

Daily Proceedings

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIRST SESSION OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MANSFIELD Mansfield, Texas June 11-14, 2017

FIRST SESSION

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 11, 2017

OPENING WORSHIP

The opening worship service of the one hundred and fifty first session of the Central Texas Conference was held at First Methodist Church of Mansfield, Mansfield, Texas. Worship began with a rousing Processional followed by a welcome from host pastor, Rev. David Alexander of FUMC Mansfield. During the choral anthem, "In Paradisum", the lay and clergy members of the annual conference were honored. The message of remembrance and renewal entitled, "Written in the Book of Life", using the scriptures Philippians 4:2-7 & I Corinthians 15: 1-8; 14-19, was provided by Bishop Mike Lowry, followed by communion and the commissioning of the Project Transformation interns.

BUSINESS SESSION 1

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 12, 2017

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Clergy Executive Session was held in the gym under the leadership of Bishop Mike Lowry. The full report pertaining to ordained and licensed clergy was submitted to the annual conference and appears in this journal in section E, Business of the Annual Conference report in the business questions 17-75.

LAITY SESSION

The session was held in FUMC Mansfield sanctuary under the leadership of Mr. Mike Ford, Conference Lay Leader. Dr. Kevin Watson, annual conference teacher made a presentation.

Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

FELLOWSHIP OF LOCAL PASTORS

The session was held in the Loft under the leadership of Rev. Mike Kerzee.

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Mike Lowry called the Annual Conference to order and asked Darlene Alfred and Jeff Roper to come forward for a Core Team presentation.

CORE TEAM PRESENTATION

Darlene Alfred and Jeff Roper presented a video pertaining to goal setting. They introduced the Core Team's recommendation for the conference goal or Wildly Important Goal (WIG) of moving our conference worship attendance market share from 1.1% to 1.25% and to annually have 3,500 professions of faith by 2026; the need to focus on what is important, in every case there needs to be a specific finish line and remembering to not set too many goals. Most organizations set too many goals and the Core Team decided not to set too many goals. The reality is that our worship attendance is down by 11% and professions of faith are down 20% which is a significant decrease. On the positive side, our giving is up 27% and our population has increased by 23%. You may ask, why set goals at all, if we don't set goals how will we know how well we are doing or not doing? In the business world, it's about numbers, profit and loss, but for us the number is about people, brothers and sisters in Christ. Over the last 10 years what we have been looking at is not in line with our mission. We want everyone to know the love of Jesus that we know. We should be doing all we can to make more disciples so that more people will know and love the God we serve like we do.

WELCOME TO EAST DISTRICT

Dr. Bob Holloway welcomed the attendees and thanked FUMC Mansfield for their hospitality.

WELCOME TO FUMC MANSFIELD

Rev. David Alexander, Senior Pastor of FUMC Mansfield, welcomed the Central Texas Annual Conference to Mansfield and thanked all for coming. He said that we have been anticipating your arrival and have been praying for the work that is to be done here. He wanted everyone to know that they are a blessing to their church and wanted to thank you for the honor of hosting the annual conference a second time. David explained that the painting on the stage would be a gift to the new conference service center and that a second one was being painted and there would be a silent auction and all the proceeds would benefit Project Transformation.

D

Daily Proceedings

Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

David invited Texas Rangers Assistant General Manager, Jeff Floyd to present Bishop Lowry a Rangers shirt. Jeff stated that they specifically picked a red shirt so he wouldn't be confused with the blue of the Chicago Cubs.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

RANDY WILD

Dr. Randy Wild began the organization of the conference by sharing a list of instructions. He stated that the consent agenda items, were located on pages 21 of the preliminary report and explained the rules for removing an item from the consent agenda. Randy stated that 832 people pre-registered on line which was awesome, and said that if you had not yet registered, to please see your district administrator. He also stated that if you have a badge, to please wear it as it denoted who can vote and who cannot. Dr. Wild set the bar of the conference, moved to approve the agenda, tellers, secretaries and page as printed on page 7 of the preliminary report with changes as necessary. Bishop Lowry called for a vote. All motions were passed.

CFA INTRODUCTION TO THE 2018 BUDGET

GARY SULT

Gary Sult directed everyone to the new proposed 2018 budget on page 114 of the preliminary report. The budget will be presented on Wednesday for approval. He also stated that there would be a question and answer period today at 5:15 pm in the sanctuary.

CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GEORGIA ADAMSON

Dr. Georgia Adamson stated that the report from Nominations and Leadership Development is in your bag on the light color grey sheet. She reminded us that every quadrennium we have need for a large group of persons to serve in various positions on task forces and committees. She stated that if there are any corrections, to please bring them to her and she noted that the vote would take place Wednesday.

