

5th Rio Texas Annual Conference
June 5-8, 2019
Minutes of the Daily Proceedings
Bishop Robert Schnase, Presiding Bishop

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Opening Service of Word and Table

The Rio Texas Annual Conference gathered in the Selena Auditorium for the opening Service of Word and Table.

Thursday, June 6, 2019

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Call to Order: Bishop Robert Schnase presiding. Music provided by Cedars. Session called to order at 8:05 am.

Opening prayer by Rev. Lori Balensiefen, Boerne: First UMC.

Bishop Robert Schnase welcomed Laity, Youth and Young Adults, Local Pastors, Retired Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses, those on an Elder or Deacon track, Chaplains, Associate Ministers, and those in Extension Ministries, visiting Bishops, first time and frequent attendees to Annual Conference.

Introductions

Bishop Schnase introduced the persons assisting him on the stage:

Ralph Thompson – Conference Lay Leader

Jay Brim – Conference Chancellor

Mickey McCandless – Conference Secretary

Diana Phillips – Director of Connectional Ministries

Dalia Del Pozo Trevino – Executive Assistant to the Bishop

Ruth Lopez – Associate Secretary of Daily Proceedings

Bishop Schnase outlined the processes for conducting the Plenary Sessions of 2019 Rio Texas Conference. They are Rio Texas Standing Rules, Robert's Rules and the 2016 UM Book of Discipline. Annual Conference theme is 'We Make the Path by Walking'.

Bishop Schnase invited Rev. Mickey McCandless, Conference Secretary, to assist in organizing the Conference.

Rev. McCandless made the following motions:

Establishing the Bar, Organization of the Conference and Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to include all tables in the plenary area, the video and communications area, and the stage as the bar of the Conference – unanimous approval by raising of hands.

Electronic voting devices to be distributed in the bar for election of General & Jurisdictional delegates & alternates in the Thursday afternoon plenary. Delegates eligible to vote have red name badges for clergy and blue name badges for laity. Questions may be addressed to your District Superintendent and/or your district secretary in the registration area.

Motion to accept agenda as printed – unanimous approval by raising of hands.

Motion to adopt Information Only reports in Pre-Conference Report to be published in the 2019 Rio Texas Conference Journal – approval by raising of hands.

Addendum to the Pre-Conference Report is on the table. It will be voted on in Friday's session. Consent Agenda II is also on table to be voted on Friday morning. Persons from Conference Board of Trustees and Finance Table are in booths in the ministry display area to address questions involving their Pre-Conference reports.

Motion to approve the following persons to serve as tellers during the plenary session: Christine Bistline, Scott Bradford, J. Paul Bruhn, Kimberly Burke, Adam Knapp, Glenn Luhrs, Everett McCarley, James Noble, Ray Perales, Robert Perales-Head Teller, Wilson Pruitt, Stephen Sanders, James Sweet, Adrienne Zermeno, and Ruth Lopez as the Associate Secretary of Daily Proceedings - approval by raising of hands.

Bishop's Message

Bishop Schnase shared that Rio Texas Conference is comprised of 352 churches; 111,778 members with average weekly worship attendance of 42,000. Its ethnic membership is 81% Anglo, 13% Hispanic, 3.5% African American, and 3% other. The 74 counties served by the conference are comprised of ethnic populations that are 57% Hispanic, 35% Anglo, 4.5% African American, 2% Asian, and 1.5% other. Multicultural Ministry is the future of the Rio Texas Conference.

Bishop Schnase outlined five strategic priorities: 1) strengthening congregations & multiplying faith communities; 2) clergy & lay leadership development; 3) reaching next generations; 4) learning how to serve a unique bilingual multicultural mission field; 5) excelling in mission, service & justice ministries.

