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Cal-Nevada Annual Conference 2018

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Black Lives Matter

Submitted by: Rev. Donald Guest, Mary Ruth Green, Ballard W. George, Ingrid McCleary as members of First United Methodist Church, Sunnyvale, California

Vote: Four affirmative, none negative, none abstaining

Date: March 28, 2018

Contact person: Ballard W. George, ballardgeorge1960@yahoo.com

The acquittal of George Zimmerman for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin in 2013 left many people with the sense of devaluation of black lives. Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi channeled their frustration into the formation of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter. This has evolved into a movement, Black Lives Matter (BLM), which organizes protests around the killings of black people by law enforcement officers, as well as broader issues of racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system.

Besides social media, BLM uses a variety of protest tactics – protest rallies and marches, blockades, die ins (protesters lie on the ground and pretend to be dead, etc. – in an effort to make people uncomfortable enough to act on the issue. Some slogans they’ve chanted during protests are: “Black Lives Matter”, “Hands up, don’t shoot”, “I can’t breathe”, “White silence is violence” and “Is my son next?”

A common response to “Black Lives Matter” is “All Lives Matter”. President Obama addressed this sentiment: *“I think everybody understands all lives matter, I think that the reason the organizers used the phrase Black Lives Matter was not because they were suggesting that no one else’s lives matter. Rather, they were suggesting that there is a specific problem that is happening in the African American community that is not happening in other communities”*. He added, *“And that is a legitimate issue that we’ve got to address.”*

Chris Hayes has described the situation in a book titled, *A Colony in a Nation*. “The Nation is the white community and the colony is the black”.

Within our church, Erin Hawkins, the General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) has responded to this issue in a blog on the United Methodist Church website (www.umc.org/). She says: *“...when racial conflict is at play, both the pastors who comply as well as those who resist end up deeply wounded. Playing by the rules is no guarantee of making it out alive. So where do we go from here?”*

I believe that prayer is powerful, and I encourage leaders at every level in the Church to continue praying and calling for prayer.

I believe that declarations of solidarity and support are an important first step in building relationships with the harmed and hurting.

I also believe that if those are the only two things that you are doing in the face of the staggering realities of racism, sexism, and classism – which are being made more and

1 *more visible every day, all around the world – then you are a part of the problem.*

2 *Humanity needs more from the Church. It needs more from you. It's time we join*
3 *hands, say "enough is enough," and take action on that conviction.*

4 *No more violence and death because of the color of one's skin. No more abuse*
5 *of those who dare to speak out against the systems of oppression or who resist oppressive*
6 *behaviors.*

7
8 *Beginning now, I urge everyone, regardless of race, to commit to taking three actions in*
9 *response to racism in the church and society:*

- 10
11 *1. Be accountable: build relationships with others that keep you accountable for*
12 *effectively dismantling the systems of racism and oppression while at the same*
13 *time building community amongst the whole human family. We need to be*
14 *committed to both, not one or the other.*
- 15 *2. Be inclusive. Stop putting superficial parameters on who is worthy of your*
16 *love, respect, and acceptance. Race, class, gender, age, and sexual identity*
17 *are not legitimate reasons to hate, exclude, and dehumanize.*
- 18 *3. Be courageous. Don't shy away from conversations about race and the*
19 *"isms" just because they are uncomfortable. We need constructive dialog-and*
20 *by constructive, I mean conversations that lead to community and action."*

21
22 *If we act as if All Lives Matter then we will go where is uncomfortable. We will work to*
23 *see that the least of our sisters and brothers have the services that we ourselves deem*
24 *necessary for our own live and liberty."*

25
26 **Sources:**

- 27 1. Hawkins, Erin, General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race
28 (GCORR), United Methodist Church.
- 29 2. Hayes, Christopher, *A Colony in a Nation*, 2017.
- 30 3. Obama, Barack, President of the United States:
31 <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/obama-defends-black-lives-matter-movement>

32
33 **Resolved:**

- 34 1. Conference Secretary to write to Attorney Generals of California and Nevada, calling
35 on them to consider fair mindedness in the recruitment of police officers and police
36 department personnel, and to effectively train officers in limiting escalation of police
37 encounters with citizens.
 - 38 a. Honorable Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of California, P.O. Box 944255,
39 Sacramento, CA 94244-2556.
 - 40 b. Honorable Ivy Blackwell, Attorney General of Nevada, 100 North Carson
41 Street, Carson City, Nevada 59701.
- 42 2. Conference Secretary to write to Attorney Generals of California and Nevada calling
43 on them to urge local jurisdictions to set up civilian review boards or persons for
44 review of police actions.
- 45 3. Conference Secretary to write to the Attorney Generals of California and Nevada to
46 encourage local jurisdictions to arrange for police to patrol, including on foot where

- 1 feasible and safe, in neighborhoods identified as black or ethnic to establish a
2 relation.
- 3 4. Conference Secretary to write to Attorney Generals of California and Nevada to
4 encourage police in local jurisdictions to hold well-planned neighborhood community
5 meetings to provide information and answer questions.
- 6 5. Conference Secretary to write to churches to encourage them to participate in Martin
7 Luther King birthday breakfast/brunch events, or other events such as Juneteenth
8 (June 19th, celebrating the freeing of the slaves).
- 9 6. Conference Secretary to write to Conference United Methodist Women and to the
10 churches encouraging them to set up a study on “Black Lives.”
- 11 7. Conference Secretary to write to the churches encouraging them to work on joint
12 projects such as hunger or justice projects with black or ethnic churches. A local
13 council of churches or possibly the state council might be helpful in making
14 connections for this.
- 15 8. Conference Secretary to write to the churches to encourage them to subscribe to the
16 Southern Poverty Law Center Report. 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL
17 76104. splcreport@splcenter.org The center **should be contacted for help** if a
18 problem is encountered in relation to Black Lives and a justice issue.
- 19 9. Conference Secretary to write to the churches to encourage them to contact the Black
20 Lives Matter organization (accessible by google search) for further ideas and
21 information.

**PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON FIJIAN
MINISTRIES**

Submitted by the Fijian Council of Vakatawas

Present: 40 Ayes:40 Nays: 0 Abstaining: 0

Adopted March 10, 2018

*Fiscal Impact: \$1,200 for first year meeting expenses to be requested from the
Conference Committee on Ethnic Ministries and Outreach*

There are nine Fijian language ministries which are part of the ministries of nine local churches of our conference today. These Fijian languages ministries are geographically located in the Bay, El Camino and Los Rios Districts. For more than two decades, the Fijian ministries have organized themselves under a Council of Vakatawas to supporting the cultural aspect of the Fijian Communities. The objective of the Council of Vakatawas was to enhance Spiritual formation in each language ministry and this was accomplished as they roster lay preachers for pulpit supply and facilitating quarterly combined worship services.

All the above Fijian language ministries except for one, are also members of the Fijian Caucus of our Conference. The Fijian Caucus has been hard-working, in aligning its activities and purposes under the seven pillars of the Nation Plan of the Pacific Islanders National Caucus.

Acknowledging the Council and the Caucus’ hard work, in sustaining and supporting the Fijian community we believe that it is time to take the next step forward and fully connect with the conference structure.

Therefore, we propose the following purpose and structure of the Conference Committee on Fijian Ministry, a subcommittee of the Conference Committee on Ethnic Ministry and Outreach.

1. Purpose:

To be a channel of support for the vision, aspiration and development of Fijian Ministries in the California-Nevada Conference

- a. Work with the Cabinet to evaluate, establish and work with new Fijian communities of faith.
- b. Resource local churches committed to the development of Fijian Ministries.
- c. To collaborate with the Cabinet and the National Pacific Islander Ministry Plan to develop ongoing comprehensive plans for the development of Fijian Ministries and to assist in directing these plans.

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d. Support the engagement of Fijian Ministries, local congregations and new communities of faith in the connectional ministries of the conference.

