

**JOURNAL OF
THE 14TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

UNLEASHED

MAY 22-25, 2022 · ST. LOUIS

SO ALL CAN BE MADE NEW

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Matthew Pickering
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Janelle Vernon

ABBREVIATIONS

C & A	Communication & Administration
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CMAD	Church Multiplication and Discipleship
Disc	<i>The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church</i>
DS	District Superintendent
E & CD	Education & Clergy Development
EC	Executive Cabinet
GB	General Board
GP	Global Partners
GS	General Superintendent
KJV	King James Version (Bible)
MW	Morning Worship
NIV	New International Version (Bible)
NKJV	New King James Version (Bible)
SS	Sunday School
WIF	Wesleyan Investment Foundation
WPF	Wesleyan Pension Fund
WPH	Wesleyan Publishing House

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RETIRING OR TRANSITIONING GENERAL OFFICERS



Executive Director of
Church Multiplication and Discipleship
Rev. Anita Eastlack



Executive Director of
Education and Clergy Development
Rev. Russell K. Gunsalus

DEDICATION

This General Conference Journal 2022
is dedicated to the memory of

Wayne Caldwell
Dr. Melvin E. Dieter
Dr. John A. Dunn
Dr. Lee Haines
Dr. Robert McIntyre
Dr. Earle L. Wilson



Dr. Wayne E. Caldwell

November 2, 1923—February 2, 2022

Dr. Wayne Eugene Caldwell served as general editor of *The Wesleyan Advocate* from 1984–1992.

He was born November 2, 1923, to Robin Vernon and Cora Helena Fischer Caldwell in Clay Center, Kansas. On June 6, 1946, he married Joan Wiese.

Dr. Caldwell graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Religion from Miltonvale Wesleyan College, Miltonvale, Kansas; a Bachelor of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri; a Master in Theology from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kansas; and a Doctor of Theology from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado.

Prior to serving as general editor, Dr. Caldwell pastored in Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado from 1948–1968. He was a professor at Miltonvale Wesleyan College, Miltonvale, Kansas, Marion College and Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana. Dr. Caldwell has sixteen published books and various articles, 1953–2008.

Dr. Caldwell was a faithful servant of the Lord with The Wesleyan Church. He loved to teach his college classes and was a perpetual student of learning and studying all of his life.

He and his wife Joan were parents to two daughters, one son, and grandparents to four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Dr. Melvin E. Dieter

October 12, 1924—October 6, 2018

Dr. Melvin E. Dieter served as general secretary of Educational Institutions for The Wesleyan Church from 1968–1975.

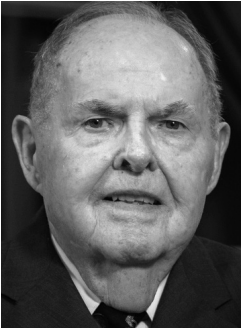
He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania; Navy Language Institute, University of Colorado, as a Chinese language specialist; Eastern Pilgrim College, Allentown, Pennsylvania; Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he earned his Ph.D.

In 1968, when the merging General Conference was held in Anderson, Indiana, the conference delegated the election of general secretary for Educational Institutions to the General Board of Administration. Neither The Wesleyan Methodist Church nor the Pilgrim Holiness Church had such a department prior to merger. But since ten colleges were carried over into the new denomination, the daunting task of reshaping promotional and fund-raising boundaries was assigned to the newly established department. The General Board chose Dr. Dieter, who was properly qualified for this responsibility.

Prior to his election as general secretary, Dr. Dieter served as president of Eastern Pilgrim College, Pennsylvania, from 1961–1967 and had accepted the position of dean at Houghton College prior to the merging general conference. He had also served as pastor in Pennsylvania and was active in the Penn/New Jersey District of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, serving many years on the District Board of Administration. For a time, Dr. Dieter was also the chairman of the Houghton College Board of Trustees. Upon leaving the Department of Educational Institutions in 1975, he went on to serve as a professor, vice-president and then provost at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky.

Dr. Dieter was an author and considered an outstanding historian of the holiness movement. His studies and work in the holiness movement inspired his support and promotion of women to the highest levels in church leadership.

He died on October 6, 2018, in Lyndhurst, Virginia. His wife of more than seventy-two years, Hallie Arline Kirtz Dieter, died the following day. The Dieters have one child.



Dr. John A. Dunn

November 25, 1935—February 3, 2020

Dr. John A. Dunn served as chief executive officer (CEO) of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation (WIF) from 1975–2000.

On November 25, 1935, he was born in College Corner, Indiana, to Rev. Floyd and Eulalia Dunn. He married Wilma Mae Carpenter in 1954.

He was a graduate of Frankfort Pilgrim College, Frankfort, Indiana, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Dr. Dunn walked in the light God gave him and fulfilled his duty and desire to worship his Savior, love his family, minister to many, and befriend a multitude for the sake of the kingdom. Prior to his service as CEO with WIF, he pastored in Pilgrim Holiness churches in Wisconsin and Wesleyan churches in Arizona. Dr. Dunn also served as district superintendent of the Arizona-New Mexico District from 1968–1975 and as a member of the WIF Board of Directors for an additional twenty years after retirement.

In his various leadership positions, Dr. Dunn visited churches and pastors across the United States and Canada, as well as in Europe, Peru, Australia, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Philippines, Israel and New Zealand. He invested his talents in kingdom service to equip, strengthen and help plant churches so others might know the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.

He and his wife Wilma were parents to six children and grandparents to thirteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.



Dr. Lee Mark Haines, Jr.

December 9, 1927—August 6, 2016

Dr. Lee Mark Haines, Jr. served as General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church from 1988–2000.

On December 9, 1927, he was born to Lee and Anna Haines, Sr. in Marion, Indiana. He married Maxine in 1948.

He received his bachelor's degree from Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), Marion, Indiana; a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana; and a Doctor of Ministry from Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Honorary doctorate degrees were conferred upon him by Indiana Wesleyan University, Houghton College (now Houghton University), Houghton, New York, and Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina.

Dr. Haines lived a life of great purpose based simply and beautifully on his beliefs. He ministered with his wife, Rev. Maxine Haines, throughout Indiana and was a college professor.

From 1980–1988, Dr. Haines served as general secretary of Education and the Ministry prior to his election as General Superintendent. Over the years, he also held several leadership roles at Wesleyan World Headquarters.

Dr. Haines found great satisfaction in being a champion for women in ministry and was not shy about making gender equality and women's empowerment part of his mission. Additionally, he was a consummate church historian, expert author and served as editor for *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

He and his wife Maxine were parents to one son, one daughter, and grandparents to seven grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



Dr. Thomas E. Phillippe

August 17, 1929—December 22, 2018

Dr. Thomas E. Phillippe served as General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism for The Wesleyan Church from 1984–1988.

He was born in Newport News, Virginia, to William and Oney (Gibson) Phillippe on August 17, 1929. He married Joan Melody Cheeseman on June 6, 1953.

Dr. Phillippe was a graduate of Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana.

As general secretary, this man of God and astute businessman came to serve the denomination during a season of multiple challenges in the General Department of Extension and Evangelism. He stepped up to face each issue and demand presented. Dr. Phillippe led the church forward on a number of significant fronts, helping new churches be planted, aiding districts in refocusing on their goals and encouraging the church to renew their commitment to evangelize the lost.

Prior to his service as general secretary of Extension and Evangelism, Dr. Phillippe served the Lord as a pastor in Ohio and Minnesota, gifted evangelist, college board member and director of GRADE ministries. He was also a philanthropist with a generous stewardship of resources for all five Wesleyan universities, Global Partners, World Hope International and many other charities.

He and his wife Joan were parents to two daughters, one son, and grandparents to ten grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.



Dr. Earle L. Wilson

December 8, 1934—November 24, 2020

Dr. Earle L. Wilson served as General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church from 1984–2008.

He was born December 8, 1934, in Rensselaer, New York, to Lawrence W. and Wilhelmina (Knapp) Wilson. In 1955, he married Sylvia Beck, and they celebrated 65 years together.

Dr. Wilson received his B.S. and Th.B. degrees from the former Eastern Pilgrim College, Allentown, Pennsylvania; a Master of Divinity from Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, Pennsylvania; and a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey. Doctor of Divinity degrees were conferred on him by Houghton College (now Houghton University) in Houghton, New York, and Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina.

Prior to serving as General Superintendent, Dr. Wilson pastored from 1956–1972 in Gloversville, New York, and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. From 1962–1984, he was also a professor at Eastern Pilgrim College (later United Wesleyan College). In 1971, he became the first president of United Wesleyan College and continued in that office until his election as General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church in 1984.

As General Superintendent, Dr. Wilson supervised The Wesleyan Church districts and universities of North America, chaired conferences, ordained ministers and preached overseas. In 2008, The Wesleyan Church honored his service by naming him General Superintendent Emeritus. He was the longest-serving General Superintendent in the history of The Wesleyan Church.

A preacher by passion and not just profession, Dr. Wilson was known throughout the church world as a dynamic speaker and Bible expositor who preached under the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. He preached in camp meetings, ministerial conferences, holiness conventions, revival services in local churches and commencements throughout The Wesleyan Church and in many other denominations.

Dr. Wilson was active in other evangelical and holiness organizations, serving as a member of the World Methodist Council from 1988–2008 and as president of the World Methodist Council from 2000–2005, trustee of Asbury Theological Seminary board, and chairman, program director, and secretary of The Christian Holiness Association. He was a published author in his own right and generously lent his voice to other publications over the years.

He and his wife Sylvia were parents to two daughters, one son, and grandparents to eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



The Executive Directors of The Wesleyan Church, along with the General Board, join in prayer with Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent.

DIRECTORY
2022—2026
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH WORLD HEADQUARTERS

13300 Olio Road, Suite 100
Fishers, IN 46037

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Wayne Schmidt

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS EMERITI

Dr. H. C. Wilson

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon

Dr. Thomas Armiger

GENERAL OFFICIALS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION AND DISCIPLESHIP:

Dr. Ed Love

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION/
GENERAL SECRETARY: Mrs. Janelle Vernon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CLERGY DEVELOPMENT:

Rev. Johanna Rugh

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL PARTNERS: Dr. Dennis Jackson

GENERAL TREASURER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: Mr. Kevin J. Batman

GENERAL BOARD

General Superintendent

Dr. Wayne Schmidt

Area Representatives

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

North Central Area

Dr. Steven DeNeff

Dr. Wafaa Hanna

Rev. Chase Stancle

Mr. Jeffrey Clark

Rev. Christopher Conrad

Mr. Carl L. Shepherd

Northeastern Area

Dr. Steven Dunmire

Mrs. Emily Last

Dr. Meredith Griffin Jr.

Mrs. Tammy Leonard

Dr. H. C. Wilson

Mr. Earl McJett Jr.

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

Southern Area

Rev. Matthew LeRoy
Rev. Jerry Lumston Jr.
Dr. Kevin A. Myers

Mr. Kenneth Scott Drury
Mrs. Sherry Keye
Mrs. Marsha Flinchum

Western Area

Rev. Wesley Smith
Dr. William Wilson
Rev. Phill E. Tague

Mr. Roger L. Metcalf
Mr. Gamaliel Portillo
Mrs. Kathy White

AGENCY AND CORPORATION EXECUTIVES

Hephzibah Ministries Inc.: Mrs. Jodi Lewis

Wesleyan Bible Conference Association: Rev. Gary Harris

Wesleyan Investment Foundation: Dr. Craig A. Dunn, CEO

Wesleyan Pension Fund: Dr. Craig A. Dunn, CEO

Immigrant Connection: Rev. Zachary Szmara

Wesleyan Financial Holdings, Inc.: Mr. Carl Shepherd

Wesleyan Property Holdings, Inc.: Mr. Kevin Batman, CFO/General Treasurer

GENERAL BOARD OF REVIEW

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Dan LeRoy, Vice-chair
Sue Rickman, Secretary
James Luttrell Jr.
Ronald McClung

Jo Anne Lyon
Bob Black
Shirley Mullen
Dawn Colaw

(Ministerial Alternates)

Mark O. Wilson
Jim Lo
Tim Purcell
Harry Wood

(Lay Alternates)

Maribeth Jennings
Bob Lindsey
David Babb

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Wayne Schmidt

GENERAL OFFICERS



Rev. Ed Love
Executive Director,
Church Multiplication and
Discipleship Division



Mrs. Janelle Vernon
Executive Director,
Communication and
Administration Division



Rev. Johanna Rugh
Executive Director,
Education and Clergy
Development Division



Dr. Dennis Jackson
Executive Director,
Global Partners Division



Mr. Kevin J. Batman
General Treasurer/
Chief Financial Officer



Dr. Thomas E. Armiger addresses the General Conference after being elected as General Superintendent Emeritus.

**14TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
OFFICERS:**

Co-Chair

Dr. Wayne Schmidt, Dr. Jo Anne Lyon

Assistant to the Chairs

Mr. Carl L. Shepherd

Secretary

Janelle Vernon

General Conference Planning Committee

(Acting on behalf of the Executive Cabinet)

Janelle Vernon – General Secretary

Anthony Casey – Assistant General Secretary

Charlie Alcock – Programming

Anita Eastlack – Worship Programming

Stephana Bledsoe – Hospitality

Ronda Chapin – Programming

Dennis Jackson – Worship Programming

Nancy Mills – Exhibitor and Sponsor Relations

Jenny Rouse – Finance

Belinda Selfridge – Volunteers and Host District Representative

Kristel Shepherd – Event Coordination

Matt Stewart – Logistics

Matthew Tietje – Communications

2016–2022 General Board

Serving as Committee on Memorials & Committee on Special Nominations
(List represents members and elected representatives of uncompleted terms.)

Maria Acuna

David Babb

Rhea Bell

Karl Eastlack

Philip S. E. Farrell

Mark Gorveatte

Kevin Myers

Jose Pacheco

Anne Raga

Kyle Ray

Sue Rickman

Wayne Schmidt

Wafaa Hanna
Lisa Harding
Michael Hilson
Emily Last
Matthew LeRoy
Leeann Little
Jerry Lumston
Cheryl Mansell
Roger Metcalf

Heather Semple
Carl Shepherd
Isaac Smith
Amy Spaugh
Philip Stevenson
Phillip Tague
H. C. Wilson
Andrea Zepeda



One Church of High Point, North Carolina, leads worship.

PROGRAM

MONDAY, MAY 23

7:30a	Prayer
8–8:30a	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30a	Devotional Moment
8:45–11:30a	1st Business Session with 30-minute break (9:45–10:15a) Welcome
9a	State of the Church—Dr. Wayne Schmidt
9:30a	Recognition of Fraternal and International Delegates Reading of The Apostles' Creed in unison
10:30a	Recognition of General Superintendents Emeriti
11a	Election of General Superintendent
11:30a–1p	Exhibit Hall Open / Lunch Hall 4
1–5p	2nd Business Session Hall 4 with 30-minute break (2:30–3p)
2p	Election of General Officers
5–6:30p / 7:30–9p	Exhibit Hall Open / Dinner
Designated times	Receptions

TUESDAY, MAY 24

7:30a	Prayer
8–8:30a	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30a	Devotional Moment
8:45–11:30a	3rd Business Session with 30-minute break (9:45–10:15a)
10:15a	Area Caucus Meetings
11:30a–1p	Exhibit Hall Open / Lunch
1–5p	4th Business Session with 30-minute break (2:30–3p) 2p Election of General Board Election of General Board of Review
5–6:30p	Exhibit Hall Open / Dinner
6:30–7:30p	Worship: Mobilization Call
7:30p	General Officer Farewell Reception
7:30–9p	Exhibit Hall Open
Designated times	Receptions

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

7:30a	Prayer
8:45–11:30a	5th Business Session with 30-minute break (9:45–10:15a)
8:30a	Installation of General Board and General Officers
10:30a	Communion
11:30a	Adjournment



Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita co-chairs the 14th General Conference.

The Wesleyan Church
THIRTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE
ROLL OF DELEGATES
May 22–25, 2022

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Wayne K. Schmidt

GENERAL OFFICERS

Dr. Dennis Jackson

Mr. Kevin J. Batman

Rev. Russell K. Gunsalus

Mrs. Janelle Vernon

Dr. Anita Eastlack

SUBSIDIARIES DIRECTORS

Rev. Gary Harris

Dr. Craig A. Dunn

Rev. Zachary Szmarra

Mrs. Jodi Lewis

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS EMERITI

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon

Dr. H. C. Wilson

GENERAL BOARD AREA REPRESENTATIVES

[General Board members seated with their district]

North Central Area

Dr. Mark Gorveatte

Dr. Wafaa Hanna

Rev. Jose Pacheco

Mrs. Cheryl Mansell

Rev. Maria Acuna

Mr. Carl L. Shepherd

Northeastern Area

Rev. Mike Hilson

Dr. David Babb

Dr. H. C. Wilson

Mrs. Emily Last

Mrs. Rhea Bell

Southern Area

Rev. Matthew LeRoy

Dr. Lisa Harding

Rev. Jerry Lumston Jr

Mrs. Sue J. Rickman

Dr. Kevin A. Myers

Mrs. Amy Spaugh

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

Western Area

Rev. Isaac Smith
Dr. Phil Stevenson
Rev. Phill Tague

Mr. Roger L. Metcalf
Mrs. Anne Raga
Mrs. Andrea Zepeda

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

Dr. James Dunn
Oklahoma Wesleyan University
Dr. Stephen J. Lennox
Kingswood University
Dr. David W. Wright
Indiana Wesleyan University

Dr. Wayne Lewis
Houghton College
Dr. William Crothers, Interim,
Southern Wesleyan University



Delegates interact during a conference devotional period.

DISTRICT DELEGATES

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

ATLANTIC

Rev. Joel Gorveatte
 Rev. Dale MacDonald
 Rev. Peter Moore—DS
 Rev. Scott Prime
 Rev. A. J. Thomas

Mr. Kevin Campbell
 Mr. Tim Henry
 Ms. Kelly Jay
 Mr. Scott Richardson
 Mrs. Marti Trafton

CENTRAL CANADA

Dr. Eric Hallett—DS
 Rev. Benjamin Last
 Rev. Aaron Perry
 Rev. Krista Shaver

Mrs. Lori Champman
 Ms. Estherlita Griffiths
 Ms. Kimberly O'Brien
 Mr. Paul Perry

CHESAPEAKE

Rev. Mark Bunting
 Dr. Todd Crofford
 Rev. Maurice Diggs
 Rev. Kenneth Figgs
 Dr. Meredith Griffin
 Rev. James Michael Hilson—DS
 Rev. Michael Rogalski
 Rev. Dana Stauffer
 Rev. Kenneth Wagner

Mr. Ariel Garcia
 Mr. Earl McJett
 Mr. Simon Seaforth
 Mr. Robert Searcey
 Mrs. Heather Sells
 Miss Sarah Starkey
 Mr. Chris Wagnon
 Mrs. Tammy Wylie
 Mr. Rob Zlock

CROSSROADS

Rev. Mark Atkinson
 Rev. Amanda Blair
 Rev. Michael Colaw
 Dr. Steven DeNeff
 Dr. Mark Gorveatte—DS
 Rev. Emily Hines
 Dr. James Lo
 Rev. Jeffrey Luedtke
 Rev. Christopher Williams

Mr. Ryan Biegel
 Mrs. Sharon Cady
 Mrs. Pam Conley
 Mr. Joel Hunt
 Mrs. Lisa Knepp
 Mrs. Tonya Scalp
 Mrs. Tiffany Thurmon
 Mr. David Tippey
 Mrs. Lennaire Vaughn

DISTRITO HISPANO SUROESTE DE LA IGLESIA WESLEYANA

Rev. Ileana Flores

Mr. Gamaliel Portillo

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

FLORIDA

Rev. Derek Atkinson
Rev. Walter McKee
Rev. Patrick Styers—DS

Mr. Philip Cecil
Mr. Phil Fletcher
Mrs. Tia Phiri

GREAT LAKES

Rev. Santes Beatty
Rev. France Blandon
Rev. Brian Blum
Rev. Shareen Bradley
Rev. Chris Conrad—DS
Rev. Kenneth Gilmore
Rev. Ron Gormong
Rev. James Gulish
Rev. David Hansen
Rev. Jack Lynn
Rev. Chad McCallum
Rev. Andrew Merritt
Rev. Stephen Mowat
Rev. Craig Rayment
Rev. Jeffrey (Craig) Rees
Rev. Wesley Rowan
Rev. Thomas Schmidt
Rev. Chase Stancle
Rev. Bryan Thompson
Rev. Michael Veach
Rev. Greg Yarhouse

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Mr. Kirk Bajdek
Mrs. Reenie Bickel
Mr. Mark Brumels
Mrs. Leanne Deeren
Ms. Arianna Eckart
Dr. Steve Edmondson
Mr. Mark Erickson
Mr. Delbert Gibson
Mrs. Karen Gormong
Mr. Jon Kolk
Mrs. Brittany Lenertz
Mr. John Malek
Mrs. Julie McCallum
Ms. Karen Metzger
Mr. Andy Miedema
Mrs. Melody Mills
Ms. Julie Richardson
Mr. Allan Smith
Ms. Sue Teitsma
Mr. Paul Vreugdenhil

GREATER OHIO

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Rev. Les Crossfield—DS
Dr. Christopher Dyer
Rev. Dale George
Rev. Ken Murphy
Rev. Jonathan Welch

Mrs. Michelle Baker
Mr. Jim Deardorff
Mr. Darrel George
Mrs. Kathy George
Mr. Barry Hines
Mrs. Marie Hughes

(Ministerial)

(Lay)

INDIANA SOUTH

Rev. Bob England	Mrs. Rita Carr
Rev. Wesley Jones	Mr. Mark Jones
Rev. Charles Morgan	Mr. Don Simpson
Rev. Robert Preston – Interim DS	

IOWA-MINNESOTA

Rev. Kory Kleinsasser	Mr. Juan Carlos Campos
Rev. Tim Purcell—DS	Mr. Timothy R. Jewell
Rev. Peter Salmon	Mr. Terry Slye
Rev. Phil Wiseman	

KANSAS

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Rev. Steve McVey	Dr. Mark Brown
Rev. J. Nathan Rovenstine—DS	Mrs. Deb Rovenstine

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

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Rev. Aaron Sherman—DS	Mrs. Christy Mann
Rev. David Speas	Mrs. Mitzi Mew

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Rev. Dwight Nash	Mrs. Sharla Gottschalk
Rev. Kyle Ray	Mrs. Angela Kay Mosher
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Rev. Daniel LeRoy	Mr. Mark Dawalt
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Rev. Sarah Rodriguez	Mrs. Jessica Jackson
Rev. Scott Simmons	Mrs. Sherry Keye
Rev. Ryan Sims	Mrs. Deb Klein

(Ministerial)

Rev. James Spaugh
Dr. Brent Tysinger
Rev. Michael Brady
Rev. Chris Vernon
Rev. Doug Dennis
Rev. Aaron Golden

(Lay)

Mr. Dennis LaRue
Mr. William Reeves
Mr. Ben Saunders
Mrs. Felecia Sims
Mr. Lewis Smith
Mrs. Ashley Vernon

NORTH CAROLINA WEST

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Rev. Nestor Gudino
Rev. Joseph Harding
Rev. Joel Howard
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Rev. Matt Mitchell
Rev. Todd Reynolds
Rev. Tim Smith
Rev. Scott Wheeler

Mr. Jesse Bachman
Mr. Tony Baker
Mrs. Peggy Camp
Mr. Brad Clodfelter
Mrs. Marsha Flinchum
Mr. Larry French Sr
Ms. Doretta Hopper
Mr. Daniel Loggins
Mr. Rick Madden
Mr. Brandon Moon
Mr. Jerry Pace

NORTHEAST

Rev. Dwight Addington
Rev. Holly Chowtie
Dr. Karl Eastlack—DS
Rev. Andrew Fetter
Rev. Kevin Fetterhoff
Dr. Anthony Graham
Rev. Joseph Henry
Rev. Lynda Keefer
Rev. Brenda Smith
Rev. Frantz Telfort

Mr. Greg Badger
Mrs. Pamela Barna
Mr. Stephen Drown
Mr. Ernst Isaac
Mr. Ron Jerdon
Mr. James Jock
Mr. Charles Lawrence
Mrs. Loretta Paulhamus
Mrs. April Reeder
Mr. Robert Strum

NORTHWEST

Rev. Charles Carpenter
Rev. David Kinnan
Rev. Keith Loy
Rev. Wayne Mueller
Rev. Michael Skor

Mr. Dan Gay
Mrs. Jodi Hess
Miss Amber Hobbie
Mrs. Courtney Hughes
Mr. Lance Koth

(Ministerial)

Rev. Wesley Smith—DS
Rev. Daniel Ziebarth

(Lay)

Mr. Michael Molitor
Mrs. Heidi Smith

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Dr. Stephen Babby
Rev. David Dahlberg
Rev. Erica Farmer
Rev. David Johnson
Rev. Tim Kirkes
Dr. Jeremy McGarity
Rev. Chris Snider
Dr. Phil Stevenson—DS

Mr. Dan Farmer
Mr. Steve Fitch
Mrs. Joyce Howell
Mr. In Kim
Mrs. Lisa Kirkes
Mr. Bill Martinelli
Ms. Connie Rollins
Mr. Brian Wilbur

PENN YORK

Rev. Carl Chapman
Rev. Richard Cox
Rev. Douglas Jones
Dr. Matthew Pickering—DS
Rev. Dan Pickering
Rev. Alex Ruffer
Rev. Stevan Sheets

Mr. Keith Brewster
Mrs. Michele Cilento
Dr. Stephen Laudermilch
Mrs. Tammy Leonard
Mr. Kurt Parker
Mrs. Kathleen Spencer
Mrs. Kristan Wager

SHENANDOAH

Rev. Jess Holmes
Rev. Tony Johnson
Dr. John Ott
Rev. Gregory Reynolds—DS
Rev. Timothy Kirkpatrick

Mrs. Kylee de Pineda
Mr. K. Scott Drury
Mr. Daniel Laffoon
Mr. Edward Arrington
Mrs. Diane Wooten

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rev. Richard Hall
Rev. Tom Harding—DS
Rev. Timothy Jones
Dr. Wayne Otto

Mrs. Denise Bailey
Mr. Mark Franklin
Mr. Charles Tegen
Mrs. Cathy Wilson

SOUTH COASTAL

Rev. Rodney Addison
Rev. Jason Berry

Mr. Mike Chambers
Mr. Rafael Fernandez

(Ministerial)

Dr. Dan Berry
Dr. Timothy Fox—DS
Rev. Stephen Lane
Rev. Scott Moore
Rev. Josh Woods

(Lay)

Mr. Charles Harrell
Mrs. Ashley Henkle
Mrs. Cindy Klein
Mrs. Amber Moore
Mrs. JoAnne Shockley

TRI-STATE

Rev. Stephen Colaw
Dr. Devon Smith—DS

Mrs. Marilyn Culver
Mr. Jim Perry

WESTERN NEW YORK

Dr. Steven Dunmire
Rev. Kimberly Gladden
Dr. Joseph Jennings—DS
Dr. Daniel Jones

Mr. Rick Fohl
Mrs. Kim Pecora
Dr. Paul Young
Mr. Jun Zhuang



Delegates listen as a fellow delegate takes the floor to speak to an issue during the 14th General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.



Wesleyans from around the world join as observers with North American Wesleyans at the 14th General Conference.

NON-VOTING DELEGATES

FORMER GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Dr. Thomas E. Armiger

GLOBAL PARTNERS NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Bangladesh

British Isles

Chile

Columbia

Costa Rica

Czech Republic

Czech Republic

Democratic Republic of Congo

eSwatini

Ghana

Guyana

Haiti

India

Myanmar

Nepal

Panama

Poland

Zambia

Rev. Joshe Bose

Rev. Ruth Lowe

Rev. Carlos Martinez

Rev. Hector Perez

Rev. Luis Azofeifa

Rev. Jason McFrederick

Rev. Tomas Mojzis

Rev. Dambej Dieudonne

Rev. Thabsile Thwala

Rev. Felix Baafi

Rev. Eldon Anderson

Rev. Denor Rosemond

Mdm. Seema Justin

Rev. Zonuntluanga

Pastor Obed Tamang

Rev. Jose McKella

Rev. Piotr Gasiorkowski

Dr. Alfred Kalembo



International Delegates enjoying fellowship and prayer with one another.



**The Wesleyan Church
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2022
Daily Proceedings**

Opening Session

Sunday, May 22, 2022

6:00 PM

The chair, General Superintendent, Dr. Wayne Schmidt

1. **Call to Order.** The Chair, Dr. Wayne Schmidt gave a video welcome to delegates and friends of the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church at 6:00 P.M., Sunday, May 22, 2022, in the America's Center Convention Complex, St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. Johanna Chacon Rugh, Rev. Ian Swyers, and Petra Ray gave in-person words of welcome. Dr. Wayne Schmidt offered an in-person opening prayer, welcoming our heavenly Father to be present at the conference.

2. The Worship Team from One Church of High Point, North Carolina, led the conference in worship.

3. Dr. Meredith Griffin, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship, Newark, Delaware, Chesapeake District, exhorted the conference to allow the Lord to unleash them to be all God wants them to be.

4. Sarah E. Rodriguez from the North Carolina East District exhorted the conference in both English and Spanish to forgive others and ask for forgiveness as needed, and then led the conference in silent prayer.

5. Arlynn Ellis from the Mountain Plains District exhorted the conference to let God move in their lives and introduced various persons who offered brief testimonies printed on poster boards. She invited those present to come and write their names and initials on any placard that spoke to them. She also invited them to find prayer partners.

6. Mick Veach, lead pastor at Kentwood Community Church, Great Lakes District, exhorted the conference as to why we meet and declared we are fulfilling the Great Commission. He offered the challenge not to fall into a status quo mentality. He challenged the conference to rise up and receive the baton on the last lap of the race and believe God will do great things for us as we do great things for God. He invited delegates and friends to come forward for a

time of united prayer at the front of the conference center. Rev. Johanna Rugh gave a benediction in Spanish from 1 Peter 5:10–11. Petra Ray closed in prayer, and Rev. Ian Swyers thanked the following General Conference sponsors: Wesleyan Investment Foundation (Premier sponsor); Brotherhood Mutual (Platinum sponsor); and World Hope International (Gold sponsor).

