

# Resolutions

**Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
June 15-17, 2017**



231st Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456



## 2017 RESOLUTIONS

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 01A**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of Water Works United Methodist Church**  
4 **Presented by Northwest District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Water Works United Methodist Church, established in 1843 in North  
7 Annville Township, Pennsylvania, has a long history of ministering to the community; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Water Works United Methodist Church voted at their Annual Charge  
10 Conference on August 27, 2016 to discontinue as of April 30, 2017, with the last service  
11 being held on April 30, 2017, and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of Water  
14 Works United Methodist Church; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
17 Conference have given their approval:  
18

19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Water Works United Methodist Church be  
20 discontinued as of April 30, 2017 with thankful gratitude for 174 years of faithful service  
21 to the North Annville Township; and  
22

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the historical documents be forwarded to the Eastern  
24 Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives and History; and  
25

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the real church property and the cemetery site be  
27 given to the Palmyra: Gravel Hill United Methodist Church as a possible future ministry  
28 site.  
29

30 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. H. Joe Tyson, Northwest  
31 District Superintendent  
1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 01B**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of Shenandoah: First United Methodist**  
4 **Church**  
5 **Presented by Northwest District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Shenandoah: First United Methodist Church, established in 1867 in  
8 Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, has a long history of ministering to the community; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Shenandoah: First United Methodist Church voted at a Special Charge  
11 Conference on November 13, 2016 to discontinue as of December 31, 2016, with the last  
12 service being held on December, 24 2016; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of  
15 Shenandoah: First United Methodist Church; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
18 Conference have given their approval; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the members of Shenandoah: First who could not be contacted or those who  
21 could not make the decision for themselves would have their memberships transferred to  
22 Mahanoy City: First; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, items from the church would go to the Odd Fellows Cemetery Chapel as a  
25 memorial to the church; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference were granted full  
28 responsibility for the disposal of the church and remaining assets:  
29

30 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Shenandoah: First United Methodist Church  
31 be discontinued as of December 31, 2016 with thankful gratitude for 150 years of faithful  
32 service to the Shenandoah area; and  
33

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the historical documents be forwarded to the Eastern  
35 Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives and History; and  
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and  
38 other remaining assets held by Shenandoah: First United Methodist Church be distributed  
39 by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, as they deem  
40 appropriate.  
41

42 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. H. Joe Tyson, Northwest  
43 District Superintendent  
44

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 01C**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to the Discontinuance of Alice Focht Memorial United**  
4 **Methodist Church**  
5 **Presented by the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Alice Focht Memorial United Methodist Church in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania,  
8 founded in 1837, has a long and proud history of serving the people of Birdsboro; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Alice Focht Memorial United Methodist Church voted on November 27, 2016  
11 to discontinue the church on April 30, 2017; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Alice Focht Memorial United Methodist Church contacted the Central District  
14 Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to inform the Superintendent of the  
15 congregation's decision to close as of April 30, 2017; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Board of Trustees was granted  
18 full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets,  
19

20 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Alice Focht United Methodist Church  
21 discontinue, effective April 30, 2017.  
22

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and  
24 other remaining assets held by Alice Focht Memorial United Methodist Church be  
25 distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in  
26 accordance with Annual Conference policy.  
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that historical records be forwarded to the archives of St.  
29 George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.  
30

31 **Person responsible for presenting resolution:** Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell and Rev.  
32 Patricia Goshert.

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 – 01D**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of Siloam United Methodist Church**  
4 **Presented by Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, Siloam United Methodist Church, established in 1897 in Chester,  
7 Pennsylvania, has a long and proud history of ministering to the community of Chester;  
8 and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Siloam United Methodist Church voted on May 18, 2017 to discontinue  
11 the church effective June 30, 2017; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Siloam United Methodist Church contacted the Southeast District Office of  
14 the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to inform the Superintendent of the congregation's  
15 desire to close as of June 30, 2017; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
18 Conference have given their approval; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Board of Trustees were granted  
21 full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets;  
22

23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Siloam United Methodist Church be discontinued  
24 effective June 30, 2017 with thankful gratitude for 119 years of faithful service to the  
25 Chester community; and  
26

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and  
28 other remaining assets held by Siloam United Methodist Church be distributed by the  
29 Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in accordance with Annual  
30 Conference policy; and  
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that historical records be forwarded to the archives of St.  
33 George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.  
34

35 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm,  
36 Southeast District Superintendent  
1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 02**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution to Transfer the Barry: Salem United Methodist Church To The**  
4 **Susquehanna Conference**  
5 **Presented by The Rev. H. Joe Tyson, Northwest District Superintendent**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Barry: Salem United Methodist Church is located just east of Hegins, is  
8 situated in the Tri-Valley School District, and most of the membership of this congregation  
9 relates most directly with the Hegins community, historically having cooperated regularly  
10 with the St. John's United Methodist Church in Hegins; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Barry: Salem UMC has requested to become part of the Susquehanna  
13 Annual Conference, with endorsement from both Bishop Jeremiah Park and the Cabinet  
14 of the Susquehanna Annual Conference and have given their approval; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, at a duly called charge conference Barry: Salem UMC voted to be transferred  
17 to the Susquehanna Annual Conference; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶41 and ¶260 state that "a local church may be  
20 transferred from one annual conference to another in which it is geographically located  
21 upon approval by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in each of the following:  
22 the charge conference; the congregational meeting of the local church; and each of the  
23 two annual conferences involved" (BOD ¶41); and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Barry: Salem UMC has had their charge conference and congregational  
26 meetings at which the two-thirds approval was received; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
29 Conference have given their approval; now  
30

31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference vote  
32 to move the Barry: Salem United Methodist Church into the Susquehanna Conference,  
33 effective July 1, 2017.  
34

35 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: The Rev. H. Joe Tyson, Northwest**  
36 **District Superintendent**  
1

1 **Resolution 2017 - 03**  
2 **Resolution to 2017 Annual Conference Session**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and**  
4 **Congressional Redistricting**  
5 **Presented by the EPC Church and Society Work Team**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church in the article on the  
8 Political Community, section A) *Basic Freedoms and Human Rights* states, “We hold  
9 governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair  
10 elections...”; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church in the article on the  
13 Political Community, section B) *Political Responsibility* states, “The strength of a political  
14 system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should  
15 continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and  
16 programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust.” and,  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United  
19 Methodist Church and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully  
20 transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state  
21 legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, legislative and congressional redistricting has often resulted in the  
24 gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party or the other; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked  
27 at times to the detriment of our representative democracy by impeding action on critical  
28 issues of importance to the people; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid  
31 of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate redistricting  
32 process that will allow for public input and will fully comply with the constitutional  
33 requirement that “no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward” be  
34 divided “unless absolutely necessary”; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 22 has been introduced in the current legislative session to  
37 provide for legislative redistricting reform.  
38

39 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United  
40 Methodist Church does hereby support efforts for legislative redistricting reform, and asks  
41 church members to contact their legislators urging them to support redistricting reform.  
42

43 **Person responsible for presenting resolution:** Barbara Drake, Chairperson of Church  
44 and Society Work Team.



1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 04**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution For a Rule Change Relating to Episcopal Candidate Endorsement**  
4 **Presented by the EPC 2016 Jurisdictional Conference Delegation.**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, The current Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are  
7 silent on the method that shall be used to endorse an episcopal candidate,  
8

9 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference amend the  
10 Rules of Order to include the following process for endorsing an episcopal candidate:  
11

12 1. The Annual Conference shall, in the year preceding the conference session during  
13 which episcopal candidates are to be nominated, solicit potential nominees from all the  
14 members both lay and clergy of the Annual Conference. Each member may nominate  
15 the number of Elders for which there are vacancies in the jurisdiction to be filled, provided  
16 the nominees are Elders in good standing in the Conference. Any Elder who receives at  
17 least 10 nominations will have their biographical details and personal statement printed  
18 in the conference newspaper to be mailed/distributed for study prior to the electing  
19 conference session.  
20

21 2. At the EPA annual conference session immediately prior to the next regular session of  
22 the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the EPA jurisdictional delegation may  
23 present one or more names to the annual conference for endorsement. The jurisdictional  
24 delegation may also choose to present no names to the annual conference. If the  
25 delegation places one or more names before the conference, annual conference  
26 delegates shall then proceed to confirm the recommendation(s) of the delegation by a 2/3  
27 vote by those present and eligible to vote. Likewise, if the delegation recommends no  
28 persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that recommendation by the same  
29 2/3 vote.  
30

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

33 a. The ordained elder(s) in full connection being nominated from the floor shall  
34 have given consent prior to the making of the nomination, and will at the time the  
35 nomination is made present a nominating petition to the secretary of the annual  
36 conference with the names and signatures of ten persons, laity or clergy, who are  
37 members of the Annual Conference.  
38

39 b. At least five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement for such  
40 nominees will be available and distributed to annual conference delegates at the  
41 time the nomination is made.  
42

43 c. A minimum of four hours shall elapse, after all nominations have been  
44 received from the floor, before a ballot is taken.  
45

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

52  
53 5. After five such ballots have been taken, a motion to discontinue balloting shall then be  
54 in order, requiring a simple majority. Any persons who have received the requisite 2/3  
55 majority shall be considered the endorsed episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern  
56 Pennsylvania Conference. If no person has obtained the required 2/3 majority, then no  
57 person shall be considered to have been endorsed by the Eastern Pennsylvania  
58 Conference.

