

# Legislative Action

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See page 127 for the list, followed by the text of those adopted.

# Annual Conference Actions and Resolutions

## Conference Actions

*Recorded below is the text of each petition as passed by the 2021 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 128.*

### **AR 01 Revisions for Conference Rule 10.011**

Sponsoring Group: OR-ID Board of Ordained Ministry

Responsible Party: Conference Rules Committee will update the Rule

Adopted, by two-thirds vote

Change Conference Rule 10.011 as follows:

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference shall require psychological testing and evaluation of all who desire to be certified as candidates for licensed or ordained ministry, local pastors, candidates seeking associate membership, candidates seeking to be ordained as elders or deacons, and those seeking to become Certified Lay Ministers.

The cost of testing for a person applying for certified candidacy shall be shared as follows: one-third paid by the candidate, one-third paid by the recommending charge conference, and one-third paid by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

### **AR 02 Revisions for Scholarship Policies of the Board of Ordained Ministry**

Sponsoring Group: OR-ID Board of Ordained Ministry

Responsible Party: Journal editor; BOM Scholarship Officer

Adopted on the Consent Calendar

Revise Section H of the Scholarship Policies of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as follows to reflect the increase in cost for Ministerial Course of Study classes: (Note: the revisions have been incorporated into the policy, found on page 26 of this Journal).

### **AR 03 Support for Christmas Covenant Proposals**

Sponsoring Group: MFSA, Western Methodist Justice Movement

Responsible Party: General Conference delegation; Conference Secretary

Adopted by majority vote.

Affirm the work of the team that produced the Christmas Covenant legislation, as a step toward a more equitable structure for the United Methodist Church. We value the voices of members outside the USA that have long been absent from submitting legislation to the General Conference.

Urge our annual conference and especially our delegation to study this legislation as a possible way to a more just and less colonialist church. The legislation and supporting information can be found at [www.christmascovenant.com](http://www.christmascovenant.com).

### **AR 04 Local Church Disaffiliation Agreement Template**

Sponsoring Group: OR-ID Conference Board of Trustees

Responsible Party: Conference Board of Trustees, along with other Conference leaders/staff

Adopted by majority vote.

Approve the following local church disaffiliation agreement template for use by Conference Board of Trustees per Par. 2553.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, as amended by action of the 2019 General Conference. (Note: this template is available from the Conference Treasurer's Office or from the Conference Board of Trustees).

**AR 05 Clarify Sexual Ethics Policy to Include Retired Clergy in Requirements**

Sponsoring Group: OR-ID Board of Ordained Ministry  
 Responsible Party: Journal editor; Board of Ordained Ministry  
 Adopted on the Consent Calendar

Amend the fourth, fifth, and sixth paragraphs of the “Implementation of Policy” section of the Sexual Ethics Policy for Clergy of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church so that it will read:

All Oregon-Idaho clergy members (see definition of “clergy” above) and all other clergy currently appointed by the Oregon-Idaho Bishop are required to complete the three requirements outlined below:

- Successfully complete an annual online knowledge test on the Sexual Ethics Policy. When requested, provisions will be made for the online test to be taken via telephone or videoconference.
- Complete the Annual Disclosure Form and submit it to the district office.
- Attend one “Sexual Ethics, Abuse Prevention, and Healthy Boundaries” training each quadrennium. The Board of Ordained Ministry provides the “Sexual Ethics, Abuse Prevention, and Healthy Boundaries” training within the quadrennium. A non-Board of Ordained Ministry training can be reviewed by the Board of Ordained Ministry to determine if the training is equivalent to the training promoted by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Considerations will include the training’s number of contact hours, content, and the qualifications of the workshop leader(s).

Applications for exemption from these three requirements shall be made in writing to the District Superintendent. Letters of approval for exemption shall be kept on file in the District Superintendent’s office.

**AR 07 Delete Conference Rule 10.042 (clergy session election vote percentage)**

Sponsoring Group: OR-ID Board of Ordained Ministry  
 Responsible Party: Legislative Coordinators and Conference Sessions Committee  
 Adopted by two-thirds vote

Delete Conference Rule 10.042

**AR 08 New Conference Rule 1.034**

Sponsoring Group: Conference Rules Committee  
 Responsible Party: Conference Secretary  
 Adopted by two-thirds vote

Adopt new Conference Rule 1.034:

A person who has been assigned by the district superintendent to serve in a pastoral role for a chartered United Methodist church or for a new church start—unless already a lay member of annual conference under Conference Rule 1.033—shall be entitled to a seat within the bar of the annual conference, with voice but no vote, provided that the new church start is listed on Question 14a, b, or c of the current Business of the Annual Conference Report.

