

## H. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

### 151<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Abbreviations: UMC - United Methodist Church; PNWAC - Pacific Northwest Annual Conference; PCH - Pre-Conference Handbook; BAC - Business of the Annual Conference; GNW - Greater Northwest (our Episcopal Area). Names of ordained clergy are printed in *italics*.

*Meetings in-person and online via Zoom*

#### Call to Order

*Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* formally called to order the Annual Conference sessions of the AK, OR-ID, and PNW Annual Conferences by celebrating active ministries and seeing how we are already neighboring. He named losses and griefs. He called us to look in the mirror, be honest about ourselves, and acknowledge that God is not finished with any of us. Three ministries were specifically celebrated:

Disaster Response Team, via video report; the needs are no longer seasonal, but more frequently year-round, and with increased devastation, especially for people of color. Innovation projects birthed in 2018 found their way during the pandemic: Every Nation UMC delivered meals during pandemic; Storydwelling and ReVillage in Bend, OR engaged in partnership with First Presbyterian and others to advocate for and provide affordable childcare; First UMC of Canada expanded to serve Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Squamish, and Burnaby fellowships, consisting of mostly Filipino-Canadian UMC families, with contextual and cultural awareness and innovation.

Ola Toe Fuataina UMC celebrated its chartering in Anchorage, AK. It is the newest congregation in Greater Northwest Area.

#### **PNW CLERGY SESSION MAY 24, 2024, 1:00-4:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

Actions and results are reported in the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) 2024, Journal Section I.

#### **PNW FOCUS SESSION 1, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT JUNE 7, 2024, 6:00-8:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

Focus Session 1, chaired by *Shalom Agtarap*, addressed petitions 1-12. Petitions 1-7, all dealing with routine, annual, and administrative needs, were placed on the consent calendar. Petitions 8-10, regarding the closures of Lapwai, Nezperce, and Bellevue Korean of Seattle church closures, by tradition, will not be on the consent calendar. Petitions 11 and 12,

dealing with environmental stewardship and creating a Creation Care Commission, will be addressed individually in the plenary session.

**PNW FOCUS SESSION 2, CONNECTING IN MISSIONS**  
**JUNE 8, 2024, 6:30-8:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME, VIA ZOOM**

Focus Session 2, chaired by *Cody Natland*, addressed petitions 13 and 14, which dealt with settling pastoral work expectations and many non-substantive edits to the PNW Conference rules. Petition 13 will be addressed individually, and 14 will be on the consent calendar (it will later be removed from the consent calendar by ten signatures).

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**LIVESTREAMING AND INPERSON**  
**CENTRAL UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH, RICHLAND, WA**  
**JUNE 13-15, 2024, BEGINNING 2:00 P.M. PACIFIC TIME**

**Opening Worship with Holy Communion**

Opening worship began with *Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth* reading an apology to the victims of sexual misconduct in the church. The statement was recently approved at the General Conference and included a promise from the Church to educate leaders, provide healing resources, and develop a trauma-informed response. The beautiful service of music, liturgy, and Holy Communion encapsulated this apology and the bishop's sermon that followed. The bishop's sermon introduced the conference theme, "Being Well," based on John 4:4-17, to members. In his message, Bridgeforth spoke pastorally, "Beloveds, our theme is 'Being Well;' it is about us taking a pause, looking for those spaces and places where we can care for ourselves and those around us ... We want to check in on ourselves, and each other. We've been through a hard time."

The offering received at opening worship was given to Martha's Cupboard, an outreach ministry of Central Church that partners with over 35 local social agencies. Martha's Cupboard provides essential household goods, personal hygiene items, and infant care products to those in need. It helps struggling individuals, refugees, students and their families, the unhoused, and those in drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities.

**PNW PLENARY SESSION #1**  
**JUNE 13, 2023, 3:43 P.M. PACIFIC TIME**  
**HYBRID: IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM**  
**CENTRAL UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH, RICHLAND, WA**

*Bishop Cedrick's* comments before opening we must spend some time reflecting on and identifying our missional priorities as an Annual Conference and as an Area so that we can budget and staff appropriately. We will engage in multiple conversations to determine these priorities and set our budget later this year.

**Plenary Session #1 work began at 3:43 P.M. PST**

Jeannine Mars, wife of John Mars, pastor at Richland, and descendant of native people taken from their homeland, was grateful for the opportunity to bring a Land Acknowledgment for this Annual Conference session. The session took place at the confluence of the Snake, Columbia, and Yakima rivers, where the peoples of the Yakima, Umatilla, Cayuse, Walla Walla, Nez Perce, Coleville, and more have cared for the land for 8,000 years.

*Kim Fields* welcomed the Conference to CUP; *John Mars*, pastor, was not available. *DS Daniel Miranda* welcomed everyone on behalf of and to the Seven Rivers District.

Conference Secretary *Shirley DeLarme* and Angela Molloy, a member of the Disability Committee, delivered accessibility messages to ensure the full inclusion of participants, including interpretation in Korean and Spanish, allergy and scent sensitivities, and physical abilities.

**Safety Advocacy** is available for those who feel threatened and need someone safe to talk with. Designated Safety Officers include Teri Tobey, *Kathleen Weber*, Brant Henshaw, *Sheila Miranda*, Patrick Scriven, and Alan Rogstad.