Bishop Schnase spoke about 2019 Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis. We serve a divided church in a polarized country in a broken world. There has never been a more important time to figure out what our witness is going to be. Rio Texas Conference shows a remarkable ability to operate with both integrity & understanding among the differences in our conference. Bishop Schnase has been extraordinarily impressed with how people in the conference overwhelmingly engage with one another and account for the differences with grace & understanding. Bishop Schnase encourages & celebrates courageous creative ministry in all its many facets. During this turbulent time, Bishop Schnase asks all persons to continue to be the Rio Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, the community formed by the confluence of many cultures and diverse expressions of mission and ministry, to refrain from deepening divisions, trying to learn from one another & keeping our focus as a conference to help congregations, pastors and laity fulfill their mission and multiply their witness in their communities in our many diverse contexts.

Preliminary Nominations Report

Bishop Schnase recognizes Rev. Diana Phillips. The initial slate from the Nominations Committee is on the tables. These nominations are to fill open slots or begin the transition on some three or four year committee classes. The 2019 slate is open for nominations from the floor by completing a form available on the table in the back of the hall. The deadline is 5:00 pm today, June 6. All of the nominations will be presented for vote on Saturday. Diana Phillips reports the goal of the Nominations Committee is to upload the process for nominations for the next quadrennium to www.riotexas.org in September. Nominations for the next quadrennial committee openings will be accepted on the website through January, 2020. The full slate of nominations will be published in the 2020 Pre-Conference Report.

Bishop Schnase recognized Mr. Oscar Garza, Conference Statistician, at a microphone. His question to Diana Phillips was "Do the numbers comply with Standing Rules?" Her response was that they do comply with Rio Texas Conference Standing Rules.

A Point of Order was requested by: Rev. Abraham Ramirez, Seguin: La Trinidad. Bishop Schnase recognized Rev. Ramirez and heard his request for more microphones closer to the outside seating areas.

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn, La Grange: First UMC was recognized at a microphone by Bishop Schnase. Rev. Bruhn requested for future reference that the conference provide a complete list of those serving on committees and/or hardcopy of Journal to help delegates make informed nominations decisions. Rev. Phillips made note and reminded delegates that the 2018 Journal is available online and computers are available.

Special General Conference 2019 Report

Report given by Ms. Teresa Keese, member of Brady: First UMC; Rev. Laura Merrill, Rio Texas Conference and Mr. Abel Vega, Rio Texas Conference.

Wellness Moment with Leah Holzwarth

Standing Rules Report

Bishop Schnase introduces Mrs. Barbara Mobley, chair of the Standing Rules committee, member of Portland First UMC, to present the report on pages 3-13 of the Pre-Conference Report. Page 11 of the report has the changes

highlighted in yellow. Standing Rules 15 & 16 are updated to allow more flexibility in the titles of the key staff positions and reflect the way the positions are being filled. Motion to accept the Standing Rules as amended. Motion approved.

Bishop Schnase recognized Rev. Michael Mumme, Austin First UMC at a microphone. Rev. Mumme made a motion to Delete Rule 22, Page 12. There was a 2nd from the floor. (The Rule states that anything that comes to the AC body in Plenary must first go through a conference committee.) Rev. Mumme believe this Rule limits the authority of the Annual Conference delegates.

Ms. Barbara Mobley spoke against the motion but will bring issue before Standing Rules for careful consideration at the fall meeting of the committee.

Rev. Jason Fry, Corpus Christi: Grace UMC spoke against motion to delete Rule 22 expressing that it could open problems. Bishop Schnase restated the motion and by show of hand the motion failed.

Motion was made by Mrs. Mobley to adopt Report 2, pages 3 – 13. It was approved by raising of hands.

The first plenary session was adjourned at 10:00 am with closing prayer by Rev. Forrest Deviney, Port Lavaca First UMC.

Clergy & Laity Sessions

The Clergy and Laity sessions met separately at 10:15 am. The actions of the Clergy Session are contained in the Business of the Annual Conference, Section 4 of the 2019 Journal.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Bishop Schnase called the Conference to order at 1:48 pm.

Opening prayer offered by Rev. Janet Larson, El Dorado First UMC.

First Teaching Session: Rev. Tom Berlin, Floris UMC, Herndon, Virginia; author of *Reckless Love*.

Following the teaching session Mr. John Alexander, Crossroads District Co-Lay Leader asked Bishop Schnase for a point of personal privilege to offer a moment of remembrance for retired and active duty military on the 75th year following in invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944. It was granted by Bishop Schnase.

