



Philippians 3:14

**WE PRESS ON**

2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference  
of The United Methodist Church



# The 2022 Journal

**North Central Jurisdictional Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**

**November 2-5, 2022  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Indiana Conference**

## **The 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference Journal**

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# The Episcopacy

“Bishops are elders in full connection who are elected from the elders and set apart for a ministry of general oversight and supervision. As followers of Jesus Christ called to servant leadership, bishops are authorized to guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church; to seek and be a sign of the unity of the faith; to exercise the discipline of the whole Church; to supervise and support the Church’s life, work, and mission throughout the world; and to lead all persons entrusted to their oversight in worship, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in their mission of witness and service in the world. Bishops carry a primary responsibility to support and encourage the ministry of all Christians. They share with other bishops in the supervision of the whole Church, encouraging and supporting all baptized people in their exercising of their gifts and ministries, praying for them, and proclaiming and interpreting to them the gospel of Christ. Bishops are to be prophetic voices and courageous leaders in the cause of justice for all people. Bishops are also authorized to appoint ordained clergy to their responsibilities, consecrate, ordain, and commission persons in ministry to the Church and world.”

(The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church)

## 2016-2022 College of Bishops



Front Row: Frank J. Beard, Laurie Haller, David A. Bard, Tracy Smith Malone

Second Row: Julius C. Trimble, Bruce R. Ough, Gregory V. Palmer, Hee-Soo Jung, Sally Dyck

Bishop Bruce R. Ough and Bishop Sally Dyck took Vocational Retirement in 2000. Bishop John L. Hopkins served as interim for the Chicago Area (Northern Illinois Conference) upon Bishop

Dyck's retirement. Bishop David A. Bard served both the Michigan and Minnesota Conferences upon Bishop Ough's retirement. Bishop Laurie Haller served the Iowa and Dakotas Conferences upon Bishop Ough's retirement. Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey served the Iowa and Dakotas Conferences during a time when Bishop Laurie Haller was on a medical leave. Bishop Gregory Palmer served the West Ohio and Illinois Great Rivers Conferences when Bishop Frank Beard was on a medical leave.

### **2022-2024 College of Bishops**



Front Row: Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Hee-Soo Jung, Tracy Smith Malone, David A. Bard, Dan Schwerin. Second Row: Julius C. Trimble, Lanette L. Plambeck, Frank J. Beard, Gregory V. Palmer.

### NCJ College of Bishops Attending the 2022 NCJ Conference



Front Row: Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Sally Dyck, Tracy S. Malone, David A. Bard, Laurie Haller, Jonathan D. Keaton. Second Row: Gregory V. Palmer, Bruce R. Ough, Julius C. Trimble, Hee-Soo Jung, Frank J. Beard, John L. Hopkins.

### NCJ College of Bishops Unable to Attend the 2022 NCJ Conference



Sharon Christopher Brown



Charles Wesley Jordan



Deborah Lieder Kiesey



William B. Lewis



Donald A. Ott



C. Joseph Sprague



Woodie W. White

## Bishops Elected by the North Central Jurisdiction 1940-2022

<u>Year</u>	<u>Site of Conference</u>	<u>Those Elected</u>
1940	Chicago, Illinois	None
1944	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Schuyler Edward Garth Charles W. Brashares
1948	Indianapolis, Indiana	Richard Campbell Raines Marshall Russell Reed Hazen G. Werner
1952	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Frances Gerald Ensley E. E. Voight D. Stanley Coors
1956*	Des Moines, Iowa	None
1960	Grand Rapids, Michigan	Ralph Taylor Alton Edward Ronald Garrison T. Otto Nall
1964	Cleveland, Ohio	Thomas M. Pryor James S. Thomas* Dwight Ellsworth Loder Francis Enmer Kearns Lance Webb
1968	Peoria, Illinois	Paul Arthur Washburn* Arthur James Armstrong
1972	Indianapolis, Indiana	Wayne K. Clymer Jesse Robert DeWitt
1976	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Leroy Charles Hodapp Edsel Albert Ammons
1980	Dayton, Ohio	Edwin Charles Boulton Emerson Stephen Colaw Marjorie Swank Mathews*
1984	Duluth, Minnesota	Woodie W. White David J. Lawson Reuben Philip Job Judith Craig

1988	DeKalb, Illinois	R. Sheldon Duecker Sharon A. Brown Christopher William B. Lewis
1992	Adrian, Michigan	Donald Arthur Ott Charles Wesley Jordan Sharon Zimmerman Rader
1996	Fort Wayne, Indiana	C. Joseph Sprague Jonathan D. Keaton John L. Hopkins Michael J. Coyner
2000	Middleton, Wisconsin	Gregory Vaughn Palmer Linda Lee Bruce Robert Ough
2004	Davenport, Iowa	Hee-Soo Jung Deborah Lieder Kieseey Sally Dyck
2008	Grand Rapids, Michigan	Julius Calvin Trimble
2012	Akron, Ohio	None
2016	Peoria, Illinois	Tracy Smith Malone Frank J. Beard David A. Barr Laurie Haller
2022	Fort Wayne, Indiana	Kennetha Bigham-Tsai Lanette Plambeck Dan Schwerin

\*1956 was the first jurisdictional conference at which women were eligible to be elected to the episcopacy. None was elected.

\*Daytona Beach, Florida was the site of the Central Jurisdiction meeting where Bishop Thomas was elected. He was assigned to the Iowa Area.

\*Bishop Washburn was elected at the Uniting Conference in Dallas at the last General Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren; he was assigned to the Minneapolis Area at the Peoria Conference.

\*Marjorie Mathews' election marked the first time a woman had been elected to the episcopacy in The United Methodist Church. She was assigned to the Wisconsin Area.

## **OFFICERS OF NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION 2016-2022**

Secretary – Rev. Paul R. White, East Ohio Area  
Treasurer – Mr. Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Area

### **2022 JURISDICTIONAL HOST COMMITTEE**

Bishop Julius C. Trimble – Resident Bishop of Indiana Area  
Racelder Cranberry-Trimble – First Lady of Indiana Area  
Larry Whitehead – Assistant to the Bishop, Indiana Area  
Cindy Reynolds – Assistant to the Bishop, Emeritus, Indiana Area  
Karen Jackson Gould – NCJ Host Committee Chairperson  
Ruth Ellen Needler – Indiana Event Coordinator  
Russ Abel – Host District Superintendent  
Serena Acker – Indiana Director of Communications  
Jason Morris – Hospitality  
Lore Gibson – Worship  
Greg Krempel – Worship/Production  
Nikki Brown Rice – Young Adults  
Audra Reinders – Childcare Coordinator  
Dan Weirich – Vendor/Display Area  
Christi Murray – Prayer Room  
Shalimar Holderly – First Aid  
Valerie Willis – NCJ Episcopacy Committee Representative  
Sara Isbell – NCJ Committee on Episcopacy Chairperson  
Lonnie Chafin, NCJ Treasurer and Northern Illinois Conference Treasurer  
Paul R. White, NCJ Conference Secretary



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## DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, November 1:

9:00 a.m. – 12: noon	Bishops & BIPOC Delegates Gathering & Conversation
12:00 noon	Committee on Episcopacy
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	College of Bishops
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Information and Registration Desk Open
5:15 – 7:15 p.m.	Dinner for College of Bishops, Spouses, & Indiana Cabinet & Spouses
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Episcopal Nominee Forum sponsored by Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR)

### Wednesday, November 2:

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Information and Registration Desk Open
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Vendor/Display Area Open
8:00 a.m. – 8:p.m.	Prayer Room Open
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Calling the Conference to Order – <i>Bishop Julius C. Trimble</i> Opening Service of Worship – <i>Bishop Bruce Ough</i>
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Recess / Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Opening Business Session – <i>Bishop David Bard, Presiding</i> Welcome Roll Call Confirmation of Jurisdictional Committees and Secretarial Staff Rules of Order Committee on Episcopacy
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	First Ballot Report of First Ballot Introductions based on the First Ballot
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Nominee Forums
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Delegation Meetings
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Second Ballot
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Recess / Dinner

*From this point forward the agenda becomes fluid with balloting, reporting of the same, taking precedence. Cycles of balloting will be interspersed with the business of the jurisdiction, spot*

*conversations as needed, and Celebrations of Ministry. The Celebrations of Ministry will highlight various ministries in conferences of our North Central Jurisdiction.*

7:30 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.	Business Session – <i>Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Presiding</i> Balloting (various ballots and report of ballots throughout) NCJ Mission Council Report NCJ Treasurer Report Spot Conversations as Needed
9:45 p.m.	Delegation Meetings
10:30 p.m.	Recess

**Thursday, November 3:**

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Information and Registration Desk Open
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Vendor/Display Area Open
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Open
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Service of Worship – <i>Bishop Tracy S. Malone</i>
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Recess / Break
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Business Session – <i>Bishop Gregory Palmer, Presiding</i> Ballot and Report of Ballot Episcopal Address – <i>Bishop David Bard, President CoB</i> Ballot and Report of Ballot
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Nominee Forums
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Ballot and Report of Ballot Episcopal Address – <i>Bishop David Bard</i> Ballot and Report of Ballot
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Recess / Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Business Session – <i>Bishop John Hopkins, Presiding</i> Balloting (various ballots and report of ballots throughout) Committee on Nominations Report Impact of White Supremacy & Christian Nationalism/ White Nationalism within The U. M. Church
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Recognition of Retirement Service (Offering to be taken for UMCOR Migration Project)
5:15 p.m.	Greeting of Retiring Bishops and Spouses – Lobby of the Convention Center
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Host Night Dinner & Program

**Friday, November 4:**

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Information Desk Open
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Vendor/Display Area Open
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Open
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Service of Worship – <i>Bishop Julius C. Trimble</i>
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Recess / Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Business Session – <i>Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Presiding</i> Balloting (various ballots and report of ballots throughout) NCJ Business Presentation on Gun Violence – Angelo Mante (follow-up discussion during the noon meal break)
12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Recess / Lunch
1:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Business Session – <i>Bishop Frank Beard, Presiding</i> Balloting (various ballots and report of ballots throughout) NCJ Business Conversation to Understand the Impact of Homophobia, Transphobia, and Heterosexism within The U. M. Church
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Area Dinners (as desired)
8:00 p.m.	Consecration Service Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, November 5:</b>	
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Information Desk Open
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Service of Consecration – <i>Bishop Sally Dyck, Preaching</i> <i>Bishop John L. Hopkins, Service Coordinator</i>
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Reception for New Bishops

**DELEGATES TO THE 2022 NORTH CENTRAL  
JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**  
(Not all delegations had a full delegation at the time of the conference)

**DAKOTAS**

4 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Rebecca Trefz	Sarah Nelson
<b>Laity:</b>	Kara Togel, Chp.	Beata Ferris
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Ray Baker Jennifer Hallenbeck Orr	Roger Spahr
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Jane Hincks	Jodi Cataldo

**EAST OHIO**

24 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Gary Henderson, Chp. Dan Bryant Benita Rollins Abby Auman Jonathan Priebe Heidi Welch	Andy Call Matthew Laferty Cara Stultz Costello Nestor Nazario Carrie Antczak Jared Gadomski Littleton
<b>Laity:</b>	Martha Banks Robert Wagner Connor Prusha Don Burdsall Susan Achberger Kimberly Green	Betty Wilson Holly Grant Sarah Dixon Thomas Lewis Allen Laferty William Watts
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Laura Jaissle	Armando Arellano
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Richard Corder Jerry Rinehart	Kathy Palmer

**ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS**

20 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Sara Isbell Janice Griffith Eric Swanson Michael Crawford Andy Adams	Randy Robinson Beverly Wilkes Null Beth Fender Jennie Edwards Bertrand Jo "Nicole" Cox
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<b>Laity:</b>	Paul Black, Chp. Pamela McDavid Steve Schonert John Cooper Erik Slingerland	Anna Fender Kimberly Woods Anish Hermon Christina Krost Andrea Stuby
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Sylvester Weatherall Vince Rohn	Gay Crede
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Julie Higgins	Clarke Barnes

**INDIANA**  
32 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Russell Able, Chp. Lisa Schubert Nowling Robert Fuquay, Jr. Duane Carlisle Gregory Pimlott Matthew Landry Marti Lundy Chiyona Bourne	Aleze Fulbright Ronnie Bell Jill Moffett Larry Whitehead Adriane Rockhill Derek Weber Daniel Cho Margaret Lassiat
<b>Laity:</b>	Christopher Hancock Shirley Dominick W. Michael Womack Shannon Priddy John Shive Kenneth Einselen Nancy Stauffer Carolyn Johnson	Ian Hall Leah Gerber John Lomperis Kimberly Arnott Brett Loyd Mary Fridlund Alberto Hidalgo, Jr. Nathan Lundy
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>		
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Amy Land	

**IOWA**  
24 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Katie Dawson, Chp. LaToyna Calderon Nathaniel (Nate) Nims Andrea Kraushaar Josh Steward Barrie Tritle	Lanette Plambeck Chad Jennings Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz Fred Lewis Melissa Warren Amy Johnson
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<b>Laity:</b>	Lindsay Drake Angela Hansen-Abbas Catherine Rohret James Baty II Rebecca Nims Kathi Mitchell	Shannon Erica Stueve Nitza Dovenspike Alex Johnson Sally Hoelscher Kae Tritle Anne Marie Webb
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Matt German Brian Oliver	Scott Kober
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Prudence Klinger	

**MICHIGAN**  
16 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Co-Chp. Joy Barrett Charles Boayue Christina Wright	Paul Perez Megan Walther Joel Fitzgerald Bradley Bartelmay
<b>Laity:</b>	Laura Witkowski, Co-Chp. Jennifer Peters Ruby Anderson Ruth Sutton	Diane Brown Beverly Guy Hoon-Yung Hopgood Gordon Grigg III
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Sherri Swanson	John M. Weiler
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>		

**MINNESOTA**  
4 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Carol Zaagsma, Co-Chp.	Im Woojae
<b>Laity:</b>	David Nuckols, Co-Chp.	Becky Boland
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Jeff Ozanne Henry Dolopei	Susan Mullin Donna Dempewolf
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Walker Brault Jessica Lanes	Cindy Saufferer Shirley Durr

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

12 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Alka Lyall, Chp. Gregory Gross Jacques Conway	Luis R. Reyes Hwa Young Chong Brian Gilbert
<b>Laity:</b>	Lonnie Chafin Adrian Hill Jessie Cunningham	Nadia Kanhai Rita L. Smith Ronnie Lyall
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Britt Cox	Rachel Birkhahn-Rommefanger
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Nancy Penedgrass	Mark Manzi

**WEST OHIO**

28 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Roger Grace, Chp. April Casperson Anna Guillozet Rachel Miller Suzanne Allen Leo Cunningham Glenn Schwerdtfeger	Karen Cook Deanna Stickley-Miner Tom Rand Wade Giffin Todd Anderson Rosario Picardo
<b>Laity:</b>	Bill Brownson Chris Steiner Tracy Chambers Katelin Hansen Alex Giffin	George Howard Callie Picardo Cyndi Condrey Bobbi Ruddock

**Alternate Clergy:**

**Alternate Laity:**

**WISCONSIN**

12 Delegates

<b>Clergy:</b>	Dan Schwerin, Co-Chp. Krysta Deede Jeremy Deaner	Jennifer Arneson Kathryn Jones Scott Carlson
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<b>Laity:</b>	Lisa King, Co-Chp. Lisa Jones Judy Vasby	Jessica Gobel Donald Cramer Meredith Spors
<b>Alternate Clergy:</b>	Kevin Dembinski Clarissa Martinelli	Joan Frost Allie Scott
<b>Alternate Laity:</b>	Lynn Messner	

**DAILY PROCEEDINGS**  
**THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE**  
**NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

**Wednesday Morning, November 2**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The Fourteenth Jurisdictional Conference of the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church convened November 2, 2022 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Host Bishop, called the conference to order at 10:05 a.m. and honored the Indigenous persons from this land. A Service of Memorial and Communion followed the Call to Order with Bishop Bruce Ough preaching on “God Has Us Right Where He Wants Us.”

Those remembered were:

Bishop Emerson Colaw  
Bishop Judith Craig  
Bishop Mike Coyner

Spouses of Bishops:

Betty Ann Boulton  
Virginia Clymer  
Polly Hodapp  
Brad Kiesey  
Ina Schowengert  
Ruth Thomas  
Marji Tuell

Jurisdictional Delegates:

Rev. Susan Brown  
Mr. John Lawson

Recess for lunch followed the Opening Worship

**Wednesday Afternoon, November 2**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Bishop David Bard, Presiding**

Bishop David Bard called the business session to order by at 1:30 p.m. with Bishop Julius Trimble serving as parliamentarian.

Greetings were given by Bishop Julius Trimble as the host bishop from Indiana Conference. He introduced Karen Gould, Chair of the Host Committee, who also gave a welcome.

**Roll Call:**

NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, explained and called for the roll of those attending (as per pg. 80; 2016 Journal)

The chairperson of each Annual Conference Delegation gave an account of the delegates and alternate delegates present:

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Delegates</u>	<u>Alternate Delegates</u>
Dakotas	4	2
East Ohio	24	1
Illinois Great Rivers	20	3
Indiana	32	0
Iowa	22	1
Michigan	16	1
Minnesota	4	6
Northern Illinois	12	3
West Ohio	21	0
<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>20</b>

Bishop David Bard, President of the College of Bishops, reported seven (7) active, one (1) retired but serving interim, and five (5) retired Bishops in attendance.

