

**GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE**  
**Daily Proceedings**  
**DAILY PROCEEDINGS**

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**OPENING WORSHIP & MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**Century II, Wichita, Kansas**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2018**

A pre-Conference session was offered for members of Annual Conference to learn about the recommendations from the Commission on the Way Forward, led by Bishop Saenz.

**Opening Service of Remembrance and Table** – Clergy and spouses who died during the past year were honored. Rev. Wayne Alloway preached on “Emmaus, Everybody’s Town.” The Wichita Aldersgate children’s choir and Wichita Pleasant Valley UMC choir provided special music. Iris Eileen Cannon, daughter of Rev. Emily Pearson Cannon and Stephen Cannon, was baptized. An offering was taken for the Christmas Camps and the Youth Service Fund.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP**  
**Century II, Wichita, Kansas**  
**Thursday, June 15, 2018**

**First Plenary Session**

Gathering music and devotional reflection by Aaron Lee Martin, worship director from Wichita Aldersgate Renew Campus. Bishop Saenz called the Annual Conference to order with words of welcome and recognition of those present. Conference Secretary, Nan Kaye-Skinner presented the enabling motions. The Secretarial staff shall be Laura Gregory, asst. secretary; Ben Hanne; Kathy Uldrich; Lori Richey; Gina Gile; Amy Hasemeyer; and Brian Kottas. **Approved.**

The Bar of the conference set as seating on the main floor and Sections B-G. **Approved** 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. Proposed changes: Section B2 is clarification on lay representation – Section H added to address how resolutions will be processed and addressed. **Approved.**

**Laity address** by Lay Leader, Courtney Fowler.

Courtney addressed the body and introduced the new Conference lay leader, Lisa Maupin, who led the Conference in thanking Courtney for her service over the last five years.

The bishop recognized Nancy Lambert for the adoption of the agenda.

**2018 JOURNAL**  
**Daily Proceedings**

**APPROVED.**

**Episcopacy Committee Report** - Maria Campbell

Maye Saenz was introduced by Rev. Campbell to address the body. She reflected on Wichita as the location of the Bishop's election and joy of serving here in the Great Plains. She shared a video from the bishop's children, greeting "Jackpaw" and the conference.

**Episcopal Address** – Bishop Ruben Saenz

As part of his address, Bishop Saenz focused on the report of The Way Forward Commission and the special General Conference session to be held February 23-25, 2019 in St. Louis. He recognized members of the Forward With Unity Team of the Great Plains Annual Conference. Town hall meetings will be held throughout the Conference this fall. The bishop led the conference in prayer for the delegates to the special session.

**Morning announcements.**

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE CLERGY SESSION**  
**Century II, Wichita, Kansas**  
**Thursday, June 14, 2018**

Call to order and welcome from the Bishop.

Remarks from **Amy Lippoldt** aided by the 2018 Preaching Voice Competition. Amy encouraged clergy to raise up young leaders – give them the keys and let them lead. Our voices have power – use them wisely. We have the power to communicate the love of God.

*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: **Cindi Stewart** and **Andrew Conard**

18. Who constitute: a) The Administrative Review Committee; As listed

**APPROVED**

21. Who are approved as Local Pastors? a) Who are approved and appointed as: Full-time local pastors, As Listed; b) Part-time local pastors, As Listed; c) Students from other Annual Conferences? None **APPROVED** d) Students who have been certified as candidates in your annual conference and are serving as local pastors in another annual conference while enrolled in a school of theology listed by the University Senate As Listed

23. Who have been reinstated as local pastors -? As Listed **APPROVED**

24. What ordained ministers or provisional members from other Annual Conferences or Methodist denominations are approved for appointment in the Annual Conference while retaining their conference or denominational membership?

a) Annual Conferences As Listed

Other Methodist Denominations As Listed

## GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

### Daily Proceedings

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? - **As listed APPROVED**

27. Who are elected as associate members? As listed **APPROVED**

28. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school? As listed  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote **APPROVED**

