2016 Resolutions

Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
June 16-18, 2016

230th Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
Lancaster Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, 25 S Queen St, Lancaster, PA

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RESOLUTION #2016 - 01
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution For a Rule Change Relating to Episcopal Candidate Endorsement
Presented by the EPC 2016 Jurisdictional Conference Delegation.

WHEREAS, The current Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are silent on the method that shall be used to endorse an episcopal candidate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference amend the Rules of Order to include the following process for endorsing an episcopal candidate:

1. The jurisdictional delegation shall determine its own process by which the delegation will recommend a nominee (or nominees) for the episcopacy to the annual conference for endorsement. The delegation may also decide not to recommend any nominee.

2. At the EPA annual conference session immediately prior to the next regular session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the EPA jurisdictional delegation may present one or more names to the annual conference for endorsement. The jurisdictional delegation may also choose to present no names to the annual conference. If the delegation places one or more names before the conference, annual conference delegates shall then proceed to confirm the recommendation(s) of the delegation by a 2/3 vote by those present and eligible to vote. Likewise, if the delegation recommends no persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that recommendation by the same 2/3 vote.

3. If the opening ballot fails to obtain the necessary 2/3 majority to confirm the delegation's recommendation(s), additional nominations from the floor shall then be in order, *provided:*

a. The ordained elder(s) in full connection being nominated from the floor shall have given consent prior to the making of the nomination, and will at the time the nomination is made present a nominating petition to the secretary of the annual conference with the names and signatures of ten persons, laity or clergy, who as laity are full members of a local church and as clergy are members of the annual conference.

b. At least five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement for such nominees will be distributed to all annual conference delegates at the time the nomination is made.

c. A minimum of four hours shall elapse, after all nominations have been received from the floor, before a ballot is taken.

4. The annual conference shall then proceed to endorse a nominee (or nominees) by ballot as follows: all nominees shall be listed on the ballot, and a ballot taken. Any person(s) receiving a 2/3 vote would move forward as the endorsed episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; *provided* that annual conference delegates may not vote on any ballot for more candidates than the number of open episcopal seats anticipated at the ensuing Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

5. After two such ballots have been taken, a motion to discontinue balloting shall then be in order, requiring a simple majority. Any persons who have received the requisite 2/3 majority shall be considered the endorsed episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. If no person has obtained the required 2/3 majority, then no person shall be considered to have been endorsed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

6. The Jurisdictional delegation shall not be bound by any action of the delegation or the annual conference regarding confirmed and/or endorsed nominees when the Jurisdictional delegates cast their votes at Jurisdictional Conference (¶405.1, *2012 The Book of Discipline*).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new rule shall be titled "NOMINATION OF EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES."

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new rule shall be listed in the Rules of Order as Article XVII, and that all rules beginning with the current Article XVII of the Rules of Order (Petitions to General Conference), and following, be renumbered accordingly.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Joe DiPaolo, Jane Bonner, Krystl Johnson

Resolution #2016 – 02*
Advance Specials – July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017
Submitted by CSGM Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Whereas the **Conference Advance Special** is a program of ministry which can seek funds from a local church that keeps its financial commitments to the conference and General Church in full in the previous years budget and has a desire to extend its support of the mission of the church through designated giving; and

Whereas a list of **Conference Advance Specials** would resource local churches, either in need of support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their support of mission of the church; and

Whereas practicality indicates a change in the time period covered by a list of conference advance specials to as soon as possible after they are approved;

Therefore, be it resolved that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of **Conference Advance Specials** for the year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. David Davis, CSGM

ARTOS RETREATS 25,000
<u>Applicant: Julie Anderman</u>
607 Rose Petal Lane, Mount Joy. PA 17552.
Phones: 717-492-4238.
Email: ArtosRetreats@gmail.com
A new approach to investing and in the well-being of the clergy family and the marginalized within church communities. Designed by Clergy spouses and offered to clergy spouses, in retreats. This holistic coaching pilot program is spread over 18 months. Will be led by Rev. Dr. Val Hastings. It will focus on clergy spouses in transition, clergy graduates of seminaries, and other church leaders. The team will also research factors, contents and services to further a broader understanding and investment in overall pastoral health and church health through them.

COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM.....$3000
Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo
307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061.
Phone: 610-416-5112, 610-485-6162.
Email: smcislo@yahoo.com
This is a 4 week, free summer reading and lunch program for students. Marcus Hook is a high poverty community, and as such the community faces a high degree of risks associated with poverty. this program helps students to have an alternative to those risks. It is the ministry of the Cokesbury church community to investing in the children and setting them up for a greater interest in reading and information.

EPA CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRY.....$10,000
Applicant: Rev Sally Ott
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office
980 Madison Ave, Norristown PA 19403
Phones: 610-666-9090, 717-627-1154.
Fax: 610-666-9093
Email: scott@epaumc.org
A ministry of Christian education and discipleship through camping and retreats.
This ministry serves approximately 15,000 persons annually and around 4000 summer campers. The camp sites offer year round opportunities for churches, schools and organizations to hold retreats, day events or special events. This ministry provides creative and effective ways of churches connecting with their communities.

HOPE CHRISTIAN COUNSELING.....$3000
Applicant: Rev. Susan L. Worrell
Western Professional Center
1515 West Chester Pike Suite A-3, West Chester PA 19382.
Phones: 610-436-9298, 484-732-8269, 484-883-7628.
Email: HopeChristianCounseling@gmail.com
The ministry is a non-profit, it offers professional counseling, and facilitates Retreats and workshops covering a wide range of issues by qualified and certified professionals and ordained clergy regardless of a person's ability to pay a full fee. The ministry nurtures healing that leads to transformation and kingdom building. The ministry is open to all ages, races, gender, and sexual orientation.

LIGHT OF MARNIE.....$10,000
Applicant: Jennifer & John Lafferty
315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale PA 19372.
Phones: 610-470-1369. 610-766-0944. 610-384-4228.
Email: JohnL@lightofmarnie.org,JenL@lightofmarnie.org
A well balanced after school program that helps students in their studies, provides a healthy snack and active physical exercise three days a week. The mission was originally targeted to Liberian immigrants, but has grown into a diverse ethnic group. Prayer, bible-reading, worship, singing and craft are part of this ministry.

