



Oregon-Idaho Legislative Assembly 2021
additional legislation for consideration

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Additional Legislation

2021 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Session

Action Request	Title	Legislative Assembly Action
AR #3	Support for Christmas Covenant Proposals	Recommend for approval 14-4-1
AR #4	Local Church Disaffiliation Agreement Template	Recommend for approval 20-0-0
AR #8	New Conference Rule 1.034	Recommend for approval 20-0-0
AR #9	New Conference Rule 1.035	Recommend for approval 20-0-0
AR #12	Amending Clergy Housing Standards and Policy	Recommend referral to CF&A and Cabinet 20-0-0
AR #14	New Conference Rule 10.030	Recommend for approval 19-1-0
AR #15	New Conference Rules Section on Vacation and other leaves	Recommend against approval 4-13-1
AR #16	Support for Alaska Omnibus Proposal	Recommend against approval 3-15-2
AR #17	Support for the Alaska Conference Living Into a Mission District Status	Recommend for approval 20-0-0
AR #18	Creation of a Cross Conference Vitality Commission	Recommend for approval 20-0-0
AR #19	Racial Justice Strategy	Recommend for approval 20-0-0

Standing Resolution	Title	Legislative Assembly Action
SR #3	Confronting Racism and White Supremacy	Recommend for approval 19-0-0
SR #6	Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Ministries On Eugenics, Neurodiversity and Disabilities	Recommend for approval 18-1-0

1 **Action Request #3**

2
3 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO**
4 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
5

6 **TITLE: Support for Christmas Covenant proposals**
7 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Western Methodist**
8 **Justice Movement**
9 **SPOKESPERSON: Jan Nelson**
10 **SPOKESPERSON’S ADDRESS: 1845 High St SE, Salem, OR 97302**
11 **SPOKESPERSON’S E-MAIL: jannelson515@msn.com**
12 **SPOKESPERSON’S TELEPHONE: 503-689-3688**
13 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend for approval 14-4-1.**

14
15 **We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

- 16
- 17 • Affirm the work of the team that produced the Christmas Covenant legislation, as a step toward
18 a more equitable structure for the United Methodist Church. We value the voices of members
19 outside the USA that have long been absent from submitting legislation to the General
20 Conference.
 - 21 • Urge our annual conference and especially our delegation to study this legislation as a possible
22 way to a more just and less colonialist church. The legislation and supporting information can be
23 found at www.christmascovenant.com.
- 24

25 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

26
27 **What will this action accomplish?**

28
29 Support from our conference will help build support across the UMC for this change in the Church to a
30 regional form of governance that will take a large step toward equity between regions. It will allow us to
31 remain a global Church by allowing more effective ministry in the cultural and historical context of the
32 various regions, and it will begin to dismantle the colonial structure of the Church.
33

34 **Why is it important?**

35
36 The connectional ties between the church in the United States and the central conferences are of sacred
37 worth and are vital to the ministry and work of the global United Methodist Church. But the existing
38 structure of the UMC prohibits each region from effectively ministering within their own local context.
39 The existing structure is highly US-centered and requires General Conference delegates from other parts
40 of the world to debate and vote on matters that affect only the US. The creation of a US Regional
41 Conference will allow uniquely US matters to be decided by US delegates. Currently, central conference
42 delegates have some power to do the same in their areas. This legislation will help establish structural
43 parity throughout the UMC. As the changes in the legislation are implemented, it will become possible
44 for regional questions to be decided in that region.
45

46 The Christmas Covenant legislation was written by a team of clergy and laity representing the central
47 conferences of the UMC, something that has rarely happened in the past. It was adopted by the Cavite

1 Annual Conference (Philippines) as a petition to General Conference. Its proposal for regional structure
2 incorporates a similar proposal from the UMC's Connectional Table.

3

4 The Christmas Covenant team is looking for a way to address long-standing problems of equity while
5 maintaining unity. In their own words, "Our unity is not for unity's sake but for the effective
6 proclamation of the Gospel—to invite all into a loving relationship with God and with one's neighbor.
7 We welcome and affirm the sacred worth of all God's children and embrace everyone's participation in
8 building God's beloved community."

9

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

11

12 Most of the work will be carried out by our General Conference delegation. The Conference Secretary
13 will send this resolution to the Commission on General Conference.

14

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

16

17 No cost beyond the time it takes the Secretary to send this.

18

1 **Action Request #4**

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4 **TITLE: Local Church Disaffiliation Agreement Template**
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OR-ID Annual Conference Board of Trustees**
6 **SPOKESPERSON: Dan Wilson-Fey**
7 **SPOKESPERSON’S ADDRESS: 1505 SW 18th Ave., Portland, OR 97201**
8 **SPOKESPERSON’S E-MAIL: dan@umoi.org**
9 **SPOKESPERSON’S TELEPHONE: 503-802-9222**

10 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend for approval 20-0-0.**
11 *The Assembly substituted the text below for the original Action Request.*

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

13
14 Approve the following local church disaffiliation agreement template for use by Conference
15 Board of Trustees per Par. 2553.4 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, as amended by action of the
16 2019 General Conference:
17
18

19 **DISAFFILIATION AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO ¶ 2553**

20 This Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant to ¶ 2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”) is entered
21 into this _____ day of _____, 20__, by and between _____ (“Local
22 Church”) and the OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
23 METHODIST CHURCH.

24 WHEREAS, Local Church is a United Methodist church within the boundaries of Annual
25 Conference;

26 WHEREAS, Local Church has held a church conference, in compliance with ¶¶ 246.8, 248, and
27 2553.2-.3 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (“Discipline”), at which at
28 least two-thirds (2/3) of the professing members present at the church conference of Local Church
29 voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church “for reasons of conscience regarding a
30 change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of
31 homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved
32 and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference
33 related to these issues which follow.”

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to ¶ 2501.1 of the Discipline, Local Church holds its real and personal,
2 tangible and intangible property “in trust for The United Methodist Church and subject to the
3 provisions of its Discipline.”

