

Proceedings of the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

**Thursday Morning,
April 29, 2004**

(worship service concludes)

BISHOP JOEL N. MARTINEZ: Now I want to recognize as the next item on our agenda the presentation of the financial state of the church; and I recognize the general secretary of the Council on Finance and Administration, Dr. Sandra Lackore.

(applause)

SANDRA KELLEY LACKORE: Greetings bishops, delegates, my colleague general secretaries. Thank you for the opportunity to be with you this morning.

Before I start, I want to say a word about the offering plate I have with me. Some of you have seen my small, brown, old wooden offering plate that I so often travel with. This plate was loaned to me by Neil Alexander, because in January, when some of us met here in Pittsburgh, Bishop Kammerer said to me, "Sandy, your plate is too small!" But the size of my plate is not what this means to me. This plate, for me, is a sacred vessel, a sacred vessel entrusted to receive the gifts to God that every person in every pew in every United Methodist Church has given to God. As the person whose agency is charged with the awesome responsibility for that trust, this plate serves as a constant reminder to me that our decisions are not just about dollars. Our decisions are about the gifts that persons have given to God in this sacred vessel.

I want to talk with you about making disciples of Christ in challenging financial times. For months now, you have heard in delegations, in your annual conferences, and in the press reports that our denomination's financial foundation is in need of repair; that's a fact. Yesterday, Bishop Blake spoke so elo-

quently and so compellingly to one aspect of that need for repair—the need for us to have a renewed sense of stewardship and spiritual centering. I want to thank Bishop Blake for his words yesterday.

(applause)

I would like to talk with you about another aspect of the status of that foundation. I want to talk to you about the information that's provided to GCFA by each and every one of your local churches. Our jurisdictional annual conference treasurers have reported to GCFA that in 2004 they apportioned the budgets of your annual conferences to 216 fewer churches than they apportioned to in 2003; that's a fact. You've told us that you're consolidating districts, you're merging conferences, and that we're losing members. In 2002, your statisticians told us that 41 percent of your local churches reported that they did not receive one new member on confession of faith or by baptism.

There are two realities in our local-church financial foundation. The first reality is that our jurisdictional annual conferences apportion the budgets to the local churches in their conferences to 34,780 churches. That is the budget that you will vote at this General Conference.

The second reality is that we have a very narrow base of financial support: 3,655 of those 34,780 churches are apportioned one half of the jurisdictional annual conference and general church apportionments—only 3,655 churches of those 34,780.

Let's look at what that means to us here today. If we consider the budget proposal before you for the next four years, \$585 million, those 3,655 churches will be apportioned almost 300 million of those dollars—a very narrow base of support.

One conclusion that can be drawn from these facts is that there are fewer

people in fewer churches putting money *(pause) (sound of coins in offering plate)* in this offering plate. Fewer people in fewer churches to pay for the budget your conference treasurers will apportion when you vote on a budget at this General Conference and in your annual conference. My friends, not only do we have a spiritual stewardship challenge, but the financial support base in our local churches and our jurisdictional conferences is shrinking.

Thank goodness, this is only part of the story; and we, after all, are a people of hope. There are a number of very encouraging facts as well. Nearly seven out of 10 churches—that's almost 24,000 of our churches—paid 100 percent or more of their apportionments in 2003.

(applause)

Give yourselves a hand! Seventy percent of our churches paying 100 percent.

More good news: At our last General Conference, you voted to make a large investment in national advertising and welcoming, to put a fresh face on our church; and persons are responding. They're responding with open hearts and open minds and open doors. Three General Conferences ago, you voted money for Africa University; and despite the turmoil in Zimbabwe and much of the rest of that continent, Africa University is producing strong Christian leaders.

(applause)

There are positive things happening in our denomination. Our theological seminaries have worked to renew and strengthen their relationships to annual conferences, districts, and congregations. And since 1995, giving in our local churches has gone up more than family income.

(applause)

I want to tell you, you know, we talk a lot about how we could turn giving

around. What these figures have told us, provided by your annual conference treasurers, is that we could add \$1 million to our general church receipts in 2004 if we as a denomination could enable the 44 churches in our jurisdictional annual conferences that left the most dollars on the table, dollars unpaid. Forty-four churches. Imagine if it would mean a million dollars to the general church receipts, what it would mean to your annual conference receipts.

So what does this mean? How can knowing these facts lead us to making informed financial decisions at this General Conference?

