

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OPENING WORSHIP & MEMORIAL SERVICE  
Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska  
Wednesday, June 7, 2017 7 p.m.

**Opening Service of Remembrance and Table** – Clergy and spouses who died during the past year were honored. Rev. Claudia Bakely, preached on “Through the Gate and Out”. The Grand Island Trinity UMC choir provided special music. Three children of pastors were baptized: James Joowon Lee, Hael Kim, and Theodore Jase Kaufmann. An offering for the Education Initiative was taken.

GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP  
Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska  
Thursday, June 8, 2017 8:15 a.m.

Gathering Music and Devotional Reflection.

GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FIRST PLENARY  
Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska  
Thursday, June 8, 2017 8:45 a.m.

Bishop Saenz called the annual conference to order with words of welcome. Conference secretary, Rev. Nan Kaye-Skinner presented the enabling motions – The secretarial staff shall be Laura Gregory, asst. secretary; Rev. Ben Hanne; Kathy Uldrich; Rev. Judy Carlson; Rev. Gina Gile; Amy Hasemeyer; and Rev. Brian Kottas. **Approved.**

The bar of the annual conference shall be the seating on the floor and the gray seats in the bleachers behind the floor seating. Persons on approved annual conference work outside the bar of the conference shall be permitted to vote. Attendance is taken by signing the roll cards and giving them to the secretarial team.

**Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner presented the Standing Rules** of the annual conference on behalf of the Sessions Planning Team – **Approved**  
The body sang “O for a thousand tongues to sing” lead by Rev. Amy Seifert to give time for members to move within the bar of the conference. The Bishop recognized Rev. Nancy Lambert for the adoption of the agenda. **Approved**

**Laity address** by Courtney Fowler, conference lay leader  
Courtney Fowler addressed the body with words of welcome for Bishop Saenz and his wife Maye and son Isaac. She focused on examples of walking together to see where God is calling us.

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**Episcopacy Committee Report** – Rev. Maria Campbell presented a stole made by Martie Guthrie of Seward, Nebraska. She recognized Maye and Isaac and brought them forward.

**Bishop’s Message** “Moving forward in unity of mission and purpose” by Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.

The Bishop offered a current assessment of our progress toward unification and offered a path toward the “Next Right Steps.” His five areas of focus are:

1. Start new small groups for people in and outside of your church.
2. Reach and spiritually form the children in your community.
3. Work collaboratively with other UM churches in your community, county, and region to create a collective and synergistic missional impact.
4. Foster an atmosphere of prayer and dialogue in your congregation and among the other Great Plains constituents.
5. Seek to create a robust culture of missional purpose and movement at the local, county, and regional levels supported by the right strategy and the passionate thrust of capable clergy and laity.

**Connecting Council Report** given by Rev. Nancy Lambert. On behalf of the Connecting Council, she moved four resolutions:

Resolution 1a. Establishment of Conference Rules, Policies and Practices.

**Approved**

Resolution 1b. Revisions to the power and duties of the Connecting Council.

**Approved**

Resolution 1c. Changes to Safe Gatherings Policy. **Approved**

Resolution 1d. Proposal for Delegation. **Approved**

Rev. Andrew Conard , El Dorado First, moved that the election of the Great Plains Annual Conference delegation to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences of 2020 be held during the Great Plains Annual Conference session of 2018 and that the 2020 delegation attend the special session of General Conference in 2019 as observers in fellowship with the Great Plains Annual Conference delegation for mutual advising and sharing crucial knowledge with the cost to be covered by the General Conference expense reserve fund. Seconded.

Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Basehor UMC, Kansas – Point of order. A motion must be in the hands of the body four hours before a vote. Sustained.

Nancy continued the report of the Connecting Council.

Rev. Andy Hargrove, Berryton UMC, Kansas asked to have the portions of the Wimberly report that can be released and don’t concern district personnel be released to the members of the conference. So noted.

The report of the Connecting Council was received and **approved**.

Rev. Libby Oberdorf, Wathena-Troy UMCs, Kansas - Point of order about the Conard Motion. Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner, parliamentarian clarified that the Connecting Council motion was approved and that the Conard motion was not in order.

Rev. Nancy Lambert closed the session.

GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE CLERGY SESSION  
Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska  
Thursday, June 8, 2017 10:30 a.m.