LUMINA.....10,000
Applicant: Correen M. Russo
20 E Clay Street, Lancaster PA 17602.
Phones: 717-394-8412. 717-808-8633.
Fax: 717-394-1435.

Email: correen.lumina@gmail.com
The ministry is designed to benefit the disadvantaged, they focus on three areas

a. *Children (fun night twice a week, and day camps)*
b. *Clothing (specially school uniforms and professional)*
c. *Nutrition Education.*

They coordinate with 75 churches in the South West District and offer opportunities for over 200 volunteers annually.

MIDTOWN PARISH MINISTRIES.....$25,000
Applicant: Millicent Clark
700-18 W, Norrris Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122
Phones: 215-763-0742, 267-230-1999.
Email: midtownparish@yahoo.com
This ministry is devoted to Biblical teaching, loving fellowship, Prayer, transformative Worship and development of spiritual gifts to enhance the ministry of the church.
The ministry offers a wide range of resources to the community, from food to educational grants and financial assistance to the poor and needy.
they also offer and minister through bible studies, prayer meetings, annual community events, youth programs and camping opportunities.

MISSION CENTRAL HUBS OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA.....$6000
Applicant: Jeanne Earnshaw
29 East Maple Street, Cleona PA 17042.
Phones: 717-272-8663, 717-270-5445, 717-926-2305.
Email: jjearnshaw@comcast.net
Located throughout the annual conference, this is a branch of the Mission Central.
They work to provide a forum for local ministries to connect with each other shar5ing their stories, time and resources to meet needs. They also help in developing connections with VIM and UMCOR, they assemble the various kits, distribute them through missions and agencies around the globe. Their ministry is both Local and International.

NEW JOURNEY COMMUNITY OUTREACH INC.....$10,000
Applicant: Susan Krall
Contact Info:
Susan Krall
138 S, 6th Street, Reading, PA 19602
Phones: Off- 610-375-2662, Res: 610-987-3803.,Fax: 610-375-3060.
Email: skrall@njcoinc.org
NJCO is a state approved corporation designed to meet the needs of low income persons in the city of Reading. The approach is to help and elevate people from poverty and minimize lure of human trafficking, prostitution and drugs etc.
The soup kitchen serves around 180 persons, The food pantry helps around 80 families and around 50 persons with clothing each week. Plan to offer ESL, nutrition classes and financial counseling.

SERENITY HOUSE.....$12,000
Applicant: Rev. Robin Hynicka
Contact info:
Wilhelmina Young
55 N Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19107
Phones: 21--568-6250, 215-227-4034, Fax: 215-568-2256.

Email: thecatalyst212@yahoo.com
The ministry is a holistic, spiritual, healing arts endeavor, providing a sacred space for people from all walks of life to share their stories, and experiences of transformation and finding expression for their creativity and inspire each other.

SHALOM PARTNERSHIP OF LANCASTER INC.....$10,000
Applicant: Rev. Jacquie Sheely
P.O. Box 6084 Lancaster PA 17607.
140 Way Point Drive, Lancaster PA 17603.
Phones: 717-270-1525.
Email: JacquelynSheely@comcast.net
This ministry has been operating for the past 24 years mentoring and teaching elementary and school aged children in Lancaster school district. The focus is on small group one-on-one method of mentoring. They also offer summer enrichment programs during summer, they have partnered with 8 schools and they seek to expand to all 13 schools in the district. Their ministry is to those who are in poverty and resource them to attend camps, special programs. The content of their programs cover, science, technology, media, and the arts.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MINISTRIES.....$10,000
Applicant: The Rev. Sara J. Davis Shappell
P.O. Box 724 Southeastern PA 19399.
Phones: 610-873-3988, 610-873-8328, Cell: 610-613-6253.
Email: SpiritualRM@aol.com
This ministry has been operational for over 23 years as an integral part of EPC. The ministry partners with churches, groups and individuals who are seeking a deeper relationship with God. They offer scholarships, Retreats and seminars for spiritual formation and living as the people of God

RESOLUTION #2016 – 03*
Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons
Presented by Board of Pension and Health Benefits

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is 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");

WHEREAS, the practice 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;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disable Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service;

WHEREAS, 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, 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 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2017 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designed as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the pension and 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 the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB 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 agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Barry Rose

RESOLUTION #2016 – 04*
Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) for the Year 2016
Presented by Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adoption Agreement shall be applicable to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and, unless another date is specified below, shall be effective as of January 1, 2017: The Clergy Retirement Security Program shall be the base retirement plan for the clergy persons under Episcopal appointment including deacons and members of other denominations serving at the conference, church, charge, conference responsible unit, conference controlled entity including clergy on incapacity leave receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in accordance to the plan adoption agreement beginning on January 1, 2017. Clergy persons on incapacity leave and not receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits are not eligible to participate in CRSP.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that on January 1, 2017 the ministerial pension rate for past service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be $502.00 and the personal contributor's annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply toward the payment of the participants formula benefit;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of the participant's formula benefit;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized to make annual deposits at the end of each calendar year as required by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for the purpose of funding for past service prior to January 1, 1982.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Barry Rose

RESOLUTION 2016 - 05
Resolution Concerning a Comprehensive Funding Plan for Benefit Obligations
Presented by Board of Pension and Health Benefits

WHEREAS Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2012 Book Of Discipline requires that each Annual Conference shall develop, adopt and implement a formal funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations;

WHEREAS Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2012 Book Of Discipline further states that the funding plan shall:

1. Address the funding for liabilities;
2. Be approved annually by the Annual Conference, following receipt and inclusion of a favorable opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and
3. Meet the minimum standards established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for all benefit liabilities;

WHEREAS The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has developed a spreadsheet template with which all Annual Conferences are to develop and submit their funding plans in a uniform format;

WHEREAS The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference staff and the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits have developed the Comprehensive Funding Plan for 2017, a summary of which is attached as Exhibit A (the detailed plan is available on the conference website and is included in the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits annual report);

WHEREAS Exhibit A has been submitted to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for review and a favorable opinion has been issued a copy of which is included as Exhibit B;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference adopts Exhibit A as its Comprehensive Funding Plan for 2017.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Barry Rose

