

issue of the persons who would serve as delegates to this 2024 General Conference. As opposed to the issue of persons who have been serving on general boards and agencies since 2016, the persons who were elected to serve as delegates to the 2020 General Conference *have not yet served in that capacity*. In any event, Decisions 1451 and 1472 were modified and clarified by Memorandum 1485 wherein the Judicial Council specifically ruled that this General Conference is the **2024 regular session of General Conference** and also held that the next regular session that following the 2024 regular session will be the 2028 General Conference. In three separate instances, the Judicial Council referenced the **“2024 regular session of General Conference.”**

The General Conference is the entity that has the authority to determine these matters. If the General Conference desires a decision from the Judicial Council then General Conference itself can ask such questions. I believe that we risk undermining the authority and balance of powers when we take actions that essentially pre-empt the authority of another body within our denominational structure, including the full and equal participation of laity (which is wholly absent when the body is composed exclusively of clergy and/or Bishops). I pray that we will endeavor to be more sensitive and aware in circumstances such as these.

Beth Capen April 22, 2024

Errata April 26

Errata in the ADCA

In the ADCA Volume 3, p. 1598, the Rationale for Petition 21073-IC-¶1712 is incorrect. The printed Rationale contains text from a different petition, does not pertain to Heritage Landmarks, and should be disregarded when considering Petition 21073.

P. 1659, petition 20938 is incorrectly listed as coming from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. It is from Ashley Davis, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference.

Errata in the DCA

Volume 5, No. 3, p. 2002. The date of the Rules

Committee Report is incorrectly listed as April 25. The correct date is April 23.

p. 2006. The name of Subcommittee Chair 4 in the Conferences committee is incorrectly listed as Jason Nelson. The correct name is Jan Nelson.

p. 2007. The Vice Chair of the Local Church committee is incorrectly listed as Jennifer Choi. The correct name is Jennifer Cho.

The last name of the Secretary of the Local Church committee is missing. The correct name is Alvin Makunike.

GCORR Equity Monitoring Report No. 4

United Methodists throughout the world are bound together in a connectional covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission. Integrally holding connectional unity and local freedom, we seek to proclaim and embody the gospel in ways responsible to our specific cultural and social

context while maintaining “a vital web of interactive relationships” (*Book of Discipline*, para. 132).

The complexity of and need for this ecclesiological vision for how we are to live in relationship was audibly and visibly on display

during the Thursday morning plenary. Delegates first approved calendar items related to supporting worldwide regionalization. That shifted into the poignant moment of hearing and then approving the request by the Eurasia Conference to become peacefully independent from The United Methodist Church. Immediately thereafter, delegates held discussion on the Constitutional changes required for regionalization; it was also affirmed. Some of the equity questions underlying these decisions are:

Who will benefit from this legislation and in what ways?

Who will gain power (authority, access, increased funding) from this legislation?

Who will lose power (authority, access, decrease funding) from this legislation?

Earlier Thursday morning you saw the results of the nomination and election of officers for the legislative committees:

Asian Female—4 Asian Male—3 Black Female—10 Black Male—14 Hispanic/Latina Female—2 Hispanic/Latino Male—2 Multiracial Female—4 Multiracial Male—1 Pacific Islander Female—1 White Female—17 White Male—11 White Non-binary—1

While the percentages still show a larger number of white United States officers, it also reveals a shift toward the “vital web of interactive relationships” that we affirm in our **Book of Discipline**. In our desire for institutional equity, we asked the following question: During nominations, did the Process, the Space, and Introductions of Committee members enhance or inhibit elections, participation, and/or relationship building? The lens of equity invites us to also consider what impact these elections could have on specific constituencies of a worldwide United

Methodist Church.

Because of the historic racialization of skin color, some categories do not clearly identify the full range of nations represented among elected delegates. The preliminarily reported numbers were not detailed enough to capture 21 central conference delegates, 15 from African conferences and 3 from Philippine conferences, elected as primary officers or as chairs of sub-committees. Only one committee did not elect someone from a central conference. Some themes that emerged from the monitor reports of the process:

- Some monitors were acknowledged and introduced; others acknowledged but not named.
- Introductions of Committee Members to each other were requested proactively by some presiding Bishops; some introductions occurred only after the insistence of a committee member.
- Interpreters seemed to be in place more often, though at least one situation required stopping the process until one arrived.

Finally, persistent concerns around worship are being expressed daily. This is not focused on the gifted artists providing the General Conference with rich centering opportunities. At what has been called a seminal moment in our movement toward a more equitable and vibrant worldwide United Methodist Church, most worship components have been in English delivered by United States participants. How might things be experienced differently if liturgies were on screen in all of the official languages on screen? What if worship leaders, music selections, and artists reflected the global interactive relationships we affirm? Moving into the future, our General Conferences will require consideration of who sits at the table of planning and decision-making.