29. Who are continued as provisional members?

a) In preparation for ordination as a deacon or elder? As listed.

b) Provisional deacons who became provisional elders? None

c) Provisional elders who became provisional deacons? None

d) Provisional members who transferred from other conferences or denominations? None **APPROVED**

32.a) Who are elected as members in full connection and ordained as deacons? As listed

b) Who are elected as members in full connection and ordained as elders? As listed

34. b) Who are transferred from deacon and ordained as elders? As listed **APPROVED**

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

41. Who have been transferred out to other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church? **APPROVED**

42. Who are discontinued as provisional members?

c) By involuntary discontinuance **APPROVED**

a) Who on honorable location are appointed ad interim as local pastors? As Listed

46. Who have had their conference membership terminated?

a) By withdrawal to unite with another denomination **APPROVED**

b) By withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office? **APPROVED**

a) By withdrawal under complaints or charges?

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

48. a) What associate members have died during the year? As listed

b) What provisional members have died during the year? None

f) What elders have died during the year? As listed

d) What deacons have died during the year? None

e) What local pastors have died during the year? As listed

The Bishop offers prayer for all those deceased during the past year.

**2018 JOURNAL**  
**Daily Proceedings**

50. Who are the provisional, ordained members or associate members on leave of absence?

- a) Voluntary? As listed
  - (1) Personal, 5 years or less
  - (2) Personal, more than 5 years

**APPROVED**

- (3) Family, 5 years or less As listed

**APPROVED**

- (4) Family, more than 5 years As listed

**APPROVED**

- (5) Transitional As listed

52. Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions?

As Listed **APPROVED**

53. What members in full connection have been retired? Please come forward as your name is called.

- a) Deacons This year? As listed
- c) Elders This year? Please come forward as your name is called As listed

54. a) What associate members have been retired this year?

As listed

**APPROVED**

56. Who have been recognized as retired local pastors?

- a) Who are retiring this year? As listed
- Bishop offers prayer for retiring local pastors **APPROVED**

62. Who have been removed as a certified person in specialized ministry?

As listed

69. What diaconal ministers have been granted an extended leave?

As listed

**PART VI APPOINTMENTS AND CONCLUDING BUSINESS**

72. a) What associate members, provisional, or full elders are approved for appointment to less than full-time service? As listed **APPROVED**

76. What elders (full connection and provisional), associate members, and local pastors are appointed to extension ministries for the ensuing year?

- a) Within the connectional structures of United Methodism? As listed
- b) To ministries endorsed by the Board of Higher Education and

Ministry? As listed

To other valid ministries? As listed

**APPROVED**

81. Where and when shall the next Conference Session be held?

May 29-June 1, 2019 in Topeka, Kansas

**GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE**  
**Daily Proceedings**

The clergy session adjourned.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAITY SESSION**  
**Century II, Wichita, Kansas**  
**Thursday, June 14, 2018**

Courtney Fowler opened the Laity Session at 10:45 a.m. Courtney shared that her family has moved to Virginia. Her membership remains with her local church, College Avenue UMC in Manhattan, KS.

Courtney introduced the Lay Leadership team – Lisa Maupin, Carolyn May, Oliver Green, Keith Olsen, Dave Grant, Coordinator of Lay Leadership Development; Mary Feit – Lay Servant Ministry Programs. Speakers – UMW, UMM, CCYM, Lay Servant Ministry.

United Methodist Men – Charles File, Conference president, introduced several key United Methodist Men’s Events. Over 75 people have received United Methodist Men’s scholarships, \$50,000 given.

United Methodist Women - Karen Dunlap , Conference President celebrated 100 years of UMW In 2017, UMW gave almost \$13,000,000 in mission giving around the world. Great Plains UMW have mission pledge in \$625,000/year.

Conference Council on Youth Ministry - Ariana Jacobson, chair, spoke of the Conference-wide youth events they plan and execute.

