



Legislative Items

For

Legislative Assembly

April 12-13, 2015

First United Methodist Church
Portland, Oregon

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ACTION REQUEST 01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: MENDING A SHAMEFUL LEGACY**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Committee on Native American Ministries in**
3 **partnership with Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: Loretta Milton**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 4431 NE Ainsworth, Portland, OR 97218**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: ljmilton@yahoo.com**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503 287-3992**

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9
10 Since the mid 20th century Native Peoples have experienced devastating displacement due to dam building on
11 the Columbia River. The losses inflicted on tribal groups (most notable the famed Celilo Falls fishing site
12 flooded by the massive Dalles Dam construction) are astonishing and can never be fully rectified. Fishing
13 communities, men, women, children, grandchildren continue to uphold ancient sustainable fishing practices in
14 harmony with their cultural beliefs and with maintaining a vibrant eco-system. Sadly, an ongoing disregard of
15 treaties and promises made to compensate people for the loss of their land and homes continues and is
16 evident by the substandard living conditions for these fishing communities. The U.S. government along with the
17 Army Corp of Engineers has repeatedly underfunded and pushed aside this promised housing compensation.
18 We believe that we as a country are collectively responsible for the injustices perpetrated upon First Nations
19 Peoples. Therefore, institutions such as the United Methodist Church, can be a resource for addressing broken
20 promises.

21 Author, Roberta Ulrich, has written extensively on this subject in her book, *Empty Nets*, as well as in a
22 recent editorial to *The Oregonian* newspaper of Nov. 16, 2014. She stated, "Congress should introduce
23 legislation providing authorization and money allowing the Corp to finish righting this decades-old wrong."
24

25 We propose that the Annual Conference petition our representatives and senators of the U.S. Congress
26 toward this end. We believe that this can be a step forward toward the "Act of Repentance Toward Indigenous
27 Peoples" put in place by the Church and continuing now and in the future.
28

29 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

30 **What will this action accomplish?**

31 Let our elected representatives know that upholding treaty rights and promises made with Native
32 Peoples is a moral and ethical issue that people of faith uphold.

33 **Why is it important?**

34 Social justice was paramount for Jesus in his ministry. He was a tribal man himself working amid the fishing
35 culture of his homeland. John Wesley carried forth this emphasis for justice.

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

37 A letter has been drafted and reviewed by the Committee On Native American Ministries and the Wilshire
38 United Methodist Native American Fellowship. We will refer this letter to the Conference Secretary for
39 the purpose of petitioning our U.S. representatives and senators.

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

41 The cost will be mainly for staff time, paper and copying.

ACTION REQUEST 02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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TITLE: SINGLE-USER, GENDER-NEUTRAL, ACCESSIBLE, LOCKABLE REST ROOMS
SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
SPOKESPERSON: Deborah Maria
SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 773 Nicole Drive, West Linn OR 97068
SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: yourbest@juno.com
SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503.723.0058

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

In order to provide facilities that protect human dignity, offer safe spaces, and equalize access, we resolve that each United Methodist Church (UMC) in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference by 2020 have at least one rest room in each church building designated as single user, gender neutral, accessible, and lockable. Each congregation will be invited to report its progress toward this goal for each session of Annual Conference.

We also request that churches add a child-sized commode and lavatory where this is feasible.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Our Conference holds that our churches and facilities (buildings, gathering spaces, offices, etc) are safe places for all regardless of age, ability, gender, and other personal characteristics.

The United Methodist Church is a people of open hearts, open minds and open doors -- a church that practices radical hospitality. As such, we raise the bar so that our churches in Oregon and Idaho equal or exceed practices of personal and family care.



15 **What will this action accomplish?**

16 Developing a gender-neutral, single-user, accessible, lockable rest room in each Oregon-Idaho UMC will
17 serve our members and visitors in these ways and possibly more:

- 18 • where assistance of another person is needed for an adult/youth/child with physical or other needs
- 19 • family-friendly for parents with infants/toddlers
- 20 • use by anyone whose health, social, medical, or other needs mandate a single-person rest room

21
22 **Why is it important?**

23 To ensure that all members and visitors can take care of themselves and their families on site without
24 embarrassment.

25
26 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

27 By the Trustees, health care teams, and other local congregational groups that oversee building use and
28 welcoming policies and actions.

29
30 Even though this request is directed to congregations, other entities of the United Methodist Church in
31 Oregon-Idaho are encouraged to implement this action to the greatest extent possible – Camp and
32 Retreat Ministries at each site, campus ministries, the Conference and District offices, and so forth.

33
34 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

35 Cost will vary depending on the retrofitting/remodeling/outfitting needs of each site. Each site will have
36 the flexibility to develop its own plan.

37

ACTION REQUEST 03

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES, BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY,**
2 **OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
3 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**
4 **SPOKESPERSON: CLAY ANDREW**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 168 NE 8th AVE., HILLSBORO, OREGON, 97124**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: CLAY@HILLSBOROUMC.ORG**
7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-640-1775**

8
9
10 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

11 Adopt the following as the Scholarship Policy for the Oregon-Idaho Conference:

12 **Scholarship Policies**

13 **Board of Ordained Ministry**

14 **Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**

15
16
17 Continuing education for pastoral leaders is a key component for fruitful ministry and for
18 congregational vitality. The Ministerial Education Fund provides scholarship support for pastoral
19 leaders who pursue continuing education to develop their skills and knowledge to meet the evolving
20 needs of the leadership and ministry in the United Methodist Church.

21 **A. Qualifications for Applicants**

22 I. Oregon-Idaho Conference Members in full connection, provisional members, Diaconal Ministers,
23 or associate members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who are under appointment may
24 apply for financial assistance for continuing education. [see section D]

25
26
27 Members in full connection and associate members may apply for MEF funds for study/travel leave
28 or renewal leave. [see section E]

29
30 Certified licensing school candidates and Licensed Local Pastors may also apply for financial
31 assistance for continuing education, including the Ministerial Course of Study. Lay persons assigned
32 to a church or charge as a pastoral leader may receive MEF financial aid. [see Section F]

33
34 II. Certified candidates for ministry who have been accepted by a University Senate approved
35 seminary for work toward an M.Div., or other equivalent seminary degree, or who are currently
36 enrolled in such a program, or who are completing requirements for ordination may apply for MEF
37 financial aid. [see section F]

38
39 III. Scholarship assistance is available to those from outside our denomination who must complete
40 the educational "Methodist Requirements" prior to joining our conference. [see section F]

41 **B. Application Process for MEF Scholarships**

42

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1 I. Applicants may submit MEF Scholarship requests to the Scholarship Officer of the Board of
2 Ordained Ministry.

3 Scholarship Officer:

4 Name

5 Mailing address

6 Email address

7
8 II. Scholarship requests may be sent as a Word document email attachment or as a letter.

9
10 III. Scholarship requests for a continuing education event should include date(s), costs and other
11 pertinent information.

12
13 IV. A separate scholarship request must be sent for each continuing education event.

14
15 V. Scholarship requests must be submitted within 90 days of the conclusion of the event.

16
17 VI. The Scholarship Officer will act on scholarship requests if they meet the guidelines of this MEF
18 policy. The Scholarship Officer may pass a scholarship request on to either the Executive Committee
19 of the Board of Ordained Ministry or to the entire Board of Ordained Ministry for action.

20
21 VII. The Scholarship Officer will submit regular (at least three per year) reports of scholarship
22 requests and grants made to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

23 24 **C. Quadrennial Limits**

25 I. MEF funding for continuing education shall be limited to \$2800 per person per quadrennium.
26 Recipients whose annual professional expense allowance is less than \$2000 shall be limited to \$3200
27 per person per quadrennium. These limits apply to the cumulative total of financial assistance in
28 sections D I-VII below. Special 'block grants' (section D VIII) will not normally apply to the MEF
29 quadrennial limit.

30 31 **D. Financial Aid for Continuing Education**

32 I. Each year, the Board of Ordained Ministry, in consultation with the Cabinet and the Continuing
33 Education Task Force, will approve a list of continuing education events that align with the Board's
34 goal of fostering excellence in ministry. The list of these educational events shall be posted on the
35 Board of Ordained Ministry website and shall maintained by the Scholarship Officer.

36 Any person who is qualified to receive MEF funding in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference may
37 request that the Board of Ordained Ministry add a continuing education event to its approved list.
38 The Board will approve the request if it aligns with the Board's goal of fostering excellence in ministry
39 and will be broadly appealing and appropriate to pastoral leaders in the Conference. Requests for
40 such additions shall be made through the Scholarship Officer in writing or by a Word document
41 attached to an email.

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1 II. Pastoral leaders who attend one of these approved events may receive:

2 up to \$350 for an event of 1-4 days duration

3 up to \$600 for an event of 5+ days duration

4 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

5
6 III. Pastoral leaders who have a particular need for continuing education that is not on the Board of
7 Ordained Ministry list may apply for MEF financial assistance and may submit a recommendation
8 from his or her District Superintendent supporting the application. In these cases the pastoral leader
9 may receive:

10 up to \$350 for an event of 1-4 days duration

11 up to \$600 for an event of 5+ days duration

12 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

13
14
15 IV. Pastoral leaders who attend other programs of continuing education may receive:

16 up to \$200 for an event of 1-4 day duration

17 up to \$400 for an event of 5+ days duration

18 an additional \$250 for travel over 300 miles

19
20 V. Pastoral leaders who participate in intensive course work equivalent at least to university-level
21 credited work (e.g., language development classes) may receive up to \$500 with District
22 Superintendent approval.

23
24 VI. Pastoral leaders attending intensive, multiple-year programs (e.g., Spiritual Formation Academy)
25 may receive to \$1500 per year.