Rev. Abraham Ramirez, Seguin: La Trinidad requested an immediate translation to Spanish specifically during the voting instructions. Rev. John Feagins moved to stage to provide the translation.

Voting Instruction for General Conference Delegates

Bishop Schnase called Rev. Mickey McCandless to explain the electronic voting process to the delegates. Delegate name badges indicate a person's eligibility to vote: red name badges for clergy; blue name badges for laity.

Instructions for use of the electronic voting devices given.

A test vote was coordinated by Trina from Padgett Corporation.

Initial Vote for Clergy & Lay Delegate for General & Jurisdictional Conferences

Ballot 1 Vote Clergy: 3:10 pm (3 minute limit)

Questions were taken from the floor about the voting:

Rev. Carolyn Stapleton, SAnt: St. John's UMC asked for clarification of write-in votes for retired clergy. Can more than one name be written on a paper ballot? The answer was yes.

Mr. Oscar Garza, SAnt: La Trinidad, requested that Bishop Schnase provide clarity as to who was voting on each ballot. Lay persons vote on Lay Balloting and Clergy persons vote on Clergy Balloting.

Rev. David Collett; Poteet UMC requested more write in ballots at the table. The tellers distributed more write-in ballots.

Mr. Ralph Thompson, Conference Lay Leader prayed over the first ballot.

Ballot 1 Vote Clergy Results: 366 ballots cast, 12 invalid ballots, 178 for election; no election

Bishop Schnase recognized Rev. George Lumpkin, Fredericksburg UMC, who made a motion to not announce any clergy candidates with less than 12 votes. 2nd. Motion approved by a show of hands.

Mr. Jeremiah Gutierrez, El Divino Redentor UMC asked for clarification on lay write-in ballot process which was provided.

Rev. Abraham Ramirez; Seguin: La Trinidad reminded delegates that for election a candidate needs 50% plus 1 vote.

Rev. McCandless read the Clergy Write in Ballot results and assigned voting numbers for subsequent votes. Carl Rohlf 5 votes, number 244; Milton Lewis 1 vote, number 245; Sharon Freeto 1 vote, number 246; Nancy Mossman 1 vote, number 247; Suzanne Isaacs 1 vote, number 248.

Ballot 1 Vote Laity: 3:18 pm (3 minute limit); 532 ballots cast, 12 invalid ballots, 261 for election; No election Laity receiving votes on the Write-in Lay Ballots were read and given a voting number: Wanda Fryer 1 vote, number 738; Mary McDonald 1 vote, number 739; Rick Mantooth 8 votes, number 740; Teresa Keese 1 vote, number 741.

Lydia Patterson Ministry & LPI Capital Campaign

Bishop Schnase welcomed Dr. Socorro De Anda, President of Lydia Patterson Institute. Dr. De Anda thanked Rio Texas Conference for their support of Lydia Patterson Institute.

Rev. Laura Merrill reported that as of June 5, 2019, \$355,460 has been raised toward the \$500,000 goal for the LPI Capital Campaign.

Board of Ordained Ministry Report

Bishop Schnase introduced Rev. Adam Knight, Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry & Senior Pastor of SAnt: Coker UMC. Rev. Knight introduced those being presented for election:

Provisional Deacons: Joanne Kretzler, Kelly Duke, Abel Stewart

Provisional Elders: Matthew Cardona, Wesley Craig, Reed McNitzky

Ordained Deacon: John Hinkebein

Ordained Elder: Osvaldo Benitez, Kallie Green, Jorge (JD) Herrera, Hilary Marchbanks, Robert Ortiz, Miguel Padilla, Kevin Portwood

Next Candidacy Summit: May 1-2, 2020

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Ballot 2 Vote Clergy: 3:58 pm (3 minute limit); Rev. Mickey McCandless prays.

Rev. John Elford, Austin: University UMC; Request more time for voting as devices are running slow. Next round of voting will have 4 minutes.

