

Seeking A More Excellent Way



A Future With Hope

DAILY ADVOCATE

A joint publication of the South Carolina Conference
of The United Methodist Church and the

South Carolina
United Methodist Advocate
CONNECTING METHODISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 1837

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Today's Agenda June 4

- 7-10:30 a.m. Health Screening (Level 2, Hall 1)
- 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion (Level 2, Room 203)
- 7:30 a.m. Awards Breakfast (Level 2, Room 202C)
- 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Kids Conference (Level 1, Rooms 100, 103, 104)
- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 9 a.m. General and Jurisdictional Conference Balloting
Connectional Ministries Report
Report of Congregational Development
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11 a.m. Service of Recognition for Retiring Pastors and the Passing of the Mantle
- Noon Retiree Luncheon (Level 2, Room 202A)
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Recess
- 12:30 p.m. Columbia College Alumnae and Friends Luncheon (Level 1, Room 102B)
Hood Theological Seminary Alumni and Prospective Students Luncheon (Level 1, Room 102A)
Diakonia Luncheon (Level 1, Room 101A)
Extension Ministries Luncheon (Level 1, Room 101B)
Laity Clergy Partnership Luncheon (Level 2, Room 202B&C)
UMCNext Panel Discussion (Meet in downstairs lobby)
- 2 p.m. Act of Reconciliation – Native American Worship Service
- 3:15 p.m. General and Jurisdictional Balloting
Committee on Petitions to General Conference
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess
Candler Club Dinner (Level 1, Room 102C)
Claffin/Gammon Alumni Fellowship Dinner, Hilton Greenville
CF&A Business Meeting and Dinner (Level 1, Room 101B)
Duke Alumni Gathering (Level 1, Room 102A)
Erskine Seminary Alumni and Student Get Together, ARP Center
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Alumni Dinner (Level 1, Room 102B)
Wesley Theological Seminary Alumni Dinner,
The Lazy Goat Restaurant
- 7:30 p.m. Committee on Petition to General Conference (if needed)
General and Jurisdictional Balloting
- 9 p.m. (or close of evening session)
Black Methodists for Church Renewal Worship Service (Level 2, Room 203)

The voting begins



Photos by Matt Brodie

After some connection issues during morning ballot-testing, election of delegates began in late afternoon. Voting members of Annual Conference could use either electronic or, for write-ins, paper ballots.

By Jessica Brodie

The initial ballots for General Conference have been cast, and this morning, results will reveal whether any delegates have yet been elected.

Annual Conference members will spend the rest of today, into tomorrow and possibly onto Thursday electing 32 delegates to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional conferences. Sixteen delegates (eight clergy and eight laity, plus alternates) will be elected for General Conference 2020, and 16 more (eight clergy and eight laity) will be elected to go to Jurisdictional Conference with the General Conference delegates.

Voting is done by electronic ballot or, if there are write-ins, paper ballot. Delegates are elected from a pool of eligible people who have expressed a desire to be considered as a delegate. There are 35 lay nominees, each selected

through their district or approved group, and 84 clergy who have articulated a desire to be a nominee. (See names, Page 2.) Clergy elect clergy, and laity elect laity.

Balloting was supposed to have begun Monday morning, but technical difficulties postponed the voting until the afternoon. However, once issues with devices and connections were addressed, voting progressed smoothly. Voting began for Clergy Ballot 1 around 3:40 p.m. Monday, with voting for Laity Ballot 1 starting around 4:05 p.m.

"I want to thank you for your patience, your enduring patience," South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston said after the first ballots.

Ballot 2 voting will begin this morning.

Nominees must receive 50 percent of the vote plus one to be elected.

Hunger help

Canned goods and other non-perishables are being collected in 25 boxes throughout the convention center until close of business Wednesday for Harvest Hope Food Bank of Greenville, one of two annual conference mission initiatives. The other is Native American elder baskets. Harvest Hope is a critical line of support for more than 500 hunger ministry partner agencies.



Photo by Jessica Brodie

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Lay and clergy nominees (for election today)