Lay servant ministry – Mary Feit reported on the Conference ministry. 800 individuals in data base, not all currently active. 399 churches in our conference have at least one lay servant minister as a member.

Oliver Green, associate lay leader – asked everyone to sing “We Are The Church Together” and led the laity in prayer.

Disaster recovery staff person – Rev. Hollie Tapley – Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. Three important groups – prayer, player, payer. Presented information about disaster response services in the conference.

Lisa Maupin, incoming Conference Lay Leader, introduced Keith Olsen, who will continue on as an Assoc. Lay Leader. Other Assoc. Lay Leaders are to be named.

Courtney took a moment of personal privilege to present a gift with appreciation to Oliver Green.  
The Angie Newman Award was presented to Felicia Shippner from El Dorado, KS, UMC.

## 2018 JOURNAL Daily Proceedings

### GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE SECOND PLENARY Heartland Event Center, Grand Island, Nebraska Thursday, June 14, 2018

Todd Seifert introduced Dan Krause, Director of UMCOM, who addressed the annual conference. Bishop Saenz stressed the importance of local church websites and led the conference in prayer.

**Rev. Amy Lippoldt** thanked those involved in developing new leadership and working in credentialing in the conference.

Rev. Warren Schoming, chair of local pastors and associate members, Warren Schoming introduced Course of Study graduates: Bonnie Brock, Lindsey Clarke, William "Bill" Driver, Mark Fillmore, Leslye Haller, Kyle Scheideman and Laura Stubblefield.

Rev. Karen Jeffcoat, conference registrar, introduced a: Associate members: Rob Ernest, Berniece Ludlum, Vernon Olson. b: those to be commissioned provisional members: Deacon: Rachel Rigdon; Elder: Darryl Burton, Anne Gahn, Hyun Ju Gil, Julie King, John Lewis, Daniel Norwood, Lori Patton, Christine Potter, Jeff Potter, Darlene Sheffer, So Yeong Son, Hui Angie Vertz, and Younghwan Won

c) Rev. Karen Jeffcoat introduced c: those to be Ordained as Elder & Full Membership: Deacon: Melissa Gepford; Elder: Andrea Beyer, Isaac Chua, Orlando Gallardo Parra, Donna Goltry, Molly Just, Brenda Kostner Johnson, Lucas McConnell, and Amy Seifert.

Bishop Saenz asked Wesley's Historic Questions and the Conference affirmed those being ordained.

**Commission of Interns - Rev. Nicole Conard** introduced summer interns and they are commissioned:

Micah Corps: Stephanie Carson, Allie Drummond, Annabelle Kanyi, Nick Detter, Kailene Hamilton, Bernard Hangi, Mandi Hawthorne, Tasho Mataswa, Maria Penrod, Maddi Baugous

Network Interns: Brennan Cummings, Spenser Johnson, Jacques Kambol, Jason Kuehl, Sandra Nyembo, Natalie Soukup, Kaitlynn Sjutts, Tanner Bowles  
Pastoral Leadership: Rachel Shepherd, Rebecca Borgman, Nabii Gatobu, Mikala McClure

All gave brief remarks. Rev. Nicole Conrad prayed a blessing on the summer interns.

**Clergy Excellence Report** – Nancy Lambert

**Congregational Excellence** - Nathan Stanton

After an introduction, Nathan introduced Doug Ruffold presenting the One Matters Discipleship awards to Sublette, Kansas UMC and Douglas, Kansas UMC. Rev. Ruffold brought greetings from Junius Dotson

**New Church Development** - Lorna Geist described their work in equipping church planters, starting new congregations and funding the new church development work. She described several new starts and re-expressions of existing congregations. She introduced Rev. Michael Beck, who described the

## GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

### Daily Proceedings

beginnings of the Wesleyan revival through going outside the existing church buildings. He described the springing up of “micro-community churches.” These communities are reaching the “nones” and “dones.” These are fresh expressions and based on lay ministry.

**Camping Ministry** - Stuart Mack introduced 12-year-old Clair Beyer and Brianna Hutton who spoke about their experience at church camp.