**Voting Instructions** using Vpoll were given by Teri Tobey and included a test vote. Also given were "get recognized" instructions.

**Opening Motion**

Conference secretary *Shirley DeLarme* moved that the program and schedule provided on the PNW Conference website shall be the official program and schedule of the 151st annual session of the PNW Annual Conference; that the process used in the registration procedure be designated as the official roll call for the 151st annual session of the PNW Conference; that the bar of the conference be established as those who, according to their status within and relationship with the PNW Conference, have voting rights and have been duly given passcode access to voting procedures provided by the conference; and that the minutes of the daily sessions of the conference, as kept by the secretary, when approved and certified by the president and secretary thereof, together with the reports of the councils, boards, commissions, and committees of the Pacific Northwest Conference

of The United Methodist Church, be published and be the official record of the 151st Annual Session of the PNWAC of The United Methodist Church. The motion was seconded. 246:1 votes, 99.6% approved.

### Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy

*Gregg Sealey* and *Skylar Bihl*, the one clergy and one lay person from the PNW Conference brought information about the election of candidates for Bishop. By rules, at the opening plenary, the Committee on Episcopacy must announce the anticipated openings for bishop so nominations from the body can happen.

The General Conference lacks clarity on what is needed and what will happen at the Western Jurisdictional Conference, which will meet in Spokane July 10-11, 2024. We anticipate two openings because of two retirements. At the General Conference, it was decided that there would be 32 US bishops in the coming quadrennium and 5 in the Western Jurisdiction if there were no unforeseen circumstances. But already, there is one such circumstance.

**Motion** to suspend Rule 11 sec 5.a for this Annual Conference. This provides consistency and equity with the other Annual Conferences in the Jurisdiction that do not have the opportunity to act after unforeseen circumstances arise. Instead, potential candidates are asked to begin discerning if they are being led to enter the episcopacy. The rule is suspended by 97.94%.

### CFA Initial Report

*Joanne Coleman Campbell* and *Brant Henshaw* reported. With *Bishop Cedrick's* agreement, the preliminary budget report is being postponed until a series of conversations can occur, during which missional and budgetary priorities will be set. While our connectional apportionment receipts have been steady at 91%, we have seen more distress in the local churches. The initial ask for the budget represents a 5% increase due to the consequences of and other unforeseen circumstances. The proposals for the climate pledge initiative passed last year also represent a 5% increase.

### Election of Treasurer

*Brant Henshaw* was elected as treasurer for the next quadrennium by 97.59%.

### Laity Session

Conference Lay Leader *Nancy Tam Davis* and Associate Lay Leader *Andy O'Donnell* hosted the Laity Session. Outgoing conference lay leader *Nancy Tam Davis* oversaw the election of the next conference lay leader, *Falisha Hola*. A member of First Tongan UMC of Seattle, *Hola* is the first Pacific Islander and, at 24, likely the youngest lay leader elected to that role in the Pacific Northwest. "I've always been passionate about advocacy and representation because many of the spaces I've been in, even in our conference, are places

I've been the only young person or Pasifika woman in the room," shared Hola during the election process. Andy O'Donnell will continue as Associate Lay Leader.

### The Clergy Gathering

The Gathering of Clergy met in a separate space, where clergy enjoyed announcements, prayer, small-group conversation, and hymn singing.

### Memorial Service

The Memorial Service was a beautiful service preached by *Katie Ladd*, who shared how saints, including several of those being remembered in the service, took on the work of Jesus, bringing people together despite and sometimes because of their differences. "They agitate and stir us with their wisdom ... and they leave us with work to do." Appropriately subdued and beautiful music, organized by Worship Team chair Rev. *Justin White* and conducted by soon-to-be commissioned deacon Rev. Joe Lee, accompanied reflective moments for members to remember those they have lost.

**PNW PLENARY SESSION #2**  
**JUNE 14, 2024, 8:45 A.M. PACIFIC TIME**  
**HYBRID: IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM**  
**CENTRAL UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH, RICHLAND, WA**

### Opening Devotions

The opening devotions were led by DS Tim Overton-Harris of Oregon-Idaho. He invited us to self-reflection as a healthy practice. After reading a portion of Psalm #118 as a call to worship, he asked us to reflect on John 4.29 while using a reflection tool he calls the rose-thorn-bud. We were invited to think of ourselves and our lives, and the roses (successes, highlights, small wins), the thorns (challenges, areas needing support), and the buds (new ideas, new blossoms, things we want to know more about) that we encounter.

The Bishops Hymn was an impromptu moment of joyful singing.

### Rules Committee Report

Jim Odiorne, chair, presented Petition 14, which contains a significant number of non-substantive changes, including grammatical and typographical changes, changes in compliance with motions passed by previous sessions of the Annual Conference, and changes in the Book of Discipline. He reported that Petitions 11, 12, and 13 were not received in time for the Rules Committee to review them meaningfully before the Annual Conference.