Clergy nominees

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Gene Aiken | 43) Ann Kovan |
| 2) Jim Arant | 44) Marvin Lare |
| 3) Mel Arant | 45) Brandon Lazarus |
| 4) Connie Barnes | 46) Susan Leonard |
| 5) Ben Barnett | 47) Chris Lollis |
| 6) Ralph Bowling III | 48) Stephen Love |
| 7) Doris Bright | 49) Susan Maddox |
| 8) Steven Brown | 50) Will Malambri |
| 9) Laura Canine | 51) Tim McClendon |
| 10) Derrick Cattenhead | 52) Mack McDowell |
| 11) Ross Chellis | 53) Barry McFadden |
| 12) Clayton Childers | 54) David McManus |
| 13) Wally Culp | 55) Elizabeth Murray |
| 14) Kevin Dalton | 56) Angela Nelson |
| 15) Robin Dease | 57) Ken Nelson |
| 16) Jerry Dicks | 58) Tom Norrell |
| 17) Roger Dodds | 59) Weston Pendergrass |
| 18) Fran Elrod | 60) Richard Reams |
| 19) Ernest Etheredge | 61) Sara Relaford |
| 20) Angie Etheredge-Erwin | 62) Tim Rogers |
| 21) Terry Fleming | 63) Tony Rowell |
| 22) Jody Flowers | 64) Mike Smith |
| 23) Russell Freeman | 65) Randy Smith |
| 24) James Friday | 66) Thomas Smith |
| 25) Brandon Fulmer | 67) Tyler Strange |
| 26) Jerry Gadsden | 68) Kim Strong |
| 27) Telley Gadson | 69) Emily Sutton |
| 28) Meegian Gossard | 70) Kelli Taylor |
| 29) Christopher Greene | 71) Mary Teasley |
| 30) Rett Haselden | 72) Redonia Thomas |
| 31) Scarlett Hester | 73) Chris Thompson |
| 32) Jon Hoin | 74) Phil Thrailkill |
| 33) Kitty Holtzclaw | 75) Ken Timmerman |
| 34) Michael Hood | 76) Michael Turner |
| 35) Darren Hook | 77) Tom Wall |
| 36) Amiri Hooker | 78) Morris Waymer |
| 37) Kathryn Hunter | 79) Sara White |
| 38) Keith Hunter | 80) Eddie Williams |
| 39) Narcie Jeter | 81) LaShelia Wyatt |
| 40) Karen Jones | 82) Matt Yon |
| 41) Jeff Kersey | 83) Neil Yongue |
| 42) Steven King | 84) Mandy Young |

Lay nominees

- 1) Theodore Andrus
- 2) Robert Bethea
- 3) David Braddon
- 4) Valerie Brooks-Madden
- 5) Michael Cheatham
- 6) Doug Coffeen
- 7) Baron DeKalb
- 8) Edward Enlow
- 9) Emily Evans
- 10) Jan Fleming
- 11) Scott Fleming
- 12) David Graham
- 13) Marvin J. Horton
- 14) Jeanette Jackson
- 15) L.Wayne Jackson
- 16) Jacquelyn Jenkins
- 17) Lou Jordan
- 18) Herman Lightsey
- 19) Joe Locke
- 20) Chris Lynch
- 21) Vicki McCartha
- 22) Kenneth Moore
- 23) Shirley Jean Pressley
- 24) Jennifer Price
- 25) Lorine E. Price
- 26) Wilbur Reames
- 27) Rebecca Rochester
- 28) William Rochester
- 29) James Salley
- 30) David Salter
- 31) Larry Sanders
- 32) Marlene Spencer
- 33) Martha Thompson
- 34) Betty Void
- 35) Tony Watson

Full bios of laity in
AC packet or at www.umcsc.org/ac2019

UMCNext Panel Discussion is today at lunch

A team from South Carolina that attended UMCNext last month will gather today, Tuesday, for a UMCNext Panel Discussion from 12:30-1:30 p.m. here in the Greenville Convention Center.

The gathering is an opportunity for Annual Conference members to ask questions of those who represented South Carolina at UMCNext, held May 20-22 at the United Methodist Church of

the Resurrection in Kansas.

All are welcome to the Panel Discussion.

Meet in the downstairs lobby for directions to the room.

Nineteen clergy commissioned, ordained

Bringing a word on "Getting Better," retired Bishop James R. King Jr. preached an ordination service Monday night that commissioned or ordained 19 men and women as clergy.

"Regardless of your circumstances, regardless of your highs or your lows, you can get better," King said to applause. "Your power switch is called faith. Turn it on and keep it on."

"Every moment, every day, gives you an opportunity to grow in God's grace and become the person God has created you to be."

King, who served as bishop of the Kentucky and the South Georgia conferences before his retirement, preached the service instead of Mississippi Resident Bishop James Swanson. Swanson's wife had taken ill and been hospitalized the day prior.

Commissioned as provisional elders: Wanda Diane Altman, Louis Randolph Ashley, Shannon Renee Bullion, Anthony De'Quan Caldwell, William Isaac Dusenbury, Scott Stephen Gilmer, Shirley Peterson Gordon, Nicholas Daniel Perez, Cynthia Anne Rumsey and Charleston Lionel Wilbanks.

Commissioned as a provisional deacon: Susan Marie Pennock.
Ordained as a full deacon: Meg Bryce Jiunnies.

Ordained as full elders: Meegian Alicia Gossard, Ann deRosset Kovan, Susan Biggert Maddox, Mark Douglas Mitchell, Angela Regina Ford Nelson, Henry Lee Ravenel Sr. and Laura Howard Whitt.

Full story and photos from the ordination service will appear in the July *Advocate*.



