

ACTION REQUEST 07

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: **INDEPENDENT VOICE ON PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE**
2 **BOARD/COUNCIL**

3 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Mark Bateman

4 SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman

5 SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 3025 Rose Blossom Ct. NW, Salem, OR 97304

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7 SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503.584.1575

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9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS: AS AMENDED (IN YELLOW), YES 3, NO 21,**
10 **ABSTAIN 0**

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

14 **Add a Conference Rule: Each local church will solicit from the District Superintendent the name of**
15 **one person, not a member of that local church, willing to serve on the church's pastor-parish**
16 **relations committee. That person will serve with voice but not vote and will serve for a period of 3**
17 **years. This person may be a member of another United Methodist Church in the area or a member**
18 **of the community.**

19 **Add a Conference Rule: Each local church will solicit from the District Superintendent the name of**
20 **one person, not a member of that local church, willing to serve as an observer of the church's**
21 **Administrative Board/Council. That person will serve in the role of observer, not as a member of**
22 **the committee, with voice but not vote and will serve for a period of 3 years. This person may be a**
23 **member of another United Methodist Church in the area or a member of the community.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish?

28 This will provide a truly independent voice within the workings of the pastor parish relations
29 committee where there is no "pastoral" relationship between this committee member and the
30 appointed or assigned ministerial leader in the church. This independent voice may be the calming
31 moderator when there is a tense relationship between the church and the clergy person, or may be
32 the necessary reality check when the rest of the committee is beholden to the clergy person. This
33 voice certainly brings an outside viewpoint into conversations that will broaden the perspective of
34 the committee.

Why is it important?

37 Our churches are working hard to think outside of long-standing paradigms. We need fresh
38 perspectives and new voices in the conversations. Within a local church context it may be difficult to
39 find that fresh perspective, particularly one that is willing and able to be a truly independent voice.

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

3 Each district superintendent will need to be prepared to provide the name of someone to serve on
4 the pastor parish relations committee. The district superintendent may most easily find the names
5 of people willing to serve in other congregations in the same geographic area. This name should be
6 provided to each church prior to its charge conference. The person should have been contacted and
7 agreed to serve prior to being named to the charge conference. The chair of the church pastor parish
8 relations committee will be responsible for initiating contact with the named person and informing
9 them of all meetings.

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

12 Direct and attributable monetary costs of this proposal will be nominal. District superintendents will
13 have work to do in identifying individuals to serve and therefore some time and occasional nominal
14 expense.