26
27 VII. Pastoral leaders who participate in advanced seminary degree work (beyond M.Div or
28 equivalent) may be provided on an annual basis, up to \$1500 per year, provided the recipient is
29 returning to an approved appointment upon completion.

30
31 VIII. The Board of Ordained Ministry may approve special 'block grants' for certain events that seem
32 especially useful or vital. These grants may be made to the attendees of the event or to the
33 sponsors/hosts of the event itself. The limit for these block grants shall be \$500 per attendee or
34 \$2500 for event sponsors/hosts but may not exceed 50% of event's total cost.)

35 36 37 **E. Financial Aid for Study/Travel Leave or Renewal Leave**

38 I. Financial aid is available for study/travel aid which is intended to benefit the clergyperson's
39 ministry. Applicants must be ordained clergy who have been a member in full connection for six (6)
40 years or an associate member of the annual conference for eight (8) years. Study/travel leave may be
41 up to three (3) months long, but leave beyond two months will be considered as vacation.

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1 The full salary of the candidate for the three-month period shall be paid by the local church or
2 institution being served. MEF funds shall provide the candidate a stipend for tuition or travel in the
3 amount of up to \$1,250. MEF funds may also pay the cost of supplying an interim minister in the
4 clergyperson's absence, up to \$1250 per month for two months, based on the local need. The third
5 month is considered vacation and the responsibility of the local church. The selection of an interim
6 minister and housing is the responsibility of the clergyperson, local congregation and the District
7 Superintendent. (The Board of Ordained Ministry has guidelines for the use of the parsonage or the
8 pastor's own home.)
9

10 To apply for financial assistance for study/travel leave:

11 The applicant should make a written application to BOM through its Scholarship Officer,
12 which includes a description of the study or travel program and your goals.

13 The applicant should obtain written approval of both the Cabinet (through the applicant's
14 District Superintendent) and the local church through action by the Church Council (or equivalent).

15 The education and renewal value of the programs and years of service in the Oregon- Idaho
16 Annual Conference will be considered in approving applications. Higher priority will be given to
17 applicants who have not previously received MEF assistance.
18

19 II. Through a special gift from the Oregon-Idaho Conference Board of Pensions, clergypersons may
20 apply for financial assistance for renewal leave. Renewal leave is intended to foster clergy well-being
21 and longevity in ministry. Applicants must be ordained clergy who have been a member in full
22 connection for six (6) years or an associate member of the annual conference for eight (8) years.
23

24 The financial assistance for renewal leave may be used to support the applicant's travel expenses or
25 the expenses of the church for supplying interim pastoral leadership. The maximum grant for leave is
26 \$1,000, except in extenuating circumstances of leave longer than one month, and then only at the
27 request of the District Superintendent. Unlike the study/travel leave grants, there is not an
28 expectation of continuing education/professional development being part of this leave. This is
29 intended to facilitate and support clergy well-being.
30

31 To apply for financial assistance for renewal leave:

32 Applicants should send written application, including plans for the leave and how the funds
33 would be used, to the MEF Scholarship Officer.

34 The applicant's District Superintendent must also make written recommendation, including
35 reasons why renewal leave is needed.
36

37 **F. Theological Students**

38 I. For Full Time Study – This aid shall not exceed a maximum of \$4500 to any applicant or more than
39 \$1500 in one academic year. It may be granted in one, two or three academic year increments.
40 Grants are not made for study beyond the basic seminary degree.
41

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1 II. For Less than Full Time Study – Certified candidates for ministry who have been accepted by a
2 University Senate approved seminary, but are/will be engaged in study less than full time may apply
3 for MEF financial assistance. Aid shall be pro-rated with up to \$500 available for each nine semester
4 units taken. Total scholarship eligibility during less than full time study shall be \$3000.

5
6 For both full time and less than full time study the applicant shall

7 Be a certified candidate for ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

8 Complete and submit an application form and personal financial statement provided by the
9 BOM through its scholarship officer.

10 Provide a written recommendation from the superintendent of the district where the
11 candidate resides/is licensed/is serving a charge.

12 Arrange for three completed recommendation forms to be submitted. At least one shall be
13 from a college/university/seminary faculty person knowledgeable about the applicant's academic
14 performance and at least one shall be from an individual with knowledge of the applicant's
15 leadership experience in the local church. These evaluation forms are to be sent directly to the
16 Scholarship Officer.

17
18 If a scholarship is granted, the recipient agrees to the following:

19 A full-time academic load as defined by the seminary shall be carried while in a traditional
20 seminary setting.

21 No less than 3 units per year shall be completed while taking courses in a less than full time
22 program.

23 Upon completion of the academic training, the recipient shall serve under appointment in
24 some annual conference of The United Methodist Church for a minimum of two years.

25 If the candidate fails to meet either or both of these conditions, any amount advanced shall
26 be considered a loan, unless repaid within five years. It shall be repayable with an interest rate and
27 on such terms as the conference BOM shall determine.

28 Scholarship grants shall be paid directly to the seminary.

29
30 Candidates for Deacons in Full Connection

31 Certified Candidates for Deacon, who do not pursue full time theological study, will be eligible for
32 assistance in completing Foundational Studies with grant being prorated on the basis of a \$1,000
33 grant depending on the course load taken (e.g. \$500 per semester, \$340 per quarter). Total grant
34 eligibility shall be \$3,000.

35 To be eligible for a grant, Deacon candidates must be certified as a candidate through the
36 appropriate District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

37
38 III. Special Scholarship Awards

39
40 Edward Coe Memorial Scholarship – Annually, the Board of Ordained Ministry may award to
41 an outstanding candidate for ordained ministry the Edward Coe Memorial Ministerial Scholarship.
42 Those eligible for the award shall be enrolled in seminary and shall have demonstrated outstanding

ACTION REQUEST 03

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1 competence in seminary and show unusual promise for the ministry. The award is made on the basis
2 of nominations submitted by the clergy members of the Annual Conference. If an insufficient number
3 of nominations are made, the Board of Ordained Ministry will select a recipient. The amount of the
4 scholarship varies according to the number of recipients chosen and the Coe Scholarship account
5 balance.

6 A candidate shall be eligible for the award only once and will be asked to repay it without
7 interest should the candidate fail to complete seminary and not enter the ministry. Nominations for
8 the award shall be submitted to the Scholarship Officer of the Board by April 1st, and the award will
9 be announced at Annual Conference.

10 This scholarship has been established by monies from the former Idaho Conference
11 designated for scholarship aid in memory of Edward Coe. The trust fund is administered by the
12 Conference Board of Trustees pursuant to ¶2512.3 of The Book of Discipline, 1996.

13
14 Jasa Scholarship Awards – Two or more Jasa awards may be presented each year.
15 Applications are available through the Board of Ordained Ministry’s Scholarship Officer. Unlike the
16 Coe Scholarship, certified candidates for Deacon in Full Connection are encouraged to apply for Jasa
17 awards.

18
19 Each year, unused earnings for Coe/Jasa Funds will be reinvested in the principle of the
20 respective fund, and/ or set aside to be used for scholarships in the coming years. How much is
21 carried over as scholarship money and how much is reinvested each year is at the discretion of the
22 Board at the recommendation of the Scholarship Officer.

23
24 Luella M. Odell Memorial Scholarship – A \$1,000 award granted annually to a seminary
25 student who is a candidate for ordained ministry of the United Methodist Church. For information
26 contact:

27 The Luella M. Odell Memorial Scholarship
28 c/o Wesley United Methodist Church
29 1385 Oakway Road
30 Eugene, OR 97401

31
32 IV. Pastoral leaders from outside of the denomination who are in the process of joining the Oregon-
33 Idaho Conference may receive up to \$500 for each seminary course that is required for Methodist
34 studies, up to a total of \$1500.

35 36 **G. Certified Licensing School Candidates, Licensed Local Pastors and Lay Persons Assigned as** 37 **Pastoral Leaders**

38 I. A. Certified candidates for the ministry shall be eligible to receive financial assistance up to \$850
39 for tuition and meals for licensing school.

40 B. Part time Local Pastors enrolled in the Ministerial Course of Study shall be eligible to receive
41 financial assistance up to \$550 per year for tuition and meals for course of study classes.

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1 C. Full time Local Pastors enrolled in the Ministerial Course of Study shall be eligible to receive
2 financial assistance up to \$850 per year for tuition and meals for course of study classes.
3 Course of study scholarships for full time Local Pastors do not cover all the expenses related to
4 attending the classes and local churches being served by full time Local Pastors are strongly
5 encouraged to factor these costs into the Local Pastor's annual professional expense
6 reimbursement account.

7
8 Licensed Local Pastors who have completed the required course of study may apply for financial
9 assistance for the continuing education courses on the Board of Ordained Ministry's approved list.

10 Applicants may receive:

11 up to \$350 for an event of 1-4 days duration

12 up to \$600 for an event of 5+ days duration

13 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles

14
15 Lay persons assigned as a pastoral leader may apply for financial assistance for the continuing
16 education courses on the Board of Ordained Ministry's approved list. Applicants may receive:

17 up to \$250 for an event of 1-4 days duration

18 up to \$400 for an event of 5+ days duration

19 an additional \$250 if travel to the event (one-way) exceeds 300 miles
20
21
22

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish? Adoption will revise and clarify the policies for the Board of Ordained Ministry scholarships and continuing education funds (Ministerial Education Fund).

Why is it important? More continuing education money will be made available to clergy as well as to those lay people serving our churches in a pastoral leadership capacity.

How will it be carried out? By whom? The Board of Ordained Ministry will continue to be responsible for the implementation of the policy.

How much will it cost? Where will the money come from? There will be no additional cost to the Conference beyond what is already available through MEF and other scholarship funds.

