Connected in Covenant UNI Connection DAILY

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church

Becoming fully alive in Christ and making a difference in a diverse and ever-changing world

Thursday June 1 2017

BWC proclaims 'We Are One'

By Melissa Lauber

N FOUR LANGUAGES, members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference sang "They'll know we are Christians by our love," as the 233rd session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference opened Wednesday evening.

"We are One: Connected in Covenant" is the theme of this Annual Conference Session, which draws 1,400 United Methodists together for three days of holy conferencing at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington.

Preaching from the conference's theme in Ephesian 4:1-6, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling spoke of the many instances of covenant throughout the Bible, and explained how "in these covenants God calls upon the



"I need you to survive," members of the BWC, including the Rev. Gerry Green, left, and Ella Curry, sing to one another at opening worship Wednesday evening.

faithful to trust and obey, turn away from the former, and to walk with God toward a sacred and bright future.

"Our relationships should reflect this covenantal bond," the bishop preached. "The way we live with one another bears witness."

She acknowledged that living in a way that bears witness to the Word of God is not easy, especially as we live in a divided world, and called upon the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to respond to God's call to live as a covenant community.

"God knows that opportunities are created in community," Bishop Easterling said. "God knows that lives are changed in community."

When United Methodists live in community, they realize that people who disagree with them are not the enemy. Rather, said the bishop, we see the enemies we must face are poverty, addiction, hunger, the persecution of the poor, hate crimes,

Wogaman leaves Order

By Erik Alsgaard

HILIP WOGAMAN, WHO was going to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his Elder's ordination next month, unexpectedly turned in his clergy credentials to Bishop LaTrelle Easterling Wednesday afternoon during the BWC's clergy session.

Wogaman made the gesture during a moment of personal privilege. He said that his "heart breaks" for T.C. Morrow, a lesbian who was not approved for ordination as a Deacon in 2016 and who was not brought forth to the clergy session this year, and for "others like her" with the gifts and graces for ordained ministry "who have been excluded

Board of Pensions Recomendations

- That BWC continue to provide retiree medical to all eligible participants must be on BWC medical plan 5 consecutive years prior to retirement.
- 2. That in accordance with paragraph (e) of Supplement One (Pre-1982), the surviving spouse pension benefit shall continue to be 85% of the participant's formula.
- 3. That the special grant for Madelyn Hoffman be continued.
- 4. Pre-1982 Service Past Service Rate (PSR): That the Annual Conference shall approve the following pre-1982 prior service funding plan in compliance with the Disciplinary requirement listed in ¶1506.8: The Past Service Rate (PSR) for 2017 is confirmed at \$665. The PSR for 2018 will be set at \$692.
- 5. That the Annual Conference shall approve the following funding plans based on the receipt of a favorable opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in compliance with the Disciplinary requirement listed in ¶1506.6.

Funded status and contributions are based on actuarial valuations as of January 1, 2016,

Pre-82 Plan: By General Conference mandate, Pre-82 liabilities are to be fully funded by December 31, 2021. Baltimore-Washington Conference is already fully funded, with its assets with the Pre-82 Plan equal to 155% of its liabilities.

Corridor Funding: Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) and Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities. The funded Ratio for this funding is the same for all Conferences

Plan	Assets	Liabilities	Funded Ratio
CRSP-DB	\$1.530	\$1.422	107.6%
MPP Annuities	\$3.600	\$3.423	105.2%

Post-Retirement Medical: Based on an interim actuarial report received in March 2017, the Post-Retirement Medical plan is reported to have a funding ratio of 92.2%. The ongoing view increases the funding ratio to 122.3%.

The funding plan as of December 31, 2016 is summarized below.

