

# Daily Christian Advocate

Proceedings of the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference  
of The United Methodist Church



THIS I KNOW

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Lake Junaluska, N.C.

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## “This I Know”

### ‘You Are My Family’ *SEJ Elects Third Bishop*

By Dan O’Mara & Jessica Brodie  
The Rev. Dr. Robin Dease, 54, a pastor and former district superintendent in the South Carolina Conference, has been elected as a bishop of The United Methodist Church’s Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Delegates elected Dease on Nov. 3 at the jurisdiction’s meeting at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on the 25th ballot. She received 206 votes out of 343 valid ballots cast – exactly the number needed to be elected (60 percent of valid ballots).

Dease – who was nominated as a write-in on the first ballot on Wednesday – was the third bishop elected at the Nov. 2-4 meeting, following the Rev. Tom Berlin of the Virginia Conference and the Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton of the Mississippi Conference.

“Whenever I had the opportunity to lead or to serve, I would run home to my parents...and they’d say, ‘Now, don’t go down there and make us ‘shamed!’” Dease told delegates upon her election. “My commitment to you is: I will never make you ‘shamed.’”



Photo: Matt Brodie

Dease acknowledged the Rev. Ken Nelson, the endorsed nominee of the South Carolina Conference, as “my brother and my friend.” He was the first person Dease embraced when the final ballot was announced.

“The South Carolina Conference is deeply elated to elect a faithful and fruitful leader who will help lead our church into the future,” Nelson said. “We pray God’s blessings and promise our support along the way.”

Dease, who has served as senior pastor of St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church in Hilton Head Island,

South Carolina, since 2021, also paid tribute to her late parents and her brothers and sisters. “Most of my 13 siblings have joined the church triumphant, and those who are left physically cannot be here,” she told the delegates, “but you are my family.”

Dease was born in Brooklyn, New York. After moving to South Carolina, she graduated from Claffin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, in 1992. She earned a master of divinity degree and a doctor of ministry degree in stewardship from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

She joined the South Carolina Conference in 1992, became a full-time local pastor in 1998, and was ordained an elder in 2001. She has served as pastor of Wesley UMC in Johns Island (1998-2008), John Wesley UMC in Greenville (2008-2012), and St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC in Hilton Head (2021-present). She also has served as superintendent of the Hartsville District (2013-2021), and in 2012, was interim chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Claffin University in Orangeburg.

# ‘A Heart of Wisdom’

*Service of Remembrance honors three late bishops, six spouses*



Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor (Photos: Ben Smith)

By Jessica Brodie

One of the realities of life is that our days are numbered, so let's fill our days with wisdom and a faithful heart.

That was the word from Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, who preached the Service of Remembrance at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Thursday morning, Nov. 3.

The service opened with the hymn “Give Me Jesus,” then a greeting led by Emily Ballard and a prayer for illumination led by Derrick Scott.

Taylor drew from Psalm 90:12, which reminds us, “So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (NKJV).

Taylor lifted up the three bishops and six spouses who died since the last in-person jurisdictional conference: Bishops Bevel L. Jones III, R. Kern Eutsler, and Robert Spain, and spouses Thelma H. Newman,

Dorothy S. Lee, Jean Stockton, Mary Ann Hunt, Linda Carder and Rose King.

She'd met all of those being remembered in the service except one, recalling touching or funny stories—such as Jean Stockton, a fashionista who introduced so many to liturgical dance, and Linda Carder, loved so deeply across Holston, Mississippi and Tennessee conferences, who loved Lake Junaluska and the fellowship of bishops' spouses. Bishop Jones had been her pastor during her high school and college years and officiated her wedding.

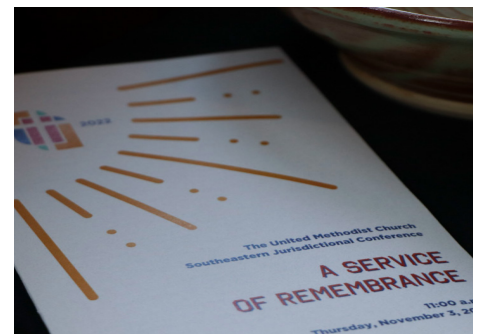
“We don't know how many days we have, but we only have so many,” Taylor reminded the body. “Because they are, we are invited to gain a heart of wisdom.”