### Commission on Ecumenical Ministries

*Troy Lynn Car, Cruz Edwin Santos* presented the report. Thanks were given for us being committed to combating racism. Other celebrations include the vital ministry of the Christmas Institute for Filipino youth and young adults; Pacific Northwest Camping Ministries with scholarships for ethnic students; SLAM mission trips for youth to learn the culture and history of Native Americans on reservations with native elders; Zulma Tifre's Hispanic ministries at Mt. Vernon UMC; GCOR's event called Facing the Future to promote cross-cultural, cross-racial appointments across the church; and the ethnic ministries retreat.

### Board of Congregational Development/Innovation Vitality

*Kristina Gonzalez and Kathy Hartgraves* thanked the people who serve, as well as the planters. They referenced their report on L1 of the PCH. This work is across three conferences. We must do new things across existing ministries, create new ministries, and examine ourselves internally to see what must change. The work of inclusion is the "E" in the M.I.L.E.—to Eliminate Racism: to analyze systems at the conference level and local level that advantage some and disadvantage others—which is the work of equity cohorts, the results of which will be in practice by the end of 2024. Video Report—those who have been part of this intentional learning process.

### Bishop's Task Force on Church Properties

*Kathy Neary* declared that the way we have chosen to be the church is dying. The way for 250 years in the US, which has focused on building, congregation, and pastor, is ending. Without children, youth, and young adults, we have nothing to carry into the future except possibly a few ethnic congregations. This is sad and exciting because when one thing dies, room for another thing grows. God is calling us forward to a new incarnation of Christ on earth. We need to find the next incarnation for an exciting future. One task is to manage the large number of church properties while also being strategic to set ourselves up for a faithful future.

### Nominations Update

DS *Derek Nakano* said it is time to restart, heal, and re-invigorate our boards and agencies, some of which have been working, and some have been on break or low activity since the pandemic. This is the first step of a 4-year journey and new energy for a new vision. Much is needed: many blank spaces need the right people for the right need; we are seeking balance across the diversity in our conference; COVID had a devastating impact, so we face challenges and need a new vision from the new Board of Discipleship to help us move forward; our Native American Ministries have made much progress, including with land acknowledgments, but there is still much to do. Bishop Cedrick will be asked to consider a second slate of nominations for a vote at the fall session of the Annual Conference.

## Western Jurisdictional Nominations Committee Foundation

Kristina Gonzalez and *Kathleen Weber*, our reps to the committee, reported that a large pool of GC and JC delegates will be shared with the WJ Nominations Committee, including an additional 15-45 persons from PNW; already, there are 32 nominees on the list. Additional nominations “from the floor,” including self-nominations, will be accepted until 10 am Saturday via the online form provided by the Western Jurisdiction.

## SLAM Video Report

Students Learning About Missions among Native Americans, Their Culture, and Their Communities comprise twelve United Methodist Church groups serving six consecutive weeks in 2024.

## Retiree Celebration

Retiring clergy members were celebrated in a worship setting, allowing the conference to recognize their years of service. In her message, retiring local pastor Sheila Marie reflected on her second career call to ministry in light of the story of Jesus and the women at the well. A symbolic mantle was passed from retiring elder *Bo Bryant* to *Ashley Creek-Skinner*, a 2024 year’s ordination class member. Members also received a message from the retirees, previously recorded, reflecting on the scripture from John 4, which is the 2024 conference theme. Riverton Park UMC received the offering given at the retiree celebration for use in their ministry of Migrant Support. Sheltering over 600 migrants over the past year has been a challenge for the church in many ways. The 2024 retirees are: *Kay Barkley, Dan Breznau, William “Bo” Bryant, Deb Conklin, Karen Dammann, Abigail Henre, Robert Hicks, Sheila Marie, David Nieda, David Parker, Pam Van Der Does, Angela Wolle.*

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## Introductions and Celebration

As Nancy Tam Davis steps down as Lay Leader, Associate Lay Leader Andy O’Donnell celebrates Falisha Hola’s election as the newly elected Conference Lay Leader; Andy continues as the Associate Lay Leader

*Bishop Cedrick* acknowledges Navy Commander *Genevieve Clark*, who will be promoted to Captain on September 5.

## Hispanic Ministries Report and Video Report

*Cruz Edwin Santos* is anticipating the return of ministry partners from Honduras, Joel Rodriguez and his family, when they clear immigration hurdles. Latinos are the second largest ethnic group in Washington and the youngest ethnic group in Washington. Despite the significant number of Latinos in the labor force, the number of Latino households in poverty is very high. The video shows several ministries and how they serve the families in their communities, including housing, immigration issues, and daily needs of

food, personal items, and community belonging. He shared the video of the Hispanic Plan for Latino Ministry. He introduced Pastor Zulma from Mt. Vernon: First UMC.

### The General and Jurisdictional Delegation Report

The delegation report was given by *Elizabeth Ingram-Schindler*, Skylar Marston Bihl, *Gregg Sealey*, and Brant Henshaw. *Kathleen Weber*, Nica Sy, Falisha Hola, *Joe Kim*, *DJ del Rosario*, Kristina Gonzalez, *Jenny Phillips*, Marie Kuch-Stanovsky, *Shalom Agtarap*, *Austin Adkinson*, Nancy Tam Davis, *Nico Reijns*, Erin Tombaugh, *Kay Barckley*.

*Elizabeth Ingram-Schindler* thanked the whole delegation and acknowledged the generations of work that went before and from a wide collection of people. She encouraged us to start a new chapter and hand it on.