RESOLUTION #2016 – 06
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Relating to the Discontinuance of Spring City United Methodist Church
Presented by the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

WHEREAS, The Spring City United Methodist Church in Spring City, Pennsylvania, founded in 1845 has a long and proud history of serving the people of Spring City; and

WHEREAS, the Spring City United Methodist Church voted on October 18, 2015 to discontinue the church on January 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Spring City United Methodist Church contact the Central District Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to inform the Superintendent of the congregation's decision to close as of January 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Board of Trustees was granted full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Spring City United Methodist Church discontinue, effective January 31, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the Spring City United Methodist Church be distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell and Rev. Dennis Keen

RESOLUTION #2016 - 07
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Supporting Access to Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Pennsylvanians
Presented by Calvary United Methodist Church, Arch St United Methodist Church and the Eastern PA Conference Immigration Rapid Response Team

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church believes that all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God and that it is the responsibility of the church to demonstrate that belief.

WHEREAS, the estimated 200,000 undocumented immigrants in Pennsylvania are denied access to driver's licenses preventing them from driving to work, school, healthcare appointments and stores and shops of all kinds, thus impeding them from caring for their own families and neighbors as well as making a significant contribution to the local economy.

WHEREAS, the opportunity for undocumented immigrants to drive legally includes passing a driver's test and obtaining automobile insurance thus making roads safer for all.

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has adopted resolutions and supported legislation that offer God's love and grace to welcome immigrants, oppose policies that threaten family unity and promote comprehensive immigration reform.

WHEREAS, common-sense legislation has been put forth in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the form of HB 1450 to provide access to driver's licenses for Pennsylvania residents regardless of immigration status in order to improve the Commonwealth's economy, public safety, and the lives of immigrants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United Methodist Church of Eastern Pennsylvania demonstrate support for HB 1450 which allows access to driver's licenses for undocumented Pennsylvanians by authorizing the presenters of this resolution to send a copy of the resolution to the appropriate set of elected officials and recommends that United Methodist agencies, congregations and individuals endorse this legislation as it is introduced and communicate that endorsement to the appropriate elected officials.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Lauren Ballester, Calvary United Methodist Church, Judy Claude, Arch Street United Methodist, Ruth Daugherty and Rev. Lilian L. Cotto, Co-chairs of the Immigration Rapid Response Team of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

RESOLUTION #2016 - 08
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Resolution Relating to Endorsing Health Care Coverage for ALL Kids in Pennsylvania
Presented by EPC Church and Society Work Team

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that "health care is a basic human right", and that "providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all"; and

WHEREAS, Public Citizens for Children and Youth have established a Dream Care Campaign to Cover ALL Kids, with guiding principles that state the following: "In 2016, every Pennsylvania child will qualify for public health insurance, either Medical Assistance or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). An estimated 38,000 Pennsylvania children are undocumented and ineligible for public coverage, and 24,000 of them are estimated to be uninsured. Numerous studies show that uninsured children fare far worse than insured children—experiencing poorer health in childhood, greater rates of avoidable hospitalizations and higher childhood mortality. Illinois, California, New York, Massachusetts, Washington State, Washington DC cover all children, and Pennsylvania can be the next."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Eastern Pennsylvania Conference agrees to be listed as an endorser of the Dream Care Campaign to Cover ALL Kids and agrees to mention Dream Care in appropriate communications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary will notify Public Citizens for Children and Youth, 1709 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Sixth Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103, of the decision to endorse the campaign.

Person responsible for Presenting Resolution: Barbara E. Drake

RESOLUTION #2016 - 09
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Relating to Safe Sanctuaries Policy
Presented by the Safe Sanctuaries Committee

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the annual conference and every local church to take steps to protect the well-being of children, youth, and personnel who work with them in the ministries of the church, as well as to comply with all laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, previous conference safe sanctuaries policies have quoted extensively from the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania periodically revises its child protective services law; and

WHEREAS, this proposed new policy removes quotations from sections of the law and instead requires that churches comply with law as it is force at any given time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference adopt the following as its Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church Policy, which replaces all previous policies:

SAFE SANCTUARIES
Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church Policy
June 2016

PREAMBLE
God has called us to make our ministries safe, protecting our children from abuse and exploitation. God has also called us to create communities of faith where children can be safe and grow strong.

Jesus taught "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me," (Mark 9:37 NRSV) and "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones…it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6 NRSV)

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state "…children must be protected from economic, physical, and sexual exploitation and abuse." (Par. 162(D) *2012 Book of Discipline*)

At each child's baptism, we affirm our responsibility to their safety by our congregational response, pledging:

> "With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." (The Book of Worship, Baptismal Covenant, Congregational Pledge II)

Building on these foundations, we recognize that our faith calls us to offer hospitality and protection to all children, as well as those who are committed to ministering to them as volunteers and employees. Every 15 seconds, a child is abused or neglected. Often, abuse occurs in

places where children feel safe – homes, schools, camps, and even churches. In over three quarters of reported cases, the victim was related to or acquainted with the abuser. In light of this, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church has seen fit to establish this policy that can help to 1) prevent such abuse from happening in our churches; 2) make our churches places where children can feel safer in disclosing abuse; and 3) protect the volunteers and employees that minister to our children.

It is the policy of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference that every church in the conference adopt a Safe Sanctuaries policy that conforms to the standards set forth in this conference policy. It is the policy of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference that all conference and district ministries with children comply with the standards set forth in this policy.

Not withstanding anything contained in this policy, it is the responsibility of every church in the conference to ensure that it is in compliance with all aspects of the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law (63 PA. C.S.A. 6301). In the event that the law conflicts with this policy, the law shall control.