ACTION REQUEST 04

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: CONFERENCE PULPIT EXCHANGE SUNDAY**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Mark Bateman**
3 **SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman**
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 3025 Rose Blossom Ct. NW, Salem, OR 97304**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: bateman_mark_e@yahoo.com**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-584-1575**

7

8

9

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

11 The Annual Conference will add to the list of Annual Conference Special Sundays (without offering) a
12 Pulpit Exchange Sunday. Pulpit Exchange Sunday will be the second Sunday in February each year as
13 "Pulpit Exchange Sunday." On this Sunday, each local church is encouraged to arrange for its pastor
14 to preach at a different congregation and another church's pastor to preach at its service(s). In
15 addition, as is possible, pastors should not simply trade pulpits and should not go to the same church
16 each year for this Sunday.

17

18

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

19

20 **What will this action accomplish?**

21 Pulpit Exchange Sunday will increase the number of clergy with whom church members have contact and
22 expose churches to different styles of preaching and worship leadership. It will increase the webs of contact
23 within our connection, revitalizing the connectional aspect of our polity in the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

24

25 **Why is it important?**

26 Our local churches do not exist in isolation, but as part of the "the connection"-a network of United Methodist
27 congregations, though we don't always think or act in those terms. Being more intentional about maintaining
28 and acting within the network and exposing ourselves and our churches to other aspects of the connection can
29 strengthen these ties.

30

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

32 This is a voluntary activity carried out on a by each individual clergy person and congregation.

33

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

35 The cost to the Annual Conference will be nominal, only printing the resolution in the Journal and potentially
36 on conference calendars as a reminder of the Sunday.

37

38

39

ACTION REQUEST 05

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES REGARDING PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OREGON-IDAHO HOLY LAND TASK FORCE

CO SPONSORS:

OREGON-IDAHO METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

OREGON-IDAHO PEACE WITH JUSTICE

SPOKESPERSON: Dee Poujade

SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd., Apt. 510, Portland OR 97201

SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: traveling.mimi@gmail.com

SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-299-4510 – home / 503-310-5577 - cell

We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to take the following actions:

Direct that the Conference Treasurer/Benefits Officer, and the Northwest United Methodist Foundation, to the best of their abilities in consultation with the annual conference's Holy Land Task Force, divest all Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference funds from stock held in Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard, and continue to exclude these companies from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference investments until these companies end their involvement with the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine; and

Direct that the Conference Benefits Officer and the Executive Director of the Northwest United Methodist Foundation report to the 2016 Annual Conference on the Conference Benefits Officer and the Northwest United Methodist Foundation's response to this directive; and

Call for all Oregon-Idaho United Methodist boards and agencies, districts, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider avoiding companies involved in Israel's occupation of Palestine when making investment decisions; and

Encourage United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish? The United Methodist Church unequivocally affirms Israel's right to exist within internationally recognized borders, and to defend its security through all legal and moral means. Divestment is not aimed at Israel itself, but at the continued occupation of land beyond its internationally recognized borders.

Thirteen annual conferences (Baltimore-Washington, California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Detroit, Minnesota, New England, New York, Northern Illinois, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Upper New York, Virginia, and West Ohio) have already passed divestment resolutions, as have other Protestant denominations (notably the Presbyterian Church in 2014). This action will demonstrate that we stand behind the principles of Social Justice in the United Methodist Social Principles and Resolutions. This action is in keeping with our calling to stand with Christians across the world, including Palestinian Christians, who have urged Christians everywhere to put their actions behind their words and to support Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions.

Why is it important? As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers. The Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities affirm the teaching as summarized by Moses and quoted by Jesus, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-40). We honor Micah’s call in the Old Testament to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God, and we follow Christ’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves, by rejecting all violence and acts of provocation that lead to violence. All peoples have the right to security, and yet security for one people can never be achieved by denying security to others.

As Christians, we are called to be in fellowship with the body of Christ both near and far. The Christian leadership in Palestine and Israel have been working for years to (1) dissuade their people from using violence in response to oppression, and (2) finding effective non-violent means by which to achieve justice. They have asked us, as Christians, to take this step of divesting. Jesus calls us to be peacemakers and to use the instruments of peaceful persuasion. As United Methodists, we are called to support members of Christ’s church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land, due to Israel’s confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation. The United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, or from the confiscations and/or destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards and lives. We are committed to ensuring that our denomination’s finances are used in a manner consistent with Christ’s teaching, our beliefs, and international law.

The UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights.” ¶1716) Palestinian human rights are violated by companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation barrier, home demolitions and other realities of the occupation. **Caterpillar** provides Israel with militarized bulldozers and earth-moving equipment, which are used to uproot olive groves, demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated roads and the separation barrier. **Motorola Solutions** provides surveillance systems for Israeli settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for the Israeli military. **Hewlett Packard** owns Electronic Data Systems, which provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside the West Bank. **HP** also provides data storage for settlements, and manages information technology for the Israeli Navy. United Methodists and our ecumenical partners have engaged these companies on this issue for ten years, with no meaningful response. Because of the failure of these companies to change their practices in response to our repeated advocacy, it is now time to divest from them. There may be other companies engaged in similarly unjust practices, but it will only be appropriate to divest from them after we have tried other means to work with them to change.

How will it be carried out? By whom? The Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force will work with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the Northwest United Methodist Foundation to encourage boards and agencies, districts, local churches and individuals to review their investment portfolio with an eye to divesting from these and other companies that are profiting from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine. The Holy Land Task Force will further identify opportunities for individuals, congregations and districts to partner with those working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

How much will it cost? Where will the money come from? The only expected cost will be the conference staff time required to carry out these actions. Annual Conferences who have already divested their conference held stock in these companies report no losses to their portfolios, and no accusations of fiduciary impropriety.

ACTION REQUEST 06

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: INDEPENDENT VOICE ON PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
2 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Mark Bateman
3 SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman
4 SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 3025 Rose Blossom Ct. NW, Salem, OR 97304
5 SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: bateman_mark_e@yahoo.com
6 SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503.584.1575
7
8

9
10 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**
11 Add a Conference Rule: Each local church will solicit from the District Superintendent the name of
12 one person, not a member of that local church, willing to serve on the church's pastor-parish
13 relations committee. That person will serve with voice but not vote and will serve for a period of 3
14 years. This person may be a member of another United Methodist Church in the area or a member
15 of the community.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

19 **What will this action accomplish?**

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

28 **Why is it important?**

29 Our churches are working hard to think outside of long-standing paradigms. We need fresh
30 perspectives and new voices in the conversations. Within a local church context it may be difficult to
31 find that fresh perspective, particularly one that is willing and able to be a truly independent voice.
32

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

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

ACTION REQUEST 06

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1

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

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

1 **ACTION REQUEST 07**
2 **OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3
4 **TITLE: TRANSPARENCY OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION**

5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Mark Bateman**

6 **SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman**

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

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: [bateman mark e@yahoo.com](mailto:bateman_mark_e@yahoo.com)**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-584-1575**

10
11
12 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

13 Conference Rule 2.041 will be amended by appending the following at the end of the current rule:
14 The Legislative Assembly will provide with any submission of a consent calendar to Annual
15 Conference a full list of Legislative Assembly members present and voting and appropriate
16 information regarding each member to tabulate the following statistics regarding the Legislative
17 Assembly: clergy status/ or lay, district, female/male, age group. If different members were present
18 and voting for different action requests, then this information must be presented for each action
19 request or petition.

20
21 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

22
23 **What will this action accomplish?**

24 Conference Rule 2.024 provides for a consent calendar submitted to the plenary session of Annual
25 Conference when 90 percent of the Legislative Assembly votes the same way on an action request
26 and when the Legislative Assembly membership is "representative of the Annual Conference
27 Membership." Nothing in Conference Rules defines "representative" and no current information is
28 available to determine if a Legislative Assembly was "representative".

29
30
31 **Why is it important?**

32 We currently have no basis for determining whether consent calendar submitted by the Legislative
33 Assembly are based on the action of an Assembly that was "representative of the Annual
34 Conference." Disclosure of this demographic information will provide a basis for determining the
35 representative nature of the Assembly.

36
37 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

38 Legislative Coordinators running the Legislative Assembly process will collect and tabulate this
39 information for presentation as part of the report by Legislative Assembly to the Annual Conference.

40
41 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

42 Costs associated with the proposed requirement to present this information should not materially
43 change the costs already associated with running the Legislative Assembly process or presenting its
44 work to the Annual Conference.

ACTION REQUEST 08

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE:** Revision of Conference Rule 13.060 Election of Associate Conference Lay Leader
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Board of Lay Ministry
3 **SPOKESPERSON:** Mary Foote, Conference Lay Leader
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 3298 SE Bentley St., Hillsboro, OR 97123
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** marycfoote@yahoo.com
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** (503)648-3072

8
9 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

10 13.060

11 The Conference Lay Leader may nominate a professing member of a United Methodist Church within the
12 annual conference to serve as Associate Conference Lay Leader. **Nominations may also come from the floor.**
13 This nomination will be subject to ratification by the Board of Lay Ministry and the Ministry Cabinet. **The lay**
14 **members at a Laity Session at the Annual Conference will elect the Associate Conference Lay Leader by a**
15 **majority vote. The Associate Conference Lay Leader will be a Lay Member of Annual Conference.** At the
16 request of the Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Conference Lay Leader is authorized to serve in the place
17 of the Conference Lay Leader.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

22 **What will this action accomplish?**

23 Conference Rule 13.060 allows the addition of an Associate Conference Lay Leader. This revision clearly makes
24 the Associate Conference Lay Leader a Member of Annual Conference. Also in 13.060, the Associate
25 Conference Lay Leader is nominated by the Conference Lay Leader and ratified by the Board of Lay Ministry
26 and the Ministry Cabinet; the laity have no further voice in the selection. This revision allows a vote by laity.

