

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 01A**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Discontinuance of Avon: Zion United Methodist Church**  
4 **Presented by West District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, the Avon: Zion United Methodist Church, established in 1872 in Lebanon,  
7 Pennsylvania, has a long history of ministering to the community; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the Avon: Zion United Methodist Church voted at a Special Charge  
10 Conference on February 11, 2018 to discontinue as of June 30, 2018, with the last service  
11 being held on June 24, 2018; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of Avon: Zion  
14 United Methodist Church; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
17 Conference have given their approval; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the members of Avon: Zion who could not be contacted or those who could  
20 not make the decision for themselves would have their memberships transferred to  
21 Lebanon: Church of the Good Shepherd and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, items from the church would go to Lebanon: Iglesia Metodista Unida Nuevo  
24 Nacimiento (New Birth) as a memorial to the church; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the building and remaining furniture would go to Lebanon: Iglesia Metodista  
27 Unida Nuevo Nacimiento (New Birth); and

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

31  
32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Avon: Zion United Methodist Church be  
33 discontinued as of June 30, 2018 with thankful gratitude for 146 years of faithful service  
34 to the Lebanon area; and

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36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the historical documents be forwarded to the Eastern  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

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

42  
43 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Bumkoo Chung, West  
44 District Superintendent

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 02 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to an editorial change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
4 **Rules of Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by adding the word in ***bold italic print*** to:

19  
20 Article X – Rules of Order Debate

21 2.

22 c. Motion to suspend the Rules - A motion to suspend the rules ***shall*** be sustained by  
23 two-thirds of the members within the Bar of the Conference.

24  
25 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 03 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to an editorial change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
4 **Rules of Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout print~~  
19 from, and adding the words in ***bold italic print*** to:

20  
21 Article X – Rules of Order Debate

22 2.

23  
24 d. Voting - Voting shall be by raising the hand, except that when a ***standing*** count vote  
25 is called for, ***or when electronic voting is being used***. When a standing count vote is  
26 called for, ~~Those~~ members voting in favor of the motion shall rise ~~arise~~ and remain  
27 standing until counted. Then, ~~after which~~ those ***voting*** against the motion shall rise,  
28 ~~arise~~ and remain standing until counted, ***followed by those abstaining***. In case of a  
29 disability that prevents voting in the prescribed fashion (i.e. standing) the presiding officer  
30 shall recognize the intended vote of that member by another means so as not to  
31 disenfranchise any member.

32  
33 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 04 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to a change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Rules of**  
4 **Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout~~-print  
19 from:

20  
21 Article X – Rules of Order Debate

22 2.

23  
24 g. Other Parliamentary Rules - Other parliamentary rules shall be ~~those adopted by the~~  
25 ~~preceding General Conference of The United Methodist Church, or if the parliamentary~~  
26 ~~situation be not covered, then by the~~ current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (latest  
27 version).

28  
29 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 05 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to an editorial change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
4 **Rules of Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by adding the words in ***bold italic print*** to:

19  
20 Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

21  
22 12. Judges of Elections shall be appointed ***by the Conference Secretary*** to oversee the  
23 tabulation of ballots, certify the election of delegates, and convey the ballots and report  
24 to the Conference Secretary.

25  
26 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 06 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to a change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Rules of**  
4 **Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout print~~,  
19 from, and adding the words in ***bold italic print*** to:

20  
21 Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

22  
23 4 Nominating petitions shall be returned to the Conference Secretary no later than ~~March~~  
24 ~~10, 2019~~ ***March 1, 2019***

25 5. The Board of Lay Ministry may make additional laity nominations.

26 6. After ~~March 10~~ ***March 1, 2019*** all nominees will be provided an acceptance form.  
27 Nominees will return their acceptance form by March 31, ***2019*** for their names to appear  
28 on the ballot.