**Amy Lippoldt** opened the clergy session at 10:30a.m. She lifted up the new paragraphs in the Book of Discipline concerning limits of itineracy. Amy acknowledged the conference staff she works with: Ashlee Alley and Karen Jeffcoat. **Nancy Lambert** announced a Perkins preaching seminar and the forming of clergy Community of Practice groups that will have a facilitator. Amy offered words of encouragement, followed by the Bishop who urged pastors to be bold and adaptive.

*The following action was taken by the members of the Clergy Session. A full report is printed with the Business of the Annual Conference.*

First Presenters: **Aaron Duell** and **Kirstie Engel**

18. Who constitute: a) The Administrative Review Committee;  
b) The Conference Relations Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry;  
c) The Committee on Investigations - **all approved as printed**

21. Who are approved as Local Pastors? a) Full time; b) Part-time; c) Students serving in the Great Plains Conference while enrolled in a University Senate approved school of theology from another conference or denomination;  
d) Certified Candidates of the Great Plains Conference serving in other conferences while attending a University Senate approved school of theology - **¾ vote, all approved as printed**

23. Who have been reinstated as local pastors - **¾ vote, all approved as printed**

25. What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve appointments or ecumenical ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation? - **all approved as printed**

28. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school? a)provisional deacons: Hannah Ebling-Artz, Candler;  
b) Emmanuel Afful, Asbury; Michelle Byerly, Saint Paul; Michael Evans, United; Jeff Goetzinger, Saint Paul; Rebecca Goltry Mohr, Wesley; Stefanie Hayes, Perkins; Daniel Kipp, Saint Paul; Sang Hak Lee, Methodist Theological Seminary & KangNam University (South Korea); Curtis Magelky, Saint Paul; Javier Martinez Osuna, Garrett; Jordan McFall, Asbury; Elizabeth Oberdorf, Saint Paul; Matthew Sigler, Asbury and Boston; Amanda Simon, Duke; A.G. Turner, Fuller ¾ vote - **all approved as printed**

32. Who are elected as members into full connection? b) Elders: Chad Bolling, Doug Gahn, Christine Jorgensen, Tyler Kaufmann, Mari King, Teresa Lucas, Kyle Nelson, Kyle Reynolds, Charles Rivera, Kimberly Shank, ¾ vote - **all approved as printed**

34. Who are ordained elders and what seminary awarded their degree? Ashlee Alley, Asbury; Chad Boling, Drew; Douglas Gahn, COS Perkins, ACOS Asbury & Saint Paul; Christine Jorgensen, Drew; Tyler Kaufmann, Drew; Mari King, Phillips; Theresa Lucas, COS/ACOS Asbury; Kyle Nelson, Saint Paul; Kyle Reynolds, Garrett; Charles Rivera, Duke; Kim Shank, Saint Paul. - **all approved as printed**

36. Who are readmitted? Marshall Johnson 2/3 vote - **approved as printed**

38. Who have been received by transfer from other annual conferences of the United Methodist Church? Amy Seifert  
- **all approved as printed**

42. Who are discontinued as provisional members? b) voluntary discontinuance: LaVerne Bolling - **approved**

43. Who has been granted honorable location a) this year?  
Laura Felleman - **approved as printed**

46. Who have had their conference membership terminated b) by withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office? Laurie Morrison - **all approved as printed**

Second Presenters: **Deanna Holland** and **Gary Mauer**

50. Who are the provisional, ordained or associate members on leave of absence: a) Voluntary Personal Leave 5 years or less - **all approved as printed**. Voluntary Personal Leave more than 5 years, 2/3 vote - **all approved as printed**. Voluntary Family Leave 5 years or less - **all approved as printed**. Voluntary Family Leave more than 5 years, 2/3 vote - **all approved as printed**. b) Involuntary Leave, 2/3 vote - **all approved as printed**

52. Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling condition? - **all approved as printed**

53. What members in full connection have been retired this year?  
a) Deacons - **all approved as printed** c) Elders - **all approved as printed**

54. What associate members have been retired this year? -  
**all approved as printed**

56. Who have been recognized as retired local pastors? The Bishop recognized them and offered a prayer on their behalf

67. What diaconal ministers have died during the year? Bishop Saenz prayed for the life and ministry of Miriam Louise Weber

71. Who has taken the retired relationship in the Annual Conference as a Diaconal Minister? 2/3 vote - **all approved as printed**

72. Who are approved for less than full-time service? a) associate members and elders? - **all approved as printed.** b) deacons in full connection and provisional deacons? - **all approved as printed**

76. What elders (full connection and provisional), associate members, and local pastors are appointed to extension ministries for the ensuing year under the provisions of paragraph 344.1d? 2/3 vote - **all approved as printed**

The clergy session adjourned at 11:45a.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAITY SESSION**  
**Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2017 10:40 a.m.**

The Laity Session convened at 10:40 a.m. Oliver Green led the singing to gather the Laity Session.

