

Wesleyan Covenant Association

Global Legislative Assembly Minutes

November 2, 2018 – Marietta, GA

Host Location: Mt. Bethel UMC in Marietta, GA – Thank you for generously hosting the event.

Attendance: Legislative delegates in attendance, 161. List of those elected to serve attached. Guests also in attendance.

Call to Order and Welcome by Rev. Keith Boyette, President of the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

Rev. Joe DiPaolo led worship with “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

Rev. Jerry Kulah of Liberia read Isaiah 60 and led opening prayer.

Rev. Carolyn Moore offered the opening message based on Genesis 22, “Uncompromised Faith.”

Hymn, “Be Thou My Vision”

President Boyette welcomed everyone to the first Global Legislative Assembly of the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

- He thanked and introduced Walter Fenton, Vice President of the WCA and Teresa Marcus, Executive Secretary of the WCA.
- The WCA Council present was recognized.
- Set the expectations of the legislative session, using Robert’s Rules of Order. Imposing a three-minute limit to remarks, which could be overruled if voted upon by legislative body.
- Mt. Bethel’s staff and pastors were thanked for hosting Friday and Saturday’s events.
- Thanked reporters present from the United Methodist Church including Thomas Kim from the United Methodist News Service.
- Two Korean Methodist pastors present were also recognized: Rev. Jae Lew and Rev. Kevin Ryoo.

Rev. Madeline C. Henners, Rio Texas CHAPTER, **MOTION: “I move that the bar of the conference be set as the round tables in this room.” Seconded. VOTE: Approved unanimously.**

Keith continued his explanations for the day.

- The process of voting with the devices provided. 1 – Yes, 2 – No, 3 – Abstain. Then press SEND. Can change vote by reentering until time is up on that vote. When voting on candidates, we will use a three-digit number by their names, using the delete button if necessary to correct your entry. You must vote with entries for all slots in that ballot or the ballot will be invalid. A person can be voted upon once per time.
- A test ballot vote was taken using Disney characters.
- We will be electing 9 spots, including the international spot below.

Election of Jerry Kulah from the West Africa region to the WCA Council, 2021. Elected with 155 – Yes, 0 – No, 2 – Abstain.

Rev. Jeff Greenway, Chair of the WCA invited to share. He invited the Council to stand as he shared a statement that was shared on behalf of the Council. (Copy Attached)

Jeff Greenway, MOTION: Move the adoption of the “Resolution Declaring the Position of the WCA on Matters to be Considered by the Special General Conference of the UMC.” Requires no Second, since it comes from the Council.

- **VOTE: Adopted, 154 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Abstain.**

Election of 8 positions on the WCA Council.

(Two minutes were allowed for table discussion among delegates.)

Continuing WCA Council Members were introduced by class, lay/clergy status, and jurisdiction.

- Round 1: **ELECTED – Tom Lambrecht, Carolyn Moore, Bill Arnold, Jessica LaGrone, Chris Ritter, Jeff Jernigan, Stephen Sparks.**

Adoption of “Statement on Doctrinal Standards,” Presented by Dr. David Watson, WCA Council member. No second needed, since it comes from the WCA Council.

- Denni Palmer, Arkansas Conference – **AMENDMENT: Amend the statement to move the last paragraph at the bottom of page 2 to the top of the document as an opening paragraph to begin with an emphasis on Holy Scripture. Seconded.**
 - **VOTE: Amendment Approved, 145 – Yes, 11 – No, 3 – Abstain.**
- Charles Kyker, West North Carolina Conference – **AMENDMENT: Adding an asterisk after “The Forty-four Standard Sermons of John Wesley*” with the content: “*All of 150 sermons should be read for spiritual renewal and spiritual disciplines.” Seconded.**
 - **VOTE: Amendment Approved, 95 – Yes, 50 – No, 11 – Abstain.**

President Boyette recognized Bishop T. Owan Kasap of the South Congo/Zambia Chapter and Rev. Jody Ray of Mt. Bethel in Marietta, GA.

