



Pre-Conference Briefing  
for the  
238<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Peninsula-Delaware  
Annual Conference

MAY 19, 2022

VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR

# Pre-Conference Briefing Agenda

## May 19, 2022

- ▶ Greeting and Prayer – Bishop Easterling
- ▶ Logistics for this session and the Annual Conference
- ▶ Scripture and Theme
- ▶ Annual Conference Schedule
- ▶ Conference Appeals
- ▶ Resolutions
- ▶ Episcopal Nominations
- ▶ Q & A



# Logistics

- ▶ Questions – Q & A feature
- ▶ Registration is open
- ▶ Register – Clergy and Lay Members to Annual Conference
- ▶ In order to vote – must be registered, smart phone, tablet, or computer to sign in
- ▶ Email blasts from the conference office - registration links, zoom webinar links
- ▶ If links not received within a week of the event- contact district office

# 2022 Annual Conference

## Scripture and theme

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NRSV)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Theme: *Persevere in HOPE, FAITH & JOY*

# 238<sup>th</sup> Session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference Schedule

- ▶ Wednesday, June 15

  - 7:00 PM - African- American Summit

- ▶ Thursday, June 16

  - 9:00 AM - Clergy Session

  - 1:00 PM - Laity Session

  - 7:00 PM - Celebration of Ministries

- ▶ Friday, June 17

  - 9:00 AM - Holy Conference

- ▶ Saturday, June 18

  - 10:00 AM - Service of Remembrance

  - 2:00 PM – Ordination and Commissioning Service

# Conference Appeals



- ▶ CENTRAL CONGO PARTNERSHIP
- ▶ BOOM SCHOLARSHIPS
- ▶ AFRICA UNIVERSITY (30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

# RESOLUTION - R1

## Organizational and Procedural Motion

- A. The 2022 Peninsula-Delaware Conference will convene via ZOOM Virtual Webinar. The voting bar of the Conference shall be clergy and lay delegates to the Annual Conference. Voting will be done via ZOOM poll. The roll call shall be taken by all clergy and lay members who log-in to attend the Annual Conference.
- B. During the virtual ZOOM Webinar when a person wants to speak, that person shall “**raise hand**” instead of rise, to be recognized and respectfully address the President. When recognized, the person shall give his or her name, and the name of the charge through which that person holds membership in the Annual Conference.

Awaiting decision on Parliamentarian and Reporter



# RESOLUTIONS

## R1a & R2

R1a: Conference Rules

R2: Consent Calendar – Clergy and Lay Leadership Report, Conference Committees' Reports, Other Affiliated Boards' Reports, Conference Treasurer's Report

# RESOLUTION – R3

Set Minimum Salaries for the Calendar Year -2023

(Presented by the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation)

- ▶ After prayerful consideration and thoughtful examination of the available data, the Commission recommends a 6% increase for next year. This increase is based on the 5.9% cost of living increase recommended by the Social Security Administration for 2022.
- ▶ We therefore ask that our community of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference set minimum salaries at the following amounts for 2023:

Full Elder and Full Member Deacon:	\$43237
Provisional Elder, Provisional Deacon and Associate Member:	\$39930
Full Time Local Pastor:	\$37349
- ▶ We also ask for the following:  
Minimum salaries be increased by \$200 per year of service since last conference membership/ordination status change, up to 20 years of service.

# RESOLUTION – R 4

## Establish a Conference-Level Creation Care/Creation Justice Committee

(Presented by Rev. Beth Heller- Commissioned UMC Earthkeeper)

- ▶ We therefore ask that our community of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference establish a Conference-Level Creation Care/Creation Justice Committee be with the primary purpose of guiding and encouraging congregations and individuals within the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference in the areas of sustainability, environmental justice, clean water, renewable energy, environmental advocacy, and the like; and
- ▶ AND that said Committee will serve as the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference hub for denominational, interfaith, and ecumenical environmental concerns as well as the recipient and distributor of all communications concerning creation care and creation justice; and
- ▶ AND that a line item for said Committee will be incorporated into the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference annual budget; and
- ▶ AND that said committee will be subject to guidelines put forth by the Conference Committee on Lay and Clergy Leadership.

# RESOLUTION - R5

Transparency in Stewardship  
(Submitted by Rev. Amy Yarnall & Co.)

Therefore, be it resolved, that a summary report, produced by the Conference office, be created and distributed to the members of the Annual Conference as part of the pre-Conference materials. Summary to include:

1. Properties owned by the Annual Conference with approximate value
2. Properties sold and revenue generated - to include sales of closed church buildings, and other Conference property
3. Decisions of the District Church Building and Location Committees
4. Congregational Development Grants- amounts, purpose, recipients, and number of years recipient congregations have received funds
5. Other grants given by Annual Conference and District Committees- amounts, purpose, and recipients
6. Scholarships awarded

# RESOLUTION - R5

Transparency in Stewardship  
(Submitted by Rev. Amy Yarnall & Co.)  
(continued)

7. Any monies paid in legal settlement by the Annual Conference
8. Compensation of Clergy in Extension Ministry and Salaried Conference Leadership
9. Balances in our reserve accounts
10. Pension liabilities
11. Full balance sheet
12. Designated fund balances with descriptions of restrictions
13. Total funds received from disaffiliating churches- church name, balances due, and balances paid

# RESOLUTION – R6

## 2023 COVENANT FUNDING PLAN

(Presented by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

- ▶ The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference adopt the 2023 Covenant Funding Plan as proposed (*see Addendum A for summary of the plan*) including an apportionment total of \$4,878,995 to support our ministry needs for 2023.
- ▶ The apportionment formula for 2023 be based on the three-year average of 2018, 2019 & 2020 Net Operating Expenses and an apportionment cap of 16% of 2020 Total Operating Expenses.