2. The administrative work of the Committee on Fijian Ministries shall be overseen by the Committee on Ethnic Ministry and Outreach

3. Membership:

The committee shall have 10 members:

- 3 *Vakatawas* [Lay Leaders].
- 1 *Talatala* [ordained Minister], appointee of the Methodist Church in Fiji.
- 2 Lay people.
- 1 Young adult/Youth, member at large.
- 2 additional members outside of the Fijian Ministries.
- 1 *Vakatawa* representative of the Council of *Vakatawas*.

4. Nomination and Appointments:

- i] The President, Vice President and Secretary are nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee in consultation with the committee. The officials are limited to two terms of 4 years, served consecutively.
- ii] Members at large are nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee. Members are limited to two terms of 4 years, served consecutively.

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3 **Recommendation to Establish a Conference**
4 **Committee on African American/Black Ministries**
5

6 *Submitted by: Myrna Bernadel-Huey, Angela Brown, Rochelle Frazier, Hubert Ivery,*
7 *Anthony Jenkins, Andrea Patton-Housley, William Rollins, Dale Weatherspoon, and*
8 *Angela Wright.*
9

10 There is a need for the focused intentionality to create, maintain and revitalize the
11 African-American/Black churches. There is not a Conference Committee on
12 African-American/Black ministries within California-Nevada Annual Conference.
13

14 **Resolved that** a Conference Committee on African-American/Black Ministry be
15 established as a subcommittee of the Conference Committee on Ethnic Ministries and
16 Outreach as follows:
17

- 18 1. Purpose: To be a channel of support for the development of
19 African-American/Black Ministries within the California-Nevada Annual
20 Conference.
- 21 a. Work with the Cabinet to identify, accompany and evaluate existing and
22 new African American/Black communities of faith.
 - 23 b. To resource local churches who are committed to developing with the
24 National Plan African-American/Black ministry.
 - 25 c. In partnership with the Cabinet, work with the General Church National
26 Plan and “Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century” to develop
27 an ongoing comprehensive strategies for African-American/Black ministry
28 in the Conference. The committee will help to guide the strategies with the
29 support of the Cabinet and the Committee on Congregational Vitality.
 - 30 d. The Committee on African American/Black ministries will work under the
31 oversight of the Committee on Ethnic Ministry and Outreach in the
32 administration of its work.
 - 33 e. Encourage the full participation of African-American/Black ministries,
34 local congregations, and new communities of faith in the connectional
35 ministries of the Conference.
- 36 2. The Committee on African-American Membership: Four will be
37 African-American/Black clergy, four will be African-American/Black laity, and
38 two will be non-African-American/Black clergy/laity for a total of ten members.
- 39 3. Officers are as follows: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and
40 Financial Secretary. Officers are limited to two consecutive four year terms and
41 are nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee in consultation with the

1 Committee. At large members are limited to two four year terms and will be
2 nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee.
3 4. Standing Committees: Executive Committee call meetings, meet three times a
4 year, not counting conference calls, prepares programmatic recommendations and
5 agendas for recommendation to the full committee after consulting with the
6 Cabinet. Executive Committee membership shall be the President, Vice President,
7 Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary of the Committee on
8 African-American-Black ministries.

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**RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019 RETIRED CLERGY
RENTAL/HOUSING EXCLUSION**

Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions

Date Adopted: 3/06/2018

Number on Board: 14 Number Present: 10

Number Voting YES: 10 Number Voting NO: 0 Number Abstaining: 0

Contact: Gary Grundman, President, Board of Pensions

Fiscal Impact: Provides a housing allowance exclusion for retired and disable clergy

BACKGROUND:

1. The religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

2. The practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

3. Pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

4. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference;

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespeth (formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits), during the year 2019 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespeth and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general

1 agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a
2 part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform
3 services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to
4 make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such
5 retired or disabled Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross
6 compensation.

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11 **ACCOMPANYING NOTES:**

- 12 A. The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross
13 income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal
14 Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the
15 amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's
16 employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the
17 foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the
18 Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of
19 the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the
20 cost of utilities in such year.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR 2018 ‘PAST-SERVICE’
(PRE-1982 SERVICE) PENSION RATE**

Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions

Date Adopted: 3-06-2018

Number on Board: 14 Number Present: 10

Number Voting YES: 10 Number Voting NO: 0 Number Abstaining: 0

Contact: Gary Grundman, President, Board of Pensions

Fiscal Impact: \$0 from the Conference Budget; \$420,894 from Board of Pensions reserves

BACKGROUND:

This Past-Service Pension Rate (PSR) recommendation comes to the Annual Conference every year from the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP), as required by the Book of Discipline. It sets the following year’s minimum pension amount to be paid (per year of service) to clergy who are already retired, for their years of service in this Conference prior to 1982.

Our Standing Rules (see Division IX. Pension and Benefit Programs C. Parity) encourage parity between all the various pension programs administered by the Conference Board of Pensions. Our present PSR of \$861 is equal to 1.19% of the 2018 CAC of \$72,442. A PSR rate of \$887 in 2019 is equal to 1.20% of the 2019 CAC of \$73,855. The goal is to maintain a 1.20% ratio between the PSR and the CAC. It has been one of the highest UMC pension rates in the nation. Also, our retiree health insurance subsidy program provides a significant UMC insurance benefit to retired clergy members of the Conference.

The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) has indicated that our unfunded pre-1982 liability was \$6,718,958 on January 1, 2018 and is expected to decrease to \$4,051,306 on January 1, 2019. Our scheduled payment of \$1,139,550 (plus \$420,894 for a 3% PSR increase if adopted) will be made on 12/31/2019.

There are no funds in the Conference apportionment budget for this program. This program is currently funded from Board of Pension reserve funds (\$18,126,187 as of 12/31/2017). Paragraph 1506.6 of the 2016 Book of Discipline reads, in part, “Each annual conference shall develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations...” Additionally, any future liability to either the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) program or the current Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB) pension plan would have a claim against the pension reserve fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Pensions recommends that the Minimum Past Service Pension Rate paid for Pre-1982 service during the year 2019 be set at \$887 per year of service. This represents a 3% increase over the 2018 rate of \$861 per year of service.

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3 **Promoting Human Rights by Ending**
4 **Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children**
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6 *Submitted by The Israel/Palestine Task Force*

7 *Vote: 9 Aye, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain*

8 *Contact person: Yvonne Turner*

9 *Co-Sponsored by the Advocacy and Justice Committee by a vote of 9 Aye, 0 Oppose,*
10 *0 Abstain Fiscal Impact: NONE*

11
12 **Background**
13

14 Israel has the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world that
15 systematically prosecutes between 500 and 700 children each year in military courts that
16 lack fundamental fair trial rights and protections.

17 An estimated 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli security forces
18 and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system since 2000. Independent monitors such
19 as Human Rights Watch have documented that these children are subject to abuse and, in
20 some cases, torture — specifically citing the use of chokeholds, beatings, and coercive
21 interrogation on children between the ages of 11 and 15.

22 In addition, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) found that Palestinian
23 children are frequently held for extended periods without access to either their parents or
24 attorneys. The United States Department of State and the United Nations Committee on
25 the Rights of the Child have also raised serious concerns about the mistreatment of
26 Palestinian children in Israeli military custody.

27 This resolution endorses H.R. 4391 *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military*
28 *Detention of Palestinian Children Act*, a bill currently before the U.S. House of
29 Representatives. This endorsement effectively builds on prior Annual Conference
30 resolutions. (2015 item #33 *Israeli Military Detention: No Way to Treat a Child and*
31 *2017 item #5 Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military*
32 *Occupation*)

33 The *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian*
34 *Children Act* seeks to ensure that US taxpayer funds are not being used to support the
35 detention of Palestinian children by Israeli forces in a military detention system where
36 ill-treatment is widespread and institutionalized; or their prosecution in a military court
37 system that has been found to lack basic fair trial protections and guarantees.

38 The *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian*
39 *Children Act* has been endorsed by the American Friends Service Committee, Amnesty

1 International USA, Arab American Institute, Center for Constitutional Rights, Church
2 World Service, Churches for Middle East Peace, Defense for Children International -
3 Palestine, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Global Ministries of the Christian
4 Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, Jewish Voice for
5 Peace, Mennonite Central Committee, Presbyterian Church (USA), the U.S. Campaign
6 for Palestinian Rights, United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR), and United
7 Methodist General Board of Church and Society.