14th GENERAL CONFERENCE
Daily Proceedings
First Business Session
Monday, May 23, 2022
8:00 AM

The Chair, General Superintendent, Dr. Wayne Schmidt

7. Petra Ray welcomed delegates and referred them to devotional questions and prompts to consider.

8. Rev. Ian Swyers brought the devotional time to a close by leading the conference in prayer.

9. On the platform, seated at a table with the Chair, was Dr. Carl Shepherd, General Board member and chair of the subcommittee on memorials, and Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent emerita. Also seated were Janelle Vernon, General Secretary, Parliamentarian Barbara Proctor, Rev. Anthony Casey, Assistant General Secretary, and Melissa Zuber, recording secretary. The conference theme was “Unleashed so all can be made new.”

10. Dr. Devon Smith, district superintendent of the host Tri-State District, welcomed the delegates to St. Louis.

11. **Call to Order.** Dr. Mark Wilson of Southern Wesleyan University shared the history of the gavel carved from the wood of a dogwood tree near Freedom’s Hill Church in North Carolina on which pioneer Wesleyan Micajah McPherson survived being lynched during the Civil War. Wilson presented the gavel to the Chair. With a striking of the gavel, the Chair called the conference to order.

12. The Chair introduced Janelle Vernon, General Secretary.

13. The General Secretary read the names of alternate delegates to be seated in place of those originally elected.

14. The General Secretary also called the delegates' attention to the Special Orders of the Day on page 6 of the General Conference Program. A motion carried that the Special Orders of the Day be adopted as printed. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Monday, May 23

- State of the Church—Dr. Wayne Schmidt 9:00 AM
- Recognition of Fraternal Delegates and International Delegates 9:30 AM
- Recognition of General Superintendents Emeriti 10:30 AM
- Election of General Superintendent 11:00 AM
- Election of General Officers 2:00 PM

Tuesday, May 24

- Areas Caucus Meetings 10:15 AM

Wednesday, May 25

- Installation of General Officers and General Board 8:30 AM
- Communion 10:30 AM
- Adjournment 11:30 AM

15. The Chair explained that General Superintendent Emeritus Dr. H.C. Wilson was not present due to his wife's recent illness and strongly affirmed Dr. Wilson's decision. The Chair recognized General Superintendent Emerita Dr. Jo Anne Lyon who would assist the Chair as needed.

16. **Special Order: State of the Church.** Dr. Wayne Schmidt informed the delegates they could find the *2016–2022 General Superintendents Report* in the Reports of Officials section of their delegate notebook.

17. Dr. Schmidt introduced the executive directors of headquarters divisions: Dr. Dennis Jackson, Global Partners; Rev. Russ Gunsalus, Education and Clergy Development; Dr. Anita Eastlack, Church Multiplication and Development; Janelle Vernon, Communication and Administration; and Kevin Batman, Chief Financial Officer/General Treasurer. The Chair also introduced the attending directors of church subsidiaries: Craig Dunn, CEO of Wesleyan Investment Foundation and Wesleyan Pension Fund; Rev. Zach Szmarra, director of Immigrant Connection; and Jodi Lewis, executive director of Hephzibah62:4. The executive and subsidiary director reports appear in the

conference notebook, along with a report from Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, who served as The Wesleyan Church ambassador for four years following the 2016 General Conference.

18. The Chair called attention to challenging statistics due to COVID-19 which also gave rise to capturing online worship metrics.

19. The Chair called attention to two social issues; the racially motivated shootings in Buffalo, New York, and the war in Ukraine. The Wesleyan Church works to support the victims and condemns the acts.

20. The Chair acknowledged Dr. Mark Eckart, who passed away in February 2022, after more than eighteen years of service as district superintendent of the Indiana South District of The Wesleyan Church.

21. The Chair referenced the Church Council in Acts 15 and drew comparisons with the General Conference.

22. At the conclusion of the State of the Church report, Dr. Lyon encouraged the conference to acknowledge the report with a standing ovation for Dr. Schmidt. A standing ovation followed.

23. Special Orders Recognition of Fraternal and International Delegates. The Chair, Dr. Schmidt, introduced fraternal delegates:

- Dr. Ronald Duncan, Executive Director, Global Wesleyan Alliance
- Dr. Dan Schafer, Interim Executive Director of the Wesleyan Holiness Consortium, as well as President of World Gospel Mission
- Dr. Bill Cochenour, Director of Learning Communities, Exponential
- Rev. Silver Lumahan Jr., General Director of World Missions, The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines

The Chair also introduced international delegates:

- Dr. Alfred Kalembo, Africa Area International Board Member, Zambia
- Rev. Thabsile Thwala, National Superintendent, International Board Secretary, eSwatini
- Rev. Denor Rosemond, Caribe-Atlantic International Board Member, Haiti
- Rev. Hector Perez, Presiding Superintendent, Ibero-America Regional Conference, Columbia

- Jason McFrederick, Unreached Areas International Board Member, Czech Republic
- Rev. Dambej Dieudonne, National Superintendent, Africa Representative, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Rev. Felix Baafi, National Superintendent, Africa Representative, Ghana
- Rev. Eldon Anderson, District Superintendent, Caribe-Atlantic Representative, Guyana
- Rev. Ruth Lowe, District Superintendent, Europe Representative, British Isles
- Rev. Tomas Mojzis, Pastor, Europe Representative, Czech Republic
- Rev. Piotr Gasiorowski, Pastor, Europe Representative, Poland
- Rev. Carlos Martinez, Regional Superintendent, Ibero-America Established Regional Conference, Chile
- Rev. Luis Azoifeifa, Regional Superintendent, Ibero-America Established Regional Conference, Costa Rica
- Rev. Jose McKella, Regional Superintendent, Ibero-America, Panama
- Rev. Linus Justin, Asia Representative, India

24. The Chair recognized the General Secretary, who introduced the Readers for the conference: Rev. Santes Beatty, senior pastor of Mosaic Church, Detroit, and Rev. Nikki Nettleton, director of learning and leadership for Global Partners.

25. The Chair introduced Barbara Proctor, parliamentarian for the conference.

26. The Chair introduced Dr. Chris Williams, assistant superintendent for the Crossroads District and senior pastor of Lakeview Wesleyan Church, Marion, Indiana, to give directions for electronic voting. Williams gave some test questions for the purpose of orientation and testing of the electronic voting devices.

27. The Chair called for the morning break at 10:02 A.M.

28. The Chair welcomed the delegates back from the break at 10:31 A.M.

29. The Chair recognized the General Superintendents emeriti; one of whom was present. The Chair called attention to Memorial 344.

30. **MEMORIAL 344: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS** was read and moved for adoption. Adopted upon voice vote. Dr. Thomas Armiger was

given the honor of General Superintendent Emeritus and received a standing ovation. Dr. Armiger addressed the conference expressing his appreciation.

31. The Chair acknowledged that other General Superintendents emeriti have gone home to be with the Lord since last General Conference: Dr. Lee Haines, Dr. Robert McIntyre, and Dr. Earle Wilson.

32. The Chair turned to the General Secretary who moved the published program as the order of business. Adopted by voice vote.

33. The Chair turned to the General Secretary for a presentation of the following Conference Session Rules:

- A. The conference bar consists of the platform and the area so designated where delegates are seated at tables.
- B. Delegates are required to sit in their assigned seat throughout the conference.
- C. For identification purposes and to be admitted within the conference bar, delegates will need to wear their official name badge, which can be picked up at the Guest Services Booth or upon registration.
- D. Roll call will be taken as the first item of business each day.
- E. When desiring to speak, proceed to the numbered microphone closest to where you are seated and await recognition by the Chair. After being recognized, you begin by announcing your name and the district you represent before making further comment. Example: *"Mr. (or Madam) Chair, I am Devon Smith from the Tri-State District."*
- F. A motion or amendment that originates from the floor must be in writing (please write legibly) on an official triplicate form found in your delegate notebook. Keep the "pink" copy and hand the original "white" and "yellow" copies to a teller who will deliver them to the platform.
- G. A delegate desiring to be excused from attending a session of the General Conference is to request permission in writing to the General Secretary.
- H. Never take your electronic balloting keypad away from your assigned seat.

The Secretary moved their adoption with support. Adopted by voice vote.

34. The Chair led the conference in repeating The Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

35. Chair asked the voting delegates to stand in reaffirmation of their membership commitments. They stood and reaffirmed their membership commitments in unison.

36. Dr. Lyon assumed the Chair for Memorial 310. She asked Dr. Shepherd to give some background. Dr. Lyon called for the reader to read Memorial 310.

37. MEMORIAL 310: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT: ELECTION PROCESS FOR AN INCUMBENT was read by Nikki Nettleton, who moved its adoption. Adopted by voice vote.

38. Schmidt resumed as Chair and recognized the General Secretary, who explained that only the memorials that have been recommended by the Committee on Memorials will be read. She also directed delegates to turn in the delegate notebooks to the first page of the memorials section. She then explained Consent Agenda, Constitutional Memorials, and Statutory Memorials.

39. Special Orders: The Election of the General Superintendent. The Chair turned the chair to Dr. Lyon, who announced the time had arrived for the

Special Order of the Day regarding the election of the General Superintendent. She asked the conference to bow their heads and ask God for direction in the voting. She turned to Chris Williams for further instructions regarding the electronic voting.

40. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon presented the election of Dr. Wayne Schmidt for a four-year term as General Superintendent. Dr. Wayne Schmidt was reelected as General Superintendent. (Yes 283, No 49). Dr. Lyon congratulated Dr. Schmidt on being reelected. She invited his family to the platform to join him. A video was shown, highlighting the baptism of Gabrielle Schmidt, granddaughter of Dr. Schmidt and his wife, Jan. Dr. Schmidt introduced his children, their spouses, and grandchildren. Jan Schmidt, who had been volunteering time to transcribe historic documents stored in The Wesleyan Church Archives, shared a resolution from an 1845 prohibiting the use of instruments in The Wesleyan Methodist Connection. Dr. Schmidt observed that not all resolutions are lasting and resumed as Chair.

41. **MEMORIAL 387: INCLUDING WESLEY SEMINARY IN THE DISCIPLINE:** was read and moved for adoption. Adopted. (Yes 323, No 10)

42. The Chair recognized Dr. Colleen Derr, president of Wesley Seminary, who expressed appreciation for the support of her family and of Wesley Seminary.

43. **MEMORIAL 312: CONSENT AGENDA** The resolution was read and moved. Adopted. (Yes 323, No 10)

44. The Chair recognized the General Secretary who indicated that the Consent Agenda includes Memorials 1, 3, 305, 387, 394, 395, 396, 397, 399, 746, and 764, and moved its adoption. Adopted by voice vote.

45. The Chair called for the lunch break and instructed the delegates to be back for the afternoon session at 1:00 PM

Second Business Session

Monday, May 23, 2022

1:00 PM

Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent, Chair.

46. The Chair welcomed the delegates back and directed their attention to Memorial 52. He invited Dr. Karl Eastlack, chair of the working group commissioned by the 13th General Conference to Review the Membership Commitment on Speaking in Tongues, to provide introductory comments.

47. MEMORIAL 52: CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT REGARDING GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT was read by Reader Santes Beatty and moved for adoption.

48. A motion with support to amend Memorial 52 by adding “*by another*” after the word “*provided*” on line 31 was made. The amendment was adopted. (Yes 222, No 106)

49. The memorial was voted on as amended. The motion was adopted by the necessary 2/3 majority. (Yes 264, No 70) The memorial will be forwarded to the North American district conferences this summer and will require a two-thirds vote of the aggregate balloting of the conferences. If adopted, the memorial would then be forwarded to the Philippines and the Caribbean general conferences.

50. The Chair referenced the *Report on the Cost of Ministerial Education in The Wesleyan Church* located in the Committee Reports section of the delegate notebook. This study was commissioned by the 13th General Conference. No action was required.

51. Chair called on Dr. Shepherd for background on Memorial 55.

52. MEMORIAL 55: CONSTITUTION: MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS was read and moved for adoption.

53. An amendment with support was offered to change the wording of paragraph 268, by dropping the word “other” in the second resolve.

54. There was a motion to postpone so that additional work could be done on the wording. The Chair suspended debate on Memorial 55 and directed business to special order, the Election of General Officers.

55. **Special Orders: The Election of General Officers.** The Chair explained how nominations are made and then began the elections.

56. Janelle Vernon was presented as the nominee for Executive Director of Communication and Administration. There were no nominations from the floor. Janelle Vernon was elected Executive Director of Communication and Administration. (Yes 322, No 14)

57. Dr. Ed Love was presented as the nominee for Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship. There were no nominations from the floor. Dr. Ed Love was elected Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship. (Yes 307, No 24)

58. Rev. Johanna Rugh was presented as the nominee for Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development. There were no nominations from the floor. Johanna Rugh was elected Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development. (Yes 301, No 28)

59. Dr. Dennis Jackson was presented as nominee for Executive Director of Global Partners. There were no nominations from the floor. Dennis Jackson was elected Executive Director of Global Partners. (Yes 320, No 14)

60. Discussion continued on the motion to postpone discussion on Memorial 55. The motion was supported and approved. (Yes 178, No 150) The Chair set the goal to bring Memorial 55 back to the delegates later in the conference.

61. The Chair turned to Dr. Shepherd for background on Memorial 115.

62. **MEMORIAL 115: MEMBERSHIP REAFFIRMATION** was read and moved for adoption.

63. There was a motion to amend the memorial by striking the word "will" and replacing it with the word "may." The amendment was adopted. (Yes 300, No 29)

64. Discussion continued on Memorial 115 as amended. The memorial was adopted. (Yes 313, No 15) The Chair explained that Memorials 111, 112, 113, and 114 were covered by the adoption of 115 and turned the delegates' attention to Memorial 349.

65. The Chair called attention to a video shown in preparation for consideration of Memorial 349. The Chair invited Rev. Jerry Lumston, district superintendent of the North Carolina West District and co-chair of the USF Study Committee, authorized by the 13th General Conference for the purpose of updating and modernizing the funding structure of the Church, to provide introductory comments.

66. **MEMORIAL 349: GENERAL CHURCH FINANCIAL PLAN** was read and moved for adoption.

67. The Chair called for the afternoon break and asked the delegates to return at 3:45 PM

68. The Chair called the meeting back to order and stated, after consultation with the parliamentarian, that since all delegates have copies of the memorials, henceforth the memorials will not be read in their entirety.

69. The Chair asked Jerry Lumston to provide clarification regarding some questions about Memorial 349.

70. There was a motion with support to amend the memorial by striking the words "(b) Annual Rate. The General Board shall set and publish the annual rate for capped churches based on the increase or decrease of consumer price indices" in lines 131, 132, 133, and 134.

71. An amendment to the amendment was offered to indicate "consumer price index or three percent, whichever is less." The amendment to the amendment was ruled inappropriate until the amendment is approved or is lost.

72. Discussion returned to the amendment. The amendment was defeated. (Yes 145, No 185)

73. There was a motion with support to amend the memorial by adding the words "or 3 percent, whichever is less" after the word "indices" on line 134.

74. After considerable discussion, a call for the question was acknowledged without objection. The amendment was adopted. (Yes 227, No 107)

75. There was a motion to amend the memorial by striking the words "as well as planned projects for multiplication in the coming year and submit

the same to the General Superintendent for review” in lines 304 and 305 and striking the words “(30) To review annually the church multiplication plan for each district, giving recommendations as needed” in lines 310 and 311. The amendment was defeated. (Yes 159, No 177)

76. A call for the question on Memorial 349 was acknowledge with no objection. Memorial 349 as amended was adopted. (Yes 248, No 87)

77. The Chair gave the conference a three-minute break to stand and stretch.

78. The Chair asked Jerry Lumston to speak about Memorial 350 .

79. **MEMORIAL 350: IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL CHURCH FINANCIAL PLAN** was moved for adoption.

80. There was a motion to amend the memorial by adding the following resolves:

Resolved, That those churches currently utilizing the provisions for multi-year adjustments [the new church plant (2005:3d) and restart project (2005:3f)] continue the multi-year adjustments through the remaining years currently allowed;

Resolved, The General Board be authorized to make additional technical adjustments that may arise in implementation.

The amendment was adopted. (Yes 311, No 19)

Memorial 350 as amended was adopted. (Yes 314, No 16)

81. **MEMORIAL 351: OPTION FOR USF REDUCTION FOR DEVELOPING CHURCHES** was moved for adoption.

82. Adopted. (Yes 318, No 13)

83. **MEMORIAL 53: CONSTITUTION: SANCTITY OF LIFE** was not recommended. There was a motion with support to have Memorial 53 considered. The motion was adopted. (Yes 203, No 124)

84. An amendment with support was offered to delete the words “forced or unjust labor practices.”

85. There was a motion to amend the amendment by striking only the words “or unjust.” The amendment was adopted. (Yes 280, No 45)

86. Discussion returned to the amendment which is to strike the words “unjust labor.” The motion to amend was adopted. (Yes 287, No 45)

87. The Chair noted the conference was approaching 6:00 PM (time for adjournment for the day). He dismissed the delegates for the day and announced that discussion of Memorial 53 would resume on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

88. The Chair recognized host Petra Ray to give instructions regarding receptions scheduled for the evening.

Third Business Session

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

8:00 AM

Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent, Chair.

89. Janelle Vernon welcomed the delegates. Rev. Johanna Rugh cited Acts 16:31–33 and the accompanying devotional questions provided for the delegates. Rev. Rugh led the conference in prayer.

90. Following a video from Wesleyan Investment Foundation (WIF), Dr. Craig Dunn, WIF CEO, came to the podium and brought greetings and expressions of gratitude to the conference. Dr. Dunn announced his pending retirement as of January 1, 2026. He also announced that Mr. Norwood Davis will succeed him as CEO and join WIF on September 1, 2022, as chief strategy officer. Dr. Dunn introduced Mr. Davis, who brought greetings. Dr. Wayne Schmidt prayed for WIF, for Dr. Dunn and for Mr. Davis.

91. Debate resumed on Memorial 53. Dr. Schmidt turned to Dr. Lyon for comments regarding Memorial 53.

92. A motion to amend was made and seconded by striking “or the abortion industry, euthanasia, human slavery or trafficking, pornography and the production and distribution thereof, the sex trade, forced labor practices, institutional and personal forms of racism, and any other institution” on lines 24–27 and replacing it with the words “practices, industries, and institutions.”

93. A motion was made and seconded to refer Memorial 53 to a committee for further study. The motion was adopted. (Yes 203, No 127)

94. **MEMORIAL 54: CONSTITUTION: DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE WITNESS** was not recommended. A motion to consider the memorial was seconded. A call was made for an explanation as to why the memorial was not recommended. Dr. Shepherd spoke to this matter.

95. The motion to consider was adopted. (Yes 206, No 130)

96. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 54 by striking the words "See New Zealand Collective Conscience Statements 56 and 57," and striking everything after "as outlined in Scripture" except "(See 410:4)." The motion to amend was adopted. (Yes 288, No 45)

97. A motion for the previous question was made with support. The motion was adopted. (Yes 323, No 15)

98. Memorial 54 was defeated (Yes 207, No 130), as it failed to achieve the required two-thirds majority.

99. **MEMORIAL 82: SPECIAL DIRECTIONS: CARE OF THE BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT** is not recommended. The Chair ruled it out of order because of the failure to approve Memorial 54.

100. **Special Orders: Area Caucus Meetings** The Chair called on the General Secretary to give instructions regarding the area caucus meetings to convene at 10:15 A.M. with the resumption of business at 1:00 P.M.

Fourth Business Session

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

1:00 PM

Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent, Chair.

101. Dr. Ed Love, Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship, introduced a video regarding disciple-making. He reported that Rev. Kim Gladden, director of Discipleship, was unable to attend due to health concerns and requested prayer on her behalf.

102. The Chair called the fourth business session to order and indicated the next item of business would deal with doctrinal positions of The Wesleyan Church and withdrawal of a local church.

103. The Chair turned to Dr. Shepherd for background on Memorial 864. Dr. Shepherd read an excerpt from paragraph 4780 of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* 2016. He also referenced a chart available to delegates regarding memorials presented by six districts concerning actions that might cause a local church to pursue withdrawal from the denomination while retaining its property.

104. **MEMORIAL 864: FIDELITY TO DOCTRINAL HERITAGE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH** was moved for adoption.

105. A motion with support was made to refer Memorial 864 to a committee. The motion was defeated. (Yes 122, No 203)

106. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 864 by replacing the words “the Authority of Scripture” with the words “those Articles of Religion.” The amendment was defeated. (Yes 53, No 275)

107. The Chair called for the order of the day and asked the General Secretary to report nominations by the area caucuses for General Board members. Members of the 2016–2022 General Board were recognized with words of appreciation for their service.

From the Western Representative Area:

- Ministerial: Wesley Smith, Phill Tague, William (Billy) Wilson
- Lay: Roger Metcalf, Gamaliel Portillo, Kathy White

From the Southern Representative Area:

- Ministerial: Matthew LeRoy, Kevin Myers, Jerry Lumston Jr
- Lay: Kenneth Scott Drury, Sherry Keye, Marsha Flinchum

From the Northeastern Representative Area:

- Ministerial: Steven Dunmire, H. C. Wilson, Meredith Griffin
- Lay: Emily Last, Tammy Leonard, Earl McJett

From the North Central Representative Area:

- Ministerial: Steven DeNeff, Chase Stangle, Christopher Conrad
- Lay: Wafaa Hanna, Carl Shepherd, Jeff Clark

108. The Chair called for a vote to elect the nominees. The conference responded affirmatively, electing all who were nominated. (Yes 317, No 17)

109. The Chair declared the conference was returning to consideration of Memorial 864.

110. A motion with support was made to postpone consideration of Memorial 864 as Memorial 857 is considered. The motion was approved. (Yes 198, No 134)

111. A motion with support was made to refer Memorial 857 to a study committee.

112. A motion with support was made to amend the motion to refer by including members from each of the six districts that submitted a memorial regarding these issues. The motion to amend was adopted. (Yes 234, No 95)

113. A motion with support was made to amend the motion to refer by requiring the committee to report to the General Board within the next twelve months. The motion to amend was adopted. (Yes 218, No 108)

114. The Chair called for the afternoon break.

115. The Chair called the session back to order at 3:10 PM

116. The amended motion to refer Memorial 857 was adopted. (Yes 213, No 109)

117. There was a motion with support to table Memorial 864. The motion was adopted. (Yes 191, No 137)

118. The Chair stated that Memorials 858, 859, 861, 862, and 863 are covered by the action taken on referring Memorial 857. In response to passionate dialogue and debate, The Chair read, *A Statement of the General Board of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church*, issued May of 2021, and printed on page 24 of the Conference Program. The conference responded with a resounding "So be it!" at appropriated times, and spontaneously began to sing, "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

119. A motion with support was made to approve the statement on page 24 of the conference program. The motion carried unanimously by a response of "Amen." The statement will be edited to reflect support by the General Conference.

**A Statement of the General Board
of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church**

We affirm our deep commitment to our core mission of evangelizing the lost, discipling believers, equipping the Church, and ministering to society. This mission is foundational as we seek to be agents of the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.

Unprecedented times is a term often used to accurately describe our current reality. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended many things we have taken for granted for decades. Coupled with the ever-shifting sands of our culture on the social and political issues of our time, uneasiness, and a sense of angst hover in the air.

Changes thrust on us have raised questions and perhaps even fears and apprehension as we attempt to navigate the shifting landscape. More than once we have asked, "What next?"

Our General Superintendent, General Board, and the presidents and board chairs of our college and universities, have prayed, discussed, and reasoned together on these matters and unanimously approved the following statement of affirmation:

"We hereby declare that we remain deeply committed to proclaim, defend, and hold each other accountable for the historic and orthodox doctrinal positions of The Wesleyan Church as presented in our Articles of Religion, and

We hereby affirm our full and ongoing support for the official Position Papers on the social issues of our time including our commitments:

- 1) To affirm that persons of all races are created equal in the image of God and are entitled to equal justice under the law.
- 2) To affirm the sanctity of life and that all life is sacred from conception to death.
- 3) To affirm that God's only design for marriage is between one man and one woman.
- 4) To affirm that religious freedom is a liberty essential for our pluralistic democracy."

Loyalty has not changed. Love still thrives. Commitment remains strong. The core is solid.

While commitment to our understanding of Biblical truth is unwavering, we do understand that there are other points of view on

a range of social issues. There is room for courteous dialog on these issues within the boundaries of Biblical truth.

As our leaders, we commit ourselves to pray earnestly for the power of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to rest on the ministry of The Wesleyan Church. Our deep passion is to be agents of both grace and truth in this time and place in history.

120. **MEMORIAL 125: GOVERNANCE SIMPLIFICATION: LOCAL AND DISTRICT** was moved for adoption. The Chair turned to Dr. Shepherd for introductory comments.

121. A motion with support was made to limit debate to two minutes per speaker. The motion was adopted. (Yes 301, No 25)

122. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 125 by restoring commissioned and licensed special workers to the memorial.

123. Business was suspended as an announcement was made from the floor regarding a tragic shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, resulting in numerous deaths. The Chair called the conference to pause and pray for the community. He asked Rev. Stephen Mowat to lead the conference in prayer.

124. Discussion returned to restoring commissioned and licensed special workers to the memorial. The motion to amend was adopted. (Yes 310, No 17)

125. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 125 to give the local board of administration the option to elect a board of trustees. The motion to amend was defeated. (Yes 49, No 275)

126. There was a call for the previous question, which resulted in a ballot that approved closing debate and immediate voting on the memorial. The motion to close debate and to go to the immediate vote of Memorial 125 was adopted. (Yes 274, No 55)

127. Memorial 125 as amended was adopted. (Yes 294, No 34)

128. **MEMORIAL 126: GOVERNANCE SIMPLIFICATION: GENERAL CHURCH** was moved for adoption.

129. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 126 by striking the words "one thousand" and restoring the words "seven hundred fifty." The amendment was adopted. (Yes 239, No 86)

130. The Chair announced that this amendment also cared for Memorial 300.

131. Memorial 126 as amended was adopted. (Yes 308, No 28)

132. **MEMORIAL 101: DEVELOPING CHURCH STATUS CRITERIA** was moved for adoption.

133. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 101 by striking the words "or the district board of administration" on line 21 and insert "and the district board of administration" after the words "district superintendent" on line 28.

134. A motion with support was made to amend the amendment by including the ability to appeal the decision to reclassify the church at district conference.

135. The Chair ruled that in the interest of time prior to the dinner hour, this debate should be postponed until the business session on Wednesday morning.

136. The Chair called Dr. Anita Eastlack and Rev. Russell Gunsalus to the platform to give personal expressions in light of their retirement as executive directors.

137. The Chair invited delegates and friends to attend the appreciation receptions for Dr. Eastlack and Rev. Gunsalus on Tuesday evening.

138. Host Rev. Johanna Rugh announced the worship service would begin at 6:30 PM Tuesday evening.

Fifth Business Session
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
8:00 AM

Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent, Chair.

139. The fifth business session began with the installation of General Superintendent Wayne Schmidt, General Officers and the General Board. The installation was conducted by Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita.

140. Dr. Schmidt recognized Arlynn Ellis to lead the conference in prayer with special emphasis on the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

141. Dr. Schmidt called attention to a video highlighting the five educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church, and then recognized the presidents who were present.

142. Business resumed with consideration of an amendment to the amendment of Memorial 101. Surrendering the chair briefly to Dr. Lyon, Dr. Schmidt spoke to the issue. When finished, he resumed the chair.

143. The amendment to the amendment was defeated by a voice vote.

144. The amendment was defeated by a voice vote.

145. A motion was made with support to amend Memorial 101 by adding the words "in collaboration with the leadership of the church at this point in time."

146. The maker of the motion and the second agreed to adjust the wording from "in collaboration" to "after collaboration."

147. The amendment to Memorial 101 was defeated. (Yes 118, No 187).

148. Memorial 101 was adopted. (Yes 257, No 50).

149. **CONSTITUTION: MEMORIAL 55: MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS** was brought back to the conference for approval with the following edits:

- Adding the phrase “and Article 3 is titled Membership Commitments but is referred to in paragraph 557 as Guides and Helps to Holy Living,” at the end of the Whereas statement.
- Adding as the first resolve, “*Resolved*, That the title of Article 3 be edited as follows: Article 3 Guides and Helps to Holy Living.

150. In paragraph 268, replacing the words “Membership Commitments” with “Guides and Helps to Holy Living.”

151. The memorial was adopted. (Yes 280, No 25) The memorial will be forwarded to the North American district conferences this summer and will require a two-thirds vote of the aggregate balloting of the conferences. If adopted, the memorial would then be forwarded to the Philippines and the Caribbean general conferences.

152. The Chair called for the slate of candidates for the General Board of Review to be placed before the body. The ministerial members were Dan LeRoy, Jo Anne Lyon, Bob Black, David Wright and Ron McClung. They were elected (Yes 292, No 10). Lay members were Sue Rickman, James Luttrell Jr., Shirley Mullen, and Dawn Colaw. They were elected (Yes 284, No 12). Ministerial alternates for the General Board of Review were Mark O. Wilson, Jim Lo, Tim Purcell, and Harry Wood. They were elected (Yes 299, No 2). Lay alternates were Maribeth Jennings, Bob Lindsey, and David Babb. They were elected (Yes 298, No 2).

153. **MEMORIAL 847: PROPERTY PROCEED LIMITS** was moved for adoption. Adopted. (Yes 287, No 11)

154. **MEMORIAL 314: TRANSFER PROCESS FOR MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS** was moved for adoption.

155. A motion with support was made to amend Memorial 314 by adding the words “and the ministerial education requirements of The Wesleyan Church (3150–3210)” following “in ministerial training.”

156. The amendment was adopted. (Yes 289, No 8)

157. Memorial 314 was adopted as amended. (284 to 9)

158. **MEMORIAL 110: OFFICES REQUIRING LEADERSHIP STANDARDS** was moved for adoption.

159. Adopted. (Yes 286, No 5)

160. **MEMORIAL 506: LICENSED MINISTER STATUS TO A POSSIBLE TERMINAL STATUS** was moved for adoption.