4 WHEREAS, property subject to ¶ 2501.1 “can be released from the trust, transferred free of trust
5 or subordinated to the interests of creditors and other third parties only to the extent authority is
6 given by the Discipline.” (¶ 2501.2)

7 WHEREAS, ¶ 2553 provides a specific circumstance in which property subject to ¶ 2501.1 can be
8 released from the trust imposed by that paragraph.

9 WHEREAS, ¶ 2553.4 requires the terms and conditions of Local Church’s disaffiliation from The
10 United Methodist Church to be “memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement.”

11 WHEREAS, Local Church and Annual Conference wish to (1) resolve all matters between them,
12 and Local Church wishes to acquire from Annual Conference all of Annual Conference’s interest,
13 on behalf of The United Methodist Church, in the real and personal, tangible and intangible
14 property held by Local Church and (2) comply with the requirements of ¶ 2553 and Judicial
15 Council Decision 1379.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and all the mutual covenants herein
17 contained, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is
18 hereby acknowledged, Local Church and Annual Conference agree as follows:

19
20 1. Conditions Precedent. Local Church and Annual Conference acknowledge and agree:

21 a. Church Conference Vote. At least two-thirds (2/3) of the professing members present
22 at a church conference of Local Church must vote to disaffiliate from The United
23 Methodist Church “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements
24 and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the
25 ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted
26 by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference
27 related to these issues which follow.” Local Church must provide documentation, to
28 the satisfaction of Annual Conference, in its sole discretion, which evidences the result

1 of the disaffiliation vote taken at the church conference. Such documentation must be
2 certified by an authorized officer of Local Church and shall be included as an exhibit
3 to this Disaffiliation Agreement.

4 b. Annual Conference Vote. This Disaffiliation Agreement must be “ratified by a simple
5 majority of the members . . . present and voting” at a duly called session of Annual
6 Conference, as required by Judicial Council Decision 1379 and ¶ 2529.1b(3).

7 c. Obligations of the Local Church. All obligations of Local Church set forth in Paragraph
8 4 hereof are conditions precedent to all obligations of Annual Conference hereunder.

9 Should any of the above not occur, this Disaffiliation Agreement shall immediately become null
10 and void.

11 2. Applicability of ¶ 2501. Local Church acknowledges and agrees that pursuant to ¶ 2501 of the
12 Discipline, Local Church holds all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, in trust for
13 the benefit of The United Methodist Church.

14 3. Date of Disaffiliation. Should Local Church timely comply with all of its obligations as set
15 forth herein, Local Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church will be effective on
16 _____, 20__ (“Disaffiliation Date”).¹ Such Disaffiliation Date must be subsequent to the Annual
17 Conference’s ratification referenced in Section 1 above.

18 4. Local Church’s Obligations. Unless a different date is specified, Local Church shall, by no
19 later than the Disaffiliation Date, do the following:

20 a. Payments. Prior to the Disaffiliation Date, Local Church shall pay to Annual
21 Conference, in a manner specified by Annual Conference, the following:

22 i. Local Church shall pay _____ in exchange for the right to retain its real
23 and personal, tangible and intangible property, subject to the following terms...

24 ii. Any unpaid apportionments for the twelve (12) months immediately prior to the
25 Disaffiliation Date, as well as any unpaid apportionments for the five (5)

¹ Per ¶ 2553.2, this date cannot be later than December 31, 2023.

1 calendar years prior to the Disaffiliation Date, as calculated by Annual
2 Conference totaling _____. Upon receipt, these funds shall be
3 immediately available for use by Annual Conference for its future general
4 operating expenses;

5 iii. An additional twelve (12) months of apportionments, as calculated by Annual
6 Conference, totaling _____; upon receipt, these funds shall be
7 immediately available for use by Annual Conference for its future operating
8 expenses;

9 iv. An amount equal to Local Church's pro rata share, as determined by Annual
10 Conference[calculated by averaging the Local Church's percentage of the
11 Annual Conference's total of "Clergy Non-Health Benefits (billed)" payments,
12 currently line 39 of the BAC Statistical Table data, for the last full calendar year
13 prior to the date of disaffiliation, and the corresponding payment percentages 5,
14 10, and 15 years prior, multiplied by the total aggregate unfunded liability], of
15 Annual Conference's unfunded pension obligations as of the date of the Local
16 Church disaffiliation request in Section 1.a above, based on the Annual
17 Conference's aggregate funding obligations as determined by the General
18 Board of Pension and Health Benefits using market factors similar to a
19 commercial annuity provider, totaling _____; upon receipt, these funds
20 shall be retained by the Board of Pensions of the OR-ID Annual Conference for
21 future pension obligations;

22 v. All costs associated with the transfer of any asset;

23 vi. Other debts and direct bill obligations to Annual Conference or a related
24 foundation, such as United Methodist Foundation, and any debts and direct or
25 indirect payment obligations owed to Conference or Wespeth for employee
26 retirement, medical insurance, or other employment-related obligations;

27 vii. All compensation, payroll liabilities, and benefits obligations to and for its
28 appointed or assigned clergy through the Disaffiliation Date;

1 viii. Reimbursement of any attorney fees and costs incurred by Annual Conference
2 related to the creation and implementation of this Agreement, reimbursement
3 of any attorney fees and costs incurred by Annual Conference related to any
4 litigation between Local Church and Annual Conference or litigation between
5 Local Church and a third party, and reimbursement of any payments made by
6 Annual Conference for or toward the obligations of Local Church, paid by
7 Annual Conference within the five-year period immediately preceding the
8 Disaffiliation Date.