59  
60 6. The Jurisdictional delegation shall not be bound by any action of the delegation or the  
61 annual conference regarding confirmed and/or endorsed nominees when the  
62 Jurisdictional delegates cast their votes at Jurisdictional Conference (§405.1, 2012 The  
63 Book of Discipline).

64  
65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this new rule shall be titled "NOMINATION OF  
66 EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES."

67  
68 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this new rule shall be listed in the Rules of Order  
69 as Article XVII, and that all rules beginning with the current Article XVII of the Rules of  
70 Order (Petitions to General Conference), and following, be renumbered accordingly.

71  
72 **Person responsible for presenting resolution:** Herbert Coe, Andrew L. Foster, III,  
73 Irving Cotto, Joe DiPaolo, Judith Ehninger, Krystl Johnson, Lydia Munoz

1 **Resolution 2017 - 05**  
2 **Resolution to 2017 Annual Conference Session**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Establishment of a Domestic Violence Response Team**  
4 **Presented by: the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Health & Healing Council**  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church in the article on the  
7 Nurturing Community, section G) *Family Violence and Abuse* states, “We recognize that  
8 family violence and abuse in all its forms—verbal, psychological, physical sexual—is  
9 detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage the Church to  
10 provide a safe environment, counsel, and support for the victim”; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that domestic  
13 violence is epidemic within our society, affecting individuals in every community  
14 regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or  
15 nationality; and,  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the devastating physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of  
18 domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, domestic violence violates the human rights of those who are victimized,  
21 diminishing their dignity and worth; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the faith community is called by God to respond to victims and abusers as a  
24 matter of justice and righteousness; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, churches need to be able to respond to domestic violence in appropriate,  
27 and life-giving ways that create supportive environments, optimize the safety of victims,  
28 and promote initiatives of awareness and education;  
29

30 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the  
31 United Methodist Church establish a Domestic Violence Response Team which shall  
32 function under the direction of the Director of Connectional Ministries.  
33

34 **Person responsible for presenting resolution:** Sharon Hachtman, Deaconess, Co-  
35 Chairperson of Health and Healing Council.  
1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 06**  
2 **RESOLUTION to 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to Promoting Justice and Ministry Among Racial-Ethnic Groups**  
4 **Presented by the Eastern PA Conference Committee on Religion and Race**  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Committee on Religion and Race shares with many others a primary  
7 concern for justice, equity and development of ministries and leadership among diverse  
8 racial-ethnic persons and groups active in our conference and beyond;  
9

10 **AND WHEREAS**, our conference continues to support various groups and initiatives that  
11 offer evidence of that primary concern—including the Latino Commission, Black  
12 Methodists for Church Renewal, the Korean Clergy Caucus, the Committee on Native  
13 American Ministries, the NEJ Call to Action commitment and the Act of Repentance  
14 observed at the 2016 Annual Conference with a commitment to ongoing learning and  
15 advocacy;  
16

17 **AND WHEREAS**, those groups and initiatives rightfully call upon us, as does our faith in  
18 Christ and our Wesleyan legacy, to do more, much more, to overcome the causes and  
19 consequences of racism and the inequities caused by white privilege, while creating and  
20 advancing opportunities for leadership and ministry development among racial-ethnic  
21 members and churches:  
22

23 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference affirms historic and  
24 ongoing efforts throughout the conference to challenge and undo racism and racial  
25 inequity and to help develop strong leadership and viable ministries among all racial-  
26 ethnic members, churches and communities;  
27

28 **AND THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference  
29 affirms its intention, its holy and bold determination, to increase its support for such efforts  
30 to dismantle racism and build up opportunities for progress in developing leadership and  
31 ministries among racial-ethnic churches, groups and members throughout the  
32 conference.  
33

34 **Persons responsible for presenting this resolution:** The Rev. Alicia M Julia-Stanley  
35 and The Rev. Hun Ju Lee from The Eastern PA Annual Conference Commission on  
36 Religion and Race  
1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 07**  
2 **RESOLUTION to the 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to Affirming the Eastern PA Conference Response to the**  
4 **Northeastern Jurisdiction Call to Action**  
5 **Presented by the Eastern PA Conference Commission on Religion and Race**  
6

7 **WHEREAS** Delegates and Bishops at the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference  
8 in Lancaster, PA, gave unanimous support to a Call to Action resolution calling for serious  
9 endeavors by the jurisdiction and its annual conferences over the 2017-2020  
10 quadrennium to examine, address and strive to remedy the causes and consequences of  
11 institutional and interpersonal racism that obstructs our true discipleship and credible  
12 witness as children of God and followers of Jesus Christ;

13  
14 **AND WHEREAS** our Eastern PA Conference Bishop and Jurisdictional Conference  
15 delegates joined in that show of support and the commitment to pursue the Call to  
16 Action goals;

17  
18 **AND WHEREAS** Bishop Peggy Johnson, the Cabinet of District Superintendents,  
19 Connectional Ministries staff and various elected councils and committees have so far  
20 engaged in efforts to enable intentional discourse and discovery about race, racism, racial  
21 injustice, white privilege and the need for reconciliation;

22  
23 **AND WHEREAS** those efforts—both new and ongoing—have so far included:

- 24 • Candid, informed remarks to district leaders by the Bishop and Cabinet members,
- 25 • Special presentations to Sessions of the Annual Conference,
- 26 • Interracial/intercultural dialogues and ministry activities sponsored by
- 27 districts and mission connexions,
- 28 • Teaching and training workshops to improve intercultural competency,
- 29 • Conversations with the Board of Ordained Ministry about the need to recruit
- 30 more African American candidates for ministry and addressing perceived
- 31 obstacles in the candidacy process,
- 32 • Initial conversations about possibilities for strengthening black churches and
- 33 creating a new faith community focused on engaging black youth and young
- 34 adults,
- 35 • News and persuasive opinion articles in our conference media, and
- 36 • The promotion, sharing and study of relevant print and video resources on race
- 37 and racism,
- 38 • Efforts among UM Women to promote the newly updated Charter for Racial
- 39 Justice,
- 40 • Planning and promotion of “Hearts on Fire,” a leaning and networking
- 41 symposium on social justice as social holiness, with a focus on racial justice,
- 42 scheduled for May 13, 2017;

43  
44 **AND WHEREAS** all conference staff and clergy and laity appointed to churches or  
45 assigned to key leadership roles are required to receive certified anti-racism training

46 and are offered the twice-yearly, conference-endorsed Changing Racism classes to  
47 fulfill that requirement (Changing Racism, taught by Visions, Inc., is the successor to  
48 Healing the Wounds of Racism training events that the conference initiated two  
49 decades ago);

50  
51 **AND WHEREAS** Bishop Johnson has reported these many efforts to the NEJ  
52 College of Bishops and Episcopacy Committee and gained much affirmation from  
53 those bodies for our exemplary efforts;

54  
55 **BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms the  
56 unanimous support expressed for the NEJ Call to Action by our Bishop and  
57 Jurisdictional Conference delegates in July 2016.

58  
59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms the  
60 dedication and ongoing efforts of many individuals, groups and churches in our  
61 conference and its districts to respond to the NEJ Call to Action by beginning or  
62 increasing their efforts to seek racial understanding, justice and healing, to confront  
63 racism and white privilege, and to affirm the value of black lives, black churches, black  
64 leadership and black communities.

65  
66 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms that  
67 much more needs to be done and accounted for in our conference and other conferences  
68 during this quadrennium to respond to the important requests and worthy goals put forth  
69 in the groundbreaking NEJ Call to Action resolution— goals that envision the  
70 achievement of true racial justice, reconciliation, progress and healing, led by true  
71 disciples of Jesus Christ committed to God’s transforming work in the world.