161. A motion was made with support to amend Memorial 506 by replacing the phrase "(successful completion of the minimum of the core six (6) courses; Wesleyan Church History and *Discipline*, Introduction to Old Testament, Introduction to New Testament, Introduction to Theology, Introduction to Homiletics, and Church Leadership/Management and a period of supervised ministry as advised by the DBMD)" with "(After successful completion of the education requirements as outlined by the Ministerial Study Course Agency and a period of supervised ministry as advised by the DBMD)"

162. The amendment was adopted. (Yes 266, to No 21)

163. A motion was made with support to amend Memorial 506 by eliminating the third "resolved."

164. The amendment was adopted. (Yes 183, No 107)

165. Memorial 506 was adopted as twice amended. (Yes 270, No 25)

166. The Chair called for the morning break at 10:15 AM

167. The morning session resumed with the worship team from One Church leading the conference in worship.

168. Dr. Schmidt led the conference in a communion service.

169. Dr. Schmidt challenged the conference to prioritize prayer and listening to God.

170. The worship team led the conference in singing, "The Blessing."

171. Rev. Swyers led the conference in prayer.

172. Petra Ray read the Great Commission from Matthew 28.

173. Johanna Rugh read Romans 10:13–15 and led the conference in prayer.

174. Petra Ray gave announcements and expressed appreciation to the many who had made General Conference possible.

175. Rev. Rugh gave a benediction.

176. The Chair, with a final strike of the gavel, declared the 14th North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church to be adjourned at 11:30 AM.

HISTORICAL DATA
General Superintendents of The Wesleyan Church

1	Dr. Bernard H. Phaup	1968–1973
2	Dr. Melvin H. Snyder	1968–1980
3	Dr. J. D. Abbott	1968–1988
4	Dr. Virgil A. Mitchell	1968–1984
5	Dr. Robert W. McIntyre	1973–1988
6	Dr. O. D. Emery	1980–1992
7	Dr. Earle L. Wilson	1984–2008
8	Dr. Lee M. Haines	1988–2000
9	Dr. H. C. Wilson	1988–1996
	Reelected	July 16, 2000—August 6, 2000
10	Dr. Harry F. Wood	1996–1997
11	Dr. Thomas E. Armiger	1997–2011
12	Dr. David W. Holdren	2000–2005
13	Dr. Jerry G. Pence	2005–2012
14	Dr. Jo Anne Lyon	2008–2016
15	Dr. Wayne Schmidt	2016–present

General Conferences of The Wesleyan Church

Number/Place	Date	Presiding Officers	Secretary
1-Anderson, Indiana	June 26– July 1, 1968	Roy S. Nicholson <i>Co-Convener</i> Walter L. Surbrook <i>Co-Conveners</i> B. H. Phaup Melvin H. Snyder J. D. Abbott Virgil A. Mitchell	Garl Beaver and D. Wayne Brown, Co-Secretaries
2-Lake Junaluska, North Carolina	June 20–25, 1972	B. H. Phaup Melvin H. Snyder J. D. Abbott Virgil A. Mitchell	D. Wayne Brown
3-Wichita, Kansas	June 15–20, 1976	Melvin H. Snyder J. D. Abbott Virgil A. Mitchell Robert W. McIntyre	D. Wayne Brown
4-Indianapolis, Indiana	June 16–22, 1980	Melvin H. Snyder J. D. Abbott Virgil A. Mitchell Robert W. McIntyre	Paul Wm. Thomas, Secretary pro tem

5-Columbus, Ohio	June 16–22, 1984	J.D. Abbott Virgil A. Mitchell Robert W. McIntyre O. D. Emery	Ronald R. Brannon
6-Knoxville, Tennessee	June 18–24, 1988	J. D. Abbott Robert W. McIntyre O. D. Emery Earle L. Wilson	Ronald R. Brannon
7-Des Moines, Iowa	June 19–24, 1992	O. D. Emery Earle L. Wilson Lee M. Haines H. C. Wilson	Ronald R. Brannon
8-Indianapolis, Indiana	June 9–12, 1996	Earle L. Wilson Lee M. Haines H. C. Wilson	Ronald R. Brannon
9-Greensboro, North Carolina	July 14–19, 2000	Earle L. Wilson Lee M. Haines Thomas E. Armiger	Ronald R. Brannon
10-Grand Rapids, Michigan	June 19–23, 2004	Earle L. Wilson Thomas E. Armiger David W. Holdren	Ronald D. Kelly
11-Orlando, Florida	June 7–11, 2008	Earle L. Wilson Thomas E. Armiger Jerry G. Pence	Ronald D. Kelly
12-Lexington Kentucky	June 2–6, 2012	Jerry G. Pence Jo Anne Lyon	Ronald D. Kelly
13-Buffalo New York	June 4–8, 2016	Jo Anne Lyon H. C. Wilson (GS emeritus)	Wayne A. MacBeth

General Conferences of The Wesleyan Methodist Church

Number/Place Elected	Date Elected	Presiding Officers	Secretary
1-Cleveland, OH	October 2–12, 1844	Luther Lee	Lewis Woodson
2-New York City	October 4–13, 1848	Daniel Worth	L. C. Matlack
3-Syracuse, NY	October 6–15, 1852	Cyrus Prindle	John McEldowney
4-Cleveland, OH	October 1–7, 1856	Luther Lee	John McEldowney
5-Fulton, NY	October 3–10, 1860	L. C. Matlack	John McEldowney
6-Adrian, MI	June 1–6, 1864	Luther Lee	John McEldowney
7-Cleveland, OH	October 2–8, 1867	Samuel Salisbury	Nathan Wardner
8-Syracuse, NY	October 18–23, 1871	Adam Crooks	L. N. Stratton
9-Sycamore, IL	October 20–26, 1875	Nathan Wardner	H. T. Besse
10-Pittsford, MI	October 15–22, 1879	Nathan Wardner	H. T. Besse
11-Syracuse, NY	October 17–25, 1883	Nathan Wardner	E. W. Bruce
12-LaOtto, IN	October 19–27, 1887	Nathan Wardner	E. W. Bruce
13-Gr. Rapids, MI	October 21–30, 1891	Nathan Wardner	E. W. Bruce
14-Fairmount, IN	October 16–24, 1895	Nathan Wardner	E. W. Bruce
15-Sheridan, IN	October 18–25, 1899	Eber Teter	E. W. Bruce
16-Gr. Rapids, MI	October 21–28, 1903	Eber Teter	E. W. Bruce
17-Fairmount, IN	October 16–22, 1907	Eber Teter	J. J. Coleman
18-Fairmount, IN	October 18–26, 1911	Eber Teter	J. J. Coleman
19-Houghton, NY	June 23–30, 1915	Eber Teter	E. F. McCarty
20-Fairmount, IN	June 25–July 1, 1919	Eber Teter	E. F. McCarty
21-Fairmount, IN	June 27–July 3, 1923	Eber Teter	E. F. McCarty
22-Houghton, NY	June 22–28, 1927	T. P. Baker	E. F. McCarty
23-Houghton, NY	June 24–30, 1931	E. D. Carpenter	E. F. McCarty
24-Fairmount, IN	June 26–July 1, 1935	E. D. Carpenter	E. F. McCarty
25-Fairmount, IN	June 28–July 3, 1939	F. R. Eddy	E. F. McCarty
26-Fairmount, IN	June 23–26, 1943	F. R. Eddy	Garl Beaver
27-Houghton, NY	June 25–30, 1947	Roy S. Nicholson	Garl Beaver
28-Fairmount, IN	June 27–July 3, 1951	Roy S. Nicholson	Garl Beaver
29-Fairmount, IN	June 21–29, 1955	Roy S. Nicholson	Garl Beaver
30-Houghton, NY	June 24–30, 1959	O. G. Wilson *	Garl Beaver
		B. H. Phaup	
		H. K. Sheets	
		R. D. Reisdorph	
31-Fairmount, IN	June 26–July 2, 1963	B. H. Phaup	Garl Beaver
		H. K. Sheets	
		V. A. Mitchell	
32-Houghton, NY	June 14–19, 1966	B. H. Phaup	Garl Beaver
		H. K. Sheets	
		V. A. Mitchell	
33-Anderson, IN	June 25, 1968	B. H. Phaup	Garl Beaver
		H. K. Sheets	
		V. A. Mitchell	

* Deceased prior to being installed.

General Church Meetings of the Pilgrim Holiness Church

***General Assemblies**

Date	Location	Presiding Officer
October 8, 1902	Chicago, Illinois	Seth C. Rees
October 7–8, 1903	Chicago, Illinois	Seth C. Rees
December 26–30, 1904	Cincinnati, Ohio	Seth C. Rees
November 3–13, 1905	Chicago, Illinois	Seth C. Rees
December 3–8, 1906	Battle Creek, Michigan	George B. Kulp
December 26–27, 1907	Cincinnati, Ohio	George B. Kulp
December 30–31, 1909	Cincinnati, Ohio	George B. Kulp
November 24–25, 1911	Huntington, West Virginia	George B. Kulp
December 17–22, 1913	Cincinnati, Ohio	George B. Kulp
November 17–21, 1915	Cincinnati, Ohio	George B. Kulp
November 18–24, 1919	Cincinnati, Ohio	George B. Kulp
September 6–7, 1920	Huntington, West Virginia	George B. Kulp
October 3–10, 1922	Cincinnati, Ohio	C. C. Brown
October 7–13, 1924	Greensboro, N. Carolina	W. R. Cox
September 8–14, 1926	Frankfort, Indiana	W. R. Cox
September 2–8, 1930	Frankfort, Indiana	Seth C. Rees
September 4–10, 1934	Frankfort, Indiana	W. L. Surbrook
September 6–13, 1938	Owosso, Michigan	W. L. Surbrook

General Conferences

Date	Location	Presiding Officer
June 9–15, 1942	Owosso, Michigan	W. L. Surbrook
June 11–17, 1946	Frankfort, Indiana	W. L. Surbrook
June 13–19, 1950	Frankfort, Indiana	L. W. Sturk
June 8–15, 1954	Winona Lake, Indiana	L. W. Sturk
June 10–16, 1958	Winona Lake, Indiana	William H. Neff
June 12–18, 1962	Winona Lake, Indiana	William H. Neff
		M. H. Snyder
		R. G. Flexon

***International Conferences**

Date	Location	Presiding Officer
June 14–20, 1966	Winona Lake, Indiana	William H. Neff
		M. H. Snyder
		P. W. Thomas
June 25, 1968	Anderson, Indiana	M. H. Snyder
		J. D. Abbott
		P. F. Elliott, Jr.

MEMORIALS TO THE 14TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

Delegates assembled in the America's Center Convention Complex, St. Louis, Missouri, for an opening session on Sunday evening, May 22, 2022. At the first business on Monday, May 23, delegates came prepared to vote on the various memorials listed on the following pages. In compliance with paragraph 1565 of *The Discipline*, the memorials had been given to the delegates two months prior to the beginning of General Conference.



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1

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: Journal Committee

Resolved, That the General Conference first session chair appoint a journal committee of three members to review and to approve the minutes of the daily proceedings, to report its findings to the General Conference from time to time, and to submit any reports not given to the General Conference by the time of its adjournment to the General Board.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

3

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Whereas, It is possible in the waning hours of General Conference on May 25, 2022, that some items of business may be inadvertently overlooked or unresolved;

Resolved, That the General Board be empowered to take care of any unfinished business from the 14th General Conference.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

52

CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT REGARDING GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Whereas, During its 2016 General Conference, The Wesleyan Church adopted Memorial 66, which directed the General Board to appoint a working group consisting of pastors and scholars to review the membership commitment on speaking in tongues, as stated in paragraph 265:9 of *The 2012 Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (paragraph 265:10 in *The 2016 Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*), and bring a recommendation to the 2020 General Conference;

Whereas, Twenty-seven pastors and scholars representing local Wesleyan churches, all five Wesleyan universities, Asbury Seminary, and five global Wesleyan leaders comprised the working group which reviewed the current membership commitment on speaking in tongues;

Whereas, Every effort has been made to carefully avoid two theological “ditches”: (1) unintentionally hindering a genuine work of the Holy Spirit among us, and (2) the potential for disruption and abuse to occur in our church settings; and

Whereas, Any action taken by the 2020 General Conference of The Wesleyan Church, postponed until 2022, has direct impact on the global Wesleyan Church;

Resolved, The 2016 *Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* be edited by replacing paragraph 265:10 with the following:

(10) To promote love, the common good, and orderliness in Christ’s church with reference to the use of the spiritual gift of tongues. The Wesleyan Church believes in the gifts of the miraculous use of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Speaking, praying or singing in tongues, whether done privately or publicly, is the divinely enabled ability some believers experience to communicate to God words of thanksgiving, praise, and adoration in a language not previously learned. While The Wesleyan Church recognizes that the gift of tongues is given to some believers, there is no single gift that is given to all as evidence of the Spirit’s infilling. The greatest expression of this work is a heart purified by the Holy Spirit and an empowered life of love and service to God and people. If speaking in tongues occurs publicly in a church gathering, Scripture requires one person to speak at a time and an interpretation to be provided by another so all in attendance, especially unbelievers, may understand and be edified. Pastors and leaders are to exercise discretion in light of these instructions to ensure our gatherings bear the fruit of unity and order in a manner helpful and intelligible to those hearing the Gospel.

Mark 16:17; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 6, 8–11, 16, 33; 4:7, 31; 10:44–47; 19:6; Romans 5:5; 13:1–5; 15:18–19; I Cor. 2:4; 12:3, 7, 10–11, 25, 28, 30; 13:1; 14:1–2, 5–6, 13–19, 23, 26–28, 33, 39–40; I Thess. 5:12, 23; Hebrews 2:4; I Peter 4:10; 5:12

TASK FORCE ON SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Karl Eastlack, Chair

Recommended and adopted (Items 46–49).

CONSTITUTION: THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Whereas, There exists in our day many immoral and unethical human institutions in which are pernicious to the worth and being of humanity and individual human beings;

Whereas, We believe that all human life is created in the image of God, and therefore has intrinsic and eternal worth and value;

Whereas, We are commanded in the Holy Scriptures to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to love the Lord Jesus Christ by loving the “least of these”;

Whereas, We as Wesleyans find our genesis and our historical heritage in the concept and practice of the abolition of institutions such as slavery, which stand contrary to the God-given rights of human beings, and to the love for our fellow man to which God calls us; and

Whereas, The Basic Principles of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* have traditionally carried more weight than the area of *The Discipline* labeled Special Directions in the way that we teach and admonish our membership;

Resolved, That this clause be added to the Basic Principles of *The Discipline*, Section 265, under the sub-section, “Toward Others,” which shall read:

265:14 To respect all human life by abstaining from participation in abortion or the abortion industry, euthanasia, human slavery or trafficking, pornography and the production and distribution thereof, the sex trade, forced or unjust labor practices, institutional and personal forms of racism, and any other institution which degrades or destroys human beings who have been created in the image of God; standing against, and seeking to bring an immediate end to all such practices.

Gen. 1:27; Exo. 20:13; Lev. 19:13; Job 31:1; Psa. 139:13; Prov. 23:22; Jer. 1:5; Hab. 2:15; Gal.3:28; 1 Tim. 5:2; 1 Cor. 5:9–10; 1 Tim. 1:10; 1 Tim. 5:18; Phil. 1:16–17

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
James Spaugh, District Secretary

Not recommended; referred to study (Items 83–87, 91–93).

CONSTITUTION: Demonstrating a positive witness

Whereas, We recognize that holiness is an unchanging biblical standard that is applied to a myriad of different cultural contexts;

Whereas, It is our desire as Wesleyans to live lives of social holiness while maintaining effectiveness in our unique cultural contexts;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has always valued the elevation of scriptural truth and the ideal that our lives are guided by God's Word alone (*sola scriptura*) and faith alone (*sola fide*);

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has become and is becoming incredibly diverse, having been blessed with both local and global contexts in which to minister, but which differ greatly in what is considered culturally normative and appropriate and which may define how social holiness is best lived out and what it truly means to (as Paul says) "Become all things to all people so as to save some;"

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has already adjusted its *Discipline* in other countries in order to maintain alignment with scripture while taking into consideration cultural context and

Whereas, It is our desire as Wesleyans to be missional in our ecclesiology and to foster missional engagement and relationship building for any situation that is not illegal, immoral or unethical, so as not to be construed as offensive or inhospitable;

Resolved, The following changes be made to paragraph 265:4 to better reflect our Wesleyan ideals and values on holiness in a multitude of contexts and settings and in a way that stands firmly on Scripture alone:

(4) To demonstrate a positive social witness through a lifestyle of social holiness as outlined by the Scriptures, allowing Scripture alone to dictate what we support and what we oppose. This includes abstinence from or moderation in certain lifestyles and behaviors as outlined in Scripture (See 410:4.)

~~by abstaining from all forms of gambling and by abstaining from using or trafficking (production, sale or purchase) in any substances destructive to their physical, mental and spiritual health, such as alcoholic beverages, tobacco and drugs (other than proper medical purposes of drugs); and by refraining from membership in secret societies and lodges which are oath bound, believing that the quasi-religious nature~~

of such organizations divides the Christian's loyalty, their secret nature contravenes the Christian's open witness and the secret nature of their oaths is repugnant to the Christian conscience.

Ex. 20:17; Rom. 14:21; 1 Cor. 6:12. Gambling violates the principle of Christian stewardship and the tenth commandment, is harmful to the individual in that it is emotionally addictive, is a poor example to others, and pollutes the moral climate of society.

Prov. 20:1; Rom. 6:12; 14:21; 1 Cor. 6:12–20; 10:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:22. Christians are to regard their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. While no "thing" of itself is sinful, the Christian should avoid the use **or abuse** of anything which would not help build the fellowship of the church, would not help the believers to realize their full potential in Christ, or which would enslave them. In the light of the scientific knowledge of our day concerning the actual and potential harm of these substances, total abstinence is more in keeping with these biblical principles than is moderation, **and is therefore highly recommended.**

Ex. 20:3; Matt. 5:34–36; John 18:20; Acts 4:12; James 5:12.

These prohibitions do not restrict membership in labor, civic or other organizations which do not contradict loyalty to Christ and the Church. When in these relationships Christian principles are violated, members shall be dealt with because of such violations and not because of the membership itself.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT
William O. Dunlap, District Secretary

Not recommended and not adopted (Items 94–98).

CONSTITUTION: MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

Whereas, One of the unintended consequences of action taken by the 2016 General Conference was to make paragraph 268 of *The Discipline* to be in conflict with paragraph 297, which does not make adherence to the

Membership Commitments a condition for membership, and paragraph 557 which encourages members to prayerfully consider and embrace the Membership Commitments, but does not require them to do so, **and Article 3 is titled Membership Commitments but is referred to in paragraph 557 as Guides and Help to Holy Living,**

Resolved, That the title of Article 3 be edited as follows:

Article 3. Guides and Helps to Holy Living

Resolved, That paragraph 268 of *The Discipline* be edited as follows:

268. These are the Membership Commitments **Guides and Helps to Holy Living for** of our Church. We believe all these to be consistent with the principles of Christ as taught in the Word of God, which is the only and sufficient rule both of our faith and practice. If any among us do not observe them, and/or habitually break any of them, we will admonish such persons in love with the hope of restoring them to lives of **in** harmony with the **spirit of the** above Membership Commitments **Guides and Helps to Holy Living.** If such efforts of restoration continue to prove fruitless, official action may be taken toward termination of said persons' church membership. However, the church members are encouraged to continue efforts toward the spiritual restoration of these persons:

Resolved, That all other *Discipline* references to "Membership Commitments" shall be edited to the wording "Guides and Helps to Holy Living."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 51–54, 60, 149–151).

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS: CARE OF THE BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT

Whereas, We recognize that holiness is an unchanging biblical standard that is applied to a myriad of different cultural contexts;

Whereas, It is our desire as Wesleyans to live lives of social holiness while maintaining effectiveness in our unique cultural contexts;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has always valued the elevation of scriptural truth and the ideal that our lives are guided by God's Word alone (*sola scriptura*) and faith alone (*sola fide*);

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has become and is becoming incredibly diverse, having been blessed with both local and global contexts in which to minister, but which differ greatly in what is considered culturally normative and appropriate and which may define how social holiness is best lived out and what it truly means to (as Paul says) "Become all things to all people so as to save some;"

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has already adjusted its *Discipline* in other countries in order to maintain alignment with Scripture while taking into consideration cultural context (see New Zealand Collective Conscience Statements 56 and 57); and

Whereas, It is our desire as Wesleyans to be missional in our ecclesiology and to foster missional engagement and relationship building for any situation that is not illegal, immoral or unethical, so as not to be construed as offensive or inhospitable;

Resolved, The following changes be made to paragraph 410:4 to better reflect our Wesleyan ideals and values on holiness in a multitude of contexts and settings and in a way that stands firmly on Scripture alone:

(4) **Care of the Body, and Substance Abuse. Mind, and Spirit.** The Bible teaches the sanctity of the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Christians should avoid the use **or abuse** of anything which would damage the body, **result in intoxication or incapacitation**, destroy the family, harm society (1 Corinthians 10:23–24), undermine the fellowship of the Church, hinder reaching full potential in Christ, enslave the will (1 Corinthians 6:12), inhibit evangelism (1 Corinthians 9:19–23), breach the Lord's command to love God supremely and to love one's neighbor as oneself (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37–39), or become a stumbling block to the young in age or faith (Matthew 18:6; 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13; 10:32–33). The Wesleyan Church encourages its members to practice self-discipline and temperance in matters of **alcohol use**, proper eating, exercise and rest. We oppose the production, sale, purchase and use of ~~alcoholic beverages, tobacco,~~ narcotics and other harmful drugs, **even when legal**, unless for mechanical, chemical or medicinal purposes (cf. 265:4). The unprescribed use of hallucinogens, stimulants, and depressants, and the misuse and abuse of regularly prescribed medicines should be prohibited; only on competent medical advice and under medical supervision should such drugs be

used. The consequences to society stemming from substance abuse, in **particular, alcohol abuse**, are of major concern because of their unarguably negative impact on the spiritual character and nature of individuals and the welfare of society. These include the creation of barriers to conversion, family dysfunction and breakdown, poverty, disease and death, increased violence and crime, the incalculable loss to national economies, and the destruction of the individual caught by the power of addiction. In light of the overwhelming evidence of damage to society and the spiritual health of the individual by the abuse of such substances, we believe that even where their use may be legalized, we choose **strongly suggest that each individual would prayerfully consider** total abstinence as ~~our~~ **their** appropriate response (i.e., voluntarily refraining from and totally avoiding the use of something in all unnecessary circumstances as determined by the individual Christian's conscience in submission to the lordship of Christ and the admonitions of the Church). Such abstinence is a willing act of self-discipline, an acceptance of group accountability, and never a test of salvation or an evidence of superior spirituality.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT
William O. Dunlap, District Secretary

Not recommended and not adopted (Item 99).

101

Developing Church Status CRITERIA

Whereas, It is the desire of The Wesleyan Church to have churches who are reaching people for Christ and making disciples;

Whereas, As a church matures often the primary mission of reaching people for Christ may fade or become less important than serving those already in the church;

Whereas, The church's ability to adjust to changing culture with relevant methods may be more difficult;

Whereas, Declining attendance may be a sign that a church has lost its main focus and changes need to take place in order for the church to get back on mission;

Whereas, The church may be unable to make changes and move forward without outside perspective, leadership, and expertise; and

Whereas, Reclassifying the church to developing status will enable the district to provide stronger investment and involvement as a catalyst in partnering with the church to bring about needed change;

Resolved, That a new subparagraph be added to *Discipline* 518:7 as follows:

2. Established Church 518:7(d) If it has consistently declined in attendance over the past seven years;

Resolved, That the current 518:7(d) be renumbered to become 518:7(e) on developing status so that 518:7 reads as follows:

(7) An established church may be reclassified by the district conference or the district board of administration as a developing church if such is recommended by the district superintendent and:

(a) If its membership drops to twenty or fewer (cf. 1180:24; 1233:30; 5320); or

(b) If no new converts and/or believers' baptisms have been reported by the church within the previous two years; or

(c) If no intentional investment of financial and human resources into the needs of those outside the church has been demonstrated within the two previous years; or

(d) If it has consistently declined in attendance over the past seven years; or

(e) If it ceases to meet one or more of the other conditions set forth in 518:2–5 (cf.4670).

Great Lakes District
David Lutz, District Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 132–135, 142–148).

102

ADVISORY COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has recognized the elevated importance of lay representation from its inception (**8**);

Whereas, The local board of administration has as its vice-chair a lay person (**773**);

Whereas, The vice-chair is an important connection for the district and denomination;

Whereas, The vice-chair shares in the responsibility of caring for the pastor

and provides oversight of their compensation and benefits (**773**);

Whereas, In ideal situations, the vice-chair is an advocate for and partner with the pastor,

Whereas, In a developing church, there is an advisory council as opposed to a local board of administration (**510:3**);

Whereas, Paragraph **510:3** does not explicitly make provision for a vice-chair on the advisory council; and

Whereas, Pastors of developing churches also need the same kind of care, advocacy, and partnership that pastors in established churches need;

Resolved, That paragraph 510:3 make provision for a vice-chair of the advisory council; and

Resolved, That paragraph 510:3 be edited as follows:

510:3 As soon as qualified members are available, the district superintendent, in cooperation with the pastor, may appoint a local advisory council of three to five members, **and may designate one of them as the vice-chair**. The pastor shall serve as chair of this council. (cf. **807**; **1310:17**). The council shall exercise the duties and powers of a local board of administration (**782**), making all recommendations to the district superintendent or the district board of administration instead of the local church conference (**1310:17**). **The vice-chair shall provide oversight for the pastor's compensation and benefits when neither the district superintendent nor a representative of the district superintendent is present.** All investments in land, buildings, and equipment (**1233:33**; **4650–4670**), matters involving employed staff, and other major decisions must be authorized by the district board of administration; and all actions of the local advisory council shall be subject to the review and approval of the district superintendent. The local advisory council shall be responsible to assist the district superintendent in qualifying the church as quickly as possible for organization as an established church.

EDUCATION AND CLERGY DEVELOPMENT
Russ Gunsalus, Executive Director

GENERAL TREASURER/ CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Kevin Batman

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

URBAN MISSIONAL CHURCH

Whereas, The number of people living in urban areas is conservatively estimated at 44% of the population and many of those are living in poverty with projections that the number of those living in poverty conditions in an urban context will continue to increase;

Whereas, Under-resourced urban communities are challenging places in which to minister because the people are marginalized by society and often historically forsaken by the Church;

Whereas, God is calling workers into these mission fields and we want, and need, to send more;

Whereas, Starting and sustaining churches in urban communities is an expensive endeavor with unique long-term leadership and on-going funding challenges; and mutual commitment to the same mission means helping front-line leaders address such issues while they operate with financial accountability to the overall mission;

Whereas, The current “urban missional church” policy unintentionally excludes established church governance structure; and

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church is serious about becoming more diverse, making disciples, multiplying churches in urban areas, and gaining momentum with this movement calls for a denominational commitment of structural and financial support for such works;

Resolved, That paragraph 523 be amended to read as follows:

523. An urban missional church is a local church located and serving in a high poverty area in a metropolitan area of over 200,000 people. It shall be recommended and approved by the district board of administration (1233:30) and must be approved by the General Superintendent. Its approval will be for two years and may be renewed. Its organizational structure will follow the same pattern as either a developing church **or an established church** (510:1–5; **518:1–6**). Should it cease to qualify as an urban missional church, it would move into developing church or established church status, as authorized by the district board of administration.

Resolved, That paragraph 2005:3(g) be amended to read as follows:

2005:3(g) Urban Missional Church Exception. Whenever a local church is designated as an urban missional church, the USF obligation for that church shall be set at **25** percent of the regular assessment (523).

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT
David Lutz, District Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

110

OFFICES REQUIRING LEADERSHIP STANDARDS

Whereas, Local Wesleyan churches may desire to require leadership standards for officers other than those designated in *The Discipline*; and
Whereas, The current terminology could be interpreted to limit that ability;
Resolved, That the word “are” in paragraph 552:3 be replaced with the word “include,” so that it reads as follows:

- (3) Leadership positions in the local church that require a person to be a member who meets the qualifications (260–268; 558) **are include:**
- (a) any credentialed ministry (3250–3490)
 - (b) local board of administration member (752)
 - (c) trustee (850)
 - (d) delegate to district or general conference (965, 1524)
 - (e) nominating committee member (820)
 - (f) local church secretary (638, 830)
 - (g) lay leader (833)
 - (h) witness and membership committee member (835)
 - (i) church treasurer (842)
 - (j) Sunday school superintendent or spiritual formation director (889)

NORTH CAROLINA WEST DISTRICT
J Scott Howard, District Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 158–159).

111

ANNUAL REAFFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Whereas, An unintended consequence of requiring annual reaffirmation of membership has been the alienation of many faithful members who do not understand discipleship accountability as the purpose of this expectation;

Whereas, This requirement places an impractical and undesirable burden on pastors and board members to surmise the reasons for or to confront members about their failure to submit annual reaffirmation of membership forms in a timely manner and, consequently, this rule is applied in a grossly uneven manner from church to church as a membership management practice; and

Whereas, The mandatory requirement of annual reaffirmation of membership has resulted in an unprecedented and unnecessary increase in membership attrition for the North American General Conference;

Resolved, That *Discipline* 553:3 be amended by substituting the word “may” for the words “will be,” in the first and last sentences of the paragraph. The first sentence will then read, “Members **may** be asked to reaffirm . . .” (the remainder of the sentence being unchanged). The last sentence of the paragraph will then read, “If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, that choice **may** be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership;” and

Resolved, Further that *Discipline* 605 be amended by substituting the word “may” for the word “shall” in the last sentence of the paragraph, so that it will then read, “If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation of membership commitment, such action **may** constitute neglect and **may** be cause for removal.”

FLORIDA DISTRICT
Todd Sloan, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 115 (Item 64).

112

MEMBERSHIP REAFFIRMATION AS OPTIONAL

Whereas, The reaffirmation process for membership has led to unintended difficulty and division in some local churches; and

Whereas, There are other methods offered in *The Discipline* to deal with

members who have become inactive or neglectful in their relationship with the local church;

Resolved, That each Wesleyan church would be allowed to select the manner of providing annual accountability for membership which best suits their local context;

Resolved, That paragraph 553:3 *The Discipline* be amended as follows and subsequently reads as follows:

553:3 Members Candidates for membership will be asked to reaffirm **affirm** their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church. ~~through the local church annually. The local board of administration shall carry out this annual reaffirmation process in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership.~~

553:3 Candidates for membership will be asked to **affirm** their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church.