On April 23-May 3, in Charlotte, NC, there were 100 missing delegates from African Central Conferences. There had been no intentional keeping out of votes. Still, there were difficulties in understanding our processes that differ from other cultures, communications between GC Secretary and AC Secretaries, and visas not readily granted by the US government. Also, votes were so lopsided that if all 100 people had voted against the majority, they would still have gone the way they did. The conference considered 1099 petitions in 14 legislative committees. There were ten languages on site, with four official languages for translation. It was a wonderful and friendly gathering.

Skylar Marston-Bihl shared the three major priorities: revised social principles, regionalization, and removing harmful language for LGBTQIA+ people. Surprisingly, all three passed. Harmful language was removed, but nothing affirmative was put in place; space was made where a big tent was possible.

There are revised social principles, but how we live into them remains to be seen. Regionalization still faces the ratification of the constitutional amendments.

Brant Henshaw reported that at Annual Conferences 2025, there will be 28¶s that require amendments to be approved by an aggregate vote by 2/3 of United Methodists globally. We need as much voting participation as possible at PNW Annual Conference 2025.

*Gregg Sealey* announced that full communion sacramental authority was granted to Deacons; this petition was pulled from the consent calendar because it was a big deal and needed celebrating. A new pension plan was approved for pastors. There was a great discussion about pay inequity, which we must deal with. An apology was made for ways clergy have gone astray in the past, including sexual misconduct, and for participating in the overthrow of the last monarchy in the kingdom of Hawaii. There were many firsts in the diversity of leadership of ethnic minorities and females at the conference. A smaller budget was approved. The US will have only 32 bishops. The disaffiliation paragraph was ended. Full communion with the Episcopal Church was approved, and we waited for them to ratify it. Some creation-care petitions on the last day did not receive the desired



attention.

### Floor Conversation following the Report

*Austin Adkinson*—encouraged full participation in the constitutional amendment votes in 2025.

*Elizabeth Ingram-Schindler* reminded everyone that 28 paragraphs need amending, including gender and ability inclusion, the election of clergy delegates, racial justice, etc.

*Katie Ladd* asked how we interpret and implement this full sacramental authority with Deacons and Episcopalians to help each other understand. We still need to learn and educate between and within the orders.

*Brooke McBride* asked, if the language was changed to “neutral,” what does that mean for LGBTQ ordination and the Western Jurisdiction as Safe Harbor? Bishop Cedrick responded that there is no language left to restrict them, but Safe Harbor will continue because it is still not safe for some people to go home, even though they want to. We have processes to transfer people, which can take multiple years to accomplish.

*Kris Ellison-Oslin* affirmed that some leaders outside the church have congregations that need holy communion. Deacons need full sacramental authority.

*Richenda Fairhurst* noted that the Creation Care initiatives were all passed at the General Conference, mainly on the consent calendar. Only one did not pass the committee, by two votes, to divest as a denomination from investments in fossil fuels; however, that went as a minority report and was referred for more work.

*Mary Stanton Nurse* requested our annual conference participation demographics, such as gender, age, ethnicity, etc. She was looking specifically for “who is missing.” Secretary Shirley DeLarme referred people to the journal for demographics on the clergy; Kristina Gonzalez later pointed out that our registration information could give us the laity information.

### Creation Care

The Creation Care update was given by *Paul Mitchell*, Deaconess Sophia Agtarap, Ann Mayer, *Laura Baumgarner*, Julia Frisbie, *Jenny Phillips*, Kathy Hogg, and Julia Frisbie’s son, bring living water from the well, following up from AC 2023. The task group has, among other things, created a job description for the Caretakers of God’s Creation coordinator. General Conference 2020/2024 called for such a position in every conference. More can be found on the Conference Creation Care resources page. Forty-five churches have taken action following Annual Conference 25. The relationship between Interfaith Power and Light is productive. Grants have been awarded. We need everyone to help carry living water.

### Focus Session Reports

Report 1 consent calendar includes petitions 1-7, and the focus session moves concurrence. 228:2 votes, 99.13% approved.

Petition 11 Environmental Stewardship from the Ground Up, focus session moves concurrence. 216:27 votes, 88.89% approved.

Petition 12 Creating a PNW Creation Care Commission, focus session moves concurrence. 227:25 votes, 90.08% approved.

Petitions 8, 9, and 10 were presented in a time of remembrance and lament. These three churches—Lapwai, Nezperce (not a tribal church), and Bellevue: Korean of Seattle—have completed their ministry and will be closed. With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Lapwai congregation's land will be returned to the Nez Perce tribe.

Petition 8 Lapwai 245:10 votes, 93.87% approved.

Petition 9 Nezperce 237:5 votes, 90.8% approved.

Petition 10 Bellevue: Korean in Seattle 234:4 votes, 89.66% approved.

A litany of lament, remembrance, and thanksgiving was shared.