29 7. Nominees will provide biographical information and a brief written statement by March  
30 31, ***2019***. The list of nominees, biographical material and statements will be printed in the  
31 NewSpirit-published and/or distributed through as many means as possible

32  
33 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 07 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to editorial changes to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
4 **Rules of Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout print~~  
19 from, and adding the words in ***bold italic print*** to:

20  
21 Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

22  
23 7. Nominees will provide biographical information and a brief written statement by March  
24 31, 2019. The list of nominees, biographical material and statements will be ~~printed in the~~  
25 ~~New Spirit~~ ***published and/or distributed through as many means as possible***

26  
27 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 08 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to an editorial change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
4 **Rules of Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout print~~  
19 from, and adding the words in ***bold italic print*** to:

20  
21 Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

22  
23 7. Nominees will provide biographical information and a brief written statement by March  
24 31, 2019. The list of nominees, biographical material and statements will be ~~printed in the~~  
25 ~~New Spirit~~ ***published and/or distributed through as many means as possible***

26  
27 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman



1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 09 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to a change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Rules of**  
4 **Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rule of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 not contradict or violate the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church;

15  
16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
17 Annual Conference be amended by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout~~ print  
18 from:

19  
20 Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

21  
22 9. ~~Lay~~ nominations will be accepted from the floor provided a nominating petition fulfilling  
23 #2 above and an acceptance form are duly presented. Five hundred copies of a  
24 biographical profile and statement are required for immediate distribution.

25  
26 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 10 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to a change to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Rules of**  
4 **Order**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Secretary**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference needs methods to conduct  
8 its business in an organized and efficient fashion;

9  
10 **AND WHEREAS**, the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
11 provide those methods;

12  
13 **AND WHEREAS**, the needs of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference may  
14 change with the passing of time, and language that was once clear in intent may no longer  
15 correctly describe current operating procedures;

16  
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rules of Order of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 Annual Conference be amended by by removing the words indicated with ~~strikeout print~~  
19 from, and adding the words in ***bold italic print*** to:

20  
21 Article XVII - Nomination of Episcopal Candidates

22  
23 1. The Annual Conference shall, in the year preceding the conference session during  
24 which Episcopal candidates are to be nominated, solicit potential nominees from all the  
25 members both lay and clergy of the Annual Conference. Each member may nominate  
26 the number of Elders for which there are vacancies in the jurisdiction to be filled, provided  
27 the nominees are Elders in good standing in the Conference. Any Elder who receives at  
28 least 10 nominations will have their biographical details and personal statement ~~printed~~  
29 ~~in the conference newspaper to be mailed/distributed~~ ***published and/or distributed***  
30 ***through as many means as possible*** for study prior to the electing conference session.

31  
32 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. James Anderman

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 – 11 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to the nomination of General Conference delegates by the**  
4 **Conference Board of Laity**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Board of Laity**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, Conference rules allow the Board of Lay Ministry to nominate up to ten  
8 candidates for General/Jurisdictional delegates; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the purposes of allowing the Board of Lay Ministry to nominate up to ten  
11 candidates for General/Jurisdictional delegates are

- 12 1. To provide a sufficient number of delegate candidates to fill the slots allocated;
- 13 and
- 14 2. To help ensure a diverse pool of delegate candidates; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, Conference rules have only one submission deadline (March 1) for candidate  
17 nominations and it is not clear whether or not this deadline applies to the Board of Lay  
18 Ministry; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, if the same deadline applied to the Board of Lay Ministry it could not  
21 adequately fulfill its purpose in the nominating process;

22  
23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that nominations from the Board of Lay Ministry be  
24 required to be submitted by March 10;

25  
26 **BE IT FRUTHER RESOLVES** that all nominees from the Board of Lay Ministries must  
27 meet the same qualification requirements and document submission requirements as  
28 other lay nominees to be placed in the pool of delegate candidates.

29  
30 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** David Koch.

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 – 12**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to the “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” Motto of The**  
4 **United Methodist Church**  
5 **Presented by Robert A. Erb, Ph.D.**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Word of God is living and active.... [Hebrews 4:12];

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting  
10 and training in righteousness.... [2 Timothy 3:16];

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the LORD declares that his word will not return to him empty, but will  
13 accomplish what he desires and achieve the purpose for which he sent it. [Isaiah 55:11];

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, God’s word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. [Psalm 119:105];

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, The Holy Bible is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and  
18 guide for faith and practice. [Article 4 of the Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church];

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church will benefit most when it is anchored to the  
21 revealed Word of God;

22  
23 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
24 submit to the 2020 General Conference a resolution that calls for the motto of the United  
25 Methodist Church, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors,” to be expanded to read:  
26 “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, Open Bibles.”