8 Regardless of guilt or innocence, children in conflict with the law are entitled to special
9 protections and all due process rights under international human rights law and
10 international humanitarian law. The *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military*
11 *Detention of Palestinian Children Act* seeks to ensure these protections and deserves our
12 endorsement and support.

13 **THIS RESOLUTION:**

14 ENDORSES H.R.4391 the *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military*
15 *Detention of Palestinian Children Act*, and **REQUESTS** the Conference Secretary to
16 communicate this endorsement to the Members of Congress within the Conference
17 boundaries, urging them to sign on and support this legislation, and

18
19 CALLS ON Conference members to inform their congregations about this endorsement
20 and to consider contacting their own members of Congress to express their support, and

21 ENCOURAGES Conference congregations and individuals to learn about the plight of
22 children in Palestine and asks that the Israel/Palestine Tasks Force be a resource as well
23 as a promotor of study and advocacy for the rights of children living under Israeli
24 Military Occupation.

25

**Recommendation to Amend Standing Rule X.D.
Annual Conference Staff Housing**

Submitting Group: Conference Board of Trustees

Vote For: 6

Vote Against: 0

Abstaining: 0

Number present when voting: 6

Date adopted: February 24, 2018

Contact: Diane Knudsen or Harold Caudle

Fiscal impact: none

Background:

The 1973 Annual Conference Session voted to sell the Bay View District parsonage because it was poorly located. As part of the debate, another motion was passed that “the Annual Conference instruct the Board of Trustees to develop and recommend to the 1974 Annual Conference a policy on meeting the housing needs of the Annual Conference professional staff.” Standing Rule X.D. was adopted the following year at the 1974 Annual Conference session.

The current Board of Trustees, in consultation with the bishop, agree that the second paragraph of this rule is no longer needed and is outside of current best business practices. In addition, employees can now borrow money for a house from their pension plan.

Edits to the first paragraph reflect the current practice of not writing separate checks for housing allowance and salary.

Standing Rule X.D. Annual Conference Staff Housing

1. Full time Conference staff members, for whom a house is not provided, shall be properly remunerated and shall provide their own housing. The remuneration shall reflect the cost of housing and utilities in accordance with Conference housing standards in relation to the average fair market rental value of all District parsonages. Ordained staff members shall be required to file a certification of costs of housing with the employing agency in accordance with the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Each shall accept full responsibility for maintaining and keeping available for any requirements of the Federal Government all necessary documentation. ~~The amount of the housing allowance will be deducted from the total remuneration and paid separately. The remaining amount will be paid as salary and reported as such to the Internal Revenue Service.~~
2. ~~If the Bishop or full time staff member for whom a house is not provided elects to buy a house, the Board of Trustees may furnish second mortgage money, by~~

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~~borrowing against equity in Conference owned property. The Trustees may do so when in their judgment, the arrangement properly protects the Annual Conference and provides for full repayment within a reasonable time after the person is no longer assigned as the Bishop of the Area or is employed as a full time Conference staff member. The Bishop or staff member shall carry the full cost of the loan.~~

CA Resolution for United Methodist Church Unity

*Submitted by: Jason Thornton (St. Paul's UMC, Manteca) and
Stephen Pudinski (First UMC, Roseville)*

The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church has called a special General Conference for February 23-26, 2019 to deal with issues concerning human sexuality; and formed the Commission on a Way Forward to assist the Council in discerning a way forward that will maintain unity of the United Methodist Church.

Jesus (Jn. 15:12-17); Paul (Rm. 12:9-21); Peter (1Pe. 1:22); and John (1Jn. 3:11-23) teach us that the commandment of God is to love one another.

Holiness, in the Wesleyan tradition, is faith working through love, and at its core, holiness is the love of God and neighbor, and having the mind of Christ; and the United Methodist Church is the embodiment of God's love and holiness as we participate in the transformation of the world.

John Wesley said: "To separate ourselves from a body of living Christians, with whom we were before united, is a grievous breach of the law of love. It is the nature of love to unite us together; and the greater the love, the stricter the union. And while this continues in its strength, nothing can divide those whom love has united. It is only when our love grows cold, that we can think of separating from our brethren." (Sermon 75 – "On Schism").

Staying united is the embodiment of God's love and the United Methodist Church has always worked to heal rifts between our denominations and strives to demonstrate the grace to remain united in ministry while acknowledging our differences.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that:

1. The California-Nevada Annual Conference urges the General Conference to affirm unity in our diversity, challenge in love all that divides, and offer to all people God's saving grace through Jesus Christ that transforms the world.
2. The California-Nevada Annual Conference urges the General Conference to include all United Methodists in full fellowship.
3. The California-Nevada Annual Conference urges the General Conference to resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice.
4. The California-Nevada Annual Conference submit this Resolution to the Secretary of the General Conference for inclusion and consideration at the General Conference 2019 in St. Louis, MO.

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Resolution in Support of a Clean Dream Act

Submitted by Linda Kuruhara, Chair of The Immigration Task Force , Belinda Robinson,
Jola Bortner and Robin Mathews-Johnson
March 31, 2018

Vote 7 yes No Response: 9

9 The Book of Resolutions (#3281), adopted in 2008 and amended and readopted in
10 2016, calls for each United Methodist Church to advocate and welcome the migrant in
11 our midst and affirms the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of all persons
12 regardless of their nationality or legal status

13 United Methodist churches throughout the United States are urged to build bridges with
14 migrants in their local communities, to learn from them, celebrate their presence in the
15 United States and recognize and appreciate the contributions that migrants bring in all
16 areas of life, We call upon all United Methodist churches in the Cal-Nevada Annual
17 Conference to engage, as the spirit calls them, and to the best of their ability, in any or all
18 of the following:

- 19 • advocate for legislation that will uphold the civil and human rights
20 of all migrants in the United States and will provide an opportunity to attain legal
21 status for all undocumented migrants currently in the United States, as well as for
22 those arriving in the future;
- 23 • begin English as a Second Language classes as part of a ministry to
24 migrant communities and advocate for federal and state support of expanded ESL
25 classes;
- 26 • denounce and oppose the rise of xenophobic, racist, and violent
27 reactions against migrants in the United States, and support all efforts to build
28 relationships among people, instead of building walls among diverse ethnicities
29 and cultures;
- 30 • welcome newly arriving immigrants into our congregations;
- 31 • oppose the building of a wall between the United States and
32 Mexico, which the communities of both sides of the border are in opposition to;
- 33 • call the United States government to immediately cease all arrests,
34 detainment, and deportations of undocumented immigrants, including children,
35 solely based upon their immigration status until a fair and comprehensive
36 immigration reform is passed;
- 37
- 38 • provide wherever possible pastoral care and crisis intervention to
39 refugees and newly arrived migrants, identifying and responding compassionately
40 to their spiritual, material, and legal needs;
- 41 • work with civic and legal organizations to support migrant
42 communities affected by harsh immigration laws and overreaching national
43 security measures;
- 44 • support those churches that prayerfully choose to offer sanctuary
45 (at any Level) to undocumented migrants facing deportation;
- 46 • learn about and continue the work of the United Methodist Task
47 Force on Immigration (composed of staff from the general boards and agencies,

1 representatives of the Council of Bishops, and members of caucuses and national
2 plans) that was created by the resolution, “Opposition to the Illegal Immigration
3 Reform and Immigration Resolution Act” (2004 Book of Resolutions, #118).