72  
73 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** The Rev. Susan Worrell and Mrs.  
74 Gladys B. Hubbard from The Eastern PA Annual Conference Commission on Religion  
75 and Race

1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 08**  
2 **RESOLUTION to the 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to Anti-Racism Training via Healing the Wounds of Racism and**  
4 **Changing Racism**  
5 **Presented by the Eastern PA Conference Commission on Religion and Race**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, which includes churches and  
8 members of the former, racially segregated Delaware Annual Conference and Central  
9 Jurisdiction, recognizes that it has a difficult, divisive racial history, which is often  
10 neglected (as when the Commission on Archives and History celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup>  
11 anniversary of The United Methodist Church at the 1993 Annual Conference session,  
12 failed to mention the dissolution and incorporation of the Central Jurisdiction, and failed  
13 to correct that omission despite objections from the body);  
14

15 **AND WHEREAS**, In 1994 – 1996 the Eastern PA Conference established a Coordinator  
16 of Human Relations staff position, a Task Force on Racism in Rural Areas, and a Plan for  
17 Eliminating Racism in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference;  
18

19 **AND WHEREAS**, To implement the Plan for Eliminating Racism, the Eastern PA  
20 Conference initiated Healing the Wounds of Racism workshops two decades ago, in  
21 1996, to train local church Healers for anti-racism efforts—a response to the 1996  
22 General Conference mandate that each annual conference and local church develop  
23 concrete programs of anti-racism training and dismantling racism;  
24

25 **AND WHEREAS**, The 1997 Annual Conference also initiated collaboration among the  
26 Office of Human Relations, Commission on Religion and Race, and Healing the Wounds  
27 of Racism to establish team-based consultation on cross-cultural appointments and  
28 conflict resolution;  
29

30 **AND WHEREAS**, Healing the Wounds of Racism workshops led numerous, profoundly  
31 affected participants to share “Healing Moments” comments at the 1997 Annual  
32 Conference and subsequently, led other participants to witness to the personal and  
33 interpersonal impact of these experiential workshops on them and others over the years;  
34

35 **AND WHEREAS**, An intercultural Healing the Wounds of Racism Accountability Group  
36 (later renamed the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Team) was created in 1998 to  
37 convene Healers Community meetings, to assist the Coordinator of Human Relations in  
38 her work, and to research and report accountability findings to the Conference  
39 Transformation Team and the Commission on Religion and Race, while also leading to  
40 creation of a People of Color Accountability Group, in recognition that anti-racism work  
41 needs to be accountable to people of color;  
42

43 **AND WHEREAS**, The Eastern PA Conference began offering Changing Racism  
44 workshops, led by Visions, Inc., in 2012, as a successor to Healing the Wounds of Racism  
45 workshops, to provide a different but still dynamic experience of transformational learning  
46 for cross-racial/cross cultural interaction for conference members;

47  
48 **BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms and  
49 celebrates the significant benefits and legacy of anti-racism, human relations and human  
50 development provided to many lay and clergy members by the Healing the Wounds of  
51 Racism experience;

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms and  
54 celebrates our conference, district, local church and episcopal leaders who established,  
55 supported and promoted Healing the Wounds of Racism, so that many members could  
56 meaningfully engage in the sacred work of dismantling racism;

57  
58 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms and  
59 celebrates the developmental, relational and transformational impact that the Changing  
60 Racism workshops are making in the lives, relationships and ministries of many members  
61 who have benefited—and will continue to benefit—from that intensive learning  
62 experience.

63  
64 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Annual Conference affirms its  
65 ongoing policy that the training offered in Changing Racism or similar workshops is  
66 mandatory for all conference staff and all clergy and lay ministers in appointed or assigned  
67 positions of church or Conference leadership.

68  
69 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as a people committed to growing in our  
70 discipleship of Christ, the members of the Eastern PA Annual Conference renew their  
71 commitment and dedication to dismantling racism.

72  
73 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** The Rev. Susan Worrell and The  
74 Rev. Alicia M Julia-Stanley, Co-Chairs of The Eastern PA Annual Conference  
75 Commission on Religion and Race



1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 09**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Full Inclusion of LGBTQ Persons in The United Methodist**  
4 **Church: -- Ordination Equality**  
5 **Presented by the following congregations: Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC, First UMC**  
6 **of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC,**  
7 **Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC**  
8 **Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Hope UMC and Union UMC of**  
9 **Havertown.**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in John 14 (NRSV) we read these words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
12 believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places."  
13 and "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he  
14 will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the  
15 world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him,  
16 because he abides with you and he will be in you;" and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, in Matthew 12 (NRSV) we read these words, "Whoever speaks against the  
19 Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven  
20 either in this age or in the age to come;" and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, in Mark 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "Let the little children come to me;  
23 do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell  
24 you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it;" and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, in Luke 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "You shall love the Lord your God  
27 with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind;  
28 and your neighbor as yourself;" and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, in John 4 (NRSV), we read, "When was it that we saw you a stranger and  
31 welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick  
32 or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, Truly, I tell you, just as you  
33 did it to one of least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me;" and

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

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, in the passages above, in welcoming strangers, children and social outcasts,  
39 Jesus proclaims the good news that no one is without the potential, promise and  
40 permission to praise God to proclaim the truth and to practice the faith. So when Jesus  
41 announces "I am the way and the truth and the life." In John 14 (NRSV), he calls forth the  
42 sacred name of God "I AM, Who I Am," the name that includes the sacred being of us all;  
43 and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ persons have a dwelling place in the company of Jesus and hold  
46 claim to great gifts of the Holy Spirit:

47  
48 **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that when presenting themselves for consideration  
49 for Ordination in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist  
50 Church no candidate shall be denied just consideration because of their sexual orientation  
51 or gender identity; and

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Conference recommends its District Committees  
54 on Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry to interview all candidates for Ordination,  
55 regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

56  
57 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Sukja Bang

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 10**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Full Inclusion of LGBTQ Persons in The United Methodist**  
4 **Church: Marriage Equality**  
5 **Presented by the following congregations: Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC, First UMC**  
6 **of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC,**  
7 **Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC**  
8 **Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Hope UMC of Havertown, and Union**  
9 **UMC of Havertown.**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in John 14 (NRSV) we read these words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
12 believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places."  
13 and "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he  
14 will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the  
15 world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him,  
16 because he abides with you and he will be in you;" and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, in Matthew 12 (NRSV) we read these words, "Whoever speaks against the  
19 Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven  
20 either in this age or in the age to come;" and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, in Mark 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "Let the little children come to me;  
23 do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell  
24 you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it;" and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, in Luke 10 (NRSV), we read these words, "You shall love the Lord your God  
27 with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind;  
28 and your neighbor as yourself;" and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, in John 4 (NRSV), we read, "When was it that we saw you a stranger and  
31 welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick

32 or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, Truly, I tell you, just as you  
33 did it to one of least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me;" and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, in the passages above, Jesus proclaims that his household has room for all  
36 who seek to follow the Great Commandment and seek to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit;  
37 and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, in the passages above, in welcoming strangers, children and social outcasts,  
40 Jesus proclaims the Good News that no one is without the potential, promise, and  
41 permission to praise God to proclaim the truth and to practice the faith. So when Jesus  
42 announces "I am the way and the truth and the life." In John 14 (NRSV), he calls forth the  
43 sacred name of God "I AM, Who I Am," the name that includes the sacred being of us all;  
44 and

45 **WHEREAS**, in Galatians 4 (NRSV), we read, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is  
46 no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ  
47 Jesus;" and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ persons have a dwelling place in the company of Jesus and hold  
50 claim to great gifts of the Holy Spirit:

51  
52 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of  
53 The United Methodist Church supports the right of lesbian and gay persons to marry each  
54 other in civil and religious ceremonies; and

55  
56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Conference supports the decision of the clergy  
57 and congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference who perform or hold  
58 such ceremonies out of an obedience to their understanding of Christ and scripture; and  
59 the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference also supports the decisions of clergy an  
60 congregations of clergy who do not perform or hold such ceremonies considering their  
61 understanding of Christ and scripture.

62  
63 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Dr. David M. Krueger

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 11**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Radical Welcome**

4 **Presented by the following congregations: Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC, First UMC**  
5 **of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC,**  
6 **Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC**  
7 **Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Hope UMC and Union UMC of**  
8 **Havertown.**

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the National Coalition for the Homeless reports that up to 43% of all  
11 homeless teens identify as LGBT; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center estimates that between 30% and  
14 40% of all LGBT youth have attempted suicide; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, rejection by families of origin and/or by churches is reported by many of  
17 these youth as the principal reason for their homelessness or their suicide attempt; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, most United Methodist churches – regardless of their stand on the *Book of*  
20 *Discipline* and LGBT persons – frequently state that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and  
21 transgender persons are welcome in their local church for worship:

22  
23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
24 encourages all churches to practice radical welcome to LGBT persons by holding a  
25 special event on Sunday, October 8, 2017 (the Sunday closest to National Coming Out  
26 Day); and

27  
28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that practicing radical welcome can be defined as holding  
29 or participating in special events in June (Pride Happenings) and October (Coming Out  
30 Happenings) to let LGBTQ people in our churches and communities know that they are  
31 welcome in our churches, and by offering special prayers for the LGBTQ people and their  
32 families in our churches and communities on a special Sunday in the months of June and  
33 October; and

34  
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference invites  
36 the Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania and other interested churches  
37 to represent the Conference as a welcoming presence at Pride Parades and Outfests in  
38 their communities in June and October 2017.