**AR 09 New Conference Rule 1.035**

Sponsoring Group: Conference Rules Committee  
 Responsible Party: Conference Secretary  
 Adopted by two-thirds vote

Adopt new Conference Rule 1.035:

Each new church start listed on Question 14a, b, or c of the current Business of the Annual Conference Report shall be entitled to elect a lay equalization member to Annual Conference, provided that the ministry has a United Methodist professing lay member on the General Membership Roll (§259.3) to serve in this role. If not, the new church start can elect a lay representative who may be seated within the bar of the annual conference with voice but no vote. In either case, the election must be communicated to the conference secretary by the pastoral leader of the new church start.

**AR 10 New Conference Rule 2.041c**

Sponsoring Group: Conference Rules Committee

Responsible Party: Rules Committee

Adopted by two-thirds vote

Adopt Conference Rule 2.041c:

Legislative items reviewed in the regular meeting of Legislative Assembly that do not meet the threshold percentage for a consent calendar of approval or disapproval, shall be forwarded to the Annual Conference Session for presentation in the Conference Plenary Session by a representative of the Legislative Assembly. Consideration of a recommendation of disapproval shall not be deleted from an agenda of all proposed recommendations forwarded by the Legislative Assembly for Conference consideration. The Legislative Assembly shall have the option, by majority vote, of forwarding a recommendation with more than 90% vote, not on a consent calendar.

**AR 12 Amending Clergy Housing Standards and Policy**

Sponsoring Group: Conference Council on Finance & Administration

Responsible Party: Conference Council on Finance & Administration, Cabinet

The Annual Conference voted to refer the issues of AR#12 to the Council on Finance & Administration and the Cabinet in time to be considered for the 2022 Legislative Assembly.

**AR 13 Join the Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign**

Sponsoring Group: John Pitney

Responsible Party: Cabinet, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon Clean Power Coop

Adopted on the Consent Calendar

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will join the Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign to encourage at least 100 Oregon congregations of many faiths to either install their own solar + storage systems or support low-income, rural, BIPOC communities to install theirs. Bishop Stanovsky may endorse the Campaign and encourage our District Superintendents to discuss it through district outreach, colloquies, charge conferences and wherever appropriate, with the goal of leaders from every Oregon congregation attending one of several Zoom information sessions the Oregon Clean Power Co-op and EMO will offer in the Fall of 2021.

**AR 14 New Conference Rule 1.030**

Sponsoring Group: Oregon-Idaho Cabinet

Responsible Party: District Superintendents

Adopted by two-thirds vote

Adopt new Conference Rule 10.030:

No clergy person may hold their charge conference relationship where a family member is currently appointed.

**AR 15 New Conference Rules Section on Vacation and other leaves**

Sponsoring Group: Conf. Rules Committee on behalf of the Conf. Personnel Committee

This Action Request was defeated.

**AR 16 Support for Alaska Omnibus Proposal**

Sponsoring Group: Jim Doepken

This Action Request was defeated.

**AR 17 Support for the Alaska Conference Living Into a Mission District Status**

Sponsoring Group: Jim Doepken

Responsible Party: The Conference Secretary will notify the Alaska Conference

Adopted by majority vote.

To support the action of the Alaska United Methodist Conference to live into the new reality of being a Mission District of the PNW Conference immediately and in advance of the necessary actions of the General and Western Jurisdictional Conferences, guided by the values put forth in the document entitled: AUMC Petition: An Invitation to Live Into a Mission District Status.

**AR 18 Creation of a Cross Conference Vitality Commission**

Sponsoring Group: Chairs of the GNW Congregational Development Teams

Responsible Party: The bishop will appoint the Cross Conference Vitality Commission.

It will make a full report of its work and recommendations at annual conference 2022.

Adopted by majority vote.

Affirm the creation of a Cross Conference Vitality Commission, as outlined in a document developed by the GNW Congregational Development Teams.

**AR 19 Racial Justice Strategy**

Sponsoring Group: Leroy Barber and BIPOC leaders of the OR-ID Conference

Responsible Party: Ministry Leadership Team

Adopted by majority vote.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference receives the report from a gathering of BIPOC leaders and members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. The Conference acknowledges the contents of the report are realities of BIPOC members and leaders within the Oregon-Idaho Conference and commits to working toward a just resolution. The Ministry Leadership Team is assigned to work with BIPOC leaders and members of the Conference to develop an action plan, by November 30, 2021 based on the report submitted, and report back to the Annual Conference session in 2022.