SCREENING AND SELECTION OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS:

Screening Standards:

All applicants for employment and/or volunteer service in which that applicant shall have contact with children in a manner which, under Pennsylvania law currently in force and as enacted and amended in the future from time to time, requires the person to obtain background clearances shall complete the following prior to start of service:

1) Written Application –a written application that shall include at least the following information:
    a. Name
    b. Address
    c. Phone Number
    d. Work/Volunteer History
    e. Experience and skills related to the position
    f. Two (2) personal, non-related references.
2) Background Checks –
    a. All background checks required by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania currently in force and as enacted and amended from time to time.
    b. In addition to the above clearances, all employees and volunteers of the EPA conference camps shall obtain all clearances required for accreditation by the American Camp Association.
3) Acceptance of Notice Requirement – complete the acceptance of notice requirement acknowledgment that they have been informed of and will comply with Pennsylvania law that requires them to inform the church in writing of any arrest, conviction or child abuse report that would prohibit them from working with children.
4) References – at least two references from persons not related to the applicant shall be obtained and contacted for all new applicants for employment or volunteer service.
5) Relationship with Church – All prospective volunteer workers with children shall have an active relationship with the local church for at least six months before being allowed to be in a supervisory role in activities for children.
6) Records – All written records shall be confidential and shall be kept in a secure location with access restricted on a need to know basis. All files shall be maintained for three (3) years after service ends.

TRAINING:
All persons who have direct contact with children shall participate in training as required under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania currently in force and as enacted and amended in the future from time to time.

SUPERVISION:
Supervision procedures are designed to reduce the possibility of abuse or exploitation of children, and to protect staff persons and volunteers form unfounded accusations.

Supervision Standards:
Programs and ministries in the church that are licensed or accredited by a licensing or accreditation body, or that have formally adopted supervision procedures, and receive pre-approval from the conference Board of Trustees shall follow their established requirements for the supervision children.

EPA conference camps shall follow the supervision standards required for accreditation by the American Camp Association.

All other programs and ministries of the church shall use the following standards for the supervision of children.

1) The two adult rule – Regardless of the size group, there will always be at least two adults present. This may include the presence of an adult 'roamer' who moves in and out of rooms/ministry activities.
2) No child will be left unsupervised while participating in a ministry activity/event.
3) All ministry activities should occur in open view. Each room or space where ministry activities/events occur must be open to public view. For example: enclosed spaces such as classrooms shall have a viewing window, a glass panel in the door, a ½ door configuration or an open door.
4) No person shall supervise an age group unless he/she is at least 18 years of age or older and is at least 5 years older than the children being supervised.
5) Ministry events involving transportation shall require a written consent form signed by the parent or guardian of the child.

REPORTING:
Reporting of any allegation of child abuse shall be done in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania currently in force and as enacted and amended in the future from time to time.

It is essential that all employees and volunteers who have contact with children in a manner which, under Pennsylvania law currently in force and as enacted and amended in the future define them as a mandated reporter have a legal responsibility under the law to make a report directly to public child welfare officials any time they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse has occurred. Failure to comply with this requirement can lead to civil and/or criminal penalties for the employee or volunteer.

In the event that a member of the clergy becomes aware of suspected child abuse as a result of confidential communication which is protected under 42 PA C.S. 5943 (relating to confidential communications to clergymen), the conference legal counsel should immediately be consulted.

PASTORAL RESPONSES FOR REPORTS OF ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE:
Any allegation of abuse requires a process to address responding to the victim, the alleged perpetrator, and the press. The response must be quick, compassionate and unified. All allegations will be taken seriously.

Pastoral response is NOT an investigation of the alleged abuse. The investigation is the responsibility of public officials (child welfare and/or law enforcement). In all cases of reported abuse, there shall be cooperation with all official investigating agencies.

Response to victims of abuse:
In the instance of any allegation of abuse, there shall be a reaching out to the victim and the victim's family. Pastoral resources shall be extended, and the conference I-Care Team can be contacted to assist in providing this service. The care and safety of the victim shall be considered the first priority. Response to the victim and the victim's family shall be done in a positive and supportive manner.

The parents of the victim shall be notified and steps shall be taken to address the safety and well being of the child until the parent(s) arrive. **NOTE:** If one or both of the parents is the alleged abuser, the direction of the child welfare authorities shall be followed concerning notification of others.

Response to all alleged perpetrators of abuse:
The alleged perpetrator shall immediately, yet with dignity and respect for their sacred worth, be removed from further involvement with children and advised that there has been an allegation of abuse. Details of the allegations of the abuse shall not be discussed with the alleged perpetrator at the time of removal. In any removal of a staff member or volunteer from any activity/ministry, care shall be taken to handle the removal in a discreet manner.

When it has been alleged that a member of the church staff or a volunteer, has committed an act of abuse, the staff member or volunteer shall be required to refrain from all ministry activities/events with children until the incident has been fully resolved by the appropriate state authorities and/or in accordance with the Book of Discipline

Response to the Media:
The District Superintendent, the Conference Director of Communications and pastor shall decide on a single spokesperson for contact with the public/media. All media requests for statements shall be directed to that spokesperson.

Compliance: Compliance with this policy shall be a matter of record at each annual Charge Conference.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. James H. Wilkin

RESOLUTION #2016 - 10
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Relating to Computer Network and Internet Access Policy
Presented by the Communications Ministry Team and the Safe Sanctuaries Committee

WHEREAS, computers, computer networks and other electronic devices provide employees and church members access to the vast information resources of the Internet with the intention of increasing productivity and enhancing church-related communication; and

WHEREAS, there is also justifiable concern that they can be misused, potentially violating laws, ordinances or other church policies, garnering negative publicity for the church and potentially exposing it to significant legal liabilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all local churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference require all users of church computer equipment and networks to comply with and sign the following policy:

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that contains millions of pages of information. Users are cautioned that many of these pages include offensive, sexually explicit and inappropriate material. In general, it is difficult to avoid at least some contact with this material while using the Internet. Even innocuous search requests may lead to sites with highly offensive content. Additionally, having an e-mail address on the Internet may lead to receipt of unsolicited e-mail containing offensive content. Users accessing the Internet do so at their own risk, and the local United Methodist Church of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (the Church) is not responsible for material viewed or downloaded by users from the Internet. To minimize these risks, your use of the Internet at the Church is governed by the following policy:

PERMITTED USE OF INTERNET AND CHURCH COMPUTER NETWORK

The computer network is the property of the Church and may only be used for legitimate business and ministry purposes. Users are provided access to the computer network to assist them in the performance of their jobs. Additionally, certain employees ("Users") may also be provided with access to the Internet through the computer network. All Users have a responsibility to use Church's computer resources and the Internet in a professional, lawful and ethical manner. Abuse of the computer network or the Internet may result in disciplinary action, including possible termination, and civil and/or criminal liability.