9 b. Other Liabilities. Local Church shall either satisfy all of its debts, loans, and liabilities,
10 or assign or transfer such obligations to its new entity, releasing Local Church and
11 Annual Conference from any further liability. Local Church must provide sufficient
12 documentation of same to Annual Conference, such as records and archives, in Annual
13 Conference's sole discretion. Those liabilities include, but are not limited to, amounts
14 owed to third parties, directly or indirectly, and/or on-going duties resulting from
15 contracts, employment relationships (such as clergy, staff, consultants, and
16 independent contractors), tax withholding, unemployment insurance, cemetery and/or
17 columbarium operations, vehicle ownership or rental, trailer ownership or rental, other
18 equipment ownership or rental, day care contracts, insurance contracts, real estate
19 leases or contracts for usage of the church campus in full or in part, utilities, and other
20 services performed by third parties. Local Church shall provide to Annual Conference
21 Treasurer's Office a list of all liabilities and proof of payment of each liability in a
22 format acceptable to Annual Conference Treasurer's Office, in its sole discretion, by
23 the deadlines set by the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer's Office shall have the right
24 to review Local Church's historical and current accounting records, as submitted by
25 Local Church and/or on-site at Local Church's campus, in Treasurer's Office's sole
26 discretion.

27 c. Intellectual Property. Local Church shall cease all use of "United Methodist," the Cross
28 & Flame insignia, and any other intellectual property of the denomination and Annual
29 Conference, including the removal of all signage containing the same.

1 d. Group Tax Exemption Ruling. As of the Disaffiliation Date, Local Church shall cease
2 to use, and also shall ensure that any affiliates of Local Church which have been
3 included in the group tax exemption ruling shall cease to use, any and all documentation
4 stating that Local Church is included in the denomination's group tax exemption ruling
5 administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United
6 Methodist Church. Local Church and any of its affiliates which have been included in
7 the group tax exemption ruling will be removed as of the Disaffiliation Date.

8 e. Local Church Records. Before the Disaffiliation Date, Local Church shall deliver to
9 Annual Conference all Local Church archives, membership rolls, historical documents
10 related to funerals, baptisms, weddings, minutes, etc. Local Church shall be permitted
11 to retain copies of such documents.

12 f. Endowments. All endowments, memorial bequests, and donations must be reviewed
13 by Annual Conference to ensure compliance with all restrictions particular to United
14 Methodism.

15 g. Notices. Local Church shall notify in writing all third parties affected by the
16 disaffiliation in a timely manner. Local Church shall obtain pre-approval of the
17 language in the notices from its District Superintendent. For example, clergy,
18 employees, independent contractors, and other service providers shall be provided
19 notices of disaffiliation that include the date of disaffiliation, effects on their
20 compensation or payments, medical insurance, other insurance, retirement benefits,
21 sick and vacation leave, other employee benefits, and any potential severance pay.

22 5. Organizational Transition/Indemnity/Insurance. Local Church shall take all steps necessary to
23 [close and/or dissolve any legal entities and to settle, liquidate, or transfer all assets and obligations
24 of such entities, or to establish any new legal entities, or to modify its current organizing
25 documents,]² as needed to effectuate its disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church, to the
26 satisfaction of Annual Conference, including obtaining a new EIN from the Internal Revenue
27 Service. Local Church shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Annual Conference and its
28 officers, directors, agents, and employees from any liability or costs (including reasonable attorney

2

1 fees) resulting from any claim, action, or cause of action for damages to persons or property
2 resulting from, or in any way connected to, a) any claim, action, or cause of action for damages
3 to persons or property resulting from Local Church's failure to take all necessary steps as required
4 by this Section 5 or b) in any way connected with the property referred to in this document or in
5 any way connected with Local Church (its former or current agents, employees, officers, directors,
6 pastor or any other person associated with Local Church). Further, and independent of its
7 indemnity obligation, Local Church shall for a period of three years after the Disaffiliation Date
8 maintain standard commercial liability insurance, errors and omission insurance, and employment
9 liability insurance with limits of liability not less than \$1,000,000 which a) lists Annual Conference
10 and its officers, directors, agents, and employees as additional insureds with coverage to the same
11 extent and on the same basis as Local Church and b) which makes such insurance primary to any
12 other available or collectible insurance which may be available to Annual Conference and its
13 officers, directors, agents, and employees. Local Church shall provide to Annual Conference
14 information and documentation about all pending and potential lawsuits by and against Local
15 Church, with the format and content requested by Annual Conference, in its sole discretion. Local
16 Church also shall provide to Annual Conference Treasurer's Office information and
17 documentation sufficient to prove that Local Church has adequate funds and other assets to meet
18 the above indemnification, defense, and hold harmless obligations, with the format and content
19 requested by Annual Conference Treasurer's Office, in its sole discretion.

20 6. Property. On the Disaffiliation Date, if all conditions precedent have been met, Local Church
21 will have full ownership of the property and assets listed in [identify relevant exhibit(s), as required
22 by applicable law], will be transferred to the Local Church's new entity. The parties shall ensure
23 all necessary transfers or other transactions relating to the above properties are completed prior to
24 the Disaffiliation Date. Any costs resulting from such transfers or other transactions shall be borne
25 by Local Church. Annual Conference shall fully cooperate with Local Church, as needed and
26 applicable, to ensure that such transfers and other transactions convey all of Annual Conference's
27 interest – both for itself and on behalf of The United Methodist Church – in the real and personal,
28 tangible and intangible property of Local Church. After Local Church has made all payments
29 pursuant to paragraph 4a, handled all liabilities pursuant to paragraph 4b, and complied with all
30 other terms of this Agreement, Annual Conference will sign a quit-claim deed releasing all
31 property to the Local Church effective on the Disaffiliation Date [add detail regarding deeds,

1 related timing issues, etc., as determined by the Annual Conference board of trustees, with the
2 advice of the cabinet, the annual conference treasurer, the annual conference benefits officer, the
3 director of connectional ministries, and the annual conference chancellor and/or as needed to
4 comply with applicable law]

5 7. Release of Claims. Upon the completion of all of their respective obligations herein, Annual
6 Conference and Local Church, for themselves and their agents, representatives, members, trustees,
7 employees, successors, attorneys, and assigns, hereby fully and forever covenant not to sue each
8 other, and release and discharge each other, and their current and former trustees, officers,
9 representatives, employees, and assigns, in both their official and individual capacities, from any
10 liability for any and all causes of action and claims, including any statutory or common law cause
11 of action, tort or contractual claims, any claims for attorneys' fees, expenses and all other damages,
12 whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, which Annual Conference or Local Church
13 ever had, now has, hereafter may have or claim to have against any of the above-named entities or
14 persons in any way arising out of their relationship with each other. The parties further represent
15 they have no pending lawsuit, charge, complaint, or other action against each other.
16 Notwithstanding the foregoing releases and covenants not to sue, the parties may take action to
17 enforce this Disaffiliation Agreement in any court where jurisdiction and venue are proper.