Ballot 2 Vote Clergy: 338 ballots cast, 10 invalid ballots, 165 for election; 1 election – Rev. Laura Merrill

Ballot 2 Vote Laity: 4:06 pm (4 minute limit); 522 ballots cast, 9 invalid ballots, 257 for election; No election

Motion that any lay person receiving less than 12 ballots not be announced. Motion approved.

Hurricane and Flood Relief Ministry Report

Bishop Schnase introduced Ms. Nikki Leaverton, Ms. Vicki McCuiston & Mr. Gene Hileman who shared their reports.

Second Teaching Session: Rev. Tom Berlin

The second plenary session adjourned at 5:34 pm with closing prayer by Rev. Reese Henry, III; Bulverde UMC.

Service of Remembrance

The Rio Texas Annual Conference gathered in Selena Auditorium for the Service of Remembrance.

Friday, June 7, 2019

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Bishop Schnase introduced Rev. Michele Lott, SAnt: Chapel Hill UMC, who gave the opening prayer at 7:56 am.

Third Teaching Session: Rev. Tom Berlin

Following the third teaching session Bishop Schnase invited Rev. McCandless to the podium.

Consent Agenda II & Errata

Motion made by Rev. Mickey McCandless to receive Consent Agenda II as presented – approval by raising of hands.

Pensions and Benefits

Bishop Schnase introduced Mr. Gary Anderson, Chair of Board of Pensions & Health Benefits and member of Austin: Tarrytown UMC who gave the Pensions and Benefits report. He made a motion to accept Reports I & II which was approved by raising of hands.

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Ballot 3 Clergy: 9:10 am (4 minute limit); 334 ballots cast, 6 invalid ballots, 165 for election; 1 election – Rev. James Amerson

Rev. Abraham Ramirez, Seguin: La Trinidad; requested not to be considered during this round.

Rev. James Amerson prays.

Ballot 3 Laity: 9:17 am (4 minute limit); 538 ballots cast, 8 invalid ballots, 266 for election; 1 election – Mr. Jay Brim

Rev. Aaron Gonzalez prays.

Ballot 4 Clergy: 9:24 am (4 minute limit); 335 ballots cast, 9 invalid ballots, 164 for election; No election

Ballot 4 Laity: 9:29 am (4 minute limit); 544 ballots cast, 9 invalid ballots, 268 for election; No election

Bishop Schnase requested a return to a 3 minute limit on voting – approved.

Celebration of Creating/Vitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders

Bishop Schnase introduced Rev. Karen Horan, Director for Congregational Development and New Church Starts. Rev. Horan brought the report.

Wellness Moment by Leah Holzwarth

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Mr. Christian Alejandro prays.

Ballot 5 Clergy: (3 minute limit); 326 ballots cast, 6 invalid ballots, 161 for election; 2 elections – Rev. Raquel Cajiri Feagins, Rev. Taylor Fuerst

Ms. Priscilla Patterson, El Valle District, withdrew nomination for General Conference Ballots.

Ms. Pat Stewart & Ms. Lynda Rife, Capital District, withdrew nomination for General Conference Ballots.

Ballot 5 Laity: 10:09 (3 minute limit); 540 ballots cast, 23 invalid ballots, 259 for election; 1 election – Ms. Rachel Wright

Ballot 6 Clergy: This vote began selection of Jurisdictional Conference delegates. 10:13 am (3 minute limit); 328 ballots cast, 15 invalid ballots, 157 for election; No election

Rev. Wade Powell, SAnt: Christ Fellowship, device slow to send votes. Bishop changed voting time to 4 minutes.

Ballot 6 Laity: 10:20 am (4 minute limit); 537 ballots cast, 5 invalid ballots, 267 needed for election; No election
Ms. Laurie Magee, Port Isabel: First UMC, requested that withdrawn names be announced before the vote.

Retirement Ceremony

The service of clergy retiring in 2019 was celebrated.

The third plenary session adjourned at 12:07 pm with a closing hymn led by Rev. Laura Merrill.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Called to order by Bishop Schnase at 2:00 pm. Opening prayer by Rev. Susan Rang, Weimar: First UMC.

