

# Legislative Action

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### Standing Resolutions:

See page 130 for the list, followed by the text of those adopted.

Mel Philips and Warren Light lead plenary discussion during legislative work at Annual Conference.



# Annual Conference Actions and Resolutions

## Conference Actions

*Recorded below is the text of each petition as passed by the 2017 Annual Conference, along with the titles of petitions that were defeated or referred.*

*For the text of Standing Resolutions, see the next section, beginning on page 129.*

**AR 01 Changing the Sexual Ethics Requirement for Retired Clergy Not Under Appointment**

Sponsoring Group: Edson Gilmore

This Action Request was defeated.

**AR 02 Proposal to Divide the Principal of the Southern Oregon Project Fund**

Sponsoring Group: Board of Camp & Retreat Ministries

Responsible Party: Board of Camp & Retreat Ministries, Conference Treasurer

Adopted on Majority Consent Calendar

Divide the principal of the Southern Oregon Project Fund, established in 1997 from the proceeds of the sale of the Loon Lake Camp to fulfill the intent of strengthening camp and retreat opportunities for the people of the churches of southern Oregon in carrying out their ministries.

\$150,000 to be designated to the Camp Latgawa Development Fund. (For immediate use to upgrade shower houses/bathrooms, meeting and lodging spaces. Any remaining balance shall be placed in the Camp Latgawa Maintenance Reserve Fund.)

\$150,000 to the CARE Fund (to grow the endowment principal).

Remaining balance (\$110,430.66 as of 04/07/17) to go to the CARE Project Fund (administered by the Facilities and Property Division of the BCRM. Funds are applied for by sites to address the needs of safety, health, maintenance and improvements to the sites.

**AR 03 Send a Letter Supporting Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice through Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions**

Sponsoring Person: Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force and OR-ID MFSA

Responsible Parties: Holy Land Task Force and Conference Secretary

Adopted on Majority Consent Calendar

Upon passage by the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of Standing Resolution SR-F [to be renamed after Legislative Assembly], the Conference Secretary and the Holy Land Task Force will write a letter to the President of the United States and to the Governors, the congressional representatives and the members of the state legislatures of Oregon and Idaho, informing those elected officials of this resolution and attaching the full text of the resolution, said letter to include the approximate number of congregations and church members within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. Said letter would end with this sentence: "We urge you to oppose legislation that would limit free speech—and to support freedom for the Palestinian people."

**AR 04 Conference Personnel Committee Rule Change [6.006]**

Sponsoring Group: Conference Personnel Committee

Responsible Party: Personnel Committee with MLT and Conference Treasurer

Adopted on Rules Consent Calendar (requires two-thirds vote)

Replace the language of Conference Rule 6.006 with the following language:

The Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Personnel Committee as follows:

1) **Purpose:** To ensure that there are adequate and just employment policies for the conference staff, not including appointed clergy. The Conference Personnel Committee shall have responsibility for Conference program and finance staff structure, approve new and modified positions and job descriptions to strategically align Conference staff with the vision and mission of the Conference; and to oversee staff

evaluation, recognition and disciplinary procedures with the staff member's direct supervisor and the Conference Treasurer.

2) **Scope:** The CPC will work in collaboration and consultation with the other conference agencies that employ staff, to support the mission of the Conference as well as create and nurture a spirit of unity among all employees.

3) **Organization:** The CPC will consist of 4 ex-officio, non-voting members including the Bishop or designee, conference treasurer, dean of the cabinet, Human Resources manager. Additionally, five voting members, 4 laity and one clergy from the annual conference, will be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference for terms of four years. The Chair will be elected by the Annual Conference from among the five voting members. The Vice-Chair and Secretary will be elected from among the membership of the committee. These members will have expertise in personnel related issues and policies. Voting members will be appointed by the Chair to lead issues of a) Compensation, b) Job Description Development, c) Policy Development. The CPC shall report to the Ministerial Leadership Team (MLT).

4) **Meeting Schedule:** The CPC shall meet at least twice annually and more often as needed. The CPC shall meet as needed to receive, review and reach decisions regarding grievances brought by non-appointed Conference Staff.

5) **Confidentiality:** Any staff-specific personnel matters shall be confidential and not discussed outside the parameters of this committee.

**AR 05 Restructuring the Annual Conference Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)/Revision of Conference Rules Relating to the Ministry Leadership Team (Chapter 9—9.000- 9.030)**

Sponsoring Group: Ministry Leadership Team

Responsible Groups: Ministry Leadership Team

Adopted by Majority Vote

Revise Rule 9.000:

~~There will be a Ministry Leadership Team chaired by the Bishop and charged with connecting and aligning the ministries and resources of the annual conference with its mission and vision, and providing for connections with the agencies of the General Church. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference shall have a Ministry Leadership Team (MLT), which is charged with the responsibility of providing ongoing oversight for the mission and ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference within the Greater Northwest Area's vision and strategies. The MLT will accomplish this by helping to:~~

- (1) ~~Contextualize the mission of the United Methodist Church to our settings within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.~~
- (2) ~~Prioritize and align our connectional resources to live out our mission and purpose as a church as described in the Book of Discipline, ¶601.~~
- (3) ~~Encourage and support our local congregations throughout this process to demonstrate vitality and further this mission through their life and ministry.~~
- (4) ~~Provide for the functions and maintain General Conference connections as appropriate and outlined in the Book of Discipline, ¶601.~~

Revise Rule 9.010:

The Ministry Leadership Team shall consist of **no more than 16 individuals. The MLT chair will be determined by the bishop, in consultation with the Director of Connectional Ministries (or equivalent) and the AC Lay Leader. MLT members include:**

The GNW Area Bishop (chair)

The Conference Lay Leader

**Director of Connectional Ministries (or equivalent)**

~~District Superintendents~~

**Two District Superintendents and two District Lay Leaders (such that each district is represented)**

Director of Stewardship and Finance

Conference Treasurer / Benefits Officer

Director of Communications

A representative of the Council on Finance and Administration

A representative of the Conference Board of Pensions

A representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry

Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries A representative of the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

Persons who are determined by the Bishop to be serving in lead positions of Annual Conference priority ministries (such as the Vital Church Project, Camp and Retreat Ministry, Imagine No Malaria, Hunger Initiative, etc.)\*

\*Additional individuals may be named by the bishop, in consultation with the Director of Connectional Ministries (or equivalent) and the AC Lay Leader, in order to help maintain a sense of balance and attend to all of our various equity concerns related to clergy/laity, age, ethnicity, etc. (BOD ¶610.5)

And no more than 7 others serving in leadership positions identified by the bishop as essential for effective management of the conference mission:

The remainder of Rule 9.010 will be deleted and replaced with the following words, which shall be renumbered as Rule 9.015 and Titled, "General Church Connections and Responsibilities."

The MLT will align and oversee the work of the annual conference, in concert with the Bishop of the Greater NW Area and conference leadership as outlined in the Book of Discipline, so that the functions of ministry and administration are appropriately implemented within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

**Rule 9.020 and 9.030 will remain as currently stated:**

9.020 The Ministry Leadership Team may authorize Conference Ministry Teams as needed to fulfill the mission and vision of the conference. Conference Ministry Teams will have:

1. a mission aligned with the Conference mission, vision, and values,
2. a mission plan including an identified mission field, method and specific measurable achievable goals, and
3. a team leader accountable to the Ministry Leadership Team.

