

1 **ACTION REQUEST #17**
2 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
3

4 **TITLE:** Support for the Alaska Conference Living Into a Mission District Status
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Rev. Jim Doepken (OI Clergy serving in Alaska)
6 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev. Carlo Rapanut (Alaska Conference Superintendent)
7 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1660 Patterson St., Anchorage AK 99504
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** carlorapanut@gmail.com
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** (907)854-8340

10 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Recommend for approval 20-0-0.
11

12 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**
13

14 To support this [attached] action of the Alaska United Methodist Conference to live into the new
15 reality of being a Mission District of the PNW Conference immediately and in advance of the
16 necessary actions of the General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences, guided by the values
17 put forth in the document entitled: AUMC Petition: An Invitation to Live Into a Mission District
18 Status (see attached).
19

20 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
21

22 **What will this action accomplish?**

23 If adopted, this action will be an act of solidarity with United Methodist siblings in Alaska who are
24 seeking a decolonized way of entering into a new relationship with the PNW Conference
25 wherein it is the smaller system, and not the larger one, that names the values that will guide
26 the transition.
27

28 **Why is it important?**

29 This action is important because:

- 30 - It supports the Alaska Conference in its desire to be a Mission District of PNW.
- 31 - It supports a decolonized model for structures within our system seeking to enter into
32 new ways of relating to each other.
- 33 - It send a message to the Western Jurisdiction and the whole denomination that the
34 whole GNW supports this move of Alaska. (The PNW Conference is being asked to
35 make a similar action of support by its clergy members serving in Alaska)
36

37 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

38 If this action is passed by the Oregon Idaho Conference in session on June 21, a letter shall be
39 sent by the Annual Conference Secretary to the Alaska Conference Superintendent, informing
40 the latter of such action. This action shall be shared to the Alaska Conference session on June
41 22nd after it considers its own petition.
42

43 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

1 n/a
2

AUMC Petition: An Invitation to Live Into a Mission District Status

WHEREAS The Alaska United Methodist Conference (AUMC) is a missionary conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC), one of three such conferences within the jurisdictions which was created by the General Conference under its authority in ¶1587, and

WHEREAS The history of the AUMC is laced with occurrences of mission work that was carried out without respect and regard for indigenous peoples including but not limited to participation in the Comity Agreement where various denominations divided up the land that they would Christianize, the erasure of Alaska Native language and culture through boarding schools, and the intentional or unintentional support of secular colonization efforts, and

WHEREAS The AUMC's duly elected representatives of the United Methodists in Alaska, in a Special Called Session held on February 22, 2020, approved a petition to the 2020 General Conference to discontinue the AUMC's missionary conference status, and

WHEREAS In the same Special Called Session of the AUMC, the Conference also approved a petition to the 2020 Western Jurisdictional Conference to fulfill its responsibility to adjust conference boundaries within the Western Jurisdiction (¶127.4) in order to provide affiliation and oversight for the ministries of the AUMC, and

WHEREAS The proposed future structural status of the AUMC will be as a Mission District (¶415.4) of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Conference, and

WHEREAS The COVID19 global pandemic has caused the postponement of the 2020 General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences, first until 2021 and now until the fall of 2022, and

WHEREAS The postponements have caused a delay in the change of status that the AUMC is aspiring to, and

WHEREAS The delay has given the AUMC the opportunity to transition to a Mission District over a longer period of time than previously anticipated, and

WHEREAS The COVID19 global pandemic and the resurgence of Systemic Racism and White Supremacy have given the AUMC the necessary context to reimagine what the next expression of Methodism in Alaska would look like, by reviewing its history and examining its current status.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska United Methodist Conference live into the new reality of being a Mission District of the PNW Conference immediately and in advance of the necessary actions of the General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning, process and proposals of living into being a Mission District be informed and guided by the following statement of values:

We acknowledge that the Methodist Church is complicit with and rooted in the colonization of Alaska and recognize that we live in that ongoing legacy. We lament the harm and trauma that our faith community causes. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Movement, summarized God's directives with three Rules: do no harm, do good, and attend to the ordinances of God. We also celebrate the grace, the love, and the good that our church does that calls us to re-imagine mission through intentional discipleship with one another.

We will live into the transition to a Mission District committed to:

- 1) The love of God, neighbor, and self demonstrated by the deliberate embracing and valuing of differences, the leveling of imbalances between people and systems, and the intentional dismantling of inequities in whatever forms they present themselves.
- 2) Healing, grace-filled mission with communities and churches that prioritizes local experiences and shares resources across time and distance through equitable relationships.
- 3) Living into connectionalism by belonging to and trusting in one another to nurture relationships that celebrate the gifts each of our communities bring, allowing us to move forward in a decolonized way.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AUMC invite* the PNW Conference to enter into a formal covenant agreement of living into the new reality of the AUMC becoming a Mission District of the PNW guided by the same values.

**This will come by way of a petition by the clergy members of the PNW Conference currently appointed in the AUMC.*