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**NEW ACTION REQUEST AR #6
2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5 **TITLE: Directive for Complaint Process and Use of Reserve Funds**
6 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Legislative Assembly writing team (Karen**
7 **Hernandez, Warren Light, Carter Lybeck, Karen Nelson)**
8 **SPOKESPERSON: Karen Hernandez & Warren Light**
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 4464 S. Maple Grove Road, Boise, ID 83709**
10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: karen@umoi.org**
11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 208-697-4510**
12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed 21-0-0**

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

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17 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference shall continue to faithfully respond to complaints in
18 accordance with the *Discipline*. In the case of multiple complaints being received in a short
19 timeframe, we offer the bishop the following guidelines that reflect the priorities and values of
20 our Annual Conference members:

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22 Complaints will be triaged in such a way that those causing grave and/or widespread harm will
23 receive priority. We believe that persons and relationships are to be honored over institutions
24 and laws, which is what we see in Jesus' life as depicted in the Gospels. As a result, the
25 priorities of this annual conference regarding the process of complaints shall be as follows
26 (ordered from most to least urgent):

- 27 1. Sexual abuse (para. 2702.1h) and/or child abuse (para. 2702.1g);
28 2. Sexual misconduct (para. 2702.1i); harassment, including, but not limited to, racial
29 and/or sexual harassment (para. 2702.1j); and/or racial or gender discrimination (para.
30 2702.1k);
31 3. Crime (para. 2702.1c) and/or fiscal malfeasance (para. 2702.1l);
32 4. Relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor (para.
33 2702.1f);
34 5. Other complaints causing harm; and
35 6. Other complaints.

36
37 Current Oregon-Idaho District Superintendents, already entrusted with supervisory
38 responsibilities, are eligible designees whom the bishop may choose to carry out the
39 supervisory process. (Our preference and request is that *only* current District Superintendents
40 from this Annual Conference are to be called upon for this supervisory process.)

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42 To ensure that District Superintendents can appropriately attend to their duties as chief
43 missional strategists, District Superintendents are asked by the Annual Conference to prioritize
44 complaints as listed above.

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2 In an effort to ensure that the Annual Conference and our local churches can continually live
3 into our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we request
4 only current year conference budget funds may be used to finance any part of supervisory or
5 judicial complaint processes for complaints that do not cause grave or widespread harm.
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8 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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10 **What will this action accomplish?**

11 This attempts to prepare for a possible wave of complaints resulting from legislation passed at
12 General Conference 2019.

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14 **Why is it important?**

15 We believe it is valuable to be proactive rather than to allow our bishop, cabinet, and clergy to
16 find themselves doing only the work of complaint/supervisory processes.

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

19 The bishop will guide the complaint/supervisory processes, as required by *Discipline*, but this
20 legislation communicates the priorities of our Annual Conference regarding complaints and the
21 sincere desire for conference leadership to be empowered—even in tumultuous times—to lead
22 us in fulfilling the mission of the UMC.

23
24 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

25 There is no additional cost to the conference. More importantly, this legislation aims to protect
26 reserve funds from being depleted during a difficult time in our denomination so that reserves
27 may be used for the sake of our mission.