

2019 UNYUMC Annual Conference Daily Notes

Friday, June 7, 2019

- The morning began with a Devotional led by the Conference Leadership Team. The team read a scripture reading for lectio divina and invited attendees to share the image the Spirit revealed to each of their hearts, followed by a second reading of the scripture, second sharing session, and closing prayer.
- Krystal Cole and Ian Urriola presented the COSROW/CCORR Monitoring Report. First, they revealed statistics related to registrants: 37 percent were lay female, 25 percent clergy male, and 19 percent each for clergy female and lay male, plus 90 percent of registrants were white and 10 percent were minority. On Thursday, 32 percent of speakers were clergy male, 28 percent clergy female, 23 percent lay female, and 17 percent lay male. Regarding who spoke by race, 74 percent of speakers were white and 26 percent minority.
- Council on Finance & Administration Chair, the Rev. Susan Ranous presented the CF&A Report (including the proposed 2020 budget). She announced that for the third year, the Upper New York Conference has paid 100 percent of General Church apportionments, awarding Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb a plaque to commemorate the accomplishment. Rev. Ranous presented report for approval, but the Rev. Robin Blair asked for clarification on additional funds available to higher education ministry and district superintendent compensation and lay member David Kennedy asked for elaboration on budget funds relating to staff. After explanation from the Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries, the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Rev. Ranous, and Conference Treasurer Bob Flask, the budget was voted upon and approved.
- The results of the first Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegate ballot were revealed: No clergy were elected, but Samuel Mudge was elected as a lay delegate with 202 votes.
- Rachel Giso, a lay member from East Greenbush UMC, made a motion to request that all write-in lay delegate nominees for the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference be required to answer three questions. Bishop Webb ruled this out of order because the rules dictate that there can be no campaigning. Rachel appealed the decision and Paul Sweet, a lay member from the North Gouverneur UMC, spoke to a point of order that delegate candidates are allowed to print copies of their responses and place it at the registration table. Bishop Webb replied that direct questioning would be breaking the rules, but candidates can of their own free will can print these materials and Rachel could suspend the rules if she so wished – which she did not. Paul spoke to a point of order that the write-in candidates must be introduced to which Bishop Webb agreed and, shortly after, invited candidates Katie Allen, Melysa Acevedo, Holly McGrath, Paula Keumple, and Rachel John to the stage.
- The Rev. Kimberly Ferrel, pastor of the South Perinton and Macedon Center UMCs, asked to make sure all was in order since there had been no invalid votes in three days. Conference Director of Communications and “election expert” Stephen Hustedt took to the stage to confirm that voting twice disregards the second vote but doesn’t render it invalid like in previous years. “So we’re just moving onto perfection then,” Bishop Webb quipped.
- Round two of voting for Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference delegates took place, with four votes each for laity and clergy.

- United Theological Seminary Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. David Watson asked for prayer for tornado-ravaged Dayton, Ohio, and discussed the seminary's work. "We want our students at United to not just leave as smarter Christians but as people more deeply formed by the power of the Holy Spirit and relationship with Jesus Christ," he said.
- The Rev. Jeffrey Aiosa, pastor of the Elmgrove UMC, had a challenge for Bishop Webb – if he could raise \$500 for New Faith Communities, would Bishop Webb wear Rev. Aiosa's hat. Bishop agreed, but only if Rev. Aiosa could raise \$1,500. Before lunch, Rev. Aiosa announced they had raised double the original offer, and Bishop Webb upped the ante: If the Conference raised \$5,000, he would wear a large top hat and Commissioning and Ordination Speaker Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball – the Resident Bishop of the West Virginia Conference – would wear Rev. Aiosa's red and white striped hat.
- The recommendation from The Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel titled "Sovereign Debt of Countries Involved in Prolonged Military Operations" found on page 50 of the *Journal* was supported.
- An amended amendment to the recommendation from the Social Holiness Team titled "Teen Sexuality and Suicide Risk" – found under the "Documents" tab in the UMCMeet app – to expand the outreach to all teens, including those who identify as LGBTQ, was supported. The recommendation was supported.
- During lunch, there were four workshops.
 - The Conference Commission on Race and Religion (CCORR) held four different workshops on ways to address racism. Convener of CCORR Dr. Blenda Smith and a Regional Coordinator for Imagine No Racism Georgia Whitney presented the topic of "Why it is so Hard to Talk about Racism?" with a strong focus on micro-aggressions.
 - The Rev. Beckie Sweet and the Rev. Harold Wheat, both members of CCORR, led a workshop titled "Preaching and Teaching Racism," which focused on how to practice self-care in such a way that it can help one to become better prepared to take their next faithful steps in their work to help eliminate racism.
 - CCORR members the Rev. Dr. Scott Johnson Linda Hughes presented on "Strategies for Responding to Racism and Racist Incidents" in effective ways.
 - Cornerstone District Advocate and CCORR member the Rev. Carrie Wolfe and Charles Syms, an INR regional coordinator and CCPRR member, presented a workshop titled "They're Up Next: Leading our Youth to Imagine No Racism." This workshop provided a strategy for youth to grow to not only become racially competent, but also to grow to the point where they can actively become a part of the anti-racist movement.
- Jalen Lawson gave a moving speech on how the Black College Fund helped support her collegiate education at Bennett College.
- The resolution UNYAC2019.1 titled "Action of Nonconformity With the General Conference of The United Methodist Church" was brought before the Conference with an explanation by Bishop Webb as chair that he will rule the petition out of order unless amended. Sam Smith, of the Newtonville United Methodist Church, amended the petition to be more aspirational. The amendment was not supported. The Rev. Jeff Childs, pastor of the Penn Yan United Methodist Church, proposed a new amendment to move the petition to be more aspirational. This also was not supported. When the original resolution was brought back before the body, Bishop Webb