**Campus Ministry** - April Wegehaupt announced a \$1,000 grant for new campus ministry in local churches. She introduced our campus ministers and thanked the Conference for their financial support: Kathy Bannister, Laura Stubblefield, Scott Jacob, Jamie Bentley, Luke Meltz, Susan Mercer, Kevin Hopkins, Chelsey Schrack, Kurt Cooper, Eduardo Bousson, Ben Hanne, Michelle Chesnut, Sierra Paregi.

### Break

Bishop Saenz asked members of the cabinet and the youth to come forward for a “dance break” to reconvene the session. Bishop Saenz called upon Larry Harris to offer a prayer.

**Personnel Team Report** - David Livingston on behalf of Rev. Craig Hauschild.

David introduced the senior staff: Nathan Stanton, Congregational Excellence; Todd Seifert, Communications; Nancy Lambert, Clergy Excellence; Scott Brewer, Conference Treasurer.

Recognition was given to those not continuing on staff with the move to the Conference Office in Topeka: Nathan Stanton thanked Ann Manske, Lydia Harbutz, Shane Hinderliter, TruDee Little;

Nancy Lambert thanked Regina Bergman; Scott Brewer thanked Toby Carver, Mary Conrad;

Nancy Lambert thanked Liz Lippoldt. Todd Seifert thanked Rachel Moser and Roxie Delisi.

The Personnel Committee recommends a 2% increase in the Equitable Compensation based on cost of living and inflation adjustment. Motion approved.

Bishop Saenz asked Andrew Conard to pray for those who will not be continuing as Conference staff.

Nan Kaye-Skinner gave instructions for speaking at the microphone and using the colored cards to indicate your intent. If a motion is made it needs to be written out and brought to the secretarial staff. She also identified who are eligible to vote.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Scott Brewer

**Council on Finance and Administration** - Zach Anderson, Chair reported that the budget being proposed for next year reflects a .7% increase and will be brought back to be voted on Saturday.

## **2018 JOURNAL**

### **Daily Proceedings**

Pension & Health Benefits Board - Kelly Williams, Chair moved adopting the following resolutions as found in the Conference reports: Housing Resolution, Health Insurance and Health Insurance Allowance, CRSP Funding, Past Service Rate, Funding Level, Special Pension Grants, Wespeth 2018 Comprehensive Funding Plan.

Andy Hargrove, Berryton, Kansas asked a question on Health Care Coverage not changing.

Scott Brewer answered the question.

Pension & Health Benefits motion approved

Scott Brewer asked for personal privilege to give thanks to Kelly Williams for her leadership as Chair of the Pension & Health Benefits.

Emily Robinson, recent graduate of Andover High School, was seated with the Conference Secretary. She will attend Southwestern College in Winfield and hopes to attend seminary following. She will work at Camp Horizon and attend the Global Young Peoples Convention in Johannesburg, South Africa, representing the South Central Jurisdiction of the UMC.

Trustees Report: Loyd Hamrick, Chair, added the following actions to the printed Trustees report:

Hays District Parsonage was sold to the Hays First United Methodist Church and possession took place in April 2018

Wichita West Parsonage renovations was done and residence sold to private party and closed May 31, 2018

Wichita Episcopal Residence was sold and will close June 15, 2018

Wichita Conference Office was sold and will close July 2 and the decommissioning service on June 16.

Lincoln Conference Office was sold and a decommissioning service on June 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Topeka Conference Office was sold with a cash offer from the buyer. No closing date set.

The net sales of the above properties amounts so far in the amount of \$4,775,822.

Report was affirmed.

Connecting Council Report - Nancy Lambert moved that the Green sheet provided in the packet titled, "Structure of the Annual Conference Proposal," which was omitted from the report, would be inserted at the bottom of pg. 13 in the report at letter O and all numbering changed accordingly. Motion approved.

## GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

### Daily Proceedings

Nancy went over the changes in the Structure of the Annual Conference Proposal:

Page 10, line 32-33. Reducing the number of District Superintendents who are on the Connecting Council to the Dean and Assistant Deans.

