

**ACTION REQUEST AR #5
2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

TITLE: Establish Alaska Conference Special Sunday
SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OR-ID Conference Council on Finance and Administration
SPOKESPERSON: Mark E. Bateman
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I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:

Establish the second Sunday of September of each year as a Conference Advance Special Sunday with offering to be known as Alaska Conference Special Sunday.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish?

The 2016 *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church provides that in every annual conference, “There may be a conference Advance program, established and carried out in the same spirit of partnership as the general Advance program,” (§656.1), and

WHEREAS The Alaska United Methodist Conference (AUMC) is a full partner in mission and ministry with the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, however in a somewhat dependent status since it is constituted by the General Conference as a missionary conference because of its remoteness and the small number of its mission stations, some of which are not accessible by road, and

WHEREAS The local churches of the AUMC continue to be engaged in vital ministries that, in many settings, play a big role in supporting the very thin social safety net of their community, which stories are being shared on the “One Church Many Doors” blog (<https://alaskaumc.org/blog/>), and

WHEREAS It is in the best interest of all United Methodists in the entire Greater Northwest Episcopal Area that the ministry of the Church in Alaska thrive and continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Why is it important?

The State of Alaska is in the midst of a prolonged recession because of the worldwide depression of the price of oil which is the primary source of public revenue in the State, and

WHEREAS The AUMC is experiencing the effect of the recession in a reduced return rate of apportionments from its local churches, down from a historical level of about 93% to recent levels of about 85%, and

WHEREAS The General Board of Global Ministries which has historically provided an annual block grant of up to \$60,000 has indicated that it intends to terminate the block grant entirely beginning with the year 2020.

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How will it be carried out? By whom?

Each local church, at its discretion, will sponsor an offering for the Alaska Conference on the second Sunday of September. Offerings to be passed through to Conference Treasurer.

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

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

Nominal costs involved are the volunteer time it takes to count the offering at the local church, the time it takes the local church treasurer to forward the offering to the Conference Treasurer, and the time it takes conference staff to record and transfer the offering to the Alaska conference.

[Everything we do has monetary cost. Staff time and pages in the Journal have cost. If the action requires more than a nominal cost, it must be submitted to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration no less than 90 days before Annual Conference.]

Please email in Word format to Rev. Ruth Marsh (revruthmarsh@gmail.com) and/or Rev. Adam Briddell (adambriddell@gmail.com) no later than March 19, 2019 for review and publishing.

Late items in Word format will be received up to March 29, 2019 without review.