

BISHOP ODEN: A question. What is the question, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Bishop..

BISHOP ODEN: Are you calling the question? I didn't understand. Are you calling the question? You were not recognized. I heard a general voice. I see a, someone waving a placard. Mic 2.

NICHOLAS MCGEEHON (Illinois Great Rivers): Nick McGeehon, Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. Young person. I call the question on all that is before us.

BISHOP ODEN: OK. Question has been called. It is in order. The vote must be by two-thirds, and it's a question to vote. It's calling the question to vote. If you favor voting on this report, Calendar Item 1487, please vote now.

BISHOP ODEN: You voted. It is by two-thirds. [*Yes, 801; No, 95; Abstain, 4*]

The question has been called; we're ready to vote. And now we're ready to hear from the minority report chair.

Closing Remarks

JOHN SCHOL (Eastern Pennsylvania): Thank you, bishop. You've heard many good arguments why you should adopt the minority report. I encourage you to hear those. There's one more I'd like to add. In Paragraph 2702.3, these same charges are listed for laity. If you adopt this report, if you do not adopt this report, we have now defined morality. And those—that charge of morality will also apply to all the laity, which will mean that we will need to charge all laity who commit adultery and all gay and lesbian persons in our congregations. We would need to charge them with chargeable offenses.

The language is not necessary. The Judicial Council has already ruled and told us that. There are paragraphs in other places in the *Discipline* that particularly pertain to clergy and behavior. When we move this to a chargeable offense, and particularly in this area of morality, it will apply to clergy and laity because 207, or 2702.3 also includes the laity. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: Alright. Now the bishop, committee chair, will get the final word.

GRAY: Thank you, Bishop, members of the conference. I believe I've mentioned twice to the body now that the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee had a wonderful experience in holy conferencing. And as a committee chair, I had the wonderful opportunity to hear various sub-committees as they debated various issues. and what I learned from the subcommittee about this particular proposal is the feeling that the language of the majority speaks to needs of our church at this time, and I would urge you to support the majority opinion.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. We now must move immediately to the voting. The floor is closed to any further action. We will vote on the minority report, and if it prevails it becomes the majority; if not, then we will move immediately to the majority report. We are now ready to vote on Calendar Item 1487, the minority report. If you favor it, vote "yes," if not, vote "no." Please vote now. [*Yes, 427; No, 484; Abstain, 2*]

You have not sustained the minority report, which brings us immediately to the majority report, which is the motion before us at this time. We're now ready to vote. If you favor the majority report, please vote now. [*Yes, 456; No, 445; Abstain, 3*]

You have favored the majority report by a vote of 456 to 445, with 3 abstentions. That concludes the business of the evening. You have "hung in." You have worked hard. There is—the floor is not open except for announcements or questions. Far back.

MARY BROOKE CASAD (North Texas): about a point of personal privilege.

BISHOP ODEN: Point of personal privilege, yes. Yes, ma'am.

CASAD: Mary Brooke Casad, lay delegate, North Texas. The North Texas delegation would like to express our appreciation to both Bishop Oden....

BISHOP ODEN: No, I'm sorry that's not in order. We're not allowing those kinds of comments, but I sure do appreciate your trying. We're now going to move to the calendar. Are we ready for the calendar report? Do we need that? Presiding officer report next.

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Bishop and members of the General Conference, tomorrow morning's plenary session will be presided over by Bishop Joe Pennel from the Richmond Area and then in the afternoon from the West Virginia Area, Bishop Clifton Ives, and then for the evening session, from the Charlotte Area, Bishop Charlene Kammerer.

(applause)

BISHOP ODEN: Alright, now the calendar.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Bishop Oden, we have a full day planned for tomorrow. We will start off with our usual music and worship, plenary call, and we will have the University Senate elections, election of the General Conference commission, election of the secretary of the General Conference. Then we'll go ahead and take other business that we hope to get into the Igniting Ministry report. In the afternoon, if we get through that, we hope to get into "Living Into the Future." Come back and we're going to be busy.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, Mary Alice. Are there any announcements?

CAROLYN M. MARSHALL: There are a couple of announcements. One has to do with an individual who lost a black purse during the break time. If someone happens to have found it, just bring it up here to the stage and we'll see that it is returned to the person who lost it.

And then these are two who—which are brought to you as a matter of information and one for our concern and prayers. The first one is that Jane Towns, mother of Mary Lynn Holley, director of InfoServ, The United Methodist Church's telephone information service, died unexpectedly May 4,

in Union City, Tennessee. Mrs. Towns, ninety-five, taught Sunday School in her local United Methodist congregation for more than 40 years. Mary Lynn has been maintaining the General Conference InfoServe desk for United Methodist Communications since the conference's opening session on April 27, and she has now left to be with her family during this difficult time.