4 • Further, The United Methodist Church is urged to advocate for the
5 comprehensive reform of the US immigration system. The executive action taken
6 by President Obama in 2014 was a necessary temporary step that allowed certain
7 groups of immigrants to apply for temporary legal status, though not citizenship.
8 (We acknowledge that legislative change is the permanent step that is needed.)
9 Any legislation to reform the US immigration system must affirm the worth,
10 dignity, and inherent value and rights of migrants, and must also:

11 - include an opportunity for citizenship for all undocumented
12 migrants. Any pathway created for undocumented migrants should have
13 minimal obstacles, and those requirements should not be designed to
14 preclude migrants from eligibility for legalization;

15 - clear the backlogs of current applicants and reunify
16 families separated by migration or detainment;

17 - increase in the number of visas for short-term workers to
18 come into the United States to work in a safe, legal, and orderly way.
19 (Opportunities for legalization should be available for those who wish to
20 remain permanently);

21 - protect all workers who come to stay for a certain period
22 of time as well as for those who stay permanently. (The right to bargain
23 for higher wages, to protest against poor working conditions, and to
24 preserve their human rights should be maintained by all workers,
25 documented and undocumented alike);

26
27 - eliminate of for-profit detention centers;

28 - eliminate indefinite detention, incarceration of children,
29 and expanding prison population, which also benefits privately owned
30 detention centers and prisons;

31 - preserve due process and access to courts and to adequate
32 legal representation for all migrants regardless of legal status;

33
34 **Therefore we**, as The California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United
35 Methodist Church, will:

36
37 1. work towards 100 percent participation of local churches in our
38 Conference to provide outreach to migrants in their communities by participating
39 in the annual Immigration Day each May in California (comparable immigration
40 event in Nevada);

41 2. work towards legislative action for immigrants in our own states;

42 3. support a clean Dream Act (with no attachments of building a
43 wall, nor hiring more Border Patrol). This act will allow 800,000 plus

1 immigrants who came to the U.S. across the border undocumented and grew up in
2 the U.S. and were schooled here in the U.S and who know only the culture of the
3 U.S, to become Legal Permanent Residents of the U.S. with a pathway to
4 citizenship.

- 5 4. support unification of families who are living in the U.S.
- 6 5. support the hiring of more judges to handle immigration matters;
- 7 6. instruct the Secretary of the Annual Conference to write to
8 President Trump, Governor Jerry Brown of California, and
9 Governor Brian Sandoval of Nevada on behalf of the Annual
10 Conference in support of comprehensive immigration reform that
11 allows DACA recipients to:
 - 12 - remain, legally, in the U.S.,
 - 13 - receive due process of the law, and keep families together
 - 14 - advocate changes in applicable law to support a pathway to
15 citizenship
 - 16 - put a hold on deportations of these immigrants until they
17 have received due process through the courts

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19 Written by Linda Kuruhara, Chair of the Immigration Task Force of the UMC
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7 **ITEM 10**

8 **Recommendation to Establish a Committee on Filipino American**
9 **Ministries**

10 **Change in Standing Rules Division V.2.b.6.a Committee on Filipino American**
11 **Ministries**

12 *Submitted by: Members of the Conference Committee on Filipino Ministry and the*
13 *Filipino American Caucus*

14 *Members Present: 25 Aye votes: 25 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 0*

15 *Adopted March 3, 2018*

16 *Contact: Elmar DeOcera*

17 *Financial impact: \$2,000 annually for meeting costs*
18

19 **Background**

20 This recommendation was developed because of a significant conversation between
21 Filipino Lay and Clergy leaders and the Bishop and Extended Cabinet of the Conference.
22 A writing team was created including the current Chair of the Conference Committee on
23 Filipino American Ministries and the Chair of the Filipino American Cactus and the
24 Conference Superintendent for Mission Collaboration. The task of the writing team was
25 to clarify the role of the Conference Committee and the Caucus.

26 The work of the writing team was presented at a gathering of Filipino Lay and Clergy
27 leaders and unanimously affirmed the standing rule change to be brought forward as a
28 recommendation to the Annual Conference Session.

29 **Recommendation**

30 The recommendation is to replace the current standing rule found in Division V.2.b.6.a
31 Committee on Filipino American Ministries and replace it with the following.
32

33 ***Committee on Filipino American Ministries***

34 **Purpose:** To be a channel of support for the development Filipino American Ministries
35 within the California Nevada Annual Conference, to grow a strong sense of unity among
36 Filipino American United Methodists within the Annual Conference. To develop and
37 deepen a sense of mission and ministry, celebrating and enhancing our cultural roots and
38 values as part of our identity.

- 39 a) Generate programs in addition to Christmas Institute that involve and equip our
40 members, especially young adults, youth and children; to fully participate in the
41 life and ministry of the church.
42 b) Work with the Cabinet to identify, accompany and evaluate existing and new
43 Filipino American Ministries.

- 1 c) In partnership with the Cabinet work with PAGLAGO, the Filipino National Plan,
2 to develop an ongoing comprehensive strategy for Filipino American ministry in
3 the conference. The committee will help to guide the strategy with the support
4 of the Cabinet and committee on congregational vitality.
- 5 d) The Committee on Filipino Ministries will work under the oversight of the
6 Committee on Ethnic Ministry and Outreach in the administration of its work.

7 **Membership:** The committee shall consist of four (4) Clergy, two (2) Lay, two (2)
8 Non-Filipino, two (2) Youth/Young Adult under age 35 for a total of 10 members
9 nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations. At large members are
10 limited to two 4 year terms and are to be nominated by the Conference Nominating
11 Committee.

12
13 **Officers:** A chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary. Officers are limited to two
14 consecutive four year terms and are nominated by the Conference nominating committee
15 in consultation with the committee. The Filipino American Ministry Caucus treasurer
16 will serve on the committee by virtue of his/her office.

17 18 19 **Current Standing Rule**

20 a) Committee on Filipino American Ministries

21 i) Purpose: ~~The purpose of the committee is to grow a strong sense of unity among Fili-~~
22 ~~pino American United Methodists within the Annual Conference: To develop and~~
23 ~~deepen a sense of mission and ministry, celebrating and enhancing our cultural roots and~~
24 ~~values as part of our identity; to create programs and effective strategies for involving~~
25 ~~and equipping our members, especially young adults, youths, and children; to fully~~
26 ~~participate in and support NAFAUM and Paglago, our national and regional program for~~
27 ~~new congregational growth and development and the revitalization of existing churches~~
28 ~~and fellowships; to raise the consciousness of Filipino Americans towards the advocacy~~
29 ~~of and support for relevant social issues; to engage the Annual Conference and its~~
30 ~~constituents in cultural awareness and education; to partner with the Annual Conference~~
31 ~~in the formation and sustaining new Filipino American United Methodist congregations.~~

32 ii) Membership: ~~The Committee shall consist of one (1) representative each from:-~~
33 ~~CA-NV Regional Paglago, Philippines Solidarity Task Force, Philippines-~~
34 ~~Medical-Dental VIM, Christmas Institute, and The Spiritual Image;-~~
35 ~~president/chairperson of Filipino American Ministry Caucus; one youth or young adult~~
36 ~~under age 35; and up to seven (7) additional members at large, one from each of the four~~
37 ~~Districts, nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations. (2) A chairperson,~~
38 ~~vice chairperson, and secretary shall be nominated from the members of the Committee~~
39 ~~and elected by the Annual Conference. The Filipino American Ministry Caucus treasurer~~
40 ~~will serve by virtue of his/her office.-~~

41 ~~The Committee shall include both laypersons and clergy; at least one half of the~~
42 ~~membership shall be laypersons. They shall be arranged into three classes, expiring at~~
43 ~~two year intervals~~

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ITEM 11

**Recommendation to Deed Orangevale Property to
Cho-Un Korean UMC**

Submitting Group: Conference Board of Trustees
Vote For: 6
Vote Against: 0
Abstaining: 0
Number present when voting: 6
Date adopted: February 24, 2018
Contact: Diane Knudsen or Harold Caudle
*Fiscal impact: potentially some cost savings to the Conference Board of Trustees
although the rent from the congregation in recent years has covered most of the costs*

Background:

The First United Methodist Church of Orangevale was declared abandoned in 2005. Title to the property was transferred to the Conference Board of Trustees in 2010 in accordance with the Book of Discipline and after settlement of a lawsuit with the former congregation. The Cho-Un Korean United Methodist Church has occupied the property since 2010. The Cho-Un Korean United Methodist Church has offered to donate the funds necessary to pay off the pension deficiency of the former Orangevale United Methodist Church.

Resolution:

The real property of the former First United Methodist Church of Orangevale shall be deeded to the Cho-Un Korean United Methodist Church.

