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**ACTION REQUEST AR #9**  
**2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5 **TITLE: Study Committee for Disaffiliation and Special Annual Conference Session**  
6 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: UMC Next participants from Oregon-Idaho,**  
7 **Pacific Northwest, and Alaska**

8 **SPOKESPERSON: Rev. Jeremy Smith, UMOI Clergy Member**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 180 Denny Way, Seattle WA 98109**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: jeremy@firstchurchseattle.org**

11 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 971-270-0179 (voicemail, texts)**

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed 23-0-0**

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

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16 WHEREAS, that the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference recognize that we are  
17 stronger together and must be prepared and ready to protect all our members from judgmental,  
18 discriminatory, and exclusionary actions of General Conference.

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20 WHEREAS, that the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference are committed to being  
21 a beacon of hope by showing that we can move forward together and seek to end the harm  
22 perpetuated by the United Methodist Church to LGBTQIA+ persons and allies.

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24 WHEREAS, that the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference recognize that we are  
25 caretakers and have a fiduciary responsibility to find the real costs of possible pathways for our  
26 annual conference.

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28 BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, with heavy  
29 hearts and grief, direct Conference Leadership and the Conference Board of Trustees to  
30 develop a Study Committee for Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church which will have  
31 the authority to develop a plan of exit of the entire annual conference from The United Methodist  
32 Church, maximizing the retention of the annual conference's financial, property, and other  
33 resources, including but not limited to:

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- Requesting that Wespath provide consultation to conference leadership and each clergy person who requests it, providing a realistic picture of the impact of individual and/or conference disaffiliation on pension payouts.
  - Requesting GCFA prepare financial costs, property ownership, and legal considerations for the annual conference.
  - Requesting General Commission on Archives and History respond to historical sites and considerations in our area and offer suggestions of who retains ownership of said properties and historical documents.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Western Jurisdiction moves to disaffiliate from the  
2 United Methodist Church that this plan will be brought into harmony with the actions of the  
3 Western Jurisdiction.

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the leadership of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will  
6 have the authority to call for a Special Annual Conference before the 2020 General Conference  
7 if circumstances warrant consideration of immediate action; otherwise, the Study Committee will  
8 report back with a completed study and plan for the future to be voted on by the members of the  
9 2020 Annual Conference session.

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11 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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13 **What will this action accomplish?**

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15 The members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference recognize that we are caretakers  
16 and have a fiduciary responsibility to find the real costs of possible pathways for our  
17 annual conference. To be able to make decisions for the future, we need to study and  
18 get real numbers and considerations on the table.

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21 **Why is it important?**

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23 At great cost of money and our mission, the Council of Bishops, the Commission on a  
24 Way Forward, and the 2019 General Conference were unable to find a satisfactory  
25 resolution to the impasse in the United Methodist Church around affirming LGBTQ clergy  
26 and celebrating same-gender weddings in our churches. Given that enormous cultural  
27 and theological gaps remain in our global church, annual conferences should study  
28 disaffiliation to find out the real cost of a direction that can solely be decided by our  
29 annual conference.

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

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33 Conference Leadership and Conference Trustees.

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

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37 Staff time in the Treasurer's and Chancellor's offices to create and process the study.  
38 General Agency staff time to process financial and legal requests.