	<u>Current View</u>	Ongoing View
Discount Rate	4.00%	6.50%
Plan Liability	\$34,235,026	\$25,792,955
Plan Funding	\$31,553,020	\$31,553,020
Funded Status	(\$ 2,682,006)	\$ 5,760,065
Funded Ratio	92.2%	122.3%

6. That the following resolution, as required for IRS compliance, shall be approved:

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Baltimore-Washington Conference

The Baltimore-Washington Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the Discipline), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the years **2017-2018** by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

CFA Recommendations and Resolutions

Recommendations from the Council on Finance and Administration

- 1. The proposed budget of \$18,464,136 shall be adopted for 2018, including an apportionment income budget of \$14,260,361. This represents an increase of 0.3% in the apportionment asking compared to the 2017 budget.
- 2. The Benevolence Factor (BF) for 2018 is set at 17.725%, a slight decrease of 0.025% from the 2017 budget. The collection rate assumption for 2018 is set at 92.0%, the same rate as 2017.
- 3. As required by The Book of Discipline, the ratio for World Service and Conference Benevolences shall be set as follows: 33% for World Services and 67% for Conference Benevolences.
- 4. The firm of Ellin & Tucker is approved as independent auditors to audit the Conference Treasurer's financial records for 2017.
- 5. The date for the closing of the 2017 books shall be set at January 9, 2018, with all payments to be received by the Treasurer's office not later than January 9, 2018.
- 6. The Baltimore-Washington Conference grants authority to the Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Bishop and the Cabinet, to act on financial matters between sessions of the Annual Conference.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Ann Laprade, President

Paul J. Eichelberger, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Equitable Compensation Recommendation

Recommendations from the Commission on Equitable Compensation

The Commission on Equitable Compensation is recommending that the minimum salary for 2018 be increased 2%, or \$846.06, which will make the minimum salary \$43,148.82. The Commission is recommending for minimum housing remain unchanged at \$19,866.

Submitted by:

Rev. James Johnson, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

Wogaman: Clergyman protests LGBTQ 'inequality'

From page 1 as a result of bad church law, applied legalistically and hurtfully."

The United Methodist Church prohibits the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals, and has since 1984.

Morrow, who sought ordination again this year, had her status remain as a certified candidate after a May 2017 Judicial Council ruling stated that Boards of Ordained Ministry had to inquire about a candidate's sexual practice as part of their examination. The BWC's BoOM took the recent Judicial Council ruling into account, said the Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, chair, when it reached its decision not to recommend her to the full clergy session.

The 2016 Board, in approving Morrow and bringing her forth to the clergy session, decided that asking about any candidate's sexual practice was not part of their examination.

The Board, Hunt said in a statement after the clergy session, will form a task force to "review our policies and procedures to ensure that we appropriately examine our candidates." In the meantime, he said, the Board will follow the Book of Discipline as per the Judicial Council's ruling in making a "full examination" of people seeking local pastor licenses, commissioning and full membership. "Boards of Ordained Ministry are not at liberty to disregard qualifications for licensed and ordained ministry in its

evaluation and examination process," he said.

Bishop Easterling, who repeatedly asked Wogaman to reconsider his decision, tearfully accepted the credentials after he placed them in a sealed envelope in front of her.

After receiving the credentials, Bishop Easterling called for a moment of prayer. Dozens of clergy came forward and laid hands on Wogaman as the bishop prayed.

Wogaman, 84, who counts in his ministry resume serving as a delegate to four General Conferences, as senior pastor at Foundry UMC, and as Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary, said in a statement after the session that "in the twilight years of my life and ministry, I must join with T.C. and others outside the clergy circle by surrendering my credentials today. I do this with a heavy heart. I've had to ask myself, 'How could I remain inside the association

of clergy when someone like her (Morrow) must remain outside?'"

Wogaman said he began thinking about this course of action after the recent Judicial Council decisions. It was after they were announced, he said, that Morrow was informed by the BoOM that she would not be brought forward this year.

"That really moved me," he said. "I have known her for many years. (Morrow is a member of Foundry UMC.) She is highly qualified."

Wogaman, who did not notify Morrow of his intentions beforehand, said that he did not take this decision lightly.

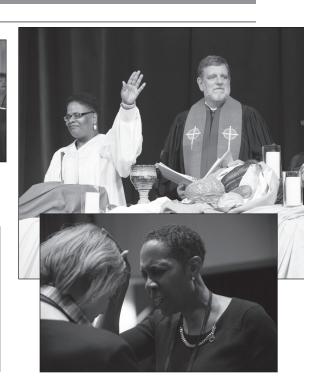
"I really wanted the point to register that this is not just administrative decisionmaking, routinely," he said. "This is very serious; it bears upon the character not just of the conference but the whole church. There's something here that transcends law."