Thirty years ago—I didn't always have gray hair! (*laughter*) Thirty years ago, studying under Kennon Callahan at Emory University—before Ken became a really big name in church growth and development—Ken told a story of his work as a local church pastor. Late one night, Ken received a call from a distraught wife and mother. The woman said her husband had a gun, and feared for her life and the lives of her three children. Ken drove quickly to the house. The front door was slightly ajar as he approached, and he heard a noise coming from the back of the house.

When he entered, the man holding the gun turned and pointed it at Ken. In a split second, his life passed before him. What do you say when there may be only a second to say it? What Ken said was, "John, where are you headed? What kind of future are you building?"

"Where are you headed?" and "What kind of future are you building?" Why did Ken ask these questions? Did he ask them because he wanted to distract the man who held the power of life or death over him? Did Ken ask them because he was able to move beyond concern over his own self-preservation to find the only important question the man with the gun had to answer?

"Where are you headed? What kind of future are you building?" Ken was concerned about the man, and he asked questions that were designed to save not Ken's life but the life of the man who held the gun.

In the midst of financial challenges, we need to ask some important questions, not to save our own lives or to save the church, but to ask what kind of future are we building for our families, our communities, and our world. We need to be concerned about the church, but the issue is not about preservation of ourselves as individuals and institutions. The issue is not about preserving of our comfortable ways. The issue is not how we will invigorate The United Methodist Church, just as Ken's concern was not for himself but for the man he hoped to save, the family he hoped to save. The issue for all of us is how we will make disciples for Christ, to be at mission in the world.

(*applause*)

I'm aware that some in the church do not feel comfortable with examples from the corporate world; but, my friends, God's gifts are extended there as well, and there are some good models of how the corporate world responds in the face of challenging financial times. The March 31st issue of *The Wall Street Journal* told that both Coke and Pepsi were coming out with "slimmer" colas. They are colas with fewer calories and fewer carbohydrates.

A Coke spokesman said, "Innovation is at the heart of everything we are doing, and we are always looking for ways to strengthen and expand."

Importantly, both companies halted business as usual to get their new products out to their consumers. An industry representative said of the delay, "Both companies are refocusing on their core brands and trying to make sure that they are solid."

Put these elements together and you have a recipe for coping with the financial challenges. Refocus on the core, eliminate the excess, innovate, strengthen, and expand. Maybe not a bad action plan for The United Methodist Church. But how do we go about refocusing on the core in new ways, Christ's mission in the world?

Let's consider these questions: What are *you* going to do in this General

Conference to shape the financial future of our denomination? Do we only have a thousand personal agendas, or a unified vision for the future of our denomination? What are *you* going to do about the financial challenges? Bruce offered us a model yesterday to direct our efforts to the spiritual needs of our denomination. What are we going to do? What are *you* going to do, in order to fulfill the promises that previous General Conferences have made? What are we going to do that says yes to our future? These questions must be asked and must be answered.

An Ecumenical Comparison

We're not the only denomination that recognizes the need to refocus on what is core. The General Assembly council of the Presbyterian Church has announced its need to cut \$9 million from its 2005–06 budget. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America cut almost \$3 million in their 2004 budget; and at year-end 2003, the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee adopted a report reporting a future financial crisis unless giving increases. The report disclosed a decades-old trend of a gradual declining of giving by individuals to churches, and by churches to their cooperative programs. Their cooperative programs are analogous to our general funds.

The fact that the Presbyterians, the Evangelical Lutherans, and the Southern Baptists are right there in the soup with us does not make it any easier to bear the heat. It simply puts our predicament in a more compelling perspective.

What can we learn from the way they've responded? Does it mean we back off of making disciples? The answer is no! We cannot! Not and remain the church. Does it mean we renege on promises to our clergy for health and pension requirements? No, we cannot! Not and seek commitment from future generations of clergy. Does it mean that we turn our back on new initiatives that come before you at this General Conference? No, we cannot. Not and remain a vital church that

innovates and expands in mission and ministry. What *does* it mean?

As you look at each dollar to be spent, each new initiative proposed, you will ask yourself—I hope—where are we headed, and what are we the people called United Methodists going to do about our future?

Before you in the days ahead will be many new opportunities for ministry, and you will be tempted to pass them all without priority, “Just send them to GCFA!” (*laughter*) Before you in the days ahead will be impassioned speeches for new initiatives. You may feel their immediate need without recognizing the future implications. Before you in the days ahead will be opportunities and challenges, and you may be tempted to spend too little time sorting them out. Yet inherent in the opportunities, the initiatives, and the challenges is the question, what are we going to do about our financial future?

What Are We to Do?

What are we going to do about our financial future? GCFA struggled with this question when it invited representatives from each jurisdictional annual conference in November of 2002 to ask the question of your representatives, what will impact your local church and annual conference budgets in the years ahead?