Active Bishops in attendance: David Bard, Frank Beard, Laurie Haller, Gregory Palmer, Tracy S. Malone, Julius Trimble, and Hee-Soo Jung.

Retired – serving interim John Hopkins.

Retired – serving other assignments: Bruce Ough and Sally Dyck.

Retired in attendance: Jonathan Keaton, Linda Lee, and Sharon Zimmerman Rader.

**General Agencies Represented:**

General Commission on Status and Role of Women – 2 persons: Julia Pritchett  
Gonzalez and Meg Lassiat

General Commission on Religion and Race – 1 person: Jerry DeVine

General Board of Higher Education – 1 person: Tammy Gieselman  
Commission on General Conference – 1 person: Sara Hotchkiss  
Council on Finance and Administration – 1 person: Dana Joki  
General Commission on Communication – 1 person: Gary Henderson  
Judicial Council – 1 person: Rev. Dr. J Kabamba Kiboko

**Monitoring Statement:** Meg Lassiat of the General Commission on Status and Role of Women and Rev. Jerry DeVine of the General Commission on Religion and Race provided an explanation of how the monitoring will occur during the conference and asked persons to please identify themselves as lay or clergy delegates when speaking.

**Voting Instructions:** Trina Brown, Sr. Project Manager, of Padgett Communications gave instructions on how the voting devices would work and had the delegates take two practice votes.

**Confirmation of Jurisdictional Committees:** NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, requested confirmation of the 2016 – 2022 Standing Committees of the Mission Council, Committee on Episcopacy, Committee on Investigation, Committee on Appeals, and Nomination Committee listed in the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 1, pages 18-20 for their work through the end of this conference. Approved 154 – 3.

NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, requested confirmation of Diane Brown from Michigan Conference as Assistant Secretary. Approved 159 – 0.

**Rules of Order:** The NCJ Mission Council has no rule changes to bring to the conference. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as printed in the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 1, pages 21-39 will guide this conference.

**Report of Committee on Episcopacy:**

Rev. Sara Isbell, Chairperson of the Committee on Episcopacy, presented the report as found on pages 10-31 of The 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 2. The report contained the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1 – Character of Bishops**

The Committee on the Episcopacy, having consulted with active Bishops David Bard, Frank Beard, Laurie Haller, Hee-Soo Jung, Gregory Palmer Tracy Smith-Malone, Julius Trimble, recommends that all be passed, commended for their character and continued in the effective relationship.

The Committee also recommends that the character of retired Bishops Sharon Brown Christopher, Sally Dyck, John Hopkins, Charles W. Jordon, Jonathan Keaton, Deborah Kiesey, Linda Lee, William B. Lewis, Donald A. Ott, Bruce Ough, Sharon Z. Rader, Joseph Sprague and Woodie W. White, be passed, and that they be continued in the retired relationship.

*The Committee extends its deep gratitude to Bishop Bard, Bishop Haller, Bishop Hopkins, Bishop Kieseey and Bishop Palmer for their faithful coverage of additional episcopal areas in time of need. Your selfless dedication and leadership have been an inspiration. It was noted Bishop Kieseey was unable to attend this conference due to caring for both her parents who recently entered hospice.*

*The Committee also remembers with gratitude and honors the memory of Bishops Michael J. Coyner, Emerson S. Colaw, and Judith Craig, who entered the church triumphant during this quadrennium.*

### **Recommendation 2 – Retirement of Bishops**

The Committee recommends that Bishop Laurie Haller, having met the requirements as listed in paragraph 408.2a of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, and her character having been passed, be released effective Dec. 31, 2022, from her obligation to travel through the connection at large, from residential and presidential supervision, and that she be placed in the retired relation, receiving all rights, privileges, and support provided in *The Book of Discipline*.

### **Recommendation 3 – Election of Bishops**

The Committee on Episcopacy recommends that the North Central Jurisdictional Conference proceed to elect three (3) bishops at this 2022 session. Detail of Recommendation 3 will be presented and voted separately.

### **Recommendation 4: Future Episcopal Areas**

The Committee on Episcopacy, recognizing that both the GCFA formula for number of bishops per jurisdiction, and the anticipated reduction in membership due to disaffiliation, indicate a further reduction in number of bishops allotted the NCJ in the near future, recommend the following:

- The Northern Illinois and Wisconsin conferences, and East and West Ohio conferences (especially Area Committees on Episcopacy, Extended Cabinets and Conference Directors), begin conversations about the possibility of sharing an episcopal area, if such a sharing should be approved by the NCJ, beginning as soon as 2024, and
- All Annual Conferences begin conversations about possible sharing of episcopal areas in the future (noting the clear distinction between “sharing a bishop” and “merging Annual Conferences”), and
- The North Central Jurisdiction form a Task Force to study the “Functional Role of the Episcopacy in the NCJ” to imagine ways to make sharing episcopal leadership manageable, sustainable, and fruitful; and that
- Such a Task Force include members of the College and the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy along with other lay and clergy when deemed appropriate; and that
- The Role of Episcopacy Task Force be prepared to bring findings and proposals to the 2024 Session of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference.

Rev. Matthew Laferty of East Ohio Conference spoke to this Recommendation 4 about concern how the Episcopal Fund will provide for shared episcopal areas and that he was uncomfortable with the use of the word “Functional” as a part of the study.

Lonnie Chafin of Northern Illinois Conference noted that a proposal to General Conference would allow jurisdictions to fund areas in excess of the recommended 5 presently required by The Book of Discipline.

After hearing these statements Recommendation 4 was approved by a 157 – 2 vote.

**Recommendation to Elect to Nine Bishops in 2022:**

Submitted by: NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy with consultation from NCJ College of Bishops

WHEREAS: The 2021 Session of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference received and approved the recommendation of the NCJCOE that the number of bishops to be elected in 2022 be reduced to bring the total number of NCJ active bishops to eight;

AND WHEREAS: This recommendation was based on the notification from GCFA that, under the formula approved by General Conference 2016, the NCJ would qualify for eight bishops beginning with the next episcopal season due to membership;

AND WHEREAS: This recommendation was also based on the recently reported reduction in the Episcopal Fund;

AND WHEREAS: This recommendation was also based on the anticipated trajectory of UMC membership in the NCJ in the coming quadrennium, uncertain in large part due to the launching of the Global Methodist Church and the disaffiliation of churches;

AND WHEREAS: Since the Nov 2021 session, the following realities have changed:

- Judicial Council Memorandum #1446 has indicated that absent General Conference action, the same number of bishops as were approved in 2016 may remain in effect until the next General Conference; and
- The Episcopal Fund has been sustained at a level that no longer indicates urgent reductions; and
- The North Central Jurisdiction has seen first-hand the difficulty and weariness for both bishops and annual conferences, of asking two Annual Conferences to share one bishop without sufficient opportunity for preparation; and
- The launching of the GMC in advance of General Conference has increased the workload for our bishops even more, thus making the current “disaffiliation” season particularly taxing even for single-conference bishops;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the North Central Jurisdiction vote to return the number of active bishops to nine for the period of Jan. 1, 2022, to the beginning of the

next episcopal season (presumably Sept. 1, 2024); and that

TO THAT END the 2022 Session of North Central Jurisdictional Conference will elect three (3) bishops to serve beginning Jan. 1, 2022; also, that

TO THAT END the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal area again be united under one bishop.

LET IT BE NOTED that the North Central Jurisdiction anticipates multiple retirements (2 mandatory) in 2024, and therefore will plan to accommodate the reduced number of bishops at that time.

AND THAT THEREFORE, the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy and College of Bishops will work together to prepare those Annual Conferences most likely to be affected by this reduction, to maximize success and smooth transition.

Rev. Katie Dawson of the Iowa Conference offered an editorial change to the “Therefore Be It Resolved” and the first “To That End” statements of “January 1, 2023” rather than “January 1, 2022”. This editorial change was accepted by the presiding officer.

Rev. Gary Henderson of East Ohio Conference shared appreciation for the great work of this committee.

The recommendation to Elect to Nine Bishops in 2022 was approved by a vote of 152 – 7.

The full report of the Committee on Episcopacy was before the delegation and approved 160 – 1.

### **First Episcopal Ballot:**

Trina Brown provided further information on the use of the voting devices.

Bishop Bard reminded delegates that our Rules of Order state a delegate must vote for the number to be elected in order for their vote to be valid.

Rev. Sara Isbell, on behalf of the episcopal candidates, invited the ten to come forward and share a collective statement as well as prayers for each other. Even though all Elders in The United Methodist Church are eligible to receive votes the ten have put themselves forward at this time.

Rev. Sara Isbell led prayer.

Bishop Bard called for the casting of the first ballot.

### **Report of First Ballot:**

Bishop Bard gave the report of the First Ballot. There were 167 votes cast - 1 invalid and 166 valid. 99 votes needed for election.

Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai was elected. Rev. Bigham-Tsai and her husband were escorted to the stage and introduced by Rev. Sara Isbell.

As per Rules on page 23 of The 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 1 those receiving ten (10) or more votes were read Bishop Bard:

Kennetha Bigham-Tsai	106
Lanette Plambeck	84
Aleze Fulbright	73
Dan Schwerin	63
Luis Reyes	58
Curtis Brown	29
Cara Stultz Costello	29
Jacques Conway	27
Todd Anderson	13

#### **Nominee Forums:**

As per the Procedures for Episcopal Election, Section B. #2 on page 24 of The 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 1 each of the persons receiving 10 or more votes on the first ballot were assigned rooms where delegates could meet and ask questions of the candidates. There were three 20-minute sessions with a 10-minute break between sessions.

#### **Delegation Meetings:**

Nominee Forums were followed by Delegation Meetings that took place for 30 minutes.

As the business session resumed at 5:05 p.m. Bishop Bard announced Bishop Bigham-Tsai was the first bishop to be elected in the United States this year. Also, it was the first time in anyone's memory that a bishop was elected in the NCJ on the first ballot.

Bishop Bard announced Rev. Tom Berlin had been elected a bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

#### **Second Episcopal Ballot:**

Prayer was given by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton before Bishop Bard called for the second episcopal ballot.

#### **Announcements:**

NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, announced vouchers for per diem are available at the registration desk and once completed may be left there also. He reminded the conference will reconvene at 7:30 p.m. this evening.

#### **Recessed:**

The conference recessed for dinner until 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday Evening, November 2**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Presiding**

The Wednesday evening business session was called to order by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung with Bishop Bruce Ough serving as parliamentarian.

**Report of Second Episcopal Ballot:**

Bishop Jung presented the vote count of the second ballot. There were 167 votes cast – 0 invalid and 167 valid, 101 votes required for an election. There was no election. Ballots cast were:

Lanette Plambeck	84
Aleze Fulbright	62
Dan Schwerin	60
Luis Reyes	43
Curtis Brown	37
Todd Anderson	18
Cara Stultz Costello	17

Rev. Todd Anderson requested a moment of personal privilege to withdraw his name as a candidate for episcopal election. He gave thanks for the privilege of having been considered and for all who had supported his candidacy.

Bishop Jung announced there had been three elections in the South-Central Jurisdiction – Dee Williamston, Laura Merrill, and David Wilson (first Native American to be elected a bishop). Hector Burgos-Nunez was elected in the Northeaster Jurisdiction.

**Third Episcopal Ballot:**

Rev. Barrie Tritle from the Iowa Conference and a member of the Committee on Episcopacy gave prayer.

Bishop Jung called for the casting of the third ballot.

**Report of NCJ Mission Council:**

Rev. Ryan Russell (Iowa), Chair of the Mission Council; Laura Witkowski (Michigan), Vice-Chair of the Mission Council; and Rev. Curtis Brown (Illinois Great Rivers), member of Mission Council Executive Committee gave the report of the Mission Council. The Mission Council serves as the NCJ's program committee, rules committee, and grant awarding body. The report consisted of some of the programs the Mission Council had sponsored since 2016 and highlighted some of the grants that had been awarded. They reminded delegates the budget for this past quadrennium reduced allocation requests from annual conferences in order to spend down what had become a large reserve.

Bishop Jung asked for confirmation of this report. It was confirmed by a vote of 156 – 0.

**Report of Third Episcopal Ballot:**

Bishop Jung presented the vote count of the third ballot. There were 166 votes cast – 0 invalid votes and 166 valid; and 100 votes required for an election.

Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck was elected. Rev. Dr. Plambeck was escorted to the stage and introduced by Sara Isbell.

After the introduction, Bishop Jung read the results of the third ballot:

Lanette Plambeck	102
Aleze Fulbright	66
Luis Reyes	60
Dan Schwerin	59
Curtis Brown	34
Cara Stultz Costello	11

Rev. Cara Stultz Costello requested a moment of personal privilege to withdraw her name as a candidate for episcopal election. She gave thanks for the opportunity to be a candidate and for all those who supported her.

**Fourth Episcopal Ballot:**

Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader offered prayer before Bishop Jung called for the casting of the fourth ballot.

**NCJ Treasurer Report:** Lonnie Chafin of Northern Illinois Conference and NC Treasurer presented his report as printed in the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 2, pages 14-22. He reminded the conference that in 2016 we passed a four-year budget, which lasted for six years due to postponements of the 2020 conference. Therefore, the proposed budget will be for the 2023-24 years. He reported all conferences paid 100% of their jurisdictional apportionments except for one conference that has a rule to pay as funds are received. The budget approved in 2016 was intentionally made to overspend receipts by \$251,189 in order to use some of a large reserve. Due to various circumstances the actual was closer to \$85,000 overspent. The reserve fund now stands at \$325,000. The proposed budget for 2023-24 will continue conference apportionments at the same rate as the previous six years. The NCJ has the lowest apportionment of jurisdictions in the United States.

Lonnie also reminded delegates to submit travel vouchers by noon Thursday as he will write checks Thursday evening.

There were no questions to the Treasurer Report. It was voted to receive the report by a 163 – 2 vote. The budget for 2023-24 will be voted upon on Friday.

**Report of Fourth Episcopal Ballot:**

Bishop Jung gave the report of the fourth ballot. There were 164 votes cast – 0 invalid and 164 valid. 99 votes needed for election. There was no election. Bishop Jung read the report of the ballot:

Aleze Fulbright	54
Dan Schwerin	46
Luis Reyes	50
Curtis Brown	14

Rev. Russ Abel of Indiana Conference requested to see all vote results (not just those receiving 10 or more votes). Upon learning this would need a suspension of the rules, he withdrew his request.

Dave Nuckols of Minnesota asked if we could take our next ballot in the morning rather than tonight.

Rev. Scott Carlson of Wisconsin moved to recess for the evening. His motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 98 – 65.

**Announcements:** NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, announced the Prayer Room and Vendor Displays will open at 8:00 a.m. in the morning. We will begin with worship on Thursday at 9:15 a.m.

The Wednesday evening session was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

**Thursday Morning, November 3**

The morning Service of Worship was held at 9:15 a.m. with Bishop Tracy Smith Malone preaching.

**Thursday Morning, November 3****11:00 a.m.****Bishop Gregory Palmer, Presiding**

Bishop Palmer called the session to order with Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton serving as parliamentarian.

Bishop Palmer announced Rev. Connie Shelton was elected bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Paul Black of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference requested the conference to allow Rev. Curtis Brown to speak. This request was granted, and Rev. Brown withdrew his name as a candidate for episcopal election giving thanks for the opportunity and for all who had supported him.

**Fifth Episcopal Ballot:**

Rev. Andy Call of East Ohio Conference and member of the Committee on Episcopacy offered prayer before Bishop Palmer called for the fifth ballot.

While waiting for the tally of the fifth ballot a video title, #BeUMC was shown.

**Report of Fifth Episcopal Ballot:**

Bishop Palmer presented the report of the fifth ballot. 163 votes were cast – 0 invalid and 163 valid; 98 needed for election. There was no election. Bishop Palmer proceeded to read the results of the fifth ballot:

Dan Schwerin	71
Aleze Fulbright	62
Luis Reyes	29

**Nominee Forums:**

Nominee Forums were held from 10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Bishop Palmer called the conference back from Nominee Forums at 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Russ Abel of Indiana Conference requested a Spot Conversation of delegations.

Rev. Alka Lyall of Northern Illinois Conference requested a matter of privilege at which time she invited Rev. Luis Reyes to speak. Rev. Reyes withdrew his name as candidate for episcopal election and gave thanks for the opportunity the process had provided as well as thanking all those who supported his candidacy.

**Sixth Episcopal Ballot:**

Prayer was given by Bishop Frank Beard before Bishop Palmer called for the casting of the sixth ballot.

**Episcopal Address:** Bishop David Bard, President of NCJ College of Bishops, presented the Episcopal Address.

**Report of Sixth Ballot:**

Bishop Palmer reported the results of the sixth ballot. There were 166 votes cast – 0 invalid votes and 166 valid; 100 needed for election.

Rev. Dan Schwerin was elected. Rev. Schwerin was escorted to the stage and introduced by Sara Isbell.