## 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. ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES REGARDING PALESTINE & ISRAEL (2015, 2018, 2019)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Holy Land Task Force

*"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Michah 6:8)*

We 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/or utilizing their purchasing power; 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 illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

**2. BRING U.S. GOVERNMENT DRONE MISSILE STRIKES UNDER OVERSIGHT (2013, 2016, 2019)**

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 that our President, Senators and Representatives 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 holds similar statements. Every person deserves justice and should be presumed innocent until being proved guilty.
3. Insist that 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.

**3. CALL TO CIVILITY (2010, 2013, 2016, revised 2019)**

Sponsor: OR-ID MFSA, OR-ID Holy Land Task Force, OR-ID Peace with Justice

In today's highly polarized cultural environment, dehumanization 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 radical love 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 respond with radical compassion to with civility those persons and media who promote hate, fear, misinformation and lies. We, the members of Oregon-Idaho Conference, define civility as resisting dehumanization in exchange for radical love. Civility is not an issue of ideology or political affiliation. It is a value at the core of our gospel faith.

**4. CLIMATE CHANGE (2005, revised 2008, revised 2011, revised and renamed, 2015, 2018, 2021)**

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 increase in weather-related disasters.

We urge local ministry settings and members to be better stewards of the world's resources by conserving energy. We urge the Annual Conference Sessions Committee to consider alternatives that would significantly lower the carbon footprint of annual conference, including the potential use of carbon offsets. 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.

## **5. CONFRONTING RACISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY (2021)**

Sponsor: OR-ID MFSA

We, the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, abhor the evils of racism and white supremacy that exist in our denomination, our congregations, and our hearts. We pledge to seek out and break down the institutional roots of racism in our conference structure, churches and leadership practices. We know that these evils often go unrecognized. We know that many of our churches are predominantly white, lacking the leadership and representation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

We will urge white people to listen to people of color who have experienced racism in their lives, to believe these witnesses and learn from them, and to study in order to understand. We will have honest conversations about the white supremacy that exists in our churches and our institutional structure, and we will resist tokenizing, harming, and putting the responsibility for change on BIPOC members of the community. As we learn, we will reshape our lives and our church to be free from structures and practices that cause these harms to the Body of Christ.

We further pledge to work for the elimination of racism and white supremacy from the laws and practices of our government, economy, and society.

## **6. EUGENICS, NEURODIVERSITY, AND DISABILITIES (2021)**

Sponsor: Will Carey

We call upon the ministries of the United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to focus on issues of physical disability and autistic spectrum disorders in a time of increasing pressure on these communities in public policy. Specifically, we invite our ministries to become more aware of the community needs and concerns regarding issues of Eugenics, Neurodiversity and Disabilities, pursuant to the 2008 Resolution Denouncing Eugenics that directed: "annual conferences to educate their members about eugenics and advocate for ethical uses of science."

## **7. MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS (2007, revised 2009, renewed 2012, 2016, 2019)**

Sponsor: OR-ID MFSA, OR-ID Holy Land Task Force

The Oregon-Idaho Annual conference resolves to:

Pray for all those affected by the conflicts in the Middle East, including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine/Israel and the Gaza area, and for a swift end to the destructions and violence that war and civil unrest 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. Links to curricula will be made available on the conference website. 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.

**8. OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTS SANCTUARY FOR UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS AND REFUGEES (2017, revised 2021)**

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 undocumented persons and refugees. We ask these faith communities to take a stand to protect everyone who comes into their churches or facilities regardless of their residency status. The community would not be required to house undocumented persons or refugees. If such faith communities choose to do so, we encourage these communities to learn about protocols that provide maximum safety for undocumented persons. Declaring solidarity with undocumented persons and refugees helps to make our communities safer and more just.

**9. PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY ADDRESS INJUSTICE THROUGH BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS (2017, 2021)**

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.

**10. STANDING UP FOR INCLUSION (2019)**

Sponsor: MFSA, OR-ID Board of Church & Society, OR-ID RUMS

We, the people of the Oregon-Idaho Conference, believe that grace is a gift from God, inviting all of humanity into relationship with the Divine.

In the Wesleyan tradition, we believe that the sacrament of Holy Communion is a means of grace. We practice open communion in acknowledgement that the sacrament is the LORD’s Table. This sacrament belongs to the LORD...not to a single pastor, a ministry setting, or even The United Methodist Church.