Your representatives overwhelmingly told us that health insurance for active and retired clergy, property and liability insurance, and the increasing financial demands of connectional ministry have pushed the local church to make hard decisions. The result of those local decisions is that the share of every dollar that goes into this church offering plate has grown at the local church level, and at the same time has shrunk at your annual conference and general church levels. The local churches are sending less of that dollar to the annual conferences and to the general church.

We are maintaining our local churches, our annual conferences, and our general church infrastructure with a

shrinking base of financial support. Almost one half of the dollars that go beyond the local church are paying for promises that we have made to clergy who have served our denomination faithfully. And a quarter of what stays in the local church maintains property that in many instances no longer fulfills its original purpose.

It doesn't take a financial guru to point out that we are going to have to make hard decisions about what we value. We have greater demands to maintain infrastructure at every level and greater demands to fulfill the missional priorities assigned to us by previous General Conferences. We must determine if indeed the financial priorities of yesterday are ours today.

The Budget From GCFA

The budget GCFA has offered for your consideration represents the core as defined by previous General Conferences. That is GCFA's mandate—our job. However, this is not GCFA's budget. We have given you your starting point. What you do will make it *your* budget. *Your* budget will have to fund The United Methodist Church during these critical years ahead. This is *your* opportunity to define what is core for our denomination's financial and missional future. *Your* vote on the budget will make the budget our denomination's financial mission statement. *Your* vote must represent what *you* believe are the missional and financial priorities, our values. Not just for the next four years, but for future generations of United Methodists. Not only for your children and my children, but for your grandchildren and my grandchildren as well.

While it is true that one General Conference cannot bind another, we must remember, when you give birth to a ministry, it is sometimes like giving birth to a child: You agree to nurture it in its infancy; direct it in its growth; and, yes, sometimes support it in its old age.

You have an awesome responsibility. You must decide our core missional

and financial priorities—in a word, the *values*—of our denomination for the next four years and years beyond. Do not think of it as a budget of dollars. Think of it as a sacred trust, the gifts that persons have given to God, the expectation that we will make disciples of Christ. When you leave here with a financial mission statement that will be apportioned to the annual conferences of our jurisdictions over the next four years, you will have determined our core financial values.

Good Things

Do you remember the list of positive items I mentioned to you a few minutes ago? Those and other good things happening in our denomination? Those are cause for celebration. There *are* good things happening in our local churches, our annual conferences, our agencies. There are good things happening in our denomination. I'm asking you, the leaders elected by your annual conferences, to focus on our core values, to make decisions about implementing those core values by preserving what is worthwhile, eliminating what isn't, and innovating when innovation is called for; responsible decisions that reflect our common values; responsible decisions that balance our hopes and dreams with our ability to fulfill the promises we're making; responsible decisions that you not only vote for, but that you go home and support in your annual conferences, and in each and every local church that you worship in.

My home church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and as part of that celebration they're bringing back pastors and associates, back to the pulpit to preach. Several weeks ago the preacher was Martin Deppe. Martin served as an associate at First United Methodist Church in Evanston, where we worshiped. Martin's sermon recollected some of the struggles our church faced in the '70s. He reflected how our living through the struggles of the '70s determined the heritage left by that generation. He observed that each generation has different struggles, and that one of the questions for this current

generation of leaders—you—will be, why are we accumulating debt upon our children and their children?

Like our government leaders, we as a church leader need to answer that question, what will our legacy be? What will our future look like? Will it be a maintenance future? Please don't do that to us. A maintenance future that only promises the promises we've made in the past? Maintaining the promises to keep neighborhood churches open in areas where they're no longer relevant? Maintaining the promises to be a global church when we have made commitments that will significantly impair our ability to keep that promise? We can't do that. We *must* be a global church. We cannot, however, continue to make promises that we can't or do not intend to keep. We can't make promises that bankrupt our missional endeavors. We cannot continue to make promises that do not reflect the values of our local congregations.

You have the opportunity and the responsibility to say yes, to say yes to our future together. You have the opportunity and the responsibility to set a course that instructs the leadership of our denomination to put our money, our time, our energy, and our imagination where we have said our values are. We can choose to plod ahead in a business-as-usual mode or you can make the decisions to take charge of our financial future together and march forward with new energy. If we're going to say yes to our future, we must agree to focus those financial resources; focus the work of our leadership; focus our time, our energy, and our imagination on what is primary to our core values, making disciples of Christ.