Wogaman stressed in his statement that he hoped others who may be tempted to follow in his footsteps would not do so. "I beg all of you to remain within the circle," he said. "If you think as I do, let me be your representative (outside the circle)."



Clergy pray around Phil Wogaman, center, after he surrendered his credentials during the clergy session Wednesday afternoon.





Resolutions on Church Closures

Resolution to Close the Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church, Baltimore, MD.

Whereas, in the Baltimore Metropolitan District, the congregation of Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church, located at 1029 E Monument Street, Baltimore MD 21202 has served God faithfully through the United Methodist Church for many years, and Whereas, the situation exists where Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized or incorporated and

Whereas, Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church property is no longer used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship for The United Methodist Church, and

Whereas, on October 23, 2016, between sessions of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, with the consent of the presiding Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents and the Baltimore Metropolitan District Board of Church Location and Building, the Conference Trustees declared that exigent circumstances existed that required immediate protection of Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church's property, for the benefit of the denomination, in accordance with paragraph 2549 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016);

Be it resolved, that the Baltimore-Washington Conference does hereby declare Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church closed as of October 23, 2016

Be it further resolved, that the Conference Board of Trustees were authorized to take possession of the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church and to make a determination of how the property may best be used for the Kingdom of God.

Resolution to Close the Overlea United Methodist Church, Baltimore, MD.

Whereas, in the Baltimore Metro District, the congregation of Overlea Avenue United Methodist Church, located at 3902 W Overlea Ave, Baltimore MD 21206 has served God faithfully through the United Methodist Church for many years, and

Whereas, in recent years the congregation has experienced a decline in membership and it is no longer feasible to keep it open and operational as a church and

Whereas, the congregation of Perry Hall United Methodist Church property, located at 9515 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206 has agreed to facilitate a graceful transition for the congregation and ministries of Overlea Avenue United Methodist Church, and Whereas, on September 23, 2016, between sessions of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, the leaders of Overlea Avenue United Methodist Church voted to voluntarily transfer title to all its real and property real and personal, tangible and intangible property to Perry Hall United Methodist Church following the procedures set forth in paragraphs 2540 and 2541 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016);

Be it resolved, that the Baltimore-Washington Conference does hereby declare Overlea United Methodist Church closed as of December 31, 2016, and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Perry Hall United Methodist Church were authorized to take possession of the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of Overlea United Methodist Church and to make a determination of how the property may best be used for the Kingdom of God.



Lyght to preach at Ordination

By Linda Worthington

HE CULMINATION OF years of study, preparation and anticipation arrives tonight as Bishop LaTrelle Easterling ordains Elders and commissions provisional members at 7 p.m.

For the bishop, this will be her first time ordaining and commissioning. She was elected a bishop last July and assigned to the BWC last September.

This year's class of Elders is relatively small – eight men and women – with one, William Thomas, being readmitted to the BWC after being ordained in another denomination.

There are 10 candidates being commissioned tonight. Those being commissioned are beginning a three-year process of supervision, growth and mentoring. Commissioning is the "act of the church that publicly acknowledges God's call and the response, talents, gifts, and training of the candidate," according to the church's Book of Discipline. Commissioning is a time of preparing for ordination, either as a Deacon or an Elder and commissioned ministers "are accountable to the bishop and the clergy session for the conduct of their ministry," the Discipline states.

Those clergy retiring this year outnumber the number of people entering ministry. There are 24 clergy retiring this year, with 18 being ordained or commissioned.



Bishop Easterling rehearses with Kara Scroggins, right, preparing for the ordination service tonight.

FULL MEMBERSHIP ELDER

Myungha Baek Mark Gorman Yu Jung Hwang Selena Johnson Robert Kells Ginger Medley Kara Scroggins William Thomas (readmission)

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Daniel James Breidenbaugh Alison T. DeLeo Walter Daniel Jackson III Heerak Kim Jennifer Lynn Kokoski (Deacon) Tommy Maurice Murray Kathleen O'Hern Heather J. Olson Monica E. Raines Evelyn Rivera



One: Connected in Covenant

From page 1

terrorism, the pillaging of public education and systemic injustice. Standing together, the church can address these enemies, Bishop Easterling said.

"We are the body of Christ together. How we choose to live out our days is our response to this covenant. ... If we allow ourselves to be divided we will lose our moral witness to the world," she said to a standing ovation.