9.030 The Ministry Leadership Team shall consult with CCF & A in the creation of the Annual Conference Budget.

#### **AR 06 Reasonable Compliance Required Under Conference Rule 2.024**

Sponsoring Groups: Legislative Team

Responsible Parties: Legislative Team with the Sessions Committee

Adopted on Rules Consent Calendar (requires two-thirds vote)

Add the following language after the last words of Conference Rule 2.024:

**Compliance with this rule [2.024] requires:**

- \*\*a reasonable attempt by organizers of the Legislative Assembly to meet all category requirements,**
- \*\*persons representing the named categories have been asked to serve with appropriate notice, and**
- \*\*actual attendance of Legislative Assembly is at least 70% of membership as prescribed herein.**

**AR 08 Abundant Health Task Force Formation (SUBSTITUTE MOTION FOR AR 07)**

Sponsoring Groups: Ministry Leadership Team

Responsible Parties: The Abundant Health Task Force, reporting to the MLT

Adopted by Majority Vote

Become an Abundant Health Annual Conference by participating in the General Board of Global Ministries Abundant Health Initiative in the following manner:

The Annual Conference will establish an Abundant Health Task Force to lead, inform, and guide the work of the conference and encourage local churches to participate in the United Methodist Church Abundant Health Initiative. As a key element of this work, the task force will invite local churches to engage in abundant health efforts today as we build our conference's connectional response. Congregations will also be encouraged to become part of the 10,000 Church Challenge, by initiating and/or enhancing community-based ministry opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices. Illustrations of what is involved in the Abundant Health Initiative can be found at [www.umcabundanthealth.org](http://www.umcabundanthealth.org). The Abundant Health Task Force will work under the auspices of the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) and report its work to that body on a regular basis. The MLT will name an Abundant Health Coordinator and the members of the Task Force with input from the Board of Lay Ministries, the Appointive Cabinet, and the bishop. The UMW President or a designee shall be a member of the task force.

**AR 09 Call for a Special Session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference**

Sponsoring Groups: Western Methodist Justice Movement and OR-ID MFSA

Defeated

Bishop Stanovsky pours out water during the Memorial worship service, while Shalom Agtarap, who preached the sermon, looks on.



## Action Requests for Standing Resolutions

*Note that the text of Standing Resolutions that were adopted can be found with all the Oregon-Idaho Standing Resolutions, beginning on page 129*

- SR 01 Planetary Stewardship**  
Sponsor: Planet Church Committee, Portland First UMC; Outreach Committee, Lake Oswego UMC  
Adopted (Consent Calendar for Standing Resolutions)
- SR 02 Open Membership**  
Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists  
Adopted (Consent Calendar for Standing Resolutions)
- SR 03 Welcoming the Migrant in Our Midst**  
Sponsor: Sanctuary Task Force of the First United Methodist Church of Eugene  
Adopted.
- SR 04 Oregon-Idaho Conference Supports Sanctuary for Immigrants and Refugees**  
Sponsor: Peace with Justice, OR-ID MFSA  
Adopted.
- SR 05 Opposing Legislation Requiring Restraining Order Against Survivors in Cases of Domestic Violence**  
Sponsor: The Wesley Foundation, University of Oregon  
Adopted.
- SR 06 Call to Study the Implications of Purchasing Hewlett Packard Office Equipment**  
Sponsor: Holy Land Task Force and OR-ID MFSA  
Defeated.
- SR 07 Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice through Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions**  
Sponsor: Holy Land Task Force and OR-ID MFSA  
Adopted.
- SR 08 About Book of Discipline Paragraph 2702.1b Entitled Chargeable Offenses and the Statue of Limitations--Living within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry: The Sense of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**  
Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists  
Adopted.
- SR 09 About Book of Discipline Paragraph 304.3 Entitled Qualifications of Ordination—Living Within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry: The Sense of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**  
Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists  
Adopted.
- SR 10 We Are a Church for All God’s Children**  
Sponsor: OR-ID Reconciling United Methodists and OR-ID MFSA  
Adopted.
- SR 11 One Body in Christ, Affirming LGBTQI Persons**  
Sponsor: OR-ID Reconciling United Methodists  
Adopted.

# Standing Resolutions

*We commend these issues to local churches for continued and further study and action. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference recognizes that sincere and dedicated Christians can differ on matters of proper Christian ethics and actions. These resolutions are the expression of the belief of the majority of those gathered in the Annual Conference Session. They are commended to the membership for their prayerful study and individual consideration.*

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**1. ABOUT BOOK OF DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH 304.3 ENTITLED QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDINATION—LIVING WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH MINISTRY: THE SENSE OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE (2011, revised 2014, 2017)**

Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists

Whereas the Constitution of The United Methodist Church reserves to the clergy members of each Annual conference the exclusive right to vote “on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members,” [The Constitution, ¶33, 2016 Book of Discipline];

And whereas The Book of Discipline establishes among the laws of the Church that “... self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church” [2016 Book of Discipline, ¶304.3];

And whereas the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference has adopted resolutions that are specifically welcoming of people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;

Be it hereby resolved that the sense of the Oregon Idaho-Annual Conference is that if any clergy member of the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference who is a member of a district committee on ministry, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry or a member of the appointive cabinet be charged with certifying a self-avowed practicing homosexual as a candidate, or recommending that a self-avowed practicing homosexual be ordained, and after due Disciplinary process is tried and convicted of such an offense, that an appropriate penalty to assign would be the suspension of said convicted minister from the exercise of pastoral office [2016 Book of Discipline, ¶2711.3] for a period of 24 consecutive hours.

**2. ABOUT BOOK OF DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH 2702.1B ENTITLED CHARGEABLE OFFENSES AND THE STATUE OF LIMITATIONS--LIVING WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH MINISTRY: THE SENSE OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE (2011, revised 2014, 2017)**

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And whereas *The Book of Discipline* establishes among the laws of the Church that “a bishop, clergy members of the annual conference, local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location or diaconal minister may be tried when charged” with “practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies” [2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 2702.1(b)]

And whereas the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference has adopted resolutions that are specifically welcoming of people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;

Be it hereby resolved that the sense of the Oregon Idaho-Annual Conference is that if any clergy member of the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference be charged with any of the above mentioned offenses, and after due Disciplinary process is tried and convicted of such an offense, an appropriate penalty to assign would be the suspension of said convicted minister from the exercise of pastoral office [2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶2711.3] for a period of 24 consecutive hours.

**3. ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES REGARDING PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

We support a call for all Oregon-Idaho United Methodist boards and agencies, districts, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider avoiding companies involved in Israel's occupation of Palestine when making investment decisions; and

Encourage United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

**4. BAN ON TORTURE (2008, 2011, 2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

We support a ban on torture in any form by the U.S. government, its agencies, agents, military or the use of non-U.S. government entities to torture on its behalf.

