

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**ACTION REQUEST AR-11**  
**2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: Petition WJ College of Bishops to Convene Special WJ Conference**  
**SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Western Methodist Justice Movement**  
**SPOKESPERSON: Karen Nelson**  
**SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:**  
**SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:**  
**SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:**

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

Whereas: The Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops, in its response to Judicial Council Decision 1378 in a document dated April 26, 2019, entitled "A Home For All God's People" has declared that

...the intent of the Western Jurisdiction remains the same as was stated on the floor of General Conference 2019: to live in the spirit of "One Church." ... In the wake of the Judicial Council decisions, we continue our commitment to live into Beloved Community as one church in each of the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction....

we, your bishops, are prayerfully in conversation in many places, with many individuals and groups about your hopes and your vision for being Church in this challenging time. We remain committed to ministry as one church for all and we ask for your prayers for the church and for the future of the love and grace as we travel this road together, not knowing where it will lead us, yet, but confident in God's presence with us.

Whereas: ¶ 521.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2016* gives the College of Bishops the authority by two-thirds vote "to call a special session of the Jurisdictional Conference when necessary."

Therefore: The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference petitions the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to call a special session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference for the following purposes:

1. To prayerfully consider how we can most faithfully continue to be *a home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation in the light of the Commission's recommendations and*
2. *To consider and develop a process for creative separation from The United Methodist Church, while defining ourselves clearly, in order to be able to continue to function as one church in our Jurisdiction.*

1  
2 We urge the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to appoint a special planning team  
3 that will: 1) consider creative ways of minimizing the cost of a specially called session;  
4 and 2) find creative sources for funding a specially called session. We urge immediate  
5 action so that the beginnings of a Jurisdictional plan can be in place prior to the 2020  
6 General Conference.  
7

8 1. The Commission on a Way Forward brought forward a proposal called the “One  
9 Church Plan” which the majority of the Council of Bishops and the Western  
10 Jurisdiction College of Bishops endorsed prior to the specially called session of  
11 the General Conference in 2019. That plan was not passed, and instead a  
12 punitive, and even more discriminatory plan was passed that significantly  
13 changed the identity and working theology of The United Methodist Church;  
14 The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church has long affirmed that God is  
15 calling it to be:

16 *A home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and*  
17 *transformation: the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church*  
18 *is multicultural and inclusive, engaged in the life of its communities, with*  
19 *confident, effective lay and clergy leadership who, in diverse ministry*  
20 *settings, form disciples who live out the Good News of Jesus as global*  
21 *citizens (Our Emerging Vision);*

22 The Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops has declared in its response to Judicial  
23 Council decision 1341:

24  
25 We the people called United Methodist in the Western Jurisdiction witness  
26 daily the gifts and reflections of God’s grace in LGBTQ persons who  
27 faithfully serve among us as lay leaders, pastors, district superintendents,  
28 and now, as a bishop.

29  
30 Our experience informs how we do ministry together, how Boards of  
31 Ordained Ministry approach their work, and how we carry out our  
32 episcopal duties.

33  
34 Our life together in Jesus Christ has been enriched by the fullness of their  
35 presence and participation. We recognize that we in the church have  
36 differing views of what full inclusion means. Even in the West we are not  
37 of one mind. Nevertheless, we believe Christ calls us to live and serve  
38 together as one even in our differences.

39  
40 Our Christian experience teaches us that God’s love is wide enough for all  
41 of us.  
42

1 It is not always easy for us to hold relationship with those whose  
2 understandings differ from us, but John Wesley encourages us to  
3 remember: “We don’t have to think alike to love alike.”

4  
5 There is much work to be done before we the church are able to love as  
6 Jesus has loved us.

7  
8 We in the Western Jurisdiction will continue to be a home for all God’s beloved as we strive to  
9 be faithful disciples of Jesus the Christ

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

11 This action will be carried out by the College of Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction and  
12 the Jurisdictional Leadership Team.

13  
14

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

16 The final cost is yet to be determined and will be the responsibility of the Jurisdictional  
17 Conference.