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Ms. Leslee Bowen, SAng: First UMC, Can names with less than 25 votes be taken off the ballot? No, only individuals can remove their own name.

Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, Coastal Bend & El Valle Districts, withdrew name from consideration.

Ballot 7 Clergy: 2:09 pm (4 minute limit); 314 ballots cast, 9 invalid ballots, 153 for election; 2 elections – Rev. Paul Escamilla, Rev. Abigail Parker Herrera

Ballot 7 Laity: 2:15 pm (4 minute limit); 534 ballots cast, 11 invalid ballots, 262 for election; No election

Celebration of Mission, Service and Justice Ministries

Bishop Schnase introduced Mr. Abel Vega and Ms. Sandy Wilder who presented a video & report.

Point of Privilege: Rev. Eric Vogt, SAnt: Travis Park, gave testimony of collaboration in ministry around ministry to migrants in San Antonio.

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Rev. Leslie Tomlinson, Llano: Lutie Watkins UMC, withdrew name from consideration.

Rev. Andy Smith, Hill Country & West Districts, withdrew name from consideration.

Ms. Bethany Duke prayed.

Ballot 8 Clergy: 2:35 pm (4 minute limit); 319 ballots cast, 6 invalid ballots, 157 for election; No election

Ballot 8 Laity: 2:46 (4 minute limit); 536 ballots cast, 7 invalid ballots, 265 for election; 1 election – Mr. Charles McGarity

Youth Ministry Council Video

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Rev. Russell Miller, Boerne: First UMC, withdrew name from consideration for Jurisdictional Conference.

Rev. Abraham Ramirez, Seguin: La Trinidad, withdrew name from consideration for Jurisdictional Conference.

A prayer was given.

Ballot 9 Clergy: 3:03 pm (4 minute limit); 322 ballots cast, 6 invalid ballots, 159 for election; 1 election – Rev. Wilson Pruitt

Ballot 9 Laity: 3:08 pm (4 minute limit); 535 ballots cast, 0 invalid ballots, 268 for election; No election

Project Transformation

Bishop Schnase introduced Ms. Kercida McClain. Ms. McClain gave a report on changing the lives of children through this summer literacy program.

Voting for Lay & Clergy Delegates

Ms. Kaci Boylan prayed.

Rev. Ricky Sanderford, McAllen: First UMC, motion that after the next election, the top 4 become alternates to Jurisdictional Conference. Bishop Schnase sets the motion aside after 2 speeches against the motion by Rev. J. Paul Bruhn & Rev. Carolyn Stapleton.

Rev. John Hargis, Retired Elder, asks for a list of the clergy who have already been elected. Rev. McCandless reads the list.

Point of Order: Rev. Michael Mumme, Austin: First UMC, amendment at 2016 General Conference to Book of Discipline ¶134 that he believed would prohibit the long-standing practice of electing the top 4 vote recipients to serve as Jurisdictional alternates.

Bishop Schnase rules that the motion was out of order because it contradicts the Book of Discipline.

Ballot 10 Clergy: 3:26 pm (2 minute limit); 321 ballots cast, 0 invalid ballots, 161 for election; 1 election – Rev. Amelia Beasley

Ms. Aislinn Deviney, Capital District, withdrew name from consideration for General Conference.

Ms. Cynthia Andrade Johnson, Deaconess, withdrew name from consideration for General Conference.

Ms. Kercida McClain, SAnt: Windcrest, withdrew name from consideration for General Conference.

Ballot 10 Laity: 3:30 pm (2 min limit); 530 ballots cast, 0 invalid ballots, 266 for election; No election

Rev, Karen Horan prayed a blessing over the workshops.

Break for Workshops

The fourth plenary session adjourned at 5:00 pm.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Called to order by Bishop Schnase at 7:00 pm. A prayer is given. Rev. Mickey McCandless states that a prayer will serve for 3 sets of votes.