**5. BRING U.S. GOVERNMENT DRONE MISSILE STRIKES UNDER OVERSIGHT (2013, 2016)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation For Social Action

All people of faith in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who follow Jesus' teachings are called upon to:

1. Oppose killing of other people, whoever they are and by whatever means, because it violates Jesus' teachings; and oppose all drone strikes to kill suspected terrorists (and innocent civilians) in countries where war is not declared. Drone killings run counter to our UMC statement: "We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore we must see all human life as significant and valuable" [Social Principles 164:G, p 619].
2. Insist our President, Senators and Representatives to follow the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 11, that declares that "everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense." Our U.S. Bill of Rights, Amendments 4 to 8 uphold similar statements. Every person deserves justice and should be presumed innocent until being proved guilty.
3. Insist the Executive Branch provide information on attack results, whenever legal drone strikes are undertaken.
4. Urge our government to help formulate an international treaty that would agree to placing restraints on drone usage, similar to a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

**6. CALL TO CIVILITY (2010, 2013, 2016)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation For Social Action

"Civility is more than a rule for polite conduct. It is a way of life formed around values that unite rather than divide." These words of Will Rogers are no less true today than when he said them during the Great Depression. In today's highly polarized cultural environment, incivility has become systemic, spreading corrosively like a cancer in our communities, our nation and the body politic. As Persons of faith it is our individual as well as corporate responsibility to call for and to embody the civility reflective of the gospel values that unite us.

Therefore, we call upon all United Methodists, clergy, and laity, to act as agents of peace, tolerance and mutual respect of all persons. Further, every United Methodist is called upon to challenge with civility those persons and media who promote hate, fear, misinformation and lies. Civility is the currency of civilization, of community. Civility is not an issue of ideology or political affiliation, it is an issue at the core of our gospel faith.

**7. CHILDREN OF SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS (2007, 2010, 2013, updated 2016)**

Sponsor: University Park UMC, Morningside UMC, OR-ID Reconciling United Methodists

The 2000 Census established that same-gender couples are rearing children in The United States. These families reside in 96% of all counties in the country. Children of same-gender parents often experience economic, legal, and familial insecurity when their bonds to non-biological parents are not legally recognized. Legal recognition of same-gender relationships increases the ability of adult couples to provide and care for one another and fosters a nurturing and secure environment for their children.

The literature on outcomes for children of same-sex parents is marked by scientific consensus that 25 they experience "no differences" compared to children from other parental configurations. (Adams 26 and Light, 2015)<sup>1</sup>

The United Methodist Church believes "the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity" [Paragraph 161A, page 99, 2004 Discipline]; and "encourage[s] social, economic, and religious efforts to maintain and strengthen relationships within families" [Paragraph 161A, page 99, 2004 Discipline]. We conclude

that civil marriage, civil unions, and legally recognized domestic partnerships are beneficial to children, regardless of the gender of the parents, because they strengthen families. They foster financial and legal security, psychological and social stability, and an enhanced sense of societal acceptance and support. We support efforts to legally recognize same-gender relationships and claim that laws which limit recognition of the full rights of same-gender marriages and relationships actively harm the health and well-being of children all over the nation.

1. Adams, J., and Light, R. (2015). Scientific consensus, the law, and same sex parenting outcomes. *Social Science Research*, 53, 300-10.

## **8. CLIMATE CHANGE (2005, revised 2008, revised 2011, revised and renamed, 2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

We resolve to take positive action to curb emissions which contribute to global climate change. As stewards of God's creation we acknowledge our way of living, specifically our use of energy, creates emissions that affect the climate and threaten all life.

We resolve to support the creation of laws and policies that will lead to decreases in the dangerous emissions that threaten our planet.

We encourage members to take simple steps to reduce greenhouse gas emission by driving conscientiously, by conserving energy in homes and workplaces, and by using alternative energy sources whenever possible.

We recognize that the global climate is already changing, and stand ready to participate in the church's response to the likely increase in weather-related disasters.

We urge local ministry settings and members to be better stewards of the world's resources by conserving energy. More information and resources are available from the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and the National Council of Churches, to assist us in conversation and provide us with information for action.

## **9. CLOSE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (Revised 2003, Renewed 2006, Renewed 2009, Revised 2012, Renewed 2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference continues to support the endeavor to close the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly School of the Americas or SOA) located on the U.S. Army Base at Fort Benning, Georgia. The SOA trains Latin American personnel in inhumane, oppressive tactics such as torture, assassination and kidnapping, to control their populations. This resolution is consistent with the Social Principles P164(A), which clearly oppose the kinds of actions taken by graduates of the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC).

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to bring this matter to the attention of the entire conference membership through appropriate action(s), including publicizing the issue in conference, district and local newsletters, conducting education events and especially expressing their will to the President and Members of Congress.

## **10. COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS (1982, 1986, 1989, 1992, Revised 1995, 1998, 2001, Revised 2004, Revised 2007, 2010, 2016)**

As Christians we believe in the redemptive potential of all people. Therefore, we urge members of the churches within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to join with others of like mind in helping the correction systems of Oregon and Idaho in the use of community-based restitution, work programs, and other alternatives aimed at rehabilitation of those who have been convicted of crimes. We further encourage members, when necessary, to actively seek to change regulations which impede or restrict development and placement of such facilities or programs. For a good description of what constitutes community-based corrections, visit the website: <http://www.liubrary.ca.gov/crb/96/08/>.

Remembering the words of Jesus, "I was in prison and you visited me," (Matt. 25:36) we encourage pastors and lay persons in our congregations to visit and/or minister to persons in correctional institutions, and where possible, upon their release from prison, to assist them in their re-entry into local communities, by

helping them secure jobs and housing and inviting them into the fellowship of the church. We also urge congregations to identify and support families of these who have or have had members incarcerated in correctional institutions.

A 2015 report by the Oregon Department of Corrections shows that community-based correction costs a fraction of the cost for confinement and offers more opportunity to provide services, such as alcohol or drug treatment, than does the prison system. While imprisonment costs \$88.64 per day, the cost for community-based services runs between \$.71 to \$16.53 per day depending on the risk posed by the offender. The report also states that the recidivism rate for community-managed offenders is less than 30%. This suggests that supporting community-based corrections is better for the community and saves tax dollars.

Comparable statistics were not found for Idaho but the Idaho Department of Corrections website has several reports about inviting faith communities to serve on advisory boards for community-based correction programs. These programs highlight increased cooperation between the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) and the community toward the goal of offender rehabilitation. Two examples of programs in Idaho that need more community support are community reentry centers and offender mentorship programs.

We encourage our churches to seek out ways to actively support and/or establish community-based correction services in their communities.

### **11. CONFRONTING HETEROSEXISM (2010, 2013, updated 2016)**

Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists

In communities of transition, the local church shall be regarded as a principal base of mission from which structures of society shall be confronted, evangelization shall occur, and a principal witness to the changing community shall be realized. [Paragraph 212.2, 2012 Discipline]

Many of our local churches and the communities they serve are facing transition and have a need to be open to change. Churches that discriminate against gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people repel many youth and young adults, limiting the evangelistic ministry of churches in transitional communities.

Heterosexism is a system of attitudes, bias, and discrimination in favor of opposite-sex sexuality and relationships. It can include the presumption that other people are heterosexual or that opposite-sex attractions and relationships are the only norm and therefore superior [from Wikipedia].

We call upon local churches to confront heterosexist structures, and to embrace people long told they are not welcome at church. Together we witness God's inclusive love for all people.

### **12. EMBRACING THE IMMIGRANT (2012, 2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

*When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God. Lev.19: 33-34. (Common English Version)*

Rights of Immigrants – We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2013-2016. ¶ 162.

We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Conference and its congregations intentionally seek relationships with and stand in solidarity with immigrant sisters and brothers in our midst; call upon local, state, and federal government bodies to enact comprehensive immigration reform so policies protect the rights and well-being of all immigrants; and promote educational resources in local churches to empower members to advocate for the same.