### Introductions

Dr. Glenn Paraso, Executive Director and CEO at Mary Johnston Hospital in the Philippines

Sara Goetze, acting treasurer of the Oregon-Idaho Conference

*Tim Overton Harris*, currently Columbia District DS, July 1, assistant to the bishop for Oregon-Idaho

### Table Conversations

Table Conversations were introduced by *Bishop Cedrick* to begin during the Annual Conference and continue later. *Bishop Cedrick* will facilitate the conversations. Continuing with the M.I.L.E. as a framework, we now need the programmatic and staffing priorities that center local and collective ministries that will inform our budgetary priorities and processes and identify pathways to accomplish our goals. We have some staffing changes coming that we need to anticipate. We have a gaping wound around the Vitality Team that needs healing. Thus, we begin a series of conversations to narrow our focus and identify our priorities according to our importance and level of giving. He asked for our complete, uncynical participation.

### Conversation 1

In your particular role as a church leader, what do you most need from conference staff and programming? And Thinking about the congregation or ministry context you repre-

sent--what do they most need from the conference staff?

### **The Foundation**

The Foundation staff gave the Faith Foundation Northwest Video Report. It focuses on the many ways the Foundation can help churches steward their resources for ministries in a way that grows and is socially and ethically responsible.

### **Camping Board of Stewards**

Alan Rogstad reported being in a state of readiness for the 2024 camping season, which is significant following COVID-19. We are back to a state of health in our camps with pre-COVID numbers, 40 summer staff, and 150 volunteers getting ready to receive 1500 campers. We have an increasing trend of getting families from local communities to live into their childhood memories of camping. They renewed a commitment to provide camperships for ethnic students. Kristina Gonzalez and the equity cohorts helped with outreach to nearby communities. Camps are an extension of the ministry we do at the local congregation. There are no excuses for not camping—get your congregation to rediscover camping. He appreciated the team of directors.

### **Global Ministries Report**

Marilyn Reid reported that Global Ministries is in many areas and helps our ministry grow and reach out. All programs respond to the question: How does this educate, enable, and empower the local church to do its mission? We are the United Methodist Church in action. We have three missionaries who itinerated in 2023: Joy Prim, Kathryn Parker, and Helen Kim, and two others who itinerated in April during the General Conference: Jean Claude Musuka Maleka and Francine Mpanga Mufuk. Financial and prayer support are welcome, along with participation.

### **Disaster Relief Ministries**

Kathy Bryson, Disaster Relief coordinator with her husband Dana Bryson, and representatives for UMCOR reported on disaster relief kits, disaster response supplies, staffing disaster response centers, providing emotional and spiritual care, and preparing for disasters. She shared a video showing how the conference is engaged in mission that matters.

### **Recognition of Licensed Local Pastors (LLP) and Certified Lay Ministries, including Lay Speakers (CLM) and Hispanic Lay Ministers (HCLM)**

*Kathy Neary* and *Shelia Miranda* reported. See the Lay Servant Ministries page on the conference website. This year, five people have been certified as lay servants: Byron Boyd, Suzanne Dinwiddie, Michael Reynolds, Diane Strobeck, and Kathy Westergard. This year, 40 people took the basic course in Lay Servant Ministries. They also introduced Class sessions will be August 16-18 at Spokane Valley UMC, January 10-12 at Olympia, and May 2-4 at Yakima: Wesley UMC. To learn more about HCLM, see *Cruz Edwin Santos*.

They shared a video report featuring Billie Fitzsimmons from Walla Walla:Pioneer to give a flavor of this ministry. Thank you to John Townsend for leading this ministry for many years; Billie will lead it moving forward. *Sheila Miranda* prayed for lay servants, speakers, and ministers.

### Circle of Indigenous Ministries, Video Report

Kristina Gonzalez introduced *Dr. Allen Buck*, his ministries, and his video report. She testified to *Buck's* great work. He is the director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries. *Allen* reported that land acknowledgments are one of the first steps in beginning to heal some of the traumas from the church and encourage more churches to write these. He is excited about the work of the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries; he is stepping down as chair. *Murray Crookes* from Anchorage and *Bertha Koweluk* from Nome will begin serving now. They are ready to initiate a plan for Indigenous ministries with nine identified Indigenous ministries across the Greater Northwest Area. Lapwai, Great Spirit (Portland), Wilbur Memorial (White Swan), Indian Mission (Nooksack), Northern Lights (Juneau), Community UMC (Nome), Alaska Hope (Anchorage), and Native Hope (Beryl). They have five leaders and two and one-half FTE; we need to grow our capacity to serve and lead these.

Book of Resolution #3324 calls for acts of repentance to heal relationships with Indigenous persons throughout the world. This year, a plan will be presented to indigenous ministries in other places. There will be three actions: Truth-telling, Engaging in Repair, and Leadership Development. People and conferences will be called on to do this work. These intentions must be institutionalized. He invited everyone to sign up to participate in the first step, the Truth Telling.

### United Methodist Communications

Dan Krause, General Secretary of UM Communications, presented an award recognizing and celebrating excellence in communications ministries across multiple media, the PNW, and the UMC connection to Patrick Scriven. This is an Epikoinonia award, a communications Oscar rooted in the faithful commitment to share the good news.

### Table Conversations

Table Conversations will discover how much we are willing to collaborate.

#### Conversation 2

Which is the wise path for us (PNW Conference) and why? Keep it all in PNW? Or collaborate? And if it's collaborative, what's your picture of that? And, if we were to collaborate with Oregon-Idaho and Alaska, what might be the benefits...what would be the risks?

