

1 **ACTION REQUEST AR #4**
2 **2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
3
4

5 **TITLE: A Call for Structural Change in The United Methodist Church**
6 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Jeremy Smith, UMOI Clergy Member**
7 **SPOKESPERSON: Jeremy Smith**
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 180 Denny Way, Seattle WA 98109**
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jeremy@firstchurchseattle.org**
10 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 971-270-0179 (voicemail, texts)**
11

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

14 Be It Resolved That the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference notify the Council of Bishops
15 that the stipulations of the Traditional Plan are not acceptable for our Conference.
16

17 Be It Further Resolved That the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference call on the 2020
18 General Conference to adopt a structural realignment of the United Methodist Church
19 that creates an expression of Wesleyan Methodism that allows for both traditionalist and
20 progressive understandings of LGBTQ Clergy and same-gender weddings to co-exist
21 within the Church in a new way.
22

23 Be It Further Resolved That the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference call on the General
24 Conference Secretary to release all structural realignment petitions created by General
25 Church or Annual Conference teams one month prior to the petition submission date for
26 2020 General Conference for public study and feedback, incorporating potential changes
27 before final submission.
28

29 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
30

31 **What will this action accomplish?**
32

33 Since the Traditional Plan passed at the 2019 General Conference serves as a rejection
34 of compromise and a theologically diverse denomination, only structural separation will
35 allow all Annual Conferences and Local Churches to effectively Make Disciples of Jesus
36 Christ for the Transformation of the World. By restructuring spheres of authority and
37 accountability, The United Methodist Church will be better adaptable to our mission
38 context and preserve our global unity.
39

40 **Why is it important?**
41

42 Because enormous cultural and theological gaps remain in our global church, and the
43 Council of Bishops, The Commission on a Way Forward, and the 2019 General
44 Conference were unable to find a satisfactory resolution to the impasse in the United

45 Methodist Church around affirming LGBTQ clergy and celebrating same-gender
46 weddings in our churches, it is time to restructure the UMC.

47

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

49

50 The Conference Secretary shall issue this petition text to:

51

52 1. Council of Bishops secretary

53 2. General Conference General Secretary

54

55 (Addresses provided later)

56

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

58

59 Staff time to mail the document

60

61

62
63 **ACTION REQUEST**
64 **2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
65
66

67 **TITLE: Funding Ban on LGBTQIA+ Exclusion**
68 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Jeremy Smith, UMOI Clergy Member**
69 **SPOKESPERSON: Jeremy Smith**
70 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 180 Denny Way, Seattle WA 98109**
71 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jeremy@firstchurchseattle.org**
72 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 971-270-0179 (voicemail, texts)**
73

74 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**
75

76 Be it resolved that no Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference funds or monies (either directly
77 through payments or indirectly through the time of employees of the conference) shall be
78 expended for the purpose of background investigations, marital status investigations,
79 complaints, or clergy trials pertaining to LGBTQIA+ ordination and marriage.
80

81 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**
82

83 **What will this action accomplish?**
84

85 In affirmation of our commitment to a fully inclusive, grace-filled, compassionate church,
86 direction must be given to the annual conference regarding LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Since
87 establishing moratoriums or maximum penalties have been declared unconstitutional by
88 the Judicial Council, the annual conference shall instead be directed to not expend any
89 financial or personnel resources towards the procedures that prop up LGBTQIA+
90 exclusion.
91

92 **Why is it important?**
93

94 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as a body and the members of the Greater
95 Northwest delegation to the 2019 General Conference overwhelmingly affirm and
96 celebrate God's inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons as full, equal, and celebrated
97 participants in all aspects of the life of the church and have repeatedly adopted
98 resolutions and legislation to that effect.
99

100 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**
101

102 The Treasurer's office and Conference Finance and Administration Committee shall have
103 oversight.
104

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

106

107 Staff time to update any budget documents, and staff time to inform any complainants issuing
108 complaints regarding LGBTQIA+ ordination and marriage that there are no funds or staff
109 available to process their complaint.