Bishop Palmer read the results of the ballot:

Dan Schwerin	100
Aleze Fulbright	66

**Announcements:** NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, gave the following announcements:

- Reminded persons there would be an offering taken this afternoon during the Recognition of Retirement Service for the UMCOR Migration Project.
- There is still time to visit and explore the Vendor Displays where Bishop Trimble's book is available.
- Travel vouchers are due now and should be turned in during the lunch break.
- Three resolutions which came after the printing of the Advance Journals were distributed to delegates this morning and will come before the conference on Friday.
- The afternoon session will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Bishop Palmer prayed us to lunch at 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday Afternoon, November 3**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Bishop John Hopkins, Presiding**

Bishop John Hopkins called the afternoon session to order with Bishop Laurie Haller serving as parliamentarian.

Rev. Russ Abel of Indiana Conference requested a moment of personal privilege at which time he introduced Rev. Aleze Fulbright. Rev. Fulbright spoke in gratitude for the opportunity to be a candidate for episcopal election and thanked persons for support of her candidacy.

**Committee on Nominations Report:** The Committee on Nominations report was presented as follows:

**Committee on Appeals:** Nominated by the College of Bishops in accordance with provisions of The 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 2716.

**Clergy:**

Beverly Wilkes-Null – Illinois Great Rivers, Chairperson  
Edwin Vargas – Wisconsin  
Dee Stickley-Minor – West Ohio  
Cindy Patterson – East Ohio

**Clergy Alternates:**

Joy Barrett – Michigan  
Donna Van Trees – East Ohio  
Chris Winkler – Northern Illinois  
Penny Eberhart – Dakotas

**Laity:**

Jessie Cunningham – Northern Illinois  
Tim Ottmar – Dakotas  
Carolyn Johnson – Indiana

**Laity Alternates:**

Deana Shimko – Wisconsin  
Diane Batten – Michigan  
Walker Brault – Minnesota

**Local Pastor:**

Gary Taylor - Minnesota

**Local Pastor Alternate**

Michael Farmer – East Ohio

**Committee on Investigation:** Nominated by the College of Bishops in accordance with provisions of The 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 2703.1.

**Clergy;**

Melanie Carey – Michigan

Cindy Gregorson – Minnesota, Chairperson

James Roberson – East Ohio

Arlene Christopherson – Northern Illinois

Karen Dungan – Iowa

Curnell Graham – West Ohio

Randy Robinson – Illinois Great Rivers

**Clergy Alternates:**

Cindy Reynolds – Indiana

Bill Dobbs – Michigan

Dan Dick – Wisconsin

Rebecca Trefz – Dakotas

Nicole Cox – Illinois Great Rivers

**Laity Observers:**

Phil Moots – West Ohio

Patty LaGree – Iowa

**Laity, Alternate:**

Alberto Hidalgo - Indiana

**Committee on Episcopacy:** One lay person and one clergy person from each Episcopal area nominated by annual conference delegation to jurisdictional conference in accordance with provisions of The 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 512.

**Clergy:**

Sarah Nelson – Dakotas

Andy Call – East Ohio

Sara Isbell – Illinois Great Rivers

Aleze Fulbright – Indiana

Barrie Tritle – Iowa

Paul Perez – Michigan

Carol Zaagsma – Minnesota

Brian Gilbert – Northern Illinois

Wade Giffin – West Ohio

Jennifer Arneson – Wisconsin

**Laity:**

Beata Ferris – Dakotas

Susan Achberger – East Ohio

Anish Herman – Illinois Great Rivers  
Chris Hancock – Indiana  
Erica Shannon-Steuve – Iowa  
Nichea VerVeer Guy – Michigan  
David Nuckols – Minnesota  
Jessie Cunningham – Northern Illinois  
George Howard – West Ohio  
Lisa Jones - Wisconsin

**NCJ Treasurer:** Nominated by the Committee on Nominations in consultation with the NCJ College of Bishops and Annual Conference Treasurers.

Lonnie Chafin – Northern Illinois

**NCJ Secretary:** Nominated by the Committee on Nominations in consultation with the NCJ College of Bishops.

Diane Brown – Michigan

**NCJ Mission Council:** One person elected by each annual conference within the jurisdiction, 7-10 members-at-large nominated by the jurisdictional Committee on Nominations at their discretion, 2 Directors of Connectional Ministries as selected by the NCJ Association of DCMs, 1 bishop selected by the College of Bishops, NCJ Treasurer, NCJ Conference Secretary, NCJ Coordinator of Communications as selected by the NCJ Mission Council Executive Committee.

**Conference Elected:**

Beata Ferris – Dakotas  
Laura Witkowski – Michigan  
Kelly Brown – East Ohio  
Eric Swanson – Illinois Great Rivers  
In Suk Peebles – Indiana  
Nitza Dovenspike – Iowa  
Walker Brault – Minnesota  
Chris Winkler – Northern Illinois  
To Be Named – West Ohio  
Kady Herr Yang – Wisconsin

**At-Large:**

Gifty Smith – Illinois Great  
Ryan Russell – Iowa  
Dominic Mejia – West Ohio

Nathan Lundy – Indiana  
Brian Hanner – East Ohio  
Rita L. Smith – Northern Illinois  
Paige Boyer – East Ohio  
Andrea Hult – Dakotas  
Gordon Grigg - Michigan

**Directors of Connectional Ministries:** Named by NCJ DCMS

Curtis Brown  
Cindy Gregorson

**College of Bishops Representative:** Named by NCJ College of Bishops  
Bishop Julius Trimble

**NCJ Coordinator of Communications:** Jim Searls

**NCJ Treasurer:** Lonnie Chafin

**NCJ Secretary:** Diane Brown

Bishop Hopkins added the names of Michael Farmer as Local Pastor Alternate to the Committee on Appeals and Alberto Hidalgo as Laity Alternate to the Committee on Investigation that were listed in the original printed report as “To Be Named”.

Rita Smith of Northern Illinois Conference requested her middle initial “L” to be included for the Mission Council At-Large member.

Dave Nuckols of Minnesota spoke of his appreciation for the inclusivity of persons on both the Committee on Appeals and Committee on Investigation.

Rev. Katie Dawson of Iowa asked about members that had been listed on the Episcopacy Committee which had been elected bishop. Those replacements are included in the above report.

The report of the Committee on Nominations was approved by a vote of 141 – 5.

**Impact of White Supremacy & Christian Nationalism/White Nationalism within The United Methodist Church:** The conference moved to a conversation on this topic (as requested by the 2021 NCJ Special Called Conference held virtually). The conversation was led by Bishops David Bard and Julius Trimble. Rev. Paul Perez of Michigan Conference and Annetra Jones of Indiana Conference provided highlights of initiatives being taken in the NCJ on this issue.

**Announcements:** NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White, provided the following announcements:

- Please leave voting devices on the tables. If you are leaving early, please take your device to the tech team.

- There will be a time of greeting of retiring Bishops and Spouses in the lobby of the convention center immediately following the Recognition of Retirement Service.
- The newly elected Committees on Episcopacy, Appeals, and Investigation will meet Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. for organization and election of officers. Room assignments were provided.
- The Host Night Dinner and Program is from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. tonight for those who have purchased tickets.

Bishop Hopkins announced we would take a 15-minute break and return for the Recognition of Retirement Service. At the conclusion of the service, we will be dismissed for the evening.

### **Recognition of Retirement Service:**

The Committee on Episcopacy led the Recognition of Retirement Service honoring Bishop Laurie Haller and her spouse, Gary; Bishop Sally Dyck and her spouse, Kenneth Ehrman; and Bishop Bruce Ough and his spouse, Char. During the service, an offering was taken for the UMCOR Migration Project.

### **Friday Morning, November 4**

The morning Service of Worship was held at 9:15 a.m. with Bishop Julius C. Trimble preaching.

### **Friday Morning, November 4**

**11:00 a.m.**

### **Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Presiding**

Bishop Tracy Malone called the business session to order with Bishop Sally Dyck serving as parliamentarian.

### **Motion to Reinstate NCJ Committee on Ordained Ministry:**

Rev. Jonathan Priebe of East Ohio presented this motion as was written and presented in the NCJ 2022 Advance Journal, Volume 2, page 109. The motion reads:

We, the Chairs of the Boards of Ordained Ministry in the North Central Jurisdiction and the Presidents of the Seminaries located within the bounds of our jurisdiction, move that the North Central Jurisdiction reinstate the Jurisdictional Committee on Ordained Ministry as described in paragraph 535 of the 2016 UM Book of Discipline **without the requirement of funding from the NCJ, except at the discretion of the NCJ Mission Council.**

In the continuing UMC, we believe there will be a need for the following that can be provided by this committee:

- \* sharing of best-practices and resources among the chairs of the Boards.

\* as clergy withdrawals and church disaffiliations change the landscape of clergy supply and demand, this committee can provide information to the College of Bishops on clergy who are available to be appointed outside their conference to meet changing missional needs of the Church.

\* clarity for the seminaries within our jurisdictional boundaries regarding the content and character of required education for clergy in our jurisdiction and the expectations of our Boards of Ministry

\* building of mutually beneficial relationships, trust, and connection across the jurisdiction among the Boards of Ordained Ministry and seminaries.

Budget Impact to NCJ: None

NCJ Leadership Impact: Per paragraph 535, the NCJ Committee on Nominations is asked to name two Bishops from our Jurisdictional College. The Committee of Ordained Ministry would name ~~three~~ four members-at-large with at least two of those at-large members being ordained deacons to insure inclusivity.

Lonnie Chafin of the Northern Illinois Conference moved an amendment to add at the end of the first sentence, “without the requirement of funding from the NCJ, except at the discretion of the NCJ Mission Council.” The amendment received a second and was approved by a vote of 137 – 10.

Meg Lassiat of Indiana Conference moved an amendment to the last sentence of the original motion that would replace the words “three members-at-large” with “four members-at-large with at least two of those at-large members being ordained deacons.” The amendment was seconded.

Rev. Jared Gadomski Littleton of East Ohio asked since this was prescribed by The Book of Discipline would such a change make this out of order? Bishop Malone responded it would not as we are allowed to go beyond what is prescribed in The Book of Discipline but would not be able to have less than prescribed.

Rev. Charles Boayue of Michigan Conference asked what The Book of Discipline provides for the constitution of the committee? Paragraph 535 states, “*The committee shall be comprised of the chair of the conference boards of ordained ministry or their representatives, the deans/presidents of the United Methodist seminaries in the jurisdiction, two representatives from the College of Bishops and three members at large, named by the committee to insure inclusivity. Deacons and lay-persons shall be represented in the committee. When a jurisdictional board of higher education and ministry exists, this board may be a part of that structure.*”

Rev. Beverly Wilkes Null of Illinois Great Rivers Conference added clarification to this amendment.

Kay Tritle of Iowa Conference re-emphasized The Book of Discipline does state “Deacons and lay-persons shall be represented in the committee.

Nathan Lundy of Indiana Conference asked if we are speaking about the Committee on Episcopacy or a Committee on Ordained Ministry. Bishop Malone clarified that it is to establish a Committee on Ordained Ministry.

Following the discussion, the amendment was approved by a vote of 121 – 21.

The motion as amended was approved by a vote of 139 – 12.

**Resolution: Ethics Code for Delegates to the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church:**

Martha Banks of East Ohio Conference presented this resolution as written in the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 2, page 110. The resolution reads:

Whereas, the future of the United Methodist Church requires loyalty of governance members at all levels,

Whereas, General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates are expected to make decisions that are in the best interests of the United Methodist Church,

Whereas, election of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates by members of the United Methodist Church was conducted with the implicit understanding that delegates would ethically serve the United Methodist Church,

Whereas, delegates with allegiance to another denomination have a serious conflict of interest,

Whereas, in dealing with matters affecting the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference, delegates shall act in good faith and in the best interests of the United Methodist Church,

Whereas, General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates do not have a Code of Ethics similar to that required for United Methodist general boards and agencies, and

Whereas, from a moral and/or legal perspective, a potential conflict of interest arises within an organization when a key individual (either an employee or volunteer) or a relative of that individual (a) stands to gain a financial benefit by personally influencing the action taken by the organization or a transaction entered into by the organization; or (b) has another interest that impairs, or could be seen to impair, the independence or objectivity of the key individual in discharging their duties within the organization,

Therefore, be it resolved that General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates are **urged to be** fully committed to The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that all General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates' ethical decisions on policy and elections **are urged to** be made in the best interests of The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that if delegates have an actual or potential conflict of interest, they ~~shall~~ **are urged to** disclose the conflict to the appropriate individual or group of individuals within the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegations and recuse themselves from any discussions and decisions on matters related to the conflict of interest.

Rev. Jared Gadomski Littleton moved an amendment to the resolution to add the words, "urged to be" in first Therefore paragraph, add the words "are urged to" in the first Be it further resolved paragraph, and to delete the word "shall" and replace it with the words "are urged to" in the second Be it further resolved paragraph so resolution would read:

Therefore, be it resolved that General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates are *urged to be* fully committed to The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that all General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates' ethical decisions on policy and elections *are urged to* be made in the best interests of The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that if delegates have an actual or potential conflict of interest, they *are urged to* shall disclose the conflict to the appropriate individual or group of individuals within the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegations and recuse themselves from any discussions and decisions on matters related to the conflict of interest.

Rev. Cara Stultz Costello of East Ohio Conference spoke in favor of this amendment.

Holly Grant of East Ohio Conference asked if amendments needed to be consecutive? Bishop Malone responded that is not necessary.

Betty Wilson of East Ohio Conference requested to speak to the main motion to which Bishop Malone responded she would be recognized to do so after we finish discussion and vote on this amendment.

Rev. Joy Barrett of Michigan Conference spoke against the amendment.

Rev. Russ Abel of Indiana Conference asked what is the mechanism for accountability? Martha Banks stated the resolution is aspirational.

Rev. Ray Baker of Dakotas Conference spoke against the amendment.

John Lomperis of Indiana Conference asked for a point of information to seek clarification if the NCJ can place mandates on General and Jurisdictional delegates. Bishop Malone indicated since this resolution is aspirational it is not mandating action by delegates.

Rev. Beverly Wilkes Null spoke in favor of the amendment stating the “urge” language would put us in harmony with The Book of Discipline rather than the “shall” language.

Following the discussion, the amendment was approved by a vote of 115 – 38.

**Resolution as Amended:**

Betty Wilson of East Ohio Conference spoke against the resolution as amended.

Bob Wagner of East Ohio Conference spoke against the resolution as amended.

Rev. Matthew Laferty of East Ohio Conference questioned if the supporting materials accompanying the resolution on pages 111-116 of the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 2 are a part of the resolution? Bishop Malone responded the supporting materials were presented as rationale and are not a part of the resolution.

Shannon Priddy of Indiana Conference spoke in favor of the resolution as amended.

Rev. Scott Carlson of Wisconsin Conference spoke in favor of the resolution as amended.

Rev. Jared Gadowski Littleton of East Ohio Conference made a motion to amend the resolution as amended to strike all of page 111 as printed in the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal, Volume 2. This was ruled out of order as page 111 is not a part of the resolution as amended.

Leah Gerber of Indiana Conference requested the minutes reflect that page 111 is aspirational as a part of the rationale for the resolution as amended.

**Call the Question:**

Bill Watts of East Ohio Conference called the question of everything that was before us. Bishop Malone explained that calling the question would end all further debate. The vote to call the question was approved 137 – 11.

**Resolution as Amended:** The resolution as amended was approved by a vote of 131 – 23.

Bishop Malone offered prayer over the conference and the business we had just concluded.

**Gun Violence:** Bishop Malone introduced Rev. Angelo Mante of the Indiana Conference who gave a presentation on gun violence.

Bishop Malone adjourned the morning session.

**Friday Afternoon, November 4**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Bishop Frank Beard, Presiding**

Bishop Frank Beard called the afternoon business session to order with Bishop Gregory Palmer serving as parliamentarian. Bishop Beard announced the next General Conference will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rev. Krysta Deede of Wisconsin Conference and Rev. Alka Lyall of Northern Illinois Conference requested a moment of privilege to state the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Conferences feel they can share in an episcopal area and have already begun discussions for such. Their intent will be to bring such a proposal to the 2024 NCJ Conference.

**Resolution: Leading with Integrity (Offered to NCJ2022 consistent with offerings in all 5 US Jurisdictions)**

A resolution on “Leading with Integrity” (which had been distributed to all delegates on Thursday) was presented by Rev. Erik Swanson of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. The resolution was seconded, and Eric spoke to it. The resolution reads:

Whereas, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, and

Whereas, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ’s church at heart, and

Whereas, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity, and

Whereas, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and

Whereas, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church, and

Whereas, from a legal perspective, a potential conflict of interest arises within an organization when an individual, paid or volunteer, or a relative of that individual (a) stands to gain a financial benefit by personally influencing the action taken by the organization or a transaction entered into by the organization; or (b) has another interest that impairs, or could be seen to impair, the independence or objectivity of the key individual in discharging their duties within the organization.

Therefore, be it resolved that, as we continue this period of transition, the North Central Jurisdiction calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity and goodwill to all.

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that, in an effort to ensure that decisions about The United Methodist Church are made by those who are wholeheartedly committed to its future, the North Central Jurisdiction believes that only lay and clergy members who intend to remain in The United Methodist Church are appropriately eligible to serve in governance roles such as: districts, annual conferences, jurisdictional conferences, general conference; and their related committees, boards, agencies; delegations and episcopal candidates. We encourage Conference Boards of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction respectfully asks all who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from governance roles annual conference, jurisdictional conference, and general conference.