39  
40 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Herbert J. Snyder

1  
1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 12**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Stopping Church Trials: A Moratorium Within the Eastern**  
4 **Pennsylvania Annual Conference**  
5 **Presented by the following congregations: Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC, First UMC**  
6 **of Germantown, Historic St. George’s UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC,**  
7 **Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC**  
8 **Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Hope UMC and Union UMC of**  
9 **Havertown.**

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the United Methodist Church General Rules include John Wesley’s  
12 instructions to “do no harm” (§ 102, UM Book of Discipline) based on the Gospel  
13 imperative to “do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12; Luke  
14 6:31); and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, our Baptismal Covenant commits United Methodists to “resist evil, injustice,  
17 and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves;” and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, when Jesus was asked which commandment in the law is the greatest, he  
20 said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with  
21 all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment, and the second is like it: you  
22 shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39); and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, punitive complaints and prosecutions of persons who are either LGBTQI or  
25 who have performed same sex weddings have harmed the both the Gospel witness of  
26 the Church and “the evangelistic, educational, and benevolent interests of the Church...”  
27 within the Jurisdiction; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS** the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference should be a place where  
30 LGBTQI persons can find safe space, an arena for the expression of and celebration of  
31 their individual gifts in service and ministry, enjoy the blessings of family and marriage,  
32 and participate fully, openly, and equally in the full life and leadership of the church; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS** the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference declares itself to be in solidarity  
35 with and in support of LGBTQI lay persons, clergy, candidates for ministry, and their  
36 families, and further declared as its sacred duty the protection of the full and equal  
37 participation of LGBTQI lay persons, clergy, candidates for ministry, and their families in  
38 the life and leadership of the church; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS** LGBTQI people are finding welcoming communities in the United Methodist  
41 Church and in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, they are finding clergy, laity  
42 and congregations embracing them joyfully as members of the body of Christ, as United  
43 Methodists in good standing, and as gifted children of God entitled equally to all the  
44 ministries, ceremonies and sacraments of the church; and

45 **WHEREAS** our welcoming spirit is harmed by punitive prosecutions that cause younger  
46 generations, including LGBTQI individuals, to question their place in a church that  
47 practices discrimination while proclaiming its doors to be open; and  
48

49 **WHEREAS** despite over forty-four years of negative UMC teachings and punitive policies  
50 regarding LGBTQI persons and those who minister with and for them, resistance to the  
51 denomination’s harsh and discriminatory policies is increasing and taking on new forms,  
52 and large numbers of LGBTQI clergy have publicly declared themselves; and  
53

54 **WHEREAS** the 2016 General Conference not only failed to overcome this impasse; it  
55 was itself brought to crisis by the collision of forces seeking to strengthen the system of  
56 discrimination and punishments with forces demanding that the discrimination and the  
57 punishments cease; and  
58

59 **WHEREAS** in response to that crisis and at the insistence of the General Conference, on  
60 Wednesday, May 13, the Council of Bishops responded by presenting to the General  
61 Conference a proposal entitled An Offering of a Way Forward From the Council of  
62 Bishops; and  
63

64 **WHEREAS** An Offering of a Way Forward From the Council of Bishops contains the  
65 following statements: “1. We understand that part of our role as bishops is to lead the  
66 church toward new behaviors, a new way of being and new forms and structures which  
67 allow a unity of our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of  
68 the world” while allowing for differing expressions as a global church. 2. We recommend  
69 that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire  
70 subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops, to develop a complete  
71 examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding  
72 human sexuality. We continue to hear from many people on the debate over sexuality  
73 that our current Discipline contains language which is contradictory, unnecessarily hurtful,  
74 and inadequate for the variety of local, regional and global contexts. We will name such  
75 a Commission to include persons from every region of our UMC, and will include  
76 representation from differing perspectives on the debate. We commit to maintain an on-  
77 going dialogue with this Commission as they do their work, including clear objectives and  
78 outcomes. Should they complete their work in time for a called General Conference, then  
79 we will call a two- to three-day gathering before the 2020 General Conference. 3. We will  
80 continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another – including  
81 ways to avoid further complaints, trials and harm while we uphold the Discipline. We will  
82 continue our conversation on this matter and report our progress to you and to the whole  
83 church;” and  
84

85 **WHEREAS** the 2016 General Conference 2016 adopted the proposal of the Bishops, and  
86 the special Commission has been named and the process outlined therein is unfolding;  
87 and  
88

89 **WHEREAS** the initiation of or continuation of punitive actions against LGBTQI persons  
90 seeking to live as equal members of the United Methodist Church or the initiation of or

91 continuation of punitive actions against clergy who minister with LGBTQI persons serves  
92 to inflict further harm, as has been acknowledged by the Council of Bishops in An Offering  
93 of a Way Forward, and to poison the atmosphere for the dialogue that has been initiated;  
94 and

95  
96 **WHEREAS**, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012) prescribes  
97 that “Bishops elected by or administering in a jurisdictional conference shall be amenable  
98 for their conduct to their jurisdictional conference.” (§ 523, UM Book of Discipline):

99  
100 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference calls  
101 upon its Bishop to try to avoid bringing clergy who perform same sex marriages to trial  
102 and to seek just resolution in other ways until the General Conference committee on A  
103 Way Forward reports its recommendations in 2019..

104  
105 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Laurie Ann Rookard

1 **Resolution 2017 - 13**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution relating to Continuing the Journey Toward Healing and Wholeness with**  
4 **Indigenous Peoples established by the Act of Repentance.**

5 **Presented by Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Committee on Native American**  
6 **Ministries (CoNAM)**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the 2012 General Conference engaged in an Act of Repentance service as  
9 a first step in calling the church to acknowledge and seek forgiveness for past sins while  
10 launching a process of healing relationships with indigenous persons throughout the  
11 world.

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, each annual conference was to hold a service of Act of Repentance in the  
14 following quadrennium, during which the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
15 engaged in an Act of Repentance in 2016 with a list of action steps to continue the process  
16 of healing.

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, many Native Americans in the United Methodist Church supported this action  
19 with varying degrees of confidence and hope that these Acts of Repentance would  
20 amount to more than a moment of remembrance and recognition of wrongs done.

21  
22 **WHEREAS** the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has made progress but has neither  
23 fully met the goals and objectives laid out in the adopted 2012 resolution on responding  
24 to the Act of Repentance nor taken the action steps proposed in the 2016 Act of  
25 Repentance service as part of the continuing journey, especially concerning the election  
26 at the charge conference of a designated person to fulfill the role of local church  
27 representative for Native American Ministries.

28

29 **WHEREAS**, in John 1:1-5 (NRSV) the gospel message tells us that, “In the beginning  
30 was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the  
31 beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing  
32 came into being.” And as we heard from Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett in his sermon  
33 to us, this verse can be summed up in the Lakota phrase “Mitákuye Oyás’iŋ,” all my  
34 relatives, meaning to say that we are kinfolk as we serve Jesus. Although we have not  
35 understood this historically in United Methodism, his hope for us was that “in the next 40  
36 years Native Americans can become an equal partner in the United Methodist Church as  
37 human beings who have not been marginalized, who have great wisdom to contribute,  
38 and are welcomed because of who they are and their theological history.”

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, Native Americans today face significant issues in health care, high suicide  
41 rates, desecration of sacred sites by oil and mining companies, contention over water  
42 rights, and threats to tribal sovereignty.

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, Native Americans are living among us in Eastern Pennsylvania and are in  
45 need of support and advocacy.

46  
47 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference District  
48 Superintendents will work with Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CoNAM and the local  
49 churches/charges to identify and elect at each charge conference a representative for  
50 Native American Ministries according to the guidelines in the Book of Discipline, 2016,  
51 paragraph 654.

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CoNAM and  
54 clergy will work with local church CoNAM representatives to encourage and develop at  
55 least a yearly recognition of Native American contributions to the church through worship  
56 services and/or celebrating Native American Ministry Sunday, Book of Discipline, 2016,  
57 paragraph 824.6.

58  
59 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne

1



1 **RESOLUTION 2017 – 14 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Regarding Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2018**  
4 **Presented by Commission on Equitable Compensation**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, it is a mandate of the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support  
7 clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference by recommending  
8 conference standards for pastoral support (§625.2(a), 2012 *Discipline*), and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Commission is charged with annually recommending to the Annual  
11 Conference a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors and elders  
12 in full connection appointed to less than full-time service to a local church (§625.3, 2012  
13 *Discipline*), and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks to address the concerns of clergy compensation and  
16 recognize the economic difficulties encountered by churches,  
17

18 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference establish the minimum  
19 starting salaries reflecting a 2% increase for 2018. The schedule for persons under  
20 appointment in the local church for 2018 shall be as follows:  
21

22 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of  
23 the United Methodist Church establishes the minimum base salary for persons under  
24 appointment in the local church for the year 2018 as follows:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 25 a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection .....  | \$41,930 |
| 26 b) Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders       |          |
| 27 under full-time post-seminary appointments..... | \$38,964 |
| 28 c) Associate Members.....                       | \$38,910 |
| 29 d) Full-Time Local Pastors .....                | \$36,830 |
- 30

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to arrive at the minimum cash salary for each pastor,  
32 the required service year increments will be added to the appropriate base listed above  
33 in the amount of 1% of the pastor's base salary for each year of service under  
34 appointment, whether part time or full time, for a maximum of 20 years; and  
35

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each church or charge, in recommending increases,  
37 consider increases above the minimum cash salary, and that Pastor/Staff-Parish  
38 Relations Committees particularly take note of such areas as education, experience,  
39 skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy to Social Security as self-employed persons,  
40 family needs, and payment of health insurance; and  
41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any amount provided as a housing allowance is not  
43 to be considered part of the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution (§252.4(e),  
44 2012 *Discipline*); and  
45

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

49  
50 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Lou Hornberger

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 – 15 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION to the 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons**  
4 **Presented by Board of Pension and Health Benefits**  
5

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

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the practice the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active  
13 Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross  
14 compensation;

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are  
17 considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled  
18 Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service;

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its  
21 predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance  
22 for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference.