Rev. Ricky Sanderford, McAllen: First UMC, motion that after the next election, the 4 who receive the highest number of votes become the alternates to Jurisdictional Conference, as stated in the Book of Discipline on ¶134. 2nd. Bishop Schnase asks Mr. Jay Brim, Rio Texas Conference Chancellor to explain. Mr. Brim reads a sentence from ¶134, “The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable.” So it is up to the body to determine how the alternates are elected. Motion Rev. Carolyn Stapleton, SAnt: St. John’s UMC, requested clarification on number of alternates. Traditionally 4 alternates have been elected.

Rev. Russell Miller, Boerne: First UMC, agreed to be considered as an alternate delegate.

Rev. Andy Smith, Hill Country & West Districts, declined consideration as an alternate delegate.

Ms. Marion Bruhn, La Grange First UMC; clarification that we were voting for 4 clergy alternates. Yes.

Motion approved by electronic vote.

Ballot 11 Clergy: 7:19 pm (4 minute limit); 259 ballots cast, 13 invalid ballots, 4 Alternates elected: Rev. Russell Miller, Rev. Liliana Padilla, Rev. Michael Mumme, Rev. Thomas Deviney

Ballot 11 Laity: 7:24 pm (2 minute limit); 481 ballots cast, 0 invalid ballots, 241 for election; 1 election – Ralph Thompson

Mr. Mark Mitchell, Floresville UMC, motion the 4 lay delegates with highest votes be named as alternates after the elections for Jurisdictional Conference are complete. 2nd. Motion approved by raising of hands.

Mr. Jeremiah Gutierrez, McAllen: El Divino Redentor UMC, requested delegates consider representation from former Rio Grande Conference as lay delegate to Jurisdictional Conference.

Ms. Priscilla Patterson, Edinburg: El Buen Pastor, resubmitted her name as a candidate for Jurisdictional delegate.

Ms. Aislinn Deviney and Ms. Kercida McClain are resubmitted for election now also.

Ballot 12 Laity: 7:29 pm (4 minute limit); 494 ballots cast, 7 invalid ballots, 244 for election; No election

Ms. Rebecca Batlan, Capital District, requested clarification on previous motion. According to Book of Discipline, the full 8 delegates need to be elected before the mode of voting for alternates is selected. Bishop Schnase's response – 8 delegates do not need to be elected before choosing mode of vote.

Ballot 13 Laity: 7:49 pm (4 minute limit); 493 ballots cast, 8 invalid ballots, 243 for election; 3 elections – Ms. Carol Loeb, Ms. Cynthia Andrade Johnson, Ms. Kercida McClain

Ms. Sarah Lancaster, Capital District Laity, requested clergy turn off voting devices to help speed the results.

Ms. Iris Chavez prayed.

Rev. Jason Fry, CC: Grace UMC, requested clarification on when the alternates will be chosen. Bishop Schnase stated that there will be 1 additional ballot following the election of the last Jurisdictional delegate.

Ballot 14 Laity: 8:01 pm (2 minute limit); 490 ballots cast, 0 invalid ballots, 246 for election; No election

Ballot 15 Laity: 8:05 pm (2 minute limit); 493 ballots cast, 0 invalid ballots, 247 for election); 1 election – Ms. Iris Chavez

Ballot 16 Laity: 8:09 pm (4 minute limit); 489 ballots cast, 8 invalid ballots, 4 Alternates elected: Ms. Priscilla Patterson, Ms. Aislinn Deviney, Ms. Patricia Stewart, Ms. Abby Gutierrez

The fifth plenary session adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Saturday, June 8, 2019

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Bishop Schnase called the conference to order at 7:55 am. Rev. Richard Leggett prayed.

Teaching Session: Bishop Robert Schnase, "Demystifying the Appointment System"

Wellness Center

Rev. Denise Barker, Magdalena House, announced that at Clergy Convocation there was not an opportunity to announce those persons who received prizes through the Wellness Center. They were Rev. Lonnie Phillips, Rev. Rebekah Rochte, Rev. Susan Rang & Rev. Beth Tatum. There was a Walk for Life Challenge during Annual Conference; the marathon level was reached by Mr. Doug Morton, Rev. Wes Cain and Rev. J. Paul Bruhn.