Resolved, That failure to reaffirm membership be added as a condition that can allow for termination of membership and Paragraph 585 be amended by adding an additional subpoint to paragraph 585 so that it reads as follows:

E. Termination of Membership

585. Membership in The Wesleyan Church may be terminated only by one or more of the following (305):

(1) Voluntary withdrawal (see also 553:3).

(2) Failure to reaffirm membership in a church that employs the reaffirmation process (593).

(3) Joining another religious body or joining a secret order.

- (4) Expulsion after proper hearing and conviction (5023:5).
- (5) Persistent neglect of church relationship as defined in 600–605.
- (6) Death

Resolved, That paragraph 593 be added in the explanatory section regarding termination of membership. It shall read as follows:

593. The local church conference may choose to employ membership accountability through an annual reaffirmation process. This process should be managed by the local board of administration in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership.

NORTH CAROLINA WEST DISTRICT
J Scott Howard, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 115 (Item 64).

113

MEMBERSHIP REAFFIRMATION

Whereas, *Discipline* paragraph 782:11 has the expectation that the local board of administration shall examine the membership roll annually;

Whereas, The annual reaffirmation process as currently designed is a cumbersome task for the local board of administration;

Whereas, Some faithful local church members have found the current annual reaffirmation process to be offensive; and

Whereas, Because of it being a cumbersome task and the members taking offense some local boards of administration have decided to forgo having an annual reaffirmation thus making themselves liable to accusations of inconsistently following *The Discipline*;

Resolved, That *Discipline* paragraph 553:3 be edited as follows:

553:3 ~~Members will be asked to reaffirm~~ *are expected to maintain* their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary

Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church through the local church. ~~annually.~~ The local board of administration shall ~~carry out this annual reaffirmation process~~ *seek to ensure that members are maintaining these commitments* in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to ~~participate in the annual reaffirmation process~~ *maintain these commitments*, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership

So that paragraph 553:3 reads as follows:

553:3 Members are expected to maintain their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church through the local church. The local board of administration shall **seek to ensure that members are maintaining these commitments** in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to **maintain these commitments**, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership; and

Resolved, That Discipline paragraph 605 be edited by deleting the last sentence *"If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation of membership commitment, such action shall constitute neglect and shall be cause for removal"* so that paragraph 605 reads as follows:

605. When any member fails to attend the services of the church where membership is held for one year without a reason deemed justifiable by the local board of administration, or to support the church financially, as able, the pastor and local board of administration shall seek to restore the member to active fellowship, but if unable to do so, the member's name may be dropped upon recommendation of the local board of administration and the majority vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated

full responsibility in such matters to the local board of administration. The secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the vote and discontinued by vote for persistent neglect.

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
James Spaugh, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 115 (Item 64).

114

MEMBERSHIP MEMORIAL

Whereas, Membership in The Wesleyan Church is an important part of an individual's spiritual development;

Whereas, Discipleship is vital for members and non-members alike;

Whereas, The 2016 General Conference established an annual renewal of membership commitment in 553:3;

Whereas, Annual reaffirmation of membership does not produce or guarantee faithful members and accountability of individual members should come under the review and care of the pastor and local board of administration;

Whereas, This statute of *The Discipline* has been applied unevenly between Wesleyan churches in our denomination;

Whereas, This statute has caused confusion and hurt among members, who have felt the denomination is questioning their loyalty;

Whereas, Many established members intended and believed their membership to be permanent and many incoming members intend and prefer to have permanent membership;

Whereas, Local churches can already keep their membership rolls clean by removing inactive members without requiring an annual reaffirmation, (*Disc.* 585:4; and

Whereas, The administrative task of contacting all members annually for reaffirmation is burdensome;

Resolved, That *Discipline* 553:3 be replaced by striking

~~**553:3** Members will be asked to reaffirm their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability~~

relationship with The Wesleyan Church through the local church annually. The local board of administration shall carry out this annual reaffirmation process in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership. And replacing it with **553:3** Members will be reminded annually by the local church, via mail and/or email of their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church. Pastors shall also remind members annually at local church conference of their commitments as noted above. So that that paragraph 553:3 reads as follows:

553:3 Members will be reminded annually by the local church, via mail and/or email of their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church. Pastors shall also remind members annually at local church conference of their commitments as noted above; and

Resolved, That paragraph 605 be amended by striking the last sentence which states ~~If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation of membership commitment, such action shall constitute neglect and shall be cause for removal~~ so that paragraph 605 reads:

605. When any member fails to attend the services of the church where membership is held for one year without a reason deemed justifiable by the local board of administration, or to support the church financially, as able, the pastor and local board of administration shall seek to restore the member to active fellowship, but if unable to do so, the member's name may be dropped upon recommendation of the local board of administration and the majority vote of the local church conference, unless the local church conference shall have delegated full responsibility in such matters to the local board of administration.

The secretary shall enter opposite the member's name the date of the vote and discontinued by vote for persistent neglect.

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT
David Lutz, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 115 (Item 64).

115

MEMBERSHIP REAFFIRMATION

Whereas, The reaffirmation process for membership has led to unintended difficulty and division in some local churches; and

Whereas, There are other methods offered in *The Discipline* to deal with members who have become inactive or neglectful in their relationship with the local church;

Resolved, That each Wesleyan church would be allowed to select the manner of providing accountability for membership which best suits their local context;

Resolved, That paragraph 553:3 *The Discipline* be amended as follows and subsequently reads as follows:

553:3 ~~Members~~ **Candidates for membership** will be asked to ~~reaffirm~~ **affirm** their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church. ~~through the local church annually. The local board of administration shall carry out this annual reaffirmation process in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, that choice will be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership.~~

553:3 **Candidates for membership** will be asked to **affirm** their commitment to their experience of regeneration, Christian baptism, their acceptance of the Articles of Religion, Elementary

Principles and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government, and their willingness to continue a membership and discipleship accountability relationship with The Wesleyan Church. **593. The local church conference may choose to employ membership accountability through a reaffirmation process. This process should be managed by the local board of administration in a fair and responsible manner, taking care to preserve both the life and health of the church as well as the established rights of the member. If a member chooses not to participate in the reaffirmation process, that choice may be considered as a voluntary withdrawal from membership.**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 61–64).

125

GOVERNANCE SIMPLIFICATION: LOCAL AND DISTRICT

Whereas, Making disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ is the core mission of The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Church governance at the local, district, and general levels of the church exist to serve the core mission of the church;

Whereas, *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* is the church governance document of The Wesleyan Church,

Whereas, Historically *The Discipline* (*The Manual* under The Pilgrim Holiness Church) was significantly smaller in terms prescribed governance;

Whereas, Reducing *The Discipline* can lead to increased accountability on the essentials while simultaneously increasing the adaptability of structures; and

Whereas, The desire of The Wesleyan Church is to have a governance structure that binds us together as heirs and co-laborers in the Kingdom of God while at the same time remaining nimble enough to adapt to the demands of our core mission in the midst of a constantly changing culture and ministry context;

Resolved, That the following changes dealing with local church governance in paragraphs 625–970 be made; and

Resolved, That the following changes dealing with district church governance in Paragraphs 1000–1496:7 be made.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 120–127).

126

GOVERNANCE SIMPLIFICATION: GENERAL

Whereas, Making disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ is the core mission of The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Church governance at the local, district, and general levels of the church exist to serve the core mission of the church;

Whereas, *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* is the church governance document of The Wesleyan Church,

Whereas, Historically *The Discipline* (*The Manual* under The Pilgrim Holiness Church) was significantly smaller in terms prescribed governance;

Whereas, Reducing *The Discipline* can lead to increased accountability on the essentials while simultaneously increasing the adaptability of structures; and

Whereas, The desire of The Wesleyan Church is to have a governance structure that binds us together as heirs and co-laborers in the Kingdom of God while at the same time remaining nimble enough to adapt to the demands of our core mission in the midst of a constantly changing culture and ministry context;

Resolved, That the following changes dealing with general church governance in Paragraphs 1503:1(b); 1573; 1655:3; 1785:7; 1797:1; 1797:3; 1850; 1935; 2115; 2310; and 2341 be made; and

Resolved, That if the General Church governance section of Mem 126 is approved, Memorial 330 is null and void.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 128–131).

PASTORAL RECALL PROCEDURE

Whereas, Experience has taught us that pastoral tenure is key to producing stability, fulfillment of vision and deeper community connection;

Whereas, The personal and emotional trauma brought on by an impending congregational vote impacts the pastor and family in unhealthy ways;

Whereas, Our Wesleyan congregational tradition is honored by electing strong spiritual leaders to serve on the local board of administration;

Whereas, The local board of administration is best able to evaluate the effectiveness of a pastor's leadership and vision; and

Whereas, Congregational pastoral votes often cause division within churches where a pastor and local board of administration are leading through times of change;

Resolved, That the "Regulations for Renewal of Call" would reflect the following changes:

4. Regulations for Renewal of Call

718. Procedure for Renewal of Call. Whenever a pastor's term of service is expiring, unless the pastor shall give notice otherwise to the vice-chair of the local board of administration (773) and the district superintendent, in writing and at least sixty days prior to the convening of the district conference, the pastor shall be considered as available. ~~and a vote on the renewal of the pastoral call shall be taken in keeping with the regulations governing all pastoral voting (692).~~

The church/pastoral relationship shall be reviewed by the local board of administration, meeting with the district superintendent, or an ordained minister appointed by the district superintendent, within 120 days of the second anniversary of pastoral service and every four years thereafter. At this review meeting, the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship shall be discussed. The objective is to discover consensus without the need of a formal church vote.

~~(1) One of the following alternative procedures shall be followed:—~~

~~(a) A vote for a four-year renewal of the call shall be taken. If the vote on a four-year renewal of the call is favorable, the local board of administration, after consulting with the pastor, may then recommend that a ballot vote be taken to renew the call for an extended period (720).—~~

~~(b) Or, prior to the vote on renewing the call, the local board of administration, after consultation with the pastor, shall recommend to the local church conference a specific call for four years, or an extended call.~~

~~(2) A vote for a one or two-year renewal of the call may be authorized by the district superintendent upon the joint request of the pastor and the local board of administration when such is due to extenuating circumstances.—~~

~~720. Special Regulations for Extended Call.—~~

~~(1) When a pastor is serving for an extended period, the pastor may, when deemed advisable and when approval has been granted by the district superintendent, ask the local board of administration to conduct a vote by the local church conference on renewing the extended call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 692.~~

~~(2) When a pastor is serving for an extended period, the district superintendent shall review the pastoral agreement with the local board of administration at least quadrennially. The local board of administration by a majority vote shall either reaffirm the call or ask the local church conference to vote on renewing the call. Such a vote shall be conducted in keeping with 692.~~

718:1. The district superintendent, or an ordained minister appointed by the district superintendent, shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting the review meeting(s) with the local board of administration. The district superintendent shall determine the review methodology. The review meeting(s) shall be scheduled in consultation with the pastor. The review meeting(s) shall be conducted in executive session (local board of administration, including pastor). At the discretion of the district superintendent, a portion of the review may be conducted in the absence of the pastor. In the case that immediate relatives of the pastor are local board of administration members, they may be recused from the review, per the request of the district superintendent or appointed representative.

718:2. A public and/or printed announcement explaining the purpose of this local board of administration meeting shall be conveyed to the congregation the Sunday before the church board and district superintendent meet for the regular church/pastoral relationship review.

718:3. If the church board does not vote to present the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the local church

conference, the church/pastoral relationship will continue for an additional four years.

718:4. The local board of administration may vote to present to the local church conference the question of continuing the pastoral call. The vote by the board will be by ballot and require a majority vote of all church board members present to carry.

718:5. If the local board of administration votes to present the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the local church conference, the matter shall be presented at a local church conference properly called for this purpose and held within 30 days following such action in keeping with 692. The question shall be presented, "Shall the present church/pastoral relationship continue for a period of 4 years?"

718:6. If a majority of church members present and voting votes to continue the church/pastoral relationship, the church/pastoral relationship shall continue as though such a vote had not been taken; otherwise, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent not fewer than 30 days nor beyond the normal time of pastoral transitions. If the pastor chooses not to proceed with the vote of the congregation or chooses not to accept the vote, he or she shall submit a resignation. In such case, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent not fewer than 30 nor more than 180 days following the pastor's decision not to proceed with or accept the congregational vote.

719. The vice chair of the local board of administration or district superintendent shall personally inform the pastor of the results of a pastoral vote before any public announcement is made.

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
James Spough, District Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

204

REMOVE PROVISIONAL DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION

Whereas, In the history of The Wesleyan Church since its beginning in 1968, the Church has seldom used more than one classification at a time to indicate a district in the process of becoming fully established; and

Whereas, The classification of developing district is adequate to ensure recognition of a district in process;

Resolved, That paragraphs 1020–1034 be removed from *The Discipline*; and

Resolved, That the General Conference Editing Committee be authorized to remove all references to provisional districts from *The Discipline*, and to make such other edits as necessary to bring *The Discipline* into conformity with this action.

EXECUTIVE CABINET
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

300

FORMULA FOR ASSIGNING DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

Whereas, The cost of conducting General Conference has become increasingly expensive with the continuing rise in the price of travel, lodging and food;

Whereas, It behooves us to use good stewardship in the planning for all of our meetings;

Whereas, Lower costs for having our essential meetings should release needed funds for ministry expenses in expanding the Kingdom; and

Whereas, We continue to value the constitutional principle of equal representation by ordained ministers and lay members of The Wesleyan Church (*Disc.325*);

Resolved, That paragraph 1503:1b be edited to reflect a ratio of one ministerial and one lay delegate to General Conference for every one thousand members, so that the paragraph reads as follows:

(b) One ministerial and one lay delegate elected by an established district for every ~~seven hundred fifty~~ **one thousand** members and major fraction thereof. The district superintendent and the lay delegate elected (1503:1a) shall be the representatives for the first ~~seven hundred fifty~~ **one thousand** members.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended, but not adopted; cared for by Memorial 126 as amended (Item 130).

305

GENERAL CONFERENCE: VOTING MEMBERS

Whereas, The directors of subsidiaries of The Wesleyan Church are voting members of the General Conference; and

Whereas, Immigrant Connection has been approved by the General Board as a subsidiary of the denomination;

Resolved, That paragraph 1503:1(c) be revised by adding the words “the Immigrant Connection,” and relocating the word “and,” so that it reads as follows:

(c) The general officials of the Church as defined in 1800, the General Superintendents Emeriti, members of the General Board who are not voting members by some other right, the presidents of the general educational institutions (2365), the general directors of Hephzibah Ministries, Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Wesleyan Native Ministries, the Wesleyan Pension Fund, the Wesleyan Bible Conference Association, **and the Immigrant Connection**, and such delegates-at-large as shall be necessary to maintain parity between ordained ministers and lay members (1508–1510).

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Item 44)

310

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT: ELECTION PROCESS FOR AN INCUMBENT

Whereas, *The Discipline* (1590:16) authorizes the General Board to determine a process for collecting names of eligible candidates for the office of General Superintendent;

Whereas, This process obviously outlines actions to be followed only when there is a vacancy in the office and does not address the possibility of incumbency; and

Whereas, It is essential to have a process in place in the event of an incumbent who is available for continued service;

Resolved, That paragraph 1590:16 be amended as follows:

(16) To elect by ballot and by majority vote, from among the ordained ministers of The Wesleyan Church, one General Superintendent. **When an incumbent General Superintendent's term of office is expiring and the General Superintendent is available for continued service, the reelection vote shall be a 'yes/no' ballot. In the event of a vacancy,** the General Board shall determine a process for the ~~collection~~—identification of ~~names~~—of eligible candidates for the office of General Superintendent. The General Board shall **evaluate** ~~screen the list of candidates and interview those believed to be the best candidates in order to determine their appropriateness and availability for election.~~ The General Board shall provide one or more nominations to the General Conference for election by ballot, ~~allowing for nominations from the floor."~~

Resolved, That *General Board Policy* be revised to include the process to be followed when an incumbent is available for continued service, as well as the process to be followed when there is no incumbency.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
 Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 36–37).

312

CONSENT AGENDA

Whereas, In each meeting of the General Conference, routine, non-controversial items are considered, such as appointment of the General Conference Journal Committee that approves daily minutes, referring unfinished business to the General Board, and other matters, which are important to the legal and legitimate flow of business; and

Whereas, Valuable meeting time could be saved by adopting a consent agenda, in which routine, non-controversial items are presented as a block for General Conference approval;

Resolved, That *The Discipline* be amended by adding the following paragraph as a new paragraph 1561:

1561. A consent agenda may be used in any meeting to present as a block such routine, non-controversial items as may require General Conference

approval. All delegates will receive a copy of the consent agenda in advance of the meeting. It shall be understood that any delegate may move that an item be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 43, 44).

314

TRANSFER PROCESS FOR MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church welcomes ministers, from other denominations or religious bodies, who share our faith and mission;

Whereas, The district board of ministerial development makes the final recommendation to a district conference for recognizing and validating the ordination credentials of a transferring minister;

Whereas, The increasing diversity of The Wesleyan Church recognizes and affirms the variety of pathways into ordination afforded to ministers in other cultures and communities;

Whereas, The preparation of these ordained ministers, while different from our experiences or expectations, is no less valid or valued; and

Whereas, The districts should be empowered to respond to the unique challenges and opportunities this may present;

Resolved, That *The Discipline* 3104 be amended by deleting the following sentence in *The Discipline* 3104:2 ~~If approval is granted, the General Superintendent shall forward copies of the applicant's ministerial credentials and educational records to the Ministerial Study Course Agency for its evaluation.~~ and by inserting the following wording in *The Discipline* 3104:3 If approval is granted by the General Superintendent, and by inserting the following wording in 3104:4 of the district board of ministerial development and by deleting the following wording in 3104:5 as evidenced by the certification of the Ministerial Study Course Agency so that the new paragraph 3104 shall read as follows:

3104. Reception of a Minister from Another Denomination.

An ordained minister from another denomination, or a minister from another denomination who has been ordained to deacon's orders or who has been licensed or authorized in some manner equivalent to the commissioning or licensing of a Wesleyan minister by a district

conference, may seek reception into The Wesleyan Church as an ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister, as the case may justify (1233:37) according to the following procedure:

(1) The applicant shall complete a written application for transfer provided by the Executive Director of Communication and Administration office and present it, along with a valid letter of standing or photocopy of ministerial credentials and photocopies of transcripts or other records of ministerial training, to the district superintendent (1310:29), who shall research the applicant's background, check references, and verify his or her current credential status and good standing.

(2) If favorable to the transfer, the district superintendent shall so recommend in writing and request approval by the General Superintendent with copies of the application, credentials, and educational records submitted by the applicant.

(3) **If approval is granted by the General Superintendent**, the applicant shall be examined by the district board of ministerial development relative to Christian experience, call, and qualifications for the ministry as given in 3000–3006 (cf. 3059:1; 3070:4), and to the nature of ordination, commission or license.

(4) If the district board of ministerial development so recommends (1390:3), the district conference may appoint the applicant as an ordained minister in process of transfer (1180:29a; cf. 1240:I:G; 3390; cf. 3067), a commissioned minister in process of transfer (1240:II:E; 3059; 3391) or a licensed minister in process of transfer (1240:III:D; 3391), which relation shall continue for one year unless the district conference shall by vote extend it. While serving under this relation, the applicant is a nonvoting member of the district conference (1090:2, 3), may serve as a supply pastor (3260), and shall seek to satisfy any requirements **of the district board of ministerial development** in ministerial training, and the Ministerial educational requirements of The Wesleyan Church (3150–3210) particularly in Wesleyan doctrine, history, and polity. If at any time the district board of administration shall determine that it is not in the best interests of the district to continue the relation, they may by majority vote terminate the relation and any supply assignment, and thus dismiss the applicant from all ministerial relations to The Wesleyan Church. An ordained minister in the process of transfer shall have authority to administer the sacraments and perform marriages, while serving as a supply pastor (3260:2).

(5) If the year of service is satisfactory and all requirements in ministerial training have been met, the district board of ministerial

development may recommend to the district conference that the applicant be recognized as an ordained minister or commissioned or licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church and be received as a ministerial member of the district (1390:3). If the transferring minister has not previously joined a local Wesleyan church within the district, this must be done prior to the vote by the district conference receiving the applicant as a ministerial member of the district. If an ordained minister in process of transfer faces extensive additional academic requirements, and age or other extenuating circumstances make it doubtful to the applicant and the district board of ministerial development that such requirements can be met, the district board of ministerial development may authorize the applicant to qualify for commissioned minister's status and proceed accordingly (cf. 3059).

(6) When an ordained minister or commissioned minister has been received, a proper certificate validating the ordination or commission shall be signed and issued (6320). For the licensed minister, a license shall be issued (6260).

CROSSROADS DISTRICT
Carolyn Schenck, District Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 154–157).

316

ROLE OF NETWORKS

Whereas, New forms of gathering together and resourcing local churches have emerged in The Wesleyan Church and these are often called or referred to as Networks;

Whereas, These networks provide an essential way of accelerating the mission of The Wesleyan Church through discipleship, multiplication, and ongoing support of churches, and there is no desire to slow these down or unnecessarily burden them administratively;

Whereas, These networks serve functions that at times blur the lines between their role, that of any other local church, districts, and the general church ministries;

Whereas, These blurred lines can complicate matters with legal implications, governance, physical boundaries outlined in *The Discipline*, and unanticipated financial impact through assessment adjustments;

Whereas, Network leaders themselves have asked for more clarity on their function within the denominational structure;

Whereas, *The Discipline* already clarifies the function, responsibilities, and authority of districts (*Disc.*1000–1496); however

Whereas, There is enough change occurring in the church in regard to networks that some flexibility to adapt to their function is desired;

Resolved, That paragraph 1655:47 be added to the F. Duties and Powers of the General Board as follows with a new subheading:

Related to Networks

(47) To set and enact policy related to the governance of networks only in regard to legal, financial, and boundary implications. This policy may include the approval of networks, their relationship to districts, their financial impact, and their implications related to North American District, Global Partners and International Wesleyan Church boundaries.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

317

EXECUTIVE CABINET COMPOSITION

Whereas, paragraph 1990 defines the composition and responsibilities of the Executive Cabinet as follows: The general officials (1800) shall be ex officio members of the Executive Cabinet with responsibility for internal cooperation and to provide leadership in keeping with the General Board Policy for the Executive Cabinet (cf. 1655:30). All members of the Executive Cabinet shall be available to attend the meetings of the General Board except for executive sessions, and shall be invited to speak to any issue;

Whereas, paragraph 1800 defines the composition of the General Officers: The general officials of the Church are those general officers which are designated as follows: (1) Elected by the General Conference: (a) The General Superintendent (1590:16), (b) The Executive Director of the Communication and Administration Division, the Executive Director of the Education and Clergy Development Division, the Executive Director of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship

Division, and the Executive Director of the Global Partners Division. (2) Elected by the General Board—the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (1655:28);

Whereas, The General Superintendent is responsible to ensure the implementation of the vision of the Church in collaboration with the Executive Cabinet (1935:4); and

Whereas, Need exists to bring into the Executive Cabinet content experts with special skills, knowledge, or perspectives to allow for greater Executive Cabinet adaptability and understanding;

Resolved, The Executive Cabinet can be expanded by adding Content Experts who are nominated by the General Superintendent and elected annually by the General Board, and who meet all the leadership commitments (558) of The Wesleyan Church, and who are fully committed to the missional endeavors of The Wesleyan Church.

Resolved, That paragraph 1990 be edited as follows:

1990. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of general officials (1800) **as ex officio members and content expert(s) elected by the General Board annually (1655:30).** The Executive Cabinet **shall have** responsibility for internal cooperation and to provide leadership in keeping with the *General Board Policy for the Executive Cabinet* (cf. 1655:30). All members of the Executive Cabinet shall be available to attend the meetings of the General Board except for executive sessions, and shall be invited to speak to any issue. **General Officials shall comprise at least two-thirds of the Executive Cabinet.**

So that paragraph 1990 reads as follows:

1990. The Executive Cabinet shall consist of the general officials (1800) as ex officio members and content expert(s) elected by the General Board annually (1655:30). The Executive Cabinet shall have responsibility for internal cooperation and to provide leadership in keeping with the *General Board Policy for the Executive Cabinet* (cf. 1655:30). All members of the Executive Cabinet shall be available to attend the meetings of the General Board except for executive sessions, and shall be invited to speak to any issue. General Officials shall comprise at least two-thirds of the Executive Cabinet.

Resolved, That the following be added as a subparagraph of paragraph 1655 and be numbered 1655:30 with following subgraphs being renumbered accordingly:

1655:30 To elect Content Experts to the Executive Cabinet.

Resolved, That the following be added as a subparagraph of paragraph 1935 and be numbered 1935:13 with following subgraphs being renumbered accordingly:

1935:13 To recommend nominations for Content Experts to the Committee on Nominations for election by the General Board.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

330

WORKING GROUP ON GENERAL OFFICIALS: FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE

Whereas, The current structure of the Executive Cabinet of The Wesleyan Church is comprised of the General Superintendent, the executive director of the Communication and Administration Division, the executive director of the Education and Clergy Development Division, the executive director of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, the executive director of the Global Partners Division, and the general treasurer/chief financial officer (1800:1–2);

Whereas, Paragraph 1900 states the function of the General Superintendent as follows:

The General Superintendent is the spiritual, executive, and administrative leader of the Church (350:1). As such, the General Superintendent must communicate through preaching, writing, teaching, and various uses of technology the fourfold mission and vision of the Church: evangelizing the lost, discipling believers, equipping the Church, and ministering to society. The result will be that hope and holiness will spread throughout the globe producing transformed people, communities, and cultures.

Whereas, The executive directors form the core of the function and structure of The Wesleyan Church headquarters (1970–1976; 2100–2395);

Whereas, The executive directors along with their respective division are key components in executing the function of the General Superintendent;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church at the general level continually seeks to be effective stewards of the resources given to them;

Whereas, Pending legislation concerning a reduction of USF presents the need to consider further streamlining at the general level of the church;

Whereas, The advent of the digital age has accelerated change exponentially throughout the culture resulting in changing needs at every level of the church: local, district, general; and

Whereas, Since its founding in 1843, The Wesleyan Church on several occasions has reassessed the function and structure of headquarters and made changes so as to be more effective in its mission and relevant to ongoing changes in culture;

Resolved, That the General Board appoint a working group to review the function and structure of the headquarters of The Wesleyan Church and to bring a report and recommendations to the 15th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended only if Memorial 126 is not adopted ; cared for by Memorial 126 (Items 129–131).

337

RESIDENCE OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Whereas, Technology is increasingly changing the way that multi-state and multi-national corporations and ministries function;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has already implemented a philosophy of more connectivity and less travel using such technology to close the gaps of distance and time;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the people of the church has consistently elected trustworthy people of strong work ethic;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church International needs to always attract the strongest and most Spirit-led leaders possible regardless of where the leader resides; and

Whereas, Moving to or near the place where the general headquarters is located has not proved to be an advantage over working remotely;

Resolved, That paragraph 1870 be stricken from *The Discipline* of The Wesleyan Church.

1870. Residence. The general officials shall reside in or near the place where the general headquarters of The Wesleyan Church is located.

CHESAPEAKE DISTRICT
Meredith Griffin, Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

344

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS NOMINATION

Whereas, *Discipline* 1590:20 and 1945 make provision for and establish the criteria for the designation General Superintendent Emeritus; and

Whereas, Thomas E. Armiger meets all the criteria for the General Superintendent Emeritus designation referenced above;

Resolved, That the title of General Superintendent Emeritus be conferred upon Thomas E. Armiger effective at the 14th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Items 29–30).

349

GENERAL CHURCH FINANCIAL PLAN

Whereas, The Thirteenth General Conference of The Wesleyan Church established a committee to study the financial funding model of the church, and to make a report to this General Conference for its consideration;

Whereas, The United Stewardship Fund Study Team have met on multiple occasions to carry out the assigned task, investing many hours in historical research, surveying of various stakeholders, and researching possible funding models;

Whereas, The current model of funding should be simplified in order to aid in a clearer understanding of the need for and use of funds which are generously passed along by our local churches to support the mission of The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Ideally, a local Wesleyan church's investment in district and denominational support should be limited to 10 percent of their base income;

Whereas, A new fund, the Church Multiplication Fund, is needed in order to assure that proper attention is given to the planting of new churches, including training the leaders of those churches; and

Whereas, A cooperative sacrifice must be made by the various stakeholders in the existing system, including the General Church, the educational institutions, and the districts, in order to create resources for this fund without adding to the burden of most local churches;

Resolved, That paragraphs 1995–2050 and paragraph 2377 of the 2016 edition of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* be edited as follows:

D. General Church Financial Plan

The district and general church operations are made possible by the generosity of our local churches that invest funds to allow for vision casting, administration, developing future leaders and planting new churches. It is recommended that a local church's investment in district and denominational support be limited to no more than 10 percent of its base income with up to 10 percent of that support going to church multiplication.

1. Summary

1995. The financial plan for the General Church shall consist of the United Stewardship Fund, special offerings, and planned gifts:

(1) **United Stewardship Fund** shall be established and administered as set forth in 2000 through 2045.

(2) **Special offerings and fundraising appeals** shall be authorized and administered as set forth in 2050 ~~and shall provide support for world missions supplementary support for general evangelism and church growth and the general educational institutions and support for such other purposes~~ **and** may be authorized by the General Conference or the General Board.

(3) **Planned gifts** shall be promoted through the General Superintendent's office as set forth in 1920:13, and the funds shall be administered by the General Treasurer.

2. United Stewardship Fund

a. Definition

2000. The United Stewardship Fund is a unified budget for the financial support of designated General Church interests and the general educational institutions. It shall consist of two parts:

(1) **The USF-General Fund** shall provide support for General Church administration, general benevolent institutions, ministerial training, and other General Church ministries.

(2) **The USF-Educational Institutions Fund** shall provide support for the approved general educational institutions as listed in 2365 and in a manner as set forth in 2040 (cf. 2377).

(3) **The Church Multiplication Fund shall provide continuing support for the planting of new churches, including the development of the leaders needed to serve in the new churches.**

The implementation of this fund shall be according to *The General Board Policy for The Church Multiplication Fund*. These funds shall be designated for church multiplication in accordance with this policy which allows for the discretion of the district where the funds were given.

b. Basis

2005. The USF-General Fund, and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, and **Multiplication Fund** shall be determined annually by a percentage (2005:2) of the base income of all churches for the previous fiscal year.