Courtney Fowler welcomed the laity to the 2017 Laity Conference in Grand Island, Nebraska. Courtney spoke about the newness and freshness. We are called by Christ.

Courtney explained what the Lay Members' responsibility is back to their local church.

**Introductions**

- Laity Team  
Courtney Fowler, conference lay leader; Associate Lay Leaders: Oliver Green, Topeka, Kansas; Lisa Maupin, Lincoln, Nebraska; Keith Olsen, Grant, Nebraska, Carolyn May, Colby, Kansas; Dave Brant, coordinator of lay Leadership development; Mary Feit, director of lay servant ministry.
- Courtney recognized first time lay members to conference.
- Courtney recognized each district and asked them to stand and be recognized.
- Maye Saenz addressed the laity session and told a little about their family.
- Dave Brant, coordinator of lay Leadership development for the Great Plains Conference spoke on what his role is for the local church.
- Mary Feit, director of lay servant ministry, spoke on what the purpose of the lay servant ministry is and the changes that have taken place.
- Courtney Fowler asked for the youth in attendance to stand. Grace Woods, previously the communications director for youth ministries, informed the laity about upcoming events that are available for youth. She encouraged the Laity to talk to the youth of their church to get them involved in these activities.

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Legislative Overview

Lisa Maupin, associate conference lay leader from Lincoln, Nebraska, introduced the legislative overview. She explained that we will be voting on constitutional amendments and resolutions.

- Constitutional amendments were approved at General Conference. They cannot be amended or modified but they can be debated. She also explained how to read the resolutions and the possible questions to ask yourself when reading the resolutions.
- Courtney Fowler explained what the “bar” of the conference means. You must sit on the floor or in the gray seats in order to vote.

Carolyn May, associate lay leader from Colby, Kansas, recognized Rose Schmidt of the Lawrence United Methodist Church of Lawrence, Kansas, as the recipient of the Angie Newman Award.

Oliver Green, associate lay leader from Topeka, Kansas, asked laity to share highlights of their ministry from their local churches.

Oliver Green ended with prayer at 12:00 p.m.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE SECOND PLENARY**  
**Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska**  
**Thursday, June 8, 2017 1:30 p.m.**

Bishop Saenz introduced Keith Olson, associate lay leader, to open the session with prayer.

**Rev. Amy Lippoldt presented the Board of Ordained Ministry report** and recognized those on the Board of Ordained Ministries. She asked for those in the first stages of call and discernment to stand.

a) Rev. Warren Schoming, chair of local pastors and associate members, recognized the Course of Study graduates Becky Saddler, Jerry Yount and Mark Baldwin. Warren offered a prayer for the Course of Study graduates.

b) Rev. Karen Jeffcoat, conference registrar, introduced Hannah Ebling-Artz who will be commissioned a provisional deacon.

c) Rev. Karen Jeffcoat introduced Rev. Emmanuel Afful, Rev. Michelle Ann Byerly, Rev. Michael Ryan Evans, Rev. Dane Jeffrey Goetzinger, Rev. Rebecca Ellen Goltry Mohr, Rev. Stefanie Jean Hayes, Rev. Daniel Elijah Kipp, Rev. Sang Hak Lee, Rev. Curtis Jay Magelky, Jr., Rev. Javier Alberto Martinez Osuna, Rev. Jordan Scoby McFall, Rev. Elizabeth Ann Oberdorf, Rev. Richard Matthew Sigler, Rev. Amanda Nicole Pouget (married name, Simon is maiden name), and Rev. Albert G. Turner, Jr. who will be commissioned provisional elder.

d) Recognized as associate members: none

e) Rev. Karen Jeffcoat introduced Rev. Ashlee Elaine Alley, Rev. Chad Alan Boling, Rev. Douglas G. Gahn, Rev. Christine Leah Jorgensen, Rev. Tyler Jack Kaufmann, Rev. Mary Idell King, Rev. Teresa Lynn Lucas, Rev. Kyle David Nelson, Rev. Kyle Edwin Reynolds, Rev. Charles Augustin Rivera, and Rev. Kimberly Ann Shank who will be ordained elders. Bishop Saenz asked the Historic Questions to the ordinands.