23  
24 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or  
25 disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The  
26 United Methodist Church (“the *Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from  
27 Wespath during the year 2018 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a  
28 member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designed as a  
29 rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

30  
31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the pension and disability payments to which this  
32 rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans,  
33 annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from  
34 Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from  
35 benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*,  
36 that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired  
37 or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual  
38 conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church,

39 former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that  
40 employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or  
41 its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under,  
42 such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergy person's pension or  
43 disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

44  
45 **NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross  
46 income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue  
47 Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the  
48 rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate  
49 body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year;  
50 (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such  
51 year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances  
52 (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

53  
54 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Barry Rose

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 – 16 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION to the 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program**  
4 **(CRSP) for the Year 2018**  
5 **Presented by Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

6  
7 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Adoption Agreement for the Clergy Retirement Security  
8 Program shall be applicable to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and, unless  
9 another date is specified below, shall be effective as of January 1, 2018. The Clergy  
10 Retirement Security Program shall be the base retirement plan for the clergy persons  
11 under Episcopal appointment including deacons and members of other denominations  
12 serving at the conference, church, charge, conference responsible unit, conference  
13 controlled entity including clergy on medical leave receiving Comprehensive Protection  
14 Plan (CPP) disability benefits of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in  
15 accordance to the plan adoption agreement beginning on January 1, 2018. Clergy  
16 persons on medical leave and not receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)  
17 disability benefits are not eligible to participate in CRSP.

18  
19 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that on January 1, 2018 the ministerial pension rate for  
20 past service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be set at \$502.00 and the personal contributor's  
21 annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply toward the payment of the  
22 participants formula benefit;

23  
24 **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70%  
25 of the participant's formula benefit;

26

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

31  
32 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Barry Rose

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 17**  
2 **RESOLUTION to the 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Concerning a Comprehensive Funding Plan for Benefit Obligations**  
4 **Presented by Barry Rose, President Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

5  
6 **WHEREAS** Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2016 Book Of Discipline requires that each Annual  
7 Conference shall develop, adopt and implement an annual formal funding plan for funding  
8 all of its benefit obligations; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS** Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2016 Book Of Discipline further states that the  
11 funding plan shall:

- 12 1. Address the funding for liabilities;
- 13 2. Be approved annually by the "Annual Conference", following receipt and inclusion  
14 of a favorable opinion from Wespath; and
- 15 3. Meet the minimum standards established by Wespath for all benefit liabilities;

16  
17 **WHEREAS** Wespath has developed an app which all Annual Conferences are to  
18 complete and submit with their funding plans in a uniform format; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS** The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference staff and the Conference  
21 Board of Pension and Health Benefits along with The Conference Council on Finance  
22 and Administration will develop and approve the Comprehensive Funding Plan for 2018,  
23 a summary of which is included in the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
24 annual report published in the Journal; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS** Funding plans approved in writing by Annual Conference Boards of Pensions  
27 and Annual Conference Councils on Finance and Administration are accepted by  
28 Wespath as "Annual Conference" approval of the plan; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS** this report has not substantively changed from year to year; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS** the completed App is reviewed and approved by Wespath, and the approval  
33 page is included in the Journal;

34  
35 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that commencing in 2017, annual funding plans  
36 for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference shall be submitted to Wespath upon written

37 approval of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and EPA Conference  
38 Council on Finance and Administration and that process shall constitute Annual  
39 Conference approval.

40  
41 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Barry Rose

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 18**

2 **RESOLUTION to the 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Repeal and Re-Enactment of Resolution 2012 - 21**

4 **Presented by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of**  
5 **Pension and Health Benefits, and the Board of Trustees**

6  
7 **WHEREAS** the 2012 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist  
8 Church at its conference session adopted Resolution 2012-21 calling for the elimination  
9 of the pre-82 pension liability, the stabilization of conference reserves, the growing of  
10 churches, and the funding of ministries in a three-tiered approach; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS** the tier-two segment (approving a capital and stewardship fund campaign to  
13 address the pre-1982 unfunded pension liability) has been met successfully; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS** the tier-one segment, distribution of Connectional Ministries Fund (CMF)  
16 surpluses, has resulted in unforeseen cash-flow complications due to a decline in the  
17 number of congregations remitting funds and an increasing number of congregations not  
18 remitting fully allocated apportionments due to reasons of financial struggles; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS** the tier-three segment (proceeds from the sale of churches outside of urban  
21 centers) has proven to be complicated by imprecise standard practices regarding strict  
22 sales of church properties due to closures and mergers, and historical balances owed to  
23 the annual conferences; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS** the complications resulting from these several unforeseen consequences of  
26 tiers one and three have made it acutely difficult for the Conference Council on Finance  
27 and Administration (CCFA) to manage the cash flow of the annual conference in the spirit  
28 of 2012-21 on month-to-month and year-to-year basis;

29  
30 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that tiers one and three of Resolution 2012-21 be  
31 repealed retroactively to January 1, 2017; and

32  
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CCFA be empowered to construct a cash-flow  
34 management plan that orderly, properly, and efficiently directs funds to its various  
35 encumbrments; and

36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the event that a CMF surplus is realized that one-  
38 third of it be directed to further funding the pre-1982 unfunded pension liability and the  
39 remaining two-thirds be used to pay expenses or build reserves; and  
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as it relates to delinquent (past due) apportionment  
42 billings as of December 31, 2016 for local churches in the conference (hereinafter referred  
43 to as “historic balances”),  
44

- 45 a) historic balances shall be summarily forgiven, with the exception of historic  
46 balances owed on pensions, health benefits for clergy and laity, property and  
47 liability insurance, retired clergy and health obligation, and workers compensation  
48 (commonly referred to as “billed funds”);  
49 b) as an act of justice, the conference releases churches that were in the former  
50 Delaware Conference<sup>1</sup> from any further responsibility for any and all historic  
51 balances except health benefit and pension contributions.  
52

53 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the net proceeds of the sale of church properties  
54 outside urban centers<sup>2</sup> due to closings, or mergers of congregations be first used to pay  
55 historic balances not otherwise forgiven by this resolution. Net proceeds are those  
56 remaining after the payment of settlement costs and other legal encumbrances such as  
57 mortgaged debt.  
58

59 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Irene Dickinson, CCFA chair

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<sup>1</sup> Those churches that were part of the Delaware Conference are [delineate as a footnote to this resolution...]

<sup>2</sup> The urban centers of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are the City of Philadelphia, the City of Reading, [delineate further as a footnote to the resolution]

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 19**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to the Unity of the Church**  
4 **Presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern PA Evangelical Connection**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, our Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of the church (John 17);  
7

8 **AND WHEREAS**, our Lord stated, “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom  
9 cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:24-  
10 25);  
11

12 **AND WHEREAS**, United Methodists are united by a common doctrine, discipline and  
13 mission (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016*, ¶¶ 102-105);  
14

15 **AND WHEREAS**, unity does not necessitate unanimity of belief on all points, but does  
16 require faithfulness to the covenant that makes us one;  
17

18 **AND WHEREAS**, eight Annual Conferences, seven Boards of Ordained Ministry, and two  
19 Jurisdictions have stated or voted that they will not fully uphold The Book of Discipline  
20 regarding our standards for ordination, behaviors that disqualify a person for continuing  
21 in the ordained ministry, or marriage;  
22

23 **AND WHEREAS**, the Judicial Council has re-affirmed in October, 2016 that such actions  
24 or declarations of intent by Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry to not fully obey  
25 *The Book of Discipline* are illegal (Judicial Council Decision 1327; see also JCD 1329,  
26 1330 (all in 2016)); the Judicial Council has also re-affirmed that no Conference, Board,  
27 or Agency of the church may “legally negate, ignore, or violate provisions of the Discipline  
28 with which they disagree, even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious  
29 objections to those provisions” (JCD 886 (2000); 1330 (2016)).  
30

31 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference calls upon  
32 (1) our own boards and agencies, in particular, and (2) all boards and agencies of The  
33 United Methodist Church, in general, to support and uphold all *Discipline* standards; and  
34

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference calls upon all  
36 United Methodist bishops, active and retired, to teach our doctrines and enforce our  
37 discipline with complete integrity and compassion. The Conference Secretary shall send  
38 a copy of this resolution as passed within 90 days of the completion of the 2017 Annual  
39 Conference to the President of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Bruce R. Ough.  
40