(1) **Base income shall be the total of a local church's receipts of tithe and offerings (465) given without restriction for the work of the church (470) which shall be computed in the following manner (cf. 2005:3):**

(1) **Base Income.** The base income shall be the total income of a local church and all of its departments for the previous fiscal year less money received:

(a) From loans (borrowed money):

(b) From the sale, rental or lease of property.

(c) From grants from other entities including the general church, districts, governments, corporations, and other non-profits.

(d) From a bequest through a will, trusts, and estates.

(e) From day care centers, day schools, retirement homes, nursing homes, and such enterprises (cf. 782:35):

(f) From investment earnings:

(g) From designated funds for major building projects that have been approved by the district board of administration (2005:3b):

(h) From money raised for district or denominationally approved church plants and sent through the district or the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division:

(i) From money raised for urban missional churches

(j) Additionally, funds that were received from assessable contributions that were dispersed to the following will be exempt from the base income:

For offerings and approved projects of or event registrations operated by:

The Communications and Administration Division

The Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division

The Education and Clergy Development Division

The Office of the General Superintendent

The Office of the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

The Global Partners Division

For contributions to Hephzibah Ministries:

For contributions to Wesleyan Native Ministries

For contributions to World Hope International

For contributions to World Hope Canada

(2) Percentage. Fund Allocations

(a) The percentages for determining the USF-General Fund, and a separate percentage for determining the USF-the Education Fund, **and the Multiplication Fund** shall be fixed by the General Conference (1590:8). The percentage in each case shall be applied to the assessable income as defined in 2005:1 except as provided for in 2005:3,4.

(b) In the event of an emergency during the interim of General Conference sessions, the General Board may alter the percentages of the USF-General Fund by a two-thirds majority vote of all its members (1655:22).

(3) Limits and Adjustments for Capped Churches

(a) Assessment Limits and Maximum. By Conference Year 2025, all churches shall be subject to full assessment on all assessable income up to \$550,000 ~~\$500,000~~. Above that level, there shall be a graduated reduction in the percentage applied. For that portion of a church's

assessable income between \$550,000 and \$1,100,000 ~~\$500,000 and \$1,000,000~~, there shall be a reduction of one in the total percentage divided proportionately between the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund. For that portion between \$1,100,000 and \$2,200,000 ~~\$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000~~, there shall be a reduction of two in the total percentage divided proportionately between the two funds. For that portion that exceeds \$2,200,000, there shall be no assessments. The percentage in each case shall be applied to the same base income as defined in 2005:1 subject to the exceptions and adjustments set forth in 2005:3; **2005:4 (a),(b)**.

(b) Annual Rate. The General Board shall set and publish the annual rate for capped churches based on the increase or decrease of consumer price indices for the previous year or 3% whichever is less.

(4) Exceptions for Developing and Urban Churches

~~(b) **Building Project Adjustment.** Whenever a local church engages in a major building project (1345:2) and fund drive which has been granted district board of administration approval, the involved local church's base income figure shall be reduced by the amount of designated funds received for the approved project.~~

~~(c) **Mother Church Exception.** For the first year following the planting of a daughter church, the mother church shall pay the USF assessments based upon the base income (cf. 2005:1) received in the mother church during that first year.~~

~~(d) **New Church Plant Adjustment.** Whenever a district plants a new church, the USF obligation for that church shall be phased in over the first five years of its operation in the following manner: For the first year of operation, there will be no obligation; for the second year the assessment will be set at 25 percent of the regular assessment; for the third year at 50 percent; for the fourth year at 75 percent; and for the fifth year at 100 percent.~~

~~(a) **Developing Church Adjustment Exception.** Whenever a developing church is deemed to be under financial duress by the district board of administration, that board may subtract up to \$40,000 from the **USF base income used to calculate the USF obligation.**~~

~~(f) **Restart Project.** When a district declares a church to be a restart project (510:6d), the USF obligation shall be phased in over the first five years of its operation in the following manner: For the first year of operation, there will be no obligation; for the second year the assessment will be set at 25 percent of the regular assessment; for the~~

third year at 50 percent; for the fourth year at 75 percent; and for the fifth year at 100 percent.

(b) Urban Missional Church Exception. Whenever a local church is designated as an urban missional church, the **USF General Church obligation** for that church shall be set at 50 percent of the regular assessment (523).

c. District and Local Regulations

2015. District Responsibility. Each district and provisional district, with the exception of the work under the Global Partners Division, shall be responsible to raise its share of the United Stewardship Fund, including the USF-General Fund, and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, **and the Church Multiplication Fund**, in accordance with the following regulations:

(1) **District Obligation.** The obligation of a district or provisional district shall be an amount equal to the designated percentage of the total base income, as defined in 2005:1–2, of all developing churches and churches of the district. subject to such exceptions and adjustments as are indicated in 2005:3. When this amount has been paid in full to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, for **both the USF-General Fund, and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund and designated monies set aside in the district Multiplication Fund**, a district has met its obligation to the United Stewardship Fund. The computations for the district obligation shall be based on the financial reports of the local churches as compiled by the district statistical committee (1352:1), prior to the annual district conference.

(2) **District Apportionment.** The district conference shall apportion its total obligation among the local churches under its jurisdiction by assigning an amount to each as its share of the USF-General Fund, and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, **and the Multiplication Fund** respectively, under whatever plan the district conference shall adopt after receiving a recommendation from the district board of administration (1233:11; 1337:6). Each local church shall be promptly notified of the amount assigned by the district by the person appointed by the district superintendent. The district treasurer shall promptly notify the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the district USF obligation on forms provided by the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (1337:6).

(3) **District Administration.** The district board of administration shall be responsible to administer the district plan for raising the United

Stewardship Fund and shall be responsible to see that the district obligation is paid in full for both the USF-General Fund, and USF-Educational Institutions Fund, and Multiplication Fund (1233:11). All USF money ~~General and Educational Fund monies~~ received by the district treasurer shall be remitted monthly to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer on the approved forms **via the approved process.**

2025. Local Church Responsibility. The pastor and the local board of administration shall be responsible for the faithful collection of the amount assigned by the district to their church and shall raise it on the undivided plan. The local church treasurer shall forward all money received for the USF-General Fund, and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, **and the Multiplication Fund** monthly to the district treasurer (cf. 842:4). A local church has met its obligation to the United Stewardship Fund when it has paid in full to the district treasurer the amounts assigned to it by the district for both the USF-General Fund and the USF-Educational Institutions Fund, **and the Multiplication Fund**. In a developing church, the pastor and the local advisory council shall have the responsibility for raising the United Stewardship Fund.

2030. Developing District Responsibility. The obligation of a developing district, or of the churches within a developing district, to the United Stewardship Fund shall be determined by the General Board (1655:23). The assigned obligation shall be raised by the superintendent of the developing district, under the direction of the Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and in accord with the *Policy of the General Board for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division*.

d. General Church Regulations

2035. USF-General Fund, Beneficiaries and Apportionment. The USF-General Fund shall provide support for General Church divisions and ministries and be apportioned among them as follows:

(1) **Beneficiaries.** The designated beneficiaries to receive support from the USF-General Fund are: the administrative offices of the General Superintendent, and the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer; the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division; the Communication and Administration Division; the Education and Clergy Development Division; the Global Partners Division and such other benevolent institutions, offices or agencies of the General Church as the General Conference or the General Board shall designate from time to time.

(2) **Apportionment.** The apportioning of the USF-General Fund among the designated beneficiaries (2035:1) shall be determined annually by the General Board.

~~2040. USF-Educational Institutions Fund, Beneficiaries and Apportionment.~~ The USF-Educational Institutions Fund shall provide support for general educational institutions and general ministerial education, and shall be apportioned among them as follows:

(1) **Beneficiaries.** The beneficiaries receiving support from the USF-Educational Institutions Fund shall include the general educational institutions (2365); approved programs for subsidizing ministerial training; the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (2382); and the Ministerial Study Course Agency (2385–2388).

(2) **Apportionment.** The General Board shall determine the apportionment of the USF-Educational Institutions Fund among the beneficiaries listed in 2040:1.

2045. General Promotion and Administration. The General Superintendent's office shall promote the raising of the United Stewardship Fund. The General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer shall cooperate with the General Superintendent's office in such promotion and shall administer the USF General Fund funds as provided for in *The Discipline* and as directed by the General Board (1976).

3. Special Offerings

2050. Special offerings, in addition to the United Stewardship Fund for the support of General Church ministries and world outreach of The Wesleyan Church, shall include the following offerings and other such offerings as shall be authorized by the General Board. No agency, division, institution, organization or similar body of The Wesleyan Church may solicit offerings or present financial appeals without the approval of the General Board.

(1) **Global Partners Support.** The Global Partners Division shall be supported by various approved offerings of the General Church, funds raised through missionary home ministries work, other solicitations, and money raised by auxiliary organizations.

~~(2) **Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings.** Two special offerings, apart from and in addition to the United Stewardship Fund, shall be received annually throughout the Church: a November self-denial offering for the Global Partners Division and an Easter offering for the church multiplication movement.~~

(3) **Solicited Offerings.** The Global Partners Division, the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, and the general educational institutions shall **may** raise financial support for the work under their care by sending representatives to visit the districts, local churches, members, and constituency of the Church. District and local officials shall receive them and cooperate in their work. Offerings received shall be used as designated and shall be in addition to and apart from the United Stewardship Fund and shall be remitted promptly through the regular channels. ~~The Global Partners Division shall not engage in home ministries work within the week prior to Easter, and the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division shall not do fund-raising work within the week prior to Thanksgiving or on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. Exception to the above may be made with the approval of the Executive Directors of Church Multiplication and Discipleship and Global Partners.~~ An educational institution shall do its school representation work in the manner decided upon in the plans for such institutions approved by the General Board.

(4) **Auxiliary Organizations.** Any auxiliary shall raise financial support for approved projects in accord with their respective constitutions and subject to the general oversight of the General Board.

(5) **Other Contributions.** Other offerings, contributions, bequests, and donations shall be used as specified by the donor and may be forwarded through the regular channels to the General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer. Those individuals who prefer to contact the General Superintendent's office or a division or institution concerning annuities, bequests, and other special contributions may do so;

Resolved, That paragraph 1233:18 be amended as follows:

(18) To adopt an annual budget of income and expense for the district; to set the salaries, allowances, and related matters for the district officials (1303:2) and district departmental officers; to promote the raising of district funds in keeping with the plans of the district conference (1180:16); **to set aside a portion of all local church base income for church multiplication purposes and to hold the same in accounts only for reporting that district's multiplication plans;** to direct the district treasurer in the handling and disbursement of such funds (1337:3); and to have the district treasurer bonded and to set the amount of such bond, the expense for which shall be paid by the district;

Resolved, That a new paragraph 1233:31 be added, as follows:

(31) To approve an annual district church multiplication plan including a report on multiplication projects of the prior year, as well as planned projects for multiplication in the coming year, and submit the same to the General Superintendent for review. Any use of funds for other than designated purposes must be approved by the General Superintendent;

Resolved, That a new paragraph 1935:30 be added to the General Superintendent's duties, as follows:

(30) To review annually the church multiplication plan for each district, giving recommendations as needed; and

Resolved, The Discipline Editing Committee is instructed to bring corresponding passages into compliance with the language of the recommendation.

TASK FORCE ON USF STUDY
Jerry Lumston, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 65–66, 69–76).

350

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL CHURCH FINANCIAL PLAN

Whereas, The General Conference has authority to adopt financial plans for the General Church (1590:8; 1995–2045); and

Whereas, The General Church Financial Plan (*Discipline* 1995–2045) has been edited to reflect a new understanding of church funding;

Resolved, That the United Stewardship Fund allocations shall be adjusted to the following percentages, equally phased in over the next five years, coming into full effect by the 2027 conference year: General Fund 2.475 percent, Education Fund 2.775 percent, Church Multiplication Fund, 1.00 percent; and

Resolved, That the ten percent increase in the limits for capped churches be phased in over the next five years, coming into full effect by the 2027 conference year.

Resolved, that those churches currently utilizing the provisions for multi-year adjustment the (new church plant (2005:3d) and restart project (2005:3f))

continue the multi-year adjustment through the remaining years currently allowed.

Resolved, the General Board be authorized to make additional technical adjustments that may arise in implementation.

TASK FORCE ON USF STUDY
Jerry Lumston, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 78–80).

351

USF: OPTION FOR USF REDUCTION TO DEVELOPING CHURCHES

Whereas, The goal of the “developing” church classification is to give an opportunity for a new church to mature structurally and financially;

Whereas, Some of our long-term existing churches are classified as a “developing” church because of a lack of numerical growth in members, leadership, attendance and/or finances;

Whereas, Some of our ethnic churches, both long-term and new, are struggling financially due to the normal but low per capita giving within their congregation;

Whereas, The number of “developing churches” has increased from around 200 to 2000 and now number over 450 in 2019 demonstrating an increased need among our new and smaller churches; and

Whereas, The payment of the United Stewardship Fund assessment is a particular burden for long-term “developing” and ethnic “developing” churches which often do not have funds available to pay their mortgage or rent payments, bi-vocational pastoral salaries, and other expenses;

Resolved, That the “developing” church exemption in paragraph 2005:3(c) be increased from \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 so that paragraph 2005:3(c) would then read – “Whenever a developing church is deemed to be under financial duress by the district board of administration, that board may subtract up to \$50,000.00 from the USF base income used to calculate the USF obligation.

FLORIDA DISTRICT
Todd Sloan, District Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 81–82).

INCLUDING WESLEY SEMINARY IN *THE DISCIPLINE*

Whereas, Wesley Seminary is a central and significant ministry education and formation institution in The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Wesley Seminary is the only seminary owned by The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Wesley Seminary functions uniquely in the life of the church and our Wesleyan higher education system; and

Whereas, The development, sustainability and future of Wesley Seminary are uniquely important for the ongoing education and formation of Wesleyan ministers/leaders;

Resolved, That paragraphs 2365–2368 of *The Discipline* be edited, and a new paragraph 2366 be added to include Wesley Seminary as follows:

2. General Educational Institutions and Curricula Offerings

2365. The general educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church are:

- (1) Houghton College, Houghton, New York.
- (2) Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana.
- (3) Kingswood University, Sussex, New Brunswick.
- (4) Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.
- (5) Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina.

2366. The seminary of The Wesleyan Church is Wesley Seminary, Marion, Indiana.

2368. Each of the four-year colleges **and Wesley Seminary** shall maintain a curriculum which satisfies the educational requirements for ordination as an ordained minister by The Wesleyan Church.

Resolved, That *Discipline* paragraph 2355 be edited to include Wesley Seminary representation on the Wesleyan Educational Council.

3. Wesleyan Educational Council

2355. The Wesleyan Educational Council shall consist of the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development, who shall serve as its executive secretary (2341), and the president and chair of the board of trustees for each general educational institution **and the president and chair of the board of Wesley Seminary** (2365 and 2366). The Council shall serve as an advisory body to the Executive Director of Education and Clergy Development.

Resolved, That *Discipline* paragraph 1503:1c be edited to include the president of Wesley Seminary as a voting member of General Conference, effective at the 14th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

1503:1

(c) *The general officials of the Church as defined in 1800, the General Superintendents Emeriti, members of the General Board who are not voting members by some other right, the presidents of the general educational institutions and Wesley Seminary (2365 and 2366), the general directors of Hephzibah Ministries, Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Wesleyan Native Ministries, and such delegates-at-large as shall be necessary to maintain parity between ordained ministers and lay members (1508–1510).*

EDUCATION AND CLERGY DEVELOPMENT

Russ Gunsalus, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

392

EDUCATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AREAS

Whereas, The General Conference is given the responsibility to determine educational boundaries (**1590:14, 1655:14**);

Whereas, Within the Education and Clergy Development division, the *WE5* emphasis has highlighted the united mission of Houghton College, Kingswood University, Indiana Wesleyan University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Southern Wesleyan University to provide Christian higher education to the denomination at large;

Whereas, Kingswood and Wesley Seminary serve the denomination spanning all educational area boundaries;

Whereas, Our current boundaries structure could in some cases restrict the maximization of Kingdom opportunities;

Whereas, Online learning (e-learning) is without geographic boundaries;

Resolved, That paragraphs **1590:14, 2371, 2374, 2450, 2455, 2460, 2465, 2470** be stricken from *The Discipline* eliminating educational areas;

~~**1590:14** To determine the boundaries of the educational areas in such a way as to provide an equitable distribution of the membership and financial strength of the Church among the approved schools, for~~

which a recommendation shall be received from the General Board (~~2365–2371; 2450–2470; cf. 1655:14~~).

~~2371.~~ The established districts, provisional districts, and developing districts of The Wesleyan Church in the United States and Canada shall be divided into four educational areas (~~1590:14~~), corresponding in general with the four representative areas of the Church, and in general with the regional accreditation associations serving the area in which the schools are located. The boundaries of the educational areas are given in ~~2455–2470~~.

~~2374.~~ Each general educational institution shall be considered as serving all the districts of the area or areas to which it is assigned.

~~2450.~~ The merger of districts and of educational institutions between sessions of the General Conference may lead to changes in the educational area boundaries, which changes may be made by the General Board (cf. ~~1655:13~~).

~~2455.~~ The NORTH CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Indiana Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the North Central Representative Area, and the Indiana South District (cf. ~~2430; 2440~~).

~~2460.~~ The NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Houghton College and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the Northeastern Representative Area (cf. ~~2435~~).

~~2465.~~ The SOUTHERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Southern Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the Southern Representative Area (cf. ~~2440~~) except for the Indiana South District which shall remain in the North Central Area.

~~2470.~~ The WESTERN EDUCATIONAL AREA shall be served by Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, and shall include the districts of the Western Representative Area (cf. ~~2445~~).

Resolved, that edits be made to paragraph **1655:14** so it complies with the elimination of educational areas.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

REPLACING GENERAL BOARD AREA REPRESENTATION WITH AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP

Whereas, The organizational structure of The Wesleyan Church originally included four General Superintendents serving over four geographical regions which aligned with the representative areas;

Whereas, The restructuring of The Wesleyan Church to one General Superintendent has eliminated the administrative boundaries;

Whereas, The recent development of districts merging has created the possibility of inequality in representation, with as many as one-sixth of the General Board elected from one district at the last General Conference; and

Whereas, A loss of broad-based representation from larger and smaller districts could be prevented if membership on the General Board was recommended to have no more than two individuals elected from any one district;

Resolved, That General Board members (not more than two from any one district) be nominated by the Special Committee on Nominations and nominations be accepted from the floor so that 12 ordained persons and 12 lay persons are elected as members at-large of the General Board;

Resolved, That *The Discipline* be edited to remove the references to area representatives on the General Board, so that *The Discipline* 1590:18 be amended by deleting the following: ~~three ordained ministers and three lay members from each of the representative areas (2430–2445) as members of the General Board (1605:2), who shall be nominated by an area caucus. Area caucuses shall be held simultaneously at a time decided upon by the General Conference, for each of which a chair shall be appointed by the presiding officer. In an area caucus, the delegates of each district and provisional district which comprise the representative area shall nominate three ordained ministers and three lay members of that area, by ballot and by majority vote, as their area representatives on the General Board. and adding the following: from nominees submitted by the Special Committee on Nominations or made from the floor, twelve ordained ministers and twelve lay members as members of the General Board (1605:2). To preserve broad representation, no more than two persons shall be elected from any one district. so that the new paragraph shall read:~~

1590:18 To elect by majority vote, **from nominees submitted by the Special Committee on Nominations or made from the floor,**

twelve ordained ministers and twelve lay members as members of the General Board (1605:2). To preserve broad representation, no more than two persons shall be elected from any one district;

Resolved, That The Discipline 2430 through 2445 be deleted;

Resolved, That The Discipline 1605 and 1605:2 be amended to replace references to area representatives with members-at-large as follows:

1605. The General Board is composed of the General Superintendent and ~~area representatives~~ and twenty-four members-at-large.

(1) **General Superintendent.** The General Superintendent is a member of the General Board by virtue of office.

(2) ~~Area Representatives.~~ **Members-at-Large,** Three Twelve ordained ministers and ~~three~~ twelve lay members shall be elected by the General Conference ~~from each representative area~~ to serve as members of the General Board (340:1; 1590:18; 2430–2445). In order to accomplish broad representation when electing ~~area representatives~~ members-at-large to the General Board, it is recommended that no more than two persons shall be elected from any one district. They shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the succeeding General Conference and until their successors are elected and qualified. ~~Whenever an area representative shall transfer residence or membership outside the area represented, the General Board shall declare the office vacant and shall fill the vacancy in such a manner as to maintain the representation provided for herewith. An area representative,~~ A member-at-large who is not a voting member of the General Conference by some other right, is a voting member of the General Conference by virtue of membership on the General Board (1503:1c).

So that the paragraph shall read:

1605. The General Board is composed of the General Superintendent **and twenty-four members-at-large.**

(1) **General Superintendent.** The General Superintendent is a member of the General Board by virtue of office.

(2) **Members-at-Large, Twelve** ordained ministers and **twelve** lay members shall be elected by the General Conference serve as members of the General Board (340:1; 1590:18; 2430–2445). In order to accomplish broad representation when electing **members-at-large**

to the General Board, no more than two persons **shall** be elected from any one district. They shall serve from the close of the session at which they are elected until the close of the succeeding General Conference and until their successors are elected and qualified. **A member-at-large** who is not a voting member of the General Conference by some other right, is a voting member of the General Conference by virtue of membership on the General Board (1503:1c); and

Resolved, That *The Discipline* paragraph 1580:2 be amended to insert the phrase, "To present nominations for the members of the General Board, not more than two of whom shall be from any one district, and" so the paragraph shall read:

1580:2 To present nominations for the members of the General Board, not more than two of whom shall be from any one district, and to present nominations for the Board of Review (1590:18, 1590:19; 5400:3, 5405).

CROSSROADS DISTRICT
Carolyn Schenck, District Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

394

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Whereas, The boundary of the Pacific Southwest District currently includes all non-Spanish language churches in its defined area; and

Whereas, This is no longer true;

Resolved, That *Discipline* 2403:20 shall be edited to read as follows:

(20) The **Pacific Southwest District** shall include the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada. ~~except for Spanish language churches (see 2403:25).~~

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

395

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Whereas, The Illinois, East Michigan, North Michigan, West Michigan, and Wisconsin Districts have merged to create the Great Lakes District;

Resolved, That *Discipline* 2403:6, 2403:10, 2403:18, 2403:27, and 2403:30 shall be stricken; and

Resolved, That the new *Discipline* 2403:6 shall read as follows:

(6) The **Great Lakes District** shall include the states of Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

396

NORTHEAST DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Whereas, The Eastern New York/New England District (which changed its name to Northeast District in 2017) and the Penn-Jersey District have merged to form the new Northeast District;

Resolved, That *Discipline* 2403:7 and 2403:21 shall be stricken; and

Resolved, That the new *Discipline* 2403:15 shall read as follows:

(15) The **Northeast District** shall include those parts of the states of New York and Pennsylvania that are north and east of the Penn York District, and including the states of New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

397

PENN YORK DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Whereas, The Central New York District and the Western Pennsylvania District have merged to create the new Penn York District;

Resolved, That *Discipline* 2403:3 and 2403:21 shall be stricken; and

Resolved, That the new *Discipline* 2403:18 shall read as follows:

(18) The **Penn York District** shall include that portion of the states of New York and Pennsylvania in an area bounded as follows: beginning at the northernmost point of Jefferson County, New York, on the St. Lawrence River, and continuing southeastward along the northern boundaries of Jefferson, Lewis, and Herkimer Counties to the eastern boundary of Herkimer County, thence south along the eastern boundary of Herkimer County, then west along the southern boundary of Herkimer County then south along the western boundaries of Otsego and Delaware Counties to the Pennsylvania state line, thence west along the northern boundary of Wayne County, then south along the eastern boundary of Susquehanna County, then west along the southern boundaries of Susquehanna, Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties to U.S. 15, thence south on U.S. 15 to the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line, thence west on the Pennsylvania state line to the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, thence north to Lake Erie, thence east along Lake Erie to the New York state line, thence south and east along the New York state line to the western boundary of McKean County, thence south on the western boundary of McKean County, then east along the southern boundaries of McKean and Potter Counties, thence north along the western boundary of Tioga County, thence west on the New York state line and north to include that part of the state of New York which is east of the Western New York District.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

REPRESENTATIVE AREAS LISTINGS

Whereas, The Northeast (formerly Eastern New York/New England) and Penn-Jersey Districts merged to create the new Northeast District;

Whereas, The East Michigan, Illinois, North Michigan, West Michigan and Illinois Districts merged to create the new Great Lakes District; and

Whereas, The Central New York and Western Pennsylvania Districts merged to create the new Penn York District;

Resolved, That the listing of districts in *Discipline* 2430 be amended by striking the words "East Michigan," "Illinois," "North Michigan," "West Michigan," and "Wisconsin" and adding "Great Lakes" so that it reads:

2430. The NORTH CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include the Crossroads, Great Lakes, and Greater Ohio Districts; and

Resolved, That the listing of districts in *Discipline* 2435 be amended by striking the words "Central New York," "Eastern New York/New England," "Penn-Jersey" and "Western Pennsylvania" so that it reads:

2435. The NORTHEASTERN REPRESENTATIVE AREA shall include the Atlantic, Central Canada, Chesapeake, Northeast, Penn York and Western New York Districts.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

LICENSED MINISTER STATUS TO A POSSIBLE TERMINAL STATUS

Whereas, *The Discipline* status of licensed minister (*Disc.* 3030–3055) is a temporary status on the path toward the goal of ordination status;

Whereas, There are significant ministers and staff who do not desire ordination status but would prefer a path toward completion of their fundamental training requirements that lead to a terminal status;

Whereas, There are ministers who come to us from other denominations that have abundant classes and life/ministry experience but have abundant course requirements for ordination; and

Whereas, This action of moving the licensed minister status to a “terminal status” would release the district board of ministerial development (DBMD) to meet with more ministerial students and licensed ministers on the ordination path;

Resolved, That a district may take action to make the licensed minister status a terminal status;(After successful completion of the education requirements as outlined by the Ministerial Study Course Agency and a period of supervised ministry as advised by the DBMD)

Resolved, That the status would remain in effect in that district when serving in a ministerial capacity in a church in that district and completing a satisfactory Annual Service Report (ASR) for noting membership and leadership effectiveness for the previous year;

Resolved, That when the licensed minister resigns, transfers, or ceases their ministerial appointment in a district church, the certificate of ministerial license would be filed in the district office, or the license may be accepted for transfer in the next district within The Wesleyan Church. The license may be revoked for such reasons as ordained or commissioned ministers; and

Resolved, That all Wesleyan ministerial courses, so approved for ordination, may be used to apply for ordination or commissioning if the licensed minister so desired.

SOUTH COASTAL DISTRICT
Kathy Barton, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Items 160–165).

519

ORDAINED MINISTERS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT

Whereas, *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* in paragraph 3097 states Each Wesleyan minister, whether ordained, commissioned or licensed, must be a covenant member of a local Wesleyan church (310);”

Whereas, *The Discipline* does not make it clear that the requirement of membership has activity, duties and obligations explained in the paragraph that would identify this person as active;

Whereas, The scenario comes up annually in the Annual Service Report review by the district board of ministerial development dealing with licensed and ordained ministers who are less than active. In some cases, they may attend

another church/denomination and yet hold credentials with The Wesleyan Church; and

Whereas, clarity about membership and responsibilities for holding credentials in good standing with The Wesleyan Church needs further clarification;

Resolved, That all ordained and licensed ministers shall be active members of a local Wesleyan Church where they attend faithfully, tithe, and in participation in the ministries of the church;

Resolved, That any licensed or ordained pastor who holds Wesleyan credentials and unites with a church or denomination other than The Wesleyan Church, unless he or she has obtained written approval of the district board of ministerial development shall surrender their credentials and be removed from the ministry and membership of The Wesleyan Church; and

Resolved, That exceptions to this requirement may be granted by approval of the district board of ministerial development and in accordance with *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*.

SOUTH COASTAL DISTRICT

Kathy Barton, Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

520

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP FOR RETIRED ORDAINED MINISTERS

Whereas, Ministers of The Wesleyan Church may serve a number of churches in various capacities during their pastoral ministry;

Whereas, Wesleyan ministers upon retiring may or may not remain in a church they have served;

Whereas, Wesleyan ministers sometimes maintain their membership in a local church, not necessarily of their own choice, but in order to maintain their ministerial standing;

Whereas, Wesleyan ministers may relocate to a community with no Wesleyan church to attend; and

Whereas, Membership in The Wesleyan Church is required for ministers to retain their credentials;

Resolved, That, a new classification of membership be established, called *district church membership*, and that a new paragraph be inserted in *The Discipline* as follows:

3098. District Church Membership. Upon retirement an ordained minister, having served in and retired from a district in The Wesleyan Church, may choose to have their local church membership transferred to district church membership in the district they designate, with the approval of that district's board of administration. District church membership is available only to retired ordained ministers, and spouse if applicable, and each retired minister must continue to submit an annual service report (1402).

Resolved, That paragraph 1233:37 of *The Discipline* be edited as follows:

(37) To grant temporary recognition (1390:3) to ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, licensed ministers, and commissioned special workers or persons with equivalent standing, from other denominations, as being in process of transfer, subject to the action of the next district conference [1180:29(a),(d),(e)]; (1310:29); **and to approve the request for transfer of the membership of retired ordained ministers to the category of district church membership (3098);** and

Resolved, That the heading of paragraph 3100 be edited as follows:

3100. District Ministerial Membership.

PENN YORK DISTRICT
 Tammy Leonard, Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

521

AMENDMENT TO MINISTER AND MARRIAGE

Whereas, It is a clear Biblical principle that leaders may be held to a higher standard than those they serve, as confirmed by the Apostle Paul in his directions to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:1–7) and Titus (Titus 1:6), and even by Proverbs 31:4–5;

Whereas, Our revised approach to membership (*The Discipline* 260 and 558) allows for both pastors and local church leaders to be held to a higher standard of conduct than believers in general, for example in abstaining from alcohol usage;

Whereas, Ordained ministers may be expected to be held to a higher leadership standard in their marriage and *The Discipline* should give clear direction for those cases in which marriages were dissolved on grounds other than the clear teaching of Jesus Christ found in Matthew 19:8–9 or of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 7:10–16; and

Whereas, Maintaining a high view on the authority of Scripture will become increasingly important for defending our moral authority as our post-Christian culture continues to compromise on questions of sexual ethics, same-sex attraction, and gender identity issues;

Resolved, That *The Discipline* 3108 be amended by changing the reference to the Membership Commitments from 265:5–7 to 265:5–6 and inserting the following: “or is divorced for reasons other than the sexual infidelity of their spouse (Matthew 19:8–9) or abandonment by their spouse (1 Corinthians 7:10–16),” and that the revised paragraph 3108 shall read as follows:

4. Minister and Marriage

3108. Any minister who enters into a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures, and to those expositions of Scripture as set forth in the Membership Commitments (**265:5–6**; cf. 410:5–6), **or is divorced for reasons other than the sexual infidelity of their spouse (Matthew 19:8–9) or abandonment by their spouse (1 Corinthians 7:10–16)**, after having been ordained, commissioned or licensed, shall be dismissed from ministerial standing, provided that guilt shall be established in accord with the judicial processes set forth in *The Discipline* (5206–5212).