27  
28 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Robert A. Erb

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 13**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Establishment of a Domestic Violence Committee**  
4 **Presented by the EPC Health and 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 Committee which shall function  
32 under the direction of the Bishop.  
33

34 **Person responsible for presenting resolution:** Barbara Drake

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 14**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Calling for Gracious Accommodation**  
4 **Presented by Rev. Joseph DiPaolo**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church has experienced increasing polarization over  
7 theological and ethical issues, with parts of the church finding themselves unable to  
8 comply with United Methodist polity and discipline; and,

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, persons of sincere faith and Christian commitment within the church are led  
11 by convictions of conscience to significantly divergent beliefs and actions regarding the  
12 church’s ministry to and with LGBTQ+ persons and their families; and,

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, these divergent beliefs and actions appear to be irreconcilable, such that the  
15 2016 General Conference requested the Council of Bishops to appoint a Commission on  
16 a Way Forward to develop proposals to end the conflict within our church and provide a  
17 way forward to refocus the church on discipleship and mission; and,

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, any plan that is proposed by the Commission and the Council is likely to  
20 have provisions that offend the deeply held beliefs of some of our members, requiring  
21 such plans to provide for a fair and gracious accommodation for conscience; and,

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the Commission and the Council have both urged the church to act out of a  
24 “heart of peace” rather than a “heart of war,” giving grace and exercising Christ-like  
25 humility in the way that we engage with one another; and,

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, a part of giving grace must include treating members and congregations with  
28 fairness and respect, as we would like to be treated (Matthew 7:12), not coercing their  
29 consciences or penalizing them for sincerely and deeply held convictions; and,

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, “all properties of United Methodist local churches ... are held, in trust, for the  
32 benefit of the entire denomination, and ownership and usage of church property is subject  
33 to the Discipline” (§ 2501.1); and,

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, it is unfair to require congregations and clergy to compromise their  
36 consciences in order to abide by the decision of the 2019 General Conference, in order  
37 to remain in The United Methodist Church, or surrender their buildings in order to be  
38 faithful to their Christian understanding; nor is it fair to expect members who have given  
39 decades of loving time, service, and finances to build their local congregation to walk  
40 away from that building, or pay a high cost in order to remain true to their consciences;

41  
42 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
43 strongly urges the 2019 General Conference to include in any plan it passes provisions  
44 for a fair and gracious exit path for congregations who cannot in good conscience abide  
45 by the stance of the church regarding LGBTQ+ ministry, as determined by the 2019  
46 General Conference. Such an exit path should allow congregations to leave the

47 denomination with their buildings and assets, assuming their own liabilities, but without  
48 demanding burdensome payments to the conference. "Though we may not think alike,  
49 can we not love alike" (Wesley)? Can we not bless one another in pursuing the various  
50 paths of ministry we believe God is laying before us?

51

52 The secretary of the annual conference shall send this resolution to all of the active  
53 bishops of the church and each of the heads of General Conference delegations, to be  
54 shared with the members of their delegations.

55

56 **Persons Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Joseph DiPaolo

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 15**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Concerning Health Care**  
4 **Presented by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

5  
6 **WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits Administers the Eastern PA  
7 Conference (the Conference) health plan for active participants; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS** the Conference has experienced, and continues to experience, escalating  
10 annual cost increases; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS** the escalating costs have resulted in frequent changes in the health plan  
13 provider; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS** the Conference currently offers only three options for health plan participants,

16  
17 **WHEREAS** Wespath offers a healthcare exchange with six different health plans,  
18 including similar high deductible health plan options to what is currently offered, and

19  
20 **WHEREAS** moving to the denominationally offered plan will increase buying power and  
21 allow the conference to be on a glide path for future increases resulting in coverage that  
22 is favorably priced when contrasted to current coverage, and

23  
24 **WHEREAS** Healthflex allows churches who offer a group plan to waive coverage through  
25 Wespath, and

26  
27 **WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits must continue maintaining  
28 compliance with new health care reform expectations;

29  
30 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference transfer it's  
31 health insurance plans to Wespath commencing January 1, 2019.