COMPUTER NETWORK USE LIMITATIONS

Prohibited uses

The Church's computer network may not be used to disseminate, view or store pornographic text or images, or any other unauthorized materials. Employees may not use the Church's Internet connection to download games or other entertainment software (including screen savers) or to play games over the Internet. Additionally, you may not use the computer network to display, store or send (by e-mail or any other form of electronic communication such as bulletin boards, chat rooms, Usenet groups, etc.) material that is fraudulent, harassing, embarrassing, sexually explicit, profane, obscene, intimidating, defamatory or otherwise inappropriate or unlawful. Furthermore, anyone receiving such materials should notify their supervisor immediately.

Illegal copying

Users may not illegally copy material protected under copyright law or make that material available to others for copying. Users are responsible for complying with copyright law and applicable licenses that may apply to software, files, graphics, documents, messages and other material you wish to download or copy. Users may not agree to a license or download any material for which a registration fee is charged without first obtaining the express written permission of the Church.

Communication of confidential and/or personal member information

Unless expressly authorized to do so, Users are prohibited from sending, transmitting or otherwise distributing confidential and/or personal member information, data or other confidential information belonging to the Church. Unauthorized dissemination of such material may result in severe disciplinary action as well as substantial civil and criminal penalties under state and federal laws.

DUTY NOT TO WASTE COMPUTER RESOURCES

Accessing the Internet

To ensure security and avoid the spread of viruses, Users accessing the Internet through a computer attached to the Church's network must do so through an approved Internet firewall or other security device. Bypassing the Church's computer network security by accessing the Internet directly by modem or other means is strictly prohibited unless the computer you are using is not connected to the Church's network.

Frivolous use

Computer resources are not unlimited. Network bandwidth and storage capacity have finite limits, and all Users connected to the network have a responsibility to conserve these resources. As such, Users must not deliberately perform acts that waste computer resources or unfairly monopolize resources to the exclusion of others. These acts include, but are not limited to, sending unauthorized mass mailings or chain letters, spending excessive amounts of time on the Internet, playing games, engaging in online chat groups, uploading or downloading large files, accessing unauthorized streaming audio and/or video files or otherwise creating unnecessary loads on network traffic associated with non-business-related uses of the Internet.

Virus detection

Files obtained from sources outside the Church, including disks brought from home; files downloaded from the Internet, newsgroups, bulletin boards or other online services; files attached to e-mail; and files provided by customers or vendors may contain dangerous computer viruses which may damage the Church's computer network. Users should never download files from the Internet, accept e-mail attachments from outsiders or use disks from non-Church sources without first scanning the material with Church-approved virus checking software. If you suspect that a virus has been introduced into the Church's network, notify the Church immediately.

NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY

Users are given computers and Internet access to assist them in the performance of their jobs. Users should have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send or receive using the Church's computer equipment. The computer network is the property of the Church and may be used only for Church purposes.

Waiver of privacy rights

Users expressly waive any right of privacy in anything the User creates stores, sends or receives using the Church's computer equipment or Internet access. The User consents to allow any

authorized Church personnel access to and review of all materials created, stored, sent or received by the User through any Church network or Church Internet connection.

Monitoring of computer and Internet usage
The Church has the right to monitor and log any and all aspects of its computer system including, but not limited to, monitoring Internet sites visited by Users, monitoring chat and newsgroups, and monitoring file downloads and all communications sent and received by Users.

Blocking sites with inappropriate content
The Church has the right to utilize software that makes it possible to identify and block access to Internet sites containing sexually explicit or other material deemed inappropriate in the workplace.

Acknowledgement of understanding
I have read and agree to comply with the terms of this policy governing the use of the Church's computer network. I understand that violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including possible termination and civil and criminal penalties.

_____
Local United Methodist Church

_____ _____
Signature Date

_____
Printed name

Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. John Bletsch and Rev. James H. Wilkin

RESOLUTION #2016 - 11
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church
Presented by the Rev. Gary Nicholson, Northwest District Superintendent

WHEREAS the West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church located in Schuylkill County was founded in 1857 and has had a long and proud history; and

WHEREAS the charge conference of the West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church voted on September 27, 2015, to discontinue the church as of December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS the district superintendent and the NW District Board of Church Location and Building have recommended discontinuance of West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church and the sale of the property; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church be discontinued effective December 31, 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference distribute the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the West Penn: Immanuel United Methodist Church, following the guidelines of the Book of Discipline and the actions of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records be forwarded to the archives of the St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

PRESENTED BY: the Rev. Gary Nicholson, Northwest District Superintendent

RESOLUTION #2016 - 12
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of William Penn United Methodist Church
Presented by the Rev. Gary Nicholson, Northwest District Superintendent

WHEREAS the William Penn United Methodist Church located in Schuylkill County was founded in 1882 and has had a long and proud history; and

WHEREAS the charge conference of the William Penn United Methodist Church voted on October 14, 2015, to discontinue the church as of December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS the district superintendent and the NW District Board of Church Location and Building have recommended discontinuance of William Penn United Methodist Church and the sale of the property; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the William Penn United Methodist Church be discontinued effective December 31, 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference distribute the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the William Penn United Methodist Church, following the guidelines of the Book of Discipline and the actions of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records be forwarded to the archives of the St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

PRESENTED BY: the Rev. Gary Nicholson, Northwest District Superintendent

RESOLUTION #2016 – 13*
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Regarding Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2017
Presented by Commission on Equitable Compensation

WHEREAS, it is a mandate of the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference by recommending conference standards for pastoral support (¶625.2(a), 2012 *Discipline)*, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is charged with annually recommending to the Annual Conference a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors and elders in full connection appointed to less than full-time service to a local church (¶625.3, 2012 *Discipline)*, and

WHEREAS, the Commission seeks to address the concerns of clergy compensation and recognize the economic difficulties encountered by churches,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference establish the minimum starting salaries reflecting a 2% increase for 2017. The schedule for persons under appointment in the local church for 2017 shall be as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church establishes the minimum base salary for persons under appointment in the local church for the year 2017 as follows:
a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection $41,106
b) Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary appointments $38,964
c) Associate Members .....……..... $38,148
d) Full-Time Local Pastors $36,108

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to arrive at the minimum cash salary for each pastor, the required service year increments will be added to the appropriate base listed above in the amount of 1% of the pastor's base salary for each year of service under appointment, whether part time or full time, for a maximum of 20 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each church or charge, in recommending increases, consider increases above the minimum cash salary, and that Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committees particularly take note of such areas as education, experience, skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy to Social Security as self-employed persons, family needs, and payment of health insurance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any amount provided as a housing allowance is not to be considered part of the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution (¶252.4(e), 2012 *Discipline*); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if a church or charge cannot meet the standard of support for a full-time pastor, the Cabinet will be notified as soon as possible and appropriate action taken by the Cabinet (¶624.1, 2012 *Discipline*).