I have not come before you to give you a list of GCFA's priorities; that's not our job. I'm not suggesting you have to vote the council's recommended budget; that's not our job. I'm not saying you need to approve one specific petition over another; that's not our job. I am asking you to take on a humbling responsibility—the responsibility to carefully evaluate our historic com-

mitments, the responsibility to deepen our discussions to the point where our financial decisions are grounded in our core values, and the responsibility to articulate a practical vision that will motivate us to meet the challenges of the future. To take seriously the humbling responsibility is extremely important.

You have the ability through your actions at this General Conference to determine our financial future. May we allow God to guide us. Thank you.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you.

(applause)

Thank you, Dr. Lackore. We have heard a challenging and sobering report, and at the same time a challenge to continue to do our best in serving and sustaining Christ's mission in the world.

Instructions for Nominations

I now turn to Carolyn Marshall, the secretary of the General Conference, to orient us regarding the matter of the nominations to the University Senate and the Judicial Council. Carolyn?

CAROLYN M. MARSHALL: If you will turn to page 1519 in today's *DCA*.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Page 1519 in your *DCA*.

MARSHALL: The nominations from the Council of Bishops appear. The left-hand column on that page contains the nominations for the University Senate and the Judicial Council. There are, what, two-and-a-half changes in that listing. Under "University Senate," the category which says, "Other Positions Relevant to Academic or Financial Affairs or Church Relationship," under South Central, the name of J. Timothy Cloyd is to be replaced with the name of Pamela Kutcher . . . Pamela Kutcher. And in the Western Jurisdiction, the name of Philip A. Amerson, replace with the name of Kathleen Grider . . . Kathleen Grider. And then, if you wondered why the remark about a "half" correction, the last name under "Judicial Council," Western Jurisdiction, Jane Tews, it is not "Jane TewsDesert"—"Desert

Southwest" is a part of the conference designation. The name is Jane Tews.

In the *Discipline*, Paragraph 1414 . . . Paragraph 1414 is the one applicable as far as the University Senate is concerned, [Par.] 2602 for the Judicial Council. I would be glad to share those if you so desire. The bottom line is that as far as the Judicial Council is concerned, double the number of persons to be elected or to be nominated by the Council of Bishops. This year we elect two lay and two clergy to the Judicial Council. Therefore, there are six nominees in each category. On the same day that those nominations are announced, there is to be opportunity from the floor for additional nominations, and that we will be asking you to do in a few minutes, Bishop Martinez.

The election is scheduled for Monday morning, with the plan at your urging from last time that the election be held a little earlier in the agenda as far as General Conference is concerned. And as reads in both of them at the same daily session in which the above nominations are announced, nominations of both ministers and laypersons from the floor, but at no other time. The names of all nominees identified with the conference to which each belongs and a biographical sketch that does not exceed 100 words shall be published by the *Daily Christian Advocate* at least 48 hours prior to the time of election, which shall be set by action of the General Conference. That election is to be on Monday.

And so we now present these names to you, Bishop, along with the request that there be opportunity for other nominations from the floor, and with the proviso that those persons so nominated submit to the secretary's office a 100-word bio in order that they may be published no later than Saturday.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok, the matter is before us on the Judicial Council. I want to remind you of the 100-word limit on the biographical information you're to submit, and also the conference to which that person belongs or is related. I will simply go from left to right, and then right to left again for

people who want to nominate additional persons to be considered for, as lay members of the Judicial Council and as clergy. And I will encourage you to do so by quickly naming the name of the person, but then turning in to the secretary the correct spelling of that person and the conference from where they come or to which they're related, and a 100-word-or-less biographical sketch, today.

Yes? *(pause)* The secretary reminds me that there's a nomination form for this purpose, and you're to do that on the nomination form when you turn it in. *(pause)* Ok, correction. The regular motion form, do use that form to turn in the name and the information we've requested.

Judicial Council Nominations

So we're going to the Judicial Council nominations from the floor, and I am going to ask that we open that now. And I'll be looking for folks to come forward to the microphones.

CONNIE M. SHELTON: Right here.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Right here in No. 2? Yes?

SHELTON (Mississippi): With great enthusiasm, I nominate Dr. David Beckley for the Judicial Council.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Is it clergy or lay?

SHELTON: He is a layperson.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok. Dr. David Beckley, layperson. Thank you. I'll go right here. No. 1. Yes?

MELVIN R. BOWDAN JR. (Kentucky): I nominate Rev. Dennis Blackwell, from the Northeast Jurisdiction and Greater New Jersey Conference.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Rev. Dennis Blackwell, Greater New Jersey. Thank you, sir. I go back to No. 5, person closest to the aisle. If you'll come quickly.