Bishop Lowry recognized Ed Komandosky, who has served as our parliamentarian for the last 9 years. He then presented Ed with a gift basket on behalf of the cabinet. Ed thanked the Bishop for allowing him to serve. Ed stated that when he first began, he thought he was just filling in for one year. Ed went on to say that the role of the parliamentarian is to help the Bishop keep the meeting running in order, and to not allow the majority to run over the minority. Ed thanked the Bishop for allowing him to serve and said he is looking forward to more free time. Bishop Lowry then said that Ed serves as Sergeant at Arms of the State Senate, he asked Ed, how many years and Ed said about 17. Bishop

Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

Lowry then introduced Karen Marcucci who will serve as our parliamentarian, he explained that Karen has served on the local school board and that she would begin her service in 2018 and he thanked Karen for her willingness to follow Ed.

EPISCOPAL ADDRESS

BISHOP MIKE LOWRY

Bishop Lowry gave the Episcopal address, entitled "A Time For Courage".

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SCOTT YOUNGBLOOD

Scott Youngblood stated that it was a privilege to represent such an outstanding agency, whose primary focus is on clergy and laity. He then referred to a brochure that could be found in every attendee's bag. Scott said that visiting Jerusalem, changed his life and would change their life as well. Scott stated that Bishop Lowry would be leading two more tours one in August of 2019, the Wesley heritage tour and in 2020, the Holy Land tour.

BISHOP'S PREACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

BISHOP MIKE LOWRY

Bishop Lowry stated that there are numerous opportunities for learning, he lifted-up and emphasized the award for excellence in preaching. Bishop stated that this year's recipient is someone who has done an outstanding job and was highly effective and has even been asked to preach in other annual conferences. Bishop announced that Rev. Philip Rhodes from FUMC Hurst was the recipient of the 2017 Bishop's Preaching Excellence Award. Bishop Lowry then presented the award to Philip.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURN FOR LUNCH

Dr. Randy Wild made several announcements and the session closed in prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION 2

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 12, 2017

Bishop Lowry called the afternoon session to order. Don Moore led the conference in singing "Bless the Lord". Rev. Beverly Connelly opened the afternoon session in prayer.

Bishop Lowry Introduced Mike Ford, Lay Leader of the CTC and thanked him.

D

Daily Proceedings

LAY ADDRESS

MIKE FORD

The lay address was given by Mr. Mike Ford, Conference Lay Leader.

MORRIS WALKER AWARD

The Morris Walker award was presented. The award is given to an outstanding lay person who has a heart for all people; offering counsel, witnessing for Christ and to a true servant who thinks “what else needs to be done?” The Morris Walker Award for outstanding lay person was awarded to Ed Komandosky.

CONFERENCE CORE TEAM

DARLENE ALFRED AND JEFF ROPER

Bishop Lowry introduced Darlene and Jeff, who expanded on the work of the Core team from earlier in the morning, explaining and emphasizing the Wildly Important Goal (WIG). Their presentation touched on market share, the mission field, MissionInsite, professions of faith, the necessity of growth. They also recommended the following dates and locations for Annual Conference:

- 2018 Waco Convention Center and Austin Avenue
- 2019 Arlington Convention Center and FUMC-Hurst
- 2020 Whites Chapel

An additional recommendation was for the election of the 2020 CTC General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates be taken at the 2019 Annual Conference. The full report of the Core Team can be found in Section G, in the pages of the Conference report.

Bishop Lowry called for the vote and the full report including all recommendations passed.

CONFERENCE TEACHING SESSION I

DR. KEVIN WATSON

Bishop Lowry introduced Dr. Kevin Watson who gave a presentation on the Methodist Class Meeting. The presentation is presently available on the conference web site.

INTRODUCTION OF MRS. JOLYNN LOWRY

BOB HOLLOWAY

Dr. Bob Holloway introduced Bishop Lowry’s wife, Mrs. Jolynn Lowry to the annual conference. Jolynn shared that for the longest time she thought her name was “and his lovely wife.” She also shared how blessed they are to serve here.

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION
TOM LOCKE

Bishop Lowry introduced Tom Locke of TMF. He shared that TMF is committed to using the abundance God has given us to help congregations build cultures of purpose and generosity that inspire a spirit of abundance. Currently there is over \$60,000,000 in loans to churches.