# RESOLUTION – R7

## Pension Housing

(Presented by Conference Board of Pensions)

The Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Conference;

1. An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received during the year 2023 be and is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference at the time of his or her retirement:

# RESOLUTION – R7

## Pension Housing

(Presented by Conference Board of Pensions)

(continued)

- ▶ 2. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or placed on disability leave by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and in other appropriate records maintained by the conference.
  
- ▶ 3. The pension payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by the local church, Annual Conference or institution of The United Methodist Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired minister's pension.





# RESOLUTION – R8

## SETTING THE PRE-1982 PAST SERVICE RATE

(Presented by Conference Board of Pensions)

- ▶ The Past Service Rate relating to the Pre-1982 Pension Plan for 2023 be set at \$713 per year of approved service.
- ▶ We therefore ask that our community of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference adopt this resolution to be effective January 1, 2023.

# RESOLUTION – R9

## Modify Benefits Eligibility Policy

(Presented by Conference Board of Pensions)

- ▶ Recommends the following language be added to paragraph C. Retired Clergy

Guaranteed Eligibility: Every retired clergy-person and spouse (married to the clergy person at the time of retirement) ***and every retired annual conference lay employee and spouse (married to the lay-person at the time of retirement)***, who has served the required number of years detailed below, in the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference (in its predecessors or successors) and receives a United Methodist Church pension benefit, shall have guaranteed eligibility and the right to HRA benefits with the utilization of ‘Westpath Via Benefits Insurance Services,’ or any future Westpath services, regardless of their Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference membership. This eligibility shall include all current and future retirees. Eligibility is defined as, ‘having the right to do or obtain something.’

# RESOLUTION – R9

## Modify Benefits Eligibility Policy

(Presented by Conference Board of Pensions)

(continued)

This guarantee of eligibility shall continue regardless of changes that the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference may take concerning its name or corporate structure, any changes to retiree health benefits or any changes Westpath may make to their Via Benefits services or subsequent services. The HRA benefits and utilization of 'Westpath Via Benefits Insurance Services' may only be denied if the clergy-person (and/or spouse) refuses to utilize coverage through 'Westpath's Via Benefits Insurance Services' or any subsequent retiree benefit policies approved by the Annual Conference or offered through Westpath. Before any retiree or spouse are denied benefits, every effort shall be made to contact the person(s) involved.

- ▶ Ask that our community of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference adopt this resolution to be effective July 1, 2023. A copy of the Clergy/Lay Employee Insurance Program Policy on Benefits Eligibility, with modification added at line 33, is found in Addendum A attached

# Episcopal Nominations

- ▶ Waiting for the Judicial Council to make a ruling regarding Jurisdictional Conferences.
- ▶ Pending the ruling there may or may not be Jurisdictional Conferences.
- ▶ However, we want to review the Episcopacy Nominations process for Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference.

# Annual Conference Endorsement of Nominee(s) for the Episcopal Office

Rule 31: The following Process will be used for determining an Annual Conference endorsement of nominee(s) for Episcopal Office:

The General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation shall have the privilege of placing nominees before the annual conference. In the case where the Delegation recommends a nominee(s) the Annual Conference shall move to a ballot where the nominee(s) shall be assigned a balloting number.

Others shall be considered nominees who receive write-in votes on the first ballot and will be assigned balloting numbers on the next ballot. No other formal nominations shall be in order. The members of the annual conference shall have the right to vote in favor of one of these or to vote a blank ballot.

# Annual Conference Endorsement of Nominee(s) for the Episcopal Office

(Rule 31 continued)

When a person is named on not less than two thirds of the valid ballots cast, that person shall be considered to be an Episcopal nominee of the annual conference. Ballots will continue until at least two ballots have been taken, and there is a motion to discontinue balloting, or the third ballot has been taken, and there has been no nomination.

If no person has been named on two thirds of the ballots cast on any of the first three ballots taken, then no person shall be considered to have been nominated by the Annual conference.

# Annual Conference Endorsement of Nominee(s) for the Episcopal Office

(Rule 31 continued)

In the case where the Delegation's report does not bring forth a recommendation for a nominee for Episcopal endorsement by the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall move to a ballot where the Annual Conference will vote yes or no to accept the Delegations report. If two thirds of the valid ballots cast, uphold the Delegation's report that will end the balloting and the election process for nominees for Episcopal Endorsement, including motions for nominations from the floor of the Annual Conference.

If the Delegation's report does not receive two thirds support of the valid ballots cast, then the Annual Conference will move to the second ballot, which will be a write in ballot. Those persons who receive votes on this second ballot will be assigned balloting numbers for the third and final ballot. No other formal nominations shall be in order. The members of the annual conference shall have the right to vote in favor of one of these or to vote a blank ballot.

# Annual Conference Endorsement of Nominee(s) for the Episcopal Office

(Rule 31 continued)

When a person is named on not less than two thirds of the valid ballots cast, that person shall be considered to be an Episcopal nominee of the annual conference. If no person has been named on two thirds of the ballots cast on any of the ballots taken, then no person shall be considered to have been nominated by the Annual conference.

Only the person(s) selected in the foregoing manner shall be deemed the nominee(s) of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, but this procedure shall not prevent the possibility of a member of the conference becoming a candidate for the episcopacy otherwise.





THANK YOU!!!

Q & A