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Lou Hornberger

RESOLUTION #2016 - 14
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution: Relating to Full Inclusion of LGBTQ Persons in The United Methodist Church: Marriage Equality
Presented by Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown.

WHEREAS, in John 14 (NRSV) we read these words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." and "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you and he will be in you."

WHEREAS, in Matthew 12 (NRSV) we read these words, "Whoever speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven either in this age or in the age to come."

WHEREAS, in Mark 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

WHEREAS, in Luke 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

WHEREAS, in John 4 (NRSV), we read, "When was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

WHEREAS, in the passages above, Jesus proclaims that his household has room for all who seek to follow the Great Commandment and seek to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit.

WHEREAS, in the passages above, in welcoming strangers, children and social outcasts, Jesus proclaims the Good News that no one is without the potential, promise, and permission to praise God to proclaim the truth and to practice the faith. So when Jesus announces "I am the way and the truth and the life." In John 14 (NRSV), he calls forth the sacred name of God "I AM, Who I Am," the name that includes the sacred being of us all.

WHEREAS, LGBTQ persons have a dwelling place in the company of Jesus and hold claim to great gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church supports the right of lesbian and gay persons to marry each other in civil and religious ceremonies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference supports the decision of the clergy and congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference who perform or hold such ceremonies; and the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference supports the decision of clergy and congregations who do not perform or hold such ceremonies.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourages its bishop to resolve complaints or charges about same-sex weddings through the Supervisory Response (¶ 363.1(b)) -- especially by means of a Just Resolution process (¶363.1(c)) -- and avoid moving the same to Church Trials.

Person responsible for presenting the motion: Rev. Sukja Bang

RESOLUTION #2016 - 15
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution: Relating to Full Inclusion of LGBTQ Persons in The United Methodist Church: -- Ordination Equality
Presented Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown.

WHEREAS, in John 14 (NRSV) we read these words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." and "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you and he will be in you."

WHEREAS, in Matthew 12 (NRSV) we read these words, "Whoever speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven either in this age or in the age to come."

WHEREAS, in Mark 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

WHEREAS, in Luke 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

WHEREAS, in John 4 (NRSV), we read, "When was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

WHEREAS, in the passages above, Jesus proclaims that his household has room for all who seek to follow the Great Commandment and seek to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit.

WHEREAS, in the passages above, in welcoming strangers, children and social outcasts, Jesus proclaims the good news that no one is without the potential, promise and permission to praise

God to proclaim the truth and to practice the faith. So when Jesus announces "I am the way and the truth and the life." In John (NRSV), he calls forth the sacred name of God "I AM, Who I Am," the name that includes the sacred being of us all.

WHEREAS, LGBTQ persons have a dwelling place in the company of Jesus and hold claim to great gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church supports all candidates who present themselves for consideration for Ordination, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference recommends its District Committees on Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry to interview all candidates for Ordination, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Person responsible for presenting the resolution: Rev. Lydia Munoz

RESOLUTION #2016 - 16
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Supporting HB1510/SB974 in the Pennsylvania Legislature
Presented by Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Fairness Act (House Bill 1510 (HB 1510) / Senate Bill 974 (SB 974) are under consideration by both houses of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and

WHEREAS, these bills seek to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to ensure freedom from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and

WHEREAS, paragraph 162J of the *2012 Book of Discipline* commits The United Methodist Church to supporting "basic human rights and civil liberties … for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation," and

WHEREAS, that same paragraph includes "equal protection before the law" amongst such basic rights and liberties, and

WHEREAS, Bishop Peggy Johnson has quoted paragraph 162J in support of these bills and has said that, "No one should be fired from their job, evicted from their home or refused services at a business because of their orientation or gender identity," and

WHEREAS, these bills have been publicly supported by Lutheran, Presbyterian, Jewish, and Episcopalian congregations and faith leaders, and

WHEREAS, HB 1510 is co-sponsored by 84 State Representatives, SB 974 is co-sponsored by 25 State Senators, and there is bi-partisan support in both Houses of the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf announced his support of these Bills during his campaign for office, has repeatedly called for their passage by the Legislature, and has pledged to sign them into law when passed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference supports and encourages the passing of these Bills in the Pennsylvania Legislature and the signing of the resultant Law by Governor Wolf;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Conference encourages Bishop Johnson, through her ministry with United Methodist Advocacy PA, to continue to communicate this endorsement of these Bills by the Conference to Gov. Wolf and State Legislators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Conference encourages all clergy and lay members of the Conference to contact their local legislators to communicate this support.

Person Responsible for presenting the Resolution: Rev. Andrea Brown

RESOLUTION #2016 - 17
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution on Radical Welcome
Presented Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless reports that up to 43% of all homeless teens identify as LGBT, and

WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center estimates that between 30% and 40% of all LGBT youth have attempted suicide, and

WHEREAS, rejection by families of origin and/or by churches is reported by many of these youth as the principal reason for their homelessness or their suicide attempt, and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourages all churches to practice radical welcome to LGBT persons by holding a special event on Sunday, October 9, 2016 (the Sunday closest to National Coming Out Day); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference invites the Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania and other interested churches to represent the Conference as a welcoming presence at Philadelphia OutFest 2016.

Person Responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Herbert J. Snyder

RESOLUTION #2016 - 18
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution on Religious Freedom
Presented by Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown.

