



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 CONSEIL JUDICIAIRE DE L'ÉGLISE METHODISTE UNIE
 RECHTSHOF DER EVANGELISCH-METHODISTISCHEN KIRCHE
 CONSELHO JUDICIAL DA IGREJA METODISTA UNIDA
 CONSEJO DE LA JUDICATURA DE LA IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA



Petition for Declaratory Decision

This form is to be used by the Secretary of the body authorized to petition the Judicial Council for a ruling in the nature of a declaratory decision as to the constitutionality, meaning, application, or effect of (please check one):

- The Book of Discipline 2016* or any portion thereof (§ 2610.1)
- any act or legislation of a General Conference (§ 2610.1)
- any proposed legislation (§ 2609.2)

Name of body authorized to make a Petition (§ 2610.2): _____

Date of session: _____ (month/day/year) Location: _____

Name of Secretary: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

To be reviewed (indicate paragraph number, title of legislation and/or act where applicable):

Book of Discipline: _____

Legislation: _____

Act of General Conference: _____

Signature: _____

Secretary of the Conference/Body

Date: _____

(month/day/year)

The following must be attached:

- Text of the written Petition for Declaratory Decision as originally presented
 - Minutes of proceedings (relevant portions only)
 - List of names and addresses of interested parties, including e-mail
 - Other relevant materials (e.g. conference rules, resolutions, policies, reports)
- Eight (8) hard copies must be submitted via USPS or other delivery service to:
 Secretary of the Judicial Council, 5556 N. Sheridan Road, #610, Chicago, IL 60640, USA
 - Electronic copies in both Word and PDF (with security features disabled) must be submitted to:
 secretaryjudicialcouncil@gmail.com

- 1 **P 85 Request for Declaratory Decision** on the
 2 Principle of Legality in an Annual Conference’s Administrative Matters
 3 (Adopted 06/08/2019)
- 4 **WHEREAS** Micah 6:8 shares “*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does*
 5 *the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with*
 6 *your God?*”
- 7 **WHEREAS** Judicial Decision 1366 establishes the principle of legality:
 8 1. Impartiality and independence of decision-make bodies are the hallmarks of due
 9 process and bedrock principles of procedural justice in our constitutional polity.
 10 2. No process can be fair and equitable if the body bringing the complaint is also
 11 empowered determine its merits.
- 12 **WHEREAS** the Constitution provides in ¶20 of the Restrictive Rules, “The General
 13 Conference shall not do away with the privileges of our clergy of a right to trial by a
 14 committee and of an appeal; neither shall it do away with the privileges of our members of
 15 right to trial before the church, or by a committee and of an appeal.”
- 16 **WHEREAS** the Constitution provides in ¶33, “The annual conference is the basic body in
 17 the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote. . .on all matters relating
 18 to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of
 19 clergy. . .”
- 20 **THEREFORE IT BE IT RESESOLVED** that the Western PA Conference officially
 21 petition the Judicial Council for a ruling in the nature of a declaratory decision (¶2610) as
 22 to the constitutionality, meaning and application or effect of ¶¶20, 33, 327.6, 352, 354,
 23 357.3, 361.
- 24 1. Does the practice of district superintendents voting as a member of the clergy session
 25 on final disposition of an involuntary leave per ¶354 violate the principle of legality as
 26 presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
 27 2. Does the practice of members of the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of
 28 Ordained Ministry voting as a member of the clergy session on final disposition of an
 29 involuntary leave per ¶354 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision
 30 1366?
 31 3. Does the practice of members of the Administrative Review Committee voting as a
 32 member of the clergy session on final disposition of an involuntary leave per ¶354 violate
 33 the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
 34 4. Does the practice of member of the executive committee of the Board of Ordained
 35 Ministry voting as a member of the clergy session on final disposition of an involuntary
 36 leave per ¶354 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
 37 5. Does the practice of the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry voting as a
 38 member of the clergy session on final disposition of an involuntary leave per ¶354 violate
 39 the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
 40 6. Does the practice of district superintendents voting as a member of the clergy session
 41 on final disposition of an involuntary retirement per ¶357.3 violate the principle of legality
 42 as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
 43 7. Does the practice of members of the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of
 44 Ordained Ministry voting as a member of the clergy session on final disposition of an
 45 involuntary retirement per ¶357.3 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial
 46 Decision 1366?