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ITEM 12

**Resolution Regarding Inclusive Local Church
Lay Staff Employment Policy**

*Submitted by Conference Committee on Reconciliation
12 CCOR members were asked to vote via email
4 yes; 0 no; 8 abstentions
Fiscal Impact: None*

Whereas, paragraph 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: “We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence” (Book of Discipline, 2016);

Whereas, paragraph 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church also states: “We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.” (Book of Discipline, 2016);

Whereas, paragraph 162J of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: “Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation... Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (Book of Discipline, 2016);

Whereas, that same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst such basic rights and liberties;

Whereas, most United Methodist churches – regardless of their stand on the *Book of Discipline* and LGBTQ persons – frequently state that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are welcome in their local church;

Whereas, some United Methodist Churches practice a policy that inquires about sexual orientation during the interview process and forbids the employment of called and qualified laity to non-appointed staff position if they are lesbian or gay;

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Whereas, laity employed by United Methodists Churches have been fired from their non-appointed staff positions based solely on their sexual orientation;

Whereas, such dismissal is in direct conflict with the aforementioned Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and causes significant harm; and

Whereas, we wish for each of our local churches a staff that possesses the gifts and graces for relative and effective ministry, and would *not* wish for either our churches or the neighbors we serve to be denied the most qualified person due to a practice that prevents employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity,

Therefore be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference is committed to employment practices that are aligned with our Social Principles. We will adopt and support local church policies in which laity called to serve are employed and dismissed based solely on their gifts and graces without regard for sexual orientation or gender identity.

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ITEM 13

Recommendation Regarding the Conference Journal
Change in Standing Rules Divisions II and III (2017 Journal, page 231)

Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force
Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 3 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 1
Adopted April 26, 2018
Contact: Mark Wharff
Financial impact: None

Background

The Book of Discipline (2016) ¶606.2. directs each annual conference to send copies of its annual journal to specific general church agencies. ¶606.3. permits the annual conference to form a committee on journal publication.

Recommendation

The recommendation is to amend the current standing rules found in Division II. Conference Journal and remove Division III. Conference Officers (Non-Disciplinary) A. Editor of the Journal.

Division II. Conference Journal

A. Conference Journal

1. When certified by the Bishop and the Secretary, the Journal shall be the official record of the Conference. The 1971 Journal contains a complete listing of former EUB and Methodist churches.
- ~~2. The Journal Editor shall be responsible for receiving copy from the Conference Secretary, agencies and officers for the compiling, editing, and distribution of the Journal.~~
2. ~~3.~~ The Conference Journal shall be published in two formats, in printed form and on a computer file. The printed format shall be made available for purchase. The electronic file will be posted on the conference website for downloading. Upon request, conference staff will send clergy or lay members of annual conference a copy of the electronic file on portable media.
- ~~4. Conference staff will send three printed copies to the Conference Archives and copies to such other regional archives and general church agencies as request and justify a need for it.~~
3. ~~5.~~ Each local church shall maintain a file of Conference Journals, and it is the

1 responsibility of the pastor to make sure that this is done.

2
3 **Division III. Conference Officers (Non-Disciplinary)**

4 **A. Editor of the Journal**

5 There shall be an Editor of the Conference Journal elected on nomination of the
6 Nominating Committee in consultation with the Conference Secretary.

7
8 **ITEM 14**

9
10 **Recommendations Regarding Conference Membership
11 and Clergy Relations**

12 **Change in Standing Rules Division IV** (2017 Journal, pages 232-233)

13 *Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force*

14 *Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 3 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 1*

15 *Adopted April 26, 2018*

16 *Contact: Mark Wharff*

17 *Financial impact: None*

18
19 **Background**

20 *The Book of Discipline* (2016) Section VI. Annual Conferences (§32-36) addresses lay
21 and clergy membership in the annual conference while extending flexibility to the annual
22 conference to develop its own formula to provide for the election of additional lay
23 members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

24
25 **Recommendation**

26 The recommendation is to amend the current Standing Rules found in Division IV. A. for
27 clarity and compliance with *The Book of Discipline* (2016).

28
29 **Division ~~III~~, ~~IV~~. Conference Membership and Clergy Relations**

30 **A. Basic Lay Membership** (2017 Conference Journal, pages 232-233)

31 1. Lay members and alternate lay members shall be elected for the quadrennium in the
32 Church Conference held following the regular session of the General Conference. Each
33 charge shall elect one lay member and each charge served by more than one clergy shall
34 elect as many lay members as there are clergy members. (see Para 32, 2016 Discipline).
35 The term of service shall begin January 1 and end with the close of the quadrennium or the
36 commencement of the term of their successors. Members elected to fill vacancies shall
37 serve the balance of the term.

38 ~~2. The Conference Secretary shall determine the number of lay members to be elected by~~
39 ~~local churches so that the total number of lay members will equal the total number of clergy~~
40 ~~members (see Para. 32, 2016 Discipline). By August 1 in the year of the quadrennial~~
41 ~~General Conference each year,~~ the Conference Secretary, in consultation with the
42 Conference Statistician, shall determine the number of clergy members of the Annual

1 Conference. This shall fix the official number of lay members for the following
2 ~~quadrennium~~ year. There shall be Lay Members selected by the following rules:

3 a. Each lay member shall have been for the two years next preceding his or her election a
4 member of The United Methodist Church and shall have been an active participant in The
5 United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding his or her election.

6 b. Each ~~church~~ charge shall be allotted one lay member.

7 c. Where any ~~church~~ charge has appointed to it more than one clergy member, that ~~church~~
8 charge shall ~~be allotted an~~ elect additional lay members so that the ~~basic~~ number of lay
9 members equals the number of clergy members appointed to that ~~church~~ charge.

10 d. By virtue of their consecration, Diaconal ministers, active and retired, are lay members
11 of the Annual Conference.

12 ~~e. Conference Lay Ministers assigned by the District Superintendent to a local church are~~
13 ~~members of the Annual Conference (see Para. 271, 2004 Discipline).~~

14 ~~e. f.~~ Persons holding each of the following offices shall be lay members of the Annual
15 Conference:

16 Conference President of the United Methodist Women; Conference President of United
17 Methodist Men; Conference Lay Leader/s; ~~Agenda chairperson of the Annual Conference~~
18 ~~Session; Lay delegate or reserve lay delegate to Jurisdictional Conference; President of the~~
19 ~~Retired Clergy Association; Executive officer of the Retired Clergy Association;~~
20 Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay); President of the Young Adult Council,
21 President of the Council on Youth Ministries, one young person between the ages of twelve
22 (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty
23 (30) from each district and Conference Statistician.

24 25 **B. Lay Equalization Membership**

26 1. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual
27 conference, the annual conference shall provide for the election of additional lay members
28 to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference in the following sequence:

29 a. Every church on a charge not otherwise represented by a lay member shall elect a lay
30 member.

31 b. The Agenda chairperson of the Annual Conference Session, lay delegates and reserve
32 lay delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, Conference Statistician, President of the Retired
33 Clergy Association, and the Executive officer of the Retired Clergy Association shall, if
34 lay, be lay members of the Annual Conference.

35 c. Chairpersons who are lay persons from the following conference committees,
36 commissions or boards shall be lay members of the Annual Conference: Advocacy and
37 Justice, Archives and History, Camping and Retreat Ministry, Christian Unity and
38 Interreligious Relations, Commission on the Annual Conference Session, Convener of
39 the Core Team, Council on Finance & Administration, Episcopacy, Equitable
40 Compensation, Ethnic Ministry and Outreach, Higher Education and Campus Ministry,
41 Lay Leadership Development, Mission Service, New and Vital Congregations,
42 Nominations and Connectional Leadership, Pensions & Health Benefits, Reconciliation,
43 Religion and Race, Status and Role of Women, Trustees, and Young Peoples Ministry

44 d. In addition, should a lay person holding professing membership in a congregation
45 within the California/Nevada Annual Conference be elected to the Judicial Council of The

1 United Methodist Church, that person shall (unless already elected as a member of the
2 Annual Conference) automatically be granted lay membership in the Annual Conference
3 (both voice and vote) for the duration of their council term of office. Said membership shall
4 not be included in the count used to calculate the number of lay members allotted to each
5 district and congregation under section “I” below.