18 8. Time Limit. Should the Local Church fail to satisfy all of its obligations set forth herein by
19 December 31, 2023, this Disaffiliation Agreement shall be null and void.

20 9. Continuing as Plan Sponsor. Nothing in this Disaffiliation Agreement shall prevent Local
21 Church, after the Disaffiliation Date, from continuing to sponsor benefit plans from the General
22 Board of Pension and Health Benefits, to the extent permitted by federal law, and provided that
23 Local Church has not expressly resolved that it no longer shares common religious bonds with The
24 United Methodist Church. That determination shall be made by the General Board of Pension and
25 Health Benefits and the Annual Conference's Treasurer's Office, per criteria established by those
26 entities, in their sole discretion

27 10. Non-Severability. Each of the terms of this Disaffiliation Agreement is a material and integral
28 part hereof. Should any provision of this Disaffiliation Agreement be held unenforceable or
29 contrary to law, the entire Disaffiliation Agreement shall be deemed null and void.

1 11. Time. Time is of the essence of every provision of this Disaffiliation Agreement.

2 12. Survival. Unless otherwise specifically stated herein, all obligations of the parties of this
3 Disaffiliation Agreement shall survive the transfer of the Local Church property to the Local
4 Church pursuant to Section 6 hereof and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the
5 parties hereto and their respective successors and assign.

6 13. Comply with Terms. Both the Local Church and Annual Conference intend to comply with all
7 applicable provisions of the Discipline. To the extent that Par. 2553 requires different action,
8 documentation, or obligations of either party, then both Local Church and Annual Conference
9 agree to comply with such terms.”

10

11 [insert signature blocks for Local Church and Annual Conference, as required by Annual
12 Conference policy/practice and applicable law]

13 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (local church name)

14

15 By: _____ Date: _____

16 Print Name: _____

17 Its: Trustee Chair

18

19 By: _____ Date: _____

20 Print Name: _____

21 Its: Trustee Secretary

22

23 By: _____ Date: _____

1 Print Name: _____

2 Its: Church Council/Administrative Board Chair

3

4 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5 By: _____ Date: _____

6 Print Name: _____

7 Its: Conference Trustee Chair

8

9 By: _____ Date: _____

10 Print Name: _____

11 Its: Officer of the Conference (list position): _____

12

13

14

15 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

16

17 **What will this action accomplish?**

18

19 Until an April 16, 2021 ruling of the United Methodist Judicial Council [Decision #1401], the
20 validity of Par. 2553 of the amended 2016 *Book of Discipline* was in question. Now that that
21 question has been settled, the Annual Conference Board of Trustees, in preparation for the
22 possibility of carrying out its obligations under Par. 2553, submits this action request to approve
23 the standard disaffiliation agreement template for use in the OR-ID Annual Conference.

24

25 This action will fulfill the requirements of Par. 2553.4a of the *Book of Discipline*: “The General
26 Council on Finance and Administration shall develop a standard form for Disaffiliation
27 Agreements under this paragraph to protect The United Methodist Church as set forth in ¶
28 807.9. The agreement shall include a recognition of the validity and applicability of ¶ 2501,
29 notwithstanding the release of property therefrom. Annual conferences may develop additional
30 standard terms that are not inconsistent with the standard form of this paragraph.

31

1 This action also clarifies the method by which a disaffiliating church's pro rata share of the
2 Annual Conference's unfunded pension liability is calculated per Par. 2553.4d: "The local church
3 shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate
4 unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and
5 Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference
6 using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference
7 will determine the local church's share.

8
9 **Why is it important?**

10
11 (from the introduction of the GCFA's release of the standard form for Disaffiliation Agreements)

12
13 "In February 2019, the General Conference adopted petition 90066, which added a new ¶ 2553
14 to *The Book of Discipline*. This new paragraph allows a local church to disaffiliate from The
15 United Methodist Church "over issues related to human sexuality." Among other things, it
16 requires a local church's disaffiliation be "memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement,"
17 which must be consistent with certain provisions set forth within the paragraph. Additionally,
18 GCFA is tasked with "develop[ing] a standard form for Disaffiliation Agreements under [¶ 2553]
19 to protect The United Methodist Church as set forth in ¶ 807.9." In fulfillment of this provision,
20 GCFA's Board of Directors has adopted the enclosed "Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant to ¶
21 2553."

22 This "standard form" is intended to address the **minimum** requirements for a disaffiliation
23 agreement, as set forth in ¶ 2553. It also reflects that "the disaffiliation agreement [must] be
24 ratified by a simple majority of the members of the annual conference present and voting," as
25 required by Judicial Council Decision 1379.

26 It is not intended to be a comprehensive document which addresses all issues that could be
27 relevant in any particular disaffiliation process, especially given that, per ¶ 2553.4a, "annual
28 conferences may develop additional standard terms that are not inconsistent with the standard
29 form of this paragraph." Thus, there are a number of specific and general legal and practical
30 matters annual conferences should consider when developing an agreement for a specific
31 disaffiliating church, but which are outside the scope of GCFA's mandate in drafting this
32 standard form. Examples of other topics include: indemnification, maintenance of insurance
33 coverage, jurisdiction/venue, arbitration, and other typical contractual terms; any guarantees the
34 annual conference has made on behalf of the local church; acquisition of denominational
35 archives and records; and other individuals/entities to be consulted, such as the annual
36 conference's foundation.

37 The annual conference may want to provide a local church which is considering disaffiliation
38 with a summary of the terms that local church can expect, including how calculations of any
39 required payments would be made and estimates of such payments, if available. Nothing in this
40 standard form is intended to preclude the annual conference from providing this information to a
41 local church before it conducts a vote.