CROSSROADS DISTRICT
Carolyn Schenck, District Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

MINISTERIAL ORDERS & REGULATIONS: REINSTATEMENT OF MINISTERS

Whereas, An ordained minister or commissioned minister who has voluntarily filed credentials with the district superintendent, or who has taken a letter of standing and has not used the same within the prescribed time, or who has been declared withdrawn when neither under charges or discipline, may

be reinstated in the office of an ordained minister or commissioned minister in The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, *The Discipline* 3124 currently allows for reinstatement if such is approved by the district board of ministerial development and the district board of administration of the district in which ministerial membership is sought, and if such reinstatement is approved by the General Superintendent; and

Whereas, In some situations there may be extenuating circumstances that would impact the reinstatement process, and would be known only to the district superintendent and/or district board of administration of the district in which credentials were previously held;

Resolved, That present 3124 be amended by inserting the phrase “the district board of administration of the district in which credentials were previously held” following the word “sought,” so that it would now read:

“... if such is approved by the district board of ministerial development and the district board of administration of the district in which ministerial membership is sought, **the district board of administration of the district in which credentials were previously held**, and if such reinstatement is approved by the General Superintendent.”

SHENANDOAH DISTRICT
Herbert Shaffer, District Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

746

PRECEDENT CORPORATIONS

Whereas, Wesleyan Native Ministries has undergone significant changes over the past several years;

Whereas, The General Board of The Wesleyan Church, observing that ministries to Native people have undergone a variety of mergers, structural changes, and adaptations, has included Wesleyan Native Ministries among four multiethnic ministries under the supervision of the Division of Church Multiplication and Discipleship; and

Whereas, Wesleyan Native Ministries, a much-beloved ministry held in high regard by many people, still may be the recipient of benevolent giving through wills and bequests;

Resolved, That paragraph 4230 be edited to include Wesleyan Native Ministries as one of the precedent corporations of The Wesleyan Church, so that the edited paragraph would read:

4230. The Wesleyan Church Corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds, and so far as may be legal, shall be the legal and ecclesiastical successor in trust and carry out the functions of "The Pilgrim Holiness Church Corporation," an Indiana corporation, "The Pilgrim Holiness Church Corporation," a Michigan corporation, "The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America," a New York corporation, "The Wesleyan Methodist Publishing Association of America," a New York corporation, "The Wesleyan Educational Society," a New York corporation, "The Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America," a New York corporation, "The Woman's Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, Inc.," a New York corporation, "The Missionary Bands of the World," an Indiana corporation, and "The Pentecost Bands of the World," an Illinois corporation, **and Wesleyan Native Ministries, Inc., a South Dakota corporation**; and so far as is legal and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its said precedent corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character, real, personal or mixed, held by them or any one of them and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said precedent corporations. Nothing herein contained, however, shall be construed to require the dissolution of any of the precedent corporations above listed, and they shall continue to administer such funds as may not be legally transferred to the new corporations (4210–4220).

COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

764

WESLEYAN INVESTMENT FOUNDATION: CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Whereas, Wesleyan Investment Foundation has been serving as a church extension fund for evangelical churches and denominations related, affiliated,

or associated with The Wesleyan Church (the "Church") and/or which share a common religious heritage, historical ties, similar purposes, faith, doctrine and/or background with the Church; and

Whereas, The governing documents of WIF require, and must require after any amendment, that all actions of WIF are undertaken consistent with *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* ("*The Discipline*"); and

Whereas, When WIF serves other evangelical churches and denominations related, affiliated, or associated with the Church and which share a common religious heritage, historical ties, similar purposes, faith, doctrine and/or background with the Church some actions incident to these transactions could be interpreted to be a potential or perceived conflict with *The Discipline*; and

Whereas, The Board of Directors of Wesleyan Investment Foundation (the "Board"), desires to propose an amendment to *The Discipline* with respect to WIF to resolve any potential or perceived conflict in the administration of WIF as a church extension fund that serves other evangelical churches and denominations related, affiliated, or associated with the Church and which share a common religious heritage, historical ties, similar purposes, faith, doctrine and/or background with the Church

Resolved, The Board hereby recommends an amendment to *The Discipline* to prevent any potential or perceived conflict with *The Discipline* connected to WIF's administration of or relationship with other church extension funds or by serving as a church extension fund for other evangelical churches and denominations related, affiliated, or associated with the Church and which share a common religious heritage, historical ties, similar purposes, faith, doctrine and/or background with the Church, by proposing the following amendment to *The Discipline* which would add a new sub-paragraph 4320:12 to Part 7, Chapter 4, Section C, Basic Provisions of Subsidiary Corporations of *The Discipline*:

(12) Notwithstanding any provision of *The Discipline* to the contrary, Wesleyan Investment Foundation, Inc. is expressly authorized to act as a church extension fund for other evangelical churches and denominations related, affiliated, or associated with The Wesleyan Church or which share a common religious heritage, historical ties, similar purposes, faith, doctrine and/or background with The Wesleyan Church.

WESLEYAN INVESTMENT FOUNDATION, INC
Donald W. Milstead, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Item 44).

845

INCREASE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT FROM PROPERTY PROCEEDS

Whereas, The current restriction on sharing a contribution from the sale of properties is limited to five percent;

Whereas, There is a growing sense of cooperation and working across lines and boundaries; and

Whereas, A more liberal sense of generosity could expand and assist the effort in areas where needs are greatest;

Resolved, That the current contribution limit be doubled to ten percent; and

Resolved, That the paragraph 4725 be amended as follows:

4725. From the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties that occur within its fiscal year, a district may choose to invest or contribute up to **5 10** percent from the net proceeds to assist in the development of a Wesleyan presence in another country where that district has a Global Partnership relationship. Or, a district may elect to contribute up to **5 10** percent from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties to assist domestic Wesleyan compassionate ministries. The aggregate total of the district's investment and/or contribution, whether internationally or domestically, cannot exceed **5 10** percent from the net proceeds of its transactions. The district board of administration must approve each investment and/or contribution with a two-thirds vote. Furthermore, each investment and/or contribution must have the written approval of the General Superintendent.

NORTH CAROLINA WEST DISTRICT

J Scott Howard, District Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

847

PROPERTY PROCEED LIMITS

Whereas, Paragraph **4725** limits a district's ability to invest or contribute 5 percent from the net proceeds from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties occurring within a fiscal year;

Whereas, An increase in the percentage would release additional funds for ministry;

Whereas, Paragraph **4725** restricts those contributions "...to assist in the development of a Wesleyan presence in another country where that district has a Global Partnership relationship" and "...to assist domestic Wesleyan compassionate ministries."

Whereas, The last decade has brought a technological sea change which necessitates the modernization of ministries; and

Whereas, Allowing districts to use funds from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties to address technological needs in situations they believe will enhance the effectiveness of Wesleyan ministries;

Resolved, That the net proceeds a district can invest or contribute be raised to 15 percent,

Resolved, That the contribution from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties be extended to include technological development; and

Resolved, That the following edits be made to paragraph **4725**

4725. From the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties that occur within its fiscal year, a district may choose to invest or contribute up to ~~5~~ **15** percent from the net proceeds to ~~assist in the development of a~~ **expand** Wesleyan presence. **Up to 10 percent may be used for technology upgrades to meet multimedia, network, and internet needs. Up to 10 percent may be used to assist in the development of a Wesleyan presence** in another country where that district has a ~~through~~ **through** Global **Partnership** relationship. ~~Or, or a district may elect to contribute up to 5 percent from the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties to assist domestic Wesleyan compassionate ministries. The aggregate total of the district's investment and/or contribution, whether internationally or domestically, cannot exceed 5~~ **15** percent from the net proceeds of its transactions. The district board of administration must approve each investment and/or contribution with a two-thirds vote. Furthermore, each investment and/or contribution must have the written approval of the General Superintendent.

so that paragraph **4725** reads as follows:

4725. From the sale, acquisition, or transfer of real properties that occur within its fiscal year, a district may choose to invest or contribute up to 15 percent from the net proceeds to expand Wesleyan presence. Up to 10 percent may be used for technology upgrades to meet multimedia, network, and internet needs. In addition, up to 5 percent may be used to assist in the development of a Wesleyan

presence in another country through Global Partners or to assist domestic Wesleyan compassionate ministries. The aggregate total of the district's investment and/or contribution, whether internationally or domestically, cannot exceed 15 percent from the net proceeds of its transactions. The district board of administration must approve each investment and/or contribution with a two-thirds vote. Furthermore, each investment and/or contribution must have the written approval of the General Superintendent.

Resolved, That if Memorial 847 passes that paragraphs **4728 and 4735** be brought into compliance with paragraph **4725**.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended and adopted (Item 153).

857

APPROVAL PROCESS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE DENOMINATION

Whereas, There is unrelenting pressure for denominations to forsake the orthodox interpretation of biblical teaching on the prohibition of sexual immorality, including homosexuality, and to affirm same sex marriages;

Whereas, No local church should be compelled to remain in denominations that compromise the biblical prohibitions against sexual immorality, including homosexuality, or fail to affirm God's divine order of marriage between one man and one woman; and

Whereas, No local church should be forced to choose between faithfulness to God's Word or being forced to walk away from the sanctuary and property in which they have invested for God's Kingdom;

Resolved, That a new paragraph 4785 be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (after paragraph 4780) that reads, "If The Wesleyan Church modifies the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments or other portions on *The Discipline* to allow for 'same sex marriage' or the membership and ministry of non-celibate persons who are same sex attracted, an established local church may vote, by a 2/3 majority of their membership present at a specially-called session of the local church conference (633) presided over by the district superintendent, to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and may retain ownership of all church property. Any indebtedness to The Wesleyan

Church or its entities must be satisfactorily resolved before the withdrawal process is finalized. This provision shall be the only exception to the withdrawal and property restrictions of paragraph 4780.”

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
Dwight Addington, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864; Not Adopted; Referred for Study (Items 110–113, 118).

858

PROCESS FOR WITHDRAWAL WITH PROPERTY

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church has affirmed its Articles of Religion and Membership Commitments and has indicated that no changes will be made, particularly in regards to same sex marriage;

Whereas, Other denominations are in the process of modifying their statements of faith to align with cultural changes that support same sex marriage; and

Whereas, The Indiana South Wesleyan District Conference has voted (88 Yes, 2 No) to present this as a Memorial to be considered for General Conference 2022,

Resolved, That a new paragraph 4785 be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (after paragraph 4780) that reads:

“If The Wesleyan Church modifies the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments or other portions of *The Discipline* to allow for practicing homosexuality, transgenderism, or same sex marriage, an established local church may vote, by a 2/3 majority of their membership present at a specially-called session of the local church conference (633) presided over by the district superintendent, to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and may retain ownership of all church property. Any indebtedness to The Wesleyan Church or its entities must be satisfactorily resolved before the withdrawal process is finalized. This provision shall be the only exception to the withdrawal and property restrictions of paragraph 4780.”

INDIANA SOUTH DISTRICT
Gordon Tilley, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864 (Item 118).

LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY TRANSFER

Whereas, Local churches in a number of denominations have experienced something deemed impossible just a few years ago—the recognition and acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex “marriages” by their denominations;

Whereas, Many local churches do not desire to maintain their relationship with a denomination that is not biblical in their stand that homosexuality is sinful and that marriage is to be only between a man and a woman. The recognition and acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex marriage is clearly wrong from a biblical stand-point;

Whereas, Many local churches have been prohibited from leaving their denomination and taking their church property with them, forcing them to either stay in a denomination that no longer abides by biblical standards or leave their beloved church facilities behind and begin anew;

Whereas, Church members in various denominations, thought “it will never happened to us,” but it did happen to them and it can happen in The Wesleyan Church. History of denominational drift is our instructor and hindsight is often filled with regret precautions that were not taken; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court has legalized same-sex “marriage” in all 50 states

and there is growing public acceptance of so-called same-sex “marriage;”

Resolved, That if The Wesleyan Church in practice does not adhere to the Articles of Religion and Membership commitments, or modifies them or other portions of *The Discipline* to allow for the practice of homosexuality, the ordaining of non-celibate homosexuals or allows for same-sex “marriage,” or fails in practice a local church will have the option to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and to have the ownership of all church property, including indebtedness, conveyed to the local congregation;

Resolved, That a new paragraph be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* after paragraph 4780 that reads, “If The Wesleyan Church fails to adhere to or modifies the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments or other portions of *The Discipline* to affirm the practice of homosexuality or affirms ordaining non-celibate or allows for same sex ‘marriage’ as being biblically acceptable, an established local church by majority vote of their membership present at a special called session of the local church conference can vote to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and have the ownership of all church property, including indebtedness, being conveyed to that local church. This

provision is the only exception allowed for paragraph 4780.”

SOUTH COASTAL DISTRICT
Kathy Barton, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864 (Item 118).

860

EIF ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH UNIVERSITIES

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court has legalized same-sex “marriage” in all 50 states and the pressure on our universities to accept LGBTQ students as an operational financial necessity is growing;

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church and its local churches are greatly impacted by The Wesleyan Church colleges and universities it has started and supports;

Whereas, The local churches depend upon their denominational colleges and universities to provide a Biblical education that produces theologically orthodox graduates;

Whereas, The historical evidence demonstrates that many colleges and universities over time tend to go liberal in teaching and practice abandoning their conservative and Biblical foundation;

Whereas, As goes the Wesleyan universities so goes the Wesleyan denomination and the biblical and theological teaching and direction of the local churches;

Whereas, It is possible for our universities to maintain a semblance of agreement on the core doctrines in the *Wesleyan Discipline* and yet move from them in teaching and/or practice;

Whereas, Many local Wesleyan churches in our denomination have a growing concern of the theological drift in mainline denominations and their acceptance of same sex marriage, LGBTQ practices, and abortion;

Whereas, There exists a subsequent concern that our Wesleyan educational institutions could drift from the clearly stated doctrinal positions in our *Discipline*;

Whereas, History shows that many in Academia are skilled at redefining terms so that it appears that they are still orthodox all the while moving toward heresy;

Whereas, Over the years Christians have gathered in conferences and assemblies like this and have said “it will never happen to us,” but it did happen to them, and it can happen to us. The History of denominational drift is our instructor; and

Whereas, The historical relationship between our Wesleyan colleges and universities and local churches and districts is affirmed annually by the financial support the churches provide for them in paying their EIF/USF assessments;

Resolved, That if our Wesleyan colleges and universities drift and fail to honor and teach that the Bible as the inerrant word of God, and depart from historical doctrine as defined in *The Wesleyan Church Discipline*, and fail to honor the authority and teach the clear truth of the Bible, in such areas, same-sex marriage, abortion, biblical justice, and the universality of human sin, the local church in duly-called church conference may vote to withhold paying the educational assessment;

Resolved, That the Wesleyan colleges and universities implement the policy of having an orientation day with denominational leaders to cover the history, beliefs, practices and mission of The Wesleyan Church; and

Resolved, That the General Conference shall add appropriate language per the given authority provided in *The Wesleyan Discipline* (2016) paragraph 2362.

Ultimate authority over the educational institutions of The Wesleyan Church rests with the General Conference (cf. 1590:13).

SOUTH COASTAL DISTRICT
Kathy Barton, District Secretary

Not recommended. Referred to General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Not adopted by General Board, May 26, 2022.

861

EXCEPTION TO PROHIBITION FOR WITHDRAWAL FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

Whereas, There exists in our culture a growing perception and increasing pressure to shift from the foundational principles and practices which are in direct conflict with the eternal truths firmly established in God's Word and emphasized by The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, This shift encourages an infatuation with cultural narratives and a desire for acceptance by the broader society in conflict with a devout determination to cling to the eternal truths found in the Word of God and emphasized by The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Other denominations that have traversed this same path resulted in a subsequent lack of evangelical growth, a diminished devotion to comprehensive discipleship, and a weakened commitment to the pursuit of personal holiness;

Whereas, Those denominations have often ended in divisions that harmed the Kingdom and also provided a poor witness in an increasingly unbelieving world; and

Whereas, It would be wise that we determine truths that are evident and at this time, lest we allow this shift to become the story of our movement;

Whereas, We should affirm and protect those truths as a body of believers, clearly stating the lines that we cannot afford to cross lest we lose our witness;

Whereas, We learn from the mistakes of divided denominations in that we proactively prevent a future spectacle of having a division play out in media and in halls of secular justice; and

Whereas, That if The Wesleyan Church seeks to alter the following foundational principles or lower accepted standards, that it should not force people of conscience to live against their convictions;

Resolved, That maintaining the following foundational principles, which have been established and affirmed be considered crucial to the current and future health and fidelity of our movement.

Our position on the authority of Scripture (p.218)

Our position on the truth and necessity of the doctrine of Sanctification (p.236)

Our position on marriage, homosexuality, gender identity, and the definition of family as expressed (pp. 222, 265:6, 410:5)

Our position on the sanctity of life (410:11)

Resolved, That altering these above cited doctrines to any extent whatsoever, or allowing their violation in practice, will be considered a grant of permission to a local Wesleyan church to withdraw from the denomination, taking their property and any associated indebtedness with them, if such withdrawal is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in a duly-called local church conference chaired by the district superintendent, or a church conference in which the district superintendent or designee was offered the opportunity to chair. Therefore, paragraph **4780** would now read:

4780. No local church may vote to withdraw as a body from The Wesleyan Church, or in any way sever its relation thereto, and no local church conference and/or local board of administration and/or local board of trustees can divert property from The Wesleyan Church (859:4; 4550) **except as described in paragraph 4785.** If any local church violates or in any way attempts to circumvent these provisions, then all rights, title, and interest in and to all real property of such local church

shall thereupon immediately vest in the district corporation (4100) or in the district board of trustees in the case of an unincorporated district (4855); and all such property shall be vacated immediately by the offending party or parties. The district conference or, in the interim, the district board of administration shall have authority to deny the use of any such property to the offending party or parties and to order the immediate eviction of any such party or parties who do not comply therewith.

Paragraph **4785** would be added as follows:

4785. An exception to paragraph 4780 will be made for any church that by conscience believes they can no longer continue to be a part of The Wesleyan Church due to alterations made in foundational doctrinal principles as described specifically in the following positions and *Discipline* paragraphs;

Our position on the authority of Scripture (p.218)

Our position on the truth and necessity of the doctrine of Sanctification (p.236)

Our position on marriage, homosexuality, gender identity, and the definition of family as expressed (pp. 222, 265:6, 410:5)

Our position on the sanctity of life (410:11)

Resolved, That altering these above-cited doctrines to any extent whatsoever, or allowing their violation in practice, will be considered a grant of permission to a local Wesleyan church to withdraw from the denomination, taking their property and any associated indebtedness with them, if such withdrawal is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in a duly-called local church conference chaired by the district superintendent, or a church conference in which the district superintendent or designee was offered the opportunity to chair.

NORTH CAROLINA WEST DISTRICT
Scott Howard, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864 (Item 118).

LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY TRANSFER

Whereas, Local churches in a number of denominations have experienced something deemed impossible just a few years ago—the recognition of homosexuality and same sex “marriages” (any marriage other than those between one man and one woman) by their denominations;

Whereas, Many local churches in these denominations do not desire to maintain their relationship to a denomination that is not Biblical in their stand on homosexuality and marriage being only between a man and a woman. The recognition of homosexuality and same-sex marriage (any marriage other than those between one man and one woman) by a denomination is clearly wrong from a biblical stand-point;

Whereas, Many local churches in these denominations have been prohibited from leaving their denomination and taking their local church property with them. They are forced to either stay in a denomination that no longer abides by Biblical standards or leave their beloved church facilities behind and begin anew;

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court is now enforcing same-sex “marriage” on all 50 states and public opinion has been extremely impacted in favor of so-called same-sex “marriage”;

Whereas, The General Board adopted in 2014 a statement on “A Wesleyan View of Gender Identity and Expression” (<https://www.wesleyan.org/a-wesleyan-view-of-gender-identity-and-expression-2275>) that clearly states the position of The Wesleyan Church; and

Whereas, This is a statutory law memorial of The Wesleyan Church that can be approved and overturned by majority vote of a General Conference. The core issues contained in this memorial are constitutional law that needs a 2/3 vote of General Conference and 2/3 aggregate vote of district conference delegates to be modified or eliminated. The memorial, if approved, would serve as a warning to a future General Conference of the seriousness of any changes to these vital issues outlined in this memorial;

Resolved, That if The Wesleyan Church modifies the Articles of Religion or Membership Commitments or other portions of *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (for example—paragraphs: 222 Article of Religion on Marriage and Family; 224 Article of Religion on Personal Choice; 265:5–6 Membership Commitments; 410:5 Human Sexuality; 410:4 Care of the Body; 3112 Ministerial Regulations on Marriage) to allow for the practice of homosexuality or affirms ordaining non-celibate homosexuals or allows for same-sex “marriage” (any

marriage other than those between one man and one woman), a local church will have the option to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and to have the ownership of all church property, including indebtedness, being conveyed to the local congregation; and

Resolved, That a new paragraph be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* after paragraph 4780 that reads “If The Wesleyan Church modifies the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments or other portions of *The Discipline* to affirm the practice of homosexuality or affirms ordaining non-celibate homosexuals or allows for same-sex ‘marriage’ (any marriage other than those between one man and one woman) as being biblically acceptable, an established local church by majority vote of their membership present at a special-called session of the local church conference can vote to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and have the ownership of all church property, including indebtedness, being conveyed to that local church. This provision is the only exception allowed for paragraph 4780.”

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
Tim Kirkes, District Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864 (Item 118).

863

SEXUAL ETHIC AND CHURCH PROPERTY

Whereas, There is unrelenting pressure for denominations to forsake the orthodox interpretation of biblical teaching on the prohibition of sexual immorality, including homosexuality, and to affirm same sex marriages;

Whereas, No local church should be compelled to remain in any denomination that compromises the biblical prohibitions against sexual immorality, including homosexuality, or fail to affirm God’s divine order of marriage between one man and one woman; and

Whereas, No local church should be forced to choose between faithfulness to God’s Word or being required to walk away from the property and facilities in which they have invested for the advancement of God’s Kingdom;

Resolved, That a new paragraph 4785 be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (after paragraph 4780) that reads, “If The Wesleyan Church modifies the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments or other portions of *The Discipline* to allow for ‘same sex marriage’ or the membership and credential ministers of non-celibate persons who are same-sex attracted,

an established local church may vote, by a 2/3 majority of their membership present at a specially-called session of the local church conference (633) presided over by the district superintendent, to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and may retain ownership of all church property.

Resolved, That any indebtedness (i.e. loans, mortgages) to The Wesleyan Church or its entities must be satisfactorily resolved before the withdrawal process is finalized. This provision shall be the only exception to the withdrawal and property restrictions of paragraph 4780."

CROSSROADS DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
Carolyn Schenck, Secretary

Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864 (Item 118).

864

FIDELITY TO DOCTRINAL HERITAGE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

Whereas, In order that we may wisely preserve and pass onto posterity the heritage of doctrine and principles of Christian living transmitted to us as evangelicals in the Arminian-Wesleyan tradition,

Whereas, The Wesleyan Church declares in *The Discipline, Basic Principles* (218), and its belief in the sufficiency and full authority of the Holy Scriptures for salvation;

Whereas, Changing societal beliefs, values, and practices are generating confusion, deep concern, and division in North American culture and are having a troubling impact on members and friends of The Wesleyan Church;

Whereas, Public conflict within denominations has heightened local church concerns about property security and position clarity; and

Whereas, It is our heartfelt desire to ensure that The Wesleyan Church maintains its historic, biblical statements of faith and practice expressed in the Articles of Religion,

Resolved, that a new paragraph, 4785, be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (after paragraph 4780) that reads, "If The Wesleyan Church changes, in statement or practice, any Article of Religion in such a foundational manner as to move The Wesleyan Church out of alignment with the Authority of Scripture, an established local church may vote by a 2/3 majority of their membership present at a specially-called session of the local church conference (633) presided over by the district superintendent, and the vote ratified by a 2/3 vote of the District Board of Administration to withdraw from The Wesleyan

Church and may retain ownership of all church property. Any indebtedness to The Wesleyan Church or its entities must be satisfactorily resolved and any guarantee of debt repayment by any Wesleyan Church entity must be eliminated before the withdrawal process is finalized. This provision shall be the only exception to the withdrawal and property restrictions of 4780 and Part 7 Local Church Corporations 4000–4070.”

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Recommended; Not Adopted; Postponed (Items 103–106, 109–110, 117).

1000

STUDY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH/DISABILITY INSURANCE

Whereas, A unified or cooperative effort to secure adequate insurance coverage can often be more reasonably achieved through a group plan; and

Whereas, The insurance laws of the United States have been altered in recent times, perhaps making it more feasible to establish a unified or cooperative insurance plan for The Wesleyan Church than in previous attempts;

Resolved, That the Northeast District hereby recommends the General Conference direct the General Treasurer to establish a Study Committee on Health/Disability Insurance which will report to the General Board during the next Quadrennium;

Resolved, That the study shall include, but not be limited in exploring the potential for a unified health care plan for the denomination, districts, and local churches; a plan that reasonably reduces health care costs through broad cooperation while maintaining adequate coverage; a plan that may include disability income coverage for our pastoral leaders and families; and

Resolved, That should such a plan be considered reasonable for implementation that the General Board authorize implementation in cooperation with the district superintendents.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
Dwight Addington, District Secretary

Recommended. Referred to the General Board in compliance with Memorial 3 (Item 44). Adopted by the General Board, May 25, 2022.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS FOR
THE 14TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

UNLEASHED

MAY 22-25, 2022 · ST. LOUIS

SO ALL CAN BE MADE NEW



General Superintendent Wayne Schmidt presents his report to the 14th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church.

2016–2020 Ambassador of The Wesleyan Church Report

Jo Anne Lyon

To have served The Wesleyan Church (TWC) the past four years as Ambassador has been a great honor and privilege. Every place I have served and taken the TWC belief and spirit has evidenced a hunger for God. I continue to be in awe of God’s Prevenient Grace. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord and the Church I love in places beyond my expectations. An accounting of the various ways I served follows:

Wesley Seminary: Interim vice-president from June 2016–April 2017.

Boards of Directors: Asbury Theological Seminary, Bread for the World, National Association of Evangelicals, 1st Amendment Partnership, National Religious Partnership for the Environment, World Hope International and World Methodist Evangelism.

Dialogues: (some of which are on-going) include: Evangelical Immigration Table; Abrahamic Dialogue with Iranian (Muslim) Religious Leaders traveling from Iran to meet together in Switzerland; Evangelical-Jewish Dialogue, Fetzer Institute, Department of State Ministerial on Global Religious Freedom, Global-Net various groups on Middle East Issues, invited by the Prime Minister of Vietnam to speak in a “Christianity and Society” conference in Hanoi, Vietnam, World Bank Keynote “Faith, Women and Peace in Conflict countries” address, Adviser to the New York University Robert Wagner School of Public Policy—Religion in the Public Square, Council on Faith of the World Economic Forum, President Obama’s Council on Faith and Neighborhood Partnerships, Pew Foundation Forum for Christian Foundations on the “Oversized influence of Faith-based groups in the global Context,” Interfaith Conference sponsored by Sagestone and Templeton Foundation – “The Wesleyan Church response to Immigrants.”

Global Travel: Japan—spoke 15 times for the Annual Japan Holiness Conference in five cities (first Wesleyan and woman speaker); India—Wesleyan Leaders Conf.; Vietnam—Politburo sponsored conference on Christianity; Martin Luther 500th Anniversary, Wittenberg and Berlin, Germany; Azerbaijan partners meeting; Barbados twice—100th Anniversary of Church and International Conference; Australia—spoke at Women’s Conference and two churches; Canada—spoke at five different venues; Cuba—spoke at a discipleship cruise; Geneva, Switzerland—Abrahamic Dialogue with Iranian Religious Leaders; Lausanne, Switzerland—Abrahamic Dialogue with Iranian Religious Leaders; Sierra Leone—preached in two churches and pastors’ conference; visited World Hope sites.

University Speaking: Several on more than one occasion: Houghton College, Indiana Wesleyan University, Kingswood University, Southern Wesleyan University, Messiah College, Spring Arbor University, Wheaton College, Roberts

Wesleyan College, University of Texas with the *Texas Tribune* regarding Faith and Refugees, Life Pacific College and Asbury Theological Seminary.

Various Denomination Preaching: Church of God (Anderson), Free Methodist, Nazarene, Foursquare Church, Brethren in Christ, United Methodist, Interdenominational Churches, Baptist, Historic Black Church, six mission agencies, six camp meetings, Wesleyan ordination services.

Independent Advisory Group: Co-chaired August 2018 – March 2019 upon invitation by the Willow Creek Association and the Willow Creek Community Church to research allegations against Lead Pastor Bill Hybels, the church culture and a way forward. Final report was submitted to both groups.

Advocacy: Several times annually on Capitol Hill meeting with congresspeople and presented several times at the National Press Club regarding: Refugees, Immigration, Hunger, International Aid—all related to issues of marginalized and oppressed. Participated on the intersectionality of Race and Poverty working group with the Faith Community and members of the House and Senate, presenting on two occasions work The Wesleyan Church had done in this area.