ALDO O. MARTIN (Florida): I nominate Daniel Ivey-Soto. He's a layperson.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok. Daniel Ivey-Soto, from New Mexico, as a

layperson. Thank you, sir. Back here, mic 6. Yes? Man in white.

GARY J. CAMPBELL (West Ohio): I nominate Rev. Gloria Brooks, a clergy member of the West Ohio Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok. Rev. Gloria Brooks, West Ohio. Thank you, sir. I'll go over here, to mic 8. Yes, the gentleman standing closest to the mic. Yes?

CARL W. YOUNG (Oklahoma): It is our honor for the Oklahoma delegation to nominate Kurt Glassco as a layperson for the Judicial Council.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Kurt Glassco?

YOUNG: Kurt Glassco.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Oklahoma. Thank you, sir. Let me, I'm moving around here, and I want to give everybody a chance. Let me come this way, then. Over here, at No. 1. Yes, the fellow with the red tie.

ASA L. WHITAKER (Arkansas): Thank you, Bishop. On behalf of the Arkansas delegation, I'm honored to nominate Rev. Rodney Steele as a clergy candidate for the Judicial Council.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Rev. Rodney Steele, Arkansas, clergy. Thank you, sir.

WHITAKER: Thank you.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: I'll go back to No. 5, the fellow in the, close to the mic. Come on up.

SONNY G. DELA PENA (Palawan Philippines Provisional): I nominate Judge Raymundo Annang of Middle Philippines Annual Conference.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok, I didn't get the name clearly, but you know it, you write it down, from the Philippines, right?

DELA PENA: Yes.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok, thank you. Let me go to the lady in the red, back there. Yes, right in the center. Go to mic No. 6.

GUISHAN TITUS: (Methodist Church of India): *(unintelligible)*

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Yes.

TITUS: *(unintelligible)*

BISHOP MARTINEZ: India? Yes.

TITUS: I would like to nominate the name of Dr. Solomon Christian from Memphis, as a lay for Judicial Council. Thank you.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you. Thank you very much. Put this name down and bring it to us. Let me . . . yes, this gentleman right here. Yes. No. 2.

M. KENT MILLARD (South Indiana): I would like to move nominations cease.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: The motion is in order that nominations cease. Is there a second? The matter is before us. *(pause)* OK, the matter is before us to cease nominations at this point. It takes a majority vote if you want to cease nominating. If it fails, then we, then we'll continue. So if you support the motion to cease nominating, vote for the motion. Please vote now.

NO VOTE TOTAL IS GIVEN FROM THE IDENTIFIER

OK, the motion carries; nominations cease. And the nominees that have been nominated will be added to the list of those already nominated by Judicial Council, I mean, by the Council of Bishops; and those names will be brought to you on Monday at a time approved by the, or proposed by the Agenda Committee.

OK, let's see. The gentlemen that's standing there. Let's see what the . . . All right, yes?

DAVID A. BANKS (North Carolina): Point of order, Bishop.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Yes.

BANKS: The rules state that you would scan the floor. You said that you would scan both directions and you came over here briefly. You skipped several persons who've been over here with the card up. You went back to this side, stayed over here. They kept their cards up and never were called upon.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Well, I guess I did do that. I tried to look and I didn't

call on those folks and I regret it. I, the matter was voted. I am sorry, but we need to move on.

(pause)

I need to clarify a matter. My colleagues here are reminding me that there was a nomination from an affiliated autonomous church, the Church of India, and that nomination would not be in order. We accepted it as it was brought to us, and I acknowledged it along with all of the others; but my colleagues are reminding me that that name from our sister in India would not be in order as a nomination for the Judicial Council.

We need to go to the University Senate. Is it a point of order, sir? Right here? I see. Go ahead and come to mic 2. That's fine.

NORMAN H. COLEMAN III (West Ohio): I believe that this would be in order, Bishop, to make a motion to reopen nominations according to Robert Rules. Would you please clarify?

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Yes, the motion to reconsider that action would be in order. It would have to be brought by someone who voted for it. You weren't making a motion, were you?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
(inaudible)

BISHOP MARTINEZ: I didn't hear that. Yes. Right here, the lady in, coming to mic 2?

GAY HUFF (Mississippi): I voted in the affirmative, and I move that we reconsider that vote to open up the nomination process again.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: All right, is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: All right. I think the matter is clearly before us. I think the motion is before you. If you will support reconsideration to reopen the nominating process, do so and vote now.

OK, the motion carries, and so we reconsidered our previous action; and I'll go over there to the folks that brought it to my attention. I didn't look their way. Mic 8.