A wise heart, according to the apostle Paul, is a heart filled with faith, hope and love. “All of us gathered here today

believe the church is of God and will be preserved until the end of time,” she said. “All times are uncertain. (But) our faith is in eternal God who made the heavens and the earth.”

After Taylor's sermon, the Rev. Virginia Kagoro led the body in the statement of faith, and Bishop L. Jonathan Holston served as liturgist, offering a prayer for the saints and faithful departed.

The hymn “On Jordan's Stormy Banks” closed the service.



# Daunting & Beautiful: Young People Discuss the Future

By Aimee Yeager

During the Wednesday evening session, Rev. Lisa Yebuah (North Carolina), Rev. Darryl Dayson (Western North Carolina), Bethany Harting (Kentucky), Maggie Taylor (Tennessee-Western Kentucky), and Sam England (Holston), delegates to the Conference, took the stage for the Young Adults panel discussion on the future of The United Methodist Church.

“In the spirit of not doing things the way we have always done things...” laughed presiding bishop Bishop Leonard Fairley, he paused the young adult panel periodically to take ballots and receive results.

Starting the panel discussion, Rev. Dayson described the place and time we find ourselves in right now as “pivotal” describing the work as “incredibly daunting, but also beautiful.”

“I think we’re in a ‘normal’ time,” says England. “It’s not a good or a bad time. This is a normal time. Both in the history of The United Methodist Church and in The Church, things have been in flux. Things are always changing....At times, I think we can be myopic and fail to situation our present in the church’s history. And that can be to our disadvantage.”

“The last two years have felt like an inflection point in our communities – in the world and in the church,” Rev. Yebuah reflected. “I think what was different was that we were not as distracted because we had to



(Photo: Ben Smith)

shelter in place, things slowed down, and so we paid attention to things differently. What are things we need to pay attention to now?”

“The mental and physical health of our clergy and lay people,” Taylor quickly replied. “We are wearing people down slowly and surely to where the church is no longer a place of respite, no longer a place of hope. We are obsessed with controlling people and have a deep desire to keep in place systems that require people to check a box. God does not have that box. If we were able to get rid of that box, we could get healthy and move forward as a vital church.”

Rev. Yebuah asked the panelists to share their dreams that feel possible for the church.

“What gives me hope is my Conference,” shared Rev. Dayson. “That we can stand united and share our hopes of who God is calling us to be. As we decide who is leading and who is following, we’ve been able to do that in some really beautiful ways. And I know you all here feel the same way about

your communities. You love the church.”

Sam England shared, “As someone who spends the year studying law and political science, I reach May and June with an empty gas tank, but I show up summer after summer to work with children and youth that continually amaze me and they give me hope. I know we are divided, and I don’t have the solution. There are a lot of things I don’t know, but this I know, that out of the mouth of babes—who are anything but incompatible—comes prophecy, comes words that can take us beyond anything we can imagine. And if there is anyone here looking to find a fount of hope, I would say get involved in children and youth ministries.”

“Our words create worlds,” said Rev Yebuah, who closed by offering up a blessing over the four young adults on the panel, asking the body to lift their hands over them.

“The best days of The United Methodist Church are not behind us,” said Bishop Fairley, “they are in front of us.

# Daily Minutes - November 2

7:30 p.m. Session

## Night Session

7:30 p.m.

Bishop Fairley, Presiding

**Presiding:** Bishop Leonard Fairley called the session to order at 7:32 p.m.

Bishop Gwinn offered a prayer for the start of the session.

**Ballot Results:** Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot eight  
Number of ballots: 348  
Number of valid ballots: 348  
Needed to elect: 209  
There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Gleaves, 187; Shelton, 179; Nelson, 160; Alvarez, 85; Austin, 43; Coles, 33; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

Bishop Fairley called on Bishop Swanson to give a report from the Agenda Committee.