The second one is that Dr. Letshu, the delegate from Central Congo Annual Conference, just lost his newborn son in the Congo. The baby was born on Friday, April 30, and died on Saturday, May 1. This is a concern and a request for prayer for our brother who is grieving among us.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, Carolyn, we will certainly honor that. I do want to thank Bishops Solomon and Wilson for their help, though they were not always of one accord. And I also want to thank the house for the hard work that you have done tonight. And now I would like to call on Bishop Judy Craig to dismiss us. Let us stand, together.

(prayer)

Wednesday Morning, May 6, 2004

BISHOP JOSEPH E. PENNEL JR. (Richmond Area): The Lord be with you. The Lord be with you. You know worship does not begin when it begins. It begins days and weeks and months ago in the heart and mind and spirit of people who begin to think about it, and plan it and put it together. And after weeks and months of meditating and praying and thinking and piecing together, finally it comes together and we are blessed by it. We are so very grateful for those who have given themselves to shaping worship for this General Conference.

(applause)

BISHOP PENNEL: We also want to thank Bishop Shamana for the sermon this morning.

(applause)

BISHOP PENNEL: Some of our people don't believe it, but the spoken word still has great power. I knew that I was hearing a good sermon when I started being convicted by it this morning. Thank you so much, Bishop Shamana, for preaching the Word for us in such a grace-filled and helpful way.

Now we turn to the agenda for the morning, and the chair recognizes the Committee on Calendar and Agenda.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Good morning, Bishop Pennel, Council of Bishops, and delegates. This morning our business will include the University Senate elections and some other matters centered around elections. Then we will move into the Judicial Administration pieces that we were unable to conclude last night. And following that, all of the petitions that come to us from each of the legislative committees will be dealt with concerning the financial implications—as you so indicated that you would like to have happen—so that they may get to GCF&A for their report tomorrow.

So, we have a full agenda. It will include Igniting Ministries and we hope, "Living Into the Future." We pray that you will make appropriate comments, but no unnecessary ones. The table has been moved so we don't have to revisit that.

The Agenda and Calendar Committee has also received the following item, which will be referred to the 2008 Commission on General Conference. It reads this, like this, "I move that the Commission on General Conference recruits, select, and assign qualified parliamentarians to every legislative committee of General Conference. Parliamentarians will assist legislative leadership teams by being available for consultation concerning the application of General Conference rules of order." And so we have referred this to the Commission on General Conference for 2008. I now call on Gere Reist to bring us our calendar for, calendar items for today.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: Good

morning. I am Fitzgerald Reist, Coordinator of the Calendar, and again I turn to John Brawn to bring us an update on where we are in our process.

JOHN BRAWN: Good morning. I am John Brawn, the Legislative Coordinator for the Secretary of the General Conference. Have you ever noticed how your friends who are deeply interested in sports always seem happiest when our keen statistics prove that some obscure record has been broken? My family and I lived in the UK for a year recently, and let me tell you, baseball fans and American football fans have nothing on cricket fans when it comes to statistics, trivia, and especially breaking records. Perhaps there might be cricket fans among the delegates this morning who will appreciate these records. Today we broke a twenty-year record by calendaring and printing all of our petitions on Wednesday.

(applause)

We did make our goal. Remember, there are winning records and there are losing records. As of today, delegates have already removed more items from the Consent Calendar than in any previous General Conference for which detailed records exist.

Here's another. This morning I presented the legislative committee chairs with a record 272 calendar items which are not on the Consent Calendar, and are ready to be presented to this body. Are you ready for 272 calendar items? Here you see how much work there is left to do from each legislative committee.

We have accomplished 63 percent, so we have 37 percent of all of our work yet to go. Many times in life I've heard people suggest to me that my time on earth is precious, and I should live each day as though it were my last. I suppose that many people would do a better job of caring for those things that are most important if they understood how precious their remaining time just might be. Sometimes I think that it would be a gift to know exactly when my time will expire. Well, let me give you a gift. As the 2004 General

Conference, your time will expire Friday. We have completed the legislative committee work. Most of my work is complete. This is my last presentation to you. It's been a pleasure to serve you. Thank you.

(*applause*)

REIST: I am Fitzgerald Reist, Coordinator of the Calendar, and I ask that you turn to p. 1912 in today's *DCA* simply to call your attention to an item that will be presented for your vote tomorrow. That's on p. 1912, a recommendation that will be brought to the floor for vote tomorrow. If you would turn in your *DCA* to p. 1812, p. 1812; Calendar A05, Calendar A05. On p. 1815 of that calendar, the following items are removed: Calendar Item 1151, Calendar Item 1151; and Calendar Item 1152, Calendar Item 1152; are removed from Calendar A05.

MASSEY: Bishop, I move the approval of Calendar A05.