- 47 8. Does the practice of members of the Administrative Review Committee voting as a
48 member of the clergy session on final disposition of an involuntary retirement per ¶357.3
49 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
50 9. Does the practice of the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry voting as a
51 member of the clergy session on final disposition of an involuntary retirement per ¶357.3
52 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
53 10. Does the practice of district superintendents voting as a member of the clergy session
54 on final disposition of an administrative location per ¶359 violate the principle of legality
55 as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
56 11. Does the practice of members of the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of
57 Ordained Ministry voting as a member of the clergy session on final disposition of an
58 administrative location per ¶359 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial
59 Decision 1366?
60 12. Does the practice of members of the Administrative Review Committee voting as a
61 member of the clergy session on final disposition of an administrative location per ¶359
62 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
63 13. Does the practice of the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry voting as a
64 member of the clergy session on final disposition of an administrative location per ¶359
65 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
66 14. Does the practice of members of the Conference Relations Committee of the Board of
67 Ordained Ministry voting as a member of the clergy session on final disposition of a
68 discontinuance of provisional membership per ¶327.6 violate the principle of legality as
69 presented in Judicial Decision 1366?
70 15. Does the practice of members of the Administrative Review Committee voting as a
71 member of the clergy session on final disposition of a discontinuance of provisional
72 membership per ¶327.6 violate the principle of legality as presented in Judicial Decision
73 1366?
74 16. Does the petition before the Western PA Conference named “P 82 Addressing the
75 Principle of Legality: Clergy,” restoring language similar ¶454.2 of the *Discipline*, ed.
76 1992, address the issues of Legality in Judicial Decision 1366 as presented in questions 1-
77 15?
78 17. Does the petition before the Western PA Conference named “P 81 Addressing the
79 Principle of Legality: Bishops,” restoring language similar ¶454.2 of the *Discipline*, ed.
80 1992, address the issues of Legality in Judicial Decision 1366 for ¶¶408, 410, 422?

81 Robert F. Zilhaber
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P 81 Addressing the Principle of Legality: Bishops

(Adopted 06/08/2019)

WHEREAS Micah 6:8 shares “*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

WHEREAS Judicial Decision 1366 establishes the principle of legality:

1. Impartiality and independence of decision-making bodies are the hallmarks of due process and bedrock principles of procedural justice in our constitutional polity.

2. No process can be fair and equitable if the body bringing the complaint is also empowered determine its merits.

WHEREAS the Constitution provides in ¶20 of the Restrictive Rules, “The General Conference shall not do away with the privileges of our clergy of right to trial by a committee and of an appeal; neither shall it do away with the privileges of our members of right to trial before the church, or by a committee and of an appeal.”

WHEREAS prior to the 1996 *Discipline*, the principle of legality was secured by an option to trial prior to the start of an administrative process. (¶454.2 “By Trial.—If a bishop or clergy member of an Annual Conference chooses trial, the procedures are provided for in ¶2626.” the *Discipline*, ed. 1992.)

THEREFORE IT BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference Petition the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to change the *Book of Discipline* as follows:

Add new paragraph ¶422.5.b.(vii) Prior to the start of the administrative hearing by the Conference Relations Committee the bishop may choose to have a trial. This choice must be made in writing and submitted to the chair of the Conference Relations Committee prior to the start of the administrative hearing. The procedures are provided for in ¶¶2707-2712.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference provide the following rationale for this Petition: “This legislation addresses the principle of legality raised in JD 1366 by restoring language and procedures used prior to 1996 *Discipline*. This language was found to meet the principle of legality in Judicial Council Decision 351 and ¶20 of the Constitution.”

Robert F. Zilhaver

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P 82 Addressing the Principle of Legality: Clergy

(Adopted 06/08/2019)

WHEREAS Micah 6:8 shares “*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

WHEREAS Judicial Decision 1366 establishes the principle of legality:

1. Impartiality and independence of decision-making bodies are the hallmarks of due process and bedrock principles of procedural justice in our constitutional polity.

2. No process can be fair and equitable if the body bringing the complaint is also empowered determine its merits.

WHEREAS the Constitution provides in ¶20 of the Restrictive Rules, “The General Conference shall not do away with the privileges of our clergy of right to trial by a committee and of an appeal; neither shall it do away with the privileges of our members of right to trial before the church, or by a committee and of an appeal.”

