on the ground at the local church is amazing. God is yet still with us.”

Baker is convinced that “God’s business is still transforming lives.”

For some in the Samoan Circle, that transformation may occur in a new, or very different, Methodist Church that is somehow splintered, or at least no longer “united.” But Daniels and the others were also clear: “We worship a God who loves us and cares for us and wants to do exceedingly more than we can hope or imagine.”

BWC packs 60,000 meals to Rise Against Hunger

BY LINDA WORTHINGTON

VOLUNTEERS, LIKE AN assembly line, with red nets covering their hair, stood beside long tables at the back of the dining hall Thursday, and stuffed plastic bags with life-saving food during the mission events Thursday. Rise Against Hunger, founded in 2006, by a United Methodist pastor, provided the soy-rice mainstay of the meals, added to by dehydrated mixed vegetables and a vitamin supplement. The conference attendees provided the labor and, in half-hour turns, filled 10,000 bags ready for shipment to those in need. Each bag holds six meals.

Rise Against Hunger is driven by a vision of a world without hunger. It was founded by the Rev. Roy Buchanan, in 2006, and by 2017 had packaged 103 million meals.



BWC volunteers package meals for Rise Against Hunger on Thursday.

TONY RICHARDS

McMickle challenges BWC to confront poverty

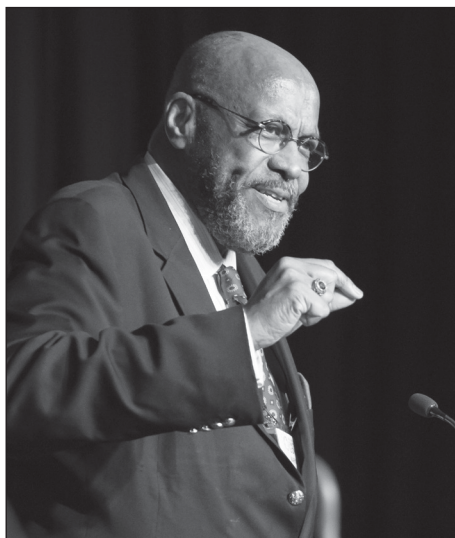
BY ALISON BURDETT

DR. MARVIN McMICKLE, president, director of the Doctor of Ministry program and professor of African American Religious Studies for Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, led Thursday's Bible study on Luke 16:19-22.

McMickle called attention to the contrast between the rich man in his fine linen who ate sumptuously and Lazarus, the beggar covered in sores at the rich man's gate. The rich man could not come and go without seeing this man in poverty and did not help him. After they both died, Lazarus woke in the bosom of Abraham in heaven, while the rich man went to hell.

The focus turned to thinking about the poverty we see today, on our way to church, dressed in our fine linens, and the poverty we drive past on our way to brunch to

eat sumptuously after church. "It is no longer possible for someone to say, 'Well, I did not know' about the suffering of the poor. Poverty has a visibility today that it did not have in the past. The faces of the poor must now be confronted," he said.



Rev. Marvin McMickle leads the morning Bible Study.

McMickle shared statistics that the United States ranks second out of 35 developed countries on the scale of what economists call "relative child poverty," with 23.1 percent of its children living in poverty. Only Romania ranked higher. And he said we have such a problem because we tolerate a steadily expanding gap. He said, "the church is an island of prosperity surrounded by a sea of great poverty."

The poor man goes to heaven and the rich man to hell. Why, McMickle asked. "He paid no attention to the poor man just outside his door."

"Luke 16 is a challenge to you to go home to your home church, look outside your window and see who or what is there."

The Bible study will continue Friday morning in the Grand Ballroom.

'Don't put a period where God puts a comma'

BY LINDA WORTHINGTON

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF pastors, pastors' spouses and conference lay people filled the Grand Ballroom Thursday evening as they came to remember their loved ones who had died since the 2018 Annual Conference Session. Under the leadership of Marcia McFee, the service opened with singing and prayer.

The Rev. Ianther Mills, pastor of Asbury UMC in Washington, told a story about Gracie Allen who, at her death, when her husband George Allen was 68, left him a message: "Never put a period where God has placed a comma." He died at 100 having lived the life of the comma. It became the theme for the evening.

"There is no period after the names of (your loved ones) who we honor today," Mills said. "They have lived lives poured out

for others and, because of their influence and impact, (they) live on in us."

Mills also illustrated the place of the loved ones in the hearts of the survivors with a story about Nicaraguans calling "presente" at a memorial service for many

who had been killed during the war with the Contras. As congregants called the names, all shouted "presente," indicating that though the person had died, their spirit was still with them.

Following her remarks,

in a candlelight service, a lighted candle was carried from the back of the hall to the altar at the front, a person's name was called, a bell was rung, and those who knew and remembered them shouted, "presente."



Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe lights a candle at the Memorial Service Thursday evening.

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

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, MAY 31

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6 a.m.	Wellness Screening & Pre-Retirement Counseling	Laurel C&D
6:30 a.m.	Wesley Nexus Breakfast	Kent A
6:45	Breakfast	Harborside Ballroom
7:45 a.m.	Gathering Music	Grand Ballroom
8 a.m.	Bible Study	Grand Ballroom
9 a.m.	Resolutions & voting for delegates	
11 a.m.	BOOM report (Order of the day)	
11:50 a.m.	Black College Fund Ambassador – James Cogman	
Noon-1:45 p.m.	Lunch	Harborside Ballroom
2 p.m.	Holy Conferencing	Grand Ballroom
	Resolutions & voting for delegates	
2:30 p.m.	Laity Address	
	Stewardship Reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Pensions • Council on Finance & Administration • Equitable Compensation Commission 	
3 p.m.	Africa University Presentation	
	Resolutions & voting for delegates	
	Cabinet Report on Closed Church Resolutions	
	Connectional Ministries Awards	
	Discipleship Council	
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

"Rhythms of Love:" We will celebrate the necessity of our diverse gifts, which bring love in all its fullness to the world.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY DAY

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Harborside Ballroom
9 a.m.	Opening Experience	Grand Ballroom
	BWC youth & Young Adult Ministries	
9:45 a.m.	Plenary by Mark DeVries	
	Strategic Plan by interim Young People's Board	
11 a.m.	Learning Labs - locations throughout hotel	
Noon	Lunch	Harborside Ballroom
	Moral Courage Luncheon	Waterview C&D
	Bishop Minerva Carcaño, guest preacher	
2:00 p.m.	Young People's Ministry Awards	Grand Ballroom
	Confirmation Celebration	



TONY RICHARDS



See some of the best coverage of the Annual Conference Session via Rev. Sarah Schlieckert's video reports on our Facebook page.

facebook.com/bwcumc

WHAT UNITES US TO LOVE?

WESLEYAN MEANS OF GRACE

Our faith is grounded in the means of grace as we regularly practice the private acts of devotion and mercy, and the public practices of worship and justice.

Practicing the means of grace, we participate in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, giving to others, worship, witness, service, advocacy, holy conferencing and more.



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