

# ACTION REQUEST 07

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: REVISION TO THE CURRENT 1996 CLERGY/CURCH PARSONAGE AGREEMENT FORM

2 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Myrtle Creek UMC Board of Trustees

3 SPOKESPERSON: Dewey Hobson, Board Member

4 SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: PO Box 601, Myrtle Creek, OR 97457

5 SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: dewey47@hotmail.com

6 SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-863-4971

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

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9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION, AS AMENDED: 20 YES; 1 NO; 1 ABSTAIN**

10

11 ~~To direct the appropriate Conference staff persons to revise the current Clergy/Church Parsonage~~  
12 ~~Agreement form, to include the approved 2011 Annual Conf. AR7 Action Request, regarding a Clergy~~  
13 ~~security/cleaning deposit to the local church, and for clarification, change the form to include a~~  
14 ~~(blank)\_\_\_\_\_ space where each local church Parsonage Committee/Trustee/PPRC can decide~~  
15 ~~on the appropriate \$\$\$\$ amount to be withheld in trust.~~

16 Amend the RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICY section of the CLERGY HOUSING STANDARDS AND  
17 POLICY document as follows:

18 In Section II.C. 4, add the sentence in bold: The clergy shall make a security/cleaning deposit to cover  
19 damage and cleaning costs for the parsonage. **It is the responsibility of each church, in consultation**  
20 **with the district superintendent, to determine the amount of the deposit.** The deposit will be  
21 obtained via payroll deduction during the first 6 months of the clergy use of the parsonage.

22 In the PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE/PARSONAGE COMMITTEE AGREEMENT, add the  
23 following as point #1, and renumber the subsequent points:

24 **1. The amount of the security/cleaning deposit is \$\_\_\_\_\_.** This deposit will be deducted from  
25 **the incoming clergyperson's salary during the first six months of that person's use of the**  
26 **parsonage.**

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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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31 **What will this action accomplish?**

32 A binding agreement signed by the Clergy and the Parsonage Committee/SPRC.

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34 **Why is it important?**

# ACTION REQUEST 07

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 The current agreement form does not include the approved security/cleaning deposit statement.  
2 Ref. pages 45, 46, 47 Volume One, 2015 Journal.

3

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

5 By local churches with church owned Parsonages, supervised by the Parsonage  
6 Committee/Trustees/PPRC.

7

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

9 N/A! the up-dated form can be added to the Conf. Web site. I have a copy of the 1996 Form, but  
10 could not find even that form on our current Oregon/Idaho Conf. Web site.

# ACTION REQUEST 09

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1   **TITLE:** Join the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

2   **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Rev. Eilidh Lowery

3   **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev. Jeremy Smith

4   **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1838 SW Jefferson St / Portland, OR 97201

5   **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** jsmith@fumcpdx.org

6   **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 503-228-3195

7   **This petition is an Action Request**

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9   **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: 19 YES; 3 NO; 0 ABSTAIN**

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

13

14   WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church was a founding member of the Religious Coalition for  
15   Reproductive Choice in 1973; and

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17   WHEREAS, the General Board of Church and Society was a member of the Religious Coalition until  
18   General Conference 2016, along with national organizations from 14 denominations who are current  
19   members, including the Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ,  
20   Unitarian Universalism, Reform and Conservative Judaism; and

21

22   WHEREAS, these Coalition member organizations hold a wide variety of views regarding policies  
23   relating to specific issues of reproductive choice such as when life and personhood begins but,  
24   nevertheless, share common religious values, have official pro-choice policies, and are committed to  
25   working together to ensure reproductive choice for all persons through the moral power of religious  
26   communities; and

27

28   WHEREAS, the Religious Coalition supports the right of all persons to have access to a wide range of  
29   reproductive health services including sexuality education, family planning services, contraception,  
30   abortion services, affordable and quality health and child care; and

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32   WHEREAS, the Religious Coalition's All Options Clergy Counseling program trains clergy of many  
33   faiths to assist women in discerning the course of action that they believe is best in a case of  
34   unintended pregnancy; and

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36   WHEREAS, internationally, the Religious Coalition is an accredited nongovernmental organization  
37   with the United Nations Department of Public Information which supports international family  
38   planning services in such areas as South Africa where the Coalition works with churches on HIV/AIDS  
39   education and prevention; and

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41   WHEREAS, the Coalition's efforts help counter attempts to enact restrictive legislation that would  
42   impose specific religious views about abortion and reproductive health on persons of all faiths; and

43

44   Therefore, be it resolved, that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
45   become a member of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

# ACTION REQUEST 09

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**What will this action accomplish?**

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is an important interfaith advocacy group for women's health. This resolution would make the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference a member of RCRC.