BROLIN C. PARKER (Wyoming): I place in nomination the name Raymond L. Hamill from Wyoming Annual Conference, layperson.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Raymond L. Hamill, Wyoming Conference, lay.

PARKER: Yes.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you, sir.

PARKER: Thank you.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: We go over here to No. 4. The gentleman there.

MICHAEL D. MCCURRY (Baltimore-Washington): I with great honor place a name in nomination of the Rev. Frank Trotter, from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Northeast Jurisdiction, for clergy.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Reverend Frank Trotter, clergy, Baltimore-Washington. Thank you, sir. Go over to No. 7. Yes.

FRANK TROTTER: (Baltimore-Washington.) I'd like to nominate Solomon Christian, from the Memphis Conference, a layperson.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Solomon Christian, layperson, Memphis. Thank you, sir.

TROTTER: Thank you.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: We're going to go over here, No. 6, the lady right there—yes.

DARLENE V. AMON (Virginia): I enthusiastically lift the name of Amy Valdez Barker, who is a young woman from the Wisconsin Conference.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Amy Valdez Barker, Wisconsin, is that clergy or lay? Please make sure the Conference understands.

AMON: Lay.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Lay. Thank you, Darlene. All right . . . yes. *(pause)* Let me, before I go to my fans over there on the right, my right—I'm popular down in that section—let me clarify that the nomination by our sister from India who's an affiliated autonomous delegate, she was not able to make that nomination, but the nomination of the

person that was brought forward was from The United Methodist Church, so that person's name would certainly be in order to be included if someone else would make that same nomination.

(unintelligible)

All right. Let's go over here to No. 4. Yes.

TSHIBANG KASAP 'OWAN (North-West Katanga): I want to nominate Reverend Kyungu Shamwange, clergy. Kyungu Shamwange.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Lay? Layperson?

KASAP 'OWAN: Yes, layperson.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: OK, thank you. Be sure and bring that name to us. All right, I'll go back to No. 7. Yes?

ARNETTA BEVERLY (Western North Carolina): I would like to place the name of Judge Jon R. Gray, layperson from the Missouri Conference, for the Judicial Council.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you, but Judge Gray is already on the nomination list of the Council of Bishops, so he is already a nominee, but thank you for that affirmation. Let me go over here to the left, No. 1.

MAXIE D. DUNNAM (Kentucky): I move that the nominations cease.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: All right, the motion is that the nominations cease. Is there a second? Are you ready to vote? Please vote now. *(pause)* OK, the motion carries, the nominations cease, and this ends the nominating process for the Judicial Council.

Nominations for University Senate

Now we go to the University Senate and we have two categories there, chief executive officer, and the other category is other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationship. And we will need, when you offer nominations, please be specific in what category. Are there any? Yes, over here to my left, No. 1 . . . mic 1.

RODNEY G. STEELE (Arkansas): I nominate Dr. Rebekah Miles, clergywoman from Arkansas, in the "other positions" category.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Ok, Dr. Rebekah Miles from Arkansas, for the category of “other positions relevant to academic” and so forth. Thank you, Dr. Steele. Are there any other nominations? Someone can move to close them so we can move on, but go ahead, and let’s hear others. Yes?

CLARK A. JENKINS (South Carolina): I move that the nominations close.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: All right, the motion is to close the nominations, is there a second? I hear a second. Let’s vote on it. Let’s vote now. *(pause)* The nominations are closed for the University Senate, thank you very much. Now I’m going to ask our secretary of the General Conference, is there anything else that you need to say related to this, Ms. Marshall? Are we in order in every way?

MARSHALL: Just a reminder, as far as the 100-word bios are concerned, please get them to Room 330.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Room 330 with your bios—be quick to do that, so that the folks might get them printed. They need them today. I think I had mentioned, please turn them in today to be helpful to the secretarial staff.

Recognizing Eunice Jones Mathews

Thank you very much, now I’m going to turn to the Committee on Courtesies, Bonnie Marden, and Randy Day will be assisting her in some way. Yes.

BONNIE I. MARDEN (New England): Good morning!

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Good morning.

MARDEN: On behalf of the Courtesies and Privileges Committee, I invite the General Conference to offer appreciation to those who journey with our episcopal leaders—their support systems of friends, companions, and spouses. They walk with these leaders, sometimes beside, sometimes behind, and sometimes ahead. They travel to foreign lands. I hear they store corsages in their refrigerators, and many seek to

keep mission at the forefront of the church’s public witness. It is my pleasure to introduce Randy Day, who invites us to celebrate the life of a woman whose journey as a child of God and an episcopal spouse has touched many lives, including my own family and others in the Boston Area and the Northeast Jurisdiction.