Line 50, add the chair or representative from the personnel team.

Page 14. Remove the Assistant to the Bishop from the personnel team.

The Connecting Council recommends these changes to the Structure of the Annual Conference.

Tessa Zehring moved an amendment under camps to edit line 13 c to reduce the number of directors nominated by the site council from 2 to 1. Motion approved.

Michael Brown, Spring Hills, KS moved an amendment to page 13, line 22: add at the end of the line: "no more than two of which can come from any one district" Motion approved.

Tessa Zehring moved to amend pg 12 line 12 to reduce the number of district superintendents on the Transition In Ministry Team from two to one. Motion approved.

Andrew Conard, First UMC in El Dorado, asked for clarification the powers of the Connecting Council, page 9. Scott Brewer, Treasurer, spoke to this question.

Nicole Harms, Missouri River District, asked a question about lay leaders and associate lay leaders. Nancy Lambert responded.

Abby Caseman, clergy, asked for clarification from the personnel team on the staff position named, Intergenerational Discipleship Coordinator, page 13, line 12. Nancy Lambert responded this person would take the place of Shane Hinderliter. The position has not yet been filled. All recommendations are adopted.

Bishop Saenz asked for a motion from the floor to extend our session by 10 minutes to allow presentation of History and Archives. Motion passed.

History and Archives - Mik King

Recognition of 11 churches celebrating 150 years in ministry in 2018: Yates Center UMC; Edwardsville UMC; Grinter Chapel, Kansas City, KS; First United Methodist Church of Oswego; Enterprise UMC; First UMC of Sabetha, KS; Madison Avenue UMC, Derby KS; Salem UMC, Clatonia, NE; Trinity UMC, West Point, NE; Ashland UMC, Ashland, NE; Weeping Water UMC, Weeping Water, NE.

Bishop Saenz offered a prayer for these churches celebrating 150 years.

## **2018 JOURNAL Daily Proceedings**

A video was shown celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Methodist Church.

Megan Russ, Global Mission Fellow from Leavenworth, KS is being sent to South Korea to be the Director of Christian Activities. The bishop offered a prayer of blessing for her.

Nancy Lambert gave announcements.  
Session adjourned.

RETIREMENT DINNER AND CELEBRATION was held to honor 36 retirees.

### **GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORSHIP Century II, Wichita, Kansas Friday, June 15, 2018**

Gathering Music and Devotions led by conference youth. An offering was taken for Youth Service Fund. A morning of teaching by Rev. Dr. Mark Teasdale, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, and workshops followed the service.

Bishop called the Conference to order. Presentation from Neil Blair at Saint Paul School of Theology.

Discussion on the Council of Bishops Proposal on the Way Forward by Bishop Saenz. The Bishop related the relevant history of the discussion about LGBTQA+ persons beginning in 1972. He gave a brief overview of the Commission on the Way Forward. A video presentation narrated by Rev. Tom Berlin was shown. Bishop Saenz invited the General Conference delegates to the stage for introduction and talks about the "Forward in Unity" group that he has formed in the Great Plains.

The schedule of town hall meetings around the annual conference and resources are shared with the Conference. Conference members pray for the delegates.

Nathan Stanton is introduced as discussion leader for the book "The Anatomy of Peace".

The Bishop prays for Conference members George Probasco and wife Gayla, and Marilyn Christmore.

Nancy Lambert gives an update on UMCOR: 1,783 hygiene kits, and 1,785 school kits for a total of 3,568 kits plus \$10,237. Wednesday night offering – Christmas Camps \$5, 446.80 and Youth Service Fund \$6,464.46  
Total offerings around \$22,000 so far.

## GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

### Daily Proceedings

Session adjourned for a break.

Bishop Saenz reconvened the session.

Constitutional Amendment - Nan Kaye-Skinner assured that only those qualified to vote on the Constitutional Amendment had ballots. Oliver Green gave the background on the corrected text of the Constitutional Amendment. Ballots were marked and collected.