28 **Why is it important?**

29 Making the Associate Conference Lay Leader a Member of Annual Conference aids the candidate in
30 understanding the duties of a Lay Member to Annual Conference and aids the Conference Secretary in
31 identifying laity roles in annual conference. Voting for an Associate Lay Leader gives a greater number of lay
32 members a voice in the selection.

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

35 The Board of Lay Ministry will carry out this action.

36 [Be specific. Who will monitor the action? When? If the Conference Secretary is to write a letter, include the
37 appropriate contact information and the content of the letter.]

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

40 This action will be completed within the time and cost allowed for the Annual Conference Laity Session.

STANDING RESOLUTION 01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: BAN ON TORTURE (2008, 2011)**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: MFSA, Peace with Justice**

3 **SPOKESPERSON: Claudia Roberts**

4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5328 NE 40th Ave, Portland, OR 97211**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: clarobb@juno.com**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-284-9182**

7 **This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no revisions);**

8

9

10

11

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

13 We support a ban on torture in any form by the U.S. government, its agencies, agents,
14 military or the use of non-U.S. government entities to torture on its behalf.

15

16

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

17 **What will this action accomplish?**

18

19 This action will affirm that the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church formally supports the
20 Social Principles ¶164, A. which states

21

22 "The mistreatment or torture, and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment of persons
23 by governments for any purpose violates Christian teaching and must be condemned and/ or opposed by
24 Christians and churches wherever and whenever it occurs."

25

26 Christie, Reverend Neal; Childers, Reverend Doctor Clayton (2013-04-01). Social Principles of the United
27 Methodist Church 2013-2016

28

29 **Why is it important?**

30 The New York Times listed the release of the CIA special report on the use of torture by our military and by
31 others acting as agents of the military is one of the top stories of 2014. This confession made long after the
32 actions that were denied at the time serve to show that there are were apparently circumstances where some
33 leaders fill torture is justified. As Christians and Methodists, we avow that Jesus told us to "love our neighbor
34 as our self" Mark12:31 and even to "Love our enemies." Luke 17:27. These teachings preclude using torture
35 under any circumstances.

36

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

38 This resolution will be printed in the journal and will be available to anyone who wants to know our
39 conference's opinion regarding torture.

40

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

42 No additional cost except for the cost of compiling and publishing the journal.

43

44

45

STANDING RESOLUTION 02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: CLOSE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action**
3 **SPOKESPERSON: Jan Nelson**
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1845 High St SE, Salem OR 97302**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jannelson515@msn.com**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-364-0312**
7 **This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (minor revision);**
8

9
10 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

11 **The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference** continues to support the endeavor to close the
12 Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly School of the Americas or
13 SOA) located on the U.S. Army Base at Fort Benning, Georgia. The SOA trains Latin American
14 personnel in inhumane, oppressive tactics such as torture, assassination and kidnapping, to
15 control their populations. This resolution is consistent with the Social Principles P164(A),
16 which clearly oppose the kinds of actions taken by graduates of the Western Hemispheric
17 Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC).

18 Congregations and individuals are encouraged to bring this matter to the attention of the
19 entire conference membership through appropriate action(s), including publicizing the issue
20 in conference, district and local newsletters, conducting education events and especially
21 expressing their will to the President and Members of Congress.

22

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

23
24 **What will this action accomplish?**

25 Congregations and individuals will increase awareness of this ongoing issue with the goal of
26 convincing the US government to close or fundamentally change the nature of the training
27 they offer to police and military personnel of allied countries.
28

29 **Why is it important?**

30 Each year, foreign soldiers and police officers from over 150 countries receive training from
31 the US government. This training is undertaken with minimal oversight and little assessment
32 of the effects of such instruction on human rights around the world.

33 The US Army School of the Americas (SOA) provided such training to soldiers from Latin
34 America from 1946 to 2000. Several graduates from the SOA returned to their home
35 countries and committed human rights abuses, including the murders of priests, women,
36 and children. In 1996, it was discovered that training manuals at the SOA advocated such
37 practices as torture, extortion, kidnapping, and execution. In response to these egregious
38 acts, The United Methodist Church called for the closing of the SOA in 2000. In 2001, under
39 pressure from advocacy groups, the name of the institution was changed to the Western
40 Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) and the curriculum was reformed
41 to include more human rights and democracy training. However, no US army or government

STANDING RESOLUTION 02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 officials have been held accountable for the development and use of training manuals
2 advocating practices in clear violation of domestic and international laws.

3 WHINSEC-SOA is symbolic of a much larger issue. It is one of many institutions providing
4 foreign military training in the US, most of which provide substantially less human rights
5 instruction than WHINSEC-SOA. Tens of thousands of students come to the US to study at
6 approximately 275 US military institutions. Tens of thousands more receive training from US
7 forces in their home countries. Time and again, the US has provided training to forces
8 directly responsible for human rights abuses, in countries such as Indonesia, East Timor,
9 Rwanda, and Colombia. Such training has helped to prop up large militaries that are often
10 used to suppress government opposition groups and thwart legitimate democratic activity —
11 all in the name of counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism. US military training of
12 Mujahideen forces in Afghanistan (which included Taliban forces) is but one example of how
13 the troops we train today may become the forces (or train the forces) we face tomorrow.
14 Such cases demonstrate how important it is that any US military training plans consider the
15 political realities and level of existing human rights protections in the host country. Being a
16 good neighbor does not mean providing bombs and sniper training to economically
17 depressed countries in Latin America. Our neighbors need humanitarian aid, civil society
18 support, and judicial reforms.

19
20

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

22 Individuals, congregations and the conference Peace with Justice coordinator will advocate
23 with elected officials to carry out this reform.

24

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

26 There is no monetary cost for these actions.

27

28

STANDING RESOLUTION 03

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: EMBRACING THE IMMIGRANT (2012)**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Chapter of MFSA, OR-ID UMC Peace**
3 **with Justice**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: Claudia Roberts**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5328 NE 40th Ave, Portland, OR 97211**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: clarobb@juno.com**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-284-9182**

8 **This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no revisions)**

9
10
11 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**
12

13 When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with
14 you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because
15 you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God. Lev.19: 33-34. (Common English
16 Version)

17 Rights of Immigrants – We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin,
18 as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for
19 employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We
20 urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are
21 immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2013-
22 2016. ¶ 162.

23 We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Conference and its congregations intentionally seek relationships
24 with and stand in solidarity with immigrant sisters and brothers in our midst; call upon local, state,
25 and federal government bodies to enact comprehensive immigration reform so policies protect the
26 rights and well-being of all immigrants; and promote educational resources in local churches to
27 empower members to advocate for the same.
28

29
30 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

31 **What will this action accomplish?**

32 As a conference we have gone on record as recognizing the demands of our faith as Christians to
33 welcome the stranger and treat them as one of our own. The renewal of this resolution
34 acknowledges that we understand our responsibility to support immigrants.
35

36 **Why is it important?**

37 As a nation, we are still awaiting comprehensive immigration reform that would recognize the
38 contributions made by immigrants living in our midst and offer them an opportunity to improve the
39 lives of their families. The Council of Bishops wrote a letter calling for immigration reform that
40 would:

- 41 1) Create a pathway to citizenship
42 2) Support family integration and unity
43 3) Protect human rights and workers' rights.

STANDING RESOLUTION 03

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 1 4) Provide a humane enforcement strategy
- 2 5) Addresses the root causes of migration
- 3
- 4 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**
- 5 All clergy and laity are urged to engage in prayer, support and advocacy for the immigrant neighbors in their
- 6 communities.
- 7 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**
- 8 No additional cost than the cost of including it in the journal.
- 9

STANDING RESOLUTION 04

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action**
3 **SPOKESPERSON: Jan Nelson**
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1845 High St SE, Salem OR 97302**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jannelson515@msn.com**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-364-0312**
7 **This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (minor revisions);**
8

9
10 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

11 We resolve to take positive action to curb emissions which ~~may~~ contribute to global
12 ~~warming~~ **climate change**. As stewards of God's creation we acknowledge our way of living,
13 specifically our use of energy, creates emissions that warm the planet and threaten all life.

14 We resolve to support the creation of laws and policies that will lead to decreases in the
15 dangerous emissions that threaten our planet.

16 We encourage members to take simple steps to reduce greenhouse gas emission by driving
17 conscientiously, by conserving energy in homes and workplaces, and by using alternative
18 energy sources whenever possible.

19 We recognize that the global climate is already changing, and stand ready to participate in
20 the church's response to the likely increase in weather-related disasters.

21 We urge local ministry settings and members to be better stewards of the world's resources
22 by conserving energy. More information and resources are available from the United
23 Methodist General Board of Church and Society, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, **and the**
24 **National Council of Churches, and Oregon PeaceWorks** to assist us in conversation and
25 provide us with information for action.

26
27

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

28
29 **What will this action accomplish?**

30 United Methodist voices will be added to the many others who believe that addressing
31 climate change is one of the most important issues we face. We must also "walk the talk" by
32 our willingness to change our lifestyles to help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

33 **Why is it important?**

34 Climate change will affect every person on the planet, and it already has affected many.
35 Advocating for large-scale change is vital; our personal lifestyle choices are important but
36 will not have the impact of the corporate and government change that is vitally important as
37 soon as possible.

STANDING RESOLUTION 04

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 1 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**
- 2 All parts of this should be carried out by individuals and churches through their conscious
- 3 choices in resource and energy use and through their advocacy.
- 4
- 5 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**
- 6 Advocacy actions will cost little or nothing.
- 7 Conservation measures will save money.
- 8 Some alternative choices in resources and energy may cost some money. These costs would
- 9 be covered by individuals and congregations as part of their overall stewardship of
- 10 resources.