### 13. END GUN VIOLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND OTHER EFFORTS (2001, 2004, Revised 2007, Revised 2010, Revised 2013, 2016)

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference stands in public witness against all gun violence in towns, cities and rural areas in Oregon and Idaho and across the United States, especially gun violence which kills and injures children and youth. Although law-abiding citizens should be able to buy and keep firearms, there are sensible gun laws that we insist upon when it comes to gun ownership and ending gun violence. With ownership of guns comes responsibility. Thus we call upon our churches and individuals to join national, state and local commitments against gun violence in America, consistent with actions in Resolution 3426, 'Gun Violence' in the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2012, pages 490-493. The United Methodist Church must respond to this growing tragedy of thousands of American deaths by guns each year and discuss what role the church should take in facilitating dialogue to address and stop this situation, while acknowledging and educating people that gun violence occurs in all age categories and in domestic and sexual violence, mass shootings, gang attacks, suicides, and accidental shootings.

The following actions should be taken:

- “Educate the United Methodist community including parents, children, youth, and the elderly on all aspects of gun safety, as well as violence prevention, adult responsibility around gun violence prevention, and the public health impact of gun violence.” [2012 Resolution 3426, Gun Violence]. This information should be shared with others in their community.
- Adults should always provide adequate locked gun cabinet storage for all guns wherever they are located.
- Adults should foster a climate of nonviolent conflict resolution in their homes, children’s schools, congregations and community.
- Adults should educate themselves regarding media rating systems, and monitor and decrease the places where gun violence is shown, watched or engaged in by children, youths or other adult. This includes gun violence in television programs, movies, the internet and video games. Adults should discuss with children and youth in their home and their community why gun violence is harmful.
- Research community needs and provide local alternatives to violence for people of all ages in the community so they can be safe and protected. engaged in safe, interactive situations. We acknowledge that gun violence can involve people in all age categories and in many ways- accidental shootings, mass shootings, suicides and gang attacks. Talk about this crisis in church.
- “Identify community-based, state, and national organizations working of the issue of gun violence and seek their assistance to plan and design education and prevention workshops on gun violence,” [2012 Resolution 3426, Gun Violence].

Three such organizations include: Ceasefire Oregon ([www.ceasefireoregon.org](http://www.ceasefireoregon.org)) with programs encouraging voluntary gun take-back and buy-back days, and the ASK national campaign (Asking Saves Kids) that urges parents to ask other parents if there’s a gun in their home where the children go to play, since guns can be found in 40% of Oregon homes; Moms Demand Action on Gun Sense in America ([www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org)) with Oregon chapters in Portland, and Mid-Willamette Valley, while other chapters can be organized in OR and ID communities; and Brady Campaign to Stop Gun Violence, with Portland & Eugene/Lane County chapters, ([www.bradycampaign.org/](http://www.bradycampaign.org/)). Brady Campaign reported that in August 2015 background checks can now be conducted everywhere in Oregon. Idaho does not require any background checks and allows online gun sales.

- “Develop advocacy groups within local and regional congregations for the reduction of availability of guns in society, including handguns, assault weapons, automatic weapons and conversion kits, large capacity ammunition magazines, and guns that cannot be detected by traditional metal- detection devices. These advocacy groups can be linked to community-based, state and national organizations working on gun and violence issues.” [2012 Resolution 3426, Gun Violence]
- “Support federal legislation in the US Congress to regulate the importation, manufacturing, sale, and possession of guns and ammunition by the general public. Such legislation should include provisions for the registration and licensing of gun purchasers and owners, appropriate

background investigation and waiting periods prior to gun purchase, and regulation of subsequent sale.” [2012 Resolution 3426, Gun Violence]

- “Call upon the federal and state governments to provide significant assistance to victims of gun violence and their families.” (2012 Resolution 3426, Gun Violence)
- Call upon United Methodists to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context. One of the ways in which to prevent gun violence may include the following: United Methodist congregations are encouraged to display signs that prohibit carrying guns onto church property.

#### **14. MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS (2007, revised 2009, renewed 2012, 2016)**

Sponsor: OR-ID 2012 Legislative Assembly

The Oregon-Idaho Annual conference resolves to:

Pray for all those affected by the conflicts in the Middle East, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine/Israel and the Gaza area, and for a swift end to the destructions and violence that war rages within this area of the world.

Support withdrawal of all troops and bases from the Middle East.

Support the call for the United Nations to appoint a peace Envoy to encourage and cooperate in talks to explore a political settlement to all Middle East conflicts, and

Call for multinational support for regionally generated plans to rebuild the Middle East, including, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine/Israel and the Gaza area as well as other Middle Eastern nations.

Urge the churches in our conference to study the causes of war and the causes of Biblical and just peacemaking. Encourage persons to spend time in prayer and meditation, to discover ways to be peacemakers and to discover ways to help bring peace and reconciliation throughout the Middle East. We would also urge our churches to seek ways to advocate for peace in this area with our national leaders, and to help our nation bring our troops home at the earliest time possible.

#### **15. NATIONAL FAIR TRADE POLICY (2009, renewed 2012, revised 2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church support fairly traded products on a local, state, national and international level. This would include promoting fairly traded products for use in our homes and churches, asking our local and state governments to consider the principle of fair trade in all of their acquisitions and contracts, and asking our national legislators in to include Fair Trade practices and principles in all free trade agreements.

#### **16. NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM (2010, 2013, revised 2016)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

Our current health care delivery system is incompatible with United Methodist understanding of the Gospel as expressed in our Social Principles. Paragraph 162V (of the 2012 Book of Discipline) declares that health care is a “basic human right” and that “providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril.”

Therefore, the OR-ID Annual Conference supports health care being available to all persons of all ages to provide comprehensive care (including vision and dental). Such a system is inclusive, effective, and affordable, equitable and secure and reflects our UM Social Principles.

#### **17. ONE BODY IN CHRIST: AFFIRMING LGBTIQI CLERGY (2017)**

Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists

The Apostle Paul reminds us, along with the church of Corinth, that we are all one in Christ, one body with many diverse and beautiful members:

*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body;’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body;’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. As it*

*is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."* (1 Corinthians 12:14-16, 20-21).

None of us is dispensable and none of us is unworthy of full membership in the body of Christ or in the life and ministries of the church.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex clergy serve our churches faithfully and diligently, forming "disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world." They bring unique gifts and grace to the people they serve, as well as demonstrating the gifts, graces, and fruits of ministry required of all clergy. LGBTQI clergy have suffered spiritual and psychic harm because our denomination, still on a journey toward spiritual perfection, has not yet removed discrimination from its rules and practices. The families and allies of LGBTQI clergy have also suffered spiritual and psychic harm. LGBTQI clergy have been made more vulnerable by institutional oppression through General Conference decisions in the last 44 years and the April 2017 rulings of the Judicial Council. The decisions not only fracture the body of Christ and dehumanize LGBTQI persons, but do harm to the entire Methodist connection.

Collectively as members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, we re-affirm our baptismal vows "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves," especially when it exists in our own Book of Discipline and in rulings of Judicial Council. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference aspires to live as the Beloved Community. We respond to God's Great Commission to proclaim the good news to all people, and we intend to live into the reality of the beautiful, bold, diverse, and inclusive Body of Christ.