## Agenda Committee Report on Resolutions:

Bishop Swanson represented the Agenda Committee. The three resolutions presented were reviewed during the lunch hour. The committee looked at the resolutions to see if the resolutions dealt with the business of the conference and should in fact come before the conference. Bishop Swanson called on Del Holley to share what the recommendation was from the committee. Citing Rule V, G, 3, Del Holley shared that they determined all three resolutions violated conference rules and/or the BOD. The committee is

not recommending that the resolutions be distributed to delegates, published in the DCA, or put on the agenda for consideration. The process was explained to all three authors of the resolutions prior to this report being made.

Bishop Fairley opened the floor for discussion.

Carlene Johnson, lay delegate, Florida Conference, recommended not approving the recommendation. She asked for an appeal of the recommendation. The request for appeal was seconded.

Helen Ryde, Lay Delegate, Western North Carolina, expressed that the resolutions were submitted in a timely manner and were aspirational. She further expressed that to not allow delegates to vote on the resolutions would silence the voices of the delegates. She respectfully asked that the body vote to appeal the recommendation of the committee.

Vaughn Stafford, Lay Delegate, North Alabama, shared he agreed with the recommendation of the committee.

Matthew Sink, Western North Carolina, asked for a point of clarity on what would happen if the vote passed. Bishop Fairley shared that the resolutions would come before the body and would be handled on Thursday.

The Agenda Committee gave final

comments on the matter prior to the vote.

**Vote on the appeal:** Bishop Fairley guided the conference through a hand vote on the matter. With a close vote, the decision was made to use the electronic devices. Bishop Fairley opened the ballot and then closed it once all votes were submitted. The vote passed. The resolutions will be dealt with on Thursday. Pages handed out the resolutions to delegation heads to distribute to their delegation members.

**Ballot Prayer:** Bishop James King, retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

**Ballot Nine:** Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

**Video:** A video about the Intentional Growth Center was shown.

**Young Adult Panel:** Rev. Lisa Yebuah moderated a panel discussion of young adults.

Bishop Fairley paused the panel discussion to share results of ballot nine.

**Ballot Results:** Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot nine.  
Number of ballots: 352  
Number of valid ballots: 352  
Needed to elect: 212

# Daily Minutes - November 2

7:30 p.m. Session

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 198; Gleaves, 174; Nelson, 150; Austin, 62; Alvarez, 57; Coles, 41; Cruz, 11; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10;

## **Introduction of New Nominee:**

Bishop Fairley called Rev. Rodrigo Cruz to approach the podium to give a 10-minute speech. Rodrigo Cruz serves a multi-ethnic church in the North Georgia Conference. Rev. Cruz expressed appreciation for the nomination but respectfully declined the nomination.

**Ballot Ten:** Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

**Young Adult Panel:** The panel resumed as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Fairley paused the panel to share ballot results and take another ballot.

**Ballot Results:** Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot ten.

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 197; Gleaves, 178; Nelson, 148; Austin, 74; Alvarez, 52; Coles, 43; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

**Ballot Prayer:** Tom Lee, Tennes-

see-Western Kentucky, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

**Ballot Eleven:** Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

**Young Adult Panel:** The panel discussion resumed. Rev. Yebuah ended the panel discussion with a blessing over the four panelists.

**Ballot Results:** Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot eleven.

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 206; Gleaves, 176; Nelson, 139; Austin, 77; Coles, 50; Alvarez, 42; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

**Monitoring Exercise:** Bishop Fairley invited Jennifer Davis to share the monitoring exercise. Jennifer Davis introduced the monitoring team working with her this week. She led the delegates through seven questions in this exercise.

**Ballot Prayer:** Cynthia Davis led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

**Ballot Twelve:** Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion, Bishop Fairley closed

the ballot.

**Video:** Videos about Gammon Theological Seminary and Duke Divinity School were shown as ballots were tallied.

**Ballot Results:** Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot twelve.

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

Election – Connie Shelton was elected with 213 ballots. She was escorted to the stage with members of her family and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 213; Gleaves, 173; Nelson, 128; Austin, 78; Coles, 52; Alvarez, 41; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

**Announcements:** Anne Travis gave announcements.

**Closing Prayer:** Christine Dodson gave a closing prayer for the session.

**Adjourn:** The session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

**November 3, 2022**

**Centering Worship**

9:00 a.m.

Delegates and guests gathered in Stuart Auditorium on the campus of Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for centering worship. Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, retired, was the preacher.

# Daily Minutes - November 3

Minutes are Unofficial

## Opening Session

10:00 a.m.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson,  
Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Sue  
Hauptert-Johnson presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called the session to order at 10:22 a.m. Bishop Cho offered the opening prayer.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called on Anne Travis to make announcements. Thanks was expressed to the young adult panel participants and shared additional thoughts regarding the panel.

Committee on Journal: Carlene Johnson presented the report from the Committee on the Journal. The Journal Committee certified that the minutes of Wednesday's session was correct. The Conference received the report.

Ballot Prayer: Will Malambri, lay delegate, South Carolina, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Rev. Isomar Alvarez, Kentucky, expressed his appreciation for being nominated, but officially withdrew his name from the ballot.

Ballot Thirteen: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ruled the ballot invalid and asked that the ballot be reset removing Rev. Alvarez's name from the ballot.

Video: Bishop Hope Morgan Ward's retirement video was shown while the ballot was reset.

Ballot Fourteen: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ruled the ballot invalid and asked that the ballot be reset to correct an issue on number of votes accepted on the ballot.

Video: Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.'s retirement video was shown while the ballot was reset/corrected.

Love Offering for At-Large Pages: A collection was received for those serving the SEJ Conference in a volunteer capacity as pages. This offering will help defray costs incurred as a result of volunteering to serve.

Video: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's retirement video was played as the offering was collected.

Ballot Fifteen: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson closed the ballot. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called the session to break until the start of the Service of Remembrance.

## Service of Remembrance

11:00 a.m.

The conference gathered for worship to remember the lives and ministries of Bishops and Bishops'

spouses who died during the last quadrennium (to include 2021 and 2022).

Bishops remembered were Bishop Bevel L. Jones, III, Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, and Bishop Robert Spain.

Bishops' Spouses remembered were Thelma H. Newman, Dorothy S. Lee, Jean Stockton, Mary Ann Hunt, Linda Carder, and Rose King.

Bishop Jonathan Holston led in the naming of the honored dead. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor was the preacher for the service.

Recess: The conference was in recess until the 2:00 p.m. afternoon business session.

## Afternoon Session

2:00 p.m.

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Jonathan Holston presided.

Willie Kitchen and band provided gathering music prior to the start of the session.

Call to Order: Bishop Holston called the session to order

Prayer: Deaconess Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, Florida Conference, offered both an opening prayer for the session and a prayer for the ballot.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot fifteen.

Number of ballots: 351

Number of valid ballots: 351

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Needed to elect: 211

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 123; Austin, 48; Dease, 44; Thomas, 27; Coles, 10;

Amy Coles, Western North Carolina, extended her appreciation for her nomination, but asked that her name be withdrawn from the ballot.

Sharon Bowers, Black Methodist for Church Renewal episcopal nominee, gave her thanks for the support and appreciation during the process, but conceded after expressing her concern for the lack of inclusivity in this process.

Byron Thomas, North Georgia, gave a reminder of the principals agreement sent out to all candidates by the Committee on Episcopacy. He spoke to acts that have contaminated the process – opposite of what is written in the principals agreement. He called on individuals to not pass on false and malicious information on other candidates.

Ballot Sixteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Video: Bishop Paul Leeland's retirement video was shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band provided music as the ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot sixteen.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 347

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 132; Gleaves, 84; Dease, 65; Austin, 35; Thomas, 28

Byron Thomas formally withdrew his name from the ballot.

Video: Candler School of Theology's video was shown while the ballot was being reset.

Sharon Austin, Florida Conference, expressed her gratitude to the Florida Conference and expressed the unfortunate experience this process has been for persons of color. She shared that the process can be degrading and humiliating to individuals. She humbly withdrew her name from the ballot.

Ballot Seventeen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Amy King, North Georgia, raised a question about the validity of the previous ballot. Bishop Holston shared that the ballot was in fact valid.

Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi, asked questions around the resolutions and standing rules. Bishop Holston shared that we were not yet addressing the resolution and asked that he return to the microphone at the appropriate time.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as the ballot was reset.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot seventeen.

Number of ballots: 348

Number of valid ballots: 348

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 123; Dease, 107; Gleaves, 103; Beasley, 14

Ballot Eighteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Video: A video from Africa University and the Florida Disaster Response videos were shown while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot eighteen.

Number of ballots: 342

Number of valid ballots: 342

Needed to elect: 206

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 128; Dease, 118; Gleaves, 92

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Ballot Prayer: Scott Hagan, South Georgia, led the conference in a prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Nineteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Bishop Holston invited Bishop Ken Carter to offer a prayer following the showing of the Florida Disaster Response video. Bishop Carter acknowledged a few people prior to giving the prayer.

Video: A video from the Kentucky Disaster Response was shown as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Holston invited Bishop Leonard Fairley to offer a prayer following the showing of the Kentucky Disaster Response video.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot nineteen.

Number of ballots: 347

Number of valid ballots: 347

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 135; Dease, 132; Gleaves, 77

Bishop Holston recused himself from presiding as there were now two South Carolina candidates on the ballot. Bishop Holston turned over presiding to Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett.

Steve McAlilly, Mississippi Conference, shared that we are at an impasse that grieves him deeply. He asked to make a motion to reconsider the recommendation to elect three bishops and instead elect four to correct harm done to persons of color.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett confirmed that Mr. McAlilly had in fact voted in favor of electing three bishops. There was a second to the motion. Mr. McAlilly spoke to his motion.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett reminded the body there is no limit on the number of speeches for or against the motion, but there is a three-minute limit for each person to speak to this.

Robert Gizzard, Florida Conference, spoke against the motion sharing that he thought it was out of order. If we were to consider three it should have been done earlier when the election for three was first done.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called for a break until 3:57 p.m.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called the session back in order at 3:57 p.m.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave an update on where the session was and shared the rules again about limits on speeches for or against. The recommendation for reconsideration would be dealt with first.

Miles Baker, North Carolina, requested a point of information.

He requested that the Committee on Episcopacy provide the cost of electing an additional bishop. Dr. Steve Furr, chair of COE, shared that it could be \$1 million (\$250,000 per year).

Helen Ryde, Western North Carolina, asked for a point of clarity asking if we will have to start from the beginning if we vote to elect four bishops, to which no response was immediately given.

Kathy FitzJefferies, Western North Carolina, shared that while she appreciated the concern around where this motion came from, she does not think it would be a wise financial decision. She did say that this issue around harm to persons of color in the election process needs to be addressed.

Robert Gizzard, Florida, appealed the point of order and ruled it out of order because the vote had already been made to elect three.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave clarity to this appeal and put forth a hand vote. If you agree with the ruling of the chair, that this ruling was in order (Steve McAlilly's recommendation to reconsider was in order), vote "yes" and if you disagree with the ruling, vote "no". Bishop Wallace-Padgett proceeded with doing an electronic ballot.

Constance Barnes, South Carolina, ask for a point of clarity around the rule Bishop Wallace-Padgett read.



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The ruling of the chair was upheld. 343 ballots with 227 yes and 116 no.

Sam England, Holston, called for the question. The body voted in favor of voting.

Rob Martin, Tennessee-Western Kentucky, posed a question but the question had already been called.

Amanda Hartman, Memphis, asked for a point of clarity again about if you will have to start from the beginning with electing if this recommendation passes. Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared that the body has elected two bishops, so they cannot be un-elected.

Lee Rodio, North Carolina, had a point of information and Bishop Wallace-Padgett clarified what is being voted on is whether to reconsider the motion that passed from the COE to elect three bishops. This is the only motion before the body. If the vote is "yes" the motion from the COE will be before the body and there would then be the opportunity for amendments.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called for the vote upon reconsideration of the recommendation from the COE. The vote did not pass.

Ballot Prayer: David Beckley, Mississippi, led the conference in a prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty: Bishop Wal-

lace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Video: Videos from #BeUMC and Global Ministries were shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty.

Number of ballots: 342

Number of valid ballots: 342

Needed to elect: 206

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 139; Dease, 138; Gleaves, 63

Ballot Prayer: Vicki Walker, Florida, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-one: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Videos: An Abundant Health video was shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wal-

lace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-one.

Number of ballots: 346

Number of valid ballots: 346

Needed to elect: 208

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 158; Nelson, 148; Gleaves, 38

Ballot Prayer: Donna Mosby, Holston, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Edith Gleaves expressed thanks for the nomination and expressed grief for how this election has gone. She spoke of the racism and sexism that is still a part of The United Methodist church grieves her. She withdrew her name in an effort to move forward to a better day and time.

Byron Thomas, North Georgia, asked that we consider freeing ourselves from jurisdictionalism. He asked if there are any efforts to deconstruct the jurisdictional system. Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared there is legislation they are anticipating for the next General Conference and the Connectional Table is working on this. Rev. Thomas asked for a more thorough response to the questions. Bishop Wallace-Padgett asked anyone on the Connectional Table to contact Anne Travis during the dinner break.

Ballot Twenty-two: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference

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through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett invited Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. to answer Rev. Byron Thomas' question around wanting more specifics around legislation going to General Conference and work of the Connectional Table.

Date for 2024 SEJ Conference: Bishop Wallace-Padgett announced that the next Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 10-13, 2024.

Motion: Jeremy Troxler, Western North Carolina, made a motion that, "the SEJ ask the Committee on Episcopacy to create a task force to study the impact of racial bias in the process of selection of Episcopal Candidates, and to recommend to the Episcopacy Committee potential reforms to the process that might reduce the harmful effects of racial bias in the nomination and selection process for episcopal candidate. Furthermore, that such a task force be composed of greater than 50% representation from under-represented groups; and that the task force interview recent and past Episcopal Candidates to hear their experiences and to solicit their input. The motion received a second, and Mr. Troxler spoke to the motion.

Esther Rodriguez, Florida, asked

for an amendment to the motion to request compensation for those groups doing this work. Bishop Wallace-Padgett asked that she come back to the microphone once the motion is voted on and properly before us.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-two.

Number of ballots: 349  
Number of valid ballots: 349  
Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.  
The following balloting results were read:  
Dease, 186; Nelson, 155

Ballot Prayer: Kelly McClendon, Kentucky led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-three: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Announcements: Bishop Wallace-Padgett invited Anne Travis to make announcements. After her announcements were made, Bishop Wallace-Padgett extended thanks to Anne Travis.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference while ballots were being tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-three

Number of ballots: 345  
Number of valid ballots: 345  
Needed to elect: 207  
There was no election.  
The following balloting results were read:  
Dease, 195; Nelson, 144

Ballot Prayer: Ashley Davis, Alabama-West Florida Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot and gave a blessing over the meal.

Ballot Twenty-four: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave time for people to socialize as the ballot was tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-four.  
Number of ballots: 341  
Number of valid ballots: 341  
Needed to elect: 205  
There was no election.  
The following balloting results were read:  
Nelson, 137; Dease, 200

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Charlene Kammerer led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-five: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one

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person. Upon conclusion, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave time for people to socialize as the ballot was tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-five

Number of ballots: 343

Number of valid ballots: 343

Needed to elect: 206

Election – Robin Dease was elected with 206 ballots. She was escorted to the stage and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 206; Nelson, 133

Adjourn: Bishop Wallace-Padgett turned the session over to Anne Travis for announcements. The session is in recess until 7:45p.m.

### Evening Session

7:45 p.m.

Bishop Jonathon Holston, Presiding

Call to Order: Bishop Holston called the session to order at 7:53 p.m.

Prayer: Marshall Bailey, Virginia Conference, offered an opening prayer for the session.

Motion: Bishop Holston revisited the motion previously presented by Jeromy Troxler. There was a second.

Amendment to Motion: Esther Rodriguez, Florida, proposed an

amendment to the motion stating: “The mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual burden of supremacy culture is disproportionately felt by marginalized populations and when it’s time to work toward equity and justice the undue burden is placed on these persons without consideration of this immeasurable to or compensation Understanding that there is funding available from the Jurisdictional committee on Coordination for Accountability special project task forces, we ask that the selected participants on this special project task force be given as honorarium and reimbursed for their travel.” The motion was seconded. Rev. Rodrigues spoke to the amendment

The amendment was approved and was therefore added to the original motion. However, because it is asking for a financial component, it must be referred to SEJ CFA.

Derrick Scott, Florida, gave a point of information and shared that the COE may be able to include this in their budget. However, Bishop Holston shared that because of the financial component it must be referred to SEJ CFA.

Steven Sparks, Mississippi, requested a rule of law: “Are the three petitions before the body out of order as a matter of law laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda presented to the body by Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. and Dale Holly which is included in the journal and incorporated herein by

reference.”

Bishop Holston shared he would receive the rule but has thirty days to rule on it and will follow up at that time.

Resolutions: Bishop Holston shared that the three resolutions presented last night are now a part of the body due to the body voting in favor of the appeal to the original ruling of the resolutions. That being the case, Bishop Holston invited the authors of each of the resolutions to speak to the resolutions before the body.

Leading with Integrity Resolution: Tom Lee, Tennessee Western Kentucky, spoke on behalf of Jim Allen, the author of the “Leading with Integrity” resolution presented to the body. (See resolution for details.) He spoke for the resolution.

Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi, spoke against the amendment sharing that anyone who opposes the Book of Discipline should not be allowed to hold office

Leigh Highsmith, North Georgia, spoke in favor of the amendment expressing that the resolution offers a way to see things differently and more clearly.

Bishop Holston asked a question as to whether this resolution moved past being aspirational and into requiring an action. Tom Lee confirmed it is aspirational and is not mandatory.

# Daily Minutes - November 3

## Minutes are Unofficial

Michael Cheatham, North Carolina, spoke against the amendment.

Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi, clarified that he was not speaking against the motion but was trying to make an amendment to the resolution in paragraph 8: "Be it further restored that the South-eastern Jurisdiction ask all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and those who intend to openly violate the Book of Discipline to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders." There was a second to the amendment. Rev. Lovett spoke to the amendment.

Lee Rodio, North Carolina, moved to indefinitely postpone Lovett's amendment to the resolution. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion and the motion passed.

The house called for the question. The body was in favor of calling the question.

Bishop Holston took the vote. The resolution passed.

Bishop Holston invited the author of the queer delegate resolution to speak.

Queer Delegates Resolution: Helen Ryde, Western North Carolina, one of the authors of the queer dele-

gate resolution, spoke to the resolution. (See resolution for details.)

Bishop Holston ruled this resolution out of order based on Judicial Council ruling 860.

After being approached by the author of the resolution, Bishop Holston called for a 15-minute recess to confer with authors of the resolution and other council.

Matt Dailey, Florida Conference, made a motion to amend point six of the resolution to say "aspire to" as opposed to "commits" thus making the resolution aspirational.

One delegate spoke in favor of the resolution.

Bishop Holston took a vote and the motion passed.

The body was ready to call the question.

Bishop Holston took a vote and the resolution was approved with the amendment.

U.S. Regional Conference Resolution: Lisa Yebuah, North Carolina, author of the U.S. Regional resolution spoke to the resolution on behalf of Martha Stokes, also an author of the resolution. (See resolution for details.) There was a second to the resolution.

Tiwirai Kufarimai, North Alabama, spoke against the resolution.

Magrey deVega, Florida, spoke in

favor of the resolution.

Odell Horne, North Georgia, spoke against the resolution.

The body called the question.

Bishop Holston put the resolution to vote by hand but went to an electronic vote. Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting. Upon conclusion, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Doug Forester, Virginia, asked for prayer for Conference Treasurer David Dommissee as his wife, Carol, has been put on hospice. Bishop Holston asked if Mr. Forester would offer the prayer.

The U.S. Regional Conference resolution passed with a vote of 203 votes yes and 115 votes no.

Bishop Holston expressed gratitude to the delegates for their work and transitioned the conference from the business session to the retirement celebration.

### Retirement Celebration

Bishop Ken Carter, Presiding

Bishop Ken Carter presided over the service of retirement.

Announcements: Anne Travis shared the schedule for Friday's session.

Bishop Carter asked that all be in prayer for the Committee on Episcopacy and offered a closing prayer.