WHEREAS prior to the 1996 *Discipline*, the principle of legality was secured by an option to trial prior to the start of an administrative process. (¶454.2 “By Trial.—If a bishop or clergy member of an Annual Conference chooses trial, the procedures are provided for in ¶2626.” the *Discipline*, ed. 1992.)

THEREFORE IT BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference Petition the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to change the *Book of Discipline* as follows:

Add new paragraph ¶361.2.g Prior to the start of the administrative hearing by the Conference Relations Committee the clergyperson may choose to have a trial. This choice must be made in writing and submitted to the chair of the Conference Relations Committee prior to the start of the administrative hearing. The procedures are provided for in ¶¶2707-2713.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference provide the following rationale for this Petition: “This legislation addresses the principle of legality raised in JD 1366 by restoring language and procedures used prior to 1996 *Discipline*. This language was found to meet the principle of legality in Judicial Council Decision 351 and the provisions of ¶20 of the Constitution.”

Robert F. Zilhaver

THIRD DAY
Saturday, June 8, 2019

MORNING SESSION

CONFERENCE BIBLE STUDY III -- Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the body to order at 8:00 AM, and re-introduced Bible study teacher, Dr. Yung Suk Kim. Dr. Kim returned again to Luke 5:1-11, looking today toward a new vocation through transformation and discipleship, or using Jesus' words: that we would become "fishers of people."

ORDER - Bishop Moore-Koikoi called the body to order at 9:30 AM for the morning session.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR - Kellie Wild, Secretarial Staff, announced that three petitions have been pulled from the consent calendar: P11 (page 678), P601 (page 680), and P86 (page 681). Wild also clarified that P92 (page 682) was dealt with yesterday by the full conference. Wild moved for the adoption of the consent calendar as corrected. The motion was approved.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES - Mark Goswick, Secretarial Staff, moved the adoption of the minutes for Thursday's and Friday's proceedings (Daily Journal pages 653-691). The motion was approved. Goswick also moved that the Conference adopt in advance the minutes for the Saturday. The motion was approved.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: CONNELLSVILLE DISTRICT - Robert F. Zilhaver, Superintendent, asked all Connellsville District pastors to stand as he and Wanda Ross, District Lay Leader, read the new appointments to the district. Ross offered prayer for all the pastors of the Connellsville District.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: GREENSBURG DISTRICT – Pat Nelson, Superintendent, asked all Greensburg District pastors to stand as she and Paul Huey, District Lay Leader, read the new appointments to the District. Huey offered prayer for all the pastors of the Greensburg District.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: FRANKLIN DISTRICT – Jodie Smith, Superintendent, asked all Franklin District pastors to stand as she and Jean Ehrhart, District Lay Leader, read the new appointments to the District. Ross offered prayer for all the pastors of the Franklin District.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: INDIANA DISTRICT – James Pond, Superintendent, asked all Indiana District pastors to stand as he and Jennifer Gordon, Director of Lay Servant Ministries, read the new appointments to the District. Gordon offered prayer for all the pastors of the Indiana District.

READING OF APPOINTMENTS: ERIE-MEADVILLE DISTRICT – Dennis Swineford, Superintendent, asked all Erie-Meadville District pastors to stand as he and

List of names and addresses of interested parties, including e--mail

Robert F. Zilhaver
Connellsville District UMC
30 East Main St, Suite 202
Uniontown, PA 15401
connellsville.ds@wpaumc.org

John R. Wilson
The United Methodist Center,
1204 Freedom Road, PO BOX 5002
Cranberry Township, PA 16066-0002
confernce.secretary@wpaumc.org

Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop of the Pittsburgh Area
The United Methodist Center
1204 Freedom Road, PO BOX 5002
Cranberry Township, PA 16066-0002
umbishop@wpaumc.org

Consent Calendar
Concurrence – Non-Concurrence -- Abstain

Section 1

P 11 Amend Paragraph on Abortion (161K).....401
73 – 10 – 0

- Page 401, line 1, change “RS 101” to “P11”
- Page 401, line 46 after the word “unwilling” add the words “and unable” so it will read “unwilling and unable”.
- Page 402, line 11 put a period after the word “practice”. Delete rest of line 11, all of lines 12, 13, and first two words of line 14. Substitute the sentence “We propose that the baby be delivered so as to decrease the risk of further endangering the life of the mother, while preserving the life of the child.”
- Page 403, line 7 delete “Chair, Human Life Task Force”
- Page 403, line 8 delete “Chair, Commission on the Status and Role of Women”

P 12 Opposition to Late Term Abortion.....403
78 – 3 – 1

- Page 403, line 36 after the words “General Conference” add “instruct the General Board of Church and Society to...”