We uphold our denomination's mandate to foster inclusiveness: Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community, and the world; therefore, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination. (§ 140 2016 Book of 39 Discipline) The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference remains in support and solidarity with all LGBTQI clergy persons. Acting with humility, integrity, and courage, we renew our commitment to continue affirming LGBTQI clergy persons in their calls to ministry, support them in their service to the church, and work with them to transform all forms of institutional discrimination. We pray that God will bless and uphold us as we affirm that there is one Body of Christ, of which we are all beloved members.

#### **18. OPEN MEMBERSHIP (2007, 2010, 2013, 2017)**

Sponsor: University Park United Methodist Church

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference expects and encourages its congregations and clergy to abide by the principle: Membership in any local church in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference shall not be denied on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, economic condition, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, or any other status.

#### **19. OPPOSE THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP) FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (2013, 2016)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

According to the advocacy group Public Citizen: "In early November 2015, after seven years of close-door negotiations with the public, press and policymakers locked out, the final TPP text was released. In chapter after chapter, the final text is worse than expected, with the demands of the 500 official U.S. trade advisers representing corporate interests satisfied to the detriment of the public interest. The text reveals that the pact replicates many of the most controversial terms of past pacts that promote job offshoring and push down U.S. wages. If passed, the TPP would:

- make it easier for big corporations to ship our jobs overseas, pushing down our wages and increasing income inequality,
- flood our country with unsafe imported food,
- jack up the cost of medicines by giving big pharmaceutical corporations new monopoly rights to keep lower cost generic drugs off of the market,
- empower corporations to attack our environmental and health safeguards,
- ban 'Buy American' policies needed to create green jobs,
- roll back Wall Street reforms,
- sneak in SOPA-like [Stop Online Piracy Act] threats to internet freedom,
- and undermine Human Rights"

For more information please check out [www.publiccitizen.org](http://www.publiccitizen.org).

We urge churches and members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement being negotiated among Pacific Rim nations including the United States. Standing Resolution #19 National Fair Trade Policy (2009, renewed 2012) makes clear our Annual Conference support for Fair Trade and states that “we support the renegotiation of all existing ‘Free Trade’ agreements to reflect Fair Trade practices and principles.” As people of faith, we believe that international trade and investment systems should respect and promote the dignity of the human person, ensure the development and well-being of people in all nations, foster gender and racial equality, and lead to environmental sustainability.

## **20. OPPOSING LEGISLATION REQUIRING RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST SURVIVORS IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (2017)**

Sponsor: The Wesley Foundation

*The deafening and disabling silence that has surrounded the abuse of women and children is being broken. We now know that overwhelming numbers of women and children in our churches and communities are being battered, raped, emotionally and psychologically abused, and physically and sexually assaulted. . . . The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm the family as “the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity.” Clearly violence and abuse cannot be tolerated within such an understanding. . . . People of faith should take the lead in calling for a just response by the community in the face of domestic violence and sexual abuse. . . .*

*ADOPTED 2004, READOPTED 2008 Resolution #3423*

In keeping with the United Methodist principles, we, the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference offer support and advocacy for survivors of Domestic Violence [DV]. We oppose any legislation, such as Oregon Senate Bill 652 (2017 Legislative Session) that requires survivors of DV who seek restraining orders have such orders automatically placed on themselves. We recognize that any restraining order requires a showing of cause, may be contested, affording due process. We believe that survivors of DV should have that right as do offenders. Survivors must not be treated more harshly or have fewer legal rights than anyone else.

We call upon everyone, including elected representatives, to reject such inequities that are intentionally and/or unintentionally gender-based. We further affirm that God is love, loves all people, and abhors violence in any family or home. We invite local ministry settings to offer support to survivors of Domestic Violence in keeping with the spirit of the healing Christ.

## **21. OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTS SANCTUARY FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (2017)**

Sponsor: Planet Peace with Justice; OR-ID Reconciling United Methodists

We encourage all of the churches and church sponsored facilities in the Oregon-Idaho Conference to study the option to become a “Sanctuary” site for immigrants and refugees. We ask these faith communities to take a stand to protect everyone who comes into their churches or facilities regardless of their immigrant status. The community would not be required to house immigrants or refugees. If such faith communities choose to do so, we encourage these communities to learn about protocols that provide maximum safety for immigrants. Declaring solidarity with immigrants and refugees helps to make our communities safer and more just.

## **22. PLANETARY STEWARDSHIP (2011, revised 2014, 2017)**

Sponsor: Planet Church Committee, Portland First United Methodist Church; Outreach Committee, Lake Oswego United Methodist Church.

Our planet with its life-nourishing balance of water, air, nutrients and climate is a precious gift and sacred trust from our Creator. Climate scientists continue to warn with increasing urgency that we humans are inflicting dangerous damage to this gift, - being virtually unanimous in their peer reviewed reports saying that continuing growth of greenhouse gas emissions is pushing our planet toward catastrophic climate change.

Furthermore, the human produced emissions are coming mainly from the developed countries and wealthier peoples, while it is the less developed countries and peoples living in poverty who are least able to cope with resulting droughts, floods, growing food shortages, rising sea levels and other extreme weather events. Reduction of the air and water pollution that results from burning fossil fuels will also have measurable benefits for the health of people and the environment regardless of climate change.

Finally, in many places population growth itself continues to stress our planet as a driver of climate change, food shortages and rapid species loss, while it is widely forecast that business as usual during the next 40 years will add another 2 billion people to our planet.

We, as the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, affirm that as people of faith living in one of the world's wealthiest nations our responsibilities include considering the adoption of science-based lifestyle changes and policies that will reduce human produced greenhouse gases; divesting from fossil fuel enterprises which are increasing greenhouse gases; promoting attitudes and policies that reduce human population growth to sustainable levels, and assisting the globe's most vulnerable populations to adapt to climate change. So may we move toward humanity's reconciliation with this awesome God-given life-sustaining place called earth.

### **23. PROMISES BROKEN (2015)**

Sponsor: Committee on Native American Ministries, Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship

Be it resolved that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference stand in support of tribal fishing families living and working near The Dalles and John Day Dams. Since the mid 20th century Native Peoples have experienced devastating displacement due to dam building on the Columbia River. The losses inflicted on tribal groups (most notable the famed Celilo Falls fishing site flooded by the massive Dalles Dam construction) are astonishing and can never be fully rectified. Fishing communities, men, women, children, grandchildren continue to uphold ancient sustainable fishing practices in harmony with their cultural beliefs and with maintaining a vibrant eco-system. Sadly, an ongoing disregard of treaties and promises made to compensate people for the loss of their land and homes continues and is evident by the substandard living conditions for these fishing communities. The U.S. government along with the Army Corp of Engineers has repeatedly underfunded and pushed aside this promised housing compensation. We believe that we as a country are collectively responsible for the injustices perpetrated upon First Nations Peoples. Therefore, institutions such as the United Methodist Church, can be a resource for addressing broken promises.

Author, Roberta Ulrich, has written extensively on this subject in her book, *Empty Nets*, as well as in a recent editorial to *The Oregonian* newspaper of Nov. 16, 2014. She stated, "Congress should introduce legislation providing authorization and money allowing the Corp to finish righting this decades-old wrong."

We ask that members of the Annual Conference petition our representatives and senators of the U.S. Congress toward this end. We believe that this can be a step forward toward the "Act of Repentance Toward Indigenous Peoples" put in place by the Church and continuing now and in the future.