Awards: World Methodist Peace Award – 2016, “Keeper of the American Dream” Award, National Immigration Forum, “Lifetime Achievement Award,” Houghton College.

Publications: “Evangelical Dictionary of Theology” article on practical theology, Baker Academic Books, 2017. Authored the “The State of the Evangelical Mind,” chapter titled ‘The State of the Evangelical Church,’ *IVP Academic* 2018. Wrote six articles with the *Huffington Post*.

Personal Note: I want to thank the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church of 2016 who created this unusual position and invited me to respond. I am grateful to the special donors for their support who made this possible and to the small group of advisors. In every detail that has been articulated in this report, I have been very aware of my witness for Jesus Christ. He has not failed. There have been many personal conversations with hundreds of people about their faith. I have witnessed the work of transformation by the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of many people with whom I have networked. Along with all of this, I have been mentoring many younger leaders. Many of the positions above have been transitioned to a younger leader as noted in the Annual Ambassador Report 2019–2020.

In an address I gave to the General Conference at my initial election in 2008 on “Holiness and the World,” I gave the following challenge, **“May it be said of The Wesleyan Church of the 21st century – they plunged into the world, restoring God’s Kingdom and were kept from the evil one.”** My heart is warmed to see Wesleyans continuing to courageously restore God’s Kingdom.

**2016–2022 General Superintendent Report
Wayne Schmidt**

Who knew that when the General Conference of 2016 elected me to a 4-year term that it would end up being six years! I’m honored to serve God and The Wesleyan Church.

It’s been said “a leader defines reality.” I’m convinced it is God who does the defining, and my role under His lordship is to be discerning.

Reality has been more complicated than we would have imagined. Some realities can be captured in statistics we’ve long tracked:

	2016	2021
• Attendance (onsite)	237,851	127,707
• Conversions	34,102	11,776
• Baptisms	12,269	5,797
• Membership	146,416	118,645
• Finance	\$351,651,290	\$348,590,727

Some realities are only partially reflected in statistics. Wesleyan lives lost to COVID. Families fractured and churches closed due to insurmountable pressures. Conflict and polarization over unanticipated issues. Economic devastation especially among those most vulnerable.

Wesleyans heroically strive to “not become weary in doing good.” But many are exceedingly exhausted and cling to God’s sufficient grace in the midst of anxiety and a sense that hope is deferred. Like the Apostle Paul, we recognize open doors for effective work even with a prevalence of opposing forces.

We have not stopped with discerning reality...in 2016, we were called to 50 Days of Prayer in “making the most of every opportunity.” God led us to strategically focus on disciples making disciples and churches multiplying themselves until we have a transforming presence in every ZIP or postal code.

Historical measurements have been augmented with missional measurements:

- Disciples making disciples – 33.2% in 2016; 119.5% in 2021
 - discipleship reporting was redefined in 2019
- Multiethnic churches – 4.3% in 2016; 21.5% in 2021

- Online attendance—146,063 in 2021
 - Total with onsite attendance—273,770 in 2021
- Church multiplication rate—church planting accelerated during COVID
 - 215 churches have been planted in North America and 1,150 planted globally since 2016.

Beyond the statistics, many churches have connected with and ministered to their communities in unprecedented ways. Individuals and families have been loved and led into God's kingdom as their need for God became even more apparent. The Wesleyan Church in its local, district, denominational and educational expressions has remained united in its core beliefs in the context of broader fractures in the culture and church.

The General Superintendent Office (GSO) is privileged to invest in people and initiatives that make a Kingdom difference highlighted below:

- collaborating with the whole headquarters team for greater investment in missional priorities through reducing expenses and the generosity of WIF. Several significant longer term issues have and are being addressed, including updating antiquated IT infrastructure to increase shared services with districts and churches, mitigating the regulatory impact on Hephzibah62:4 (www.hephzibah.org) through transitioning from one residential campus to partnerships with local churches, and countering overall downward industry wide shifts in publishing while increasing the viability of Wesleyan Publishing House through eliminating deficits and partnering more creatively.
- joining together with district superintendents (DS's) in a focus on "superintending the movement" we believe God wants The Wesleyan Church (TWC) to become once again. Through prayer partnership and resourcing, we seek to support DS's who are providing care and conflict resolution to pastors and local church leaders. We have worked together to identify eight "best practices" in superintending. Through mergers, districts decreased from 30 in 2016 to 24 in 2021.
- supporting and encouraging our educational institutions in a tumultuous time for higher education. Each of our schools has made intentional efforts to stay close to their Wesleyan Church denominational home in beliefs and in disciple-making, ever more focused on the mission we share. Our newest educational entity, Wesley Seminary at IWU, has surpassed an enrollment of over 500 students—dramatically increasing the number of Wesleyans receiving a seminary education by having

almost 200 Wesleyans in a student body that is 40 percent female, 47 percent students of color, and in which 21 percent are in Spanish-language programs.

- Marketplace Multipliers (MM)—a lay-led movement to equip people in the everyday places of their lives to integrate their faith with their work and steward their influence for Christ. Led by Carrie Whitcher, lay leaders partner with pastors to move disciple-making beyond the walls of the Church (www.marketplacemultipliers.com).
- Hispanic Connectional Movement (HCM)—intentionally supports the connection of Hispanic leaders with their districts and more broadly across North America. The growing Hispanic population is approaching nearly 20 percent of the overall population and necessitates a movement of multigenerational and multinational women and men to make disciples and multiply churches.
- Kingdom Force Executive Leaders institute (KFXLi)—is connecting men and women in peer learning relationships that are multigenerational, multiethnic, multieconomic and global in scope. The goal is to equip them for their present and future contributions locally and translocally everywhere to everywhere.

We are asking God to make the Wesleyans a movement once again—to reactivate our connectional and entrepreneurial DNA to have the flexibility and unity needed to be His Church and fulfill His calling. Current realities and opportunities call for “continuity . . . with the courageous pursuit of our mission” which God has entrusted to us.



Dr. Wayne Schmidt hosting May 23, 2022 special guests of The Wesleyan Church breakfast.

2016–2022 Communication and Administration Report **Janelle Vernon, Executive Director**

God’s faithfulness has been evident throughout the past six years as the Communication and Administration Division (C&A) has sought to serve God and our Wesleyan church family.

The C&A team committed in 2016 to “inspire and inform” by elevating Wesleyan voices, sharing stories of Holy Spirit movement, honoring our heritage, and providing districts and local churches legal assistance. Individuals’ accounts of God transforming lives, churches and communities shape our collective testimony to God’s power evidenced through our Wesleyan church family. We are blessed to have a front row seat as we learn from all corners of The Wesleyan Church (TWC) how God is working in so many unique and powerful ways.

Wesleyan Publishing House (WPH)

In 2017, the General Board approved a \$625K reorganization allocation. Two years later, after making changes to our publishing models, staffing, inventory and distribution, WPH achieved a \$355K yearend surplus allowing the allocation to be fully repaid three years early.

Despite diminished pandemic sales in 2020 and 2021, WPH sustained its publishing ministry and is again seeing positive sales momentum through curriculum and book sales.

Publishing Wesleyan authors and Spanish-language resources have also been team priorities. Access to the daily Wesleyan devotional, *Light from the Word*, was expanded through a Daily Devo email newsletter and podcast added to wesleyan.org and the TWC Discipleship app. In addition to curriculum, nearly 90 book or video resources were released.

Communication

“More voices, more stories, more ways” summarizes the C&A communication strategy of elevating The Wesleyan Church voice by sharing God’s activity in first-person accounts distributed through easily accessible delivery methods. Accomplishments contributing to the fulfillment of our TWC mission and strategic focus include: the launch of the redesigned wesleyan.org and the new Resource Center, increased social media engagement, and more and new voices shared in C&A resources.

Mindful of *The Wesleyan Hour* legacy, unused studio space at Headquarters was renovated to launch a broadcast studio capable of live streaming and live

to tape production—such as teaming with departments for webinars or virtual gatherings, lunch and learn discussions, weekly prayer calls with the General Superintendent and event hosting for Marketplace Multipliers and Immigrant Connection—we are reaching a wider audience online.

TOGETHER, a prayer service celebrating Pentecost and uniting Wesleyans globally in prayer for the unleashing of the Holy Spirit, was held on May 31, 2020, and again on May 23, 2021. C&A coordinated the event partnering with various divisions, local churches and Indiana Wesleyan University. Several messages reflected God's active work, including several stories of families with youth praying for the Holy Spirit's unleashing.

A new resource, wesleypedia.com, was added. The brainchild of Pastor John Howell, [wesleypedia](http://wesleypedia.com) has a fully developed, indexed and searchable Wiki that allows pastors to search and pull up resources from *The Wesleyan Church Discipline* and corresponding writings from other Wesleyan sources.

Administration

High importance was given to the guidance C&A provides our church leaders through accurate interpretation of TWC policies outlined in *The Discipline*, *General Board Policy* and the *Executive Cabinet Manual*. Words matter, and we seek to steward them well.

Significant attention was given to the annual ministerial and local church reporting process to enhance user ease and data management. District administrators (DA) played a key role in this multi-year process providing C&A and Information Technology district and local church perspectives, system testing results and assisting users. DA training and user resources were provided by C&A.

Significant time was also spent on providing legal assistance, ensuring districts and local church leaders have access to information helpful for them to navigate the myriad of situations encountered in church life. Guiding such interactions is respect for all persons involved, as well as promptness and accuracy. An important goal is offering district and church leaders periodic guideline updates.

One hallmark of this "quadrennium" was the planning for and revisioning of three General Conferences while only hosting one. Delegate and guest safety concerns, as well as respect for government restrictions guided the General Board's decision to postpone plans for 2020 and 2021.

Concluding my first term as a General Officer is a mix of reflection, appreciation and anticipation. The common thread in all three thought processes is the simultaneous supremacy and goodness of God, as well as the

perseverance of God’s people, The Wesleyan Church family. I remain humbled by the privilege of serving in this role and inspired by the myriad of ways God is reflected through your ministries. May God continue to empower, bless and guide you.



Janelle Vernon, Executive Director of the Communication and Administration Division, addresses General Conference.

2016–2022 Church Multiplication and Discipleship Report **Anita Eastlack, Executive Director**

As promised in 2016, the Church Multiplication and Discipleship team has been celebrating **every time a disciple makes a disciple and a church multiplies itself until The Wesleyan Church has a transforming presence in every ZIP code.** For example, in our morning Prayer Huddle each day, we celebrate stories of discipleship and multiplication that we see and hear around the denomination. We have witnessed God’s Church is faithful. Lives, churches and communities are being transformed through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for my Kingdom Force team that serves with me in Church Multiplication and Discipleship (CMAD). We are committed to resource and equip the local church to make disciple-makers. We champion **discipleship as ‘living out the Great Commission and the Greatest Commandment,’** encouraging every church to evaluate their discipleship method by asking:

1. Is it intentional? (having a clear discipleship pathway)
2. Is it relational? (loving God, self, and others well)
3. Is it holistic? (expressing faith with your head, heart and hands)
4. Is it multiplying? (reproducing believers, leaders, and churches)
5. Is it lifelong? (engaging everyone—never too young and never too old to be involved with discipleship)

One of our guardrails is ‘connect over create’ which informs our strategies, bringing the voices of our many effective practitioners into equipping settings such as cohorts, webinars, podcasts, and shoulder events. A second guardrail, “movement over model,” informs our content and encourages each leader to prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit’s leading in choosing a contextualized discipleship pathway and multiplication model.

PROGRESS OVERVIEW

- Led the Hephzibah62:4 board through the process of revisioning when the Macon, GA property-based model was no longer financially sustainable. New mission statement—“Equipping and mobilizing local Wesleyan churches to transform the lives of vulnerable children.”
- Facilitated, with direct partnership of the General Superintendent, a multiple year evaluation of Distrito Hispano Suroeste sustainability, after the retirement of Dr. Edgar Chacon and the appointment of Rev. Wes Smith as interim DS. This new season brings opportunity for a strategic

partnership and broader vision with collaboration to the growing Hispanic population in the West. At the March 2022 General Board meeting, there was a significant and unanimous vote.

- Increased focus for multiethnic ministries in all our CMAD departments—churches, shoulder events, podcasts, webinars, etc. With this prayerful and active emphasis, thirty-three percent (33%) of our Wesleyan churches are multiethnic; (25%) in 2020; (7%) in 1994.
- **CHURCH MULTIPLICATION DEPARTMENT:** (Director Ed Love)
 - Participation in our Wesleyan events at Exponential Conference has continued to increase (averaging 500 people a year).
 - Trained over 250 sending church leaders within our Wesleyan Multipliers Cohort in partnership with Exponential. Twenty-five church planting networks and residencies raised up for sending out leaders.
 - Growth in the Hispanic multiplication realm through cohort training and conferencing.
 - Translated the Church Multiplication Collective website into Spanish, allowing Hispanic church planters to have access to all our church planting systems, including assessing, coaching, and training.
 - Developed a group of 116 multipliers who are women and numbers are growing.
 - Created an ongoing resource called Live Sent, which can be used as a calling lab experience within any local church.
 - Through R&D partnership with Groundswell, created a new Pioneering Training Center, developing 100's of future pioneering leaders and church planters.
 - Planted 215 churches since June 2016.
- **NEXT GEN DEPARTMENT:** (Director Zach Coffin)
 - **Follow International Wesleyan Youth Convention**
 - 4,200 in attendance – 1,000+ student and/or leaders gave their “YES” to their kingdom force calling; 3,500+ attended The Freedom Center: National Underground Railroad Experience (Included in this walk-through experience, 10 historical Wesleyan stories were highlighted).
 - Fuel: Next Gen Leaders Conference
 - Fuel 2021: Over 1,200 volunteers and pastors trained in-person and digitally; 180 churches represented. Fuel 2020 WebCon: Over 600 pastors and volunteers trained digitally; Fuel 2019: 250 in Cincinnati, Ohio; 2018 Fuel included all kids and youth pastors and their volunteer teams: 320 Next Gen leaders; Fuel 2017: 250 youth leaders.

Next Gen Equipping and Resourcing

- Hosted 25 cohorts on various Next Gen topics equipping over 200 Next Gen leaders.
- Hosted 10 webinar calls for COVID specific topics; 45 COVID resources curated.
- Secured partnership with Orange Curriculum for clear curriculum discipleship path.
- Recorded and launched “Kids Ministry Foundations” video cohort to equip kid’s ministry best practices.
- Hosted bi-monthly equipping collaboration call with district youth presidents.

● **DISCIPLESHIP:** (Director Kim Gladden)

Resourcing efforts have included:

- Initiated Discipleship Conversation Webinars which have had 10,000+ views.
- Developed a Discipleship App—devotions, discipleship training, evaluation tools and much more. The app has had over 1553 downloads to date. (The Wesleyan Discipleship app can be downloaded from The App Store or Google Play).
- Shared themed resources developed by Wesleyan churches/authors for Advent, Lent, Pentecost, etc.

Equipping efforts have included:

- Introduced the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship (EHD) Curriculum. Thirty-two (reported) Wesleyan churches adopted this curriculum for discipleship use; provided free kits, coaching and access to ongoing training opportunities.
- In 2019, established an annual discipleship shoulder event at the AMPLIFY conference with 101 people; in 2020, 310 people online; and still during COVID in 2021, 102 in-person.

Connecting efforts have included:

- In 2020, established the Discipleship Catalysts Network providing ongoing conversations around community specific discipleship issues.
- Connected around 100 Wesleyans on a Discipleship Cruise Retreat in 2017 stopping in Cuba to support and encourage our Wesleyan pastors.

We are witnessing God at work and the best is yet to come! It is a privilege to partner with you to be Great Commission people.

2016–2022 Education & Clergy Development Report **Russ Gunsalus, Executive Director**

It is an immense honor to report the fruit of God's blessing, the work of our team and the results of your vision for the division of Education and Clergy Development (ECD). Through our work with Wesleyan clergy and educational institutions, ECD has endeavored to support the strategic focus of The Wesleyan Church (TWC): *Celebrating every time a disciple makes a disciple and a church multiplies itself until The Wesleyan Church has a transforming presence in every ZIP Code.*

Thriving Clergy

We are committed to care for and develop thriving, healthy, fit and effective pastors for a lifetime of sustainable, transformative ministry.

- **Full Strength Network Membership Program**—Full Strength Network (FSN) offers a membership program connecting pastors and their families to a national network of high quality wellbeing services such as counseling, coaching and respite care, helping them to thrive in ministry life. ECD has been a founding partner with FSN to help shape their ministry services. Over 760 Wesleyan pastors have become members.
- **Thrive Financial Initiative/Iniciativa hacia Fianzas Exitosas**—Funded by The Lilly Endowment, TFI is designed to help pastors overcome economic challenges that limit ministry effectiveness. Offered in English and Spanish, TFI has become a transformative ministry to our clergy and church participants. In addition to our initial \$1,000,000 grant, since 2016 we have successfully applied for an additional \$1,000,000 grant in 2019 and December of 2021 another \$500,000 grant focused on helping minority clergy and churches in the wake of the pandemic. With grants and matching funds, \$1,387,733 was invested in Wesleyan pastors.
- **2019 The Gathering**—The Gathering was a powerful, three-day celebration in Orlando, Florida with nearly 2,000 Wesleyan clergy and spouses gathering together to be encouraged, inspired and engaged.
- **Women in Ministry**—We continue to express our commitment to women clergy by leading, co-sponsoring and supporting the biennial Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Conference.
- **Common Table Collaborative**—ECD's Flourishing in Ministry Conference has expanded into a collaboration between national

clergy care researchers and practitioners providing research, webinars, resources and an annual conference.

- **Wesleyan Clergy Wellbeing Research**—First-ever scientific research reports on Wesleyan clergy, their emotional wellbeing, clergy compensation, physical health.
- **Reclaim Sabbath Initiative**—A yearlong emphasis in 2018, pastors focused on reclaiming Sabbath practices for themselves and their families as a foundational aspect of discipleship and God’s design for well-being.
- **Thrive in 5**—*Thrive in 5* is a bi-weekly email that addresses one of the six well-being domains with subject matter experts and links to additional resources.
- **Covid-19 Resources for Clergy**—A number of resources for the resilience of pastors and their congregations.
- **Chaplain Ministries**—Chair USAF Chaplain Lt Col (retired) Michael Rash, associate endorser, and Associate Endorser Dr. Gary Carr lead and support initiatives for our military chaplains and institutional chaplains.

Wesleyan Higher Education

Our schools significantly extend and leverage the discipleship investment of Wesleyan families through intentional and vibrant spiritual academic community life.

- **Wesleyan Education Council (WEC)**—Collaborates in vital conversations, initiatives and partnerships to advance Wesleyan higher education through shared services research, religious freedom risk management and marketing to Wesleyan churches. See more at www.WE-5.org
- **Wesleyan Higher Education Shared Services Task Forces**—Two strategic task forces are working to steward resource and expand the effectiveness and capacity of our colleges and universities. The Healthcare Co-operative task force with school and TWC CFOs. A task force comprised of school presidents or board chairs, investigating the creation of a shared services organization to expand the capacity and growth of our Wesleyan schools.
- **Presidential Searches**—Since 2016, the executive director has participated on presidential search committees for Oklahoma Wesleyan, Houghton, Southern Wesleyan and Indiana Wesleyan.

- **Wesleyan Board of Trustee Conference**—In 2019, Wesleyan Board of Trustee members gathered again with national Christian higher education leaders to learn, dialogue and advance Wesleyan higher education.

Ministerial Education and Formation

With quality ministerial education, the guidance of district boards of ministerial development and local churches, ECD seeks to equip pastors for the significant work of ministry.

- **Called Journey Advisory Group** guided the beta-test of a proposed middle credential, a simplified process for credentialing, improved platform technology and guidance for candidates as they pursued their Credential Pathway and Education Pathway.
- **WE5 Religion Deans' Advisory Group** improved education requirements for credentialing, a more simple and formal permanent process for revising education requirements, and a framework for ministry education program approval and improvement.
- **Wesleyan Educational Institutions** developed new and improved education pathways for completing credentialing education requirements. SWU FLEX allows students a convenient, online, modular approach. Kingswood Expedition (formerly FLAME) offers a competency based educational pathway that capitalizes on previous learning and experience.
- **Called Journey Beta-Test** provided key insights improving the credentialing process, including a potential permanent middle credential, DBMD forms and new candidate advising.
- **Ministerial Student Support** for over 1500 ministerial students working to earn credentials.
- **Spanish Ministerial Education and Formation (SMEF) for Spanish-speaking leaders**—FLAMA is a Spanish Ministry Training Program (MTP) like Kingswood Expedition, CROSSTraining and other pastor and laity MTPs. FLAMA has provided over 200 classes to nearly 1,100 distinct students. FLAMA has begun the process to pursue accreditation with AETH that would create a pathway for FLAMA Academico students to transfer into credit bearing degree programs. SMEF supports two MTPs in N.C. East/West and Florida and launched the first FLAMA-Fest educational event to encourage and equip Spanish-speaking ministerial Students.

Special Thanks to The People Serving and Transforming

We are blessed with an amazing staff and committed leaders. Each has contributed to our mission in unique and vital ways, <https://www.wesleyan.org/eed>.

For an expanded report or to learn more about the other programs and initiatives from EED, you can go to <https://www.wesleyan.org/eed>.



General Conference delegates unite in prayer.

2016–2022 Global Partners Report Dennis Jackson, Executive Director

Unleashing Sending from Everywhere to Everywhere



Wesleyans from 54 countries worshipping together at the 2019 International Conference of The Wesleyan Church.



The strategic focus of The Wesleyan Church in the North America is *Celebrating every time a disciple makes a disciple and a church multiplies itself until The Wesleyan Church has a transforming presence in every ZIP code.* Global Partners and the Global Wesleyan Church are living Acts 1:8 out by planting churches in the here, near, far and very hard places. In the past six years they have planted 1,150 new churches!

Over the last six years, Wesleyan churches around the globe have taken bold action to see a multiplication movement unleashed, in unique ways that fit their context. Places that were formerly mission fields have now joined the mission-sending force.



Globally, 4 in 10 people live without access to the Gospel.

- The Wesleyan Church of Brazil sent missionary teams of up to 19 people to Canada, Mozambique, Guyana and East Timor.
- The Haitian church partnered with the Ghanaian church to send missionaries to Burkina Faso.
- JIBACAM, the mission-sending board representing a collaboration of 19 Ibero-American countries, sent short-term teams and missionaries to a limited-access country in the Middle East.

International Conference of The Wesleyan Church - May 2019 –

More than 200 Wesleyans from 54 countries gathered May 12-15 in Bridgetown, Barbados for the fourth International Conference of The Wesleyan Church (ICWC). The event consisted of worship, business, training and deep connection shaped by the conference theme, sending Wesleyan missionaries from **Everywhere to Everywhere**. Watch the video: gponline.org/icwc-2019



Now that The Wesleyan Church has expanded from 6 to 19 Ibero-American countries, those countries are now sending missionaries to the unreached.

Launching the Ibero-America Established Regional Conference

In November 2019, the first gathering of the newly formed Ibero-America Established Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church was held in Costa Rica. The movement to become a Regional Established Conference grew out of the missions influence of JIBACAM. Nineteen countries are now united to reach the unreached in each of their countries, in their region, and all the world — **everywhere to everywhere**.



Churches Planted
Churches Planted in Global Partners Fields
 2016 = 109 2019 = 199
 2017 = 137 2020 = 276
 2018 = 173 2021 = 256
6 Year Total = 1,150



COVID Response
 Since the start of the pandemic, partners have generously given over \$455,000 to bring relief and support the Church around the world. These efforts have reached 48 unique fields in 41 countries, impacting over 40,000 people directly. This does not include the countless others served through The Wesleyan Church presence in their community. gponline.org/covid-19-hub



Global Wesleyan Church Map
 The Wesleyan Church has a presence in 97 countries, where 382,568 people worship in 4,302 churches. gponline.org/world



Global Marketplace Multipliers (GMM) is an exciting new pathway designed to mobilize, equip, and network Christians serving the global marketplace to intentionally engage in global disciple-making. gponline.org/gmm



Long-Term Missionaries
 144 adult missionaries are serving long-term with Global Partners. Read their stories at gponline.org/missionaries



NEXT

Global Partners launched a 2-4 month mentored cross-cultural immersion internship. NEXT gives students and young adults the opportunity to explore who they are in God's mission. gponline.org/NEXT

TEAM AMPLIFY

By joining Team Amplify, partners can help share hope with unreached people by lightening the financial load missionaries face. Team Amplify's monthly giving goes directly to lowering a portion of what each adult missionary is currently - responsible to raise. We can all play a part. gponline.org/team-amplify

The 5 Phases
 Global Partners takes a strategic, 5-Phase approach to grow local churches in global communities. Learn more at gponline.org/5-phases



Amplified Leaders
 We can celebrate that Pastors and Leaders serving in contexts all over the world are being resourced with pastoral training and theological education. Check out Benson's story at gponline.org/amplifiedleaders



2016–2022 General Treasurer/CFO Report Kevin Batman, CFO

It is a privilege to submit my fourth report to the delegates of the 14th General Conference of the Wesleyan Church as I near the conclusion of my fifteenth year of service as the General Treasurer/CFO. God has been faithful to His Church over the past six years and has blessed our efforts well beyond our expectations.

GENERAL CHURCH FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

I thank the Lord for these financial highlights occurring over the six-year period ending August 31, 2021:

- Net assets grew by \$14.5M and are available for these purposes (investment earnings reserves \$4.6M with around 80% attributable to Global Partners fund balances; Global Partners ministry \$4M; USF Emergency Fund \$1.9M; IT Infrastructure \$1.3M; Clergy Care Grants \$1.0M; and Planned Gifts \$.8M).
- Completed each year with an overall surplus.
- Completed each year with a modest surplus in the USF Operating Fund.
- The USF participation rate remained strong even through the pandemic.
- After eight years, annual 250K contributions to the Wesleyan Pension Fund Defined Benefit Plan were no longer required after 2017.
- USF funds were allocated for church planting grants for the first time (2017–2021).
- The Wesleyan Publishing House business plan was updated and resulted in surpluses in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021.
- Reserves held to fund the USF Operating Fund in the event of an emergency increased from 1.9 months of operations (2016) to 5.4 months (2022). The target goal is 6 months.
- Each year our audit service provider expressed a clean opinion on the financial statements of the Church.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our team realized the following achievements over the 6-year period:

- We assisted in the reorganization of the Wesleyan Publishing House to a sustainable business model which included a major reduction in inventory, transition to a new distribution partner and return to profitability.

- In 2018, we began offering shared accounting services to various denominational entities and partners under the leadership of Sherry Gorveatte, CPA. We now serve eight districts, two camps, five subsidiary corporations, and two denominational partnerships.
- We assisted in the transition and reorganization of Hephzibah Ministries, Inc., to a financially sustainable model as Hephzibah62:4 in a manner that honored former employees. We continue to provide accounting, information technology, and human resources services, as well as investment management oversight.
- We assisted with the transition of Immigrant Connection, Inc to subsidiary corporation status and continue to provide accounting and other services.
- Wesleyan Financial Holdings was established in 2020 as a risk mitigation strategy due to the sizable amount of liquid assets related to Global Partners, USF Emergency Fund, divisional quasi-endowments and other funds. Approximately \$20M was invested and after careful oversight by a strong board including experienced investment committee members, earnings of \$5.6M were realized at the end of FY21. While investment gains can be volatile, earnings on a significant majority of the funds invested are projected to enable Global Partners to mobilize and retain missionaries more readily.
- At the onset of the pandemic, the General Church's online giving platform was offered for use by local churches without cost for those without an online giving platform. Additional extensive Paycheck Protection Program information was also provided to district leaders for broader distribution within their district.

A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Responsibility for Information Systems service was assigned to the team in 2017. In 2019, Estherlita Griffiths joined the team as director of Information Technology and has provided oversight to many improvements including:

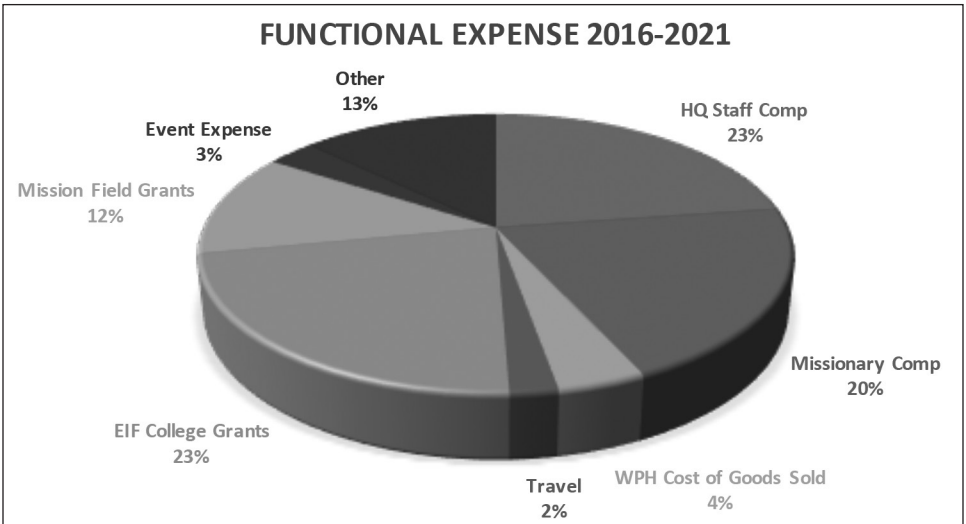
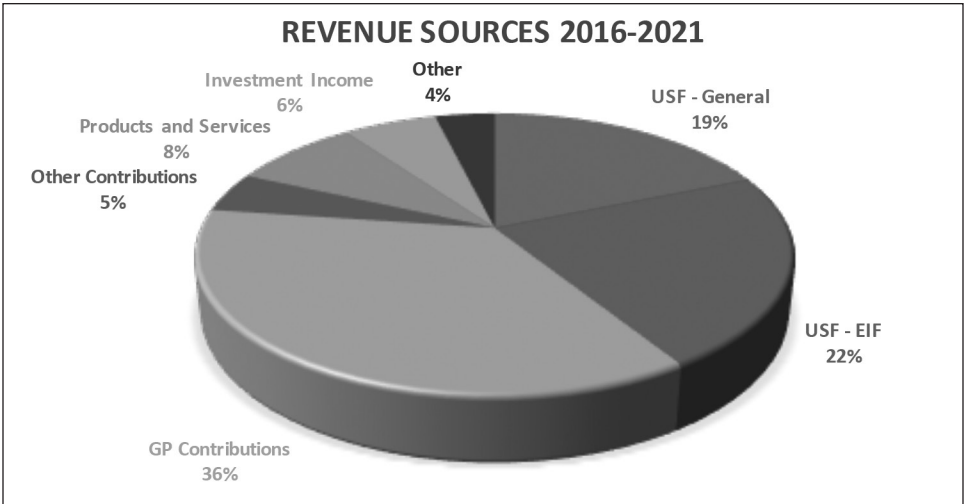
- The transition to a new managed service provider, BDO digital, which manages our IT infrastructure, defense (cyber security) and service desk. This has exponentially increased our cyber security capabilities as well has provided for 24/7 technical support to HQ employees and missionaries.
- The upgrade of the data collection systems for the Annual Service Report (ASR) and Local Church Statistical Report (LCSR).