WHEREAS, paragraph 162J of the *2012 Book of Discipline* commits The United Methodist Church to supporting "basic human rights and civil liberties … for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation," and

WHEREAS, that same paragraph includes "equal protection before the law" amongst such basic rights and liberties, and

WHEREAS, several state legislatures are considering or have passed legislation which would limit their LGBT citizens' freedom from discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodation based on any individual's, company's or organization's supposed right to "religious freedom," and

WHEREAS, such legislation is a covert attempt to allow bigotry and discrimination under the guide of "religious freedom;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference formally denounces such legislation in any state or jurisdiction because of the spurious use of the term "religious freedom" and because of the obviously discriminatory nature of such legislation.

Person responsible for presenting Resolution: Rev. Dr. David M Krueger

RESOLUTION #2016 - 19
RESOLUTION TO THE 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Relating to Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct Involving Adults
Presented by the Conference ICARE Team

WHEREAS, we believe in the biblical truth that all persons are created in the image of God, and find this to be reason enough to treat all persons with respect and honor; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

WHEREAS, sexual misconduct within the church or involving persons who are a part of the church can, and often does, hinder this mission for all parties affected by it, whether connected directly to a congregation or not; and

WHEREAS, our congregations and pastors look to this body to provide policies of consistent, theologically and legally sound response to situations involving the variety of forms of sexual misconduct against adults which may occur in our congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference has already adopted an updated policy, known as Safe Sanctuaries, dealing with abuse of children and youth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference adopts the attached policy statement to replace our current Sexual Harassment Policy and govern how our Conference and congregations deal with alleged incidents of sexual misconduct in their midst involving adult victims.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Beverly T. Andrews

Policy on Sexual Misconduct Involving Adults

This policy is meant to replace, in its entirety, the existing policy, titled Sexual Harassment in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Journal dated April 6, 1998.

Purview

The purview of this policy is sexual misconduct involving any adult who is a clergyperson, employee, or volunteer of any congregation, institution, organization, or agency of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. This policy defines prohibited behaviors, reporting mechanisms, investigative duties, and a non-retaliation policy. Procedural guidelines to carry out this policy are found in separate documents, including but not limited to the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, which includes a list of chargeable offenses. The guidelines for the prohibition of sexual misconduct involving a minor (under 18 years of age) are set forth in the EPA Conference Safe Sanctuary Policy, a separate document.

Purpose

The EPA Conference is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment in keeping with God's sacred trust. The EPA Conference bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons that encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ. Sexual misconduct (including sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation) violates the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The EPA Conference provides procedures for reporting and responding to allegations of sexual misconduct by persons in ministerial roles (both lay and clergy, paid and volunteer, see *Book of Resolutions* 2012, p. 137, for examples), who have the responsibility to avoid actions and words that hurt others, but also to protect the vulnerable against actions or words, that cause harm. The EPA Conference will not condone or tolerate instances of sexual misconduct, and is committed to procedural justice and pastoral concern through a fair process of justice making for victims and survivors, real accountability for abusers, and healing for all parties, including affected congregations.

The EPA Conference commits itself to provide appropriate educational materials and training opportunities regarding the prevention of incidences of sexual misconduct, reporting and responding to incidences of sexual misconduct should they occur, and the details of this policy.

Definitions, According to the United Methodist General Conference

"The continuum of behaviors called sexual misconduct within the ministerial relationship represents an exploitation of power and not merely 'inappropriate sexual or gender-directed conduct.' Sexual misconduct in any form is unacceptable in church and ministry settings whether it is clergy-to-lay, lay-to-clergy, clergy-to-clergy, lay-to-lay, staff-to-staff, staff-to-volunteer, volunteer-to-volunteer, or volunteer-to-staff. Anyone who works or volunteers under the authority or auspices of the Church must be held to the highest standards of behavior, free of sexual misconduct in any form." (*Book of Resolutions* 2012, p. 137)

"**Sexual misconduct** within ministerial relationships is a betrayal of sacred trust. It is a continuum of sexual or gender-directed behaviors by either a lay or clergy person within a ministerial relationship (paid or unpaid). It can include child abuse, adult sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual assault, sexualized verbal comments or visuals, unwelcome touching and advances, use of sexualized materials including pornography, stalking, sexual abuse of youth or those without capacity to consent, or misuse of the pastoral or ministerial position using sexualized conduct to take advantage of the vulnerability of another." (*Book of Resolutions* 2012, p. 136)

"**Sexual harassment** [is] any unwanted sexual comment, advance, or demand, either verbal or physical that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. … Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender." (*Book of Discipline* 2012, ¶161.I) "[I]t is unwanted sexual or gender-directed behavior within a pastoral, employment, ministerial (including volunteers), mentor, or colleague relationship that is so severe or pervasive that it alters the conditions of employment or volunteer work or unreasonably interferes with the employee or volunteer's performance by creating a hostile environment that can include unwanted sexual jokes, repeated advances, touching, displays, or comments that insult, degrade, or sexually exploit women, men, elders, children, or youth." (*Book of Resolutions* 2012, p. 136)

"**Sexual abuse** [in ministry] is a form of sexual misconduct and occurs when a person within a ministerial role of leadership (lay or clergy, pastor, educator, counselor, youth leader, or other position of leadership) engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, coworker, or volunteer." (*Book of Resolutions* 2012, p. 136) Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship involves a betrayal of sacred trust, a violation of the ministerial role and exploitation of those who are vulnerable.

Sexual misconduct may occur in many forms, including but not limited to face-to-face interactions or through print, electronic and/or social media. Furthermore, "the **use of pornography** in church programs, on church premises or with church property by persons in ministerial roles (lay and clergy) is a form of sexual misconduct." (*Book of Resolutions* 2012, p. 162)

Specific Interpretations (illustrative, not exhaustive)

Dating, romantic, or sexual relationships by persons appointed or assigned by the bishop

The question of whether it is acceptable for a ministerial leader to engage in a dating, romantic, or sexualized relationship with a parishioner continues to be the subject of much debate. Nevertheless, the EPA Conference is clear that such relationships between clergy and their parishioners inherently distort the ministerial relationship and "are never appropriate because of imbalance of power" (see concurring opinion to Judicial Council Decision 1228).