32  
33 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Steven Handzel, Group Insurance  
34 Chairperson



1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 16 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled**  
4 **Clergypersons**  
5 **Presented by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the  
8 “Church”), of which this Conference is part, has in the past functioned and continues to  
9 function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code  
10 section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the  
11 Church (“Clergypersons”);  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the practice the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active  
14 Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross  
15 compensation;  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are  
18 considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled  
19 Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service;  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its  
22 predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance  
23 for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference.  
24

25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or  
26 disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The  
27 United Methodist Church (“the *Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from  
28 Wespath during the year 2019 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a  
29 member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designed as a  
30 rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and  
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the pension and disability payments to which this  
33 rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans,  
34 annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from  
35 Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from  
36 benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*,  
37 that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired  
38 or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual  
39 conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church,  
40 former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that  
41 employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or  
42 its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under,  
43 such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or  
44 disability as part of his or her gross compensation.  
45

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

54  
55 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Coleen Painter, President Board of  
56 Pension and Health Benefits

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 – 17 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security**  
4 **Program (CRSP) for the Year 2019**  
5 **Presented by the 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,  
9 unless another date is specified below, shall be effective as of January 1, 2019. The  
10 Clergy Retirement Security Program shall be the base retirement plan for the clergy  
11 persons under Episcopal appointment including deacons and members of other  
12 denominations serving at the conference, church, charge, conference responsible unit,  
13 conference controlled entity including clergy on medical leave receiving Comprehensive  
14 Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
15 Conference in accordance to the plan adoption agreement beginning on January 1,  
16 2019. Clergy persons on medical leave and not receiving Comprehensive Protection  
17 Plan (CPP) disability benefits are not eligible to participate in CRSP.  
18

19 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that on January 1, 2019 the ministerial pension rate for  
20 past service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be set at \$502.00 and the personal  
21 contributor's annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply toward the  
22 payment of the participants formula benefit;  
23

24 **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of  
25 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  
30 service prior to January 1, 1982.  
31

32 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Coleen Painter, President Board of  
33 Pension and Health Benefits

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 – 18**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Regarding Gun Violence**

4 **Presented The Reverend James F. McIntire, The Rev. Lydia E. Munoz; Deaconness**  
5 **Darlene DiDomineck; The Rev. Joanne Miles; The Rev. Deborah Tanksley-**  
6 **Brown; and Krystl D Johnson; Kennett Square: UMC Church of the Open Door,**  
7 **Phila.: Arch Street UMC, Bryn Mawr: St. Luke UMC; Phila: First UMC of**  
8 **Germantown**

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the United Methodist Church has reaffirmed its call to bring an end to the  
11 scourge of gun violence which threatens our community by adopting at the 2016 General  
12 Conference Resolution 3428, “Our Call to End Gun Violence;” and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 3428 reminds us that “Jesus' call to his followers to be  
15 peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) is tied to intimate relationship with God, and echoes God's  
16 dreams for peace for all of creation as expressed in Micah 4:14— “they shall beat their  
17 swords into plowshares, / and their spears into pruning hooks; / nation shall not lift up  
18 sword against nation, / neither shall they learn war anymore;” and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, “Our Call to End Gun Violence” calls us to action in addition to prayer: “As  
21 followers of Jesus called to live into the reality of God's dream of shalom as described by  
22 Micah, we must address the epidemic of gun violence so ‘that [God] may teach us [God’s]  
23 ways and that we may walk in God's paths.’ Therefore, we call upon United Methodists  
24 to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context.,” and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, recent national events involving massacre of human life by gun violence  
27 have led to an increased visibility of the horrific violence perpetrated by these events and  
28 an increased active and vocal call to bring changes in gun regulations; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA), the General Board of  
31 Church and Society of the United Methodist (GBCS), the United Methodist Women  
32 (UMW), and Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence are among the “more than 50  
33 groups representing tens of millions of Americans in faith communities across the nation”  
34 to compose “Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence” and advocate for its call to confront  
35 the epidemic of gun violence which continues to grow ever more urgent and imperative.  
36 Faiths United released a “Statement on Parkland School Shooting and Call to Action” on  
37 February 16, 2018:

38  
39 “The shooting in Parkland is the 30<sup>th</sup> mass shooting since the beginning of the year, six  
40 weeks ago. No other country in the world tolerates this level of deadly slaughter. Gun  
41 violence shames this country daily. As members of the faith community, we firmly believe  
42 that in the face of gun violence, the invocation of ‘thoughts and prayers’ without action is  
43 sacrilege. ... It is time for faith-based organizations to become part of this larger  
44 movement to prevent gun violence. We invite all national faith-based groups to join our  
45 coalition. We call on all faith communities to engage in this work, take up this cause, and  
46 ensure that the voices of people of faith are present in the development of solutions to