**Why is it important?**

For over 40 years RCRC has been a voice for reproductive choice and has been active in working with people- especially those at the margins- at the intersection of faith, policy, and reproductive life. Denominational support was removed in 2016 by General Conference. We in Oregon-Idaho stand with women and those persons who can become pregnant in recognizing that reproductive choices should happen between a person and their doctor. We want to clearly say that we disagree with removal of the denominational membership and offer our public support instead.

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

The Conference secretary would send a letter to RCRC informing them of our action and request for membership. Further communications would be handled by the Missions and Ministry Coordinator of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

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

Only the postage to send an official letter.

# STANDING RESOLUTION 13

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE:** Support for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Rev. Eilidh Lowery

3 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev. Jeremy Smith

4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1838 SW Jefferson St / Portland, OR 97201

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** jsmith@fumcpdx.org

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 503-228-3195

7 **This petition is a New Standing Resolution**

8

9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: 19 YES; 3 NO; 0 ABSTAIN**

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11

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

13

14 WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church was a founding member of the Religious Coalition for  
15 Reproductive Choice in 1973; and

16

17 WHEREAS, the General Board of Church and Society was a member of the Religious Coalition until  
18 General Conference 2016, along with national organizations from 14 denominations who are current  
19 members, including the Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ,  
20 Unitarian Universalism, Reform and Conservative Judaism; and

21

22 WHEREAS, these Coalition member organizations hold a wide variety of views regarding policies  
23 relating to specific issues of reproductive choice such as when life and personhood begins but,  
24 nevertheless, share common religious values, have official pro-choice policies, and are committed to  
25 working together to ensure reproductive choice for all persons through the moral power of religious  
26 communities; and

27

28 WHEREAS, the Religious Coalition supports the right of all persons to have access to a wide range of  
29 reproductive health services including sexuality education, family planning services, contraception,  
30 abortion services, affordable and quality health and child care; and

31

32 WHEREAS, the Religious Coalition's All Options Clergy Counseling program trains clergy of many  
33 faiths to assist women in discerning the course of action that they believe is best in a case of  
34 unintended pregnancy; and

35

36 WHEREAS, internationally, the Religious Coalition is an accredited nongovernmental organization  
37 with the United Nations Department of Public Information which supports international family  
38 planning services in such areas as South Africa where the Coalition works with churches on HIV/AIDS  
39 education and prevention; and

40

41 WHEREAS, the Coalition's efforts help counter attempts to enact restrictive legislation that would  
42 impose specific religious views about abortion and reproductive health on persons of all faiths; and

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# STANDING RESOLUTION 13

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 Therefore, be it resolved, that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
2 go on record in support of the work of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.  
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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 5 **What will this action accomplish?**

6 The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is an important interfaith advocacy group for women's health.  
7 This resolution would state that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports RCRC.

#### 8 **Why is it important?**

9 For over 40 years RCRC has been a voice for reproductive choice and has been active in working with people-  
10 especially those at the margins- at the intersection of faith, policy, and reproductive life. Denominational  
11 support was removed in 2016 by General Conference. We in Oregon-Idaho stand with women and those  
12 persons who can become pregnant in recognizing that reproductive choices should happen between a person  
13 and their doctor. We want to clearly say that we disagree with removal of the denominational membership and  
14 offer our public support instead.  
15

#### 16 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

17 This Standing Resolution would be printed in the Conference Journal.  
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#### 19 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

20 Only the paper cost to be printed in journal.  
21

# STANDING RESOLUTION 14

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS' A WAY FORWARD**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Rev. Jeremy Smith

3 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev. Jeremy Smith

4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1838 SW Jefferson St / Portland, OR 97201

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** jsmith@fumcpdx.org

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 503-228-3195

7 **This petition is a New Standing Resolution**

8

9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: 20 YES; 1 NO; 1 ABSTAIN**

10

11

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

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14

A Resolution to Support the Council of Bishops' Proposal

15

### ***A Way Forward***

16

WHEREAS, the United Methodist General Conference (May 2016) adopted the recommended plan authored by the Council of Bishops entitled *A Way Forward*, and deferred consideration of all legislation related to human sexuality before the 2016 General Conference;

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WHEREAS, *A Way Forward* provides that the Council of Bishops shall appoint a special Commission "to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality" and that the Council of Bishops will "maintain an on-going dialogue with this Commission" and that if they complete their work in time, report to a called General Conference before the regular 2020 General Conference;

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24

WHEREAS, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports *A Way Forward*, and endorses the leadership of the Council of Bishops and the 2016 General Conference in its decision to address discrimination against lesbian and gay persons currently in the Book of Discipline;