Bishop Easterling was elected to the episcopacy last July and became the leader of the Washington Area eight months ago. "In the time I've been with you," she said, "I have learned a deep truth about you, Baltimore-Washington Conference: you love the Lord, and because of that love, I know you will persevere through differences to continue in covenant.

"Listening to one another is how we bear with one another in love," Bishop Easterling concluded. "As covenantal partners in mission and ministry, we need to rise up, we need to get up, we need to stand up and run down the road of justice together. ... Rise up Baltimore-Washington Conference and show the world, We Are One!"

Those present then broke into spontaneous chants of "We are One."

Following the sermon, members took an offering and collected \$10,051 to assist victims of domestic violence seeking to leave their abusive relationship through the Seeds of Security ministry.

The worship closed with a celebration of Communion and a time of praise.

Following the worship, the conference welcomed Bishop Seung Ho Choi, bishop of the South Conference of The United Methodist Church in South Korea, his wife, the Rev. Se Hee Lee, and others from the South Conference.

The BWC has a covenant partnership with the South Conference. Bishop Choi and his delegation presented gifts to Bishop Easterling.

"Our bonds of unity connect us not just across this Conference or the U.S., but stretch around the world," said Bishop Easterling.

Historic artifacts enrich worship

By John Strawbridge

HE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
UNITED Methodist Historical
Society is pleased to be providing
two important artifacts from
the Museum at Lovely Lane for the 233rd
session of the Annual Conference.

Candidates for Commissioning and for Ordination will be kneeling at a section of railing from the altar of Memorial Church – which once stood adjacent to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Baltimore. Mt. Olivet Cemetery is the resting place of Bishops Asbury, Emory, Waugh and George, and more than 200 preachers including Robert Strawbridge and E. Stanley Jones. It was at this railing that E. Stanley Jones (1884 - 1973) heard the call that would lead him into a life of ministry and mission work. Known as "Reconciler" and "Apostle of Peace" and "Missionary Extraordinary," he played an important role in establishing religious freedom and understanding worldwide. He became a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi and wrote a biography of him which Martin Luther King Jr. said influenced him in the use of non-violent methods in the Civil Rights movement. More than 3.5 million copies of his books have been sold worldwide, and translated

into 30 languages. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his reconciliation work in Asia, Africa and between Japan and the United States. In 1963, Dr. Jones received the Ghandi Peace Award.

At the Memorial Service, the original Cokesbury Bell will be rung as each name is read. This is the bell that once hung in the tower of Cokesbury College in Abingdon, Md. (1787 – 1796), the first Methodist College on the continent. The college was established at the Christmas Conference at the Lovely Lane Meeting House (1784) at which Methodism was organized as a denomination, and was named for Bishops Coke and Asbury. Though the college was destroyed by fire in 1796, today the bell lives on, as do the names Cokesbury and Abingdon (Press).

The Baltimore-Washington Conference is blessed to host many of the Heritage Landmarks and treasures of the founding of our denomination. Your membership in the B-W United Methodist Historical Society will make it possible for this Conference to sustain the work of preserving our unique heritage for the next generation. Please visit www.lovelylanemuseum.com/contact to join, or stop by the UMHS/CAH display table at Annual Conference.

Retirees honored at luncheon



"As you journey into retirement," Bishop LaTrelle Easterling said to the 24 retirees in the class of 2017 at lunch May 31, "may the Lord always rise up to meet you." Bishop Forrest Stith (pictured above, left, with Taeron Flemming) brought the retirees a thoughtful message reflecting on his past 58 years in ministry and giving encouragement for the future. "(Your) parish is not yours but God's," he said. "Thank you for being keepers of the flame that has carried us this far." The retirees were introduced by their superintendents and presented with gifts from the Conference.

Laity explore discipleship and Call to Action

By Sheila George

WC LAY LEADER Dolores Martin promised a "fact-packed, real facts, afternoon" to a packed laity session Wednesday. The three



Jodi Cataldo, of the Board of Discipleship, illustrates how one drop of faith can change the world.

hour gathering provided a celebration and challenge to United Methodists to understand and fulfill their rightful role in "the Ministry of the Laity."

Keynote speaker, Jodi Cataldo, Director, Laity in Leadership at Discipleship Ministries, outlined the roles, requirements and renewal requirements for those called to be Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker and Certified Lay Minister.