Holly Grant of East Ohio Conference presented an amendment to the resolution. After it being seconded Holly spoke to the amendment. The amendment was stated as: After the first “Therefore” it would read: “Be it further resolved that the NCJ recognizes that its actions and leadership effect the witness of Christ’s Church, the holy catholic church. In an effort to ensure that decisions of the NCJ are made with a holy witness to our broken world and to the holy catholic church, the NCJ will aspire to lead with integrity and grace.

“Be it further resolved that the NCJ recognizes that integrity and grace is shown in allowing for free and open discussion its churches and throughout its conferences around the matter of disaffiliation and future steps. We encourage conferences to permit open discussions of disaffiliation by its clergy and laity and we encourage such permission to be incorporated in any policy developed by a conference Board of Trustees.”

The amendment was not approved by a vote 28 – 117.

Rev. Suzanne Allen of the West Ohio Conference spoke against the resolution.

Rev. Andy Adams of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference spoke against the resolution.

Rev. Jonathan Priebe of East Ohio Conference called for the question. The Call for Question was approved by a vote of 119 – 28.

The Resolution was approved as originally written by a vote of 114 – 32.

Connor Prusha requested a moment of privilege to offer prayer.

A video about Africa University was shared.

**Resolution: Supporting Formation of a U.S. Regional Conference**

A resolution on “Supporting Formation of a U.S. Regional Conference” (distributed to all delegates on Thursday) was presented by Rev. Dee Stickley Miner and George Howard of West Ohio Conference. After receiving a second the presenters spoke to the resolution. The resolution reads:

Whereas the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in mission together in 136 countries; and

Whereas the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are significant and vital to the continued mission and ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church; and

Whereas the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level has historically impeded each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific contexts; and

Whereas the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and needs to be reenvisioned to achieve more fair and equitable church governance; and

Whereas the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant, developed by Central Conference leaders in Africa and the Philippines, would establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church; and

Whereas the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in legislation put forward by the Connectional Table will establish the governance necessary to allow each region to design ministry for its particular contexts, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

Whereas the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church continues to work toward inclusion and justice for all God’s people; and

Whereas the North Central Jurisdiction aspires to vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church;

Therefore, be it resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction supports the expressed intents of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation, including the creation of Regional Conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the 1 Christmas Covenant as well the Connectional Table's future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction urges every Annual Conference within its boundaries to support both the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table proposals to establish a fair and equitable general church structure; and

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction urges the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and

Be it further resolved that, in line with the intent of the non-disciplinary petition submitted by the Connectional Table, the North Central Jurisdiction requests the Council of Bishops to immediately appoint a 20–25-member Interim Committee on Organization for a US Regional Conference to develop and propose to the 2024 General Conference the structure and organization of a US Regional Conference. In line with the CT's legislation, this body would organize and plan for the establishment and functioning of a new United States Regional Conference comprising the current five jurisdictions of the United States. Committee membership should have a minimum of 3 members of each US jurisdiction, 3 central conference members and shall meet standards of racial and gender diversity. The Committee should recommend a structure for the US Regional Conference including considerations such as its membership, committee structure, meeting time, agency, and function.

Be it further resolved that the Jurisdiction Conference Secretary shall send copies of this resolution to all delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, including alternates, from the North Central Jurisdiction and to the Commission on the General Conference.

Lonnie Chafin of the Northern Illinois Conference spoke in favor of the resolution.

The Resolution was approved as written by a vote of 123 – 21.

**A Conversation to Understand the Impact of Homophobia, Transphobia, and Heterosexism within The U. M. Church:** This conversation was held in compliance with a request made at the 2021 NCJ Virtual Conference. Rev. Ryan Russell and Laura Witkowski introduced the conversation which monitored by Alex Plumb and included Angie Cox sharing on Impact of Homophobia within The U. M. Church; Kiri Bereznai sharing on the Impact of Transphobia within The U. M. Church; and Mary Ann Momon sharing on the Impact of Heterosexuality within The U. M. Church.

## **Resolution: Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People in The UMC**

A resolution on "Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People in The UMC" (Distributed to all delegates on Thursday) was presented by Walker Brault of the Minnesota Conference. After presenting the resolution Walker spoke to the resolution. The resolution reads:

Whereas, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first-time empowering queer delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences, and

Whereas, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings, and

Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,<sup>2</sup> by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, and

Whereas, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God, and

Whereas, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support, empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church,

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community in our Jurisdiction, within and beyond our churches and agencies.
2. Affirms the spirit of the abeyance or moratorium as proposed to the General Conference, as referenced above, until changes can be made in The United Methodist Book of Discipline.
3. Implores our member Annual Conferences to either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or clergy who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons.
4. Urges that as a Jurisdiction we either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against Bishops regarding their sexual orientation or those who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons.

5. Supports the election of episcopal leaders who commit to upholding this resolution and who will further justice for and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ people in the annual conferences where they serve; 6. Commits to a future of The United Methodist Church where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church in our Jurisdiction, including as laity, ordained clergy, in the episcopacy, and on boards and agencies.

Bill Bronson of West Ohio Conference spoke in favor of the resolution.

Rev. Gregory Gross of Northern Illinois Conference spoke in favor of the resolution.

Rev. Carol Zaagsma of Minnesota Conference spoke in favor of the resolution.

The Resolution was approved by a vote of 129 – 23.

John Lomperis of the Indiana Conference requested a bishop's decision of law on the resolution just voted upon dealing with "Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+1 People in The UMC." The request for decision of law reads:

### **NCJ Request for Decision of Law**

In accordance with Paragraphs 51 and 2609.6 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline and in light of Paragraphs 16, 27, 304, 341, 361, 362, 525, 635, 2701-2719, Judicial Council Decision #886, 1201, 1292, 1340, 1343, 1344, and 1403, and other relevant church law, I respectfully ask and request a decision on the following questions of law about the resolution recently adopted by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on "Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA People in the UMC":

-Do any of the numbered provisions at the end of the resolution impermissibly negate, ignore, violate, encourage actions that are contrary to, or discourage the enforcement of Discipline Paragraphs 304.1-3, 341.6, 362, 635, 2701, 2702, 2704, 2711, or other relevant church law? And if so, is such a provision null, void, and of no effect?

-Does the resolution's affirmation of "abeyance" (in what is printed as item #2) contradict the Book of Discipline's requirements for complaints held in abeyance as outlined in Paragraph 362.1.g? And if so, is this resolution or any section of it null, void, and of no effect?

-Does the passage of this resolution overrule, limit, or restrict the rights or obligations of bishops, district superintendents, counsels for the church, committees on investigation, trial courts, boards of ordained ministry, or district committees on ministry to fully comply with and uphold Paragraphs 304.1-3, 341.6, 361, 362, 635, 2701, 2702, 2704, 2706, and 2711 of the Book of Discipline? And if so, is this resolution null, void, and of no effect?

**A report from NCJ Volunteers in Mission** was given by Rev. Tammy Kuntz, Executive Director of NCJ VIM (with video).

Rev. Alka Lyall of Northern Illinois Conference requested a Point of Privilege to share a lament and celebrate how we see and treat people of color. The Lament/Celebration read:

:

**CELEBRATION, LAMENT, HOPE of the People of Color of NCJ**

Bishops, guests and delegates of the 2024 NCJ,

I stand here today with my colleagues and partners in ministry to celebrate, lament and hope! It may seem odd to do all that at the same time, but yesterday, our episcopal address reminded us that we are indeed an ODD people of God!

Bishop, we celebrate all that we have accomplished at the Jurisdictional gatherings in this week. and we lament for all the missed opportunities!

We created space for conversations around gun control, and we lament that we continue to use ableist language, such as ‘being deaf to the voice of God,’ kenoting that God’s people who are deaf are unable to connect with God.

We celebrate that we have elected Rev. David Wilson as the first First Nation Bishop in our connection, and we lament that we continue the habit of tokenism- electing one person of color to the episcopal office, and then returning to “business as usual.”

We celebrate the fact that we have elected the Rev. Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez, as the first Puerto Rican Bishop in our connection, and we lament that we continue to keep close guard at our door and hearts and miss becoming the church where all have a place at the table.

We celebrate the election of Bishop Carlo Rapanut, parent of a non-binary child in one Jurisdiction, and lament at the treatment of our queer sibling in another.

We celebrate that we have begun conversations about White Christian Nationalism, and yet we lament that when the time comes- we only invite the privileged guests to the table.

We celebrate that we are moving our denomination to being a fully inclusive church, and yet we lament that we often fail to invite those often neglected.

We celebrate that we have begun our work towards becoming an antiracist church, and yet we lament that our Brown and Immigrant siblings continue to be labeled as ‘others.’

We celebrate that all delegates of color were invited to have a ‘heart to heart’ conversation with the bishops of color, which was, in fact, a blessing, and we lament that conversations like such are still needed.

Bishop, we, as people of beautiful colors and identities, celebrate all our accomplishments as a church, as we continue to strive to truly be the body of Christ.

We hope that this Jurisdiction will continue to put our dollars where we say our commitment is, so the conversation that begun at this Jurisdictional Conference among Bishops of color and delegates of color may not be a ‘one and done’ or a mere ‘check in the box,’ and neither be limited only with Bishops of color.

And we hope that we will remember to not default to the familiar Black/White binary that ignores our Brown and Immigrant siblings, and their unique challenges, when we engage in anti-racism work.

And we hope that we will be clear about the ways anti Blackness manifests itself, even in these sacred spaces

And we hope that we will remain sensitive to the fact that women of color and queer persons of color bear the burden of erasure even more so than our male counterparts. This must be remembered when planning meetings and events around anti-racism work.

**Motion:** After sharing the Lament/Celebration Alka made a motion that all leaders of color of the North Central Jurisdiction and the entire College of Bishops will meet at least once a year, and more as needed, to share, strategize and develop magnanimous spaces of HOPE, reconciliation, thoughtful conversations and extravagant welcome to all people of God! The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 131 – 8.

**2023-24 Budget:** Lonnie Chafin, NCJ Treasurer and delegate from Northern Illinois Conference made a motion for approval of the 2022 -24 Budget as printed on page 21 of the 2022 NCJ Advance Journal Volume 2. The motion was approved by a vote of 138 – 3.

Bishop Beard offered a Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Rev. Kevin Dembinski of Wisconsin Conference requested a moment of personal privilege to speak about sharing of call stories.

Bill Brownson of West Ohio Conference thanked the planners of this conference for allowing the discussions/conversations that have taken place during this conference.

**Monitoring Report:** Julia Prichard Gonzales of the General Commission on Status and Role of Women and Rev. Jerry DeVine of the General Commission of Religion and Race presented a monitoring report on the conference.

**2024 NCJ Conference:** Rev. Rebecca Trefz of the Dakotas Conference introduced a video welcoming the 2024 NCJ Conference to the Dakotas. The 2024 NCJ Conference will be held July 10-13, 2024 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Moment of Privilege** by Bishop Julius Trimble, Bishop Sally Dyck, and Lonnie Chafin to give thanks to Rev. Paul White for his years of service as NCJ Secretary.

**Words of Thanks:**

- To Indiana Host Planning Committee lead by Karen Gould.
- Indiana Conference Event Planner, Ruth Ellen Needler.
- Marshalls and Pages.
- All who helped design, lead, and participate in the various worship experiences.
- All the volunteers who have served in any capacity.
- To Trina and Heidi from Padgett Communications for the voting technology.
- Indiana Conference Director of Communication, Serena Acker, and all those being sure our technology needs were met – especially to Andrew Scanlon-Holmes who has led that team.
- The staff of the Grande Wayne Convention Center

**Announcements:** NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul White gave the following announcement:

- A reminder to leave your voting devices on your table.
- Consecration Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the morning. Please take all materials and possessions with you as there will a different room set-up for the Consecration Service.
- Consecration Service Rehearsal will take place at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

Bishop Beard closed in prayer.

**Saturday, November 5  
10:00 a.m.**

The Service for Consecration of Bishops was held in the Grand Wayne Convention Center at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop David Bard presiding, Bishop Sally Dyck preaching, and guest Bishop Douglas E. Sparks of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana assisting. The service was coordinated by Bishop John Hopkins.

At the close of the Service for Consecration of Rev. Sara Isbell, Chairperson of the Committee on Episcopacy, announced the following assignments of bishops to Episcopal Areas for the 2022-2024 quadrennium:

Dakotas/Minnesota Area – Bishop Bruce Lanette Plambeck  
East Ohio Area – Bishop Tracy Smith Malone  
Illinois Great Rivers Area – Bishop Frank Beard  
Indiana Area – Bishop Julius Trimble  
Iowa Area – Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai  
Michigan Area – Bishop David Bard  
Northern Illinois Area – Bishop Dan Schwerin  
West Ohio Area – Bishop Gregory Palmer  
Wisconsin Area – Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Voting Delegates of the jurisdictional conference ratified the recommendation of the Committee on Episcopacy and thus the assignments became official.

The 2022 NCJ Conference was adjourned.

A reception for bishops and spouse was held in the lobby of the Grand Wayne Convention Center.

## **2022 NCJ Nomination Report**

The Committee on Nominations report for Jurisdictional Committees is found in the minutes of the Thursday Afternoon Business Session of this 2022 NCJ Journal. Those nominations made in 2016 to General Church Boards and Agencies continue through 2024 and are:

### **General Church Boards and Agencies:**

**General Council on Finance and Administration** – elected by General Conference.

Valarie Willis – West Ohio

Steve Court – East Ohio

**The Connectional Table** – 4 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Kennetha Bingham-Tsai – West Michigan

David Nuckols – Minnesota

Mike Slaughter – West Ohio

Kelley Gifford – East Ohio

**General Board of Church and Society** – 7 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Mao Her – Wisconsin

Margaret Borgen – Iowa

Paul Perez – Detroit

Carol Hill – Northern Illinois

Sylvester Weatherall – Illinois Great Rivers

Josh Steward – Iowa

Harris Tay – West Ohio

**General Board of Discipleship** – 1 member nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Ed Fenstermacher – Indiana

**Division on Ministries with Young People** – 1 young adult and 1 adult worker with young people nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Lindsey Seiberling – West Ohio  
Tyler Best - Indiana

**General Board of Global Ministries** – 3 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Katie Dawson – Iowa  
Dan Bryant – East Ohio  
Dee Stickley-Miner – West Ohio

**General Board of Higher Education** – 1 member nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Rebecca Trefz - Dakotas

**General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits** – 3 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Don Emmert – Detroit  
Jean Edin – Minnesota  
Jan Griffith – Illinois Great Rivers

**The United Methodist Publishing House** – 3 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Linda Crowell – East Ohio (Class of 2020)  
Lindsay Drake – Iowa (Class of 2024)  
Jim Bushfield – Indiana (Class of 2028)

**General Commission on Communications** – 2 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Thomas Yang – Northern Illinois  
Jihuyn Esther Paik - Wisconsin

**General Commission on Religion and Race** – 2 members nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Rose Booker-Jones – Illinois Great Rivers  
Doris Clark - Indiana

**General Commission on the Status and Role of Women** – 1 member nominated by NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Russ Abel - Indiana

**Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns** – 2 members nominated by  
NCJ Committee on Nominations.

Matthew Laferty – East Ohio  
Joon-Sik Park – West Ohio

## **NCJ Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report**

The history of The United Methodist Church since 2016 has been dramatic and destabilizing. A pandemic shut down the world, forced everyone to think about the weakest among us, and radically shifted the capacity of local churches to worship and witness. Yoked together as a connection, the churches and conferences of the North Central Jurisdiction found new value in sharing in our challenges with those who share our history. It is remarkable, truly, how the North Central Jurisdiction has been resilient and adaptive to these challenges.

All conferences of the NCJ paid 100% of their jurisdictional apportionment, except for one conference that pays their jurisdictional and general conference apportionments at the same ratio as their own receipts.

At the last NCJ Conference meeting in 2016 we approved a budget for calendar years 2017-2020. When the pandemic prevented us from meeting to set a new budget, an annualized version of the prior budget was extended into 2021 and 2022. We will present to this conference a budget for 2023 and 2024 so we might return to cycle with a full quadrennial budget in 2024.

Below you will find a report on expenditures and income since the last report to you. In 2016 the conference ended the practice of stating amounts to specific projects and instead created a single Program Ministries line, funded at \$500,000, to be awarded by the Mission Council. This method has served the conference well, in that it has allowed Mission Council to be responsive to good ideas and grant requests when they arise and it has allowed us to adapt to current needs and opportunities. The flexibility permitted the funding of the 2021 NCJ Special Session, as an example. The method of reviewing specific ministry proposals prior to funding resets the role of the Mission Council within the jurisdiction to one aligning resources with opportunities for real impact and has suggested that ministries managed by the Mission Council, such as the Delegation Gatherings in 2018 and 2019, are good uses of the funding.