COKESBURY & UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
STEPHEN DECKER

Stephen presented a report on what the Publishing House and Cokebury have been concentrating on, a special bible for Confirmed, Deep Blue Kids, a quarterly focus on a different national or international mission and a CEB Woman's Bible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURN FOR DAY

Dr. Randy Wild made several announcements and the session closed in prayer by Rev. Armando Alvarado.

BUSINESS SESSION 3
TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 13, 2017

Bishop Lowry called the session to order. Don Moore led the conference in singing "Holy, Holy, Holy" and the morning session was opened in prayer by Rev. Sam Macias.

YOUTH ADDRESS
TAYLOR VAUGHN & HANNA SNELL

Bishop Lowry called on Claire Condrey, CTC Coordinator of Youth Ministries, who introduced Taylor and Hanna. Hanna and Taylor shared the experiences of the CCYM over this past year which included Mid-Winter retreats, CTCYM, and a host of other training opportunities. They challenged the churches to go back and empower their youth, to never give up on them, but to encourage and love them.

CONFERENCE TEACHING SESSION II
DR. KEVIN WATSON

Dr. Kevin Watson followed up on yesterday's presentation on the Methodist Class Meeting. The presentation is presently available on the conference web site.

D

Daily Proceedings

CTC CABINET BOB HOLLOWAY

Bishop Lowry introduced Dr. Bob Holloway who presented the Cabinet report. Bob shared a message that our current state is surrounded by randomness, chaos, whirlwind, and uncertainty in which we can get swallowed up and lose our focus. Our focus must remain on the main thing which we can learn from the example of Jesus who saw it in the dove descending at his baptism, heard it in the voices in the desert, and leaned upon in his most desperate moments. Seek God's counsel and guidance, together as teams and alone as individuals. That is the model Jesus showed us. No matter what happens we can still live faithfully and we can still become transformed and grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

CENTER FOR MISSION SUPPORT DAWNE PHILLIPS

Bishop Lowry introduced Rev. Dawne Phillips, Director of Missions for the CTC. Dawne reported that this past year has been one where we have changed our missional language to strengthen our focus on helping each of our local churches work on and reach the Core Team goals for our conference. Our two strategies have been and will continue to be 1) developing stronger clergy and lay leaders and 2) creating mission opportunities that serve the needs of the world and helps grow stronger disciples. She shared stories from the conference working with churches in children, youth, and adult ministries, in local mission field engagement along with global and international mission ministries. She ended her presentation with a period of celebrating the churches individually who had achieved significant ministry goals; UMM of FUMC-Colleyville were recognized as the 4th place best UMM in the nation; in addition, churches were recognized as Missionary Covenant Relationship Award winners, those who won the prestigious "John Wesley Bobble Head awards" and the Five Star Mission Church recipients. One award that we are very proud of as a conference is for the highest total amount given for missionary support of any conference in the South-Central Jurisdiction. The full report of the center can be found in Section G, in the pages of the CFMS report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURN FOR LUNCH

Dr. Randy Wild made several announcements and the session closed in prayer by Dr. Georgia Adamson.

BUSINESS SESSION 4 TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 13, 2017

Bishop Lowry called the afternoon session to order at 2:15pm. Don Moore led the conference in singing. Rev. Daniel So opened the afternoon session in prayer.

Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

RETIREMENT SERVICE

LOUIS CARR, II

Please refer to the worship guide for details regarding our Retirement Service. You may find a list of the retirees in section E, Business of the Annual Conference questions 53 & 54.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

CHRIS HAYES

Bishop Lowry then introduced Dr. Chris Hayes, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Dr. Hayes shared some of the work of the BOM this past year focused on the DCOM and introduced Rev. Chris Mesa.

Rev. Chris Mesa gave praise for the class of deacons and elders that have been approved and two elders who were transferring. (See BAC...section E for complete list.)

Dr. Hayes invited all to attend ordination tonight.

The following BOM Scholarships were presented:

Kevin Gregory	University of Chicago School of Divinity	Board of Ordained Ministry in honor of retirees.
Nicholas Hamilton	Brite Divinity School	Board of Ordained Ministry in honor of Gil Ferrell and his work with Texas Christian University
LeeAnn Wendell	Asbury Theological Seminary	Guy E. and Ama L. Perdue Fund Scholarship
Marianne Brown	Brite Divinity School	Avinelle McWhirter Ogle Fund Scholarship
Kenneth Jarrell	Iliff School of Theology	Drummond Scholarship Fund, provided by First United Methodist Church Waxahachie
Sarah Boyette	Brite Divinity School	Sowell Scholarship Fund for Women, honoring the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Jesse Sowell
Ja'Cori Smith	Brite Divinity School	Elliott Scholarship in memory of John W. Elliott, Sr.
Johnny Brower	Brite Divinity School	Strayhorn Seminary Scholarship
Debby Creagh	Perkins School of Theology	Karen A. Greenwaldt Scholarship

The full report can be found in Section G, in the pages of the RCFL report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURN FOR DAY

Dr. Wild made several announcements. Bishop Lowry invited everyone to the Ordination Service. The session was closed in prayer by Rev. Wayne Lewis.

