

MINUTES

Twenty-Eighth General Conference International Pentecostal Holiness Church

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Afternoon Business Session

The Wednesday afternoon business meeting of the 28th General Conference reconvened with the praise and worship song, “Open the Eyes of My Heart” (Michael W. Smith), led by Rev. Greg Terry.

Delegates viewed a video presentation focusing on the ministry of the Extension Loan Fund (ELF).

The Chairman called the session to order at 2:05p.m. Chaplain Jamil Khan read the Scriptures, gave a brief testimony and devotion, and led in prayer.

A video highlighting the various ministries and emphases of the Discipleship Ministries Division was shown.

Bishop J. Talmadge Gardner, Corporate Secretary, read the Minutes of the Opening Celebration and the Wednesday morning business session. APPROVED

The Corporate Secretary presented proposed changes to the Constitution, Article IX, B. Church Property and Titles, Item B-9. APPROVED.

The Chairman introduced Rev. Bob Ely, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee and requested that he and his committee come to the platform so that the General Conference can begin consideration of the Bylaws Committee report.

Bylaws committee members include:

- Rev. Bob Ely, Chairman
- Bishop Randell Drake
- Ms. Lauren Pickens
- Rev. Kent Bell
- Bishop Scott Hampton
- Bishop Mike Gray
- Bishop Preston Mathena
- Bishop Abel Palomo
- Mr. David Roberson
- Rev. Rob Clegg
- Rev. Susan Bagley
- Mr. John Hylton
- Rev. Demetrius Miles
- Rev. Hans Hess
- Rev. Michael Ainsworth

The chair informed the delegates that recommended changes to the Bylaws Report would be considered by Section.

Rev. Robert Lopez thanked the Conference for providing General Conference resources in Spanish as requested at the 2013 General Conference.

Article I. Organizational Structure – General Level, Sections A and B were adopted.

Article I. Section D. Council of Bishops, 2, b, was amended to include the following: “In the case of emergencies, or dire need, to make a decision between sessions of the Council of Bishops, the COB will be considered to be in session via electronic means as long as sufficient response to confirm a quorum has been determined.” APPROVED

A motion was made that a new paragraph 3) be added to Article I. D. Council of Bishops, 5, g: “All changes undertaken in this manner shall be reported to the next General Conference.” The proposed amendment was accepted by the Committee.

Article I. Organizational Structure – General Level, Sections C and D were adopted as amended.

A suggestion was made and accepted by common consent to forgo the reading of the repetitive phrase “in session” and the words “ministry/ministries”.

The Committee accepted the proposal to strike the words “in a 12-month period.” from E. Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops, 5, m,1).

Article I. Organizational Structure – General Level, Section E was adopted as amended.

A motion was made to revert back to the original language in Article I. Section F. General Elected Officials, 2, B, 8). APPROVED

Article I. Organizational Structure – General Level, Section F was adopted as amended.

The Committee amended Article I. Section G. Global Ministry Center, 1, c, by striking paragraphs 1), 2), and 3).

The Committee accepted the proposal to add the wording “Evangelism and Discipling New Believers” to the list of spiritual formation expressions in Article I. Section G. Global Ministry Center, 3, b.

The Committee amended Article I. Section G. Global Ministry Center, 5, b, 1), to read: “c) Global Outreach and Leadership Development, and d) Director of Missionary Care”.

Article I. Organizational Structure – General Level, Section G was adopted as amended.

In accordance with the Decorum Committee Report, the Chairman stated that we would proceed to the election of officials.

The Chair invited former General Superintendent James D. Leggett to the platform for a time of prayer as the conference considered the election of leadership for the next quadrennium.

General Superintendent Arthur Douglas Beacham, Jr., was reelected for his second term by acclamation. General Superintendent Beacham expressed his appreciation to the delegates for their continued trust. In his remarks, he paid tribute to his wife, Susan, for her support.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the Executive Director of Evangelism USA. The following names were placed in nomination: Rev. Garry Bryant, Bishop Preston Mathena, Rev. Stacy Hilliard, Rev. W. Terry Fowler, and Bishop Tom L. Murray.

The chairman announced the results of the first ballot:

Bryant 263
Mathena 197
Hilliard 230
Fowler 186
Murray 62

The name Tom L. Murray was dropped and delegates voted on the remaining nominees. The chairman announced the results of the second ballot:

Bryant 324
Hilliard 280
Mathena 178
Fowler 100

The name W. Terry Fowler was dropped and delegates voted on the remaining nominees. The chairman announced the results of the third ballot:

Bryant 381
Hilliard 326
Mathena 164

The name Preston Mathena was dropped and delegates voted on the final ballot. The chairman announced the election of Garry Bryant, as the Executive Director of Evangelism USA. The vote was as follows:

Bryant 457
Hilliard 445

The Chairman invited newly-elected Executive Director, Garry Bryant, to greet the delegates. In his remarks, Bishop Bryant affirmed his commitment to continue the vision and mission of EVUSA in evangelizing America. He also recognized his wife and family and thanked them for their support of his calling and ministry.

The Chairman made a few brief announcements. The Chairman stated that when the business resumes on Thursday morning, the delegates would continue their consideration of Article II. Organizational Structure – Conference on page 147.

The afternoon business session was recessed at 4:51 p.m.