Photo by Matt Brodie

These 36 men and women were licensed as local pastors Monday morning: William Travis Abercrombie; Marion Douglas Aldridge; Kristina LaNette Baker; Jeffrey Jerome Belton; Mark Asbury Bowling; Sharon Britz; Cynthia Vertell Brown; Randall Lee Calcutt; Joshua Ryan Colvin; John Bunyan Crouch Jr.; Levern Epps; Little Johnny Epps; Mary Fuller Everhart; Marianne Gonlag; Mamie Lee Hannah; Mary Benton Holladay; Robert Alan Horowitz; Janice Baker Hughey; Christopher Charles Key; Frances Brown King; Kevin Larry Liles; Donald Eldree Love; William Raymond Masciangelo; Jacob Leavy McLeod; Suzan Edwards Phillips; Martin Luther Quick, Amanda Geddings Richardson; Sara Lee Sanderson; Tommy Guery Sinclair; Glenda Marshall Spann-Hinnant; Sandra Denise Stubbs; Charles Eugene Teal; Laurie Michael Jamar Tomlin; David Vandal Washington III; Veverlyn Layvonne Watson-Smith; and Sheldon Lee Withrow.

'In the Midst of Life'

The Rev. Sara White brought a word on "In the Midst of Life" for the Annual Conference Service of Thanksgiving and Memory held Monday afternoon, honoring the 58 men and women who died during the past year. Honored were active pastors, retired pastors, pastor spouses and surviving spouses.



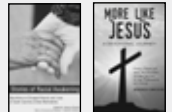
Photo by Matt Brodie



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Petition on sexuality language up for vote today

By Jessica Brodie

Annual Conference members now have just one petition to General Conference 2020 to vote on today.

Of the three petitions submitted, only the first petition, "Petition to Change Language in the *Book of Discipline*," will go before the body for consideration this afternoon. The petition calls for removal of the sentence found in Para. 161G of the 2016 *Discipline* that states, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

The other two petitions have been ruled out of order and invalid.

On Monday, Dr. Carolyn Briscoe of the Committee on Petitions to General Conference presented for information the three petitions slated to go before the body, announcing they would be voted upon Tuesday.

Requesting a moment to speak, Dr. Roger Gramling argued that while the first petition was in order, it appeared petitions two and three were not petitions at all but rather an expression of opinion of the Annual Conference.

"Petitions must follow a prescribed form not only in formatting, but also must address a particular paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*, Para. 507, therefore making them legislative petitions," Gramling said, calling for a point of order. "It seems to me two and three do not."

The second petition, "Petition to Create Separate *Books of Discipline*," calls for creating a separate *Discipline* for Central Conferences so the United States Annual Conferences can move forward with language changes in the *Discipline* if they choose to regarding sexual orientation. The third, "Petition to Repeal and Replace the Traditional Plan," calls for a full repeal of the Traditional Plan, for a return to the language in the 2016 *Discipline* and for the 2020 General Conference to recommit itself to the work of reconciliation and peacemaking.

Gramling said while petitions two and three seem to have validity as resolutions—that is, as an opinion this conference might want to express to General Conference—they do not appear to be petitions.

South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston agreed.

"It does say petitions presented to annual conference for endorsement must follow the provisions of Para. 507 and be submitted in the proper format," Holston said, issuing his ruling. "In light of what you've just indicated, those two petitions are out of order for us to deal with at this annual conference."

Holston urged the makers of petitions two and three to put them in proper order per Para. 507 and submit them by Oct. 8 to be considered for General Conference.

Read the full text of Petition One, "Petition to Change Language in the *Book of Discipline*," on Page 71 of the pre-conference materials.

AC passes new sexual ethics, clergy assessment policies

By Jessica Brodie

Annual Conference passed two new policies Monday recommended by the South Carolina Board of Ordained Ministry: an eight-year clergy assessment plan policy to help with ministry effectiveness, and a sexual and professional misconduct policy for clergy and church staff.

The assessment plan is designed to help identify areas of effectiveness in ministry, said the Rev. Fran Elrod, chair of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Elrod said this will involve using an approved clergy assessment tool to not only look at clergy but also the effectiveness of the clergy's ministry setting. Congregations will be expected to participate in an effective ministry process with their clergy, such as Forward Focus. A church facilitator/coach will be assigned and will work with the pastor and staff-pastor parish committee, with concerns addressed by the BOM if needed.

Elrod explained the assessment will involve a staggered process, rotating clergy through the eight-year assessment so all are not completing the assessment at the same time. The rotation system will be established by the Office of Clergy Services, the BOM and the Cabinet.

The sexual ethics policy is designed to help foster sacred trust and is meant to serve in partnership with Safe Sanctuaries policies, Elrod explained, and to bring the conference into alignment with Para. 605.9 of the *Book of Discipline*.

"The South Carolina Conference will not condone or tolerate instances of sexual or professional misconduct," the policy reads in part. "We also will not condone or tolerate instances of sexual misconduct on the part of laity, including church members and visitors. We are committed to making every reasonable effort to prevent any such incidents, to a fair and just process for victims, to authentic accountability for abusers, and to healing for all persons involved. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the prevention of sexual or professional misconduct and to establish guidelines for reporting and responding to incidences of sexual or professional misconduct, should they occur."

The full policy is posted on the conference website at www.umcsc.org/ac2019.

**Coming tomorrow
(Wednesday, June 5)**

† Balloting
† Report of Pension & Health Benefit

† Report from the 2019 General
Conference Delegation
† Local Pastors' Luncheon