Rev. Amy Lippoldt recognized those celebrating their 10, 20, 30, and 40 years in ministry.

**Commission of Interns - Rev. Nicole Conard** introduced 33 interns serving in the conference this summer. Maddie Johnson and Deb Metcalf, co-coordinators of the Micah Corps summer internships, Navya Hopkins, co-coordinator of the VBS internship, Spencer Johnson, pastoral leadership intern, and Madison Stumbo, a youth intern in Kearney, Nebraska, all gave brief remarks. Rev. Nicole Conrad prayed a blessing on the summer interns.

**Mission Agency Report - Rev. Ben Hanne**, campus minister, spoke about Southwestern College.

**Clergy Excellence report** – Rev. Nancy Lambert shared what makes an effective clergy leader. Rev. Bill Gepford, pastor at Tonganoxie, KS, shared his experience with Culture of Call Grants and showed a video. Rev. Ashlee Alley, clergy recruitment and development, invited all to look into applying for the Culture of Call Grant.

### Break

The Bishop congratulated Rev. Earl Reed who is attending his 77<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Earl received his license to preach 77 years ago today.

**Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) Report** - Zach Anderson, chair of Council on Finance & Administration, reviewed the CF&A policies and moved their acceptance. **Adopted.** The budget will be voted on Saturday.

A retirement gift was presented to Rev. Gary Beach, retiring conference treasurer. The Bishop expressed gratitude for how much work Gary put in while merging the three conferences, and the good financial shape of the Conference. Dirk Hutchinson, Salina Trinity, shared a limerick about Rev. Gary Beach.

**Pension and Health Benefits Report** - Kelly Williams, chair

The Board of Pensions made the following five resolutions.

1. The Annual Clergy Housing Resolution was **approved.**
2. Continue the funding plan for the Clergy Retirement Security Program as followed in 2017. **Approved**
3. The past service rate increases by 2% of compensation. The 2018 rate shall be \$775 per service year. **Approved**
4. The Board's funding level for the Pre-82 Pension Plan is not to be reduced below 120%. **Approved**
5. Pension Grants will continue for Esther Miller and Kathy Kirkus. **Approved**

The 2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan was tabled until Friday afternoon by Bishop.

Health Insurance Proposal: The Board presented two options for pastoral health insurance: 1) continue to provide a health insurance stipend to pastors; or 2) a group plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. Either way, the cost to the local church will increase to \$15,850. A motion on

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Saturday will be presented as a result of a straw vote to be taken on Friday. Time was given for conversation and questions.

The Bishop asked if Items 6 and 7 would be received for informational purposes. **Approved.**

**Board of Trustees Report** – Rev. Steve Flader gave the Trustees report concerning a single office location. The consolidation would take place over several months to minimize the interruption in conference work. Steve moved that the current three office sites be consolidated into a single office location. Discussion followed.

Rev. Neil Gately, co-pastor at Valley View in Overland Park, Kansas City made a substitute motion to replace the original motion.

Rev. Craig Hauschild, Personnel Committee chair, gave information from the Wimberly conversations with staff.

The main message is that multiple offices creates the mistrust. Combining makes us one conference and our staff benefits from being together. We need our bishop to be in one place with all the staff. Consolidation would help with communication.

Discussion and questions.

Rev. Scott Evans, Ravenna, called for the question - **passed**

Substitute motion presented again – **Was not approved.**

Main motion presented for the three conference offices to consolidate into one. Further discussion.

Motion to call the question by Randy Oeser, Claflin UMC, Kansas – **motion passed.**

Call for a standing division of the house.

Bishop asked for prayer led by Carolyn May, conference associate lay leader  
**Motion carries 904 votes in favor, 182 votes against.**

Steve Flader - Motion to move the Great Plains Conference office to Topeka, Kansas

Amendment by Delynn Hay, First UMC, Waverly, Nebraska - "The Board of Trustees and Personnel Committee will develop a specific plan for consolidation and report to 2018 Annual Conference for approval with implementation by July 1, 2019." Second.