1 This is important to the OR-ID Annual Conference because it clarifies for all, the standard terms
2 by which a Local Church in this Conference may pursue disaffiliation, if it so chooses, under the
3 terms of Par. 2553 of the *Book of Discipline*.

4

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

6

7 The terms of this agreement will be used by local church and Annual Conference leaders and
8 staff, principally the Annual Conference Board of Trustees as required in Par. 2553.4 of the
9 *Book of Discipline*: "...the terms and conditions for that disaffiliation shall be established by the
10 board of trustees of the applicable annual conference, with the
11 advice of the cabinet, the annual conference treasurer, the annual conference benefits officer,
12 the director of connectional ministries, and the annual conference chancellor."

13

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

15

16 The cost to the Annual Conference will be staff time required to carry out the administration of
17 the agreement.

1 **Action Request #8**

2
3 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO**
4 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5
6 **TITLE:** New Conference Rule 1.034

7 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Conference Rules Committee

8 **SPOKESPERSON:** Steve Mitchell

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 579 NW Gavin Ct. Dallas, OR 97338

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** smitchel@cluge.com

11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 541-539-0366

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Recommend for approval 20-0-0

13 *The Assembly substituted the text below for the original Action Request.*

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

15 Adopt new Conference Rule 1.034:

16 A person who has been assigned by the district superintendent to serve in a pastoral role for
17 a chartered United Methodist church or for a new church start—unless already a lay
18 member of annual conference under Conference Rule 1.033—shall be entitled to a seat
19 within the bar of the annual conference, with voice but no vote, provided that the new
20 church start is listed on Question 14a, b, or c of the current Business of the Annual
21 Conference Report.

22
23 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION** *Note that the supporting information is no longer*
24 *completely relevant for the substituted text above.*

25 **What will this action accomplish?** The rule provides for new church starts or faith
26 communities or missional congregations established as pastoral charges to elect lay
27 members of annual conference.

28 **Why is it important?** These new faith communities will have a voice and vote in the work of
29 Annual Conference. This is requested by our Conference's Appointive Cabinet.

30 **How will it be carried out? By whom?** This action will be carried out by the respective
31 Charge Conferences.

32 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?** There will be no cost to the
33 Annual Conference.

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ACTION REQUEST #9

**2021 OREGON-IDAHO
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

TITLE: New Conference Rule 1.035
SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Conference Rules Committee
SPOKESPERSON: Steve Mitchell
SPOKESPERSON’S ADDRESS: 579 NW Gavin Ct., Dallas, OR 97338
SPOKESPERSON’S E-MAIL: smitchel@cluge.com
SPOKESPERSON’S TELEPHONE: 541-539-0366

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend for approval 20-0-0.
The Assembly substituted the text below for the original Action Request.

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

Adopt a new Conference Rule 1.035:

Each new church start listed on Question 14a, b, or c of the current Business of the Annual Conference Report shall be entitled to elect a lay equalization member to Annual Conference, provided that the ministry has a United Methodist professing lay member on the General Membership Roll (§259.3) to serve in this role. If not, the new church start can elect a lay representative who may be seated within the bar of the annual conference with voice but no vote. In either case, the election must be communicated to the conference secretary by the pastoral leader of the new church start.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION *Note that the supporting information is no longer completely relevant for the substituted text above.*

What will this action accomplish? The rule provides for new church starts or faith communities or missional congregations connected to established pastoral charges to elect their own lay members of annual conference. This is requested by our Conference’s Appointive Cabinet.

Why is it important? These new faith communities connected to a current pastoral charge will have their own voice and vote in the work of Annual Conference.

How will it be carried out? By whom? This action will be carried out by the respective Charge Conferences.

How much will it cost? Where will the money come from? There will be no cost to the Annual Conference.

1 **Action Request #12**

2
3 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO**
4 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5
6 **TITLE: Amending Clergy Housing Standards and Policy**

7 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: CF&A**

8 **SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: batemanmarke@gmail.com**

11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-679-1517**

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend referral to CF&A and Cabinet 20-0-0.**

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

15
16 See attached.

17
18 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

19
20 **What will this action accomplish?**

21
22 These changes are important updates and additions to our conference rules pertaining to clergy
23 housing standards and related policies.

24
25 **Why is it important?**

26
27 These changes are important updates and additions to our conference rules pertaining to clergy
28 housing standards and related policies.

29
30 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

31
32 These new rules will be tools for churches, clergy and District Superintendents in ensuring
33 equitable and appropriate housing for clergy in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

34
35 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

36
37 There is no cost associated with these rule changes.

1 **CLERGY HOUSING STANDARDS AND POLICY**
2 Page 49 of 2020 OR-ID Annual Conference Journal
3 Revised Policy, approved by CF&A – January 20, 2021
4
5

6 I. Defines the implementation of the responsibility for housing to be
7 used by clergy of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.
8

9 This Policy provides guidance for OR-ID Conference churches in the
10 implementation of housing for clergy appointed to their church or churches.
11 The requirement for providing clergy housing are noted in paragraphs
12 247.19, 258.2g(16), and 627 of the 2016 Discipline plus in the Commission
13 on Equitable Compensation Report in the 2020 OR-ID Conference Journal,
14 page 171.
15

16 A. The primary responsibility for clergy housing resides with the
17 Administrative Board, Church Council or other governing body. One of the
18 responsibilities as defined by 2016 Discipline, Paragraph 252.4e), is:
19 “review the recommendation of the committee on pastor-parish relations
20 regarding provisions of adequate housing for the pastor(s), and report the
21 same to the charge conference for approval.” Therefore, it is the
22 responsibility of the church governing body to provide adequate housing for
23 the pastor(s) and report this to the Charge Conference. A part of this is the
24 annual parsonage inspection referred to in Section ID of this policy. This
25 annual parsonage inspection report must also be provided to the District
26 Superintendent(s). See II below for church-owned parsonage standards
27 and III below for housing allowance standards.
28

29 B. The church governing body may delegate administrative responsibility
30 for clergy housing to the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee or to a
31 Parsonage Committee. However, it is understood that ultimate
32 responsibility resides with the church governing body.
33

34 C. If a housing allowance is provided in lieu of a parsonage, it shall be
35 reviewed annually in consultation with the District Superintendent(s) prior to
36 the adoption of the clergy salary package for the coming year by the
37 Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and Charge Conference.
38 Provision shall be made for an adequate allowance with guidance from III
39 below and information in the Commission on Equitable Compensation
40 Report.