Section 2

RS 201 Rule Change Equalization405
73 – 0 – 0

RS 202 Rule Change Mailing Lists405
84 – 0 – 0

- Page 405, line 49, after “conference secretary” add “in writing”

RS 203 Policy on Maternity or Paternity Leave406
104 – 2 – 0

- Page 406, after line 28 add “**WHEREAS** the anticipated financial impact of such a program is estimated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to be \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually.”
- Page 406, after line 42 add “**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the cost of this program shall be funded from the budget line item 6040, Short Term Incapacity Fund (see RS 403 lines 28-45 on page 430 of the pre-conference journal).”
- Page 406, before line 34 after “maternity/paternity leave” add “with full compensation”

RS 204 Policy on Sexual Ethics407
70 – 0 – 0

Section 3

RS 301 Conference Evangelist Paul Morelli411
98 – 0 – 1

RS 302 Conference Evangelist Ken Wilson411
102 – 0 – 0

RS 303 Conference Evangelist Christine Zimmerman.....412
100 – 0 – 0

RS 304 General Evangelist John Zimmerman.....412
95 – 0 – 0

RS 305 Conference Evangelist Emeritus Luella Krieger413
100 – 0 – 0

RS 306 Base Compensation413
75 – 19 – 2

- Page 414, line 2-11 substitute the following:
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the minimum Base Cash compensation for Pastors serving full-time in the Western PA Conference for the year 2020 be increased by 1.5% to fulfill the requirements of General Board of Pension in relation to the Comprehensive Protection Plan for full-time Local Pastors. This shall be as follows:

Full Conference Member (FE and FD)	\$42,803
Associate Conference Member (AM)	\$41,491
Provisional Member (PE and PD).....	\$39,019
Full Time Local Pastor (FL)	\$38,441

RS 307 Accountable Reimbursement414
104 – 0 – 2

RS 308 Clergy Housing Allowance415
105 – 0 – 1

Section 4

RS 402 Endowment & Other Income Disbursal Directives430
62 – 0 – 2

RS 403 Connectional Apportionment Formula446
60 – 3 – 1

- Page 446, line 12, after the word “that” add “the group determined that “an income-based model is better aligned with the Biblical principle of tithing.” then add the word “Additionally,” to start a new sentence so that it will read “Additionally, a more simplified, income-based model...”

Section 5

RS 501 2019 Rental/Housing Allowance for Retired Clergy and/ Disabled Clergy447
77 – 0 – 0

RS 502 Clergy Retirement Security Program & Comprehensive Protection Plan448
83 – 0 – 0

RS 503 CRSP Future Liabilities & Benefit Reserve Fund450
83 – 0 – 0

RS 504 2019 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary	450
	81 – 0 – 0

- Editorial correction: Page 453, line 13 change \$74,785,593 to be \$74,875,953.

Section 6

RS 601 Disability Awareness Weekend (Feb).....	455
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 602 Golden Cross/Red Stocking Weekend (May/Dec).....	455
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 603 Rural Life Weekend (Aug).....	456
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 604 Retired Clergy Weekend (Sept)	456
	77 – 0 – 0

RS 605 Christian Education Weekend (Sept).....	456
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 606 Camping Weekend (Oct).....	457
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 607 Volunteers in Mission Recognition & Awareness Weekend (Oct).....	457
	78 – 0 – 0

RS 608 Youth Service Fund Weekend (Nov).....	458
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 609 Doorways to Hope at Home Weekend (Dec)	458
	78 – 0 – 3

RS 610 Funding for WPAUMC Regional Ministries.....	459
	79 – 0 – 0

Section 7

RS 701 Foundation By-Laws	662
	61 – 0 – 0

- Editorial Note: See entire text Foundation Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws on 663.

