

1  
2  
3  
4 **ACTION REQUEST #2**  
5 **2022 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

6 **TITLE: Support the Christmas Covenant legislation before General Conference**

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

8 **SPOKESPERSON:** Jan Nelson

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1015 Rural Ave SE, Salem, OR 97302

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

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

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

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

15 Endorse the Christmas Covenant legislation, submitted for consideration at the next General  
16 Conference, that would create more equitable governance across the whole of the United  
17 Methodist Church by providing all regions with the ability to more effectively tailor their ministry  
18 to their local context.

19 Urge our delegates to work for passage of this legislation, including the creation of a Regional  
20 Conference in the US.

21  
22 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

23 **What will this action accomplish?**

24 This endorsement will show our support for the Christmas Covenant team, comprised of United  
25 Methodists from the central conferences in the Philippines, Africa, and Europe. We would join  
26 with several other annual conferences in the US that have made similar endorsements at the  
27 request of the Christmas Covenant team.

28  
29 **Why is it important?**

30 In 2021 the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference voted to study the Christmas Covenant Proposal.  
31 In June of 2021 the Western Methodist Justice Movement hosted a webinar to offer more  
32 information about the Christmas Covenant Proposal. That video, along with other study  
33 materials, are available for viewing at <https://www.christmascovenant.com/videos>.

34  
35 Now is the time for the Oregon-Idaho Conference to move forward and be on record as  
36 supporting this proposal for a more just organization of the church.

37  
38 The 7 Central Conferences and 5 U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church  
39 engage in mission together in 136 countries. The connectional ties between the church in  
40 the United States and the Central Conferences are of sacred worth, and are vital to the  
41 ministry and work of the global United Methodist Church.

42  
43 The existing structure of the UMC has historically served as a detriment to the ministry  
44 and work of the church, prohibiting each region from effectively ministering within their  
45 own local context. The existing structure diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective  
46 church and for that reason is no longer feasible within the global United Methodist Church.

1 The creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and conversion of the Central Conferences to  
2 Regional Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant, will help to establish  
3 structural parity throughout the global church. It will align and establish the governance  
4 necessary to allow the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to continue to accommodate  
5 ministry across various contexts, and more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for  
6 the transformation of the world.

7  
8 More information about the Christmas Covenant, including summaries and full text of the  
9 proposed legislation, is at [www.christmascovenant.com](http://www.christmascovenant.com)

10

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

12 The Conference Secretary will send a copy of the request to each member of the general  
13 conference delegation, including reserve delegates. Individuals can contact members of the  
14 delegation to express their support.

15

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

17 The only cost will be the mailing cost and the Secretary's time.

18