1
2 D. If a Parsonage Committee is established, membership is to be
3 nominated by Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development
4 and elected by the Charge Conference, or appointed by the church
5 governing body. It is suggested that its membership include the following:
6 One trustee elected by the Board of Trustees, one member of the
7 Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, three members at large, the
8 minister, and one other member of the minister's household. This
9 Committee shall direct and oversee the parsonage upkeep and
10 maintenance. If there is a single governing body, this body may also serve
11 as the Parsonage Committee with strong input by the pastor and spouse.

12
13 The Parsonage Committee or the church governing body must
14 inspect the parsonage annually, preferably in April, to determine if these
15 housing recommendations are being maintained and refer to the Board of
16 Trustees any recommendations for improvement. The Parsonage
17 Committee should meet at least annually, and should report to the Charge
18 Conference (Discipline Paragraph 2533.4). The form, "Local Church
19 Parsonage Annual Report", in the Forms, End of Year section of the
20 umoi.org website should be used for this annual inspection. Even if the
21 parsonage is occupied by someone other than the pastor or is not
22 occupied, this annual inspection must be done. If a local church does not
23 perform an adequate annual inspection for two years, the District
24 Superintendent(s), may direct an inspection of the parsonage. The local
25 church may be charged for this inspection.

26
27 E. When more than one church share a pastor, all the churches shall
28 support the pastor's housing in proportional amount agreed upon by the
29 churches and the District Superintendent(s). A suggested method is for the
30 churches to support the pastor's housing in proportion to their support of
31 the pastor's salary. If a parsonage is provided, then all the churches shall
32 share the cost of parsonage maintenance in the agreed upon proportion.
33 These funds shall be used by the parsonage provider to maintain the
34 parsonage in the appropriate manner as directed by the Parsonage
35 Committee and this Policy. This is true, even if all or several churches
36 have a parsonage since the expense for the parsonage chosen to house
37 the pastor must be supported by all the churches in the agreed upon
38 proportion. Also, a Parsonage Committee shall be set up that includes
39 members from all the sharing churches with their voting on the Parsonage
40 Committee in proportion to their agreed upon parsonage support. (Note:

1 the minister and the minister's household member do not count in this
2 proportionality.)

3
4 F. Parsonage recommendations and the definition of an adequate housing
5 allowance (See IIIA) should apply to all ministers under appointment to a
6 local church regardless of marital status or family size.

7
8 G. If a church or charge does not have a parsonage, and no provision has
9 been made to provide for a housing allowance, the church shall either:

10
11 1. Develop a plan to acquire a suitable parsonage with sufficient
12 funding for the purchase, or

13
14 2. Provide for an adequate housing allowance for the minister(s).
15 (See IIIA and Commission on Equitable Compensation Report.)

16
17 H. During the annual Charge Conference, the District Superintendent(s)
18 may ask if the housing allowance provided by the local church is in
19 compliance with Conference standards. Each local church is to be
20 provided with a copy of the Clergy Housing Standards and Policy.

21
22
23
24 Note: for the rest of the Policy (Sections II, III, IV, and Pastor-Parish
25 Relations Committee/Parsonage Committee Agreement), the changes are
26 minor or refer to changes to the 2016 Discipline from the 1984 Discipline.

27
28 These changes are noted below.

29
30 Section IIA1, in second sentence, due to 2016 Discipline: Replace
31 267.2f(4) with 258.2g)(16).

32 Section IIA5, add: h. Parsonage shall have upgraded electrical service to
33 meet present day electrical needs.

34 Section IIC1, add: The pastor shall purchase renters insurance.

35
36 Section IIIC, in third sentence, due to 2016 Discipline: Replace 2537 and
37 2538 with 2544 and Conference Rule 12.061.

1 **ACTION REQUEST #14**
2 **2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3
4 **TITLE:** New Conference Rule 10.030
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Oregon-Idaho Cabinet
6 **SPOKESPERSON:** Karen Hernandez
7 **SPOKESPERSON ADDRESS:** 4464 S. Maple Grove Road, Boise, ID 83709
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S EMAIL:** karen@umoi.org
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 208-697-4510

10 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Recommend for approval 19-1-0.

11
12 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to take the following action:**

13 Adopt new Conference Rule 10.030:
14 No clergyperson may hold their charge conference relationship where a family member is
15 currently appointed.

16
17 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

18
19 **What will this accomplish?**

20 This will standardize what has inconsistently been long-practiced. It will also ensure that clergy
21 members of the annual conference maintain some connection with clergy beyond one's own
22 family.

23
24 **Why is it important?**

25 The appointed pastor has some responsibility (sometimes including supervisory responsibility)
26 for those clergy who relate to the charge conference. Cabinet members believe it is in the best
27 interest of all to simply avoid this kind of institutional power dynamic in familial relationships.
28 We do this regularly, for example, by not allowing any district superintendent to supervise a
29 clergy spouse.

30
31 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

32 District Superintendents will no longer approve charge conference relationships where a family
33 member is the appointed pastor and will require a change in charge conference relationship if
34 an appointment change creates this situation.

35
36 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

37 There will be no cost to the Annual Conference.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish? This new rules section clarifies and makes consistent the various leaves offered for clergy and others appointed to pastoral leadership for congregations in our Conference. The Conference Personnel Committee also wanted it clarified that clergy employed as Conference staff are subjected to the Conference’s personnel policies when they don’t conflict with other *Disciplinary* provisions or Conference rules.

Why is it important? Leave policies are clarified and made more consistent throughout the Conference.

How will it be carried out? By whom?

The new Rules Section will be added to current rules by the Rules Committee and the Conference Secretary. Congregations and the Conference Personnel Committee will apply the policies with their pastoral leadership.