STANDING RESOLUTION 05

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: SUPPORT THE ABOLITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (2009; revised 2012)**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action & Active for**
3 **Peace & Justice at Corvallis 1st United Methodist**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: LoErna Simpson**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1863 NW Estaview Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: l.simpson@comcast.net**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-619-1379**

8 **This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no revisions);**
9

10
11 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

12
13 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has
14 sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go
15 free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19

16
17 The plight of human trafficking is not only one of the world's most prevalent forms of criminal activity but
18 arguably the most degrading, preying on the most vulnerable members of society. Human trafficking is
19 defined by the United Nations as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people,
20 either by threat, abduction, deception or abuse of power for the purpose of sexual or labor-related
21 exploitation. According to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, the number of
22 adults and children worldwide currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution was 12.3
23 million people, with more people being victims of labor trafficking than of commercial sex trafficking.
24 However, women and children represent 80 percent of those affected.

25
26 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church supports the abolition of the
27 Modern slave trade, or human trafficking as it is called now, that is happening worldwide, in the U.S. and
28 in Oregon and Idaho. Because our two states have major interstate highways intersecting north-south
29 (I-5) and east-west (I-84) with access to Pacific coastline ports, and need many agricultural and service
30 laborers, we are among the states highest in human trafficking.

31
32 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church strongly urges all local churches to
33 participate in the 2009-2012 quadrennium study of "Abolition of Sex Trafficking," as approved and
34 recorded in the General Conference ~~2008~~ **2012** Book of Resolutions (Resolution 6023, p ~~723~~ **709**). Within
35 Methodism, both United Methodist Women/UMW and United Methodist Committee on Relief/UMCOR
36 have vibrant programs and projects that serve people in the U.S. and overseas who've survived human
37 trafficking.

38
39 We continue to call all local churches in our Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to help end human
40 trafficking here and around the world:

41
42 (1) by studying the excellent, free, 30 page pdf UMW resource packet, "Human Trafficking: Preventing,
43 Protecting, Prosecuting" (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/act/>) click 'Human Trafficking';

44
45 (2) by inviting UMW members to present this information on Human Trafficking to your congregation or
46 several congregations jointly; and

47
48 (3) by supporting UMW and UMCOR in their important work with human trafficking victims (UMCOR

STANDING RESOLUTION 05

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 link: (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/UMCOR/search/index.cfm?keywords=Human>)

2

3

4

5

6

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7

What will this action accomplish?

8

Churches are urged to continue UMC efforts to end Human Trafficking.

9

10

Why is it important?

11

Every child, woman and man is valuable in God's sight, and we must make this world a safe, secure

12

place for everyone.

13

14

How will it be carried out? By whom?

15

United Methodist Women are continuing to share information to people in local churches.

16

17

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

18

Cost of printing in the Journal. Church members will volunteer to freely share information.

19

STANDING RESOLUTION 06

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 1 **TITLE: DELETE CUBA EMBARGO STANDING RESOLUTION**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action**
3 **SPOKESPERSON: LoErna Simpson**
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1863 NW Estaview Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: l.simpson@comcast.net**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-619-1379**

7
8 ~~We continue to call for our Government to lift the 50 year old Cuban embargo and seek to resume~~
9 ~~better diplomatic relations with Cuba, and we encourage individual members of all churches within the~~
10 ~~conference to urge their U.S. Congressional Representatives to work for legislation to lift this embargo.~~
11 ~~This resolution is consistent with General Resolution 6069 in the Book of Resolutions that was passed in~~
12 ~~2008.~~
13
14

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 15
16
17 **What will this action accomplish?**
18
19 **Why is it important?**
20 The Embargo has broken
21 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**
22
23 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**
24
25
26

STANDING RESOLUTION 07

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: NATIONAL FAIR TRADE POLICY (2009, renewed 2012)**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Chapter of MFSA**
3 **SPOKESPERSON: Claudia Roberts**
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5328 NE 40th Ave, Portland, OR 97211**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: clarobb@juno.com**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-284-9182**
7 **This petition is a replacement of an existing Standing Resolution (rewritten)**

8
9

10

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

12 We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church support "Fair Trade" on
13 a local, state, national and international level. This would include promoting "fair traded" products for use in
14 our homes and churches, asking our local and state governments to consider the principle of fair trade in all of
15 their acquisitions and contacts, and asking our national legislators in to include Fair Trade practices and
16 principles in all of free trade agreements.

17

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

18 **What will this action accomplish?**

19 Members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference will be standing with the small farmers and artisans around the
20 world who seek to receive fair prices for their products.

21

22 **Why is it important?**

23 Giant international companies are driving small farmers and companies out of business through policies and
24 practices that are drafted to protect their profits and are presented as "free trade agreements". Everyone
25 should have the right to receive a fair price for their work.

26

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

28 The Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator will provide materials in print and on the UMOI website
29 regarding Fair Trade products and resources and inform the conference through the Connector of
30 opportunities to advocate for fair trade policies as they become available.

31

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

33 The costs for materials will come from the conference Peace with Justice funds. The Peace with Justice
34 Coordinator is a volunteer position with no compensation paid for time spent on this activity.

35

36

37

38

STANDING RESOLUTION 08

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: PROMISES BROKEN**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Committee on Native American Ministries in**
3 **partnership with Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: Loretta Milton**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 4431 NE Ainsworth, Portland, OR 97218**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: ljmilton@yahoo.com**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503 287-3992**

8
9 **This is a New Standing Resolution**

10
11
12 Be it resolved that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference stand in support of tribal fishing families living and
13 working near The Dalles and John Day Dams. Since the mid 20th century Native Peoples have experienced
14 devastating displacement due to dam building on the Columbia River. The losses inflicted on tribal groups
15 (most notable the famed Celilo Falls fishing site flooded by the massive Dalles Dam construction) are
16 astonishing and can never be fully rectified. Fishing communities, men, women, children, grandchildren
17 continue to uphold ancient sustainable fishing practices in harmony with their cultural beliefs and with
18 maintaining a vibrant eco-system. Sadly, an ongoing disregard of treaties and promises made to compensate
19 people for the loss of their land and homes continues and is evident by the substandard living conditions for
20 these fishing communities. The U.S. government along with the Army Corp of Engineers has repeatedly
21 underfunded and pushed aside this promised housing compensation. We believe that we as a country are
22 collectively responsible for the injustices perpetrated upon First Nations Peoples. Therefore, institutions such
23 as the United Methodist Church, can be a resource for addressing broken promises.

24
25 Author, Roberta Ulrich, has written extensively on this subject in her book, *Empty Nets*, as well as in a
26 recent editorial to *The Oregonian* newspaper of Nov. 16, 2014. She stated, "Congress should introduce
27 legislation providing authorization and money allowing the Corp to finish righting this decades-old wrong."

28
29 We ask that members of the Annual Conference petition our representatives and senators of the U.S. Congress
30 toward this end. We believe that this can be a step forward toward the "Act of Repentance Toward Indigenous
31 Peoples" put in place by the Church and continuing now and in the future.

32
33 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

34 **What will this action accomplish?**

35 Let our elected representatives know that upholding treaty rights and promises made with Native
36 Peoples is a moral and ethical issue that people of faith uphold.

37 **Why is it important?**

38 Social justice was paramount for Jesus in his ministry. He was a tribal man himself working amid the fishing
39 culture of his homeland. John Wesley carried forth this emphasis for justice.

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

41 A letter has been drafted and reviewed by the Committee On Native American Ministries and the Wilshire
42 United Methodist Native American Fellowship. We will refer this letter to the Conference Secretary for
43 the purpose of petitioning our U.S. representatives and senators.

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

45 The cost will be mainly for staff time, paper and copying.

STANDING RESOLUTION 09

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: REFLECTING ON PRAYERS & THOUGHTS OF PEACE & FAITH, HERE & WORLDWIDE**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action**
3 **SPOKESPERSON: LoErna Simpson**
4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1863 NW Estaview Dr, Corvallis, OR**
5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: l.simpson@comcast.net**
6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-619-1379**
7 **This petition is a new Standing Resolution**

8
9

10

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

12

13 **Reflecting on Prayers & Insights on Peace & Faith, Here & Worldwide**
14 **As a responsible way of living out our Christian discipleship in this first quarter of the 21st century,**
15 **let us read and reflect on these inspirational words from many peoples and faiths-- prayers,**
16 **meditations and insights on peacemaking, goodness and love.**

17

18 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and
19 self-control. *– Galatians 5:22*

20

21 Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old
22 barriers, quietly building new structures. *– John F. Kennedy (1917- 1963), American president*

23

24 The more I think about peace, I think peace starts and ends in connection. When we connect, we
25 learn about “the other.” It’s not tolerance but understanding, acceptance. In the connection,
26 everything starts to happen. *– Isabel Allende, (1942-), Chilean American author.*

27

28 God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I
29 can; and the wisdom to know the difference. *– Reinhold Niebuhr*

30

31 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts
32 be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. *– John: 14:27*

33

34 If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.
35 If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.
36 If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors.
37 If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home.
38 If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart. *-Lao-Tse, Chinese philosopher,*
39 *6th century*

40

STANDING RESOLUTION 09

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 Nonviolence is a power which can be wielded equally by all—children, young men and women, or
2 grown-up people--provided they have a living faith in the God of Love and have, therefore, equal love
3 for all mankind. *Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), Indian spiritual & political leader*

4

5 O believers, be steadfast witnesses for God with justice. Do not let the hatred of the people make
6 you act unjustly. Be just, for justice is next to piety. *– The Qur’an, verse 5:8*

7

8 Deep peace of the running wave to you,
9 Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
10 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
11 Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
12 Deep peace of the infinite peace to you. *- Adapted from ancient Gaelic Runes*

13

14 O God, as Muslims, Jews and Christians, We acknowledge that thou hast made of one blood all the
15 nations of the earth. Thou dost love all of us as if all were but one, and dost care for each as if thou
16 hadst naught else to care for. Remembering such love, may we not weary in our efforts to fashion
17 out of our failures today, some great good for all thy people tomorrow. And not unto us O God, not
18 to us, but unto Thy name be the glory. *Written together by a Muslim, Jew & Christian.*

19

20 Peace is the absence of war, but beyond that, peace is a commodity unlike any other. Peace is
21 security. Peace is a mindset. Peace is a way of living. Peace is the capacity to transcend past hurts—
22 to break cycles of violence and forge new pathways that say, “I would like to make sure we live as a
23 community where there is justice, security, and development for all members.” At the end of the
24 day, peace is an investment; it is something you create, by investing in a way of life.
25 *Noeleen Heyzer, (1948-) Singaporean Exec. Dir. of UN Development Fund for Women*

26

27 Goodness is stronger than evil;
28 Love is stronger than hate;
29 Light is stronger than darkness;
30 Victory is ours through him who loves us. *– Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

31

32 Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, I am
33 small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

34 Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands
35 respect the things you have made and ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may
36 understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every
37 leaf and rock.

