

2019 Special Session of the General Conference Day 3: Legislative Committee

A contentious start to Day 3 of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference. The day opened with the discussion of petitions for the Traditional Plan. David Livingston of the Great Plains Conference asked to postpone discussion to the end of the day. Livingston talked about how his children frequently don't hear about the love part of Christ, but only the judgement part.

After debate back and forth between delegates, it was decided to continue with discussion first thing. Then Traditional Plan petitions and amendments went to the floor for debate. With few petitions through the delegation voted to approve the Traditional Plan as amended by vote of 461 to 359. Keep in mind it still must go to plenary tomorrow. The balance of the morning was spent on two more petitions 90066 and 90059 both dealing with disaffiliation which were both approved.

The afternoon opened with of discussion of the One Church Plan petitions. After working through a number of close votes for amendments to petitions including one tie vote which resulted in defeat due to majority rule, the One Church Plan was denied with a vote of 436 (53.04%) to 386 (46.96%).

"Today was a very emotional and difficult day for many of us, and I just want to say how proud I am of our delegation and you should be proud of them too. They have worked very hard, they have been faithful and at their table, voting and doing everything that's required of us. And even though we sometimes don't have the same opinion, we have been very supportive of each other. We respect one another's opinions, even though they aren't the same as ours, and we truly do love each other, and we are so grateful for each other and for the opportunity to be here," Lisa Bender, Chair of Delegation, Lay Delegate

Following the vote, the petition for Disaffiliation – Ottjes New Par. 2548 – 90058 was defeated. The next motion on the floor was to reject all remaining petitions. An amendment to that motion was approved to exclude the Simple Plan. Following that approval, the delegation voted to reject all remaining petitions. A request was then moved to refer both remaining plans (the Traditional and the Simple) to Judicial Council for declaratory decision, which means the council would rule on the nature of the constitutionality of the plan. The request was approved with a vote of 437 to 371.

The day ended with a discussion of the Simple Plan. After debate, plan was defeated by a vote of 494 to 323. All plans are able to be brought to the plenary floor on Tuesday if enough delegates file for a Minority Report.

"It was a long day, it was a day that had some hurt and some division, it was very difficult to see the church working through that hurt together. At the same time, we also ended with worship, as we always do, in a note of hope, so we will see what tomorrow brings. As far as the results of today, we have the Traditional Plan that we will be working on and perfecting tomorrow, as well as some additional pieces of legislation that we are going to be looking at," Rev. Beth Jones, Clergy Delegate.