Question called -- **passed.**

**Amendment does not pass.**

Bishop Saenz restates the motion to move the Great Plains office to Topeka.  
**Passed.**

Rev. Mitch Todd, Mulvane UMC, asked for prayer. Bishop prayed.

Rev. Steve Flader moved that the Great Plains Conference Board of Trustees be authorized to purchase, lease, sell or transfer such properties as may be necessary to effect the consolidation of offices to Topeka in accordance with Paragraph 25.15 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Rev. Keith Fink, Kiowa, called the question – **passed.**

**Motion Carried.**

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**Archives & History Report - Lona Dearthmont**, chair Commission on Archives and History of the Great Plains Conference, reminded the conference of the archives motto: "By understanding the past, we can better envision the future." Lona introduced Maureen Vetter, who was awarded the national "Ministry of Memory Award" for her excellent historical work. Recognitions given to 150 year anniversaries: First UMC, Adams, Nebraska; Burr UMC, Burr, Nebraska; Seward UMC, Seward, Nebraska; First UMC, Wamego, Kansas.

**Retiring ministers** were introduced by Bishop Saenz and the session was adjourned at 5:02 to prepare for the retired clergy celebration dinner.

### GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska Friday, June 9, 2017 8:15 a.m.

Gathering Music and worship led by youth members of the conference.

Members of the annual conference spent the morning in learning sessions:

*A Problem of Magnitude: Worship in the UMC* - Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady;  
*Membership to Discipleship* - Rev. Phil Maynard; *Sabbath as Center in an Unstable World* - Rev. Marjorie Thompson; *Self-Care as a Spiritual Discipline* - Rev. Anne Gatobu; *Disciples Making Disciples: The Wesleyan Way of Discipleship* - Rev. Steve Manskar; *Narrative: The Most Important Thing About You* - Rev. Dr. James Bryan Smith; *How to Grow Closer to God: Advice from John Wesley* - Rev. Dr. Hal Knight; *Teammates Mentoring Program* - Brandon Leppke & Allyson Horne

### GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE THIRD PLENARY Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska Friday, June 9, 2017 1:45 p.m.

Bishop Saenz opened with a prayer request for the son of a lay member, after which he introduced Lisa Maupin, associate lay leader, who led us in prayer.

#### **Reports from Mission Agencies:**

**Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)** - Emiliano Lerda

**Living Hope** - Terry Abram

#### **Church closings** :

Bill Ritter moved the resolution for the closing of Prairie View UMC.

Approved

Dennis Livingston moved the resolution for the closing of Sylvia UMC.

Approved

Bill Ritter moved the resolution for the closing of University UMC. Approved

Mitch Reece moved the resolution for the closing of Ebenezer UMC.

Approved

Bill Ritter moved the Resolution for the closing of Living Water UMC.

Approved

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Bill Ritter moved the transfer of the Fullerton NE church property to the newly formed Fullerton Community Church – a union of the UMC and Presbyterian Church. Approved

The Bishop led us in prayer for all of these congregations and the lives that they touched.

**Personnel Committee Report** – Rev. Craig Hauschild presented the report and moved the adoption of the 2018. Minimum Compensation Recommendation. **Approved**

Full-Time local pastor	\$36,156
Associate members	\$38,496
Provisional Members	\$40,836
Full Members	\$43,176

Craig reported that superintendents’ salaries have reached equity and moved the discontinuance of the formula presented during the plan of organization that sought to achieve this goal. Superintendents will receive increases in the same manner as all other conference staff. **Approved**

**Congregational Excellence** – Rev. Evelyn Fisher reported that just over \$6,000 had been collected during the offering for more school partnership projects. She presented a video from “Teammates” mentoring program. She introduced Rev. Nathan Stanton who spoke about the transition as he becomes director of Congregational Excellence.