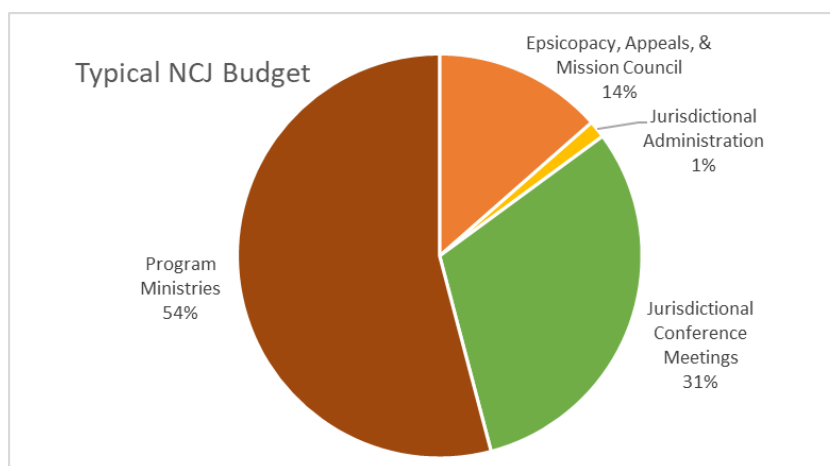
The disruption to the scheduling of conference sessions has had significant impact upon the financial experience of the jurisdiction in two ways. First, the funds to support hosting the general conference meeting in Minnesota went largely unused. General conference is hosted in a different jurisdiction each time in an alphabetical rotation. The host annual conference faces a great deal of costs. We have been on a 20-year savings plan to aid the annual conference in our jurisdiction selected with these costs. Our funds were used to fund a volunteer coordinator who

was working in the conference office. With the cancellation of general conference, only half of the budgeted funds were used. We are thankful to the Minnesota Conference's dedication to stewardship and careful use of resources. Second, the delay of the NCJ conference meeting until 2022 means that the funds reserved for that purpose have not been expended in the quadrennium ending in 2020 but remain in the jurisdiction accounts until this meeting. We do not expect to have any savings from this funding.

The "Building Beloved Community" document passed at the November 2021 meeting of the jurisdiction included this requirement, "We request the Mission Council evaluate their budget and demonstrate, and report at the next Jurisdictional Conference, how the budget incorporates antiracism work and healing institutional trauma."

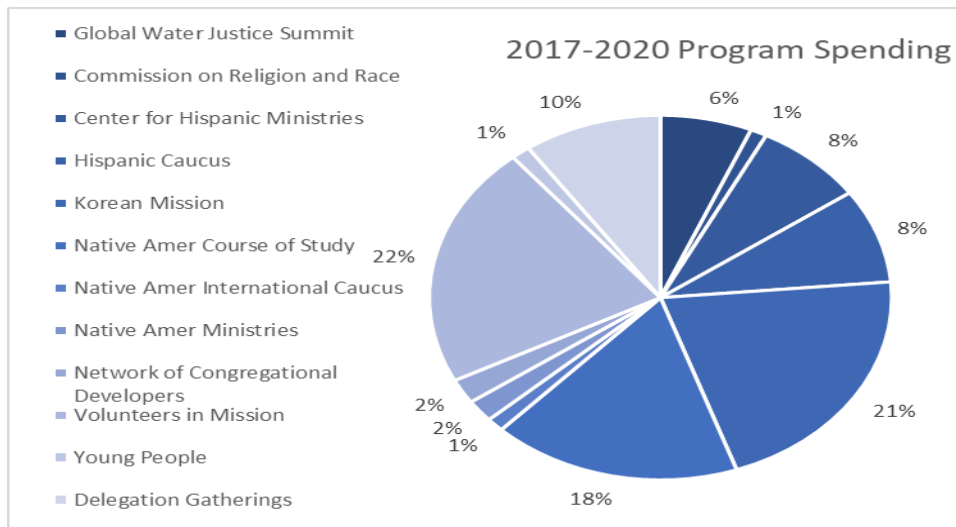
Apportionments to the annual conferences of the NCJ are \$873,000 for the quadrennium. Spending for the NCJ Conference session approaches \$300,000. Remember we have approved

budgets that include spending from reserves, so the spending on the Jurisdictional Conference is 31% of planned spending. Other jurisdictional committees required by the Book of Discipline are the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy (meeting annually in person) and the Committee on Appeals (which hears appeals only



when they arise). The Rules of the North Central Jurisdiction creates the Mission Council, which also meets in person annually. Altogether, the NCJ Conference session, these NCJ committees and the spending for administrative expenses, represents a full 46% of NCJ spending supports the structure of the church.

The NCJ budgets \$500,000 in each quadrennium for program ministries, representing 54% of planned spending. Regularly, the Mission Council allocates funding to specific ministry proposals.



Often these ministries are managed by jurisdictional committees, like the NCJ Volunteers in Mission. In some cases, the funds are used for ministries sponsored by the jurisdiction, like the

times NCJ delegations gathered to prepare for the General Conference sessions.

Anti-racism work includes ministries focused upon recognizing the impact of the social sin of racism and developing the capacity of the church to mobilize for its eradication. In 2018 the Mission Council approved a grant of \$20,000 meant to hold a forum of annual conference anti-racism efforts. Regrettably, the organizers of the ministry were unable to implement the plans. This unused grant is not reflected in this analysis. A Global Water Justice Summit included very specific anti-racism teachings on allocation of water resources. The NCJ Commission on Religion Race includes anti-racism programming, in addition to other responsibilities. 7% of the 2017-2020 program spending can be described as specifically anti-racist, at least in part.

58% of the program budget seeks to enhance ministry within racial minority communities. In some cases, this involves meetings and programs for leaders across the denomination. Korean Ministries involved grants to specific local churches. The Native American Course of Study is a significant commitment of the jurisdiction and annually trains leaders of Native American worship. The jurisdiction is a body inclusive of racial minority communities choosing to enhance the ministry in this manner. While these ministry outcomes more closely align with typical church goals, such as equipping leaders or forming new congregations, because it is approached within a space where identity and community are embraced, a reader could conclude these ministries address institutional trauma, at least in part.

The remaining programs funded through the jurisdiction is available to and used by all United Methodists but are not specific to anti-racism ministry or to addressing institutional trauma.

It is a true privilege to serve as Treasurer of the jurisdiction and I welcome any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lonnie Chafin  
Northern Illinois Conference

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>2017-2020</u>	<u>2017-2020</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Budgeted</u>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Apportionments				
Dakotas	30,422.64	30,422.64	7,605.66	7,605.66
East Ohio	84,247.32	84,247.32	21,061.83	21,061.83
Illinois Great Rivers	90,331.85	90,331.85	22,582.96	22,582.96
Indiana	161,474.04	161,474.04	40,368.51	40,368.51
Iowa	76,290.63	76,290.63	19,072.66	19,072.66
Michigan	116,288.96	116,288.96	29,072.24	29,072.24
Minnesota	52,420.56	52,420.56	13,105.14	13,105.14
Northern Illinois	58,505.09	58,505.09	14,626.27	14,626.27
West Ohio	149,773.02	149,773.02	37,443.25	37,443.25
Wisconsin	53,356.64	53,356.64	13,339.16	13,339.16
less uncollected		(11,066.26)	(3,445.10)	(6,500.00)
	873,110.74	862,044.48	214,832.59	211,777.69
Other Income				
Designated Gifts for Korean Ministries		36,000.00		
Designated Gifts for Religion and Race		7,175.50		
Interest Income		8,020.42	563.72	250.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>873,110.74</b>	<b>913,240.40</b>	<b>215,396.31</b>	<b>212,027.69</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<u>Meetings of Jurisdictional Committees</u>				
Committee on Episcopacy	60,000.00	45,401.88	700.24	15,000.00
Mission Council	60,000.00	33,250.35	330.00	15,000.00
Jurisdictional Court of Appeals	5,000.00	20,035.01		
Episcopal Location Committee		1,140.60		3,859.40
Other Meetings		1,052.42		
Sub-total	125,000.00	100,880.26	1,030.24	33,859.40
<u>Program Ministries</u>	500,000.00			
Anti-Racism Task Force				5,000.00
BIPOC Delegate gatherings				10,000.00
Campus Ministry Project			8,452.74	1,547.26
Center for Hispanic Ministries		34,000.00		
Commission on Religion and Race		5,056.14		
Global Water Justice Summit		28,314.51		
Grace Pictures			2,500.00	2,500.00
Hispanic Caucus		37,000.00		

Korean Mission		129,000.00		
Latinx Program support at Garrett			10,000.00	
Midwest Mission Distribution				
Center			15,000.00	15,000.00
Native Amer Course of Study		77,069.51	20,000.00	20,000.00
Native Amer International Caucus		5,405.90		
Native Amer Ministries		8,750.00		
Network of Congregational Developers		9,662.86		
Volunteers in Mission		95,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Volunteers in Mission Youth Grant				10,000.00
Young People		5,887.96		
Sub-total	500,000.00	435,146.88	75,952.74	84,047.26
<u>Jurisdictional Conference Meetings</u>				
Delegation Gatherings		42,790.37		
NCJ November 2021 Special Session			49,443.05	
NCJ delegate expenses		500.00		109,760.00
Jurisdictional Conference Expenses	274,000.00	22,420.46		164,240.00
Jurisdictional Conference Journal	12,500.00	200.00		
Sub-total	286,500.00	65,910.83	49,443.05	274,000.00
<u>Jurisdictional Administration</u>				
Archives	800.00	200.00		
Communications, Website, etc.		58.00		
Financial Management Expenses	12,000.00	22,803.07	6,193.00	6,750.00
Sub-total	12,800.00	22,861.07	6,193.00	6,750.00
<u>General Conference Hosting</u>	200,000.00	150,000.00		(50,433.00)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,124,300.00</b>	<b>774,799.04</b>	<b>132,619.03</b>	<b>348,223.66</b>
Income over (under) expenses	(251,189.26)	138,441.36	82,777.28	(136,195.97)
Running Balance		138,441.36	221,218.64	85,022.67

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL  
POSITION**

	<u>9/30/2022</u>	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>2/31/2016</u>
ASSETS			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	556,667.12	637,704.33	528,474.00
Accounts Receivable	28,377.56	35,008.62	0.00
Investments	327,129.82	0.00	0.00
<u>Fixed Assets</u>	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>912,174.50</u>	<u>672,712.95</u>	<u>528,474.00</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	400.00	400.00	0.00
NET ASSETS			
Designated - Church Developers	18,000.04	18,000.04	18,000.04
Designated - NCJ CORR	2,119.36	2,119.36	0.00
Unrestricted	892,055.10	652,593.55	510,473.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>912,574.50</u>	<u>673,112.95</u>	<u>528,474.00</u>

## 2022 Budget Proposal

The 2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference approved a four-year budget for 2017 through 2020. The pandemic prevented the conference to establish a new budget in 2020 for the following years. Judicial Council Decision 1409 established that the general church budget approved in 2016 continues for additional years until the general conference is able to modify it. While the decision does not mention jurisdictional budgets, the Mission Council decided it provides a pattern to follow as a spending plan for 2021 and 2022. So, we have extended the previous budget allocation for 2 additional years.

Even though this is 2022, we propose a four-year budget for the period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024. In part, the proposal is informed by actual expenditures for 2021 and 2022.

### Apportionments

GCFA calculates the general church apportionment share allocated to each annual conference. This calculation derives from the local church statistics reports. Effectively, general church apportionments signify each annual conference's relative financial capacity. NCJ apportionments are allocated at the same ratio as the general church apportionments. For example, East Ohio is apportioned 9.65% of all the general church apportionments assigned to NCJ conferences, so, 9.65% of the NCJ apportioned amount is assigned to East Ohio.

Current NCJ apportionments to annual conferences used the 2016 general church apportionment schedule. The proposal updates the allocation of NCJ apportionments using more current data in 2024, because annual conferences have already approved budgets for 2023.

### Changes in Expense Categories

Budgets for the Committee on Episcopacy and the Mission Council are less than last quadrennium because the groups did not meet in 2021 and have limited expenses in 2022.

Financial Management expenses include costs of accounting software, an NCJ insurance policy, checks and bank fees and a stipend. The budget increases because some of these items were not included in the prepared budget for the last quadrennium.

General Conference is not expected to be held in the North Central Jurisdiction this coming quadrennium, so this cost does not appear in the new budget.

### Jurisdictional Conference Meeting Expenses

We will be meeting 3 times over 4 years. This represents a significant commitment of the budget for the next four years.

### Deficit Spending

The proposed budget has expenses more than revenues. This is largely a result of the delay of the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference, expected to be funded by the last quadrennial budget, which will instead be funded in the current one. Funds reserved for this purpose from last quadrennium will be used for this purpose.

# Budget Proposal

2023 and 2024

	<u>2017-2020</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2021-</u> <u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Apportion-</u> <u>ment</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Apportion-</u> <u>ment</u>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Apportionments				
Dakotas	30,422.64	27,022.80	7,605.66	4,205.82
East Ohio	84,247.32	84,342.02	21,061.83	21,156.53
Illinois Great Rivers	90,331.85	89,415.22	22,582.96	21,666.33
Indiana	161,474.04	163,036.24	40,368.51	41,930.71
Iowa	76,290.63	77,100.02	19,072.66	19,882.04
Michigan	116,288.96	116,784.88	29,072.24	29,568.16
Minnesota	52,420.56	52,442.66	13,105.14	13,127.24
Northern Illinois	58,505.09	58,662.90	14,626.27	14,784.08
West Ohio	149,773.02	151,711.50	37,443.25	39,381.73
Wisconsin	53,356.64	52,889.83	13,339.16	12,872.35
less uncollected		(22,945.10)	(6,500.00)	(6,500.00)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>873,110.74</b>	<b>850,462.96</b>	<b>211,777.69</b>	<b>212,075.00</b>

## EXPENSES

### Meetings of Jurisdictional Committees

Committee on Episcopacy	60,000.00	45,700.24
Mission Council	60,000.00	45,330.00
Jurisdictional Court of Appeals	5,000.00	5,000.00
Sub-total	125,000.00	96,030.24

<u>Program Ministries</u>	500,000.00	360,000.00	Awarded at Mission Council discretion
<u>Jurisdictional Conference Meetings</u>	274,000.00		
NCJ November 2021 Special Session		49,443.05	
NCJ November 2022 Regular Session		274,000.00	
NCJ 2024 Regular Session		325,000.00	higher travel expected
Jurisdictional Conference Journal/Secretary	12,500.00	12,500.00	production and printing
Sub-total	286,500.00	660,943.05	
<u>Jurisdictional Administration</u>			
Archives	800.00	800.00	
Communications, Website, etc.		2,500.00	
Financial Management Expenses	12,000.00	26,443.00	Accounting, software, insurance, stipend
Sub-total	12,800.00	29,743.00	
<u>General Conference Hosting</u>	200,000.00		
	<b>1,124,300.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,146,716.29</b>	
Income over (under) expenses	(251,189.26)	(296,253.33)	

## **Mission Council Financial Policies**

### **1. APPORTIONMENTS**

- a. Apportionment figures for the entire quadrennium will be sent to each annual conference after the NCJ session.
- b. The percentage of apportionment share will be determined on the same basis as GCFA's General Conference apportionment calculation for the most recent year those figures are available.
- c. That percentage will not be changed until the apportionments for the next quadrennium are calculated.
- d. Apportionment statements will be sent out to each conference at the beginning of each quarter year.
- e. If annual conferences merge during the quadrennium, the apportionment to the new conference will be the total of the previous conferences until the end of that quadrennium.
- f. Annual conferences will be urged to submit their last apportionment payment for the quadrennium by December 31st to close out the quadrennium.

### **2. ACCOUNTS**

- a. The NCJ shall maintain a checking account at a banking institution approved by the Mission Council.
- b. A savings account may also be established if required by the financial institution or directed by the Mission Council.
- c. The Treasurer and the Chairperson of the Mission Council shall be signers on all NCJ financial accounts.
- d. Only one signature is required for all NCJ transactions.

### **3. INVESTMENTS**

- a. Investments of NCJ Funds shall be recommended by the Treasurer and approved by the Mission Council.
- b. The Treasurer and Chairperson of the Mission Council shall be signers on all investment accounts.

### **4. DIRECT SUPPORT OF MISSION AGENCIES – TWO PATHWAYS**

1. Block (Lump Sum) Annual Funding
  - a. Organization/Agency shall provide the NCJ Treasurer with a copy of its 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.
  - b. Organization/Agency shall provide the NCJ Treasurer with a copy of its articles of incorporation and registration with the appropriate governmental entities in the state where its main offices are located.
  - c. Funds must be requested annually.
  - d. A detailed financial report from the previous year must be presented to the NCJ Treasurer (An audit is preferable).
  - e. Local churches, uncharted churches and mission churches are exempt from a & b above, however, approved funding will be sent to the appropriate annual conference treasurer for distribution monthly.

## **2. Periodic and Reimbursement Funding**

- a. Organizations and agencies which do not have their own 501(c)(3) designation and are not separately incorporated must utilize NCJ Treasurer as their sole treasurer.
- b. Existing balances in current bank accounts as of December 31, 2012 must be surrendered to the NCJ Treasury and evidence provided that those bank accounts are closed.
- c. Organizations and agencies shall utilize a payout voucher system (provided by the NCJ Treasurer) for program expenses and reimbursements.
- d. The annual audit of these organizations and agencies shall be conducted as a part of the NCJ audit.
- e. The NCJ Treasurer will issue quarterly reports to the director and chair of the agency or organization and those whom the organization or agency designates.