ruled it out of order. Home Missioner Kevin Nelson, submitter of the petition, challenged the ruling of the chair. The Conference voted in support of Bishop Webb's ruling.

- John McNeill, of the Fairport United Methodist Church, made a motion to suspend the rules to no longer allow amendments to resolutions or petitions unless the resolution or petition required specific actions of pastors or congregations. The motion to suspend the rules was supported by a two-thirds vote. The motion to disallow amendments was supported.
- In response to petition UNYAC2019.2 being ruled out of order, an action not expected or desired by the submitter, a motion was made to reconsider the suspension of the rules to again allow amendments. The motion to vote to reconsider rule suspension was supported. The motion to disallow amendments was overturned.
- Lay member Nancy Font motioned to decrease voting time to 20 seconds. Director of Communications Stephen Hustedt informed the body that the shortest time he could accommodate was 30 seconds. Nancy then moved to change her motion to 30 seconds. This motion was supported.
- The petition UNYAC2019.2 titled "UNYAC Response to Actions of 2019 General Conference" was presented by the Rev. Beckie Sweet. The Rev. Carmen Perry offered an amendment to remove lines 40-43 of the petition, which was amended by Nancy Stanley to delete an errant "and." The amendment to the amendment was supported. The amendment as amended was not supported. The petition as originally written was supported. The text can be found on p. 82 of the *Journal*.
- The petition UNYAC2019.3 "A Call for Structural Change" submitted by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady II was supported, as was the petition UNYAC2019.3 "Create a Team to Consider Processes for Future Movement," submitted by the Rev. Doug Mackey. The petitions can be found on pages 88 and 89-92 of the *Journal*, respectively.
- A rule of law was requested for both UNYAC2019.2 and UNYAC2019.3.
- The Rev. Beckie Sweet made a motion to have 12 rocking chairs and six changing tables available in the bar of the Conference in 2020. The Conference staff agreed.
- Before dinner, Rev. Aiosa announced the Conference had raised \$5,600 in the dual-bishop hat challenge, so Bishops Webb and Steiner Ball donned the hats as promised.
- At the Service of Blessing and Anointing, the Rev. Matt Stengel announced that the Conference Cane would be presented to the Rev. Bradley Havens, who recently turned 100. The previous holder of the cane, the Rev. Donald Modisher, passed away Oct. 27, 2018. The service recognized this year's retirees, ordinands, and new appointments in each district.
- At the evening plenary, which took place at 9 p.m., the trustees elections were announced: Lay member Benjamin Hill, the Rev. Pamela Klotsbach, and the Rev. Stephen Crowell were elected.
- Throughout the day, in addition to Samuel Mudge being elected as lay delegate for the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the four remaining lay delegates were elected: Drew Griffin, Rachel John, Linda Barczykowski, and Melysa Acevedo. Two clergy delegates for the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference were elected: The Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost, The Rev. Carlos Rosa-Laguer, and the Rev. Andrew Sperry.

To see more coverage of the 2019 Annual Conference session, visit <https://tinyurl.com/AC19news>.