**New Church Development** - Lorna Geist recognized Rev. Nathan Stanton for his work. Nathan recognized the following church planters: Rev. Steven Blair – Lifebridge; Rev. Debra Mc Knight – Urban Abbey; Rev. Robert Johnson and Rev. Ronda Kingwood – St. Mark south campus; Rev. Gary Brooks and Rev. Jordan McFall – Aldersgate Renew Campus; Rev. Trevor Rook – Neighbors Church, Lincoln; Rev. Tiffany Baker and Rev. Kyle Reynolds – Olathe Grace; Rev. Richard Randolph and Rev. Beth Menhusen – Connection Point in Lincoln, joined by Bob Brant, lay delegate. Bishop Saenz led the body in prayer for these planters

**Camping Ministry** - Stuart Mack introduced staff members from some of the camps. Jane Van Horn presented a quilt to Bishop Saenz made up of t-shirts from the camps.

**Campus Ministry** – Rev. April Wegehaupt introduced campus ministry leaders from around the conference and presented a video highlighting campus ministry in the Great Plains.

**Break**

Bishop Saenz reported on the Bishops Commission on the Way Forward. A video was shown explaining the commission. After the video, five questions were discussed with the people seated next to each other striving to listen to each other. Suggestions on how we could move forward can be emailed to [questions@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:questions@greatplainsumc.org).

**Board of Pensions & Health Benefits Report - Kelly Williams**, chair reported on the two options for clergy health care. Questions were answered. Discussion was opened up to the floor.

Rev. Andy Hargrave moved to suspend the rules and have 5 speeches for and 5 speeches against for 2 minute time limit per speech. **Not approved.** A straw vote was taken to give the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits a sense of the body's preference.

Rev. Shelly McNaughton-Lawrence thanked all those who volunteered during annual conference and the conference was adjourned.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORDINATION SERVICE**  
**Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska**  
**Friday, June 9, 2017 7:30 p.m.**

**Service of Consecration and Ordination** – Nebraska Brass provided special music. Bishop Saenz preached on “Love Jesus. Love People.” One person was commissioned as a Deacon, 15 persons were consecrated as provisional members, and 11 were ordained elders. An offering for refugee resettlement was taken.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP**  
**Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:30 a.m.**

Gathering Music and Devotional  
Courtney Fowler, Conference Lay Leader, opened the session with prayer.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOURTH PLENARY**  
**Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:50 a.m.**

Bishop Saenz reminded us that the limitation of 2 speeches for and 2 against, with a 2 minute time limit per speech is still in effect.

**Mission Agency report** from Saint Paul School of Theology president Neil Blair

Rev. Andrew Conard, First UMC Eldorado, Kansas, moved and it was seconded that:

Therefore, be it resolved that the election of the Great Plains Annual Conference delegation to the General Conference of 2020 be held during the Great Plains Conference session of 2018. Be it further resolved that the 2020 delegation attend the special session of General Conference in 2019 as observers in fellowship with the Great Plains Annual Conference delegation for mutual advising and sharing crucial knowledge. Be it further resolved that the election of the Great Plains Annual Conference delegation to the Jurisdictional Conference of 2020 be held during the Great Plains Annual Conference session of 2018. Discussion followed.

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Motion to elect a delegation to serve in 2020 be elected in 2018 rather than 2019. **Not Approved.**

**Mercy & Justice Team Report - Sarah Marsh**, chair moved adoption of all three resolutions, #6, 7, 8. Seconded

Resolution #6, For the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice

Resolution #7, For Welcoming Migrants in Our Midst

Resolution #8, For Creation of a Covenant Partnership between the Great Plains and the Nigeria Episcopal Area

Edit to #8, Page 28, line 31, new #1: "Create awareness of the orphanage ministry among churches and individuals of the Great Plains Conference."

Rev. Deb Harvey, Smith Center, Kirwin and Agra UMC moved to amend #7 to strike the words "or legal status." from line 49. Seconded. Discussion.

**Not Approved.**

Rev. Buck Linton-Hindrick, retired clergy, moved for a division of the question to vote on the three motions individually. **Approved by standing vote (427-396)**

Vote for Resolution #7 **Approved.**

Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner moved to limit the debate to two speakers on each side, one minute each, for the rest of the speeches this morning. Seconded.

**Approved.**

Resolution #6: Seconded. **Approved.**

Resolution #8 as edited. **Approved.**

**Constitutional Amendments** - Courtney Fowler explained the process and rationale for the amendments.

Discussion followed. A paper ballot was taken. Results will be sent to the Council of Bishops and the results announced after all annual conferences have voted.