Likewise, we believe that the sacraments of baptism, as well as the covenants of marriage and ordination, belong to God alone. It is not our place to extend or deny the call to partake of these sacraments and covenants. The call is from God. Our task in ministry is to assist people as they discern, prepare, and live into their call.

With God’s help, we will continue to pursue our ministry of helping all of the people of Oregon and Idaho to discern the call that God has placed on their lives and to equip them to live into that call.

As a prerequisite to providing an open communion table, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference encourages its churches to be of Open Minds, Open Hearts and Open Doors. We acknowledge that ours is a diverse conference that demands that we work through our differences. However, we are rewarded by the fact that our conference thrives when we honor and celebrate our diversity. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is a vital conference that is proud to be welcoming to LGBTQ+\* people and encourages its churches to be in ministry with the LGBTQ+ community.

We have a proud history of adopting resolutions that affirm our belief that God’s church includes everyone.

The 2018 Conference Journal includes resolutions dating back to 2007 that specify that we intend to be in ministry with everyone:

- 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)
- About Book of Discipline Paragraph 2702.1B Entitled Chargeable Offenses and the Statute of Limitations--Living Within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry: The Sense of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (2011, revised 2014, 2017)
- Children of Same-Gender Relationships (2007, 2010, 2013, updated 2016)
- Confronting Heterosexism (2010, 2013, updated 2016)
- Open Membership (2007, 2010, 2013, 2017)
- Standing on the Side of Love (2014, 2018)
- A Statement of Conviction (2011, revised 2014)
- Support for the Council of Bishops' A Way Forward (2016)
- Support for Inclusive Lay Staff Employment Policy (2018)
- We are a Church for All God's Children (2017)

In 2017, the Oregon-Idaho Conference explicitly reaffirmed its position on Open Membership which 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.

Also in 2017, The Oregon-Idaho Conference adopted a resolution, One Body in Christ: Affirming LGBTQ+ Clergy. The resolution recognizes that LGBTQ+ clergy persons demonstrate the gifts, graces, and fruits of ministry required of all clergy and commits the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to affirm LGBTQ+ 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.

This resolution is consistent with the Western Jurisdiction resolution passed in 2016, The Intersectionality of Justice. WJD Journal 2016, p.130 states, "At this time of challenge in our culture, we commit ourselves to bold work for justice in intersecting issues including: Resisting interpretations of our covenant that exclude LGBTQ+ persons from anywhere in our church life by seeking change to the specific provisions of our church Discipline that do harm to LGBTQ+ persons and conflict with the work of the Holy Spirit in calling people to ministry and into the covenant of marriage. In the meantime, we seek to avoid judicial processes for complaints based on the sexual or gender identity of our clergy or those with whom we are in ministry."

The recent adoption of the Traditional Plan at the Special 2019 General Conference seeks to expand the restrictions in the Book of Discipline and hinder our ministry with LGBTQ+ people in our conference in ways that conflict with other passages of the Discipline that require inclusiveness. One such passage is Article of Religion XXI, which states "The ministers of Christ are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage; therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness." Therefore, the Oregon-Idaho Conference reaffirms the aforementioned Oregon-Idaho Standing Resolutions which have been approved and reapproved by the clergy and lay members of prior annual conferences and we also commit to contextualizing our ministry, as is appropriate, to the needs and desires of our communities and congregations while showing respect to everyone.

\* LGBTQ+ is an acronym which includes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Two-Spirit and the many other forms of identity relating to gender and sexuality. Two-Spirit acknowledges some Native American persons. The "+" covers new identities and persons as well as those with letters not included in the acronym. For simplicity, we use the acronym "LGBTQ+" in this document instead of longer, more explicitly inclusive versions

## 11. STANDING WITH UNITED METHODISTS SEEKING LOVE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL (2019)

Sponsor: Legislative Assembly Writing Team (Karen Hernandez, Warren Light, Carter Lybeck, Karen Nelson)

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference affirms our commitment to a fully inclusive, grace-filled, compassionate church. We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God, and we also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.

We condemn the decision of the 2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to pass the Traditional Plan and apologize for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ.