47 prevent gun violence. We urge all local, state, and regional faith groups, denominations,  
48 and houses of worship to reach out to the members of Faiths United who represent you  
49 at a national level in our coalition;” and  
50

51 **WHEREAS**, many Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist congregations as well as  
52 individual laity and clergy are committed to ending gun violence and are involved in  
53 specific actions to fulfill those commitments, including involvement with the faith-based  
54 campaign Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence as identified in Resolution 3428;  
55

56 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference  
57 unwaveringly and conscientiously affirms the resolve of General Conference 2016 and its  
58 Resolution 3428 “Our Call to End Gun Violence,” and  
59

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference re-commits to  
61 the call of Resolution 3428 “to advocate at the local and national level for laws that prevent  
62 or reduce gun violence. Some of those measures include:

- 63 • Universal background checks on all gun purchases
- 64 • Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty
- 65 • Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers
- 66 • Prohibiting all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a  
67 fixed time period
- 68 • Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from  
69 purchasing a gun
- 70 • Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves  
71 and their communities, from purchasing a gun
- 72 • Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness
- 73 • Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession
- 74 • Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire  
75 multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled
- 76 • Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns  
77 and promote public safety;” and  
78

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference supports the  
80 continued participation of The United Methodist Church and related organizations in  
81 Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence; and  
82

83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in concert with the “Demand the Ban” action of March  
84 21 in Philadelphia—which (1) repurposed an assault weapon (an AR-15 semi-automatic  
85 weapon) into a garden tool in a “sword into plowshares” moment, (2) rallied around a  
86 federal ban of assault weapons, and (3) engaged in non-violent civil disobedience  
87 demanding that Senator Patrick Toomey to co-sponsor “S.2095. Assault Weapons Ban  
88 of 2017”—the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference joins that demand that Senator Toomey,  
89 who represents Pennsylvania’s United Methodist congregations and individuals in the US  
90 Senate, co-sponsor S.2095; and  
91

92 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be mailed by the  
93 Conference Secretary to Senator Patrick Toomey demanding that he co-sponsor S. 2095  
94 and to both Senator Toomey and Senator Robert Casey, Jr. demanding positive action  
95 on S.2095.

96  
97 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. James F. McIntire and The  
98 Rev. Deborah Tanksley-Brown

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 19 (Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Regarding Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2019**  
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), 2016 *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 or those  
12 clergy members of the annual conference appointed less than full-time to a local church,  
13 subject to such rules and regulations as the conference may adopt (§625.3, 2016  
14 *Discipline*), and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks to address the concerns of clergy compensation and  
17 recognize the economic difficulties encountered by churches,  
18

19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference establish the minimum  
20 starting salaries reflecting a 2% increase for 2019.  
21

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the  
23 United Methodist Church establishes the minimum base salary for persons under  
24 appointment in the local church for the year 2019 as follows:

- 25 a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection .....\$42,769
  - 26 b) Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary  
27 appointments.....\$40,538
  - 28 c) Associate Members.....\$39,688
  - 29 d) Full-Time Local Pastors .....\$37,567
- 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 2016 *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, 2016 *Discipline*).

49

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

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018



1 **Resolution 2018 - 20**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution Relating to Support for the Elimination of Logos, Mascots, and Names**  
4 **Demeaning to Native Americans by Schools, Colleges, and Professional Sports**  
5 **teams.**

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the members of the United Methodist Church approved at our General  
10 Conference in 2016, Resolution #3327 to Oppose Names Demeaning to Native  
11 Americans which reiterated The United Methodist Church publication Words That Hurt,  
12 Words That Heal, that emphasized the use of names and language is a powerful  
13 instrument for good as well as for destructive purposes. Moreover, that same conference  
14 approved Resolution, #3321 which rejects stereotypes and frames that depict American  
15 Indians in harmful or distorted ways. In addition, the United Methodist Book of Resolutions  
16 has contained statements as far back as 1992 that urged the denomination to repent for  
17 its role in the dehumanization and colonization of our Native American brothers and  
18 sisters. Accordingly, The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference held a Repentance Service  
19 in 2016 where we affirmed our calling to actively engage in the process of healing through  
20 listening and learning with Native Americans and to be the living and resurrected body of  
21 Christ in the world remembering that when one part is neglected or mistreated the entire  
22 body suffers.