CONTINUED: Adoption of “Statement on Doctrinal Standards,”

- Michael Rogers, Baltimore Washington Conference – **AMENDMENT: Replace in the first paragraph, second sentence “refined and developed” with “affirmed.” Seconded.**
 - **Jim Bass, friendly amendment: Replace “refined” with “defined.”**
 - **VOTE: Amendment Approved, 143 – Yes, 15 – No, 2 – Abstain.**
- Rebecca Livermon, Virginia Conference – **AMENDMENT: Amend #3 under Liturgical Norms and Guidelines to replace with “Worship through Hymns and Songs” Seconded.**
 - Bob Cooper, Virginia Conference – **Friendly Amendment accepted to add “Hymns and songs that celebrate our Wesleyan tradition and heritage.”**
 - Tom Lambrecht, Wisconsin Conference – **Friendly Amendment accepted, simply to replace “Approved” with “Recommended.”** None of Bob Cooper’s amendment was retained.
 - **VOTE: Amendment Approved, 95 – Yes, 55 – No, 3 – Abstain.** To now read: “3. Recommended collections of Hymns and Songs”

BREAK

Maxim Kvyatkovskiy, WCA Council member, reconvened us with prayer.

CONTINUED: Adoption of “Statement on Doctrinal Standards,”

- Bob Zilhaver, Western Pennsylvania – **Call the Question, Seconded.**
 - **VOTE: Call the Question Approved, 145 – Yes, 5 – No, 3 – Abstain.**
- **Approval of Entire Document (copy attached) as Amended**
 - **VOTE: Amendment Approved, 158 – Yes, 2 – No, 0 – Abstain.**

Election of 1 position on the WCA Council.

- Round 2: **No election**
- Round 3: **No election**
- Round 4: **ELECTED – Joe DiPaolo**

Tom Lambrecht, Wisconsin Conference: **Motion to reconsider first “Resolution Declaring Position on Matters to be Considered” in order to make an amendment. Seconded.**

- **VOTE: Reconsideration Approved, 132 – Yes, 17 – No, 3 – Abstain.**
- Tom Lambrecht, Wisconsin Conference **AMENDMENT: First sentence – To #1. First sentence – add “and brought into conformity with Judicial Council decision 1366.”**
 - **VOTE: Amendment Approved, 158 – Yes, 1 – No, 0 – Abstain.**
- Voted upon the whole document (copy attached), as reconsidered and amended
 - **VOTE: Approved, 151 – Yes, 1 – No, 2 – Abstain.**

Adoption, “Fundamental Features & Principles of a New Methodist Denomination.” Presented by Tom Lambrecht, WCA Council member. No second required, before the body from the WCA Council.

- Bob Cooper, Virginia CHAPTER. – **AMENDMENT: Replacing “A New Methodist Denomination” in the title with “A Fresh Expression of the Wesleyan Way.” Seconded.**
 - Katherine Fehl, Western PA – **Amendment to Cooper Amendment: Replace “New” with “Renewed.”**
 - **VOTE: Defeated, 15 – Yes, 147 – No, 0 – Abstain.**
 - **VOTE on Original Amendment: Defeated, 26 – Yes, 134 – No, 3 – Abstain.**
 - Mike Grant, East Ohio – **Called the Question, seconded. Approved by acclamation.**
- Jamie Westlake, Florida – **AMENDMENT: To add to the end of the title and first paragraph, “or a revitalized United Methodist Church.”**
 - Jeff Greenway, West Ohio – **Friendly Amendment accepted – “...or continue in a revitalize a renewed United Methodist Church” in the paragraph.**
 - **VOTE on Amendment: Defeated, 51 – Yes, 107 – No, 0 – Abstain.**

LUNCH BREAK

CONTINUED: Adoption, “Fundamental Features & Principles of a New Methodist Denomination.”