However, we are beyond a time when simple apologies for the acts of others in our denomination are sufficient. Therefore, we affirm the following, in solidarity with sisters, brothers and siblings worldwide:

We recognize that harm has been done and is continuing to be done to LGBTQ+ Methodists. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference aspires to be a fully inclusive church, including but not limited to the following:

- Providing equal and fair services for couples seeking Christian marriage;
- Teaching about the fully inclusive nature of God's love;
- Seeking to recognize and celebrate those whom God calls to ordained ministry;
- Supporting and affirming clergy who preside at Christian marriages; and
- Remaining faithful stewards and supporters of organizations that practice and encourage inclusivity of all God's children.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference insists that any benefits available to clergy and employees and their families are available to all clergy and employees and their families, regardless of the sexes or genders of the partners. We require the District Superintendents to inform all clergy under their supervision of this right.

Further, we recognize that a multitude of voices within the United Methodist Church have expressed their hurt, anger, discontent, and outrage over the passage of the Traditional Plan. This stance is based on these truths:

- Using appropriate, quality biblical scholarship, there is no biblical mandate to discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons and relationships.†
- The United Methodist Church is capable of great nuance in the matter of biblical interpretation as displayed in its treatment of issues such as divorce and the ordination of women, but reverts to simplistic literalism when it comes to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in its life and ministry.†
- The first general rule that John Wesley gave the people called Methodists concerns "doing no harm."†
- United Methodists promise at every baptismal covenant "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

**We recognize that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is not alone in its prayerful resistance of discrimination. We join with the Pacific Northwest, Great Plains, New England, Tennessee, California-Nevada and Wisconsin Annual Conferences, as well as the German Central Conference, and reach out to others who are working to restore the basis on which the Methodist movement was founded: a community of grace seeking perfection in love.**

There are no children of God who are unloved by God, nor any for whom the full ministry of the church of Jesus Christ is not openly available. In Wesleyan theology, threefold grace is the birthright of all who live and breathe and seek to dwell in the Holy Spirit.

There is no waiting period for the Realm of God.  
It is now. It is love.

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\* LGBTQ+ is an acronym which includes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Two-Spirit and the many other forms of identity relating to gender and sexuality. Two-Spirit acknowledges some Native American persons. The “+” covers new identities and persons as well as those with letters not included in the acronym. For simplicity, we use the acronym “LGBTQ+” in this document instead of longer, more explicitly inclusive versions.

† Thanks to the Great Plains Annual Conference for their articulation of the core issues at play.

## **12. SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM (2010, revised 2013, 2016, rewritten 2019)**

Sponsor: MFSA, Oregon-Idaho Immigration and Refugee Taskforce

There have many changes in the Immigration policies since this resolution was reaffirmed in 2016. And most of these changes have resulted in a system that is more broken and more brutal than what had been happening. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals has been suspended although those who had already been approved are able to renew their status. Homeland Security implemented a policy of separating children from their parents when families entered the country without permission. We all saw the photos of nursing babies being ripped from their mothers’ arms when the Zero Tolerance policy was issued. There are still many children, mostly youth that are being held in tent camps and converted warehouses.

The United Methodist Church has revised its recommendations about how we as individuals, churches and conferences can address the current immigration crisis. This is what they approved:

“We call upon all United Methodist churches to engage in the following:

- advocate for legislation that will uphold the civil and human rights of all migrants in the United States and will provide an opportunity to attain legal status for all undocumented migrants currently in the United States, as well as for those arriving in the future;
- begin English as a Second Language classes as part of a ministry to migrant communities and advocate for federal and state support of expanded ESL classes;
- denounce and oppose the rise of xenophobic, racist, and violent reactions against migrants in the United States, and support all efforts to build relationships among people, instead of building walls among diverse ethnicities and cultures;
- welcome newly arriving immigrants into our congregations;
- oppose the building of a wall between the United States and Mexico, which the communities of both sides of the border are in opposition to;
- call the United States government to immediately cease all arrests, detainment, and deportations of undocumented immigrants, including children, solely based upon their immigration status until a fair and comprehensive immigration reform is passed;
- provide wherever possible pastoral care and crisis intervention to refugees and newly arrived migrants, identifying and responding compassionately to their spiritual, material, and legal needs;
- work with civic and legal organizations to support migrant communities affected by harsh immigration laws and over-reaching national security measures;
- support those churches that prayerfully choose to offer sanctuary to undocumented migrants facing deportation.” (Book of Resolutions, 3281)

We are recommending that the Oregon-Idaho conference take action in accordance with this resolution, continuing the current immigrant focused ministries and expanding our response to this human rights disaster.

## **13. SUPPORTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS (2015, 2018, 2021)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action, Holy Land Task Force

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 to 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.