41 **Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Nelson Alleman and Mrs. Jane  
42 Bonner

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 20**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to the Work of the Special Commission to General Conference**  
4 **on a Way Forward and the Unity of the Church**  
5 **Presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern PA Evangelical Connection**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, our Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of the church (John 17);  
8

9 **AND WHEREAS**, our Lord stated, "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom  
10 cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:24-  
11 25);  
12

13 **AND WHEREAS**, eight Annual Conferences, seven Boards of Ordained Ministry, and two  
14 Jurisdictions have stated or voted that they will not fully uphold *The Book of Discipline*  
15 regarding our standards for ordination, behaviors that disqualify a person for continuing  
16 in the ordained ministry, or marriage;  
17

18 **AND WHEREAS**, the Judicial Council has re-affirmed in October, 2016 that such actions  
19 or declarations of intent by Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry to not fully obey  
20 *The Book of Discipline* are illegal (Judicial Council Decisions 1327; see also JCD1329,  
21 1330 (2016)); the Judicial Council has also re-affirmed that no Conference, Board, or  
22 Agency of the church may "legally negate, ignore, or violate provisions of the Discipline  
23 with which they disagree, even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious  
24 objections to those provisions" (JCD 886 (2000); 1330 (2016));  
25

26 **AND WHEREAS**, we are in a recognized time of possibly irreconcilable disagreement on  
27 matters of sexual ethics and church polity, so that the 2016 General Conference  
28 established a Special Commission appointed by the Bishops to address this issue and  
29 find a way forward for the entire United Methodist Church;  
30

31 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference calls upon  
32 the Special Commission on a Way Forward to work deliberately and expeditiously as it  
33 prepares a recommendation for a called General Conference of 2018 or 2019; that it  
34 regularly update the people of the Church regarding its progress, or lack thereof, and that  
35 it bring forth a recommendation that would definitively resolve our debate over The United  
36 Methodist Church's sexual ethics and its understanding of marriage;  
37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference calls upon the  
39 Special Commission to propose a plan that calls for accountability and integrity to our  
40 covenant, and restores the good order of our church's polity. We call upon the  
41 Commission to reject any plan that includes a "local option" around ordination and  
42 marriage as incoherent, creating unequal standards across the denomination and  
43 opening the Church to potential lawsuits on grounds of inconsistent polity, and further  
44 fracturing the unity of the church.  
45



46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution as passed shall be sent to  
47 the three (3) moderators of the Special Commission on a Way Forward within 90 days of  
48 the conclusion of the 2017 Annual Conference (Bishop David Yemba, Bishop Ken Carter,  
49 and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball). [The presenters of this resolution are willing to assist in  
50 its mailing, either by post or electronically at the discretion of the Conference Secretary.]  
51  
52 **Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Joseph DiPaolo and Rev.  
53 Matthew Heckman

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 21**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to the Work of the Special Commission to General Conference**  
4 **on a Way Forward, if no Plan of Unity is achievable**  
5 **Presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern PA Evangelical Connection**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, our Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of the church (John 17);  
8

9 **AND WHEREAS**, our Lord stated, "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom  
10 cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:24-  
11 25);  
12

13 **AND WHEREAS**, we are in a recognized time of possibly irreconcilable disagreement on  
14 matters of sexual ethics and church polity, so that the 2016 General Conference  
15 established a Special Commission appointed by the Bishops to address this issue and  
16 find a way forward for the entire United Methodist Church;  
17

18 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that if the Special Commission on a Way Forward  
19 determines that no plan to achieve unity is possible, then the Eastern Pennsylvania  
20 Conference calls upon the Special Commission to prepare a plan of separation that  
21 honors the consciences of all the people of the church and allows them to separate in  
22 peace and good will.  
23

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution as passed shall be sent to  
25 the three (3) moderators of the Special Commission on a Way Forward within 90 days of  
26 the conclusion of the 2017 Annual Conference (Bishop David Yemba, Bishop Ken Carter,  
27 and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball). [The presenters of this resolution are willing to assist in  
28 its mailing, either by post or electronically at the discretion of the Conference Secretary.]  
29

30 **Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Joseph DiPaolo and Rev.  
31 Matthew Heckman

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 22**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Interview & Presentation Standards for Candidates for**  
4 **Ministry**  
5 **Presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern PA Evangelical Connection**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church is held together by a common Covenant of  
8 doctrine and discipline, which is amenable to change through orderly processes governed  
9 by the Discipline and available to all;

10  
11 **AND WHEREAS**, clergy within the United Methodist Church have voluntarily promised in  
12 licensing and ordination that they approve and will uphold our church's teachings and  
13 keep its disciplinary rules;

14  
15 **AND WHEREAS** our ordination covenant in *the Book of Discipline* (Par. 336) requires  
16 candidates to answer in the affirmative at their Ordination these Historic Examination  
17 Questions: "Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity? Do you approve  
18 our Church government and polity? Will you support and maintain them?"

19  
20 **AND WHEREAS**, we have entered a time of open challenge and disobedience to the  
21 Covenant of the Discipline, wherein eight Annual Conferences, seven Boards of Ordained  
22 Ministry, two Jurisdictions, and many individual clergy have stated or voted that they will  
23 not fully uphold *The Book of Discipline* regarding our standards for ordination, behaviors  
24 that disqualify a person for continuing in the ordained ministry, or marriage;

25  
26 **AND WHEREAS**, the Judicial Council has re-affirmed in October, 2016 that such actions  
27 or declarations of intent by Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry to not fully obey  
28 *The Book of Discipline* are illegal (2016 Judicial Council Decisions 1327, 1329, 1330); the  
29 Judicial Council has also re-affirmed that no Conference, Board, or Agency of the church  
30 may "legally negate, ignore, or violate provisions of the Discipline with which they  
31 disagree, even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious objections to  
32 those provisions" (JCD 886 (2000); JCD1330 (2016)).

33  
34 **AND WHEREAS**, the District Committees on Ordained Ministry and the Board of  
35 Ordained Ministry act on behalf of and under the authority of the Annual Conference (see  
36 JCD 1330), and are responsible to interview candidates to determine their fitness and  
37 readiness for ministry and ordination in the United Methodist Church; these committees  
38 and boards being responsible to oversee the integrity of the process and of the  
39 candidates;

40  
41 **AND WHEREAS**, the *2016 Book of Discipline* explicitly requires all candidates for  
42 ministry, appointment, and ordination to "Be accountable to The United Methodist Church,  
43 accept its Doctrinal Standards and Discipline and authority, accept the supervision of  
44 those appointed to this ministry, and be prepared to live in the covenant of its ordained  
45 ministers"; the *Discipline* also states, "While persons set apart by the Church for ordained  
46 ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society,

47 they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice  
48 of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed  
49 practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or  
50 appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.” (BOD ¶304 *Qualifications for*  
51 *Ordination j*); ¶304 j)3.)

52  
53 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference directs its  
54 District Committees on Ordained Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry to exercise  
55 due diligence to determine that all candidates for licensed, commissioned and ordained  
56 ministry accept its Doctrinal Standards and Discipline, and is committed to abide by and  
57 uphold the church's clergy standards for conduct, sexual ethics and marriage (paragraphs  
58 304, 310.2(d), 341;

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every candidate for ministry and/or appointment shall  
61 certify in writing to the respective District Committees and/or Board of Ordained Ministry  
62 that he or she complies with and is committed to abide by all the Discipline's clergy  
63 standards in order to be approved to serve; this written certification shall be required in  
64 order to be presented to the Clergy Session of Annual Conference for approval for full-  
65 time license, commissioning, and ordination as deacon or elder.

66  
67 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev Joan H Trout

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 23**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution on Religious Liberty and Free Political Speech by the Church**  
4 **Presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern PA Evangelical Connection**  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church recognizes that the Church “should continually  
7 exert a strong ethical influence upon the state” (*The 2016 Book of Discipline, The Social*  
8 *Principles: ¶164 The Political Community: B) Political Responsibility*); that “the rightful  
9 and vital separation of church and state, which has served the cause of religious liberty,  
10 should not be misconstrued as the abolition of all religious expression from public life”  
11 (¶164 *The Political Community: C) Church and State Relations*); and that the prophetic  
12 aspects of preaching are to be protected, so that the preacher is not muzzled in the pulpit,  
13 stating, “Bishops and cabinets shall commit to and support open itineracy and the  
14 protection of the prophetic pulpit and diversity.” (2016 BOD ¶338);  
15  
16 **AND WHEREAS**, it is the prophetic heritage of both Israel and the Church that its  
17 prophets, apostles, and preachers have sometimes been called upon by God to correct  
18 and rebuke the governing civil and religious authorities, “speaking truth to power,” e.g.,  
19 Nathan and King David, Elijah and King Ahab, Jeremiah and Shemaiah, Thomas More  
20 and Henry VIII, etc.; our Lord Jesus himself having called King Herod, “that fox” (Luke  
21 13:32); this heritage also being part of the history of the Methodist Church in America,  
22 such as in preachers who endorsed Abraham Lincoln before and during the Civil War;

23  
24 **AND WHEREAS**, freedom of religion, speech and the press are among the first principles  
25 of freedom in the United States Constitution, enshrined as the First Amendment in the Bill  
26 of Rights, which declares, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of  
27 religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of  
28 the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government  
29 for a redress of grievances;

30  
31 **AND WHEREAS**, the laws of the United States have forbid preachers from preaching  
32 about, endorsing or opposing political candidates and government officials since the  
33 passing in 1954 of the Johnson Amendment (the Johnson Amendment changed the U.S.  
34 tax code to prohibit all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing  
35 political candidates; it restricts the speech of non-profit, tax-exempt organizations,  
36 including churches, to provide they cannot “participate in, or intervene in (including the  
37 publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in  
38 opposition to any candidate for public office”);

39  
40 **AND WHEREAS**, the Johnson Amendment both prohibits the free exercise of religion  
41 and abridges the freedom of speech of the Church, especially as touching ethical and  
42 political matters to which the Church has a prophetic duty to speak;

43  
44 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference calls  
45 upon the Joint Houses of Congress and the President of the United States to act  
46 together to repeal the Johnson Amendment as written; and to conduct hearings to  
47 address the protection and strengthening of free speech rights for all citizens.