RS 702 Camp Allegheny Nominations	463
	67 – 1 – 2

RS 703 Healthy Village Learning Institute.....	463
	69 – 1 – 0

RS 705 Jumonville Nominations.....	463
	66 – 0 – 0

RS 706 Olmsted Manor Nominations464
67 – 0 – 0

RS 707 Wesley Woods Nominations464
60 – 0 – 1

- Page 464 remove line 15 through line 22.
- Editorial Note: The Corporation elected a blank slate

Section 8

P 81 Legality of Bishops.....464
82 – 2 – 2

- Editorial corrections: Page 464, line 31 change “decision-make” to be “decision-making”
- Page 464, line 36 change “...privileges of our clergy of a right to trial...” ¶20 in the BOD does not have the “a” so it should read “...privileges of our clergy of right to trial...”
- Editorial correction: Page 465, line 2 change “Council Relations Committee” to be “Conference Relations Committee”
- Editorial correction: Page 465, line 3 change “Council Relations Committee” to be “Conference Relations Committee”

P 82 Legality of Clergy465
91 – 3 – 1

- Editorial corrections: Page 465, line 19 change “decision-make” to be “decision-making”
- Page 465, line 24 change “...privileges of our clergy of a right to trial...” ¶20 in the BOD does not have the “a” so it should read “...privileges of our clergy of right to trial...”
- Page 465, line 35 change “Council Relations Committee” to be “Conference Relations Committee”

P 83 Remedial Action466
81 – 1 – 1

- Editorial correction: Page 467, line 3 change “my” to “may”.

P 84 Suspension by Committee on Investigation.....468
65 – 7 – 7

P 85 Request for Declaratory Decision469
89 – 2 – 1

- Editorial correction: Page 469, line 42 change “...to the meaning and application of...” per ¶2610 in the BOD the words “constitutionality” and “effect” inadvertently left out to be “to the constitutionality, meaning and application or effect of...”

P 86 Term Elections for Bishops Worldwide471
69 – 16 – 1

Section 9

RS 901 Gerrymandering472

66 – 2 – 9

- Page 473, line 21 change “SB22A1780” to “SB22A7149”
- Page 474, line 10 delete “similar legislation has been” and insert Constitutional Amendments SB22 and HB22, and HB23 have been”
- Page 474, line 26, add “Barry Lewis, Margaret Epps, Ron Wanless, Otis McAliley.

P 92 Sexual Harassment474

38 – 11 – 9

- Page 474, line 28 Change RS 902 to P 92.
- Page 475, line 1, add “**WHEREAS** Luke 8:46 states; “*Someone touched me! And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him...And he said to her “Daughter...go in peace.”*”
- Page 475, line 22 delete “new school safety legislation is being introduced” and insert “HB495, HR85, HB295 have been introduced”
- Page 475, line 35 delete “new workplace safety legislation is being” and insert “HB504, HB755, HB392, HB849, HB1040, HB392, SB559, SB480, and HB1000 have been”
- Page 477, line 10 delete “Kelly Smith, Chair, Board of Church and Society”
- Page 477, line 10 & 11, replace entire lines with “Wes Boots, David Keller, Barry Lewis, Margaret Epps, Otis McAliley, Ron Wanless, The Southwest PA Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Death by Incarceration (CADBI West)”

RS 903 “Dark Money”477

64 – 2 – 8

- Page 477, line 19 replace all of line 19 with “**WHEREAS** Luke 12:3 says ‘*What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear of the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.*’”
- Page 478, line 13, add Barry Lewis, David Keller, Margaret Epps, Ron Wanless, Death by Incarceration (CADBI West)

P 95 New Science480

76 – 0 – 2

- Page 480, after line 5 add “**WHEREAS** Deut. 19:15 states ‘*One witness cannot establish any iniquity or sin against a person, whatever that person has done. A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*’”

P 96 Probation and Parole.....481

74 – 0 – 3

- Page 481, line 37 delete the following: starting with “They can also earn... through page 482 end of line 2.
- Page 481, line 38, insert the following:

“**WHEREAS** inmates can also earn a 3-6 month one time Educational Merit Credit for completing a degree. Credit Earning Possibilities <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-tPZ-5reyA&t=> . These credits are deducted from their early release date. <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/proposition57/docs/FAQ-Prop-57-Credits-May-2018.pdf> Inmates have limited access to the internet, so Educational Milestone Credits must either be correspondence courses or personal instruction within the SCI. This program incentivizes inmates to take responsibility for their own rehabilitation.