Cataldo lifted high a bottle of yellow-colored water, which instantly turned bright green when she added a drop of blue coloring. "Even the smallest drops can transform the whole," she said. "How do we transform our lives to be the drop," she asked.

Cataldo was followed by Christie Latona, BWC regional strategist. Latona, who will serve as Director of Connectional Ministries starting July 1, highlighted that it is a priority for Bishop Easterling to elevate clergy-lay partnerships in discipleship making. One of the key areas will be advancing the NEJ Call to Action for Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

This initiative, Latona said, is calling NEJ conferences to face implicit biases: when someone consciously rejects stereotypes and supports anti-discrimination efforts but also holds negative associations in his/her mind unconsciously. BWC members will be encouraged to take the Implicit Attitude Test "to encourage people to do the deep work," said LaTona. (The test may be taken at www.bwcumc.org/ ministers/ call-to-action-on racial justice.)

Latona then introduced a panel of engaged BWC United Methodist laity, representing a broad spectrum of how laity are involved in making disciples for Jesus Christ.

233RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE • WE ARE ONE: CONNECTED IN COVENANT



CORRECTION: In the exhibitor list in Wednesday's issue, The Order of Deacons were incorrectly identified as Towson United Methodist Church. Also, the website for Wesley Theological Seminary should have been listed as wesleyseminary.edu.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7 - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Exhibit Hall A
	Photos taken by Lifetouch	Virginia A, B, C
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Bible Study	Ballroom
9:30 a.m.	Call to Order	Ballroom
9:35 - noon	Holy Conferencing	Ballroom
12-1:45 p.m.	Lunch	Exhibit Hall A
Noon	Deadline to remove Consent	Calendar items
2-5 p.m.	Holy Conferencing	Ballroom
5-6:45 p.m.	Dinner	Exhibit Hall A
7:00 p.m.	Ordination/Commissioning	Ballroom

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7-8:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Exhibit Hall A
7 a.m2 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open	
7:45 a.m.	Gathering Music	Ballroom
8 a.m2 p.m.	Photos taken by Lifetouch	Virginia A, B, C
8-9 a.m.	Bible Study	Ballroom
9-10 a.m.	Holy Conferencing	Ballroom
10:00 a.m.	Memorial Service	Ballroom
Noon	Lunch	Exhibit Hall A
2 p.m.	Holy Conferencing	Ballroom
5 p.m.	Dinner	Exhibit Hall A
7-9 p.m.	Holy Conferencing / Closing W	orship

*Longer versions of the stories contained in the Daily UMConnections may be found online at bwcumc.org starting June 6.

Trivia: How well do you know D.C. Methodist history?

- Methodism's first bishop, who has a statue commemorating him at 16th and Mt. Pleasant streets, NW, in D.C., said his guiding purpose was "to live to God and to lead others so to do." What was his name, and approximately how many miles did he travel as a circuit riding preacher?
- 2. Methodism's Mother Church of Washington was founded in 1772 in a cooper's shop in Georgetown. One of its benefactors was the prominent Methodist, Henry Foxall, who was a one-time mayor of Georgetown. Foxall owned a foundry that produced 300 guns and 30,000 shots per year. He said, "If I do make guns to destroy men's bodies, I build
- churches to save their souls." What's the name of this soul-saving church?
- A plaque at Foundry UMC commemorates the occasion on Christmas Day in 1941 when Winston Churchill worshipped with President Franklin Roosevelt. What song did Churchill hear for the first time at Foundry?
- 4. What sport found its home in the former Casa del Pueblo UMC in northwest D.C.?
- 5. How many United Methodists serve in the current U.S. Congress?
- 6. The first ordained woman pastor in the Baltimore-Washington Conference was a native of D.C. Who was she?

- 7. The first public school for African-American children in D.C. was started in which Methodist Church?
- 8. The only nongovernmental building on Capitol Hill, how much did the United Methodist Building cost to build in the early 1920s?
- 9. American University in D.C. started as a Methodist-affiliated school. Methodist Bishop John Fletcher Hurst broke ground for the school for public servants in 1886. How many students were a part of the first class?
- 10. How many United Methodist churches are there in the Greater Washington District?

To check your answers, click on 'Documents' in the BWC app!