D

Daily Proceedings

BUSINESS SESSION 5 WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 14, 2017

Bishop Lowry called the session to order. Don Moore led the conference in singing. Rev. Gabe Dominguez opened the morning session in prayer.

DR. LAMAR SMITH CENTER FOR EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH

GARY LINDLEY

Bishop Lowry introduced Rev. Gary Lindley. Gary stated that the Smith Center has many resources available for use by churches. Those resources can be found on the conference web site, to access them click on the church growth icon. He introduced Jerry Roberson who works with the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI). HCI is one tool available for your congregation. Another is transformational coaching. Others include MissionInsite, Readiness 360, Real Discipleship Survey, Sunday Morning Experience to name a few. There have been two new churches launched this past year, The Oaks in Hudson Oaks and One Fellowship is a vital merger of 2 historic African American churches in Waco. Gary then presented the following awards.

ONE MATTERS DISCIPLESHIP AWARD

Rev. Lindley presented the One Matters Discipleship award of \$1,000 to Wesley Chapel Gholson. They have been reaching their community and beyond and has seen their worship attendance grow by 58%.

HARRY DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD

GARY LINDLEY

Rev. Lindley shared that the Harry Denman Award is one of the most important awards we can give. It is given to the person that exemplifies their commitment to sharing their faith. Gary presented the Harry Denman Laity award to Jennifer Stephens of FUMC-Fort Worth and the Clergy award to Gabe Dominguez of Life Church-Waco.

Gary continued with his Center report by introducing Rev. Mike Ramsdell who will become the new Executive Director of the Smith Center in July. Mike shared a concrete way to grow each church regardless of the size of your church...by starting a new faith community. Beginning January 1, 2018, the Center will offer a one-time \$10,000 grant to churches who apply and are accepted to receive the grant for forming a new faith community. Our conference goal is 100 new faith communities by December 2020. The full report of the center can be found in Section G, in the pages of the SCFE&CG report.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

KEVIN WILSON

Bishop Lowry introduced Rev. Kevin Wilson, President of the Conference Board of Trustees. Kevin shared the good news of continued lowering of the cost of electricity for churches enrolled in our conference electric plan. A second item of information is related to our conference mandate that all churches that have ministry to children, youth and/or vulnerable adults need to be in full compliance. The Trustees and the MInistrySafe Task Force work together to offer their support and help for all churches to make sure they are keeping our children, youth and vulnerable adults safe. A letter was sent to leaders in every church asking for an update of where the church was in the process of full compliance with a request to respond by August 1.

The last item is a report from the Still Water task force. Kevin introduced Mr. Gary Cumbie, chairperson of the task force. Gary gave a brief description of the history, the charge that was given last year to them by the annual conference and the work of the task force this past year. Gary then moved adoption of the recommendations. Bishop Lowry asked for questions. After answering one question and with no further discussion, Bishop Lowry called for a vote. The motion passed. The full report of the task force including the recommendations can be found in Section G, in the pages of the CFMS report.

DR. SIDNEY ROBERTS CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

JEFF ROPER

Bishop Lowry introduced Jeff Roper, Executive Director of the Roberts Center for Leadership. Jeff presented a power point slide presentation outlining market share, and asking churches to consider a question that holds many of them from reaching a new reality, "What ideas are you holding on to that simply aren't true?" He further addressed the WIG, and some of the areas that the Center offers to help churches...lay leadership development, clergy leadership development, seminary recruiting and campus ministry. He also introduced a new potential idea of a conference internship program where these interns would shadow pastors for a period during the summer to learn about ministry. Jeff introduced Joseph Nader who is our Campus Ministry coordinator. Joseph shared the work of 3 campus ministries: UCF Wesley Navarro, Tarleton Wesley and TCU. Joseph then presented the Francis Asbury award to Rev. David McMinn. Larry Duggins and Caitlyn Coleman from Missional Wisdom Foundation shared the story of their participation with the conference on the recent young adults pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland.

