

241st Session of the
Baltimore Washinton Conference

Brooks Church Briefing

Report By:

Alfreda Rice, Lay Leader

June 1, 2025

241st Session of the Baltimore Washinton Conference

May 13th, 14th, 15th 2025

The theme of the Conference was Rejoice in the Lord: Dwell in Joy.

- I. The conference started with registration, checking in and meeting & greeting (vendors & displays).
 - Clergy & Laity Sessions. Dialogue of restructuring the churches in their vicinity called HUBS (64 of them) effective July 1, 2025.
 - Our HUB is called the Two Rivers, consisting of Calvert County North and Calvert County South: We are Calvert County South consisting of: Brooks UMC, Carroll Western, Prince Frederick, Eastern, Lusby, MD, Mt. Olive, Prince Frederick, Olivet, Lusby, MD, St. John, Lusby, St. Paul, Lusby and Trinity, Prince Frederick: The goal is to coordinate as a unit with shared values: “Freedom to try, Partnering with purpose, love in action, strength through connection, unity and diversity.
 - During the session, we met with Pastor Robinson, Pastor Dana Jones, Julia Forte of Mt. Olive, Dean, Mt. Olive, Jeanette of Olivet, Cerrino & Gerri Epps of Olivet, Morris Hawkins of Trinity, Laura of Trinity, and Ron (lay leader) of St. John/Eastern (Lusby charge). The overarching theme is to work together developing strategies of ministry in our community.

Speaker: Rev Kris Sledge: In the Laity Session discussed how forty million have left the church within the past twenty- five years (see dossier in the booklet). The focus

was on Gen Z and the millennial population. These populations were described as curious, diverse, and flexible. Reportedly, ten percent do not trust the church and do not trust Pastors and organized religion. Ninety percent support Race Matters. The Gen Z & Millennials are of the opinion that the church does not share their values. The question posed was: What are we willing to let die for the sake of connecting with new young adults. The core values that matter to young adults are: Belonging, Safety, space for curiosity, relevant discipleship, reclaim spiritual reformation and celebrating diversity. Lastly, ninety percent of young adults feel anxious and stressed because of social media. Therefore, young adults need safe spaces. How do we build trust? Through collaborative hub and ministry.

- 7:00pm Worship service

II. May 14, 2025

- Morning Speaker, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Kolkoi
- Voting and resolution voting (see booklet): The outcome of the vote will not be disclosed until November 2025 because all the regions must vote.
 1. Regionalization: Instead of the Central Conference, revise the worldwide church into equal regional conferences. The church in the U.S. would become a regional conference (retaining jurisdictions). The regional conferences may make rules for themselves that do not bind other regional conferences.
 2. Inclusion in Membership: This amendment would add gender and ability to the list of characteristics that do not prevent people from membership.

3. Racial Justice- revision of the Constitution paragraph 5 to strengthen long term support of social justice.
4. Educational requirements for voting rights. Amending paragraph 35 Article IV (clergy; ordained or licensed having to meet certain specific educational requirements to vote.

Resolutions: Voting by raising your badge to vote.

- Adopting the term: African American Creed to the Methodist Hymnal (proposed wording will be revised)
- Updating and revising the Consent Calendars.
- Equity in Appointments: Clergy Vacation Standards
- Create a Baltimore Washington Conference Parental Leave Policy.
- Encouraging Awareness and Faithful Living in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (Members to study the pros & cons of AI pray and have conversations weighing benefits and harm considering the Gospel of Jesus Christ; how do we live faithful in the era of AI.
- Advocating for Peace with Justice for peace in Sudan (the forgotten WAR). Solution: We Advocate
- Responding to the Dangers of Religious Nationalism. We Educate its' members.
- Conference Wide to Embrace our LGBTQ members. There plan is to (Expose the children through children's ministry, youth ministry and campus ministry).

III. 100% of churches become vital through Ministry.

- Set goals for the coming year.
- Meet for 2.5 hours to discuss strategic planning, church vision and vitality process.
- The connectional ministry extended to one (1 year).
- Be leadership informed which goes beyond the local church.

May 15, 2025

IV. Brooks UMC received an Honorable Mention for Discipleship.

V. Youth: Ignite our Youth.

- Ministry occurred in March of 2025.
- Planning a pool party on June 21, 2025. For more information about Ignite our Youth go to Ignitefor youth.com
- Discussion of Campus Ministries through the Baltimore Washington Conference. Calvert County Maryland was mentioned as the place to go for camp, recreational activities, or retreat.

VI. Dr. Darrell Willams (Funds for clergy)

- Budget: Commission on equitable Compensation (review booklet and handouts).

VII. Ordination.

Alfreda Rice, Lay Leader