Annual Conference Sessions Team - Ross Baker moves Resolution H7. Adopted. Ross presented Resolution "I". Carol Garwood raised a question regarding how laity and clergy in that section would be selected. Michael Burgess raised a question about distributing copies of motions per the legislation just passed. Further discussion regarding selection of persons for the resolutions committee and the purpose of the committee.

Tessa Zehring moves an amendment to line 3 to have the GP nominating committee nominate the chair. The chair with the sessions planning committee would nominate the other members. Discussion and clarification followed. Lew Kaye Skinner moved to refer this Resolution to the Sessions Committee. Motion passed.

Church Closings

District Superintendents

#### **RESOLUTION #1 – Upland UMC**

Cindy Karges moved the closing of the Upland UMC. **Adopted.**

#### **RESOLUTION #2 – Glade UMC**

Dee Williamson moved the closing of Glade UMC. **Adopted.**

#### **RESOLUTION #3 – Gardner First Light**

Bruce Emmert moved closing Gardner First Light UMC. **Adopted**

#### **RESOLUTION #4 – Cedar Vale UMC**

David Watson moved closing Cedar Vale UMC. **Adopted.**

#### **RESOLUTION #4a- Gove UMC**

Don Hasty moved Resolution 4a to close Gove UMC. **Adopted.**

#### **RESOLUTION #5 –Andrea Paret moved the adoption of "Supporting Lay Leadership"**

Randall Hodgkinson moved an amendment to strike lines 42-44 and replace with the following: "Therefore, be it resolved to amend standing rule B(s)(d) (iii) to add, ", the Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator" after "teams" so that the subsection will read, "chairpersons of conference boards and teams, the Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator and the Conference Secretary and Conference Treasurer (if laity)."

#### **Amendment Adopted.**

Resolution 5 requires 2/3 majority, since it is a change to the standing rules.

#### **Adopted**

Nancy Lambert moved to grant Andrea Paret voice and vote on the plenary floor for the rest of this Annual Conference. 2/3 vote - **Adopted.**

**2018 JOURNAL**  
**Daily Proceedings**

**RESOLUTION #6** - Carol Garwood moves adoption of “Investing in Wespath’s ‘Social Values Choice’ Funds”. Andy Hargrove moved an amendment – “Therefore be it also resolved that the Great Plains Conference encourages congregations and members to avoid purchasing equipment or contracting services from HP, Motorola, and Caterpillar or doing business with companies that utilize products and services from these companies.” Discussion. Charles Danforth called the question. **Amendment failed.**

**SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING, RECOGNITION AND ORDINATION**

Thirteen provisional elders and one provisional deacon were commissioned, three associate members were recognized, one deacon in full connection and eight elders in full connection were ordained.

The Saint Marks Wichita Gospel Choir provided special music. Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Louisiana Annual Conference, preached “Go Into all the Land.” The offering was received for a seminary scholarship to fund a mercy and justice experience.

**GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORDINATION SERVICE**  
**Century II, Wichita, Kansas**  
**Saturday, June 17, 2018**  
**4th Plenary Session**

Music and devotions were provided by Conference Hispanic pastors. David Watson opened in prayer.

Nominating Committee Report - Tessa Zehring thanked everyone who served on committees. Corrections: Kelly Williams moving to Conference Finance & Administration, Mike Shockley is now serving as Chair of Pensions and Benefits.

Motion to approve the report of the nomination committee. Approved.

Nebraska United Methodist Foundation Report - Anita Crisp, Exec. Director of Nebraska UM Foundation.

Kansas United Methodist Foundation Report - Lee Sankey, Director of Kansas UM Foundation.

Both directors thanked the Conference for support. Dustin Petz was announced as the new director for the Kansas Foundation.