RANDY DAY (New York): Thank you very much. Good morning, Bishop, delegates, bishops, friends. Today, today is the 90th birthday of Eunice Jones Mathews, a woman who is the embodiment of mission.

(applause)

I would like to call upon the president of the General Board of Global Ministries, Bishop Joel Martinez, to escort her to the stage at this time.

(applause)

And I’m calling upon Roland Fernandes, the interim treasurer of the General Board of Global Ministries, a native of India, to please escort her spouse down here, a person who has many titles, but by his own confession the title that’s above all titles is “Missionary to India.”

(applause)

Eunice was born in Lucknow, India, to one of Methodism’s outstanding missionary couples, E. Stanley Jones and Mabel Lossing Jones. *(applause)* Her mother was a pioneering woman from Dubuque, Iowa, *(applause)* who broke many cultural barriers by successfully launching a boys’ primary school in northern India. Mrs. Jones also served on the governing board of Isabella Thobrun College, the first institution of higher learning for women in all of Asia.

(applause)

Her father, E. Stanley Jones, changed missionary thinking by encouraging individuals to receive Christ within their own indigenous culture. *(applause)* He was known for evangelical mission, social activism, as well as the establishment of the Christian Ashram.

Eunice spoke Hindustani before she spoke English. After attending Wesley’s girls’ school in Nainital, India, she graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. She then returned to India to work with her father; and there she met a young missionary, Dr. James K. Mathews, whom she married in June 1940. In his autobiography—come closer, Bishop—*A Global Odyssey*, which I highly recommend to all of you, as I’ve done to my staff, Bishop Mathews spoke of a mutual ministry that they have shared together and suggested that the title of the book may have been *We Did It Together*.

She has indeed skillfully balanced each of her cherished roles as missionary, author, international ambassador, wife, mother, and grandmother. She has personally touched the lives of political and religious leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Nehru Gandhi, Pope Paul VI, and Martin Luther King Jr. She’s been entertained by First Families George and Barbara Bush, Bill and Hillary Clinton. The world, especially The United Methodist Church, is better because of her boundless energy and love.

(applause)

The General Board of Global Ministries invites all of you to a reception immediately after this session this morning. I think you received printed invitations. It will be just outside the ballroom on the third floor. So come there. There’s some other coffee stations, walk on past those, come over there to the ballroom—you’ll see a big picture of Eunice, and you’ll find Eunice and the bishop. You’ll have a chance to greet them, pick up your refreshments, and then go to your legislative committees and do the work of the Lord.

We have some flowers we want to present at this time.

(applause)

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Such a privilege to honor Eunice this morning, and all that heritage, which has blessed the

world and blessed so many of us personally. We want, Eunice, for you to say a word or two to us this morning. We want to hear from you.

EUNICE JONES MATHEWS: Thank you very, very much for this gesture, and I will certainly remember it the rest of my days. Now, I was born and bred a Methodist, and I'm proud of it. And I'm also very proud of my missionary parents, whose combined service in India, and my father all over the world, was 108 years, and I'm also very proud of being born in India, and that has been my major focus most of my life. And I'm proud also of having been baptized by the very saintly Bishop Frank Werne—I don't know how many of you would ever have known him. And I'm also very proud of having served with my husband in five different episcopal areas.

Now as I enter my tenth decade, which seems rather ridiculously impossible (*laughter*), I'll share a little secret with you, and that is that I do not have to be identified always as the daughter of E. Stanley Jones, as great a missionary and as wonderful an evangelist that he was. Nor do I have to be identified always as a wife of a bishop—and that was very interesting, too. (*laughter*) But, I do have, and I have had, permission to be myself; and I have done that.

(*applause*)

And may I say that this has been in the freedom of Jesus Christ. Thank you.

(*applause*)

RANDY DAY: Before they leave, we're going to ask Barbara to lead the house in singing "Happy Birthday." And let me say, they came up and addressed the staff a few weeks ago, we had a marvelous day together talking about India and missionaries. At that time we learned they had just returned from their 60th—that's 6-0, 60th trip to India. Barb, if you'd lead us now in "Happy Birthday."

BARBARA DAY MILLER: Would you stand?

(*all sing "Happy Birthday"*)

(*applause*)

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you, thanks to the Courtesy Committee for that very thoughtful and very appropriate recognition and affirmation of Eunice Mathews.

Presiding Officers

I now turn to and recognize Paul Extrum-Fernandez to report on the Committee on Presiding Officers. Paul?