## **5. MEETING EXPENSE POLICIES**

- a. The Mission Council may, at its discretion, reimburse meeting expenses for all NCJ entities on an actual expense or per diem basis.
- b. The Mission Council shall set a NCJ meeting mileage reimbursement rate from time to time in consideration of the current economic environment.
- c. The Mission Council may require the use of a specific travel agency for all flights to meetings. Flights arranged otherwise may not be reimbursed.
- d. The NCJ does not pay for baggage fees to meetings that last less than 5 days. Members may request an exception if they have a handicapping condition which prevents them from handling carry-on luggage.
- e. The NCJ does not pay for other airport/airline fees which are considered as convenience items or add-ons.
- f. Unless special circumstances warrant, members who live less than 500 miles from the site of a meeting are expected to drive to the event. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.
- g. Where appropriate, sharing hotel rooms is strongly encouraged and results in the most savings of NCJ meeting expenses. Members preferring single rooms will be charged 50% of the room cost, unless extraordinary circumstances warrant the necessity of a single room. The single room cost charge may be deducted from reimbursed expenses.
- h. The NCJ encourages the use of hotel shuttles or van services for ground transportation. Taxis should only be used as a last resort.
- i. Receipts are required for any and all reimbursements.

## **6. CREDIT CARD**

- a. A credit card in the name of the North Central Jurisdiction may be issued to the Treasurer to facilitate hotel deposits and other expenses.
- b. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all credit card expenditures with associated receipts for presentation to the auditors.

## **7. CASH ADVANCES**

- a. Cash advances for meeting expenses, honorariums or any other purpose are not permitted without specific authorization from the Executive Committee of the Mission Council.
- b. All receipts associated with any cash advance must be presented to the treasurer along with any unspent funds.
- c. Expenditures which are not properly documented must be reimbursed by the individual to the NCJ Treasury.

## **8. BUDGET**

- a. The Treasurer is not permitted to affect any payout or reimbursement which would result in an overage of the associated budget line item.
- b. The Mission Council, through its executive committee, retains the authority of a finance committee and may shift budget line item amounts in-between sessions of the Jurisdictional conference, with full notification of and in consultation with the parties involved.
- c. In anticipation of future apportionment payment shortfalls, the Treasurer may not exceed 90% of total payouts of any line item in a single year (prorated for each year of the quadrennium, which equals a 2.5% reduction each year).
- d. At the end of the quadrennium, the Treasurer may remit budget requests up to (but not exceeding) the percentage of apportionments received for the quadrennium.

## **9. CARRY-OVER**

- a. No unexpended line-item budget amounts from apportionments will carry over to the next quadrennium.
- b. All unexpended apportionments funds will be retained as cash reserves.
- c. No entity may make any claims on apportionment funds from the previous quadrennium.
- d. Apportionment funds cannot be recharacterized as project accounts.
- e. Any project accounts that are permitted to carry-over to the next quadrennium must have been specifically designated for a project which is not yet complete.
- f. The order of unrestricted funds expended will be
  - 1) Project Account Funds and then
  - 2) Apportionment Funds.

## **10. RESERVE**

- a. The Treasurer shall maintain a cash reserve of at least \$50,000 at all times.

## **11. HONORARIUMS**

- a. The Treasurer shall receive an honorarium of \$250 per month, or an amount as so designated by the Mission Council.
- b. The Mission Council may approve, upon its discretion and within established budgets, honorariums for other persons who serve the NCJ.
- c. All honorariums and stipends paid to persons (agency directors, board chairs, resource persons, experts, etc.) under the jurisdiction and direct supervision of the NCJ shall require approval from the Mission Council or its Executive Committee.

## **12. AUDIT**

- a. In compliance with ¶520 (The 2012 Book of Discipline), a yearly audit of the NCJ Treasury shall be performed.
- b. The audit will be performed according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) by an auditing firm licensed to do so.
- c. The Mission Council shall underwrite the cost of the audit from the Mission Council expenses line item.
- d. The results of the audit shall be reported to the Mission Council and the College of Bishops.

(These Mission Council Financial Policies were approved September 22, 2012.)

## **Report of Committee on Episcopacy**

### **2016-2022**

The NCJCOE met as a full committee thirteen times in the 2016-2022 quadrennium, including several zoom meetings with our College of Bishops. We worked to carry out our responsibilities as charged in Paragraph 524 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, as well as to navigate a number of unforeseen changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional work this quadrennium included meetings of an “Episcopal Areas Task Force” to study the possibilities and implications for reducing the number of NCJ bishops from nine to eight; conducting an additional 2022 “Summer Survey” to update the Committee on the status of each Annual Conference, and several “new member orientations.”

The Committee began with twenty-two members, including four from Michigan, as the Detroit and West-Michigan conferences began transitioning to a single Conference. Several of our Committee members stepped aside after 2020, and one Michigan member was not replaced, moving us to 21. (Next quad we will have 20 members representing 10 annual conferences). We have worked hard to facilitate these transitions in membership, orient new members, and help the Committee form a kind of “faith community” with one another and with our College, in an effort to prioritize teamwork and unity. **Special thanks to Valarie Willis** for her faithful coordination of monthly prayer for our bishops, for the past 6 years.

#### Leadership and Subcommittees include:

**Executive Committee:** Chair – Sara Isbell; Vice-Chair – Jackie Euper; Secretary – Kennetha Bigham-Tsai; Prayer Coordinator – Valarie Willis; At-Large – Dave Nuckols, Gregory Gross

**Assessment:** Beata Ferris, Gregory Gross, Aleze Fulbright, Maggie Jackson, Carol Zaagsma, Dan Schwerin, Valarie Willis

**Elections:** Barrie Tritle, Sara Nelson, Andy Call, Ed Fenstermacher

**Retirement Recognition:** Katie Crise, Valarie Willis, Anish Hermon, Wade Giffin, Nichea VerVeer Guy, Erica Shannon Stueve

**Relationships with Area/Conference Committees on Episcopacy:** Elisa Gatz, Dave Nuckols, Jackie Euper

**Episcopal Areas Task Force:** Sara Isbell, Gregory Gross, Katie Crise, Nichea VerVeer Guy, Barrie Tritle, Beata Ferris, Aleze Fulbright, Anish Hermon

In addition, every Committee member is part of an “interview team” which holds individual conversations/consultations with our bishops every year. We have been richly blessed by strong and mutually respectful relationships between the Committee and the College, and for this we give deep thanks.

Every member of the NCJCOE has served faithfully and in extended capacity, given the changes the UMC and NCJ have experienced and continue to experience. Unanticipated questions regarding retirement, medical leaves, episcopal roles and coverage, etc., have kept us busy and brought forth the spiritual gifts of our members. The Committee is to be commended for its dedication and cooperative spirit.



**Illinois Area Office of The United Methodist Church**

**Illinois Great Rivers Conference**

**Frank J. Beard**  
Resident Bishop  
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**Janice L. Griffith**  
Executive Assistant to the Bishop  
jgriffith@igrc.org

**NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF THE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**DECISION OF LAW OF - BISHOP FRANK J. BEARD**

**The Resolution In Question**

On November 4, 2022, the following resolution was pending before the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church:

**QUEER DELEGATES' CALL TO CENTER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
FOR LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE IN THE UMC**

Resolution to the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference

Whereas, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first-time empowering queer delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences, and

Whereas, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings, and

Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,<sup>2</sup> by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, and

Whereas, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God, and

Whereas, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support, empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church,

Therefore be it resolved that the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community in our Jurisdiction, within and beyond our churches and agencies.
2. Affirms the spirit of the abeyance or moratorium as proposed to the General Conference, as referenced above, until changes can be made in The United Methodist Book of Discipline.
3. Implores our member Annual Conferences to either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or clergy who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons.
4. Urges that as a Jurisdiction we either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against Bishops regarding their sexual orientation or those who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons.
5. Supports the election of episcopal leaders who commit to upholding this resolution and who will further justice for and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ people in the annual conferences where they serve; 6. Commits to a future of The United Methodist Church where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church in our Jurisdiction, including as laity, ordained clergy, in the episcopacy, and on boards and agencies.

### **The Question of Law**

#### **REQUEST FOR A DECISION OF LAW**

Submitted by John Lomperis of the Indiana Conference

#### **NCJ Request for Decision of Law**

In accordance with Paragraphs 51 and 2609.6 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline and in light of Paragraphs 16, 27, 304, 341, 361, 362, 525, 635, 2701-2719, Judicial Council Decision #886, 1201, 1292, 1340, 1343, 1344, and 1403, and other relevant church law, I respectfully ask and request a decision on the following questions of law about the resolution recently adopted by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on "Queer Delegates' Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA People in the UMC":

-Do any of the numbered provisions at the end of the resolution impermissibly negate, ignore, violate, encourage actions that are contrary to, or discourage the enforcement of Discipline Paragraphs 304.1-3, 341.6, 362, 635, 2701, 2702, 2704, 2711, or other relevant church law? And if so, is such a provision null, void, and of no effect?

-Does the resolution's affirmation of "abeyance" (in what is printed as item #2) contradict the Book of Discipline's requirements for complaints held in abeyance as outlined in Paragraph 362.1.g? And if so, is this resolution or any section of it null, void, and of no effect?

-Does the passage of this resolution overrule, limit, or restrict the rights or obligations of bishops, district superintendents, counsels for the church, committees on investigation, trial courts, boards of ordained ministry, or district committees on ministry to fully comply with and uphold

Paragraphs 304.1-3, 341.6, 361, 362, 635, 2701, 2702, 2704, 2706, and 2711 of the Book of Discipline? And if so, is this resolution null, void, and of no effect?

Submitted by John Lomperis of the Indiana Conference

### **Decision of Law**

#### *Authority & Jurisdiction*

I am issuing this decision of law pursuant to the authority given to me as a presiding officer in ¶51 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The decision is made within the time prescribed by ¶2609.6 of the Discipline.

#### *Ruling*

In Decision 886, the Judicial Council stated as follows:

The Discipline is the law of the Church which regulates every phase of the life and work of the Church. As such, annual conferences may not legally negate, ignore, or violate provisions of the Discipline with which they disagree, even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious objections to those provisions.

The foregoing standard has also been applied to resolutions passed by jurisdictional conferences. *See, e.g.*, Decision 1340. In Decision 1398, the Judicial Council characterized this standard as follows based on Decision 96: “All actions of a jurisdictional or annual conference must be faithful to and consistent with *The Discipline*.”

#### QUESTION ONE:

**Do any of the numbered provisions at the end of the resolution impermissibly negate, ignore, violate, encourage actions that are contrary to, or discourage the enforcement of Discipline Paragraphs 304.1-3, 341.6, 362, 635, 2701, 2702, 2704, 2711, or other relevant church law? And if so, is such a provision null, void, and of no effect?**

The numbered provisions of the resolutions presented to and adopted by the NCJ jurisdictional conference entitled, “Queer delegates call to center justice and empowerment for lgbtqia+ people in the UMC”, while presented to the conference delegates as “aspirational,” do impermissibly negate, ignore, violate, encourage actions that are contrary to, or discourage the enforcement of the Book of Discipline and therefore are null, void, and of no effect.

#### QUESTION TWO:

**Does the resolution’s affirmation of “abeyance” (in what is printed as item #2) contradict the Book of Discipline’s requirements for complaints held in abeyance as outlined in Paragraph 362.1.g? And if so, is this resolution or any section of it null, void, and of no effect?**

The resolution’s call for “abeyance” does contradict the Book of Discipline’s requirement for complaints held in abeyance as outlined in paragraph 362.1g and therefore is null, void, and of no effect.

QUESTION THREE:

**Does the passage of this resolution overrule, limit, or restrict the rights or obligations of bishops, district superintendents, counsels for the church, committees on investigation, trial courts, boards of ordained ministry, or district committees on ministry to fully comply with and uphold Paragraphs 304.1-3, 341.6, 361, 362, 635, 2701, 2702, 2704, 2706, and 2711 of the Book of Discipline? And if so, is this resolution null, void, and of no effect?**

The passage of this resolution does overrule, limit, or restrict the rights or obligations of bishops, district superintendents, counsels for the church, committees on investigation, trial courts, boards of ordained ministry, or district committees on ministry to fully comply with and uphold the Book of Discipline, and therefore passage of this resolution is null, void, and of no effect?

An abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, but the General Conference Session was not held, and delegates were not able to adopt or reject the proposal by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, the only provision for abeyance or moratorium are those outlined in our current 2016 Book of Discipline. Imploring such persons to “not pursue” complaints is improper and violates the Discipline and decisions of the Judicial Council, including Decisions 1399 and 1435. Therefore, that part of paragraph 3 of the resolution that implores annual conferences not to pursue complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or clergy who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons is null, void and of no effect.

The part of paragraph 4 that urges a jurisdiction not to pursue complaints against bishops regarding their sexual orientation or those who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons is improper, null, void and of no effect.

Respectfully Submitted, Bishop Frank J. Beard

## **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF ORDER**

### **Setting of Time and Place for Jurisdiction Conference, Call to Order, Service of Communion and Memorial**

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church shall meet at the times set by the Council of Bishops and at the place determined by the Local Arrangements Committee, continuing the rotation shown in the 2016 Advance Journal. The conference shall have the power and duties as specified in The 2016 Book of Discipline.

The resident bishop of the Episcopal area in which the conference is held shall call the conference to order followed by a Celebration of Holy Communion and Memorial. The names of bishops, bishops' spouses, and members of jurisdictional standing committees who have died since the last Jurisdictional Conference, plus delegates-elect who have died since their election, and others who in the judgment of the Local Arrangements may appropriately be remembered, shall be read.

### **I. ORGANIZATION AND AGENDA OF THE OPENING SESSION**

The president of the College of Bishops shall preside at the opening session of the Jurisdictional Conference at which the agenda will be:

#### **A. Greetings and Introductions by the Bishop of the Host Area**

#### **B. Roll Call**

The roll shall be called by the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference in the following manner:

1. The secretary of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction shall report the names of the bishops who are present and who are absent.
2. The roll of delegates shall be called according to annual conferences. The chairperson of the delegation will report to the conference the number of delegates and reserves present.
3. The general or executive secretaries of the general church councils, boards and commissions of The United Methodist Church, who are members of annual conferences within the bounds of the North Central Jurisdiction, but who are not elected delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be seated within the voting area of the Conference and report their presence during roll call.

#### **C. Report of the Committee on Rules of Order**

1. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order shall remain in effect until amended by a Jurisdictional Conference in regular or special session. Any amendments or additions recommended by the Jurisdictional Committee on Rules of Order for action by the Jurisdictional Conference must be in accordance with the Rules of Order.
2. A majority of the Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
3. The committee shall report any proposals to change the election process or any question of credentials before the first ballot is taken.

#### **D. Confirmation of the Jurisdictional Conference Committees and Secretarial Staff:**

1. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall present, for confirmation,

2. membership on the various on-site and standing committees as elected by the appropriate Episcopal areas or annual conferences.
3. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall present, for confirmation, those who are serving as members of the conference secretarial staff.

**E. Report of the Committee on Episcopacy**

The Committee on Episcopacy shall report on the number of bishops to be elected. Appropriate Disciplinary materials from The 2016 Book of Discipline and the balloting procedure shall be explained.

**F. Taking the First Ballot**

The first ballot shall be taken. (See Rules of Order II, Procedures for Episcopal Elections).

**G. Report of the Local Arrangements Committee**

**H. Report of the Jurisdictional Treasurer**

**II. PROCEDURES FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS**

The Committee on Episcopacy shall recommend the procedures for Episcopal nominations and elections.

- A. Episcopal Nominee Information Forms** for supplying biographical and other information regarding nominees shall be developed by the Committee on Episcopacy. These forms shall include but not be limited to requests for: name and address; date and place of birth; family; formal education and continuing education; previous vocational record prior to ordination; ordination date(s) and conference(s); appointment and pastoral record, current annual conference membership and appointment; membership on boards and agencies: a) church (denominational and ecumenical) and b) community activities; publications, awards, and honors.

No later than September 1 of the year in which General/Jurisdictional Conference delegations are elected, the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall send the Episcopal Nominee Information Form and proposed procedures to annual conference secretaries and chairs of annual conference delegations. The annual conference secretary shall have responsibility to inform the population of the respective annual conferences of the availability of the forms through such means as will reach the widest possible audience. The Jurisdictional Conference secretary shall distribute a press release to the director of communications in each conference specifying when and where Episcopal Nominee Information Forms will be available.

Delegations are free to engage nominees beyond their Annual Conference after January 1 of the year of General Conference.

The Jurisdictional Conference secretary shall duplicate the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms which have been signed by the nominee and properly submitted. Seventeen days prior to the opening of Jurisdictional Conference, copies of all Episcopal Nominee Information Forms received shall be distributed via first class mail or email to delegates, first reserves, members of the College of Bishops, and other persons with Jurisdictional Conference responsibilities.

Nominees must submit the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms immediately after the close of their annual conferences, and no later than June 25, in order to be included in the packet of nominee information sent to all the Jurisdictional Conference delegates. The secretary of the jurisdiction shall assign a voting number to each clergy delegate and any others who have properly submitted an Episcopal Nominee Information Form.

A person who has not been assigned a voting number may secure one by requesting such in writing from the secretary. The bishop presiding shall report the additional name(s) and voting number(s) to the Jurisdictional Conference.