WHEREAS 44 Pa.C.S Chapter 96 (Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive—Statement of Policy) provides for

 - 1) *“An individualized plan recommended by the Department that contains approved treatment and other approved programs designed to reduce recidivism risk of a specific prisoner.”*
 - 2)*“The Department of Corrections shall have authority to award credits earned for good behavior and approved rehabilitative or educational achievements.”*
 - 3)*“Pennsylvania does not have any program available for good time, nor earned time for state inmates.”*

WHEREAS Federal S.1074 - Restoring Education And Learning Act of 2019 would allow inmates access to Pell Grants to facilitate their education. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senatebill/1074>

WHEREAS SB501/502 (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) aka “JRI 1&2”, would enable inmate training and education to reduce recidivism and overcrowding.
- Page 482, line 9 between the words “to” and “adopt” add “craft and” so it will read “to craft and adopt”.
- Page 482, line 16 add “, add David Keller, Wes Boots, Barry Lewis, Margaret Epps, Ron Wanless, Death by Incarceration (CADBI West)”

**Non-Consent Calendar
Concurrence – Non-Concurrence -- Abstain**

Section 1

P 13 Mutual Disaffiliation404
42 – 20 – 3

Page 404 P 13 in its entirety is substituted with the following:

P13 – Mutual Disaffiliation

WHEREAS the people of God are called to treat one another with “compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience... and above all to be clothed in love” (Colossians 3:12-14)

WHEREAS General Conference 2019 voted by majority to implement the Modified Traditional Plan to maintain our current Book of Discipline’s language on homosexuality and to increase required strictures and accountability on issues relating to disobedience to our guidelines on homosexuality (<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/what-happened-and-what-didnt-at-generalconference-2019>).

WHEREAS clergy and laity from across the connection have expressed their concern that the Modified Traditional Plan is morally unenforceable for the harm it inflicts upon our members

from the LGBTQI community

WHEREAS clergy and laity from across the connection have expressed concern that those who are in willful disobedience to the discernment of General Conference 2019, and current Book of Discipline inflict harm on those who are members of The United Methodist Church (<https://goodnewsmag.org/2019/05/case-for-separate-paths/>)

WHEREAS the history of Methodism in North America has been one of many structural divisions from its outset that, in priority of the preservation of the Methodist movement over a Methodist institution, have led more to its growth as a movement even at the result of its divisions as an institution (Dr. Russel Richey: “Today’s United Methodism”: Finding a Way Forward: resource for witness, contextual leadership, and unity 42-44.)

WHEREAS our movement’s founder, John Wesley, admitted that there are times when external unity cannot be preserved, yet despite that disunity we can still exercise a unity of love that spurs one another forward in “love and good works.” (John Wesley“Catholic Spirit”paragraph 4)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Western PA Conference, petition the General Conference 2020 to begin the process of an amicable, fair and mutually agreed upon process of dissolution of The United Methodist Church. We ask the General Conference 2020 to direct the Connectional Table to create a task force of laity and clergy to prepare a process of structurally dividing the denomination into two or more unique expressions of Methodism which congregations and clergy could freely affiliate. Along with that process, we ask the task force to evaluate whether we can establish a theological vision from which we can continue to share ministries, general boards and agencies, and work for common goals as separate expressions of Methodism. The Connectional Table will present a full process of dissolution at the General Conference 2024.

Section 4

RS 401 Connectional Budget416
60 – 3 – 0

Section 6

RS 611 Concerning the Living Wage459
30 – 37 – 7

- Page 460, line 15 change the word “will” to “are encouraged to”

Section 9

RS 904 Cashless Bail.....478
37 – 28 – 6

- Page 479, line 41, add: Barry Lewis, Phil Wilson, Margaret Epps, Otis McAliley, Ron Wanless, Death by Incarceration (CADBI West)

ADDITIONAL CORRECTION TO THE REPORTS

Correction to Report: COSROW Gender Salary Study
 Page 243. Table "Salary Distribution by Gender and Role (salary data from EZRA)"
 row: Female Associate Members
 Column: Highest Salary
 What is written: \$3,700
 Correction: \$37,000

Same row
 Column: Average Salary
 What is written: \$47,512
 Correction: \$36,720

Correction to Report: Leadership Recruitment & Nominations Team
 Page 630 Line 5, Add RON MOYER