

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

4 **TITLE:** Fulfilling our Baptismal Vows to Children of Clergy
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Rev Heather Riggs
6 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev Heather Riggs
7 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 8620 SE Bonny Jean Way, Clackamas, OR 97015
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** mumcfamilyministry@gmail.com
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 360-913-1304
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11 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend approval (as amended), 8-7-5.**
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13 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

14 To require that when a United Methodist congregation is notified that they will be receiving a
15 pastor with children between the ages of infant through 18 they must submit a plan to the district
16 superintendent and incoming pastor of how they will fulfill their baptismal vows by:
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- 18 1. Providing appropriate care during worship. This could look like nursery care that meets
19 Safe Sanctuaries guidelines, pew parents, a playground, etc. The church should also
20 discuss how they will support their pastor's family when a child needs to be near their
21 parent during worship, such as: child wearing, or a child hiding in the pulpit, with the
22 understanding that Jesus specifically commanded his disciples to "let the little children
23 come to him."
- 24 2. Providing for the Christian Education/Discipleship of the pastor's children. This could
25 look like Sunday School, Messy Church, partnering with a neighborhood mainline
26 denomination to coordinate Sunday school or youth group, etc.
- 27 3. Creating a plan to intentionally support adequate family time for the pastor's family. This
28 could include a plan to minimize evening meetings, encourage vacation use, and modify
29 work hours or location to accommodate childcare issues and school schedules.
- 30 4. Including the children of clergy in local church scholarship opportunities for camp,
31 college, etc.
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33 During the consultation process the district superintendent would ensure that the leadership of
34 the church receives notice of this policy and require that the church complete their plan in
35 consultation with the pastor before Sept. 1.
36

37 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

38 **What will this action accomplish?**

39 In a time when many young clergy are leaving ministry and many local churches are struggling
40 to attract and retain young families, this legislation will help churches to better support clergy
41 who are parents of young children and to better support all families.
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43 **Why is it important?**

1 In the baptismal vows that our congregations recite to the baptized, we vow to “nurture (the
2 baptized in)...the Christian faith... and surround these persons with a community of love and
3 forgiveness.” (UMH 35) I believe that all United Methodists want to be a good community for the
4 children among us, but many, it seems, are not sure how to incarnate these vows - perhaps
5 because the world has changed since they were parents of young children. This legislation is
6 meant to provide clear direction for churches receiving pastors with children, but will also serve
7 as a guideline for churches who would like to improve their ministry to the young.

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

10 During the consultation process the district superintendent would ensure that the leadership of
11 the church receives notice of this policy and require that the church complete their plan in
12 consultation with the pastor before Sept. 1.

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

15 The costs are nominal. The staff time would be part of the district superintendent’s time spent
16 on the consultation process. There could be some printing of a paper copy of the worksheet, but
17 it could also be completed through electronic forms and communication.