### **24. PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY ADDRESS INJUSTICE THROUGH BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS (2017)**

Sponsor: Holy Land Task Force; OR-ID MFSA

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes any state or federal legislation that seeks to restrict the right to address injustice through boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS), any efforts by elected officials to stifle the movement toward justice for Palestinians through anti-BDS legislation;

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference urges all United Methodist congregations and church members to contact their local, regional and national elected officials, to communicate this resolution and to advocate against anti-BDS legislation appearing anywhere in their state or country.

**25. REPAIR AND STRENGTHEN THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT (2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action, OR-ID Chapter

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports repairing the 1965 Voting Rights Act that was decimated by the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. The weakened Voting Rights Act has allowed many states to place barriers to voting, including strict voter ID laws and residency requirements and prohibition of same-day registration. The voters most affected by these obstacles are blacks and other racial minorities, the poor, the elderly and young people. This must be changed. All U.S. citizens should have the right to vote without barriers.

**26. SEEKING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND (2007, Revised 2010, 2013, 2016)**

Sponsor: MFSA; Active for Peace and Justice (Corvallis First UMC)

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are the members of my family you did it to me. Matthew 25:40.*

We affirm Israel's right to exist within permanent, recognized and secure borders, and we affirm the Palestinians' rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state with secure borders and air space, water rights, and passage rights to the land in their state, whether it is through a one-state or two- state solution.

The General Conference in 2004, 2008, and 2012 resolved that, "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings." [Book of Resolutions, 2012, Para. 6111, pg 812].

We are called to support members of Christ's church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who, along with their Muslim neighbors, are being forced to leave the Holy Land due to Israel's confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under the illegal Israeli occupation of thier land.

The illegal destruction of Palestinian homes and economy, the confiscation of Palestinian land, and the loss of Palestinian lives, including innocent children and civilians, are made possible by the use of armored bulldozers, helicopters, gunships, tanks and other equipment; while destruction of Israeli property, violence, and loss of innocent Israeli lives are made possible by the use of mortars, guns and bombs. This creates personal harm on both sides and simply increases profits for national and multinational corporations who manufacture and sell these weapons.

The Kairos Palestine Document was issued by 16 Palestinian Christian leaders in Bethlehem on December 11, 2009 (and has now signed by over 1200 Palestinian Christians). It calls on churches of the world: "to take a position of truth with regard to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. ...We see boycott and disinvestment as tools of non-violence for justice, peace and security for all. ... We repeat once again that this is not revenge but rather a serious action in order to reach a just and definitive peace that will put an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories and will guarantee security and peace for all." Kairos Palestine Document, December 11, 2009, #6.3 and 7, at [[http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/2009pdfs/Kairos%20Palestine\\_Enpdf](http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/2009pdfs/Kairos%20Palestine_Enpdf)].

The United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or the destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards, and lives. Our church is committed to ensuring that our Church's finances are used in a manner consistent with Christ's teaching, our beliefs, and international law. The Investment Ethics resolution states our policy on Avoidance by Divestment: "This policy prohibits investment in enterprises that have policies or practices that are so morally reprehensible that investment in these companies is not tolerated by the church. ...Historically many church investors have refused to invest in major military contractors, companies with nuclear weapons contracts, or companies when they were doing business in South Africa under apartheid, [Book of Resolutions, 2008, Para. 4071, p 592].

We affirm the 2012 statements calling "on all nations to prohibit any financial support by individuals or organizations for the construction and maintenance of settlements; and also to prohibit the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land." [Book of Resolutions, 2012, Para. 6111, p 813] and we further affirm this Annual Conference's passage of a resolution direction "the

Conference Treasurer/Benefits Officer, and the Northwest United Methodist Foundation to the best of their abilities...divest all Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference funds from stock held in Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard, and continue to exclude these companies from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference investments until these companies end their involvement with the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine..." [AR 06, "Aligning Investment With Values Regarding Palestine and Israel" 2015 Journal, page 144]..

We encourage Oregon-Idaho members of the United Methodist Church to call on our U.S. government, the government of Israel, and the elected Palestinian leadership to reject all acts of aggression and violence, to respect the equality and dignity of all the region's people, and to forge solutions based on the principles of international law and human rights.

## 27. STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE (2014)

Sponsor: Montavilla (Portland) United Methodist Church

Churches throughout the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference welcome people of various ethnic groups, income levels, ability levels, religious backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to find a spiritual home in their congregations. Members of Conference United Methodist churches include people of various sexual orientations who are involved in loving relationships. God calls us to stand on the side of love. We believe all relationships that are grounded in shared affection and are equitable in power reflect God's will. We support marriage between loving couples—gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, straight, celibate, or otherwise—that reflects such commitments.

## 28. STATEMENT OF CONVICTION (2011, revised 2014)

Sponsor: OR-ID Reconciling United Methodists; OR-ID MFSA; Marcia Hauer;

Administrative Council of University Park United Methodist Church

*Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. [Romans 13:10]*

*The Mission and Ministry of the Church, Section VI: We recognize that God made all creation and saw that it was good. As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the Church and to society, we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus's ministry to all persons.*

*Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world; therefore inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination. [2012 Discipline, ¶140, page 99]*

Out of concern for the welfare of all God's people, and out of special concern for the people of The United Methodist Church, we, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, believe The United Methodist Church should remove the following statement from The Book of Discipline (2008 2012):

"...The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church." ¶304.3

Our lives and ministries over the years have included prayerful, thoughtful consideration of our Holy Bible, our Wesleyan heritage, reflection on our experience of the church and world, and our conviction of God's intention for a world transformed.

With this statement of conviction and counsel we seek:

- To affirm that the historic tests of "gifts and evidence of God's grace" for ordained ministry override any past or present temporal restrictions such as race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
- To urge the Church, ecumenical and denominational, to change the manner in which it relates to gay, lesbian and transgendered persons in official statements, judicial proceedings, and in congregational life.
- To declare our conviction that the current disciplinary position of The United Methodist Church, a part of our historical development, need not, and should not, be embraced as the faithful position for the future.
- To make known our conviction on this matter and to encourage other church conferences to do the same.

With increasing frequency we observe and experience the following disturbing realities and know them to be detrimental to the mission of a Church of Jesus Christ:

- Laity and clergy, gay and straight, withdrawing membership or absenting themselves from the support of congregational and denominational Church life in order to maintain personal integrity.
- Young adults, especially, embarrassed to invite friends and expressing dismay at the unwillingness of our United Methodist Church to alter an exclusionary stance adopted in 1972, long before we came to know of the gifts and graces of lesbian and gay laity and clergy.
- Closeted pastors, currently called and ordained in our church, living divided lives while offering effective appreciated ministry.
- Bishops being drained of energy by upholding Church Discipline while regarding it as contrary to their convictions.
- Bishops caught between care for the Church by reappointing an effective gay or lesbian pastor and care for the Discipline by charging them under current legislation.
- Seminary leaders desiring greater flexibility and openness from the church in order to advance their mission of identifying, recruiting, enrolling, educating and spiritually forming Christian leaders.
- Christian gay men and lesbian women understanding themselves called of God to seek ministry opportunities within their United Methodist family Church home, but having to decide between leaving to go to accepting denominations, or staying and praying for change, or challenging

Our United Methodist Church, ashamed and repentant in the past, ended official and unofficial restrictions on candidacy, ordination and appointment for reason of race, gender and ethnicity. We believe the God we know in Jesus is leading us to issue this counsel and call – a call to transform our church life and our world.