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WHEREAS, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference previously expressed its views on human sexuality in the following ways:

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CHILDREN OF SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS (2007, 2010, 2013)

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CONFRONTING HETEROSEXISM (2010, 2013)

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LIVING WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH MINISTRY: THE SENSE OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARAGRAPH 304.3 (2011, revised 2014)

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LIVING WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH MINISTRY: THE SENSE OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARAGRAPH 2702.1(B) (2011, revised 2014)

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OPEN MEMBERSHIP (2007, 2010, 2013)

36

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE (2014)

# STANDING RESOLUTION 14

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 A STATEMENT OF CONVICTION (2011, revised 2014)

2 WE WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE (2010, 2013)

3 WHEREAS, Social Principle ¶161F, Book of Discipline provisions ¶341.6 and ¶304.3, and other  
4 sections conflict with the Constitution of the United Methodist church which provides that “all  
5 persons are of sacred worth,” and “We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn  
6 lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all  
7 persons.”

8 WHEREAS, our United Methodist connection calls us to treat well-intentioned, well-reasoned  
9 differences of opinion with mutual respect rather than insisting upon a verdict or language that  
10 rejects one side or the other;

11 WHEREAS, we acknowledge the critical importance of carrying out this historic process with the  
12 utmost of care, effectiveness, and timing. And, while we agree that establishing the details and  
13 naming the members of the Commission are paramount to overall success, we must also  
14 acknowledge the harm that grows with each passing day and the importance of preserving  
15 momentum and collective trust that this new way forward will not ultimately result in failure as  
16 similar Commissions have in our past. We must not repeat past mistakes.

17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference endorses *A Way Forward*,  
18 commits to being in continued prayer for the Council of Bishops and the Commission throughout the  
19 journey ahead, and encourages the Council of Bishops to do the following:

- 20 1. Name the members of the *A Way Forward* Commission as soon as possible but no later than  
21 August 1, 2016 and require that the first Commission meeting be convened within 60 days of  
22 the Commission members being appointed;
- 23 2. Among the members of the Commission, include out LGBTQI persons so that such voices will  
24 be represented in what will otherwise be a conversation about LGBTQI persons by  
25 heterosexual, cisgender persons. Such a conversation will lack integrity if LGBTQI voices are  
26 not included;
- 27 3. Authorize and encourage the Commission to seek out and invite established experts to  
28 provide information as needed, including but not limited to: medical experts whose focus is  
29 human sexuality, advocates and counselors in the field, and survivors and experts in sexual  
30 assault, trauma and gender equity.
- 31 4. Provide a forum for the Commission to receive input from individual churches and members,  
32 perhaps through and with the cooperation of the Annual Conferences.
- 33 5. Report to the Annual Conferences at least once each quarter on the progress of the work of  
34 the Commission;
- 35 6. Provide a final report at least two months in advance of any called General Conference that  
36 shall take up any necessary legislation to implement the recommendations of the  
37 Commission;
- 38 7. Provide continued leadership and a commitment to unity during this interim and vulnerable  
39 period, agreeing to a moratorium on the processing of any current or future complaints



# STANDING RESOLUTION 14

## 2016 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 related to Discipline paragraphs having to do with human sexuality until the General  
2 Conference is reconvened.  
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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 6 **What will this action accomplish?**

7 *A Way Forward* is the Bishops' Special Commission to study and rewrite The United Methodist Church's policies  
8 on human sexuality for consideration by a called General Conference or the 2020 General Conference. This  
9 resolution would state that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports this process and gives our hopes for  
10 the Commission's best process.

#### 11 **Why is it important?**

12 Institutions move slowly and have sometimes unhelpful timelines for action. It is important that the Council of  
13 Bishops hear the wishes of the people most affected by the harmful policies of the Book of Discipline and that  
14 the Special Commission implement timelines and considerations that meet the needs of the Annual  
15 Conferences and local churches to continue being in faithful, full ministry, with our vibrant and diverse  
16 communities. This is a painful process for us all and too often fear and hesitance intercede when we are called  
17 by the Spirit to be bold and take action. Continuing to call for action and to hold the bishops and the  
18 commission accountable will mitigate the spiritually corrosive factors of bureaucratic inertia and institutional  
19 malaise.  
20

#### 21 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

22 The Conference Secretary would send a letter to the Council of Bishops informing them of our action and  
23 resolution. Further communications would be handled by the Missions and Ministry Coordinator of the  
24 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.  
25

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

27 Only the paper cost to be printed in journal and postage to send an official letter.  
28