*Bishop Cedrick* offered an inspirational message of being our own pro, our own encouragement, our own experts in our unique time as we go forward. We have it in ourselves to listen to God, to listen for God, and to do it together, even if it means doing it without the conference. We must draw from the well and trust that God will carry us to the place God has already prepared.

### **Saturday, June 15, 2024**

Host *Kim Fields* appealed to people to be kinder to volunteers and staff and encourage those new to this kind of event.

Later today, *Bishop Cedrick* will participate in a Fun/Color Run outside. The church and the conference will provide T-shirts for the run, which will be available to wear while getting colored; donations toward the T-shirts will support Martha's Cupboard. The Ministry fair will be held in the gym, with more than 20 exhibits.

Jay Gerbino led everyone in a camp song. *Bishop Cedrick* offered a centering prayer.

### **Table Conversations**

Remember to submit your answers to previous conversations; there is a limited timeline, so they can be given to OCM, CFA, the Facilities Task Force, and others who need to do their work to prepare for the special session in the fall. If we truly hear from God, this may be so big we have to do this in phases. Several thought streams are already flowing, including property fund group, shared services implementation, and Equity Cohort work, which is wrapping up, but how will it fold into the future, Innovation vitality work, and the work of these conversations? We will identify conference priorities around existing ministries and programming.

#### **Conversation 3**

Which joint ministries, current or future, of the Conference or area could have the most significant impact? On a scale of 1-10, with one being not at all and 10 being totally and all in, how committed are you to working together as part of the conference to make that happen?

#### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Joey Lopez, Queen Anne UMC. Unsettled by our work's lack of community and clarity and how shortened and efficient the conference has become, but at what cost? What has been lost? How can we resource the planning team as they prepare and monitor the process to raise our values? The process is as important as the outcome. *Bishop Cedrick* acknowledged his concern, asked for feedback when the conference evaluations come out,

and affirmed that the Conference is there to help all of us do our work.

Martin Saunders, of the University of WA Wesley Club, announced the 100th anniversary of the UW Club, and 100 years of the Conference doing campus ministries.

### Introduction

*Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz*, director of the Hispanic National Plan.

### Break for Ministry Fair, Fun Run, and Lunch

### Camping Video Report

Indianola has a new Madrona Lodge. Lazy F has new ropes course components, paid off the 15-year mortgage for Manastash Lodge, and has done significant forest management work. Ocean Park offers fun in the sun, and Twinlow offers Zen moments and high-energy fun!

**Acknowledgment of Faith Action Network**, director Elise DeGooyer, and Tomo Duke, who has been working there.

### Claremont School of Theology Video Report

Claremont School of Theology's *Karen Yokota Love* introduced a video report in which *Bishop Grant Hagiya* appealed for support to make a sustainable CST and student scholarships.

### Bishop's Award 2024

The Bishop's Award was given to Nancy Tam Davis: David Valera celebrated a person who has served the Conference beyond what was expected of them, has wisdom, perseverance, spirit guidance, and loves the church. Brant Henshaw called her passionate, collaborative, always looking for opportunities, resources, and support, has a tireless manner, and is a vocal advocate. Bishop Cedrick celebrated her as one who lives her passion and is collaborative.

### Focus Session 2

*Cody Natland* reported Petition 14 was removed from the consent calendar with ten signatures to OCM Director *David Valera*.

**Petition 13 Setting Pastoral Work Expectations**, focus session moves concurrence. *Mer-*

*edith Dodd* offers a friendly amendment and replacement language. The amendment was approved by 97.44%. The petition, as amended, was approved by a 235:10 vote, 95.92%.

**Petition 14 Non-substantive Edits to PNWAC Rules**, focus session recommends concurrence. Mitzi Casey motioned to refer to the rules committee and bring a report to the 2025 Conference session. To refer will allow the Rules committee to look at recommended changes, engage stakeholders, and incorporate changes to align with the Book of Discipline. Motion to refer 179:54 votes, 76.82% approved.

**Point of Personal Privilege**, James Potts, Queen Anne. Request an encouragement to extend the wording of petition 13 to clergy serving beyond the local church and in extension ministries. *Bishop Cedrick* responded that we could take actions regarding clergy under the purview of the conference, but those employed otherwise must adhere to the employment practices where they serve.

**A New Petition** was brought by Nica Sy, a layperson, and the young adults of SeaTac District; it was seconded.

RESOLVED that the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church affirms that every life is sacred. In that spirit, it joined the call to support the Philippines Human Rights Act (H.R.1433), which would suspend military aid to the Philippines until the Government Republic of the Philippines made specific reforms to the military and police forces. We urge our Washington State and Idaho congressional leaders to support the Philippine Human Rights Act (H.R. 1433). In the same spirit, we encourage our congressional leaders to oppose the Philippine Enhanced Resilience Act (S.4097).

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we pledge to continue efforts to educate our members on the existing conditions of the Filipino people, share the findings, evidence, and verdict of the International Peoples Tribunal 2024, monitor the ongoing human rights crisis and its impacts as much as possible with our Methodist siblings, and advocate for a just and lasting peace as requested by the Filipino people themselves.