38 I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy—myself. Make me
39 always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading
40 sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame. *Chief Yellow Lark (Lakota American Indian)*

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STANDING RESOLUTION 09

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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What will this action accomplish?

United Methodists will be able to reflect on and enjoy various insights of peace through the lens of many faiths and persons from many countries and cultures.

Why is it important?

As United Methodists, we have a vision of peacemaking and sharing with other faiths. As we focus on peace, we will become more peaceful. Many people and countries, however, are engaged in fighting and wars. The path we choose can either strengthen more peaceful outcomes or continue discord. Let us focus on the pathway to peace.

How will it be carried out? By whom?

Printed copies of the 'Prayers & Insights on Peace & Faith' can be handled out to UM individuals for personal reflection, or people may request an email copy.

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

Cost for printing pages in the journal; and for printing some handout pages at group UMC meetings. We will solicit funds from Peace & Justice conference leader for printing handouts. There will be some cost for the secretary emailing the document when requested.

STANDING RESOLUTION 10

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: REPAIR AND STRENGTHEN THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

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

3 **SPOKESPERSON: LoErna Simpson**

4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1863 NW Estaview Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: l.simpson@comcast.net**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-619-1379**

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

9
10 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

11 REPAIR AND STRENGTHEN THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT

12 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports repairing the 1965 Voting Rights Act that was
13 decimated by the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. The weakened Voting
14 Rights Act has allowed many states to place barriers to voting, including strict voter ID laws and
15 residency requirements and prohibition of same-day registration. The voters most affected by these
16 obstacles are blacks and other racial minorities, the poor, the elderly and young people. This must be
17 changed. All U.S. citizens should have the right to vote without barriers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

19
20 **What will this action accomplish?**

21 Americans will begin to think about how to eliminate the barriers to voting and what options for voting could
22 be enacted, such as supporting a constitutional amendment explicitly granting the right to vote, or perhaps a
23 new Voting Rights Amendment Act that could repair this recent damage.

24
25 **Why is it important?**

26 Voting is a right for citizens in a democracy.

27
28 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

29 [Be specific. Who will monitor the action? When? If the Conference Secretary is to write a letter, include the
30 appropriate contact information and the content of the letter.]

31 Americans will have to analyze and think about the best solutions for fair voting for every citizen.

32
33 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

34 [Everything we do or proclaim has monetary cost. Staff time and pages in the journal have cost.]

35
36 Printing costs for the Journal. No personal cost, except just time to think and act to make our U.S.
37 democracy work fairly.

STANDING RESOLUTION 11

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: SUPPORTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION**

3 **SPOKESPERSON: LoErna Simpson**

4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1863 NW Estaview Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: l.simpson@comcast.net**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-619-1379**

7 **This petition is a new Standing Resolution.**

9
10 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

11 We call upon the churches of the United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to seek ways to
12 advocate for supporting peace efforts in the Middle East, involving our national elected leaders and
13 our Pentagon staff and State Department leaders and military contractors. United Methodists may
14 work in a supportive way by various actions--signing petitions, phoning our legislators, talking with
15 our national officials and with staff in their local offices, and participating in marches and vigils to
16 work for peace in the Middle East. We can join with other United Methodists and people of faith to
17 help support renewal, human rights and justice.

18 In 2010 a massive, popular movement of uprisings, revolution and change spread around many
19 countries in the Middle East. People in the Middle East were upset with harsh dictators, ineffective
20 governments and failing economies, with many people experiencing crushing poverty. With many
21 protestors world-wide using non-violent actions, people hoped to change the status quo, but with
22 limited or little success over these 4 years.

23 Another critical human rights issue arose in the summer of 2014, the war between Gaza Strip and
24 Israel, called Operation Protective Edge, for 7 weeks in July-August. The number of Israeli killed were
25 66 soldiers and 6 civilians, with 469 soldiers and 87 civilians wounded. The number of Gazans killed
26 were 2,310 (including 513 children) and around 10,800 civilians were injured. The UN calculated that
27 520,000 Palestinians were displaced (30% of Gazan population). The UN calculated that more than
28 7,000 homes for 10,000 families were razed, and another 89,000 homes damaged. Rebuilding costs
29 were calculated to be 4-6 billion dollars, over 20 years.

30 The current situation in the Middle East seems to have stalemated or reversed to even worse. In
31 2014 we have witnessed failure in the several Middle East countries, which has led to the rise of an
32 extreme terrorist group, ISIS/Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. This is a complex situation (footnotes
33 1 & 2). We urge our U.S. and world leaders to carefully explore appropriate actions that will
34 eventually help to end the ISIS conflict. We support funds for rebuilding in Gaza. We call on our
35 nation and other nations to work carefully together. We call upon United Methodists and other
36 people of faith to work for peace, to help change policies for the better and to improve human rights
37 for all people. United Methodists still believe war is not the answer.

38
39 [1. What ISIS Really Wants, The Atlantic, March 2015,

40 <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980>]

41 [2. 12 Things to Know About "What ISIS Wants," Aleteia, <http://www.aleteia.org/en/world/article/12-things-to-know-about-what-isis-really-wants-5904800487047168>]

STANDING RESOLUTION 11

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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What will this action accomplish?

People will be reminded to work for human rights, justice and peace in the Middle East region.

Why is it important?

The current ISIS/Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham terrorism is a new threat in the Middle East. And the situation in Gaza/Palestine/Israel is a critical situation.

How will it be carried out? By whom?

United Methodists in America and around the world must support peace efforts in these critical situations. Activism by individuals in the U.S. must be carried out, to influence our leaders to make changes for justice, human rights, and peace.

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

Cost for staff time and pages in journal. Being involved in activism cost very little, except in time and effort.

1 **STANDING RESOLUTION 12**
2 **2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3
4 **TITLE:** ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES REGARDING PALESTINE AND ISRAEL
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** OREGON-IDAHO HOLY LAND TASK FORCE
6 **CO SPONSORS:** OREGON-IDAHO METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION
7 OREGON-IDAHO PEACE WITH JUSTICE
8 **SPOKESPERSON:** Dee Poujade
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd., Apt. 510, Portland OR 97201
10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** traveling.mimi@gmail.com
11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 503-299-4510 – home / 503-310-5577 – cell
12 **THIS PETITION IS:** A NEW STANDING RESOLUTION

13
14 We support a call for all Oregon-Idaho United Methodist boards and agencies, districts, local churches and
15 individuals to prayerfully consider avoiding companies involved in Israel's occupation of Palestine when
16 making investment decisions; and

17
18 Encourage United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience
19 working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all people in Israel and
20 Palestine, and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.
21

22
23 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

24
25 **What will this action accomplish?** The United Methodist Church unequivocally affirms Israel's right to
26 exist within internationally recognized borders, and to defend its security through all legal and moral
27 means. Divestment is not aimed at Israel itself, but at the continued occupation of land beyond its
28 internationally recognized borders.
29

30 Thirteen annual conferences (Baltimore-Washington, California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Detroit,
31 Minnesota, New England, New York, Northern Illinois, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Upper New
32 York, Virginia, and West Ohio) have already passed divestment resolutions, as have other Protestant
33 denominations (notably the Presbyterian Church in 2014). This resolution will demonstrate that we stand
34 behind the principles of Social Justice in the United Methodist Social Principles and Resolutions, and is in
35 keeping with our calling to stand with Christians across the world, including Palestinian Christians, who
36 have urged Christians everywhere to put their actions behind their words and to support Boycotts,
37 Divestment and Sanctions.
38

39 **Why is it important?** As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers. The Jewish, Christian and
40 Muslim communities affirm the teaching as summarized by Moses and quoted by Jesus, "Love the Lord
41 your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest
42 commandment. And the second is like it, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40). We
43 honor Micah's call in the Old Testament to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God, and
44 we follow Christ's call to love our neighbors as ourselves, by rejecting all violence and acts of provocation
45 that lead to violence. All peoples have the right to security, and yet security for one people can never be
46 achieved by denying security to others.
47

1 As Christians, we are called to be in fellowship with the body of Christ both near and far. The Christian
2 leadership in Palestine and Israel have been working for years to (1) dissuade their people from using
3 violence in response to oppression, and (2) finding effective non-violent means by which to achieve
4 justice. They have asked us, as Christians, to take the step of divesting. Jesus calls us to be peacemakers
5 and to use the instruments of peaceful persuasion. As United Methodists, we are called to support
6 members of Christ's church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to
7 leave the Holy Land, due to Israel's confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under
8 occupation. The United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal Israeli occupation of
9 Palestinian land, or from the confiscations and/or destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards and lives.
10 We are committed to ensuring that our denomination's finances are used in a manner consistent with
11 Christ's teaching, our beliefs, and international law.