Therefore, the EPA Conference considers it an act of sexual misconduct for a clergyperson, certified lay minister, or other person appointed or assigned by the bishop to enter into a dating or romantic relationship with a parishioner. For the sake of maintaining healthy boundaries and preventing a betrayal of sacred trust, a ministerial leader who has a genuine desire to date a parishioner must contact their District Superintendent, and in consultation with the District Superintendent, determine a reasonable course of action for discontinuing the pastor/parishioner relationship before beginning a dating relationship.

Lay harassment of clergy (Book of Discipline 2012, paragraph 605.9*)*
Clergy are generally considered to be in positions of power due to their professional role as spiritual leaders within a church. There are, however, situations in which professing members of a church have the power to create a hostile or abusive environment that undermines the ministry of the clergy person. Sexual or gender harassment of clergy, or indeed any relationship and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of persons serving within an appointment, is a chargeable offense for laity (*Book of Discipline 2012*, paragraph 2702.3).

Use of pornography (Book of Discipline 2012, paragraph 2702.1 and 2702.3; and specifically, Book of Resolutions 2012, pp. 155-63.])
The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (*Book of Discipline 2012 paragraph 161F and H)* include this statement: "We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex." As a church, we affirm the image of God in every human being and our sexuality as a good gift of God. The use, participation in, or production of pornographic materials in any way, shape or form, in any location including on private communication devices constitutes an objectification of a child of God, and is a serious denial of the image of God in the persons involved. The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference deplores the use and dissemination of pornography in any setting.

Reporting
Any person who has credible reason to believe that a violation of this policy has occurred should bring the matter to the attention of the Bishop or a District Superintendent. (For reporting abuse of children and youth, see *EPA Safe Sanctuary Policy.*) Every complaint of sexual misconduct shall be taken very seriously. Nothing in this policy requires the person alleging sexual misconduct to report the matter to the individual who is the subject of the allegation. See *Book of Discipline 2012*, paragraph 363 for specific procedures for filing and handling complaints. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women offers guidance; see www.umsexualethics.org.

Investigations and Privacy
The EPA Conference is committed to a prompt and thorough investigation of allegations and appropriate corrective action, in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* and state law. It is intended that the privacy of the persons involved be protected, except to the extent necessary to conduct a proper investigation and to appropriately respond. The EPA Conference will cooperate fully in any criminal investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the matter.

Non-retaliation
Every complaint of sexual misconduct shall be taken very seriously. Retaliation against anyone who reports an act of ministerial misconduct in good faith will not be tolerated and will be handled through appropriate discipline. However, individuals who make false, frivolous, or malicious complaints will be held accountable.

This is a policy statement of *The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference*, approved and updated on _____.

Note: For more information about this policy, contact the local District Superintendent or the Conference Office at 610-666-9090 or www.epaumc.org.

RESOLUTION # 2016 - 20
RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution Establishing an Ad-Hoc Study Committee to Evaluate Alternative Fair Voting Methods for Electing Members to Committees and Delegations
Presented by Arch Street United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, The Constitution of The United Methodist Church calls for a "fair and open process" to elect members to serve on annual conference boards and commissions and for electing delegates to general conference (¶ 13. Article 1.2) but does not specify the method of election; and

WHEREAS, many elections at the annual conference level require numerous rounds of voting when nominees for an office or seat do not receive enough votes required to fill the seat – especially when electing general conference delegates – limiting the time available for the Body to discern important matters of faith and practice; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting ensures all participants have equal voice in electing one or more members to serve the Church by giving voting members the ability to rank candidates in order of preference; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting (also known as "preferential voting") is the recommend voting method for Robert's Rules of Order, and Robert's Rules concludes that "It makes possible a more representative result than under a rule that a plurality shall elect." (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Chapter XIII §45. 11th edition, 2011, p. 425-28); and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting has been used since the late 1800s and votes can be counted by hand or using modern voting technology; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting is a process of ranking nominees in order of preference (first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on). All first choices are counted, and nominees with the fewest votes are eliminated. If a voter member's first choice is eliminated, their vote instantly goes to their next choice. Receiving a majority of votes elects nominees for a single position and nominees for multiple positions (like a conference board or delegation) are elected based on a determined threshold in proportion to the number of votes as determined by the Droop quota. (See "Dropp Quota" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droop_quota); and

WHEREAS, ranked ballots have been used for elections by organizations and in communities across the United States and around the world (including Portland, Maine, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Australian House of Representatives, and the Republic of Ireland to elect its president) to ensure fair results that are representative of the voting body; (See "Where Ranked Choice Voting Is Used"
http://www.fairvote.org/reforms/instant-runoff-voting/where-rcv-is-used-);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference shall establish an ad-hoc committee that includes the input of the Bishop, Conference Secretary, and Election Judge along with conference members knowledgeable about different voting methods to study the use of ranked choice voting or other alternative voting methods for electing nominees when there are more than two nominees for a conference board position or when electing a delegation.

Person Responsible for Presenting the Resolution: Michelle C. Whittaker

Resolution 2016 - 21
Relating to the Discontinuance of Park United Methodist Church of Freeland
Presented by Northeast District of the Eastern PA Conference

WHEREAS, the Freeland: Park United Methodist Church of Luzerne County, founded in 1905 and first known as Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church founded in 1874, has a long and proud history of serving the people of Freeland,

WHEREAS, the Freeland: Park United Methodist Church contacted the Northeast District Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference on March 7, 2016 to inform the Superintendent of the congregation's decision to close due limited resources and extreme decline in membership,

WHEREAS the district superintendent and the NE District Board of Church Location and Building have recommended discontinuance of Freeland: Park United Methodist Church and the sale of the property; and

WHEREAS, the Freeland: Park United Methodist Church voted at a special charge conference held on May 18, 2016 to discontinue the church on June 30, 2016,

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents on May 19, 2016, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Freeland: Park United Methodist Church will be discontinued effective June 30, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference distribute the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the Freeland: **Park United Methodist Church, following the guidelines of the Book of Discipline and the actions of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records be forwarded to the archives of the St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Person responsible for presenting resolution: The Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto