

INFORMATION & PROCEEDINGS FROM THE TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

TWK ORGANIZATIONAL CONFERENCE MINUTES

Saturday, December 4 @ 1 p.m.

LOVING

Bishop Bill McAlilly officially opened the conference at 1 p.m. with a word of welcome. Bishop McAlilly shared that the first Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference would be held at Brentwood UMC on June 15-17, 2022. Annual conference in 2023 will be held in the Memphis area.

Opening worship, led by a diverse group from both conferences under the direction of David Bone, included a reading of “A Story of Light and Darkness” by worship leaders Tyler Sprouse (Communications, TWK), Myriam Cortes (Iglesia Metodista Unida Ebenezer, Nashville), Jim Capps (Mt. Carmel UMC, Benton), and Grace E. Hyde (Ebenezer UMC, Nolensville) and featuring dancer Lasonia Scantin (Gordon Memorial UMC, Nashville). Choral responses were sung by a small choir accompanied by an organ and piano. The detailed worship bulletin with all participants noted is available on the TWKUMC.org website.

An offering was collected online for the Reelfoot Rural Ministries Toy Store and The Last-Minute Toy Store. Money collected will be divided equally between the two ministries.

The video of Bishop McAlilly’s sermon “What Shall We Now Do?” is available for viewing on his blog, along with a full transcript.

LEARNING

Covenant Focus with Connectional Table

Bishop McAlilly spoke to the process of learning in developing a working covenant alongside the New Conference Guide Team. A video was presented in which members of the Connectional Table shared the importance of forming a team covenant, how living in a shared covenant impacted them personally and professionally, and the process of developing a covenant within a team/committee. Members of the Connectional Table in the video were Toi King, Jefferson Furtado, Bethany Huffman, Rob Martin, and Melinda Britt.

New TWK Conference teams are encouraged to operate with a covenant. Tools and resources, including the video shown during the conference, are found on the TWK website for teams to use.

Covenant Sharing - Memphis Conference Lay Leader Janice McCallen, closed this portion of the conference by sharing her personal experiences with creating and applying a covenant while serving on a large team and invited all TWK ministry teams to establish covenants. She encouraged each team to use questions such as the following to help shape their covenant:

How do you describe a highly effective team?

What are the characteristics of the best leader you know?

What values are essential for your participation on this team?

LEADING

Business of Organizational Meeting

Voting process reviewed by David Wood, GNTV with question of “Do you like candy canes?”

Song - “And Are We Yet Alive” - Worship Team

Welcome and Call to Order - Bishop McAlilly

I call to order the organizational meeting of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, and ask Monica Mowdy to lead us in our organizing motions and then continue with the adoption of our Standing Rules.

Organization and Announcements - Monica Mowdy

The following will be adopted at the opening of the 2021 Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Organizing Meeting by majority vote:

Tennessee -Western Kentucky Conference Organizational Rules

Tennessee -Western Kentucky Conference Organizational Meeting Agenda

Roll call of legacy conference delegates

Memphis Conference - 385 clergy and 385 laity

Tennessee Conference - 643 clergy and 643 laity

I (Monica Mowdy, secretary) move that those who are authorized to participate in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Organizing Meeting agree that they consent to proceed in a virtual meeting using remote technology; and that they further consent that all decisions made in this session have the same effect and authority as decisions made by an in-person meeting; and finally that they consent that all such decisions made in this meeting are and will be legal and binding actions of the Memphis and Tennessee annual conferences.

Recording secretaries: Memphis, Rev. Dean Emerson; Tennessee, Rev. Brian Marcoulier

Head teller: Rev. Stephen Sauls

Assistant head teller: Rev. Sarah McWhirt-Toler

Personnel who are providing support may be present during the meeting: Conference Chancellor Lisa Carson; Tennessee Conference office staff; GNTV staff; Episcopal Office staff; those selected to make reports; worship participants; and guests.

The bar of the annual conference shall contain all voting members who log in to the Zoom webinar provided by the GNTV.

Members of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Organizing Meeting are responsible for ensuring that all necessary technology on the member's side of the meeting is in proper working order prior to the meeting.

All votes taken shall be conducted in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* and the 2021 Standing Rules of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences.

Poll logs will be maintained for all votes.

Organizing Motions, VOTE

Report of vote, Do you approve the Opening Motions?

Total ballots, 600; Yes, 592; No, 8

Motion passes

Standing Rules

In order for the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference to have some basic rules in place to govern the business of an Annual Conference, I (Monica Mowdy, Secretary) move approval of the proposed set of Standing Rules which have been reviewed by our Guide Team leadership and the chancellors of the legacy conferences. These rules are tailored to provide a basic framework that will undoubtedly be built upon and refined by future Standing Rules committees and annual conferences.

(See STANDING RULES)

Report of vote, Do you approve the Standing Rules?

Total ballots, 604; Yes, 593; No, 11

Motion passes

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda includes: Legacy Board of Trustees Joint Report; Charter of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference; Bylaws of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference; ENCORE Ministry Foundation f/k/a, Golden Cross Foundation Report - ENCORE Bylaws - ENCORE Charter.

Report of vote, Do you approve the Consent Agenda?

Total ballots, 601; Yes, 581; No, 20

Motion passes

Safe Spaces Committee - Rev. Terry Carty, chair of the Safe Spaces Committee

Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Safe Sanctuary Policy

Motion made by Rev. Terry Carty, chair of the Safe Space Committee:

Bishop, I move the adoption of the Safe Sanctuary Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Policy for use in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference.

(See 2022 TWK Sexual Misconduct Policy for Church Professionals and 2022 TWK Safe Sanctuary Policy)

Report of vote, Do you approve the 2022 Sexual Misconduct Policy and the 2022 Safe Sanctuary Policy?

Total ballots, 602; Yes, 591; No, 11

Motion passes

Nominations Report

The Transitional Nominating Committee worked diligently to complete this report. Both conferences were served by capable leaders and I wish to express my deep appreciation to all those who worked on a conference committee, whether it be in the Memphis Conference or the Tennessee Conference. I thank God for you and for your commitment to Christ and the Church as evidenced through your ministry and service to your conference by serving on a conference committee.

This first TWK Nominations Report was created by a new process which gathered nominations across the entire Nashville Area. Many persons participated in the process by either nominating a potential candidate or by making a self-nomination. The nominations were collected and reviewed, gifts and graces were discussed, the inclusion of legacy members and completely new members on committees was prayerfully considered and discerned until the slate of nominations were created.

The response to the nomination process was so prolific that not all of those nominated were selected in this iteration of the nomination process. With such a bounty of capable leaders, the possibility of service still remains as situations evolve and may dictate a need to return to the pool of leaders for selections.

It is with great hope and expectation that I offer this report for your adoption.

Report of vote, Will you adopt the Nominations Report?

Total ballots, 607; Yes, 588; No, 19

Motion passes

(See Nominations Report)

Closing Words of Bishop

Bishop McAlilly led his closing comments by saying “Friends, what gift you have been to us today as we’ve done this work. We’ve had a long pregnancy and a good birth. There have been thousands of hours expended on behalf of this journey.” Bishop McAlilly included in his closing comments appreciation for the work of Bishop Chamness that preceded his arrival to the Nashville Area Episcopal. He gave thanks for the defining work that developed the

mission, vision, and value statements adopted by both legacy conferences. Out of this work, more and more cross-conference team and appointments emerged. Bishop McAlilly noted special thanks to Cindy Solomon for her work as the scribe for the Guide Team. Bishop McAlilly offered a closing prayer.

Closing Litany

Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged,

ALL: (sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

In the private home, in the public place, in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall,

ALL: (sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love,

ALL: (sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that the powerful might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,

ALL: (sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

“A Wee Worship Book”, p 19. © 1999 Wild Goose Resource Group; GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago. WORDS: 9th cent. Latin. Public Domain MUSIC: 15th cent. French. Public Domain

Tennessee-Western Kentucky Organizing Conference concluded.

Minutes submitted by Rev. Brian Marcoulier & Rev. Dean Emerson