12
13 The UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies "that directly or indirectly support the
14 violation of human rights." ¶716) Palestinian human rights are violated by companies that sustain illegal
15 settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation barrier, home demolitions and other realities
16 of the occupation. **Caterpillar** provides Israel with militarized bulldozers and earth-moving equipment,
17 which are used to uproot olive groves, demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build
18 segregated roads and the separation barrier. **Motorola Solutions** provides surveillance systems for Israeli
19 settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for the Israeli
20 military. **Hewlett Packard** owns Electronic Data Systems, which provides biometric monitoring of
21 checkpoints inside the West Bank. **HP** also provides data storage for settlements, and manages
22 information technology for the Israeli Navy. United Methodists and our ecumenical partners have engaged
23 these companies on this issue for years, with no meaningful response. Because of the failure of these
24 companies to change their practices in response to our repeated advocacy, it is now time to give prayerful
25 consideration to our continued investment in them. There may be other companies engaged in similarly
26 unjust practices, as well, and we should identify these companies and consider our investment of church
27 monies in them if they do not change these practices after a suitable period of engagement.

28
29 **How will it be carried out? By whom?** The Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force will work with the
30 Conference Benefits Office and the Northwest United Methodist Foundation to encourage boards and
31 agencies, districts, local churches and individuals to review their investment portfolio with an eye to
32 divesting from and/or refusing to invest in these and other companies that are profiting from the illegal
33 Israeli occupation of Palestine. The Holy Land Task Force will further identify opportunities for individuals,
34 congregations and districts to partner with those working for corporate accountability, human rights, true
35 peace and security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

36
37 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?** No additional cost except for the cost of
38 compiling and publishing the journal.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCD01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: RETITLING “BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY” TO “BOARD OF MINISTERIAL**
2 **LEADERSHIP”**

3 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Conference Board of Ordained**
4 **Ministry**

5 **SPOKESPERSON: Mark Bateman**

6 **SPOKESPERSON’S ADDRESS: 3025 Rose Blossom Ct. NW, Salem, OR 97304**

7 **SPOKESPERSON’S E-MAIL: bateman_mark_e@yahoo.com**

8 **SPOKESPERSON’S TELEPHONE: 503.584.1575**

9 **This petition is:**

- 10 **1. A change to the 2012 United Methodist Discipline, Paragraph 635:**
11
-

12
13 Throughout the text of the entire 2012 Book of Discipline, replace the title “Board of Ordained
14 Ministry” with “Board of Ministerial Leadership”.

15
16 Throughout the text of the entire 2012 Book of Discipline, replace the title “District Committee on
17 Ordained Ministry” with “District Committee on Ministerial Leadership”.

18
19 Make changes as noted in the following section of the 2012 Book of Discipline:
20

21 ¶635.2 (a) To assume the primary responsibility for the enlistment and recruitment of ~~ordained~~
22 ~~clergy~~ **ministerial leadership for our churches and other ministry settings** by working in consultation
23 with the cabinet and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to study and interpret the
24 ~~clergy~~ **ordained, licensed, certified, and assigned ministerial leadership** needs and resources of the
25 annual conference, with due regard to the inclusive nature of the Church. It shall, with the assistance
26 of the local church committee on pastor-parish relations, conference agencies, and every ordained
27 ~~minister~~ , **licensed, certified, and assigned leader** of the conference, enlist women and men of all
28 races and ethnic origins for ~~the ordained ministry as a vocation~~ and guide those persons in the
29 process of education, training, ~~and ordination~~, **and discernment of the most appropriate path for**
30 **their ministry**, recommending colleges and schools of theology listed by the University Senate,
31 **licensing school, and other approved educational opportunities**. Persons recruited should have an
32 understanding of and appreciation for persons of different racial and ethnic heritages.

33 ¶635.2 (o) To provide support services for **all those in ministerial leadership, including ordained,**
34 **licensed, certified, and assigned, to provide** ~~the ordained minister’s~~ career development, including
35 personal and career counseling, continuing education, formation in servant leadership and
36 continuing spiritual growth in Christ, assistance in preparation for retirement, and all matters
37 pertaining to clergy morale. In providing such support, the board in cooperation with the cabinet,

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCD01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 shall give training and guidance to each local committee on pastor-parish relations regarding its work
2 and role.

3 ¶1635.2 (p) To work with and support the Order of Deacon, ~~and~~ the Order of Elder, **and the**
4 **Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members (see ¶ 323)**, including receiving reports, offering
5 financial support, and coordinating ~~the Orders'~~ **these group's activities** activity with the continuing
6 formation offerings of the board. The board may delegate continuing formation responsibility of the
7 ~~Orders~~ **groups** by mutual agreement, with final approval, evaluation, and budgeting remaining with
8 the board.

9 ~~635.2 (q) (p. 462) To work with and Support the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members~~
10 ~~(see ¶ 323), including receiving reports, offering financial support, and coordinating their continuing~~
11 ~~formation.~~

12 635.2 (r) To provide a means of evaluating the effectiveness of ~~ordained ministers~~ **ministerial leaders**
13 in the annual conference (¶¶604.4,350). Suggested guidelines will be provided by the General Board
14 of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry. In cooperation with the cabinet, the
15 board shall develop standards of effectiveness for ~~clergy~~ **ministerial leaders, whether ordained,**
16 **licensed, certified, or assigned,** serving as pastors of congregations in that annual conference.

17

18

19

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

20 The Board of Ordained Ministry bears responsibility for ordained, licensed, and certified church
21 leaders. As the nature of “church” changes and we seek new models for ministry in our
22 communities, we need to be holistic in developing and deploying integrated and diverse “ministerial
23 leadership” into our communities.

24

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCD02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: AVOID INVESTMENT IN THE PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM, COAL AND NATURAL**
2 **GAS**

3 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUALS: Vernon A. Groves and Bob Wilson, leaders in the**
4 **Creation Care Ministries at First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, USA**

5 **SPOKESPERSON: Vernon A. Groves**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5496 SW 157th Pl., Aloha, OR., 97007**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: groves99@comcast.net**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-641-5196**

9 **This petition is a change or addition to the 2012 United Methodist Discipline,**
10 **Paragraph 717**

11
12 **Text of the Disciplinary change or Resolution:**

13
14 It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including
15 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions,
16 including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local
17 churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions,
18 companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the
19 Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to
20 support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the
21 production of **petroleum, coal, natural gas**, nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or
22 companies dealing in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to
23 shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.

27 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

28 **What will this action accomplish?**

29 This action will signal that The United Methodist Church recognizes that its churches are on the front
30 lines of climate change around the world, and that it is wrong for the denomination's pension fund
31 and ministries to be funded through profits from the fossil fuel companies that are wreaking havoc
32 on God's creation.

33
34 **Why is it important?**

35 Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with
36 people around the world, particularly those who are young, old, sick, hungry and/or living in poverty.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: DO NOT INVEST IN PETROLEUM, COAL AND NATURAL GAS**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Vernon A. Groves and Bob Wilson, leaders in the**
3 **Creation Care Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Portland, OR. USA**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: Vernon A. Groves**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5496 SW 157th Pl., Aloha, OR., 97007**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: groves99@comcast.net**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: -503-641-5196**

8 **This petition is a change or addition to the 2012 United Methodist Book of Resolutions,**
9 **Section 4071**

10
11 **Text of the Disciplinary change or Resolution:**
12

13 *Socially Responsible Investing Strategies*

14 The Church shall pursue its investment policy goals through widely practiced socially responsible
15 investing tools such as:

16 1. Portfolio screening

17 Based on long-standing United Methodist values, the Church does not invest in companies deriving
18 significant revenue (usually 10 percent or more) from:

- 19 • alcoholic beverages
- 20 • tobacco products;
- 21 • gambling equipment or enterprises;
- 22 • pornography;
- 23 • operating or managing prison facilities;
- 24 • **the production of petroleum, coal, or natural gas;**
- 25 • antipersonnel weapons, armaments, ammunition, or weapons-related systems provided for
26 commercial and private markets and nuclear weapons.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

29 **What will this action accomplish?**

30 This action will signal that The United Methodist Church recognizes that its churches are on the front
31 lines of climate change around the world, and that it is wrong for the denomination's pension fund
32 and ministries to be funded through profits from the fossil fuel companies that are wreaking havoc
33 on God's creation.