48  
49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference affirms the  
50 need for instruction about religious free speech rights by its members and employees,  
51 both laity and clergy; the Conference shall therefore provide some form of instruction for  
52 laity and clergy in the exercise of Constitutionally protected speech, with emphasis upon  
53 instruction for children and vulnerable youth;

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference directs the  
56 Conference Secretary to send copies of this resolution, as passed, within 90 days of the  
57 close of the 2017 Annual Conference to the following (6) persons: President Pro  
58 Tempore of the U.S. Senate, Senator Orrin G. Hatch, the Secretary of the U.S. Senate,  
59 Julie E. Adams, U.S. Senators Robert P. Casey, Jr. and Patrick J. Toomey of  
60 Pennsylvania, the Speaker of the U.S. house of Representatives, Rep. Paul D. Ryan,  
61 and to the President of the United States, Mr. Donald Trump. [The presenters of this  
62 resolution are willing to assist in its mailing, either by post or electronically at the discretion  
63 of the Conference Secretary.

64  
65 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Dr. Christopher Fisher

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 24**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution on Religious Liberty and Freedom of Conscience**  
4 **Presented by the Executive Committee of the Eastern PA Evangelical Connection**  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the United Methodist Church recognizes that “All persons, regardless of age,  
7 gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil  
8 rights ensured and to be protected against violence.” The Church declares that “Certain  
9 basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting  
10 those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (*The Book of*  
11 *Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016, Social Principles* ¶ 161, II. *The Nurturing*  
12 *Community: G) Human Sexuality*); ¶162. III. *The Social Community*, J) *Equal Rights*  
13 *Regardless of Sexual Orientation*);  
14

15 **AND WHEREAS**, “the United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of  
16 homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching,” and  
17 continues to “support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man  
18 and one woman” (*BOD 2016 Social Principles* ¶ 161, II. *The Nurturing Community: G)*  
19 *Human Sexuality*; & *C) Marriage*); the Church therefore teaching that homosexual  
20 practice and same-sex marriage do not fall in the category of basic human and civil rights  
21 recognized by the Church;  
22

23 **AND WHEREAS**, “the United Methodist Church has for many years supported the  
24 separation of church and state. In some parts of the world this separation has guaranteed  
25 the diversity of religious expressions and the freedom to worship God according to each  
26 person’s conscience. ... The state should not use its authority to promote particular  
27 religious beliefs (including atheism)...” (*BOD 2016: The Social Principles*, ¶ 164 V) *The*  
28 *Political Community C) Church and State Relations*);  
29

30 **AND WHEREAS**, freedom of religion means not simply freedom to believe as a person  
31 wishes, but also freedom to practice according to the dictates of a person’s religious  
32 conscience;  
33

34 **AND WHEREAS**, many persons of good faith agree with the teachings of the Church  
35 which declare that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian teaching, even  
36 while they sincerely desire to protect the basic human rights of all people, however they  
37 define their sexuality; and these persons of good faith are convicted by their religious  
38 conscience that they ought not to participate in any way with activities which their faith  
39 teaches to be wrong, including activities (business and otherwise) which might make them  
40 complicit in condoning such practice;  
41

42 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference recognizes  
43 and affirms that basic human and civil rights should be available to all persons, regardless  
44 of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation; such rights do not extend to  
45 protecting every behavior or practice of all persons, such as those practices which the  
46 Church deems to be contrary to Christian teaching;

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference recognizes the  
48 right of individuals and business owners to conduct their lives and businesses according  
49 to the dictates of their religious conscience, including their right to refuse services for  
50 practices and activities which they believe to be wrong, immoral, or incompatible with  
51 Christian teaching;

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference encourages  
54 all local, state and federal government officials to pass laws which make accommodation  
55 for the rights of persons to run their lives and businesses according to the dictates of their  
56 religious conscience without fear of onerous reprisal or State coercion, in keeping with  
57 the First Amendment religious freedom protections, including the right to refuse services  
58 for practices and activities which they believe to be incompatible with their faith;

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania conference directs the  
61 Conference Secretary to send copies of this resolution, as passed, within 90 days of the  
62 close of the 2017 Annual Conference to the following ten (10) persons: Pennsylvania  
63 Governor Thomas Wolf, the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Mike  
64 Turzai, the President of the Pennsylvania Senate, Mike Stack, the President Pro Tempore  
65 of the US Senate, Senator Orrin G. Hatch, the Secretary of the US Senate, Julie E.  
66 Adams, US Senators Robert P. Casey, Jr. and Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania, the  
67 Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Rep. Paul D. Ryan, the President of the  
68 United States, Mr. Donald Trump, and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Scott Harris. [The  
69 presenters of this resolution are willing to assist in its mailing, either by post or  
70 electronically at the discretion of the Conference Secretary.]

71  
72 **Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Barry L Trout, Pastor of  
73 Pomeroy UMC

1

1 **RESOLUTION 2017 - 25**  
2 **RESOLUTION to 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to Fair, Humane Immigration Policies and Practices**  
4 ***May they know we are Christians by our love***  
5 **Presented by the Eastern PA Conference Immigration Rapid Response Team, with**  
6 **the support of the Latino Commission, CORR, the Urban Commission, RUMEP, and**  
7 **the EPA United Methodist Women**

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church affirms the inherent worth, dignity and human  
10 rights of all people, regardless of their race, nationality or legal status; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Eastern Pennsylvania’s population comprises many immigrants—with and  
13 without legal documents—who have migrated to our many communities fleeing war,  
14 violence and starvation, and seeking freedom, security and survival in a safe place among  
15 compassionate people; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, many such immigrants and refugees are contributing members of our  
18 communities and our churches, and many are now full members of The United Methodist  
19 Church through baptism and profession of faith, who contribute their time, talents and  
20 treasure to the work our connection; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, these sisters and brothers have helped broaden our witness and mission to  
23 make disciples of Jesus Christ, once a refugee himself, for the transformation of the world;  
24 and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, God commands us to love and embrace the immigrant, who “shall be to you  
27 as the citizen among you.” (Leviticus 19:33-34); and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, careless, divisive, fear-baiting rhetoric and actions by U.S. government  
30 leaders and others have ignited broad contempt and racist attitudes and actions against  
31 many people of color here, both immigrant and non-immigrant; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, many of our immigrant neighbors, coworkers, friends and church members,  
34 especially those who are undocumented, are suffering from well-founded fears that they  
35 may be forcibly separated from their families and loved ones by law enforcement as  
36 hunted victims of our broken immigration system:

37  
38 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we in the Eastern PA Conference of The United  
39 Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, commit ourselves to work to eliminate racism  
40 and violence directed toward immigrants from all parts of the world and to express our  
41 opposition to any immigration policy that excludes refugees solely on the bases of their  
42 race, religion or national origin; and

43  
44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference encourages all churches  
45 to educate and equip their members to provide hospitality that welcomes immigrants and  
46 refugees in their communities (including using the General Conference resolution

47 “Welcoming the Migrant to the United States” as an excellent resource) and to pray and  
48 advocate for just, humane immigration policies; and

49  
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference calls upon our political  
51 leaders and policymakers to ensure that our laws affirm the inherent worth, dignity and  
52 human rights of all immigrants; and

53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference calls upon our political  
55 leaders and policy makers to continue to accept properly vetted refugees and to grant  
56 asylum based on the needs of those seeking our help, such as innocent victims of natural  
57 disaster, war, violence and political threats, and not based on how they can benefit the  
58 United States; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference affirms and supports  
61 recent public statements and letters offered by justice advocacy groups in our conference  
62 and the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops, which expressed concern for “law  
63 enforcement actions that threaten the peace and security of immigrant residents in our  
64 region” and which called on United Methodists to ‘welcome the foreigner” and to “honor  
65 our historic Methodist legacy of commitment to justice and mercy for those who are poor  
66 and displaced” and

67  
68 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern PA Conference asks its Bishop and  
69 Conference Secretary to send letters to the President of the United States, the Speaker  
70 of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President of the U.S. Senate and the U.S.  
71 Secretary of State, as well as members of the U.S. Congress representing the state of  
72 Pennsylvania, calling on all of them to lead the nation in legislating and adopting fair,  
73 humane, comprehensive laws and policies that reform the U.S. immigration system.