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

There is no cost, except as provided by the congregations and Conference for compensation packages.

1 **ACTION REQUEST #16**
2 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
3

4 **TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR ALASKA OMNIBUS PROPOSAL
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Rev. Jim Doepken
6 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev. Jim Doepken
7 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** PO Box 445, Seward AK, 99664
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** theprodigal@gmail.com
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 907:230-5203

10 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Recommend against approval 3-15-2.
11

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

14 The Oregon-Idaho Conference supports and endorses the Alaska Omnibus Proposal and the
15 petition submitted by its General Conference delegation and others. The OR-ID Conference
16 further urges the General Conference to adopt the petition, which can be found, along with
17 supporting documentation at this site on the World Wide Web:

18 [https://alaskaumc.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/the-alaska-omnibus-proposal-introduction-
20 legislation.pdf](https://alaskaumc.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/the-alaska-omnibus-proposal-introduction-
19 legislation.pdf)

21 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
22

23 **What will this action accomplish?**
24

25 The Alaska Omnibus Proposal has as its primary goal getting around the impasse between
26 those who support making the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation or the
27 Christmas Covenant first on the agenda by including both in one petition to be considered
28 together and adopted at the same time on one vote. It has the goal of initiating the
29 regionalization of the Christmas Covenant without sections needing constitutional amendments
30 while allowing churches who wish to leave the denomination to do so.
31

32 **Why is it important?**
33

34 If proponents of both the Christmas Covenant and the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace get
35 most of what they want, the legislation might pass without having to feel like there are “winners”
36 and “losers.”
37

38 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**
39

40 Publicity to be managed by the Director of Communications
41

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

43 An undetermined amount of staff time to communicate

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.*

Creation of Cross-Conference Vitality Commission

Whereas we recognize that God’s people have been called throughout history to the ongoing work of innovation and vital ministry development, as our faithful response to God’s continuous restorative movement in the world; and

Whereas we assert that our collective response to the decline of the institutional church must be a redoubled commitment to embedding the practices of vitality (namely, inclusion, innovation, and multiplication) in the culture of every church and faith community; and

Whereas we recognize that focused institutional support and clear processes are essential to the ongoing cultivation of innovation and vitality across the episcopal area; and

Whereas the annual conferences in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area have the same bishop, share a joint cabinet, have one Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team), and are moving toward increased financial collaboration; and

Whereas the report *A Plain Account of the Strategy, Work, and Processes of the Innovation Vitality Team* (published in March 2021) calls for the creation of a single area-wide governance structure, called the Greater Northwest Vitality Council, to “begin the next phase of more productive planning, oversight, ownership, and strategic development”; and

Whereas significant research and preparation is required if an area-wide governance structure is to come into being; and

Whereas an optimal approach to supporting innovation and vitality – whether in a new church start or an existing congregation — must be flexible, contextual, responsive, accessible, and include the following elements:

- Emphasize a decolonized and anti-racist approach to the work of innovation & vitality
- Uplift the leadership of BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) and other traditionally marginalized persons
- Have a clear point of entry for new projects and leaders
- Prioritize context and thorough site vetting
- Recruit, assess, and train leaders for vitality work
- Emphasize contextually appropriate “goalposts”: what are we working toward?
- Support innovative leadership with ongoing coaching, funding, and other resources
- Include a dynamic strategic planning and evaluation process
- Extend mutual accountability and ensure wise stewardship of resources
- Embrace and celebrate failure as a worthy part of innovation
- Capture and share learnings across the episcopal area; and

Whereas an independent area-wide commission with a mandate to clarify, support, and champion innovation & vitality practices in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area is critically important if we are to uplift and address these themes in a robust fashion;

Therefore Be it Resolved: The bishop will appoint a cross-conference working group called the Vitality Commission, comprised of no more than twelve persons (six laity and six clergy), with no less than seven members representing historically marginalized people groups (particularly BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities), and to include at least two planters/innovators, to focus on the following tasks for a period of one year:

1. Research the de facto roles and responsibilities of the Innovation Vitality Team, bishop, Greater Northwest Area Cabinet, funding/governance bodies, and planters/innovators;
 - a. clarify roles and responsibilities and develop options for a workable support & accountability framework;
 - b. communicate quarterly progress and make recommendations to the bishop, cabinet, and conference-level governance bodies (Alaska Vitality Team, Oregon-Idaho Congregational Development Team, and Pacific Northwest Board of Congregational Development) as appropriate.
2. Review the flow of existing vitality processes and communication patterns to identify institutional roadblocks, holes, and redundancies;
 - a. develop innovative solutions that clarify workflow, streamline communication, and release creativity;
 - b. communicate quarterly progress and make recommendations to the bishop, cabinet, and conference-level governance bodies.
3. Based on the outcomes of task two (2) above, explore the institutional and legal requirements for merging existing conference-level governance bodies into a single Greater Northwest Vitality Council;
 - a. communicate findings to the bishop, cabinet, and conference-level governance structures;
 - b. activate existing conference-level governance structures to cultivate broad-based support for an area-wide governance body;
 - c. as appropriate, direct a subgroup or separate working group to draft the necessary legislation for the formation of the Greater Northwest Vitality Council at each annual conference session in 2022.

Be it further resolved, that the Vitality Commission will make a full report of its work and associated recommendations available at each annual conference's session in 2022.

Be it further resolved, that the work of the Vitality Commission may be extended for one (1) additional year by action of the annual conferences in 2022.

Submitted June 2021

David Reinholz
Chair, Board of Congregational Development
Pacific Northwest Annual Conference

Keren Rodriguez
Chair, Congregational Development Team

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

Erin Baldwin Day

Chair, Vitality Team

Alaska Annual Conference

Report from gathering of BIPOC leaders and members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference May 27, 2021

The meeting was called after an initial meeting organized by Laurie Day to look at bringing Anti - Racism legislation to the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as a result of priorities set by Bishop. Participants of the meeting were BIPOC leaders and members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

We met on Thursday May 27, 2021 on Zoom.

We went through a process as outlined and led by Leroy Barber.