BISHOP PENNEL: The motion is before you. I think you are ready to vote. If you move approval, would you vote now? Thank you. Thank you. [*Yes, 882; No, 33; Abstain, 7*]

REIST: Calendar, Consent Calendar B05 appears on p. 1819, p. 1819; Consent Calendar B05. The following removed items appear on p. 1931 of today's *DCA*: Calendar Item 1202, is removed from p. 1820; Calendar Item 1210, 1210, is removed from p. 1822; Calendar Item 1230, 1230, is removed from p. 1826.

MASSEY: With these exceptions, I move the approval of Calendar B05.

BISHOP PENNEL: The motion is before you. I think you're ready to vote. If you would approve the motion, would you vote now? Would you vote yes? Please vote now. You have approved the motion, Thank you very much. [*Yes, 835; No, 26; Abstain 5*]

REIST: Consent Calendar C05 appears on p. 1828, p. 1828. There are numerous removals from this calendar, many of them due to the rules of our conference of items that were improv-

erly placed on the calendar. I'm going to give you the page number and then the calendar item number and try to move through these as quickly as we can:

- Page 1828: Calendar Item 445, Calendar Item 445.
- The following items on p. 1831, p. 1831: Calendar Item 1249, 1249; Calendar Item 1253, Calendar Item 1253; Calendar Item 1261, Calendar Item 1261.

- On the next page, p. 1832: Calendar Item 1262, Calendar Item 1262; Calendar Item 1263; Calendar Item 1264, Calendar Item 1264; Calendar Item 1265.

I'm going to do this once because these are all in sequence and I think you can follow them, I'll just pause between: Calendar Item 1266, Calendar Item 1267, Calendar Item 1268, Calendar Item 1269, Calendar Item 1270, Calendar Item 1271, Calendar Item 1272, Calendar Item 1273, Calendar Item 1274, Calendar Item 1275, Calendar Item 1276, Calendar Item 1277, Calendar Item 1278, Calendar Item 1279, Calendar Item 1280, Calendar Item 1281, Calendar Item 1282.

- Moving to p. 1833: Calendar Item 1283, Calendar Item 1284, Calendar Item 1285, Calendar Item 1286, Calendar Item 1287.
- Then jumping to p. 1834, Calendar Item 1295. Continuing on that page: Calendar Item 1299, Calendar Item 1300, Calendar Item 1301, Calendar Item 1302, Calendar Item 1303—I'm sorry—Calendar Item 1304, Calendar Item 1305, Calendar Item 1306, Calendar Item 1307, Calendar Item 1308, Calendar Item 1309, Calendar Item 1310.
- Moving to p. 1835: Calendar Item 1311, Calendar Item 1312, Calendar Item 1313, Calendar Item 1314, Calendar Item 1315, Calendar Item 1316, Calendar Item 1317, Calendar Item 1318,

Calendar Item 1319, Calendar Item 1320, Calendar Item 1321, Calendar Item 1322, Calendar Item 1326—that moved to Calendar Item 1326.

- Calendar item, the next calendar item appears on p. 1836: Calendar Item 1327, 1330, 1332; Calendar Item 1333; Calendar Item 1334; Calendar Item 1336; Calendar Item 1337; Calendar Item 1338; Calendar Item 1339; Calendar Item 1340; Calendar Item 1341.
- Moving to p. 1836: Calendar Item 1342.
- Moving to p. 1837: Calendar Item 1343, Calendar Item 1344, Calendar Item 1345, Calendar Item 1346, Calendar Item 1347, Calendar Item 1348, Calendar Item 1349. All of those, or many of those, are "Living into the Future" calendar items.

MASSEY: Bishop, I move the approval of Calendar C05.

BISHOP PENNEL: The motion to approve is before you. I think you're ready. Please vote now. Let's give the translators time. [*Yes, 845; No, 43; Abstain, 4*]

BISHOP PENNEL: You have supported the motion. Thank you.

MASSEY: Bishop, I would like to introduce Kristina Gonzalez, a member of the Agenda Committee, who will make an enabling motion.

BISHOP PENNEL: It is in order.

KRISTINA J. GONZALEZ (Pacific Northwest): Bishop, I would move to suspend the rules in order to consider today: Calendar Items 1498, 1499, 1515, 1516, and 1517—all related to the work of the General Administration Legislative Committee, and appear in today's *DCA*.

BISHOP PENNEL: Alright. It is... it is not debatable. It does require a two-thirds vote on the part of the house.

MASSEY: And the second is mine.

BISHOP: And there is a second. Are you ready to vote? If so, please vote now. [*Yes, 770; No, 106; Abstain 14*]

You have supported the motion to suspend the rules. Now the motion's in order.

MASSEY: We have another motion.

GONZALEZ: Bishop, I would move to suspend the rules to consider all the calendar items related to "Living Into the Future."

(continued in May 7 issue)