MERIT AND GBHEM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Jeff Roper presented the Merit and GBHEM Scholarship awards to: Meghan Webb who attends Oklahoma City University; Karen Garcia who attends Texas

D

Daily Proceedings

Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

Wesleyan University. A GBHEM scholarship was presented to Kaitlyn Franz who attends Garrett.

The full report of the center can be found in Section G, in the pages of the RCFL report.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

TIM BRUSTER & RANDY WILD

Bishop Lowry called on Randy Wild. Randy shared the process, procedures and information about the Constitutional Amendments that come to the annual conference to be voted on. Tim Bruster introduced each of the 5 Constitutional Amendments, answered questions as they came from the conference members and the Bishop called for a vote after each of the presentations. After voting on each amendment in the prescribed manner the tellers collected the ballots.

ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH

Randy Wild made announcements. After prayer, Bishop Lowry adjourned the conference for lunch.

BUSINESS SESSION 6

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 14, 2017

Bishop Lowry called the session to order. Don Moore led the conference in singing. Rev. Patricia Warden opened the afternoon session in prayer.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

RANDY WILD

One resolution was received which because of the vote on the Core Team recommendation earlier in the conference which fulfilled the wish of the resolution, it has been removed from the agenda.

COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD

CASEY ORR

The Bishop introduced Rev. Casey Orr a member of the Bishop's Commission on a Way Forward. The commission was named by the Council of Bishops and set up to lead the denomination on a way forward to deal with the issues surrounding the social and theological discussions that divide us. Casey shared the work of the commission, including a video, "Orientation to Wonder Love and Praise." She also shared that she and Bob Holloway were working on conversation events that will be held in various districts this fall.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS

FRANK BRIGGS

Bishop Lowry invited Rev. Frank Briggs, Chairperson of the Conference Board of Pensions to bring his report. Frank made a presentation on wellness, offering suggestions for us in the Five Dimensions of Well-Being which are emotional, spiritual, social, financial and physical. Each area impacts the other. These areas affect all of us not only individually, but collectively as an annual conference. Healthy vital clergy are better equipped to lead vital congregations. On a practical note our health directly impacts the premiums we pay. He further laid out strategies that each of us can take to be healthier, save money individually, and drive down the rising prices of our premiums. He introduced another new program MDLive telemedicine which Frank has already used and highly recommends. Frank ended by listing our defined contribution amounts for 2018 and noted the increase in the HRA amount for retirees. Frank closed with a call for the vote. Bishop Lowry asked for a vote on the report and it passed. The full report of the Board can be found in Section G, in the pages of the CFMS report.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

GARY SULT

Bishop Lowry called on Gary Sult, President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Gary thanked each of the churches for a great year of faithfulness. He reminded everyone about our \$300,000 pledge to Lydia Patterson and called attention to everyone about a letter from Dr. Scott Youngblood on how to promote the ministry in your local church and the procedure to record their pledge with the conference. He named the nine churches who had already made their pledge. The final item introduced was the 2018 conference budget. There having been no new items presented during the conference, the 2018 budget is the same budget that was presented on Monday. Bishop Lowry called for a vote which passed. The full report of the Council can be found in Section G, in the pages of the CFMS report.

CONSENT AGENDA

RANDY WILD

Dr. Randy Wild presented the Consent agenda as outlined in the Preliminary Report for approval. Bishop Lowry called for a vote which passed.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT

RANDY WILD

Bishop Lowry invited Dr. Randy Wild to bring the report in Dr. Georgia Adamson's absence. Randy noted the changes to the report that had been

Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

presented on Monday and had a correction to the spelling of one name. The report passed.

SETTING OF APPOINTMENTS & SENDING FORTH SERVICE

BISHOP MIKE LOWRY

Bishop Lowry directed everyone to the worship guide. The Bishop confirmed the appointments as printed, he led the clergy of those staying in their place of ministry and their laity in a reading, and then did the same with those who were moving to new appointments. He then led the whole assembly in a covenant of confirmation of the appointments.

RECOGNITION OF FUMC MANSFIELD, DA'S & CONFERENCE STAFF

Bishop Lowry recognized the FUMC Mansfield volunteers and staff, conference staff, district staff, and all those who helped in any way on the organization and workings of the conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Wild

Dr. Randy Wild made closing announcements.

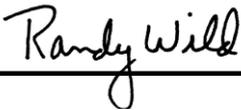
ADJOURNMENT

Bishop Lowry

Bishop J. Michael Lowry adjourned the 2017 Central Texas Conference.



Bishop J. Michael Lowry
President



Dr. Randy Wild
Conference Secretary