74  
75 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Ruth Daugherty

1



1 **RESOLUTION 2017 – 26 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION to 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating for Advance Special Applications**  
4 **Presented by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference CSGM**

5  
6 **Whereas** the **Conference Advance Special** is a program of ministry which can seek  
7 funds from a local church that keeps its financial commitments to the conference and  
8 General Church in full in the previous years budget and has a desire to extend its support  
9 of the mission of the church through designated giving; and

10  
11 **Whereas** a list of Conference Advance Specials would resource local churches, either in  
12 need of support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their  
13 support of mission of the church; and

14  
15 **Whereas** practicality indicates a change in the time period covered by a list of conference  
16 advance specials to as soon as possible after they are approved;

17  
18 **Therefore**, be it resolved that the following programs and ministries of the annual  
19 conference having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of  
20 Conference Advance Specials for the year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

21  
22 **ARTOS RETREATS..... \$ 15,500.**

23 **Applicant: Julie Anderman.**

24 607 Rose Petal Lane

25 Mount Joy, PA 17552.

26 Phones: 717-492-4238.

27 Email: ArtosRetreats@gmail.com

28 This ministry caters to the well being of clergy spouses, on the basis that healthy  
29 spouses are crucial to healthy pastors and healthy churches.

30 They minister through workshops, retreats, coaching sessions, and research designed  
31 by clergy spouses.

32 their current program focuses on Sabbath and pastoral transitions.

33  
34 **COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM..... \$ 3000.**

35 **Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo.**

36 307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061.

37 Phone: 610-416-5112. 610-485-6162.

38 Email: [smcislo@yahoo.com](mailto:smcislo@yahoo.com)

39 *This is a 4 week, free summer reading and lunch program for students. Marcus Hook is*  
40 *a high poverty community, and as such the community faces a high degree of risks*  
41 *associated with poverty. this program helps students to have an alternative to those*  
42 *risks. It is the ministry of the Cokesbury church community to investing in the children*  
43 *and setting them up for a greater interest in reading and information.*

44  
45 **HAWS AVENUE SOUP KITCHEN AND FOOD PANTRY..... \$ 25,000.**

46 **Applicant: Mary Alice Law.**

47 800 West Marshall Street  
48 Norristown, PA 19401.  
49 Phone: 610-275-1283.  
50 Email: [\\_mary249@aol.com](mailto:_mary249@aol.com)  
51 *The ministry is based on the idea of reaching people where they are, with three*  
52 *programs.*  
53 *A soup Kitchen that provides a nutritious hot meal on Sundays to over 100 participants*  
54 *in the Norristown area.*  
55 *A food Pantry distributes food stuff twice a month to 65 needy families. The package*  
56 *includes toiletries and other supplies.*  
57 *The HAWS Clothing room open to individuals to browse clothes, books and other*  
58 *household items as needed at no cost.*  
59 *The HAWS ministry is looking to expand their services to cover a larger group of people*  
60 *in need.*

61  
62 **HAZELTON ENLARGED MINISTRY..... \$15,000.**

63 **Applicant: L Joanne Young.**  
64 517 North Locust Street  
65 Hazelton PA 18201.  
66 Phones: Office: 570-454-4661.  
67 Res: 570-788-2488.  
68 Email: [1jy1rev@ptd.net](mailto:1jy1rev@ptd.net)  
69 *The ministry is dedicated to nurturing children, building self esteem and facilitation*  
70 *discovery of their gifts in the context of a safe place to play and learn.*  
71 *They also have a clothing depot to meet the needs of persons in crisis.*  
72 *They develop programs for enrichment and growth of the local churches.*

73  
74 **HELPING HANDS MINISTRY..... \$100,000.**

75 **Applicant: Rev. William J. Ritzenthaler,**  
76 7860 Center Street, Emerald PA 18080.  
77 Phones: 610-767-6233. 610-704-4845. 610-984-5452.  
78 Email: [Ritz007@verizon.net](mailto:Ritz007@verizon.net)  
79 *This ministry is a food ministry providing food through food banks, food during*  
80 *emergencies to families, and also supplying food to soup kitchens.*  
81 *They also provide clothing and furniture to families in the community who are in need.*  
82 *They are helping those in poverty with some assistance as they seek to better*  
83 *themselves. Helping Hands ministry introduces people to Christ and the church, also*  
84 *provides opportunities for volunteers who want to serve the community.*

85  
86

87 **HOPE CHRISTIAN**  
88 **COUNSELLING..... \$ 3000.**

89 **Applicant: Rev. Susan L. Worrell.**

90 Western Professional Center

91 1515 West Chester Pike Suite A-3, West Chester PA 19382.

92 Phones: 610-436-9298. 484-732-8269. 484-883-7628.

93 Email: [HopeChristianCounseling@gmail.com](mailto:HopeChristianCounseling@gmail.com)

94 *The ministry is a non-profit, it offers professional counseling, and facilitates Retreats*  
95 *and workshops covering a wide range of issues by qualified and certified professionals*  
96 *and ordained clergy regardless of a person's ability to pay a full fee. The ministry*  
97 *nurtures healing that leads to transformation and kingdom building. The ministry is open*  
98 *to all ages, races, gender, and sexual orientation.*

100 **LIGHT OF MARNIE..... \$10,000.**

101 **Applicant: Jennifer & John Lafferty.**

102 315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale PA 19372.

103 Phones: 610-470-1369. 610-766-0944. 610-384-4228.

104 Email: [JohnL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JohnL@lightofmarnie.org) , [JenL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JenL@lightofmarnie.org)

105 *A well balanced after school program that helps students in their studies, provides a*  
106 *healthy snack and active physical exercise three days a week. The mission was*  
107 *originally targeted to Liberian immigrants, but has grown into a diverse ethnic group.*  
108 *Prayer, bible-reading, worship, singing and craft are part of this ministry.*

110 **LUMINA..... \$10,000.**

111 **Applicant: Correen M. Russo.**

112 20 E Clay Street, Lancaster PA 17602.

113 Phones: 717-394-8412. 717-808-8633.

114 Fax: 717-394-1435.

115 Email: [correen.lumina@gmail.com](mailto:correen.lumina@gmail.com)

116 *The ministry is designed to benefit the disadvantaged, they focus on three areas*

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

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

122

123

124 **SHORES OF GRACE..... \$5,000.**

125 **Applicant: Luke Billman.**

126 2223 E. York St.

127 Philadelphia, PA 19125.

128 Phones: Office: 215-259-3534.

129 Cell: 267-549-1746.

130 Email: [luke@shoresofgrace.com](mailto:luke@shoresofgrace.com)

131 *The Ministry is primarily with victims of sex-trafficking, prostitution and abuse.*

132 *providing safe house and training for victims through education, worship and counsel.*

133 *the Goal is to bring the love of God to those who are trapped in this vicious cycle in the*  
134 *city of Philadelphia.*

135 *The ministry is also focused keenly on raising disciples of Christ from this community of*  
136 *victims.*

137

138 **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MINISTRIES..... \$10,000.**

139 **Applicant: The Rev. Sara J. Davis Shappell.**

140 P.O. Box 724 Southeastern PA 19399.

141 Phones: 610-873-3988. 610-873-8328.

142 Cell: 610-613-6253.

143 Email: [SpiritualRM@aol.com](mailto:SpiritualRM@aol.com)

144 *This ministry has been operational for over 23 years as an integral part of EPC. The*

145 *ministry partners with churches, groups and individuals who are seeking a deeper*

146 *relationship with God. They offer scholarships, Retreats and seminars for spiritual*

147 *formation and living as the people of God*

1 **RESOLUTION #27L**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Religious Freedom**

4 **Presented by the following congregations: Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC, First UMC**  
5 **of Germantown, Historic St. George’s UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC,**  
6 **Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC**  
7 **Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, Hope UMC of Havertown, and Union UMC**  
8 **of Havertown.**

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, paragraph 162J of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* commits The United  
11 Methodist Church to supporting “basic human rights and civil liberties ... for all persons,  
12 regardless of sexual orientation;” and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, that same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst  
15 such basic rights and liberties; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, legislatures are considering or have passed legislation which would allow  
18 for-profit entities to discriminate against LGBT citizens and deny their status as a  
19 protected class if that business felt its religious beliefs were being substantially burdened  
20 by serving the LGBT customer; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, such legislation allows discrimination mistakenly entitled as “religious  
23 freedom;”

24  
25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
26 formally denounces such legislation in any state or jurisdiction because it denies equal  
27 protection under the law to the LGBT community as a protected class.

28  
29 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Jim McIntire