## **B. Balloting and Procedures**

A 60% majority of the valid votes cast on any ballot is needed for the election of a bishop (see Rule 25-E).

Prior to every ballot, a bishop or member of the Committee on Episcopacy will lead the conference in prayer.

### **1. Reporting the first ballot:**

- a) In the event of an election, the name and vote tally of the elected person shall be announced first and that person introduced to the conference by a member of the Committee on Episcopacy. After such introduction, the bishop presiding will continue reading the names only on the rest of the first ballot.
- b) All persons receiving ten or more votes shall be introduced alphabetically by the chair of the Committee on Episcopacy. Upon introduction, each nominee will give name, community where presently residing, and current appointment. An opportunity for withdrawal from nomination shall be given by the bishop presiding.

If any of these nominees has not completed an Episcopal Nominee Information Form previously, one will be furnished by the secretary. The nominee will have thirty (30 minutes) to return the form to the secretary who will copy it for distribution to the delegates prior to the next ballot.

- c) The names and vote totals of the nominees will be read in descending order of votes received following the interviews and before the second ballot is taken.

### **2. Interviews.** All nominees, having been introduced to the conference will be assigned rooms for interviews. Space for these interviews will be arranged by the Local Arrangements Committee. The interview moderators shall be the lay members of the Committee on Episcopacy with additional lay members of the Jurisdictional Conference being selected by the committee as needed. Three twenty-minute periods shall be scheduled with ten-minute breaks between each period, providing every delegate an opportunity to hear and question three candidates. This process will be followed by a thirty-minute period for delegation meetings.

1. After the interviews and report of first ballot votes, balloting shall continue for the second and subsequent ballots in this manner: In the event of an election, the name and vote tally of the elected person shall be announced and that person introduced to the conference by a member of the Committee on Episcopacy. After such an

2. introduction, the bishop presiding will continue the reading of the results of the ballot in descending order of votes received by those who obtained ten or more votes.
3. Balloting shall continue until the elections are completed by 12:00 noon on Friday (unless the conference shall suspend this rule). To facilitate the election process, a variety of opportunities for dialogue shall be offered: nominee interviews, spot conversations, delegation meetings or other processes determined by the jurisdictional conference.
  - a. Spot conversations are for those situations when delegations might need a brief time together.
  - b. Delegation meetings provide opportunity for delegations to converse among themselves regarding the election and to receive further information regarding any of the nominees.
4. A nominee may formally withdraw his/her name before the beginning of any ballot by either:
  - a. submitting a withdrawal in writing to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary who will immediately notify the bishop presiding and who, in turn, will report the withdrawal, or
  - b. submitting their withdrawal orally through a point of personal privilege (two-minute limit recommended).

### **III. THE OFFICERS OF THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

#### **A. Secretary of the Jurisdiction**

1. The Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations shall present a nominee from the clergy or lay membership of the North Central Jurisdiction for secretary designate. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The Local Arrangements Committee shall schedule a time for election to be held during the session of the Jurisdictional Conference. If there is more than one nominee, the election shall be by ballot. If, in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the office of the secretary shall for any reason become vacant, the College of Bishops shall appoint a secretary to serve through the next session of the Jurisdictional Conference.
2. The secretary designate shall assume the responsibility of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the session, including the preparation, printing and mailing of The Journal has been completed. The exact date of transfer of responsibility to the secretary-designate shall be determined by the College of Bishops but shall not be later than twelve months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference shall serve through to the end of the next Jurisdictional Conference.
3. The secretary of the jurisdiction is authorized to perform the following tasks:
  - a. Nominate assistant secretaries from the membership of the United Methodist church within the North Central Jurisdiction as is deemed necessary, to be presented to, and confirmed by, the Jurisdictional Conference at the opening session.

- b. Edit and arrange for the publication of The Advance Journal prior to the conference and carry out the same tasks for The Journal following the conference.
- c. Prepare and send by November 1 preceding the opening of the next Jurisdictional Conference the nominating forms with instructions for jurisdictional councils, boards, and committees to each annual conference delegation chair.
- d. Prepare and send the nominating forms for general church councils, boards, and committees to each annual conference secretary as may be necessary.
- e. Notify the members of the Committee on Nominations of the time and place of the meeting held at least one day prior to the opening of Jurisdictional Conference. Compile the notebooks necessary for the work of this committee based on The 2016 Book of Discipline and The plan of Organization.
- f. Work in consultation with the Committee on Episcopacy to develop the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms.
- g. No later than September 1 of the year in which General/Jurisdictional Conference delegations are elected, the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall send the Episcopal Nominee Information Form and proposed procedures to annual conference secretaries and chairs of annual conference delegations. At the same time, a press release is to be sent to directors of communication in each conference as to how these forms can be obtained.
- h. Edit and make copies of the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms, and no less than 17 days prior to the start of Jurisdictional Conference, send a packet of the Episcopal Nominee Information Forms via first class mail or email to every delegate, all first reserves, members of the College of bishops, other persons with Jurisdictional Conference responsibilities, and annual conference communicators.
- i. Prepare for the registration packets a list of voting numbers assigned to all clergy members of delegations eligible for the office of episcopacy and for any clergy not in a delegation who have submitted an Episcopal Nominee Information Form.
- j. Make the conference floor seating assignments for delegations and reserves.
- k. The secretary will provide a daily form on which to report in writing the attendance of the members of the delegation. Absence of delegates and substitutions by reserve delegates shall be recorded.
- l. The secretary in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Committee on Episcopacy and the Chairperson of the Local Arrangements Committee will determine the presiding officers for sessions of the NCJ Conference. The President of the College of Bishops will preside at the opening business session.
- m. Serve as a full member of the Jurisdictional Missions Council and in advisory capacity to the Local Arrangements Committee.

## **B. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer**

1. The conference shall elect, on nomination of the jurisdictional Committee on Nominations, a treasurer and, if needed, an assistant treasurer. Consultation prior to the nomination with the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Treasurers is recommended.
2. The treasurer of the Jurisdictional Conference is authorized to perform the following tasks:

- a. Pay the bills incurred in connection with the quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference upon the approval of the chairperson of the Local Arrangements Committee or the chairperson of the Jurisdictional Mission Council or a designee of the Council.
- b. Make other disbursements as may be authorized by the Jurisdictional Conference.
- c. Pay travel and per diem expense to the duly elected delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference upon receiving properly completed and signed vouchers from them.
- d. Execute contracts on behalf of the Jurisdictional Conference.
- e. Pay travel and other expenses incurred during the quadrennium by the Jurisdictional Mission Council, the Local Arrangements Committee, the Committees on Appeals, Episcopacy, and other committees authorized by the Jurisdictional Conference upon receipt of properly completed and signed expense vouchers from the members of these committees. All other expense vouchers must receive approval from a designee of the Jurisdictional Mission Council before payment can be made by the treasurer.
- f. Prepare financial reports at least quarterly for the Jurisdictional Mission Council.
- g. Send quarterly invoices and statements to annual conference treasurers for North Central Jurisdictional apportionments.
- h. Prepare financial records and reports for an annual review of the books and a quadrennial audit.
- i. Prepare such reports as are required by the IRS and other government agencies.

#### **IV. COMMITTEES**

The Jurisdictional Conference shall have on-site and standing committees with functions as prescribed and other committees as it may order. Each committee shall develop a handbook of practices and procedures, a copy of which shall be retained by the Jurisdictional Conference secretary and treasurer. The delegation from each Episcopal area or annual conference shall nominate and elect from their delegation their representatives to these jurisdictional committees unless otherwise prescribed. These names shall be forwarded to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary by February 15 prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference.

##### **A. On-Site Committees**

The College of Bishops shall select the chairperson of each on-site committee with due consideration given to geographical spread, the selection of racial and ethnic minorities, and women to serve in these areas of responsibility. The chairperson shall be chosen from the membership of these committees and shall be responsible for convening their committees at the site of Jurisdictional Conference. At that time, they may elect other officers as needed.

##### **1. Nominations**

There shall be a Committee on Nominations for the purpose of nominating the Jurisdictional Conference secretary and treasurer, and persons to general church councils, boards and commissions, to the Jurisdictional Missions Council, and other positions necessary to fulfill jurisdictional structure. It shall be composed of:

- The active bishops of the jurisdiction;

- One clergy person from each annual conference;
- One lay person from each annual conference;
- One representative of the Division on Ministry with Young People with voice only;
- One representative with voice only from each of the following four racial/ethnic minority groups, to be elected by the group represented for assignment to the Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations: Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Native American International Caucus, MARCHA, and the Asian American United Methodist Caucus.

The Committee on Nominations shall hold its first meeting at the site of the Jurisdictional Conference at least one day prior to the opening of the Jurisdictional Conference. The Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall notify the members of the time and place of the meeting.

## **B. Standing Committees**

The Jurisdictional Conference shall have the following standing committees with the term of office beginning, unless otherwise specified, with the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference, and continuing until their successors have been confirmed. Each committee shall be convened on call by a member of the College of Bishops and shall elect its own chairperson.

### **1. Appeals**

There shall be a Court of Appeals appointed in accordance with provisions of The 2016 Book of Discipline.

### **2. Episcopacy**

There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy with membership, functions and terms of office as provided in The 2016 Book of Discipline.

- a. The bishop of each area shall make a written report to this committee not less than thirty days prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional conference. The report shall include, but not be limited to:
  - A review of the bishop's Episcopal administration during the quadrennium;
  - A report on annual conference program emphases, goals and achievements;
  - Evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the area; a statement on the major issues facing the Church in the area; matters of concern regarding the bishop's Episcopal assignment.
- b. The Committee on Episcopacy assumes the responsibilities of caring and honoring functions of the bishops which includes: ceremonial recognition of those bishops entering the retired relationship following Jurisdictional conference, attention to the needs of newly elected bishops, a responsibility which begins at the moment of election, and recognition and hospitality for all Episcopal leaders within the jurisdiction in consultation with the Local Arrangements Committee.
- c. The Chairperson of Committee on Episcopacy in consultation with the NCJ Conference Secretary and the Chairperson of the Local Arrangements Committee will determine the presiding officers for sessions of the NCJ

Conference. The President of the College of Bishops shall preside at the opening business session.

**3. Committee on Investigation**

There shall be a Committee on Investigation consisting of seven elders in full connection, with not more than one elder from each annual conference and two lay observers. Five reserve elders and one reserve lay observer also shall be elected. The committee shall be elected on nomination of the college of Bishops and shall elect a chair at the site of Jurisdictional Conference. See The 2016 Book of Discipline.

**4. Committee on Ordained Ministry**

There shall be a Committee on Ordained Ministry as prescribed by paragraph 513 of The 2016 Book of Discipline. The committee shall be comprised of the chair of the conference boards of ordained ministry or their representatives, the deans/presidents of the United Methodist seminaries in the jurisdiction, two representatives from the College of Bishops and four members at large with two of the members at large being ordained Deacons, named by the committee to insure inclusivity.

**V. JURISDICTIONAL MISSION COUNCIL**

**Mission/Vision Statement:**

The Mission of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church is, by the call of God, to make disciples of Jesus Christ by providing spiritual leadership.

The Vision of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church is of holy, bold disciples of Jesus Christ living in unique and connected faith communities energized by dynamic spiritual leadership, both lay and clergy.

The Core Process of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church is to:

- Provide connections for unique leadership, spiritual and outreach development across the North Central Jurisdiction, and
  - Provide for the election and assignment of bishops in the North Central Jurisdiction.
- A. The Jurisdictional Mission Council shall consult with the College of Bishops and the North Central Jurisdiction Association of Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries in order to:
1. Support the vision and mission of the Church and the development of models for that mission within the jurisdiction.
  2. Constantly test the structures against the stated vision and mission.
  3. Establish criteria for funding and evaluation of programs receiving funding.
  4. Make annualized budget allocations to programs in the jurisdiction.
  5. Prepare a financial budget for the succeeding quadrennium to submit for NCJ Conference action.
  6. Oversee the investments within the jurisdiction.
  7. Review, each quadrennium, the NCJ Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and propose amendments to the same to the Jurisdictional Conference for its consideration.

B. The membership of the Jurisdictional Mission Council shall consist of the following:

- One person elected by each annual conference within the jurisdiction.
- Seven (7) to ten (10) members-at-large nominated by the Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations, at their discretion, from the pool of names submitted by annual conference delegations and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference;
- Two Directors of Connectional Ministries as selected by the NCJ Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries.
- In addition, the following designated persons will serve the quadrennium in which they are named:
  - One bishop selected by the College of Bishops
  - The NCJ Treasurer
  - The NCJ Conference Secretary
  - The NCJ Coordinator of Communications as selected by the NCJ Mission Council Executive Committee.
- The Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations shall be faithful to the commitments of the United Methodist Church to racial and ethnic inclusiveness, shall give consideration to the expertise needed to fulfill the functions of the Mission Council, and shall provide for full participation of clergy and laity.

C. Organizational Structure and Meetings

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Mission Council comprised of:
  - a) A chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary elected by the Jurisdictional Mission Council;
  - b) One of the two (2) DCMs serving on the Mission Council as selected by the NCJ Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries;
  - c) The bishop selected by the NCJ College of Bishops to serve as a member of the Mission Council;
  - d) The NCJ Treasurer;
  - e) The NCJ Conference Secretary;
  - f) The NCJ Coordinator of Communications as selected by the Mission Council Executive Committee.
2. The Jurisdictional Mission Council shall meet to organize by October 30th in the year of the Jurisdictional Conference. It shall have the authority to organize as it deems necessary. Organization shall include the election of officers and orientation of the membership. In addition to the organizational meeting, the full council shall meet two additional times during the quadrennium:
  - a) The agenda for the second meeting shall include evaluation of the effectiveness of the ministry programs funded in the current quadrennium.
  - b) The agenda for the third meeting shall include establishing recommendations for the allocation of funds for the quadrennium and setting the budget. Representatives from funded ministry groups, emerging ministries, networks, and other appropriate resource persons shall be invited and encouraged to be present for all full council meetings at their own expense. They shall have voice but not vote except when invited to do so.
  - c) The Executive Committee shall have the discretion to meet as needed.
3. Periodic consultations with the College of Bishops and the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries would be highly desirable for exchange of information and resources and opening of possibilities

for new ministries to be supported. These may be arranged at the behest of the Mission Council, the College of Bishops, or the council directors. Consultations between any of these bodies shall be coordinated in such a manner as to minimize travel and the total number of jurisdictional meetings.

4. In order for the Jurisdictional Mission Council to understand the scope and nature of its ministry across the jurisdiction, each funded committee, agency or program of the North Central Jurisdiction shall have a member of the Jurisdictional Mission Council as its link or liaison to the Mission Council. During the quadrennium, the liaisons shall attend meetings and events of the committee or agency, receive its minutes, publications and financial reports, and act as a reminder to the affiliated groups of their "goal integrity" in regard to funding.

#### **D. Financial Administration and the Jurisdictional Conference**

1. On the first day of the Jurisdictional Conference, the Mission council shall present a proposed budget for the ensuing quadrennium, and based upon that proposed budget, determine the amounts to be apportioned to the annual conferences. All additional requests for funds shall be referred to this council.

2. At the final business session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the council shall present for action a revised budget with appropriate adjustments in conference apportionments. The Jurisdictional Mission Council shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference for action the per diem and travel expense of all jurisdictional delegates and others attending Conference in an official capacity.

a) The report of attendance by the NCJ Conference secretary shall be the basis for paying the per diem to the delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference.

b) The total expense for travel shall be paid to the delegate who is present and seated. If, during the session of the conference, a reserve delegate is seated in the delegate's place, the delegate shall adjust the travel reimbursement with the reserve delegate on the basis of the time served by each.

## **VI. PROCEDURES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES**

The annual conferences shall select the nominees for membership on the various general and jurisdictional councils, boards and commissions in accordance with the requirements of The 2016 Book of Discipline and the Plan of Organization of the Jurisdictional Conference. It is strongly urged that bishops be full participants in this process.

1. To secure nominations for general church councils, boards and commission, the Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall prepare and send as may be necessary the nominating forms for general church councils, boards, and committees to the Annual Conference secretaries. All nominations from the various conferences shall be returned to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary within one week after the close of the annual conference session and no later than fifteen days prior to the convening of Jurisdictional Conference.
2. To secure nominations for jurisdictional councils, boards and committees, the Jurisdictional Conference secretary shall send nominating forms with instructions to delegation chairpersons by November 1 preceding the opening of the next Jurisdictional Conference. All nominations from the various conferences shall be

returned to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary by February 15 prior to the Jurisdictional Conference.

3. The Committee on Nominations shall utilize worksheets prepared by the Jurisdictional Conference secretary proving the following information relative to the general church councils, boards and commissions;
  - Number of persons to be nominated; tenure if other than the quadrennium;
  - Names of incumbent members identified as being eligible or ineligible and including the conferences which they represent;
  - The names of persons each annual conference is nominating and the particular general church councils, boards or commissions to which they are being nominated;
  - Number of nominees from each annual conference in ratio relative to annual conference membership within the jurisdiction;
  - Relative representation as indicated in The 2016 Book of Discipline.
4. Each annual conference nominating group shall be encouraged to give strong consideration to returning effective agency members for a second four-year term. No person shall be eligible to serve on any general church council, board or commission for more than the time provided in The 2016 Book of Discipline.