Council on Finance and Administration - Brent Messick, for Rev. Zach Anderson

Brent Messick reviewed the audit committee’s work for chair, David Platt. The final copy of the audit should be posted on the Conference website in July. He recognized the work of Scott Brewer. He reviewed the investment

## **GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE**

### **Daily Proceedings**

committee report. At the end of 2016, conference had funds in reserves of \$73,848,000. At the end of 2017, this was \$83,128,000, a growth of 12.6%. Thanked staff and members of committees.

The 2019 budget of \$15,490,264 was presented to the conference. A question was asked about the program expense increase for Congregational Excellence. Additional funding is for coaching support, retreats, scholarships and grants.

Katherine Bullard moves to reduce the \$23,200 for Rural Response Hotline by \$500 and add that amount directly to Inter-church Ministries of Nebraska. Motion seconded. Information is given that the Conference no longer supports Inter-Church Ministries financially. Motion Fails

The 2019 Budget is approved by show of hands.

United Methodist Men - Charles File, Conf. President, reviews the work of the Conference UMM and their goals. A video was shown highlighting the work of the United Methodist Men.

United Methodist Women - Karen Dunlap, Conf. President recognized the 150th Birthday of UMW. Video was shown highlighting the work of UMW. Mission Giving 2018 is close to \$13 million.

The bishop introduced Jakin Lefto, high school student from Valley Center. He thanked Jakin for his work and witness.

RESOLUTIONS - The Bishop introduced the upcoming resolutions. Discussion will be limited to two speeches for and two against. Lew Kaye-Skinner clarifies the numbering of the resolutions.

RESOLUTION #9 – Carol Ekdahl Garwood, Chair of Holy Land Task Force moved “Rights of Children living under the Israeli Occupation”

Amendment - Robert Resnik, Shawnee Heights: “Amend line 35 to read: “Pressure the state of Israel to change its practices.” Second.

Richard Randolph moved to amend the amendment to define what pressure means

Point of Order, Jesi Lipp. Sustained. Back to original amendment.

The amendment to change the language in line 35 Fails.

Discussion on Resolution 9.

Vote: show of hands is not conclusive. A standing vote is taken. The resolution fails, 374 for to 396 against.

Nancy Lambert recognized the 5K run with 150 participants. \$4442.08 has been raised so far to support seminarian scholarship. Announced de-commissioning service for the Wichita office at 1:30 p.m. today. Recognized volunteers for Annual Conference.

## **2018 JOURNAL Daily Proceedings**

Break

The Bishop convened the session and announced Pastor Bill Driver's father died this morning. Bill Ritter leads prayer.

Personal Privilege – Nicole Harms, Missouri River District spoke to the fact that the Great Plains Conference represents diverse opinions and beliefs. We make decisions together and we act on our own conscience. The Bishop thanked her and asked her to submit an article for the conference communications team to publish for others to read.

RESOLUTION 10 – Kabala Sander-Chali moved the "Creation of a Covenant Partnership between the Great Plains Conference and the Methodist Church of Haiti" Resolution Passes

RESOLUTION 11 – Andrea Paret moved the resolution, "Our Sinful Immigration System"

Discussion. Resolution passes.

RESOLUTION 12 – Juan Carlos Veloso moves "The Call to Offer Sanctuary". Discussion. Resolution passes.

RESOLUTION 13 – Kevass Harding moves Resolution 13, "Comprehensive Immigration, Refugee, Migrant, and Asylum Reform" Resolution passes.

Bishop recognized the transcriber and thanks the Conference youth, parliamentarians Dennis Livingston, Jesi Lipp, Kala Houck, Lew Kaye-Skinner.

Nancy Lambert made closing announcements.

Nan Kaye-Skinner moved to accept the record of the minutes as the official journal of the Annual Conference. Motion passes. Nan Kaye-Skinner moved that all reports and the work of the secretary is authorized to make changes for clarity and to print the workbooks as needed. Accepted.

Next Annual Conference - May 29 – June 1, 2019 in Topeka, KS

The Bishop introduces the 2018-19 Cabinet.

Fixing of Appointments

Closing of Annual Conference