110

111

112 **ACTION REQUEST**
113 **2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

114
115
116 **TITLE: Aligning our Apportionments with our Values**
117 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Jeremy Smith, UMOI Clergy Member**
118 **SPOKESPERSON: Jeremy Smith**
119 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 180 Denny Way, Seattle WA 98109**
120 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jeremy@firstchurchseattle.org**
121 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 971-270-0179 (voicemail, texts)**
122

123 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**
124

125 Be it resolved, in empowering local churches to align their values with their
126 apportionments without reducing payment of those apportionments, the Annual
127 Conference shall:

- 128 1) Offer, in addition to yearly Apportionment notification letters, forms to indicate
129 that local churches can choose to pay their apportionments either as Proportional
130 Allocation or as Church-Directed Allocation of Funds. The Funds eligible for
131 consideration are any General Fund that is sent beyond the Annual and
132 Jurisdictional Conference. Failure to return this form will default the local church
133 to Proportional Allocation.
- 134 2) Provide concise but detailed documentation as to what each apportioned Fund
135 supports, including annual conference and jurisdictional funds.
- 136 3) Establish policies to handle over-payments of particular General Funds to the
137 Annual Conference funds, as determined by Conference Finance and
138 Administration (CFNA)
- 139 4) Establish policies to forbid the Annual Conference or the CFNA from paying
140 underfunded General Funds out of reserves or over-payments to other General
141 Funds.
- 142 5) Support 100% payout of the Annual Conference, Jurisdictional, and Episcopal
143 Fund as a prior-claim. The annual conference structure depends on the role of
144 the resident bishop.
- 145 6) The CFNA shall issue a yearly report to Annual Conference indicating how much
146 money was redirected from proportional giving each year.
- 147 7) At the end of the financial year, the CFNA shall certify that a local church has
148 paid 100% of its apportionments if it pays 100% of its total apportionment,
149 regardless of which Fund the money was allocated to.

150
151 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

152
153 **What will this action accomplish?**
154

155 Some annual conferences offer two different ways for a local church to pay 100% of its
156 apportionments: Proportional Allocation and Church-Directed Allocation.
157 - Proportional Allocation is acceptance of the proportion given to each local church
158 and 100% payment of those funds.
159 - Church-Directed Allocation allows local churches to pay different amounts to
160 different funds, so long as the total amount of money paid by the local church
161 equals 100% of the total monies apportioned to the local church.

162
163 The Book of Discipline allows for such flexibility in giving, stating that payment in full of
164 our apportionments is the “first benevolent responsibility” of the church and annual
165 conference (§812 and ¶247.14), and that apportionments “shall not be subject to
166 reduction either by the annual conference or by the charge or local church” (§615.1 and
167 ¶811.4). The Discipline does not say payment in full of each individual fund allocated
168 must be paid, only payment in full of the church’s total apportioned amount.

169
170 Most congregations in the UMOI Annual Conference believe in paying 100% of our
171 apportionments. But in light of 2019 General Conference’s decisions that deny full
172 participation in the church by LGBTQ members of our laity and clergy, local churches
173 should have more say in what parts of the denomination their monies are funding.

174
175 It is not appropriate for local churches to withhold funds from the annual conference, or
176 to self-redirect apportioned funds to outside groups. Therefore, providing a process and
177 education where local churches can better direct where their apportioned funds go is the
178 most Methodist solution to our current question as far as aligning our money with our
179 values.

180
181 **Why is it important?**

182
183 In response to the 2019 General Conference, it is time to empower local churches to
184 better give direction to their apportionments to The United Methodist Church. At great
185 cost of money and our mission, the Council of Bishops, the Commission on a Way
186 Forward, and the 2019 General Conference were unable to find a satisfactory resolution
187 to the impasse in the United Methodist Church around affirming LGBTQ clergy and
188 celebrating same-gender weddings in our churches. Given that enormous cultural and
189 theological gaps remain in our global church, local churches and annual conferences
190 should have more direction in where their Apportionments (“mission shares”) go to
191 ensure our giving aligns with our values.

192
193
194 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

195
196 The Annual Conference Treasurer and local church Finance committees

197
198 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

199

200 Staff time in the Treasurer's office to create and process the document, and bookkeeping time

201 to process the different payments from churches that opt-into this process.