**Nominating Committee Report** - Rev. Tessa Zehring, chair

All changes are posted on the conference website. Tessa noted these additional changes: add Director Meg Anderson as Camp Lakeside director and site council chair Dan Hutton. Remove the Camp Lakeside slate of board members.

Rev. Evelyn Fisher: Stuart Davis has been assigned to another denomination. He is listed on Vital Congregations team. Should have his name removed and TBD added.

Rev. Katherine Bullard, retired. In the printed material she doesn't see anyone assigned to represent the Conference at Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska. Rev. Nancy Lambert – we no longer provide any mission agency support for IMN.

Tessa moved the nominations slate of leadership be adopted. **Approved.**

**Conference Treasurer's Report** – Rev. Gary Beach reported on a positive 2016 financial year.

Recognition: Gateway District clergy and laity for paying 98.73% of mission shares; Blue River District 97.61%;

Prairie Rivers District 95.07%. Clergy and laity from these districts stood and were recognized.

Gary gave thanks to the staff that has backed him through his time and introduced Scott Brewer as our new treasurer.

**Council on Finance and Administration** - Dave Platte reported a successful audit.

Brent Messick, chair of the Investment Committee reviewed the 2016 investment results.

Rev. Zach Anderson presented the budget for approval.

Rev. Katherine Bullard, retired. Moved to reinstate support for interchurch ministries with \$1,000 to \$2,000. Seconded. She requested that the funds come from administrative services.

Rev. Zach Anderson – point of order. We cannot move funds from one section of the budget to another.

Rev. Katherine Bullard: withdrawing her motion.

Andrea Paret, Norfolk First UMC said referral will go back to Mercy and Justice.

Rev. Andy Hargrove, Berryton, Kansas. Question about decreased funding in district personnel.

Rev. Zach Anderson – the decrease is about the decrease in number of district superintendents.

Bishop then explained the decrease in superintendents as part of the missional strategy for elders to take supervisory roles in their area. More info on the website.

The Bishop called for a vote on the budget. **Approved.**

**Board of Pensions and Health Benefits** - Kelly Williams moved we keep the Comprehensive Funding Plan with a health insurance allowance for clergy. **Approved.** The board recommends acceptance of the Health Insurance allowance of \$15,850 for the ensuing year.

Rev. Kenneth Baker, Eureka UMC offered amendment. He moved a fund be established to assist clergy who are unable to obtain insurance, with that stipend to be funded by a contribution of 1% of the clergy base compensation from those serving  $\frac{3}{4}$  time and above. Such contribution to be automatically deducted from their salary. Seconded. Discussion.

Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner, Bryan College, moves to refer to committee to research. Second.

Rev. Libby Oberdorf, Wathena-Troy, if we refer to committee, can the conference members do an electronic ballot?

Bishop: Yes

Rev. Lew Kaye-Skinner – the issue before us is the proposed amendment.

Jesi Lipp of St. Paul's Lenexa, Kansas moved to suspend the rules so the motion to refer can be addressed separate from the original motion.

**Approved.**

Current matter on the floor is referring the matter to committee.

Rev. Phil Sloat, Wood River-Alda, called the question. **Approved.**

Adoption of the motion to refer the matter of an assistance fund to the Board of Pensions: **Approved.**

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Jesi Lipp of St. Paul's Lenexa, Kansas requested a straw vote be taken of just the clergy to show their preference.

Continued discussion.

Bishop asked for a show of clergy who prefer the stipend, then the policy.

Bishop asked for vote of the body. **The health insurance stipend passes.**

Rev. Nancy Lambert made the closing announcements. She thanked the volunteers and the media staff.

**Final offering totals:** Refuge Ministry \$4,419.63, Education Initiative \$6,575.33, Youth Service Fund \$7,163.00, and UMCOR \$ 12,018.88

The new 2017-18 Extended Cabinet was introduced.

Rev. Nan Kaye-Skinner thanked the secretarial team, followed by the closing motions by way of a limerick:

To close we must accept reports  
And edit the Journal if words distort  
We'll print the Journal as required  
And ordered by those who are so inspired.  
We leave with thanks for this great cohort.

**Motions Approved.**

The annual conference shall reconvene June 13 -16, 2018, in Wichita, Kansas.

A Closing Worship and fixing of appointments was led by Bishop Saenz, with worship music by the annual conference praise team.