### **29. SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM (2010, revised 2013, 2016)**

Sponsor: MFSA and Conference Hispanic Ministries Council

1) The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports comprehensive immigration reform by the U.S. Congress consistent with the Council of Bishops “Statement on the U.S. Immigration Situation” (May 2009) that would:

- Provide a pathway to citizenship for immigrants
- Unite, instead of divide, immigrant families
- Increase the number of visas for short-term workers
- Extend legal protection and human rights to all workers including immigrants
- Eliminate privately operated detention facilities not regulated by federal or state governments
- End all indiscriminate raids.

2) Churches are encouraged to engage in ministries of mercy and justice with immigrants such as Bible studies and worship in their languages, pastoral care for immigrants, sanctuary for undocumented immigrants, English as a Second Language classes, and other forms of education that help immigrants experience abundant life.

### **30. SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS’ A WAY FORWARD (2016)**

Sponsor: Rev. Jeremy Smith

WHEREAS, the United Methodist General Conference (May 2016) adopted the recommended plan authored by the Council of Bishops entitled *A Way Forward*, and deferred consideration of all legislation related to human sexuality before the 2016 General Conference;

WHEREAS, *A Way Forward* provides that the Council of Bishops shall appoint a special Commission “to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality” and that the Council of Bishops will “maintain an on-going dialogue with this Commission” and that if they complete their work in time, report to a called General Conference before the regular 2020 General Conference;

WHEREAS, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference supports *A Way Forward*, and endorses the leadership of the Council of Bishops and the 2016 General Conference in its decision to address discrimination against lesbian and gay persons currently in the Book of Discipline;

WHEREAS, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference previously expressed its views on human sexuality in the following ways:

CHILDREN OF SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS (2007, 2010, 2013)

CONFRONTING HETEROSEXISM (2010, 2013)

LIVING WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH MINISTRY: THE SENSE OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARAGRAPH 304.3 (2011, revised 2014)

LIVING WITHIN THE DISCIPLINE WHILE MOVING FORWARD WITH MINISTRY: THE SENSE OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARAGRAPH 2702.1(B) (2011, revised 2014)

OPEN MEMBERSHIP (2007, 2010, 2013)

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE (2014)

A STATEMENT OF CONVICTION (2011, revised 2014)

WE WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE (2010, 2013)

WHEREAS, Social Principle ¶161F, Book of Discipline provisions ¶341.6 and ¶304.3, and other sections conflict with the Constitution of the United Methodist church which provides that “all persons are of sacred worth,” and “We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.”

WHEREAS, our United Methodist connection calls us to treat well-intentioned, well-reasoned differences of opinion with mutual respect rather than insisting upon a verdict or language that rejects one side or the other;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the critical importance of carrying out this historic process with the utmost of care, effectiveness, and timing. And, while we agree that establishing the details and naming the members of the Commission are paramount to overall success, we must also acknowledge the harm that grows with each passing day and the importance of preserving momentum and collective trust that this new way forward will not ultimately result in failure as similar Commissions have in our past. We must not repeat past mistakes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference endorses *A Way Forward*, commits to being in continued prayer for the Council of Bishops and the Commission throughout the journey ahead, and encourages the Council of Bishops to do the following:

1. Name the members of the *A Way Forward* Commission as soon as possible but no later than August 1, 2016 and require that the first Commission meeting be convened within 60 days of the Commission members being appointed;
2. Among the members of the Commission, include out LGBTQI persons so that such voices will be represented in what will otherwise be a conversation about LGBTQI persons by heterosexual, cisgender persons. Such a conversation will lack integrity if LGBTQI voices are not included;
3. Authorize and encourage the Commission to seek out and invite established experts to provide information as needed, including but not limited to: medical experts whose focus is human sexuality, advocates and counselors in the field, and survivors and experts in sexual assault, trauma and gender equity.
4. Provide a forum for the Commission to receive input from individual churches and members, perhaps through and with the cooperation of the Annual Conferences.
5. Report to the Annual Conferences at least once each quarter on the progress of the work of the Commission;
6. Provide a final report at least two months in advance of any called General Conference that shall take up any necessary legislation to implement the recommendations of the Commission;
7. Provide continued leadership and a commitment to unity during this interim and vulnerable period, agreeing to a moratorium on the processing of any current or future complaints related to Discipline paragraphs having to do with human sexuality until the General Conference is reconvened.

**31. SUPPORT FOR THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE (2016)**

Sponsor: Rev. Eilidh Lowery

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church was a founding member of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in 1973; and

WHEREAS, the General Board of Church and Society was a member of the Religious Coalition until General Conference 2016, along with national organizations from 14 denominations who are current members, including the Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalism, Reform and Conservative Judaism; and

WHEREAS, these Coalition member organizations hold a wide variety of views regarding policies relating to specific issues of reproductive choice such as when life and personhood begins but, nevertheless, share common religious values, have official pro-choice policies, and are committed to working together to ensure reproductive choice for all persons through the moral power of religious communities; and

WHEREAS, the Religious Coalition supports the right of all persons to have access to a wide range of reproductive health services including sexuality education, family planning services, contraception, abortion services, affordable and quality health and child care; and

WHEREAS, the Religious Coalition's All Options Clergy Counseling program trains clergy of many faiths to assist women in discerning the course of action that they believe is best in a case of unintended pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, internationally, the Religious Coalition is an accredited nongovernmental organization with the United Nations Department of Public Information which supports international family planning services in such areas as South Africa where the Coalition works with churches on HIV/AIDS education and prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition's efforts help counter attempts to enact restrictive legislation that would impose specific religious views about abortion and reproductive health on persons of all faiths; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church go on record in support of the work of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

**32. SUPPORT THE ABOLITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (2009; revised 2012, renewed 2015)**

Sponsor: MFSA & Corvallis 1st United Methodist Church

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19*

The plight of human trafficking is not only one of the world's most prevalent forms of criminal activity but arguably the most degrading, preying on the most vulnerable members of society. Human trafficking is defined by the United Nations as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people, either by threat, abduction, deception or abuse of power for the purpose of sexual or labor-related exploitation. According to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, the number of adults and children worldwide currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution was 12.3 million people, with more people being victims of labor trafficking than of commercial sex trafficking. However, women and children represent 80 percent of those affected.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church supports the abolition of the Modern slave trade, or human trafficking as it is called now, that is happening worldwide, in the U.S. and in Oregon and Idaho. Because our two states have major interstate highways intersecting north-south (I-5) and east-west (I-84) with access to Pacific coastline ports, and need many agricultural and service laborers, we are among the states highest in human trafficking.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church strongly urges all local churches to participate in the 2009-2012 quadrennium study of "Abolition of Sex Trafficking," as approved and recorded in the General Conference 2012 Book of Resolutions (Resolution 6023, p709). Within Methodism, both United Methodist Women/UMW and United Methodist Committee on Relief/UMCOR have vibrant programs and projects that serve people in the U.S. and overseas who've survived human trafficking.