- Greg Stover, West Ohio – **AMENDMENT to add to #1 – to first sentence replacing “model and leading into” to “model God’s holy love and lead all people to...”**

- **VOTE on Amendment: Approved, 121 – Yes, 29 – No, 4 – Abstain.**
- Editorial Changes presented by Rev. Tom Lambrecht – **“Will” to “Would” in first paragraph and John 5 to John 4. APPROVED by acclamation.**
- Ethan Oltremari, Mississippi Delegation – **AMENDMENT to add between #5 and #6: “...offers radical hospitality and genuine community to all persons. While we affirm the orthodox, biblical view of sexuality and gender, we also welcome all persons to the redemptive grace of Jesus. We are committed to being a place of refuge and community for all who experience brokenness.”**
 - David Ford, Virginia – **AMENDMENT to Oltremari Amendment - To end of second sentence “to the end of transformation and conformity to celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in monogamous heterosexual marriage.”**
 - **VOTE on Amendment: Defeated, 23 – Yes, 134 – No, 4 – Abstain.**
 - Brian Straub, West Ohio – Delete first and part of second sentence through “we,” of the amendment.
 - **VOTE on Amendment: Defeated, 24 – Yes, 134 – No, 1 – Abstain.**
 - Steve Wood, North Georgia – Table the Oltremari Amendment
 - **VOTE on Amendment: Approved, 79 – Yes, 70 – No, 7 – Abstain.**
- Robert Zilharer, Western Pennsylvania – **AMENDMENT to add “...or Renewed” to the title and add a second paragraph: “These principles shall also guide our renewal efforts within the united Methodist church as circumstances warrant.”**
 - **VOTE on Amendment: Defeated, 62 – Yes, 92 – No, 0 – Abstain.**
- Michelle DeRouen, Louisiana – **AMENDMENT to add to first sentence of first paragraph, “laity” after churches and clergy.**
 - **VOTE on Amendment: Approved, 126 – Yes, 15 – No, 1 – Abstain.**
- David Ford, Virginia – **SUBSTITUTION to #1 “Believes that the mission of God in and through the church is to model God’s holy love and to leave all people to the full as a witness of the Kingdom of God in Christ. To this end, the church carries out The Great Commission locally, nationally, and internationally, making disciples of Christ by proclaiming, demonstrating, baptizing and instructing (Matthew 10:5-8 and Matthew 28:18-20) and The Great Charge of loving, feeding, and tending the flock of God (John 21); and worshipping in spirit and truth (John 4) This The Church does until, perfected in love, she experiences the fullness of God’s restored Kingdom in the new creation with Christ in the age to come.” Seconded.**
 - Joel Kershaw, Mountain Sky – Call the Question on ALL that is before us.
 - **VOTE on Calling Question on ALL: Approved, 137 – Yes, 20 – No, 0 – Abstain.**
 - **VOTE on Ford Amendment: Defeated, 26 – Yes, 134– No, 0 – Abstain.**
- **Vote on Entire Document (copy attached) – Adopted, 152 – Yes, 7 – No, 2 – Abstain.**

Ethan Oltremari, Mississippi – **MOTION made to adopt former proposed addition to “Fundamental Features and Principles of a New Methodist Denomination” as a separate statement to be distributed with all the other documents and edited grammatically as needed.**

- **Vote on Entire Document (copy attached) – Adopted, 80 – Yes, 77 – No, 2 – Abstain.**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Kulah, Liberia – **Friendly request to add appropriate biblical references within the “Fundamental Features & Principles of a New Methodist Denomination” – Approved by acclamation.**

BREAK

President Boyette reminded the legislation of the Statements of Faith and Moral Principles on our website, “About.” Wesleyan covenant.org. He read the section, “Marriage and Sexuality.”

Jeremy Smith, Alabama West Florida Chapter – **Point of Personal Privilege:** Recommendation not to form a new denomination but more of an association, from the perspective of a young person.

- Keith invited everyone to give such feedback throughout the year, to either the staff or council members.

Adoption of “Resolution Empowering Preparation for Next Steps” presented by Jeff Greenway, Chair of WCA Council. No second required.

- **Vote on Resolution** (copy attached) – **Adopted, 157 – Yes, 2 – No, 1 – Abstain.**

President Boyette offered closing appreciation for the participation from the delegates and our guests.

BREAK

Hymn, “I Come with Joy”

Closing Message by Ref. Jeff Greenway

Communion

Hymn, “For All the Saints”

Benediction delivered by Rev. Keith Boyette.

Adjournment by Rev. Keith Boyette

Respectfully submitted on November 8th, 2018 by Rev. Madeline C. Henners, Secretary of the WCA