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STANDING RESOLUTION #8
2022 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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TITLE: Call for local congregations to support the equitable distribution of COVID vaccines through acts to increase awareness, advocacy, and financial support
SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Conference Abundant Health Team
SPOKESPERSON: Emilie Kroen

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This petition is a new Standing Resolution

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

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While COVID-19 in the USA is moving from being a pandemic toward an endemic, this is not true in many parts of the world. The inequity in the distribution and access to COVID-19 vaccines remains significant and means a significant delay for most people seeking to be vaccinated and leaves millions at risk of illness and death. Delays also have broad consequences for health, child development, and community development. Countries in Africa are particularly impacted. For example, Burundi just recently began its vaccine rollout and has a vaccination rate of less than 1 percent. Other countries in the continent such as Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, and South Africa are seeing another devastating wave of cases impacting their communities due to the rapid transmission of the Omicron variant. The global COVID-19 pandemic is overstressing health systems and exacerbating inequities within countries and across regions.

[A recent analysis by WHO](#) states that the actual mortality from Covid is triple the official rate when those denied urgent services due to lack of health resources are included in the analysis. Mortality is disproportionately high among the poor and elderly.

The COVID-19 pandemic won't be over until it's over for everyone. Therefore, we call upon clergy and laity to respond with radical love for our neighbors by engaging with Love Beyond Borders, Advance #3022671, with actions to raise awareness, advocate, and financially support the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to the most vulnerable communities around the world.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish?

Raise the awareness of this important work and encourage the ways that our congregations can choose to advance the equitable distribution on COVID-19 vaccines around the world.

Why is it important?

To serve as a reminder of one of the basic tenants of our faith – “Love your neighbor.” Sustain action in the face of declining concern in the West. The consequences of the pandemic continue to accrue in the Majority World and are especially damaging to the most vulnerable among us, especially children who are being orphaned, forced back into extreme poverty, and losing important services, such as education and access to healthcare and food, with devastating impact on development.

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

2 Print in Conference and District newsletters as a reminder of this opportunity to engage in this
3 important work and as a reminder that we are all God's children and that Jesus said, "Truly I tell
4 you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

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

7 No additional cost.