We continue to call all local churches in our Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to help end human trafficking here and around the world:

- (1) by studying the excellent, free, 30 page pdf UMW resource packet, “Human Trafficking: Preventing, Protecting, Prosecuting” (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/act/> ) click ‘Human Trafficking’;
- (2) by inviting UMW members to present this information on Human Trafficking to your congregation or several congregations jointly; and
- (3) by supporting UMW and UMCOR in their important work with human trafficking victims (UMCOR link: (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/UMCOR/search/index.cfm?keywords=Human>))

### **33. SUPPORTING DISCUSSION OF HOMELESS PERSONS’ RIGHTS (2016)**

Sponsor: Spirit of the Valley UMC at Halsey

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is deeply concerned about the rights of all people. At this time of local, state and national discernment about the rights of homeless persons, we are reminded of our ethical and biblical mandate to serve Jesus through caring for person in need of shelter, food, and support.

Therefore, we support local, state and national efforts to ensure the rights of homeless persons and encourage local congregations and ministries to discern their part in protecting the rights of and addressing the needs of homeless persons.

We urge local congregations and ministries to consider these rights, put forward by the Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign:

1. The Right to move freely, rest, sleep, and pray in public.
2. The Right to occupy a vehicle.
3. The Right to share and eat food in public.
4. The Right to legal counsel for infractions.
5. The Right to 24-hour access to existing hygiene facilities.
6. Require judges to consider necessity defense when hearing homeless-related cases.

### **34. SUPPORTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS (2015)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

We call upon the churches of the United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to seek ways to advocate for supporting peace efforts in the Middle East, involving our national elected leaders and our Pentagon staff and State Department leaders and military contractors. United Methodists may work in a supportive way by various actions--signing petitions, phoning our legislators, talking with our national officials and with staff in their local offices, and participating in marches and vigils to work for peace in the Middle East. We can join with other United Methodists and people of faith to help support renewal, human rights and justice.

In 2010 a massive, popular movement of uprisings, revolution and change spread around many countries in the Middle East. People in the Middle East were upset with harsh dictators, ineffective governments and failing economies, with many people experiencing crushing poverty. With many protestors worldwide using non-violent actions, people hoped to change the status quo, but with limited or little success over these 4 years.

Another critical human rights issue arose in the summer of 2014, the war between Gaza Strip and Israel, called Operation Protective Edge, for 7 weeks in July-August. The number of Israelis killed were 66 soldiers and 6 civilians, with 469 soldiers and 87 civilians wounded. The number of Gazans killed were 2,310 (including 513 children) and around 10,800 civilians were injured. The UN calculated that 520,000 Palestinians were displaced (30% of Gazan population). The UN calculated that more than 7,000 homes for 10,000 families were razed, and another 89,000 homes damaged. Rebuilding costs were calculated to be 4-6 billion dollars, over 20 years.

The current situation in the Middle East seems to have stalemated or reversed to even worse. In 2014 we have witnessed failure in the several Middle East countries, which has led to the rise of an extreme terrorist group, ISIS/Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. This is a complex situation. We urge our U.S. and

world leaders to carefully explore appropriate actions that will eventually help to end the ISIS conflict. We support funds for rebuilding in Gaza. We call on our nation and other nations to work carefully together. We call upon United Methodists and other people of faith to work for peace, to help change policies for the better and to improve human rights for all people. United Methodists still believe war is not the answer.

### 35. WE ARE A CHURCH FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN (2017)

Sponsor: OR-ID RUMs; OR-ID Methodist Federation for Social Action

We, the People called United Methodists in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, continue to be on a journey to fully welcome all of God's beloved children to our life and ministry as part of the Body of Christ. We affirm, as stated in the Vision Statement of the Western Jurisdiction, that we are "A home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation."

We affirm the prophetic voice of the Western Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church in extending radical hospitality to all:

We cannot accept discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons and therefore, we will work toward their full participation at all levels in the life of the church and society. Valuing the voices of those who disagree, we will continue to be in dialogue as we journey together in creative tension. We will continue to be in ministry with all God's children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings. We will continue to feast at table with all God's children. (2000 Western Jurisdictional Conference)

We open our doors to all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, we open our hearts to those who have been shunned, we open our minds to radical obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even when at odds with The Book of Discipline, in order to further the work of God's justice and the creation of the beloved community. As a Welcoming and Reconciling Jurisdiction we will take steps of inclusion in the sacred trust of marriage, ordination, and leadership roles for all. (2012 Western Jurisdictional Conference)

On May 4, 2017, in response to Judicial Council Decision 1341, the College of Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction issued a pastoral letter – "A Message to The United Methodist Church from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops". We fully support our bishops' statement and we rejoice with them in celebrating "the good news that Bishop Karen Oliveto is continuing to lead the Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church."

We recognize, with our bishops, that "For many years, the Western part of the United States has been a refuge for LGBTQ persons from across the US and around the world. Our region discrimination, violence, and closets."

With our bishops and fellow United Methodists in the Western Jurisdiction, we "witness daily the gifts and reflections of God's grace in LGBTQ persons who faithfully serve among us as lay leaders, pastors, district superintendents, and now, as a bishop." We affirm their belief that what we continue to witness "informs how we do ministry together" and "how Boards of Ordained Ministry approach their work." We, in turn, are witnesses that the ministry entrusted to us "has been enriched by the fullness of their presence and participation."

Therefore, as a pilgrim people who rest only in the boundless of grace of God in Jesus Christ, we will seek to walk together, even in the tension of our differences, and join our bishops in striving "to be a home for all God's beloved."

### 36. WELCOMING THE MIGRANT IN OUR MIDST (2017)

Sponsor: Sanctuary Task Force of the First United Methodist Church of Eugene

The vast majority of people now living in Oregon and Idaho are the descendants of immigrants who migrated here seeking safety, security and prosperity. Today, more than 390,000 people in Oregon, and more than 95,000 people in Idaho, were born outside of the United States.

Regardless of status and documentation, immigrants and refugees sit in our pews and are behind the pulpits of our churches, and they have added to our witness for Christ as we have all dedicated ourselves to the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Immigrants and refugees are making immeasurable contributions to our cultural, economic and civic life.

We remember that the writer of Leviticus commands the love of the immigrant, who “shall be to you as the citizen among you” (Leviticus 19:33-34);” and that early in Jesus’ life, he was a refugee to Africa fleeing persecution and violence in his homeland (Matthew 2:13-15). Jesus could not be more clear, that the nations would be judged on the basis of the way they fed the hungry, clothed the naked and cared for prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46). And our Social Principles call us to “we recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God (United Methodist Book of Discipline, III. The Social Community ¶162 H Rights of Immigrants).”

The Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, repents of the racism and violence that has been directed toward newly arriving migrants from all parts of the world.

We express our opposition to any immigration policy that excludes refugees solely on the basis of their religion or national origin.

We celebrate the work of our Hispanic Ministry Council and support the formation of an immigration task force by the Conference to help provide guidance to churches seeking to be in ministry to immigrants in our communities.

We encourage all churches to educate and equip their members to provide hospitality and welcome to migrants and refugees in their communities, and to take further actions and advocacy for just policies after prayer and discernment.

We affirm the ancient right of churches to be sanctuaries for those living in fear for their own safety or the safety of the friends and family, especially our immigrant neighbors who may lack legal status or appropriate documentation.

We call upon our political leaders and policy makers to assure our laws affirm the worth, dignity, inherent values and rights of immigrants.

The UMCOR volunteers are ready to receive, pack and transport the many disaster relief kits that annual conference members assembled and donated.