## **VII. RULES OF ORDER**

The Rules of Order adopted by the immediately previous General conference shall be the Rules of Order of the Jurisdictional Conference insofar as they apply. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order shall remain in effect until changed by this or a succeeding Jurisdictional Conference. They may be amended or changed according to Rule 28 which is printed with other rules in The Advance Journal for delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference.

### **A. Daily Schedule**

**Rule 1:** Hours of meetings and Order of Agenda are to be set by the Local Arrangements Committee in consultation with the College of Bishops.

**Rule 2:** After the opening session (which is set by the Plan of Organization), the daily sessions of the conference shall be adjusted by the NCJ Conference Secretary in consultation with the College of Bishops and adopted by the Jurisdictional Conference. Validity of questions of privilege, complimentary resolutions, and courtesies will also be determined in the same manner.

### **B. Presiding Officers**

**Rule 3:** Authority of the Chairperson

- a. The bishop presiding shall be the legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference.
- b. The chairperson shall decide points of order raised by the members and shall rule on points of order not raised by the members, as the chair deems necessary to conform to these Rules of Order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal shall sustain the chair (see Rule 25b). Any

member who raises a point of order shall cite by number the rule adjudged to have been violated.

- c. The bishop presiding shall have the right to recess a session of the Jurisdictional Conference at any time at the chair's discretion and to reconvene at such time as the chair shall announce. The bishop presiding shall also have the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene with only delegates' authorized guests permitted to attend such a session following recess.

#### **Rule 4: Calling the Conference to Order**

When the chairperson stands and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.

### **C. Rights and Duties of Members**

#### **Rule 5: Attendance and Seating Reserves**

- a. No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise from being present, shall be absent from the sessions of the conference without permission of the conference; all absentees shall be reported by the chairpersons of the annual conference delegations to the NCJ Conference Secretary on forms provided by the secretary for that purpose.
- b. Reserve delegates may be seated upon authority of the chairpersons of the delegations who shall report the substitutions in writing to the NCJ Conference Secretary on a form provided by the secretary. Any reserve delegate seated in the place of a delegate shall have been duly elected by his/her annual conference and shall meet the requirements set forth in The 2016 Book of Discipline. If the NCJ Conference Secretary disapproves the substitution, after consultation with the chairperson of the delegation, he/she may report to the Jurisdictional Conference with a recommendation. The NCJ Conference Secretary shall make a daily written report listing all changes of seating. These reports shall be recorded in The Journal.
- c. The general or executive secretaries of the general church councils, boards and commissions of the United Methodist Church, who are members of annual conferences within the bounds of the North Central Jurisdiction, but who are not elected delegates of the Jurisdictional Conference, shall be seated within the voting area of the conference. These persons shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, on matters affecting the interests of their respective councils, boards and commissions. The expenses for these persons shall not be assumed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

#### **Rule 6: Directions for Securing the Floor**

Unless raising a point of order or parliamentary inquiry, the delegate shall not speak until granted the floor. A delegate desiring to speak to the conference shall move to a microphone and wait to be recognized by the presiding officer. Once recognized, the delegate shall first announce her or his name and the annual conference represented, which the presiding officer shall then announce to the conference.

**Rule 7: Interrupting the Speaker**

No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a misrepresentation, a parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, or to call attention that the time has arrived for a special order.

**Rule 8: Speaking More than Once; Length of Speech**

No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, no more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, and no longer than three minutes unless that time shall be extended by the conference. This three-minute limit may be amended by a majority vote of the conference at any time and for any period of duration.

**Rule 9: Point of Order**

A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the presiding officer and say, "I rise to a point of order." The presiding officer shall interrupt the proceeding; if a delegate is speaking, that one shall immediately yield the floor. The presiding officer shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to state the point as briefly and concisely as possible, citing the authority of the point, but the delegate shall not presume to decide the question or argue the point. A point of order is decided by the presiding officer without debate, unless in doubtful cases the chair submits the question to the body for advice or decision. When the presiding officer rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed.

**Rule 10: Voting Area of the Conference**

Only delegates within the area of the conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. All delegates within the area at the time a question is put shall vote, except such as have been excused for special reasons by the conference.

**Rule 11: Voting Procedures**

- a. Voting shall be as recommended by the Local Arrangements Committee unless otherwise ordered by the conference.
- b. No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken, or when the previous question has been called, until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself or such business as the chair may deem appropriate.

**Rule 12: Division of the Question**

Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is an objection, the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

## **D. Business Procedures**

### **Rule 13: Motion for Adoption of Reports**

Whenever a report of a committee, signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof shall be presented to the conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the conference without the formality of a motion to adopt.

### **Rule 14: Required Forms for Resolutions, Reports, Motions, Amendments**

All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared as directed by the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference. Motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.

### **Rule 15: Alterations of Motions, Etc.**

When a motion is made and seconded, or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is read or is published, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the conference and may not be altered except by action of the conference.

### **Rule 16: Un-debatable Motions**

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- a. To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally (See Rule 19);
- b. To suspend the rules;
- c. To lay on the table;
- d. To take from the table;
- e. To call for the previous questions (See Rule 21);
- f. To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 26);
- g. To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- h. To call for the orders of the day.

### **Rule 17: Rights of the Main Question**

The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to commit or to refer, to substitute, to postpone and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 11b. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing parliamentary situation.

### **Rule 18: Precedence of Motions**

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below (see also Rule 24):

- a. To fix the time at which the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid on the table);
- b. To adjourn;
- c. To take a recess;
- d. To lay on the table;
- e. To order the previous question (see Rules 16e, 21, 23);

- f. To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- g. To postpone to a given time;
- h. To commit or refer;
- i. To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being allowed to an amendment);
- j. To postpone indefinitely.

**Rule 19: Exceptions to the Motion to Adjourn Being in Order**

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order, except:

- a. When a delegate has the floor;
- b. When a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided;
- c. When the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending;
- d. When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened;
- e. When the motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending. The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the conference.

**Rule 20: Tabling Related Motions**

No motion which adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere, or which adhere to them.

**Rule 21: Previous Question**

Any member who moves the previous question (that is, that the vote now be taken on the motion or motions pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply if any secondary motions are also pending. If said member does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption. If it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate. (See also Rules 16, 23, 24).

**Rules 22: Referring Reports, Etc.**

It shall be in order for the conference to refer to a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the conference for consideration, or any amendment offered thereunto.

**Rules 23: Procedure for Amending by Substitution**

When a resolution or committee report is properly before the conference for consideration, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be offered by any member moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the house and not simply a negation of the main motion. Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be considered during this period of initial consideration.

Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will occur. If the motion to substitute prevails by a majority vote, then the substitute becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute does not prevail, then the main motion remains on the floor for further consideration. Debate, including the offering of amendments, then moves forward according to these Rules. A motion for the previous question shall not be in order on the motion to substitute until after opportunity has been given for at least three speeches on each side of the question.

**Rule 24: Unlawful Motion after Speech**

It shall not be in order for a member immediately after discussing a pending question, and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

**Rule 25: Exceptions to Majority Vote**

A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions with the following exceptions:

- a. One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a count vote in case the decision of the chair is doubted.
- b. A tie vote sustains the chair. (See Rule 3b)
- c. A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 27) or amend the rules. (Rule 28) A call for the previous question is a motion to suspend the rules and therefore requires a two-thirds vote.
- d. A majority of 60% shall be required to approve a proposal for a constitutional amendment.
- e. A majority of 60% shall be required for an Episcopal election.

**Rule 26: Reconsideration**

A motion to reconsider an action of the conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated. (Rule 16f)

**E. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing**

**Rule 27: Suspension of the Rules**

The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization or of these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the conference. (Rule 25c)

**Rule 28: Amending Rules**

The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the conference, provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the NCJ Mission Council, or has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to the Mission Council. The Mission Council shall report on the proposed change or amendment not later than the following day. If submitted on the last business day of Jurisdictional Conference, it will be referred to the The Mission Council for the next session of the Jurisdictional Conference.

**Rule 29: Robert's Rules of Order as the Supplement Authority**

In any parliamentary situation not covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its actions by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

**F. Additional Rules**

**Rule 30: Persons Without Right to Make or Second Motions**

A person seated in the conference with the right to speak, but without vote, does not have the right to make a motion or second a motion.

**Rule 31: Effective Date**

All legislation of the Jurisdictional conference shall become effective January 1 following the session of the conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified.

## **BOUNDARIES OF CONFERENCES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION**

The North Central Jurisdiction consists of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

### **DAKOTAS**

The entire state of North Dakota, all of South Dakota, and the Humboldt United Methodist Church in Kittson County, Minnesota.

### **EAST OHIO**

In the state of Ohio: Counties of Ashland, Ashtabula, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Monroe, Morrow, Noble, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne; the towns of Homer and Utica in Licking County; east of the Muskingum River in the counties of Moran, Muskingum (plus the Trinway United Methodist Church and excluding the city of Zanesville); Washington (excluding the city of Marietta); the portions of Delaware County east and north of a boundary line which follows Route 23 coming from the north of the city of Delaware and Sandusky Street in the city of Delaware), thence going east on Route 36 from Delaware to Old State Road, thence south to Lewis Center Road, thence east on Lewis Center Road and Big Walnut Road to Hoover Reservoir and continuing easterly along Center Village Road to the Licking County Line; East of Route 23 in the counties of Marion and Wyandot (excluding the city of Upper Sandusky); east of the 83rd longitude in Ottawa County; and east of the Sandusky River through the counties of Sandusky (excluding the city of Fremont); and Seneca.

### **ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS**

In the state of Illinois: The new Illinois Conference includes that part of the state below a line beginning at the point where Whiteside County intersects the Mississippi River, proceeding south along the west boundary of Whiteside County to Highway 78; then diagonally southeast to the point where Route 23 intersects the east boundary of Henry County. Continue on the diagonal to the point where County Highway 24 intersects County Highway 28; then straight east along a line designated as 1200 N to the center of the Illinois River. Continue east along the Illinois River to the point where the west boundary of Will County intersects the Illinois (Des Plaines) River. Turn south following the west boundary of Will County to Highway 113. Turn east on Highway 113 following a straight line which becomes the south boundary of Will County and proceed on the Illinois-Indiana State Line.

### **INDIANA**

The entire state of Indiana.

### **IOWA**

The entire state of Iowa and the town of East Dubuque in Jo Daviess County in the state of Illinois. Carter Lake is in the Iowa Conference. This agreement was worked out between a task force from Iowa and Nebraska.

### **MICHIGAN**

The entire state of Michigan.

## **MINNESOTA**

The entire state of Minnesota with the exception of the Humboldt United Methodist Church in Kittson County.

## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

In the state of Illinois: Counties of Boone, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess (excluding the town of East Dubuque), Kane, Kendall, Lake, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago; northeast of a diagonal line drawn from Route 78 at the northern boundary of Henry County to the intersection of roads 24 and 28 in Bureau County; north of the Illinois River through Grundy and LaSalle Counties; and north of Route 113 in Will County.

## **WEST OHIO**

In the state of Ohio: Counties of Adams, Allen, Athens, Auglaize, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Defiance, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Gallia, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Licking (excluding the towns of Homer and Utica), Logan, Lucas, Madison, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Paulding, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Union, Van Wert Vinton, Warren, Williams and Wood; west of the Muskingum River in the counties of Morgan, Muskingum (including the city of Zanesville), and Washington (including the city of Marietta); the portions of Delaware County west and south of a boundary line which follows Route 23 coming from the north to the city of Delaware and Sandusky Street in the city of Delaware (excluding Asbury United Methodist Church), thence going east on Route 36 from Delaware to Old State Road, thence south to Lewis Center Road, thence east on Lewis Center Road and Big Walnut Road to Hoover Reservoir and continuing easterly along Center Village Road to the Licking County line; west of Route 23 in the counties of Marion and Wyandot (including the city of Upper Sandusky); west of the 83<sup>rd</sup> longitude in the Ottawa County; and west of the Sandusky River through the counties of Sandusky (including the city of Fremont) and Seneca.

## **WISCONSIN**

The entire state of Wisconsin.

## **Locations of North Central Jurisdictional Conferences**

In the historic list which follows, the name of the conference where the jurisdictional conference was held is given first followed by the specific city in that conference. Note the names of conferences that no longer exist are included:

1940	ROCK RIVER: Chicago	1984	MINNESOTA: Duluth
1944	MINNESOTA: Minneapolis	1988	NORTHERN ILLINOIS: DeKalb
1948	INDIANA: Indianapolis	1992	DETROIT: Adrian
1952	WISCONSIN: Milwaukee	1996	NORTH INDIANA: Fort Wayne
1956	SOUTH IOWA: Des Moines	2000	WISCONSIN: Madison
1960	WEST MICHIGAN: Grand Rapids	2004	IOWA: Davenport
1964	EAST OHIO: Cleveland	2008	WEST MICHIGAN: Grand Rapids
1968	CENTRAL ILLINOIS: Peoria	2012	EAST OHIO: Akron
1972	SOUTH INDIANA: Indianapolis	2016	ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS: Peoria
1976	SOUTH DAKOTA: Sioux Falls	2022	INDIANA: Fort Wayne
1980	WEST OHIO: Dayton	2024	DAKOTAS : Sioux Falls, S. Dakota

# **The NCJ College of Bishops**

## **2022-2024**

### **Bishops Assigned to Areas**

**Bishop Lanette Plambeck**

122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN, 55404;

[bishopsoffice@dkmnareaumc.org](mailto:bishopsoffice@dkmnareaumc.org)

**Dakotas/Minnesota Area**

**Bishop Dan Schwerin (Julie)**

303 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2020, Chicago, IL 60601; [dschwerin@umcnic.org](mailto:dschwerin@umcnic.org)

**Chicago Area**

**Bishop Frank J. Beard (Melissa)**

P.O. Box 19215, Springfield, IL. 62794; [Bishop@igrc.org](mailto:Bishop@igrc.org)

**Illinois Area**

**Bishop Julius C. Trimble (Racelder)**

301 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN, 46280; [bishop@inumc.org](mailto:bishop@inumc.org)

**Indiana Area**

**Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai (Kee)**

2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA, 50321; [bishop@iaumc.org](mailto:bishop@iaumc.org)

**Iowa Area**

**Bishop David A. Bard (Julie)**

1011 Northcrest Road, Lansing, MI, 48906; [bishop@miareaumc.org](mailto:bishop@miareaumc.org)

**Michigan Area**

**Bishop Tracy Smith Malone (Derrick)**

PO Box 2800, 8800 Cleveland Ave. NW, North Canton, OH, 44720;

[bishopmalone@eocumc.com](mailto:bishopmalone@eocumc.com)

**Ohio East Area**

**Bishop Gregory V. Palmer (Cynthia)**

32 Wesley Boulevard, Worthington, OH, 43085; [wocbishop@wocumc.org](mailto:wocbishop@wocumc.org)

**Ohio West Area**

**Bishop Hee-Soo Jung (Im-Hyon)**

750 Windsor Street, Suite 303, Sun Prairie, WI, 53590; [episcopaloffice@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:episcopaloffice@wisconsinumc.org)

**Wisconsin Area**

### **Retired Bishops**

**Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher (Charles)**

4040 Woodlawn Dr. #30, Nashville, TN, 37205; [sab.christopher@comcast.net](mailto:sab.christopher@comcast.net)

**Bishop Sally Dyck (Kenneth Ehrman)**

110 Maryland Ave., Suite 301, Washington, DC 20002; [bishop.dyck@umc-cob.org](mailto:bishop.dyck@umc-cob.org)

**Bishop John L. Hopkins** (Elaine)  
10539 Windjammer Court, Indianapolis, IN, 46236; [jhopkins@msn.com](mailto:jhopkins@msn.com)

**Bishop Charles W. Jordan** (Margaret)  
1014 Deborah Street, Upland, CA, 91784; [bishop.jordan@iaumc.org](mailto:bishop.jordan@iaumc.org)

**Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton** (Beverly)  
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**Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey**  
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**Bishop Linda Lee** (Lamarr Gibson)  
115 Arbury Court, Cottage Grove, WI, 53527; [bishll79@gmail.com](mailto:bishll79@gmail.com)

**Bishop William B. Lewis** (Janet)  
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**Bishop Donald A. Ott**  
S77W12929 McShane Dr. #D212, Muskego, WI, 53150; [bishdott@aol.com](mailto:bishdott@aol.com)

**Bishop Bruce Ough** (Char)  
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**Bishop C. Joseph Sprague** (Diane)  
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**Bishop Woodie W. White** (Jennie May "Kim")  
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**Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader** (Blaine)  
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### **Spouses of Deceased NCJ Bishops**

Helen Ammons (Bishop Edsel)  
Beverly Job (Bishop Rueben)

Marsha Coyner (Bishop Michael)

## **North Central Jurisdictional Officers 2022-2024**

Bishop David Bard, President of College of Bishops  
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Persons are encouraged to visit the NCJ Website at [www.ncjumc.org](http://www.ncjumc.org) for jurisdictional information. Jurisdictional events and information may also be submitted to the NCJ Coordinator/Website Manager, Jim Searls at [jsearls10@gmail.com](mailto:jsearls10@gmail.com).