THEREFORE, IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference asks Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth to share a copy of this resolution with all three active Bishops in the Philippine Central Conference and the Philippine Central Conference General Board of Church and Society as a show of our support and solidarity.

AMENDMENT APPROVED: Ask the PNW Annual Conference secretary to write a letter to US representatives and senators of the GNW area. 210:15 votes, 93.33% approved. Main Motion, as amended, 249:8 votes, 96.88% approved.

**Introducing a new partnership** with Mary Johnston Hospital, the only UM-related hospital in the Philippines serving some of the poorest communities for over 100 years. The Executive Director, Glenn Paraso, and his wife talked about the needs of and for the hospital and presented a symbolic shawl and bamboo flask to Bishop Cedrick. The shawl is used in weddings, village meetings, and by medical people for healing.

**Christmas Institute Video report****Board of Ordained Ministry Report 4**

*Geoff Helton* reported on highlights from this past year: a recommendation that clergy session passed requiring Anti-Racism Continuing Education of 8 hours per quadrennium by clergy. Training will be offered in the Fall. The Board supports clergy through formation grants, continuing education, spiritual direction, and counseling. The continuing Clergy Reflective Support Program helps pastoral leaders think about what they need in this stage of their ministry to be healthier and more effective. The Board developed resources for the DCoOMs, including a handbook, mentor training, and a tracking system for candidates and mentors. Our Conference has been a leader in providing Safe Harbor for individuals from other conferences and other denominations. While the General Conference made some wording changes, it is still not safe for some individuals to return to their own conferences, however much they want to; the BoOM remains committed to this work.

Introductions of those being licensed, commissioned, or ordained were given. Licensed Local Pastors were celebrated for the extensive work they do. A new license this year was granted to Caleb Encinas Cortez.

*Janelle Kurtz* presented the following candidates for commissioning and provisional membership: Denise Ann Belista, Jackie Celin, Kate Crisci, Drew Hogan, Joseph Lee, and David Owsley.

*Shalom Agtarap* presented *Megan Madsen*, *Kellen Corliss*, *Ashley Skinner-Creek*, and *Gayle Tabor* as full membership and ordination candidates.

*Bishop Cedrick* asked John Wesley's historical questions.

**Video Report** about UMCMission.org about Advance #3021344, narrated by Joy Prim, who ministers with migrant workers in Hong Kong.

**United Women in Faith Video Report**

The report highlighted the Day of Prayer and Self-Denial, celebrated their annual opportunity for sacrificial giving, and how 100% of giving this year goes to the Just Energy for All campaign. We cannot have climate justice without racial justice, and we cannot have racial justice without climate justice. We need to help marginalized communities that are most affected by climate change. We are all stewards of God's creation.

**Conference Board of Church and Society**

*David Wright* reported on behalf of Jim Davis, who has been convening the Board these past two years. Their work has focused on creation justice and addressing racial injustice and inequity. In the new quadrennium, they are excited to engage in the new social



principles that will take effect on January 1, 2025. The board has been working to invite each local congregation to elect a social justice advocate at their charge conference. *David Wright* coordinates the Peace with Justice Award, funded by the June special offering, 50% of which stays in the Conference. This year's three recipients include The Fig Tree, serving eastern Washington and northern Idaho, which helps local people find resources; Kelso Presbyterian UMC, which provides basic needs to the community; and Darrington UMC's works with the Cascade Senior Center. The two Martin Luther King Jr. awards honor individuals who then nominate a social justice organization to receive the \$1000 gift. This year's honored individuals are Jean Brown from Battle Ground UMC and Ron Drew of Selah UMC.

### **Board of Pensions**

The report was presented by *Shane Moore*, vice chair of the Board of Pensions, which does more than pensions. With the great leadership of Bruce Galvin to care for the local church, there is no funding from local churches through apportionments, and four other steps to help the local churches: reduced costs for health insurance, increased credit to churches for defined benefit costs, increased wellness incentives for clergy, and for those who serve the church by title, if not time, a 2% matching gift for pensions contributions.

As of 2026, we will celebrate Bruce Galvin in 50 years as Conference staff. We also must prepare for what's next, so the Board is working on succession plans in anticipation of Bruce's retirement on July 1, 2026.

The General Conference passed a new retirement plan called Compass. Significant changes are coming, some of which PNW is already making. The Board plans to assist churches with pastors receiving retirement benefits. There will be workshops for the new plan.

### **Board of Global Ministries**

Board of Global Ministries report by Jenny Phillips, Dir Environmental Sustainability at Global Ministries. So many thanks for the significant initiatives and the half million dollars in support of the Advances and eleven missionaries to help love go to places of low resources and significant needs. Here are some entry points for creation care: grants and direct pay available transition to solar and install EV chargers; financing is available through the Faith Foundation NW, leading to immediate savings on energy bills; there is community of individuals working to find out how to do these things—connect with them; participate in EarthKeepers: [UMCmission.org/EarthKeepers](https://umcmmission.org/EarthKeepers), Oct. 3-6, 2024 Baltimore, MD, an additional day on Oct. 7 in DC, and St. Paul, MN. Sign up for the Creation Care Network [creationcare.umcmmission.org/signup](https://creationcare.umcmmission.org/signup).