35 **Why is it important?**

36 Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with
37 people around the world, particularly those who are young, old, sick, hungry and/or living in poverty.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: CREATE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS INVESTMENT SCREENS**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUALS: Vernon A. Groves and Bob Wilson, leaders in the**
3 **Creation Care Ministries of First United Methodist Church of Portland, USA.**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: Vernon A. Groves**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5496 SW 157th Pl., Aloha, OR> 97007**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: groves99@comcast.net**

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8 **THIS PETITION is a new United Methodist Resolution**

9 _____
10 *Whereas* the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) manages more than \$21 billion
11 in assets on behalf of United Methodist clergy, staff, agencies, churches, and other institutions; and
12 *Whereas* The United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel dependence for the
13 last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement in the *Book of Resolutions* para. 1001; and
14 *Whereas* the investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church as outlined in the *Book of*
15 *Resolutions* para. 4071 include investing in corporations, companies, institutions or funds making a
16 positive contribution to the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles and the *Book of*
17 *Resolutions*, and exclude investing in companies that violate church values; and
18 *Whereas* the Social Principles state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic,
19 and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least
20 responsible for the emissions;” and
21 *Whereas* the GBOPHB maintains significant holdings in petroleum and natural gas companies; and
22 *Whereas* while shareholder advocacy can be effective in pressuring industries to change practices, it
23 cannot change petroleum and natural gas companies’ core business model, which is to produce
24 petroleum and natural gas; and
25 *Whereas* fossil fuel companies are spending up to \$600 billion each year to seek additional reserves
26 while governments worldwide spend another \$600 billion each year subsidizing their consumption;
27 and
28 *Whereas* the processes and byproducts related to the extraction of petroleum and natural gas are
29 damaging to the health of people who work in these industries as well as those who live on or near
30 extraction sites; and
31 *Whereas* the extraction and burning of petroleum and natural gas exacerbates climate change
32 putting at risk the future livability of our planet, and
33 *Whereas* limiting the warming of the earth to 2-degrees Celsius, the internationally agreed upon limit
34 for human survival, requires that the vast majority of the world’s fossil fuels be left in the ground;
35 and
36 *Whereas* avoiding the worst impacts of climate change urgently requires a transition to sustainable
37 clean energy; and
38 *Whereas* United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of disasters like Hurricane Sandy,
39 Typhoon Haiyan, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, massive wildfires, and other extreme
40 weather events, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change; and

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 *Whereas* continued investment in petroleum and natural gas companies undermines The United
2 Methodist Church's ministries to the most vulnerable among us—including those who are hungry,
3 sick and/or living in poverty; and

4 *Whereas* continued investment in petroleum and natural gas companies signals a grave disregard for
5 the lives of young people;

6 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church petitions the
7 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church to adopt the following
8 policy: Investments shall not knowingly be made in any company or entity whose core business
9 activity involves the production of petroleum or natural gas. Core business activity refers to a
10 company's primary, or central focus of activity and is an essential element in the company's
11 economic success. A "core business" is one that accounts for 10% or more of a company's revenue
12 derived from the objectionable products and/or services.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish?

15 This action will signal that The United Methodist Church recognizes that its churches are on the front
16 lines of climate change around the world, and that it is wrong for the denomination's pension fund
17 and ministries to be funded through profits from the fossil fuel companies that are wreaking havoc
18 on God's creation.
19

20
21 Despite common belief, General Conference does not have the legal authority to direction the
22 actions and dictate policies of the pension board. General Conference isn't a fiduciary and it can't be
23 sued, so its actions related to creating investment guidelines don't carry significant legal risk. But the
24 pension board is a fiduciary--it has a legal and ethical responsibility to protect pension investments,
25 and as such, it can be sued by plan participants who believe its policies fail to meet its
26 responsibilities. Because this kind of lawsuit created real problems in the ELCA, the pension board
27 has a history of fighting against General Conference legislation that attempts to direct its investment
28 policies.
29

Why is it important?

30 Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with
31 people around the world, particularly those who are young, old, sick, hungry and/or living in poverty.
32

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR03

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: ESTABLISHING A SCREEN TO REMOVE AND AVOID INVESTMENTS IN ILLEGAL**
2 **SETTLEMENTS ON OCCUPIED LAND**
3 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OREGON/IDAHO HOLY LAND TASK FORCE**
4 **CO-SPONSORS: OREGON/IDAHO METHODIST FEDERATION FOR**
5 **SOCIAL ACTION**
6 **OREGON/IDAHO PEACE WITH JUSTICE**
7 **SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE**
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 2545 SW TERWILLIGER BLVD, APT 510**
9 **PORTLAND OR 97201**
10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: traveling.mimi@gmail.com**
11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-299-4510 (home) 503-310-5577 (cell)**

12 **This petition is a new United Methodist Resolution**
13

14
15 An occupying power in a foreign territory is prohibited from moving its own population onto land
16 that it has occupied (Article 49, Geneva Convention IV). Communities created by such action and
17 established by an occupying power on occupied land are commonly referred to as "illegal
18 settlements."

19
20 A business operating in an illegal settlement pays taxes to the settlement and the occupying power
21 strengthening its economic base, taking advantage of land unlawfully seized from others, and is
22 complicit in the occupying power's violations of human rights and international law. For these
23 reasons, the UN Global Compact calls on companies to "make sure they are not complicit in human
24 rights abuses" (unglobalcompact.org). Companies operating in illegal settlements often exploit
25 resources in the occupied territories by mining, diverting water and polluting agricultural land. The
26 Hague Conventions of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention clearly forbid exploitation of the
27 natural resources of an occupied people.

28 The United Methodist General Conference 2012 encouraged companies "to honor and promote
29 human rights and the dignity of human life consistent with the 10 principles of the United Nations
30 Global Compact" (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/investment-ethics>). Further, the United
31 Methodist Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies "that directly or indirectly
32 support the violation of human rights" (2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church,
33 Para. 717). Our United Methodist Social Principles declare, "We denounce as immoral an ordering of
34 life that perpetuates injustice and impedes the pursuit of peace." (*UMC Social Principles*, "The World
35 Community") The presence of illegal settlements on occupied land perpetuates injustice and
36 impedes the pursuit of peace.

37 The United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is a founding signatory of the
38 *Principles for Responsible Investment*, through which signatories agree to consider environmental
39 and social, as well as governance issues, in investment decisions. (www.unpri.org).

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR03

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 The General Conference directs General Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church to
2 develop and apply a screen that excludes investment in companies with involvement in illegal
3 settlements by:

- 4
- 5 1. Having a physical presence or a subsidiary in an illegal settlement, or
- 6 2. Providing support services of any kind to an illegal settlement, or
- 7 3. Contributing to the financing or building of illegal settlements; and
- 8 4. Manufacturing products in or extracting resources from occupied land.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR04

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: DIVEST FROM CATERPILLAR, MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AND HEWLETT PACKARD AFTER
2 YEARS OF CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

3 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OREGON/IDAHO HOLY LAND TASK FORCE

4 CO-SPONSORS: OREGON/IDAHO METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

5 OREGON/IDAHO PEACE WITH JUSTICE

6 SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE

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11 This petition is a new United Methodist Resolution

12
13
14 WHEREAS United Methodists have engaged Caterpillar for ten years, Motorola Solutions for nine
15 years, and Hewlett Packard for seven years, and have asked them to end their involvement with
16 Israel's occupation (https://www.kairosresponse.org/uploads/UM_CorpEngagement_2004-11.pdf);
17 and,

18 WHEREAS every United Methodist General Conference for more than 40 years has endorsed calls for
19 just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine, and an end to all military sales to the region; and,

20 WHEREAS the United Methodist Book of Discipline states that advocacy of corporate disinvestment is
21 one of the steps to be considered in the process of corporate engagement: "The boards and agencies
22 are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate
23 disinvestment." (Book of Discipline, Para. 717); and,

24 WHEREAS ongoing military occupation and expanding Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands have
25 deepened a system that dehumanizes Palestinians and Israelis; and,

26 WHEREAS more than 3,000 Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions
27 behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land; and the United Methodist Church
28 has been specifically asked by Palestinian Christian leaders to oppose human rights violations
29 (www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf
30 https://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat_Kassis.html); and,

31 WHEREAS Caterpillar provides Israel with military bulldozers and earth-moving equipment, which are
32 used to uproot olive groves, demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated
33 roads and the separation barrier on occupied land; Motorola Solutions provides surveillance systems
34 for Israeli settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for
35 the Israeli military; and Hewlett Packard provides data storage for settlements, manages information
36 technology for the Israeli Navy, and provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside the West
37 Bank; and

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GCR04

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 1 WHEREAS there has been no meaningful progress with the companies and no indication of any
2 willingness to change their involvement in Israel’s occupation; and,
- 3 WHEREAS thirteen annual conferences (Baltimore-Washington, California-Nevada, California-Pacific,
4 Detroit, Minnesota, New England, New York, Northern Illinois, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain,
5 Upper New York, Virginia and West Ohio) have already passed divestment resolutions; and,
- 6 WHEREAS other denominations such as the Presbyterian Church USA, Society of Friends (Quakers),
7 Mennonite Central Committee and some United Church of Christ conferences have passed similar
8 divestment resolutions and have divested without suffering financial harm; and,
- 9 WHEREAS in 2014 the Luxembourg national pension fund FDC announced it was barring Motorola
10 Solutions from its investments because of its involvement with human rights violations in the
11 occupied territories;” and,
- 12 WHEREAS Caterpillar has refused a request from the United Methodist General Board of Pension and
13 Health Benefits to sign the UN Guiding Principles, and General Conference 2012 called on all United
14 Methodist boards and agencies to “prayerfully consider” divestment from companies that refuse to
15 sign these principles; and,
- 16 WHEREAS we categorically denounce all forms of anti-Semitism, whether directed toward Arabs or
17 Jews, and any and all attempts to diminish the historical suffering of the Jewish people or the
18 Palestinian people, and we seek justice for both Israelis and Palestinians; and,
- 19 WHEREAS divestment is aimed not at Israel itself, but at ending the occupation of land beyond its
20 internationally recognized borders; and,
- 21 WHEREAS we denounce violence and terror tactics by all sides in the Middle East conflict, and
22 commend non-violent means of achieving peace; and,
- 23 WHEREAS all UMC mission personnel who have served in the occupied territories since the 1990s
24 support divestment from these three companies
25 (https://www.kairosresponse.org/UMC_Missionaries_Divestment.html); and
- 26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on
27 its investment managers to promptly, but prudently, divest their stock holdings in Caterpillar,
28 Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard and continue to exclude these companies until they end
29 their involvement with the Israeli occupation.
- 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on
31 Church and Annual Conference investment managers to take action to divest promptly from
32 Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard; and
- 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church also calls on
34 Church and Annual Conference investment managers to continue to exclude these companies until
35 they end their involvement with the Israeli occupation.