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bishop. The Committee on Presiding Officers has been meeting since Monday, hard at work in selecting bishops that can serve as our presiding officers. I'd like to take a moment to introduce them before you today, and if you could stand where you are, Raymond Annang; Anita Archer; David Cosmiano; Anita Crump; Frank Dorsey; Zedna Haverstock; Bob Hoshibata; Suzana Lourenco; Madalena Magita; Harriet McCabe; Brolin Parker; Roland Siegrist, who is also our vice-chair; Hans Vaxby; Beverly Wilkes, who is serving as our secretary; and Richard Wills. These are the folks that are representing you in selecting our leadership.

(*applause*)

We'll be making daily reports to you on our following day's presiding officers, and it's my great pleasure to say that tomorrow's presiding officer for the morning session will be hailing from the Bluegrass State, the Louisville Area, Bishop James King.

(*applause*)

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you, thank you, Paul, and we appreciate the work of that committee very much. I now turn to the chair of the Committee on Calendar and Agenda, Mary Alice Massey. Ms. Massey.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Good morning, Bishop, and delegates. We're on time, isn't that wonderful?

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Amen.

(*applause*)

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Our calendar for today includes announcements and then adjournment. We'll have a refreshment break. We are going to program in our breaks from now on so we won't be off-schedule. And then legislative committees this afternoon and evening. Let me hasten to say that the legislative committee chairpersons and the committees themselves will schedule their own times because some may want to meet later than others, but you must be out of the hall by 11:00 p.m.

Consent Calendar Instructions

And now I call on Gerry Reist, who is charge of the calendar, to give us some instructions about the calendar.

FITZGERALD REIST: I am Fitzgerald Reist, coordinator of the calendar. Please turn in your *DCA* to page 1544 . . . page 1544. You will find there the beginning of the calendar process. Consent Calendar A01 is printed. Consent Calendar B01 is printed on the facing page. These two consent calendars will be available for action tomorrow. If you wish to remove any item from these calendars you must obtain the form either from your recorder in your legislative committee or from the Conference Secretary's office, in Room 330. These forms must be returned by 3 o'clock in order for the items to be removed from the calendar.

I would just ask you to look briefly with me at the first one, for though some of you are familiar with how we've done this in the past, for the rest of you this is not a change, but please note that we now are listing the calendar item number, immediately followed by the committee item number; and beneath the title, the subject information, you'll find the reference to the petition number. That should facilitate you in your work as we deal with this tomorrow. Thank you.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Bishop, I need to call to the attention to the delegates that in the morning we have a very important session. We will be hav-

ing a service of appreciation for the African American United Methodists who remained in the denomination at 9:05; and then at 10:05 we will have the recognition of Bishop Thomas and the Commission of Archives and History, and also the retiring bishops and the presentation of the new episcopal leadership team. So I know that all of our delegates will want to be in place for that. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Thank you very much, we appreciate the work of this committee that keeps us oriented and moving well with our agendas. I want to now turn to Carolyn Marshall for announcements; and immediately after any announcements that she might have, I'm going to call on Bishop Paulo Lockman, who is one of the bishops in Brazil and is the president of the Council of Evangelical Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, to close our meeting with prayer and send us forth. Carolyn?

CAROLYN M. MARSHALL: Yes, just an additional request that those of

you who submitted nominations and were asked to put those names on the motion forms which each of you has, there are only about half of them that have gotten up here. So if you have not done so, would you please do so and give it to a page before you leave the auditorium. And secondly then, one announcement, just a reminder of the Communion services, the midday Communion services, around the altar here in the center. We will make sure that that is on the agenda as it is listed in the front of the *DCA* from now on. But it will begin at 12:30 this afternoon with Bishop Ough from the Ohio West Area as the celebrant. Bishop, that concludes my announcements.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Okay, thank you, Carolyn, for those announcements. If you would stand, I will ask Bishop Lockman to come, to send us forth with closing prayer.

BISHOP LOCKMAN: Let us pray in Portuguese. (*prayer*) Amen.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Excuse me, if you will hold steady, there's a . . . if

you will hold steady, delegates, please, and all in the body, there's a . . . a question's been raised here maybe about agenda for tomorrow. So if you will hold steady, I regret that . . . Please stay in your places. (*pause*) This won't take very long, I trust. Let's see what the announcement is.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Bishop Martinez?

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Yes.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: It seems that we were given a little incorrect information.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: All right.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: And so we have tried to correct this. The service of appreciation for African American United Methodist who remained in the denomination will come at the same time as the morning worship service, so that will begin at 8:15. I believe we have it correct now.

BISHOP MARTINEZ: Okay. Okay, that was a correction. Go in God's peace. Thank you.