6 ~~e. The Young Adult Delegation shall be allotted one lay member who shall be the~~
7 ~~Conference Young Adult Coordinator.~~ The Young Adult Delegation also shall have
8 allotted to it three (3) additional lay members from each District. Young adult voting
9 membership shall be elected by the following process: ~~That~~ There shall be a young adult
10 delegation of not more than forty-four (44) persons, at least four (4) of whom shall come
11 from each District and all of whom shall be seated within the Bar of the Conference. The
12 method of selection of these young adult delegates shall be established each year by the
13 Conference Committee on Young People’s Ministry with approval of the Commission on
14 the Annual Conference Session. Four (4) young adult members, one (1) basic member and
15 up to three (3) lay equalization members, shall be elected from each District as full voting
16 members of the Annual Conference Session. The Conference Committee shall provide
17 training and preparation for these delegates. The young adult delegation may elect from its
18 membership two alternate young adult members from each District under the supervision
19 of the Conference Committee on Young People’s Ministry. Alternates and remaining
20 delegates shall have voice but no vote.

21 ~~f. The Conference Council on Youth Ministry shall be allotted one lay member who shall~~
22 ~~be the Chairperson of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry.~~ The Conference Council
23 on Youth Ministry also shall have allotted to it ~~three~~ six (6) additional lay members from
24 each district. Youth voting membership shall be elected by the following process: There
25 shall be a youth delegation, all of whom shall be seated within the Bar of the Conference.
26 The number and method of selection of these youth delegates shall be established each year
27 by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry with approval of the Commission on the
28 Annual Conference Session. The Conference Council on Youth Ministry shall provide
29 training and preparation for these delegates. Seven (7) youth members, one (1) basic and
30 up to six (6) lay equalization members, shall be elected from each District as full voting
31 members of the Annual Conference Session. The youth delegation may elect from its
32 membership one alternate youth member from each District under the supervision of the
33 Conference Council on Youth Ministry. Alternates and remaining delegates shall have
34 voice, but not vote.

35 g. Certified lay ministers assigned by the district superintendent to a charge shall be lay
36 members.

37 h. The remaining number of additional lay members shall be allotted, an equal number to
38 each District, with any then remaining to be allotted, one per District, starting with the
39 District which has the largest number of churches, and continuing in descending order until
40 the required number is provided. These additional lay members shall then be allotted
41 within each District, one per church, starting with the largest church, and continuing in
42 descending order according to membership, until the required number is provided.

43 2. After the formula set forth above has determined the allotment of lay members, the
44 following procedure shall be followed in the year of the General Conference:

1 a. By August 1 the Conference Secretary, in consultation with the Conference Statistician,
2 shall forward to the District Superintendents a list of the churches that are to elect one or
3 more additional lay members.

4 b. By September 1 each District Superintendent shall arrange for each church to nominate
5 and elect the proper number of lay members.

6 c. At the annual Charge Church Conference each church shall elect its lay member(s). The
7 District Superintendent shall certify the names of those elected and shall forward the names
8 and addresses of those elected to the Conference Secretary and the Conference Office.

9 3. Additional rules:

10 a. Election to any office named in section ~~A.2.f.~~ B.1.b. and c. above shall constitute
11 election as a lay member.

12 ~~b. That there shall be a young adult delegation of not more than forty four (44) persons,~~
13 ~~four of whom shall come from each District and all of whom shall be seated within the Bar~~
14 ~~of the Conference. The method of selection of these young adult delegates shall be~~
15 ~~established each year by the Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry with~~
16 ~~approval of the Commission on the Annual Conference Session. FOUR young adult~~
17 ~~members shall be elected from each District as full voting members of the Annual~~
18 ~~Conference Session. The Conference Committee shall provide training and preparation for~~
19 ~~these delegates. The young adult delegation may elect from its membership two alternate~~
20 ~~young adult members from each District under the supervision of the Conference~~
21 ~~Committee on Young People's Ministry. Alternates and remaining delegates shall have~~
22 ~~voice but no vote.~~

23 ~~c. There shall be a youth delegation, all of whom shall be seated within the Bar of the~~
24 ~~Conference. The number and method of selection of these youth delegates shall be~~
25 ~~established each year by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry with approval of the~~
26 ~~Commission on the Annual Conference Session. The Conference Council on Youth~~
27 ~~Ministry shall provide training and preparation for these delegates. Seven youth members~~
28 ~~shall be elected from each District as full voting members of the Annual Conference~~
29 ~~Session. The youth delegation may elect from its membership one alternate youth member~~
30 ~~from each District under the supervision of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry.~~
31 ~~Alternates and remaining delegates shall have voice, but not vote.~~

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ITEM 15

**Recommendations Regarding Conference Membership
and Clergy Relations**

Change in Standing Rules Division IV (2017 Journal, pages 234-235)

Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force

Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 3 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 1

Adopted April 26, 2018

Contact: Mark Wharff

Financial impact: None

Background

The Book of Discipline (2016) ¶358.2. specifies the circumstances under which located clergy may be permitted to exercise ministerial functions.

Recommendation

The recommendation is to amend the current Standing Rules found in Division IV. H. and I. to comply with *The Book of Discipline* (2016).

Division ~~III~~ IV. Conference Membership and Clergy Relations

H. Clergy Courtesy (2017 Conference Journal, page 234)

All pastoral functions, for example preaching, baptisms, weddings, and funerals, are the responsibility and privilege of the pastor under appointment to the specific charge, circuit, or parish. Retired clergy, former clergy, ~~located clergy~~, clergy in special appointments, or neighboring clergy shall perform such functions only on the invitation of the pastor in charge.

I. Criminal or Civil Offenses (2017 Conference Journal, pages 234-235)

1. In the event that a clergy has been charged with criminal or civil offenses which impair that clergy's ability to function in his/her appointment, as determined by the District Superintendent after consultation with the church's Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and if an Investigating Committee is not called immediately, the Bishop and the Cabinet, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, may change the appointment to an at large appointment. That clergy shall then be eligible to receive the Annual Conference minimum salary until the matter has been resolved through disciplinary process, following final court resolution of the charges. The matter may be resolved by:

a. Reappointment, or

1 b. Action of an Investigating Committee, as provided in the *Discipline*, or
2 e. ~~Convening of a panel including the Bishop, all District Superintendents, the~~
3 ~~Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Chairpersons of the Conference~~
4 ~~Relations Committee and Pastoral Care Committee of the Division, two members of the~~
5 ~~District Committee on Ordained Ministry of the District in which the charged clergy's~~
6 ~~church is located, and three other members of the Board of Ordained Ministry appointed~~
7 ~~by its chairperson who are peers of the charged clergy especially of the same sex and/or~~
8 ~~same ethnic group.~~

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ITEM 16

**Recommendations Regarding Conference Agency Leadership and Staff
Change in Standing Rules Division V (2017 Journal, page 247)**

Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force
Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 3 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 1
Adopted April 26, 2018
Contact: Mark Wharff
Financial impact: None

Background

The standing rules set forth the purpose and membership of the Core Team.

Recommendation

The intent is to clarify the Core Team’s review of proposed amendments to the standing rules and membership.

Division IV. V. Conference Agency Leadership and Staff

5. Connectional Resources

i. Core Team

1) Purpose: ~~The Core Team is modeled on the principles of a board of directors.~~ The Core Team assumes responsibility for the following functions: To oversee the implementation of the mission and vision of the Annual Conference; to follow up on decisions made at the Annual Conference Session – which include the setting of priorities, allocation of available resources, provision of guidance, and the establishment of assignments related to mission implementation within each of the four mission areas and committees that fall under the mission focus areas; to focus on the core work and business of the Annual Conference; to identify opportunities for collaboration between each of the four mission focus areas; to provide a mechanism for ministry initiatives to be reviewed when they are unable to be brought directly to Annual Conference Session; to have a collaborating role (in consultation with the bishop) in aligning resources; and to invite other people as needed to give needed input related to the fulfillment of the Conference mission.