### **Nominations Committee**

Nominations Committee report by *Derek Nakano*. He celebrated and thanked those who allowed themselves to step forward to share in the work of connectional ministries and

the common work we do together that makes a difference in our world. There is a corrected and edited version of the report, which is always a work in progress. The Committee moves the slate presented for concurrence: 226 votes, 100% approved.

Further, the Committee moved that *Bishop Cedrick* add to the call for the Special Session of the 2024 Annual Conference a review and vote of additional nominees for approval. 230:2 votes, 99.14% approved.

### **Western Jurisdictional Pool**

Western Jurisdictional Pool Report Kristina Gonzalez and Kathleen Weber present 42 names for election to the Western Jurisdictional Pool of nominees for jurisdiction and global work, move concurrence. 236:3 votes, 98.47% approved.

### **Kristina Gozalez, Exec. Dir. for Innovation and Vitality, Retirement Greetings**

Kristina Gozalez, Exec. Dir. for Innovation and Vitality, Retirement Greetings and acknowledgment, brought by *David Valera*. Through video, Brant Henshaw, *Bishop Cedrick*, and others shared memories and wishes for her in retirement. Kristina has been serving since December 19, 1998. She has been a stalwart voice of conscience, serving ethnic ministries, cross-cultural ministries, small church ministries, diversity and inclusion ministries, and more. She was gifted a framed cross. Kristina thanked the conference for supporting her so she could pursue her passion, get better at it, and bring together her faith life and her professional life.

### **Africa University Video Report**

**Point of Personal Privilege** Janelle Kurtz apologized for her ableist remark during the BoOM report's candidate introductions. She asked for forgiveness from both the candidate and the conference.

### **Disabilities Ministries**

Disabilities Ministries appreciated and recognized Central United Protestant UMC and Spokane Valley UMC for going beyond the basics to provide an accessible space.

## Thank You

*David Valera* reflected on his annual efforts to make the conference space ready and appropriate for the church family to meet and his appreciation for the whole team that is needed to accomplish the work so that holy conferencing can happen. Thank you to:

Host church and staff and volunteers. *John Mars, Kim Fields, Harmony Richardson, Stacey Moore, Chris Garza, Pat Dunn, Richard Diebel*

Brant Henshaw added more thanks to the behind-the-scenes folks, including: Cathy Lang, Liz Gough, Steffanie Taylor, David Valera, and volunteers

*David* thanked *Tim Overton Harris* from OR-ID, the worship team, *Justin White*, Joe Lee, and James Potts, the Ministry Fair organizers *Pam* and Tom Osborne, Amanda Tobey, and *Jeff Mullinix*, and the focus session leaders, *Cody Natland* and Shalom *Agtarap*. He next thanked the Tech Team, notably Kathy Hogg, Patrick Scriven, Teri Tobey, Lawrence Paltep, Joshua Santos, Edwin Santos, Lynne Onishi, and especially his wife, Joy.

*Bishop Cedrick* thanked assistant Rhondalei Gabuat, secretary *Shirley DeLarme*, orders of the day chair *Bruce Smith*, parliamentarian *Shane Moore*, and *David Valera*.

**Fun/Color Run Video** was shared.

## Reading of Appointments

The appointments were read by the Bishop and cabinet, beginning with Extension Ministries, then Seven Rivers District, SeaTac District, Puget Sound District, Inland District, and Crest to Coast District.

The Tongan Fellowship in Vancouver, WA, is merging with the Lent Fellowship in Portland, OR. The Vancouver fellowship will shift to the OR-ID Conference in the merger. A video was shared.

## Prayer

Falisha Hola closed the session with prayer.

### Service of Commissioning and Ordination

Members and guests celebrated the commissioning of three provisional elders – Kate Crisci, Drew Hogan, and David Owsley – three provisional deacons – Denise Ann Belista, Jackie Celin, and Joseph Lee – and the ordination of three elders – *Kellen Corliss, Ashley Skinner-Creek, and Gayle Tabor*. The congregation also received with gratitude *Megan Madsen* into full membership as an elder. Madsen had been transferred into provisional status in 2022 from the Church of the Nazarene.

Guest preacher *Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz* delivered a personal, genuine message of hope for the church. She reflected on the recent changes in the denomination, the well at the center of the conference theme's scripture, and our call to offer living water. "If you invite people to drink, you need to make sure it is safe to drink," she said. Deep wells must be built so that "...church is a place of equity and inclusion so the healing and cleansing Spirit of God can flow through us." In words directed to those commissioned and ordained, Muñoz advised three things: "1. Be part of a covenant group to pray with. 2. Get a good therapist. 3. Find a good vacation club."

### Conference Wrap-up Report

- Membership stands at 27,454, down 1359 from the previous year.
- Worship attendance stands at 8,858, down 18 from 2022. Reported online worship is up by 1051.
- Church school attendance stands at 1,915, down 219.
- Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2023 were 140, down from 2022 by 15.
- Adults and young adults in small groups for 2023 were 321, up from 2022 by 15.
- Worshippers engaged in mission for 2023 were 7,311, up from 2022 by 220.

These numbers reflect the disaffiliation of 13 congregations who left the denomination during special sessions held in 2023.

### Adjournment

We adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on June 16, 2024.