Wellness Moment with Leah Holzwarth

Celebration of 150 years of the Ministry of Methodist Women

Bishop Schnase introduced Ms. Grace Perez, President of the Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Women. Ms. Perez presented a video detailing the 150 year global story of ministry by Methodist women. Ms. Perez expressed gratitude to Bishop Schnase for all he has done for United Methodist Women and presented him with a special recognition pin. The 150 year anniversary will continue to be celebrated through the year.

Finance Table Report

Ms. Debbie Steinbach, Chair of the Finance Table, directed the conference to page 14 of the Pre-Conference Report. Reports I through IV require conference action. Motion to approve Reports I through IV as presented:

Report I: Gives the authority to the Finance Table to take action between Annual Conferences

Report II: Sets the compensation for District Superintendents

Report III: Sets Minimum Equitable Compensation levels for clergy

Report IV: Approve Proposed Apportionment Budget for 2020
Motion approved by raising of hands.

Board of Trustees Report

Rev. Bill Knobles, Luling: First UMC & President of The United Methodist Rio Texas Conference Board of Trustees presented the report. He announced the establishment of a new non-profit entity for the purpose of acquiring and holding property for future churches in areas of rapid growth; this is not a use of apportioned funds but an investment by those who see a future for The United Methodist Church in carrying forward the great commission. Rev. Bill Knobles announced a strategic partnership that will enable Mount Wesley to fulfill a new vision of ministry even as the legacy of Mount Wesley is honored. Kerrville; First UMC and a consortium of local agencies along with Methodist Healthcare Ministries have formed a new non-profit corporation called Light on the Hill @ Mount Wesley. Rev. Knobles made a motion to approve long-term lease from the conference to Light on the Hill @ Mount Wesley. Motion approved by raising of hands.

Administrative Officer Report

Rev. Kendall Waller, Treasurer and Administrative Officer of Rio Texas, gave his report.

Mr. Jeremiah Gutierrez, El Valle District Lay Leader; requested a change in translation of *female* from “hembra” to “femenino” on Nominations Report.

Nominations Report

Rev. Diana Phillips, Director of Connectional Ministries, announced that 1 write-in nomination was made, nominating Rev. Ellen Ely to replace Rev. Kathryn McNeely on the Board of Trustees.

Rev. Jason Fry spoke in favor of Rev. Ellen Ely.

Ms. Diana Woods corrected the Nominations Report; she is from Hill Country District, not Capital District.

Rev. Bobbi Kaye Jones spoke in favor of Rev. Kathryn McNeely.

Motion to keep Rev. Kathryn McNeely on the Nominations slate; motion approved.

Motion to accept Nominations slate as presented; motion approved.

Lay Leader Celebration

Mr. Ralph Thompson, Conference Lay Leader, presented his report.

Next Annual Conference: June 10-13, 2020 at American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, TX

2021 Annual Conference: June 9-12, 2021 at McAllen Convention Center in McAllen, TX

Episcopacy Committee

Mr. Abel Vega, Co-Chair of Episcopacy Committee, gave a report. Rev. Ricky Sanderford, member of Episcopacy Committee, presented Bishop Schnase with a gift basket. Rev. Lupina Villalpando-Stewart, member of Episcopacy Committee, led a prayer for Bishop and Mrs. Esther Schnase.

Celebration of District Superintendents, Fixing of Appointments & Covenant Prayer

Bishop Schnase calls the District Superintendents and Cabinet to the stage. He gave thanks for them.

Rev. Jim McClain, SAnt: Windcrest UMC, thanked Rev. Will Rice and Mr. Austin Newton for their work to make Annual Conference happen.

Ms. Rachel Wright, member of Austin: Tarrytown UMC, announced that 10 people attended UMC Next. Petitions are available to sign in the lobby.

Bishop Schnase led Call to Worship.

Movement to New Congregation/Pastor

Bishop Schnase asked clergy moving to a new appointment to join their new delegates. New appointments are celebrated. Bishop Schnase led prayer.

The sixth plenary session adjourned at 10:47 am.

All persons moved to Selena Auditorium for Ordination Service.

Bishop Schnase adjourned the 5th Rio Texas Annual Conference at 1:00 pm.