2) In order to fulfill the functions set out in the purpose of the Core Team all recommendations that amend or change the standing rules in Division V section C shall be reviewed in submitted to the Core Team for approval and submission with support review and recommendation to the Annual Conference.

1 3) Membership: The Core Team shall have eleven (11) voting members who are
2 nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee in consultation with the Bishop and
3 elected by the Annual conference. The ~~B~~bishop, extended cabinet, and ~~the~~ a
4 representative from the Council on Finance and Administration participate as non-voting
5 members. Voting Membership should be inclusive and reflect a balance between clergy
6 and Layity.

7 4) Organizational Structure: The Core Team will have a Convener, a
8 representative/convener from each of the four areas of mission focus, five (5) members at
9 large, the Conference Lay Leader(s), and a representative from the Conference Council
10 on Finance and Administration (who serves without vote).

11 5) Authority: The Core Team is amenable to the Annual Conference.

12 ~~6) Fund Administration: Revolving Loan Fund (Interest Earned)~~

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ITEM 17

Recommendations Regarding Clergy Compensation
Change in Standing Rules Division VII (2017 Journal, page 252)

Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force
Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 4 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 0
Adopted April 26, 2018
Contact: Mark Wharff
Financial impact: None

Background

The standing rules direct that estimated salary information be printed in the Journal when approved compensation information is available.

Recommendation

The intent is to publish the approved compensation data rather than estimates in the Journal.

Division VI, ~~VII~~. Clergy Compensation

~~E. Estimated Salary~~

~~7. The District Superintendents shall provide the Conference Secretary with the estimated local church salary, supplemental salary, travel expense, other payments by the local church, and the total of these items for each pastoral charge for the current year. These items shall be printed in separate columns in the Journal each year.~~

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ITEM 18

**Recommendations Regarding Local Parsonage Standard Guidelines
Change in Standing Rules Division X (2017 Journal, page 260)**

Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force
Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 3 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 1
Adopted April 26, 2018
Contact: Mark Wharff
Financial impact: None

Background

The standing rules assign the responsibility for implementing Local Parsonage Standard Guidelines to the District Boards of Church Location and Building.

Recommendation

The intent is to clarify responsibility for implementation as well as periodic review of the Local Parsonage Standard Guidelines.

Division IX. ~~X.~~ Property Matters

C. Local Parsonage Standard Guidelines (2017 Conference Journal, page 260)

8. The responsibility for implementing the Parsonage Standard Guidelines ~~be~~ is assigned to the District Board of Church Location and Building.

9. The Conference Board of Trustees will conduct a quadrennial review of the Local Parsonage Standard Guidelines and recommend any revisions to the annual conference.

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ITEM 19

**Recommendation Regarding Conference Agency Leadership and Staff
Change in Standing Rules Division V (2017 Journal, pages 236-237)**

Submitting Group: Standing Rules Task Force
Members Present: 4 Aye votes: 3 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 1
Adopted April 26, 2018
Contact: Mark Wharff
Financial impact: None

Background

The Book of Discipline (2016) ¶635 and elsewhere addresses the structure and duties of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. ¶635.1.b) states: “This board shall be directly amenable to the annual conference, notwithstanding its organizational relationship within any other program or administrative unit of the annual conference.”

Recommendation

The intent is to relocate the current rules regarding the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to clarify its standing as directly amenable to the annual conference.

Div. V. IV. Conference Agency Leadership and Staff

A. General Guidelines

As Printed (2017 Conference Journal, page 235)

B. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Relocate from C.1.a. (2017 Conference Journal, pages 236-237)

~~a. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry~~ 1) Purpose: The purpose of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is to assume the primary responsibility for the enlistment and recruitment of ordained clergy by working in consultation with the cabinet and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to study and interpret the clergy needs and resources of the annual conference, with due regard to the inclusive nature of the Church. It shall, with the assistance of the local church committee on pastor-parish relations, conference agencies, and every ordained minister of the conference, enlist women and men of all races and ethnic origins for the ordained ministry and guide those persons in the process of education, training, and ordination, recommending colleges and schools of theology listed by the University Senate. The specific activities of the Board are outlined in ¶635 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

1 2) Membership: Each Annual Conference, at the first session following the General
2 Conference, shall elect for a term of four years a Board of Ordained Ministry. At least six
3 (6) ordained elders and deacons in full connection and, when possible, at least two (2)
4 associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be
5 included as members of the board with voice and vote. Each annual conference shall elect
6 at least one-fifth laypersons, which may include diaconal ministers, and may at its
7 discretion elect further lay members, up to one-third of the membership of the board. All
8 laypersons shall be professing members of local churches in the annual conference. The
9 board membership shall include women and ethnic persons, at least one (1) ordained
10 clergyperson in the retired relationship, at least one (1) ordained clergyperson in
11 extension ministry, and when possible at least one (1) young adult clergyperson in full
12 connection age 35 or younger, and a district superintendent named by the bishop to
13 represent the cabinet. Two-thirds of the members who are elders shall be graduates of
14 seminaries listed by the University Senate.

15 Members shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the
16 chairperson of the board, the executive committee, or a committee elected by the board of
17 the previous quadrennium, and with the cabinet. To ensure adequate board membership,
18 consultation shall include an evaluation of the workload of the board in meeting
19 disciplinary and annual conference responsibilities. Vacancies shall be filled by the
20 bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board. An elected board member
21 may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. The Chair of the Order of
22 Deacons, the Chair of the Order of Elders, and the Chair of the Fellowship of Local
23 Pastors and Associate Members shall be members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and
24 its executive committee.

25 3) Organizational Structure: There will be a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer/Financial
26 Secretary, Chair- Conference Relations, Chair – Order of Deacons, Chair – Order of
27 Elders, Chair – Enlistment and Recruitment Committee, Chair – Residents in Ministry
28 Committee, Chair – Committee on Clergy Development, Coordinator of Mentors, BOOM
29 Registrar, Dean – District Chairs, Cabinet Representative, and a Ministry Staff
30 Representative. Members at large assigned to specific tasks needed for the work of the
31 Board of Ordained Ministry.

32 4) Board of Ordained Ministry Sub-Committees

33 a) Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee

34 Membership: The following Board of Ordained Ministry officers and representatives
35 make up the BOOM Executive Committee: Chair and Vice chair of the full board, Chair
36 – Conference Relations, Chair – Order of Deacons, Chair – Order of Elders, Chair –
37 Enlistment and Recruitment Committee, Chair – Residents in Ministry Committee, Chair
38 – Committee on Clergy Development, Coordinator of Mentors, BOOM Registrar, Dean –
39 District Chairs, Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Cabinet Representative, Ministry Staff
40 Representative.

41 b) District Committees on Ordained Ministry

42 i) Purpose: The committee shall supervise all matters dealing with candidacy for the
43 ordained ministry and with the license for local pastors. The committee shall be amenable

1 to the annual conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry. The specific activities
2 of the ~~board~~ committee are out lined in ¶666 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

3 ii) Membership: It shall be composed of a representative from the Board of Ordained
4 Ministry, named by the board after consultation with the district superintendent, who may
5 be named Chairperson; the District Superintendent, who may serve as the Executive
6 Secretary; and at least six (6) other clergy in the district, including women and ethnic
7 clergy. The clergy shall include elders in full connection, including at least one who has
8 completed the Course of Study; and, where possible, deacons in full connection; and
9 when possible at least one clergyperson who is age 35 or younger. These persons shall be
10 nominated annually by the district superintendent in consultation with the chairperson or
11 executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the Annual
12 Conference.

13 c) Committee on Clergy Development

14 i) Purpose: Tracks and evaluates continuing education credits and opportunities; initiates
15 continuing educational opportunities and provides training for certified candidates.