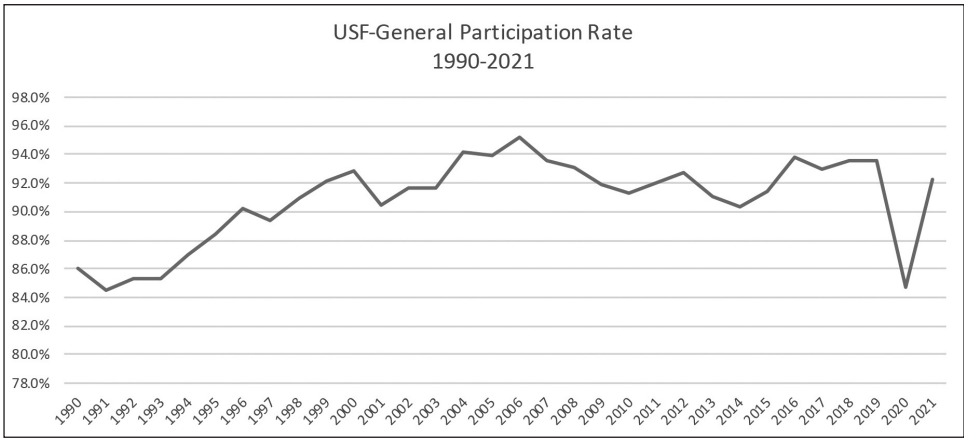
- The creation of TWCHub which is a common database of clergy and church information used by every district.
- The conversion of our 30-year-old donor system which should be complete before General Conference. Additional plans are in process to update other major systems including our clergy database; the Wesleyan Pension Fund participant database; and our accounting system over the next 24 months.
- When the pandemic hit, our IT team was able to successfully transition the HQ to remote work within several days.

Our information technology capabilities and digital connectivity is of critical importance to achieve the mission of the church today and tomorrow.

A FINAL WORD

The achievements enumerated above are only possible through the consistent effort and dedicated stewardship of thousands of Wesleyans throughout the North American General Conference and the blessing of the Lord upon the Church. It remains a joy and privilege to serve Christ and the Church and to do work alongside an amazing, dedicated team.





The Wesleyan Church
Statement of Financial Position
For the Fiscal Years Ended August 31, 2021 and 2015 (in thousands)

	2021	2015
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,404	\$ 1,405
Deposits Held by WIF	4,832	9,731
Investments in Marketable Securities	2,692	9,765
Investment in Subsidiary	25,628	-
Property and Equipment, Net	5,543	6,142
Other Assets	3,266	3,056
Total Assets	\$ 44,365	\$ 30,099
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 2,341	\$ 2,101
Liabilities for Annuities and Trusts	864	1,329
Other Liabilities	-	39
Total Liabilities	3,205	3,469
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	20,122	10,314
With Donor Restrictions	21,038	16,315
Total Net Assets	41,160	26,629
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 44,365	\$ 30,099

**The Wesleyan Church
Statement of Activities
For the Six Years Ended August 31, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (in thousands)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue:						
United Stewardship Fund - General	\$ 6,020	\$ 5,587	\$ 5,962	\$ 6,163	\$ 5,796	\$ 6,192
United Stewardship Fund - Educational Institutions	7,142	6,882	7,034	7,251	6,792	7,167
Contributions, Gifts and Grants	13,166	12,847	12,868	13,671	12,136	12,675
Product Sales & Service Income	4,927	2,744	2,126	2,470	1,869	1,622
Investment Income	889	1,082	1,422	973	2,269	4,911
Other Income	1,132	704	649	1,548	2,600	706
Total Revenue	33,276	29,846	30,061	32,076	31,462	33,273
Expenses:						
Program Activities						
Global Partners	12,796	12,356	12,080	11,681	10,278	9,835
Education and Clergy Development	7,949	7,770	8,128	9,059	8,346	8,213
Wesleyan Publishing House	3,221	1,890	1,423	1,401	1,235	1,321
Church Multiplication and Discipleship	2,446	1,567	1,707	1,856	3,004	1,491
Other Miscellaneous	344	347	223	374	354	989
Total Program Activities	26,756	23,930	23,561	24,371	23,217	21,849
Supporting Activities:						
General Superintendent	670	599	599	612	524	520
Communications and Administration	945	1,016	1,012	1,049	957	854
General Treasurer/CFO	819	866	849	843	930	943
General Conference	901	21	10	14	40	2
Information Systems	606	617	607	687	1,033	1,115
Headquarters Facility	727	839	707	749	694	806
Other General Administration	1,266	1,901	1,176	1,094	883	677
Total Supporting Activities	5,934	5,859	4,960	5,048	5,061	4,917
Total Expenses	32,690	29,789	28,521	29,419	28,278	26,766
Change in Net Assets	586	57	1,540	2,657	3,184	6,507
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	26,629	27,215	27,272	28,812	31,469	34,653
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 27,215	\$ 27,272	\$ 28,812	\$ 31,469	\$ 34,653	\$ 41,160

The Wesleyan Church
 United Stewardship Fund General Operating Fund
 Statement of Revenue and Expense
 For the Six Years Ended August 31, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (in thousands)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
USF-General	\$ 6,020	\$ 5,837	\$ 5,962	\$ 6,163	\$ 5,796	6,192
W/F Grant	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
USF Emergency Fund Subsidy	-	-	-	-	513	-
PPP Forgiveness	-	-	-	-	482	111
Other	444	386	309	374	381	477
Total Revenue	6,464	6,223	6,271	6,537	7,172	7,780
Program Expense						
Church Multiplication & Discipleship	1,270	1,066	1,167	1,249	1,213	1,116
Education & Clergy Development	521	540	563	571	573	589
Global Partners	(3)	22	23	31	111	59
Wesleyan Publishing House Loss/(Gain)	137	-	-	-	-	-
Church Planting Grants	-	63	163	263	263	263
Total Program Expense	1,925	1,691	1,916	2,114	2,160	2,027
Supporting Activities:						
General Superintendent Office	604	552	545	562	505	494
Development	149	206	220	145	-	-
Communications & Administration	900	992	984	1,029	938	837
General Treasurer/CFO	647	678	659	668	676	641
General Conference	335	200	175	225	175	100
Wesleyan Pension Fund DB Grant	250	250	-	-	-	-
Information Systems	531	646	741	656	706	658
Headquarters Facility	551	486	456	456	456	439
The Wesleyan Church of Canada	53	110	121	133	133	133
USF Emergency Fund	175	-	-	-	800	786
Special Projects	-	40	100	150	310	345
Infrastructure Fund	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Other	324	357	348	305	287	316
Total Supporting Activities	4,519	4,517	4,349	4,329	4,986	5,749
Total Expense	6,444	6,208	6,265	6,443	7,146	7,776
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 20	\$ 15	\$ 6	\$ 94	\$ 26	\$ 4

United Stewardship Fund - Educational Institutions
For the Six Years Ended August 31, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (in thousands)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue:						
USF - EIF	\$ 7,142	\$ 6,882	\$ 7,034	\$ 7,251	\$ 6,792	\$ 7,167
Emergency Subsidy	-	-	-	-	580	-
Total Revenue	<u>7,142</u>	<u>6,882</u>	<u>7,034</u>	<u>7,251</u>	<u>7,372</u>	<u>7,167</u>
Allocation:						
Houghton College	1,321	1,289	1,305	1,342	1,356	1,316
Indiana Wesleyan University	1,321	1,289	1,305	1,342	1,356	1,316
Kingswood University	1,321	1,289	1,305	1,233	1,465	1,316
Oklahoma Wesleyan University	1,321	1,289	1,305	1,342	1,356	1,316
Southern Wesleyan University	1,321	1,289	1,305	1,342	1,356	1,316
Other (Loan/Grants and Emergency Fund)	537	437	509	650	483	587
Allocation Total	<u>\$ 7,142</u>	<u>\$ 6,882</u>	<u>\$ 7,034</u>	<u>\$ 7,251</u>	<u>\$ 7,372</u>	<u>\$ 7,167</u>

The Wesleyan Church
 United Stewardship Funds Participation For Conference Years 2016-2021

District Name	Avg Annual USF Responsibility Growth Rate		USF General Fund			USF Educational Institution Fund		
			Total Responsibility	Total Received	Participation Rate	Total Responsibility	Total Received	Participation Rate
*Atlantic	3.2%		\$ 1,921,101	\$ 1,640,431	85.4%	\$ 2,271,118	\$ 1,945,762	85.7%
*Central Canada	4.2%		1,290,920	1,140,147	88.3%	1,525,850	1,344,873	88.1%
Chesapeake	4.9%		1,845,172	1,754,969	95.1%	2,182,009	2,073,361	95.0%
Crossroads	0.7%		3,034,484	2,869,829	94.6%	3,587,497	3,370,665	94.0%
Florida	2.9%		522,626	498,109	95.3%	617,693	588,747	95.3%
Great Lakes	3.0%		7,021,440	6,505,626	92.7%	8,302,990	7,700,457	92.7%
Greater Ohio	0.0%		1,395,941	1,126,070	80.7%	1,650,401	1,409,033	85.4%
Hispano Suroeste	5.4%		325,368	96,088	29.5%	384,550	113,553	29.5%
Indiana South	-0.4%		762,761	675,022	88.5%	901,445	802,459	89.0%
Iowa/Minnesota	1.7%		911,679	887,409	97.3%	1,077,607	1,048,904	97.3%
Kansas	-0.9%		1,012,727	876,677	86.6%	1,197,068	1,036,207	86.6%
Kentucky/Tennessee	-2.1%		374,569	325,962	87.0%	442,683	376,196	85.0%
Mountain Plains	1.5%		1,109,436	864,976	78.0%	1,311,684	1,042,413	79.5%
North Carolina East	2.5%		2,057,589	1,727,748	84.0%	2,432,581	2,050,740	84.3%
North Carolina West	0.9%		2,061,145	2,015,115	97.8%	2,435,975	2,381,729	97.8%
Northeast	-0.1%		2,285,049	2,217,706	97.1%	2,701,511	2,621,247	97.0%
Northwest	0.9%		3,092,718	3,083,434	99.7%	3,657,399	3,650,590	99.8%
Pacific Southwest	-2.2%		1,565,731	1,273,797	81.4%	1,850,971	1,508,021	81.5%
Penn York	1.0%		1,971,139	1,858,309	94.3%	2,330,252	2,196,319	94.3%
Shenandoah	1.3%		1,083,344	1,092,176	100.8%	1,280,686	1,133,038	88.5%
South Carolina	1.8%		860,522	816,669	94.9%	1,017,432	945,661	92.9%
South Coastal	-0.2%		923,717	814,365	88.2%	1,092,570	962,881	88.1%
Tri-State	0.0%		629,154	596,707	94.8%	743,951	705,566	94.8%
Western New York	0.1%		1,286,387	1,238,694	96.3%	1,521,382	1,461,286	96.0%
Totals	1.3%		\$ 38,606,339	\$ 35,426,483	91.8%	\$ 45,644,457	\$ 41,772,473	91.5%

*Reported in Canadian Dollars

2016–2022 Wesleyan Pension Fund Report

Craig A. Dunn, CEO

It is a pleasure to bring my fifth report as CEO of the Wesleyan Pension Fund (WPF) to the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church. My role as CEO officially began a little over eighteen years ago, on January 1, 2004.

The Wesleyan Pension Fund has two primary benefit plans in place. I will give an update on both the Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution plans in this report.

DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN (DB)

The DB is the old plan that was frozen in 1998. There are two separate DB plans: one for the U.S. and one for Canada. These are the plans that are paying retirement benefits to those that are currently on retirement in The Wesleyan Church. The DB plan has 329 people in the U.S. and 88 Canadians receiving benefits. There are also some individuals who have not yet retired that have DB accounts. They are scheduled to receive benefits in the future.

Due to certain poor investments in real estate in the 1980's and early 1990's, and due to the falling equities markets in 2000–2003 and again in 2008, the DB has experienced some severe investment losses. The DB has not met the actuarial investment assumptions for many years and was devastated by the decline in the equities markets in 2008. As a result, the actuarial report completed for January 1, 2022, shows the U.S. DB plan to be underfunded by \$9.8 million, and the Canadian DB plan to be underfunded by \$64 thousand as of the March 31, 2021, actuarial report. This is an improvement from 2016, when the U.S. plan was underfunded by \$11.5 million and the Canadian plan was underfunded by \$3 million.

We have begun the process of “winding up” the Canadian DB plan. This means we will be buying retirement annuities for each of the members on the Canadian DB plan and transferring responsibility for the ongoing payments to a respected and financially stable Canadian insurance company. This move is necessary because of the increasing difficulty of the U.S. based office of Wesleyan Pension Fund to handle pension matters across the border in Canada.

As of early 2022, we are a total of \$9.9 million short of the funds we need to meet our obligations going forward. We are doing everything we can to be sure those who are receiving a monthly retirement benefit will continue to receive it in the future. We are making good progress by working carefully on this plan and are praying God will bless our efforts.

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (DC)

The DC has seen steady growth in membership and assets during the past four years. There were 4,375 members at the end of 2021, compared to 3,721 members at the end of 2015. Total assets for Wesleyan Pension Fund at the end of 2021 stood at \$330 million compared to \$183 million at the end of 2015.

For members who would like to have assistance with their investment choices, we have arranged target retirement date portfolios for them. The portfolios are set up to automatically move from more aggressive investments to more conservative investments as the member approaches retirement age. The portfolio allocations are based on an investment allocation strategy provided to us by our professional investment advisors.

For members who would like to choose their own allocation strategy, we offer a wide variety of mutual fund choices so they can customize their portfolio. The mutual funds we offer are reviewed by our professional investment advisors constantly to ensure they meet the high standards we require of these funds and their managers.

The participants in the DC plan have 24/7 Internet access to their personal account information by way of the www.wesleyanpensionfund.com website. We utilize the Principal Financial Group to provide this information, administration and accounting services for the DC plan. Members can view their accounts, check performance of their investments, modify investment choices and print reports from the privacy of their homes or offices. Hundreds of members have taken advantage of this service to help manage their accounts.

OFFICE INFORMATION ITEMS

Debra Levite, Jim Weinmann and Cindy Linder are serving in the pension office and take care of the day-to-day operations. They are doing a tremendous job of working with our members and giving them the information they need to feel comfortable with their pension choices and their retirement security. Please pray for us as we continue to serve God and The Wesleyan Church through our work at Wesleyan Pension Fund. We seek to honor the Lord with our service to pastors and the lay members of WPF.

2016–2022 Wesleyan Investment Foundation Report **Craig A. Dunn, CEO**

Greetings to the delegates, members, friends and family of The Wesleyan Church. This is my fifth report to the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church as CEO of Wesleyan Investment Foundation (WIF). It has been my privilege and a high honor to serve the Lord and The Wesleyan Church in this capacity since September 1, 2000.

Wesleyan Investment Foundation was started in 1946 to provide financing for construction of churches and parsonages. There has been very little change in WIF purposes in the past 75 years. WIF exists today to provide financing to local churches and church-related entities in order that these churches can get the facilities they need to fulfill their God-given vision for transforming lives and reaching their communities for Christ.

We have savings accounts for individuals and churches to put their funds on deposit with us, and we pay them a good rate of interest on their funds. We also facilitate both traditional and Roth IRA's that allow an individual to invest IRA funds in Kingdom building through WIF. We use most of the funds invested with WIF to loan to churches and church related entities. We are providing a sound place to invest, a good rate of return, and the satisfaction of knowing that funds invested with WIF are being used primarily to fund the facility needs of churches and church related entities and organizations and to help build God's Kingdom through local churches.

WIF celebrated 75 years of service to The Wesleyan Church on November 5, 2021. Almost without exception, WIF has served every unit of The Wesleyan Church in some way during these past 75 years. We are also celebrating 20 years of service to churches of other denominations as well. We now serve the churches of 12 other denominations and have many loans with independent churches or churches with no denominational affiliation.

We currently have loans with over 1,500 churches and have over 12,000 investors. We are thankful to God for giving us the opportunity to partner with so many churches, church related entities, individuals and organizations in their ministries.

WIF has been blessed with good board members, and Godly leadership from capable individuals. Over the past 63 years, only five individuals have served as Chairman of the WIF Board of Directors: Dr. B.H. Phaup, Dr. C. Wesley Lovin, Dr. Donald D. Calhoun, and Mr. John M. Storey. Dr. Craig A. Dunn was elected to succeed Mr. Storey as Chairman of the WIF Board of Directors in 2014. Members of the current Board of Directors and their year of initial service are as follows:

Rev. Don Milstead (1990)
Mr. James Perry (1992)
Rev. Oliver Dongell (1993)
Rev. Ed Rotz (2005)
Mr. Kevin Batman (2007)
Mr. Joe Schmidt (2012)
Dr. Craig A. Dunn (2014)
Dr. Kevin Myers (2016)
Mr. C. Norwood Davis (2018)
Rev. Claudia Dupin (2020)
Rev. Shawn Cossin (2020)

During the last 63 years, four individuals have served as Chief Executive Officer of WIF:

Dr. Virgil A. Mitchell (1959–1963)
Dr. C. Wesley Lovin (1963–1976)
Dr. John A. Dunn (1976–2000)
Dr. Craig A. Dunn (2000–present)

We have much to thank God for. In a challenging global economy, God continues to bless our efforts on His behalf at WIF. I am sure we do not fully realize the impact we are having on the Kingdom, but I am convinced that what we are doing is anointed by the Lord, and God is blessing us and those we partner with.

Wesleyan Investment Foundation is growing. We partnered with the Church of the Nazarene in 2011 by buying the U.S.A. Church Loan Fund and signing an agreement to provide loan services to their churches located in the United States. In 2021, we partnered with Converge and bought the Cornerstone Fund and signed an agreement to provide loans to their churches. WIF now has more loans to Wesleyan, Nazarene and Converge churches than any other lender.

We now have over one billion dollars in assets, over one billion in deposits and over one billion on loan to churches. Our desire to grow bigger and better is fueled by our desire to serve the Lord and God's Kingdom in a bigger and better way in the future.

Our goal is to see souls saved for the Kingdom. The particular tool we use to facilitate this is church loans through local churches. Please pray for us as we continue to represent Christ through the Wesleyan Investment Foundation and as we continue "Serving Higher Interests[®]" through our work with local churches.

2016–2022 Immigrant Connection Report

Zachary Szmara, National Director

God calls His people throughout the Biblical narrative to express tangible love towards the foreign-born (in Hebrew, “ger,” and in Greek, “xenos”). This call is extremely counter-cultural to all societies throughout history. For example, Ancient Near East cultures were told to care for the poor, the widow, and the orphan, but it’s only Yahweh that calls His people to include foreigners. In the New Testament, every list of necessary characteristics for church leaders includes “philoxenos,” which means “love of foreigners.”

Philoxenos is what true Biblical hospitality is about, and it should be a defining mark of church leaders. Why? Almost every society has viewed immigrants as threats or burdens. It is radical when God’s people express tangible love and welcome to immigrants; it creates questions that allow us to share the work of the Gospel in our lives. It allows us to truly be a transforming presence in our community.

We Wesleyans believe in action. The Wesleyan Church’s (TWC’s) historical actions were responses to God’s call of justice and serving the marginalized. We’ve been “ahead of our time” related to many issues—for example, our work against slavery and for women’s rights. We’ve viewed complex issues through the perspective of the actual people impacted, and we’ve stood and journeyed with marginalized groups.

In that context, it made sense that at the 2008 General Conference, over 96 percent of the delegates affirmed The Wesleyan Church’s Position Statement on Immigration. This amazing show of unity affirmed that *immigration is a contemporary issue that beckons Wesleyans to act as agents of Spirit-filled outreach and compassion in North American society.*

In 2013, Immigrant Connection (IC) started to put action to TWC’s Position Statement on Immigration, and we believe that Jesus has raised up IC for such a time as this. Today, more immigrants live in the U.S. than ever before. Foreign-born residents comprised 15.3 percent of the U.S. population in 2020—a total that today surpasses 50.5 million individuals.

One of the greatest felt needs of immigrant communities is access to immigration legal services (legal assistance in navigating the complex immigration system in the U.S.). To this end, **IC exists to ensure greater access to high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services throughout the U.S.** All Immigrant Connection sites are hosted by local churches. Our Department of Justice accredited legal representatives provide high-quality immigration legal services which result in strength and stability of immigrant families. This transformative work impacts individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities.

Even more, this work has impacted us and transformed local congregations. It has been a key instrument in revitalizing churches in decline and a foundational part of multiple church plants. IC's transformative impact has crossed countless spectrums: small and large churches, rural regions and urban areas; monoethnic and multiethnic congregations; developing and established churches.

IC continues to be a multiplication force: we have grown from one site in 2014 to 18 sites currently in operation, and we have an additional nine sites waiting on government approval to open. Our capacity to partner with local churches has increased to being able to serve 12 new local host churches annually.

We praise Jesus that we have become the largest and fastest-growing church-based immigration legal services provider in the U.S. We pray for more Wesleyans to join this amazing movement by (1) *investing in our work* that has now impacted over 14,100 immigrant families from over 130 countries of origin and (2) *partnering with us* in launching new church-based IC sites in under-resourced communities across the country.

Immigrant Connection Accomplishments—2016–2022

Mission: Ensuring greater access to high-quality, low-cost immigration legal services throughout the United States.

- In fall 2020, IC became a subsidiary organization of The Wesleyan Church. Six IC staff members today lead IC site launches and multiply existing local IC site capacity and sustainability.
- Since 2014, the IC legal network has collectively served: over 14,140 individuals and families, filed over 7,251 cases with USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services), helped over 1,421 immigrants take the final step on the long journey and become naturalized U.S. Citizens, reunited over 2,468 families, filed for over 781 DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients, helped over 1,477 immigrants receive work authorization and enter the workforce.
- Over 25 international church leaders have received religious worker visas to serve on local church staffs or plant new congregations throughout the U.S.
- Local IC sites exist in 16 local Wesleyan and two local Nazarene churches. A total of 81 individuals lead and serve throughout our IC Legal Network.
- Local IC sites are going to open in the next one to two years in seven Wesleyan churches, one World Gospel Mission site, one Christian

Missionary Alliance church, one Times12 Church Planting Network church, and one Nazarene church.

- IC has been a part of four church plants and six church revitalization projects.
- IC has been featured in multiple news publications including “The Washington Post” and “Christianity Today;” multiple books including “Welcoming the Stranger,” “Advocating for Justice,” “Seeking Refugee” and “There Goes the Neighborhood;” and in multiple podcasts including “All That to Say.”
- In 2020, Tyson Foods made a \$1 million dollar gift to further IC’s mission of providing access to immigration legal services in under-resourced communities across the U.S.
- In 2022, IC and Tyson Foods partnered to develop a \$750,000 grant program providing direct access to immigration legal services in 28 Tyson plants and a citizenship portal to serve an additional 100 plants. Over 2,000 foreign-born workers are expected to be served through the program in 2022.
- In 2021, IC held its 6th Annual Conference with 75 participants. Wesleyan Investment Foundation provided a \$50,000 grant for the conference.
- IC currently has 32 DOJ accredited immigration legal representatives and can train over 20 new legal reps annually. We can help 10–12 new host churches each year through IC’s Launch Pathway.

2016–2022 Hephzibah62:4 Report **Jodi Lewis, Director**

Every day in every community, children suffer from neglect, abuse and abandonment because their families are in crisis and outside support is severely lacking.

Hephzibah62:4, a subsidiary of The Wesleyan Church, provides coaching, resources and financial support to churches and families throughout the U.S. and Canada so they can engage effectively in transforming the lives of vulnerable children in their communities for generations to come.

HISTORY: Founded in 1900, for over 118 years Hephzibah Ministries, Inc. (HMI) served the needs of vulnerable children through its residential programs for the orphaned, homeless, abused and neglected.

REVISIONING AND TRANSITION: On January 17, 2018, HMI announced a bold ministry redesign. That same month a revisioning team was formed. A prayer-filled and multi-faceted process began of transitioning HMI from a residential model to a decentralized model of ministry, which greatly expands Hephzibah's reach.

HEPHZIBAH62:4 NAME: Our updated name honors the legacy that began with our founder, Bettie Tyler. In those early days God revealed the name "Hephzibah" through Isaiah 62:4, which means, "my delight is in her."

HEPHZIBAH62:4 MISSION: Equipping and mobilizing local Wesleyan churches to transform the lives of vulnerable children

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Wesleyan Centered
- North American in Scope
- Local Church Focused
- Faithful to the Vision and Spirit of Hephzibah

PROPERTY SALE: The sale of the former HMI Zebulon Road property in Macon, GA was finalized on March 14, 2019, to The Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia. We celebrate that the property and its facilities will allow the Rescue Mission capacity to serve up to 200 men, women and children in the name of Christ. This has been described as part of "The Greatest Miracle".

NEW HEPHZIBAH62:4 DIRECTOR AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jodi Lewis began her role as director on March 18, 2019, to complete the transition and build a new foundation for future ministry. Under the leadership of board chair, Dr. Anita Eastlack, the full board first convened for orientation at The Wesleyan Church's World Headquarters in Fishers, IN on June 20, 2019.

NEW FINANCIAL MODEL: With the funds from the sale of the former HMI property released and invested, God is leading Hephzibah62:4 into a bright new future.

Our 100% Pledge: Because all administrative costs are funded by interest earned on investment from the sale of the former Hephzibah property, **every penny** of your gift will be used for grants and resources to equip Wesleyan people and local church ministries committed to transforming the lives of vulnerable children.

PILLARS OF ENGAGEMENT:

- Trauma-Informed Care
- Sanctity of Human Life
- Special Needs Ministry
- Anti-Trafficking
- Family Preservation
- Foster Care
- Adoption

KEY RESOURCES DEVELOPED:

- New website: hephzibah.org
- The Hephzibah Story video, featuring Dr. Larry Freels and Mrs. Shirley Duncan
- Prayer & Mobilization Guide (Disponible en Español)
- 25 Things You Can Do to multiply our mission (Disponible en Español)
- Anti-Trafficking Guide
- Many stories of impact shared

IMPACT: Because of our rich legacy, built through God’s faithfulness, Hephzibah62:4 is experiencing an exciting new season of exponential impact. Since March of 2019, Hephzibah62:4 has:

- Awarded adoption grants to **15 families**, helping **17 children** join their forever families.
- Grown our network of Hephzibah62:4 Partners to **33 churches**, with **31 additional churches** investing financial resources in our shared mission.
- Equipped **13 of those church partners** with several types of ministry grants to help their ministries to vulnerable children become more effective and sustainable.
- Provided over **60 equipping grants** to help qualified individuals gain opportunities that help their ministries thrive. These opportunities are carefully selected to help participants grow through applied biblical principles, current best practices, access to supportive and collaborative communities and excellent shared resources.

2016–2022 Wesleyan Bible Conference Association Report Gary Harris, General Director

The Wesleyan Bible Conference Association (WBCA) desires to personify the doctrine and principles of Christian living transmitted to us as evangelical Christians in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition. The Association shares and supports the doctrinal positions of The Wesleyan Church.

The purpose of WBCA is to share the doctrines and principles of Christian living by:

- 1) operating and promoting an evangelical Christian community (Wesleyan Village);
- 2) conducting religious activities which contribute to the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional and relational wellbeing of its members.

Wesleyan Village is operated as an active adult Christian community that provides an affordable living environment. It is operated in compliance with federal and state statutes for such communities. As a community of Christ followers, Wesleyan Village is well positioned to provide discipleship opportunities that focus on the unique needs of those who wish to continue growing in their relationship with Christ and community throughout their lifetime.

WBCA remains committed to our God given vision of discipling our community for Christ. Forever grateful for the blessings of the past, steadfast in the hope of God's best for the future; we continue to press on toward our goal.

- WBCA employs a community chaplain to coordinate the spiritual life program of Wesleyan Village. The ministry directs all religious programming, chaplaincy services and the benevolence ministry of the community. This new position contributes significantly toward our goal in seeing community members grow in Christ throughout their lifetime.
- Home Sales: There were more than 50 homes sold in Wesleyan Village in 2021 with a combined total value in excess of four million dollars. With 600 members from more than 30 states and three Canadian provinces, Wesleyan Village continues to attract Christ followers seeking a safe, cost-effective, Christian community in which to enjoy a wholly healthy lifestyle.
- Epworth Extension Project: The Board of Directors has authorized the Epworth Extension project which will see 18 new single-family homes developed. These homes will be two and three-bedroom homes in the 1,500 to 2,000 square foot range with room for in ground swimming pools.

- **Audit Report:** The current audit report for WBCA highlights the following:
 - Internal controls for WBCA remain solid.
 - WBCA has no debt.
 - The financial position of WBCA improved significantly over prior years.
 - The asset to liability ratio is significantly above industry standards.
 - Management costs are well within the standards for non-profit organizations.

The bottom line is that WBCA is well managed. We are exercising good stewardship of God's resources.

- **Revised Governing Documents:** The General Board approved the revised governing documents of WBCA on June 4, 2021. These new documents enabled the association to revise the organizational structure to allow for a more efficient management system. A community manager has been hired to focus on the daily management operations of Wesleyan Village.

- **Wesleyan Village** relocated its office operations to an updated complex with increased space and modernized facilities. The old office space has been remodeled to include a contemporary media center, coffee shop and meeting area. Other upgrades include new pickleball courts, an improved fitness center and modernized kitchen equipment to enhance meal service in the Nicholson Center Cafe.