- What would you like to put on the table for the Conference to do Anti- racism work? Everyone was invited to put things on the table.
- Was there anything you would like to add a “yes and” to emphasize what you heard?
- Leroy read back what he heard the group articulating for input, and to see if there was consensus and there was.
- Leroy explained the process used in his organizing training that was carried over from the civil rights movement and that is the naming of two things:
 - What is the Core lie?
 - What is the Spiritual truth?

For example: The core lie they were fighting in the civil rights movement was that Black people were not fully human. The Spiritual truth to combat the lie was that we are all created in the image of God.

We then went onto name the “core lie” and “spiritual truth” as it exists within Oregon -Idaho and GNW.

Core Lie:

We are not enough as we are. We are somehow broken. We need to be fixed, managed, or taken care of.

We are seen as not worthy, good, and only welcomed when it benefits white system. We have been told that we are not good by white people in managing finances and ourselves. We cannot be trusted.

Spiritual Truth:

The truth of scripture and our theological tradition has taught us that we are more than enough. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Jesus has proclaimed us worthy recognizing us as we are.

Therefore, to combat the core lie and living into the Spiritual truth we insist on the following to be included in legislation:

The Oregon Idaho Conference has claimed it is progressive and inclusive while knowingly excluding BIPOC folks and creating a culture of fear while lacking white accountability for harmful processes, structures, and behavior.

More action and less statements, therefore we demand the following action:

We need reparations in the form of funding that is controlled by and spoken into by BIPOC folks.

Richer ordination process that is culturally relevant, not based upon assimilation

More inclusive cabinet and committees that oversee finances

Fair wages and education

More Resources available in home languages

Follow up on keeping white accountability

There is a culture of fear for BIPOC pastors and leaders in the systems which leads to lack of true input into many situations where racism is present. Do no harm must begin to include racism in its practical understanding and teaching.

A broader view of Inclusion to include race and culture.

Pastoral training across the board to gain deeper understanding of race and culture.

In closing BIPOC leaders “ARE READY TO RUN” the conference is not. A BIPOC led agenda when it comes to anti- racism work is a necessity. We want to set the agenda. We don't need the conference to start initiatives and programs for us, we can/will start our own with conference resources

**** This work did reach a consensus by the BIPOC leaders that attended, and because of its nature is submitted as a community to protect any results of fragility that could be aimed at those who gave input.

1 **Standing Resolution #3**

2
3 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO**
4 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5
6 **TITLE: Confronting Racism and White Supremacy**

7 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action**

8 **SPOKESPERSON: Jan Nelson**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1845 High St SE, Salem, OR 97302**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jannelson515@msn.com**

11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-689-3688**

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend for approval 19-0-0.**

13
14 **This petition is: A New Standing Resolution;**

15
16 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

17
18 We, the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, abhor the evils of racism and white
19 supremacy that exist in our denomination, our congregations, and our hearts. We pledge to seek out
20 and break down the institutional roots of racism in our conference structure, churches and leadership
21 practices. We know that these evils often go unrecognized. We know that many of our churches are
22 predominantly white, lacking the leadership and representation of Black, Indigenous, and People of
23 Color (BIPOC).

24
25 We will urge white people to listen to people of color who have experienced racism in their lives, to
26 believe these witnesses and learn from them, and to study in order to understand. We will have honest
27 conversations about the white supremacy that exists in our churches and our institutional structure, and
28 we will resist tokenizing, harming, and putting the responsibility for change on BIPOC members of the
29 community. As we learn, we will reshape our lives and our church to be free from structures and
30 practices that cause these harms to the Body of Christ.

31
32 We further pledge to work for the elimination of racism and white supremacy from the laws and
33 practices of our government, economy, and society.

34
35 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

36
37 **What will this action accomplish?**

38 Change in the society must begin with change in the minds and hearts of individuals. If we can change
39 the church, that will be a step toward a more just world for all. And it will be a more authentic witness
40 to the life, teaching, and ministry of Jesus.

41
42 **Why is it important?**

43 Nothing will change unless we change it. The Kin-dom of God cannot exist in the presence of injustice.

44
45 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

46 This will be carried out personally by every member willing to make a commitment and by church
47 leaders at every level, as part of carrying out the church's ministry. We look to the conference
48 Commission on Religion and Race for leadership and resources, and we expect other conference leaders

1 to help strengthen their work. But we also know that no other group can do the work that needs to
2 happen in every congregation.

3

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

5 There is no initial financial cost. When this work is done seriously, there will need to be an eventual
6 discussion of reparations, some of which may be financial.

7

1 **STANDING RESOLUTION #6**
2 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3 **TITLE: Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Ministries On Eugenics, Neurodiversity and Disabilities**

4 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Will Carey**

5 **SPOKESPERSON: Adam Briddell**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: adambriddell@gmail.com**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: (202) 255-8369 (Mobile)**

9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend for approval 18-1-0.**

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11 **This petition is: A New Standing Resolution**

12 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

13 We call upon the ministries of the United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to focus on issues
14 of physical disability and autistic spectrum disorders in a time of increasing pressure on these
15 communities in public policy. Specifically, we invite our ministries to become more aware of the
16 community needs and concerns regarding issues of Eugenics, Neurodiversity and Disabilities, pursuant
17 to the 2008 Resolution Denouncing Eugenics that directed: "annual conferences to educate their
18 members about eugenics and advocate for ethical uses of science."
19

20 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

21 **What will this action accomplish?**

22 It follows up on the 2008 UMC "Apology for the Support of Eugenics," and encourages action here in our
23 conference.
24

25 **Why is it important?**

26 The marginalization of Disabilities and the lack of recognition of Neurodiversity creates a marginalized
27 and "medicalized" community underserved and often misunderstood both within and outside the
28 church.
29

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

31 The first step in addressing this issue, commonly unaddressed, is to recognize our need to learn, to share
32 and to act. SR 6 will encourage persons to bring their insight and passion to addressing the needs of
33 persons marginalized due to disability and lack of recognition of neurodiversity.
34

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

36 Ministries themselves may choose to invest funds, time, study and prayer to answering the call to this
37 ministry.
38