16 ii) Membership: Membership is recruited by the Chair of the Committee on Clergy
17 Development in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained
18 Ministry. The Chair of the Committee on Clergy Development is named by the Executive
19 Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

20 d) Committee on Conference Relations

21 i) Purpose:

22 e) Committee on Residence in Ministry

23 i) Purpose:

24 5) Authority: ~~This committee relates to the Leadership Development Mission Focus and~~
25 ~~is amenable to the Annual Conference and to the Core Team in between Annual~~
26 ~~Conference Session. This board shall be directly amenable to the Annual Conference.~~

27 6) Fund Administration: Ministerial Education Fund; Patton Fund – for Educational
28 Scholarships

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30 **B. C. Designated Leaders in Lay Servant Ministries**

31 As Printed from (2017 Conference Journal, page 235 and following)

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33 Succeeding paragraphs to be relettered/renumbered accordingly.
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Resolution Inviting Local Congregations to be Pro-active in Building Interfaith Community

Submitted by the Conference Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships

Approved at a meeting on 3/4/2018.

Number Present: 7 Voting for: 7, Against: 0, Abstaining 0

Contact: CCUIR Chair, Rev Akiko Miyake-Stoner; Rev. Alan Jones, CCUIR member

Budgetary impact: None

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in expressions of bigotry, especially towards Jews and Muslims within the bounds of the Annual Conference, therefore it is vitally important that the churches of the Annual Conference reach out to people of other faith traditions and deliberately plan to build relationships that will enable a more loving community and deepen understanding. The increasing numbers of religious hate crimes in California and Nevada are a terrible indictment of our slowness to build these relationships and celebrate them in the wider community.

The United Methodist Church deliberately calls all United Methodists to be in relationship specifically with Muslims and Jews:

Local congregations and United Methodist agencies are encouraged to develop ongoing relationship with Muslims and their respective organizations. They are urged to initiate conversations, programs, and dialogues leading to the understanding of both Islam and Christianity, and appreciation of their particular gifts, while discovering commonalities and differences; and seeking areas of mutual cooperation.¹

In order to increase our understanding of and with people of other living faith traditions, of ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ, and of God and God's truth, the United Methodist church encourages dialogue and experiences with those of other faiths. For important and unique reasons, including a treasury of shared Scripture and ancient heritage that belong to us on common, but that also contain our dividedness, we look to such opportunities with Jews.²

Therefore, be it resolved that every congregation and agency of the California -Nevada Annual Conference actively plan to initiate at least one event during the next Conference year designed to deepen ecumenical or interreligious understanding. Such events may include events such as the following:

¹ Book of resolutions, 2016, *Our Muslim Neighbors*, Action Statement, p. 522-3

² Book of Resolutions, 2016, ¶3292, United Methodist Guiding Principles for Christian-Jewish Relations, p.297

- 1 • A community interfaith Thanksgiving service.
- 2 • An invitation to Muslims during the fast of Ramadan to join for an
- 3 Iftar (fast-breaking) dinner at the church.
- 4 • A program of invitation to people from other faith traditions for
- 5 dinner in the homes of United Methodists.
- 6 • Inviting a rabbi to perform a Seder at the church during Holy
- 7 Week.
- 8 • Inviting other faith participants to a series during Lent on prayer,
- 9 or understandings of God, or various dimensions of social witness.
- 10 • Planning an educational series during which people from other
- 11 faith traditions talk about their faith.
- 12 • A shared build for Habitat for Humanity or any other shared work
- 13 team project, locally, nationally or internationally.
- 14 • A “Children of Abraham” seminar where Jews, Muslims and
- 15 Christians explore shared dimensions of their faith traditions.

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17 **Be it further resolved**, that every congregation and every individual within the bounds
18 of the Annual Conference be invited to pray for people of other denominations and
19 religious traditions and be proactive in responding to the evils of religious bigotry and
20 hate crimes.

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22 **Be it further resolved** that all United Methodists within the bounds of the Annual
23 Conference be encouraged to create an active social media presence promoting deeper
24 understandings of Judaism and Islam as well as building deeper relationships with people
25 within both of those communities.

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Item 21

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**Recommendation for Discontinuation of
Wasco United Methodist Church**

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Submitted By: The Wasco United Methodist Church, Wasco, CA
Fiscal Impact: There is no projected fiscal impact to the Annual Conference.

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Background:

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The Wasco United Methodist Church in Wasco, CA was organized in 1904. The average worship attendance in 1966 was 127 and by 1997 had declined to 50. The congregation continued to be a loving and supportive faith community including reaching out in service to their neighbors. However, they struggled to respond to the changing demographics of the community impacted by economic decline. In 2012, the congregation was yoked with the Delano United Methodist Church. On February 22, 2017, the Treasurer informed District Superintendent (D.S.) Debra Brady, Pastor Martha Milk and the Wasco SPRC that the reserve fund being used to sustain the current level of operation would be exhausted in December 2017 and she saw no option but to close the church. The Superintendent asked the SPRC to work with their Church Counsel and pastor to explore ministry options. The pastoral appointment was reduced from 1/2 to 1/4 time in July 2017.

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The following steps were taken in the discernment and approval process:

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1. May 2017: D.S. Debra Brady convened a Paragraph 213 Committee chaired by Rev. Brian Mark to explore the ministry potential of the congregation and make recommendations.
2. September 17, 2017: The Paragraph 213 Committee presented their recommendations to the Wasco Congregation and to the annual meeting of the Kern Mission and Church Extension Society (KMCES). The Committee noted the weariness and waning passion of the Wasco church leaders and recommended that if the congregation were unable or unwilling to adopt a focused mission strategy by November 1, that the KMCES provide funding to assist the congregation's operation through December 2017 and that the congregation be discontinued.
3. November 20, 2017 D.S. Brady presided at the Wasco UMC Annual Church Conference. The Conference prayerfully and with great grief voted to discontinue, transfer titles to their property and their assets to the KMCES, transfer membership to

- 1 Bakersfield First UMC, and designated December 31, 2017 as their final worship
2 service.
- 3 4. November 20, 2017 The KMCES Board also functions as the Board of Church
4 Location and Building (CLB). This board voted to provide a loan to the Wasco
5 Congregation to sustain their ministry until year end and to receive title to their
6 properties and assist the leaders in implementing the recommendations of the Par. 213
7 committee. The Board engaged real estate firm Dutra Cerro Graden to appraise the
8 Wasco properties, estimate needed repairs, and assess the Wasco properties for
9 redevelopment.
- 10 5. December 31, 2017 The congregation celebrated their final worship service including
11 former pastors and members. DS Brady led the congregation in a liturgy to
12 discontinue their ministry and deconsecrate the building.
- 13 6. Feb 5, 2018 DS Brady reported to the KMCES board that the bi-lingual certified lay
14 minister and his family who were working with the Wasco congregation to
15 develop Hispanic ministry opted to transfer their membership to the Delano UMC
16 rather than serving as church planters in Wasco. After reviewing the report from
17 Dutra Cerro Graden, the Board of KMCES/CLB voted to sell the church properties.
18 Those efforts are underway.
- 19 7. Leaders of the Wasco congregation continued the process of sorting, cleaning and
20 transferring appropriate records and historical items and appropriate dispersing and
21 disposing of other items in the church buildings in consultation with the KMCES
22 board.
- 23 8. Pastor Martha Milk continued to provide pastoral care, support the members in
24 transferring to new churches, and the discontinuance processes. The pastoral
25 appointment was terminated on March 31, 2018.
- 26 9. The Cabinet approved discontinuance of the Wasco UMC on May 9, 2018 by a vote
27 of 6-0.

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29 **Therefore, be it resolved** as follows that:

- 30 1. In accordance with the provisions of ¶ 2549.2 The 2016 Book of Discipline, Wasco
31 United Methodist Church in Wasco, CA be discontinued effective June 30th, 2018.
- 32 2. The remaining Wasco United Methodist Church membership shall be transferred to
33 the First United Methodist Church, Bakersfield.
- 34 3. Title and possession of all real and personal property, assets and liabilities of the
35 Wasco United Methodist Church shall be transferred to the Kern Mission and Church
36 Extension Society (KMCES). The net assets will be used for new church
37 development and revitalization in a mission strategy developed by the Cabinet in

1 consultation with the Conference Board of Trustees, the relevant committees of the
2 Congregational Development Mission Focus Area and the KMCES board.

3 4. All relevant, current and historic records of the congregation shall be deposited with
4 the First United Methodist Church, Bakersfield in consultation with the Conference
5 Commission on Archives and History.

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