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, many of our churches have received copies of the mission study Giving Our  
25 Hearts Away: Native American Survival in which Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett teaches  
26 us that, “Christians must speak a spiritual language quite different from the language of  
27 the politics of nation or state if we are to clearly identify with the images of love, justice  
28 and freedom that are central to the body of Christian teachings.” And further states, “We  
29 gain understanding through love and respect for one another and the living creation.  
30 Respect begins with reverence for God—the life that is within all things. And because all  
31 things are created by God, all are relatives and must be treated as family. Their health is  
32 our health. Our health is their health. God’s circle of creation must not be broken, for it  
33 symbolizes perfections, equality, unity, life and eternity.” (Fassett, 2008)

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, there has been scientific research conducted to determine the harmful  
36 psychological effects these “Native” sports mascots on our Native youth; and according  
37 to studies conducted by Dr. Stephanie Fryberg and her colleagues, American Indian and  
38 Alaska Native high school and college students had a consistent, negative reaction with  
39 increased depression and lower self-esteem due to stereotypical mascots. (Fryberg,  
40 2003) Because these images and names remind Native youth of the limited ways in which  
41 others see them, which in turn restricts how they see themselves; reducing them “into a  
42 single outdated stereotype that harms the way Native people, especially youth, view  
43 themselves.”( Hilleary, 2018.) Furthermore, the American Psychological Association has  
44 determined that these representations also undermine the ability of Native nations and  
45 people to portray themselves accurately as distinct and diverse cultures, and that  
46 stereotypical images are a dominant culture’s prejudiced representations of a racial or

47 ethnic minority group; and research shows that these team names and mascots can  
48 establish an unwelcome and hostile learning environment for Native American students.  
49 These stereotypical representations are too often understood as factual representations  
50 and thus “contribute to the development of cultural biases and prejudices.” (APA  
51 Resolution, 2011)

52

53 **WHEREAS**, our Native American youth are already at risk living at poverty levels at nearly  
54 double the national rate (Census, 2008-2010), with some of the lowest high school  
55 graduation rates in the country, (Center for Education Statistics, 2014) and extreme health  
56 disparities. (IHS, 2014) The most disturbing evidence of this is the suicide crisis which is  
57 the second leading cause of death for Native American youth ages 15 to 24 and at a rate  
58 that is 2.5 times higher than the national average. (CDC, 2012)

59

60 **WHEREAS**, after “animal” mascots, by far the next most popular athletic mascots are  
61 depictions of Native American people.” (King, 2001) And as of 2016, at least 12% of  
62 Pennsylvania (brick-and-mortar) public high school graduates come from a school with a  
63 demeaning mascot and of all 584 high school mascots identified, “Indians” was only  
64 second in popularity to “Panthers”, which were in 26 schools. (Goodman, 2016)

65

66 **WHEREAS**, there is a growing base of support calling for the elimination of Native logos,  
67 mascots, and names as evidenced by condemnation from national leaders, congressional  
68 members; professional organizations, such as the American Psychological Association;  
69 education advocacy organizations, such as the National Education Association; human  
70 rights and tribal organizations, like the National Association for the Advancement of  
71 Colored People and the National Congress of American Indians; and sports regulatory  
72 commissions, like the National Collegiate Athletic Association; and

73

74 **WHEREAS**, Commission on General Conference moved our 2012 General Conference  
75 to Tampa Florida from Richmond Virginia when it discovered that city hosts the feeder  
76 team for the Richmond Braves. Additionally, Methodist schools have changed their  
77 names including, Simpson College, Oklahoma City University, and Martin Methodist  
78 College in opposition to such practices.

79

80 **WHEREAS**, Major teams and franchises are changing their names and team logos such  
81 as the University of North Dakota and the Cleveland Indians who will stop using the “Chief  
82 Wahoo” logo on their uniforms in 2019.

83

84 **WHEREAS**, major companies such as Adidas are helping to offset costs associated with  
85 such change by providing its "design services free of charge, subsidizing the cost of  
86 athletic equipment and providing additional financial support for the schools who want to  
87 make a change." (Mattera, 2015)

88

89 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that local CoNAM representatives partner with local  
90 churches and local Native American youth and parents, to study the impact, begin  
91 conversations about the consequences regarding the injurious nature of athletic programs

92 that depict Native Peoples through logos, mascots, and names, as well as develop  
93 recommendations to remove harmful representations.

94

95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in order to promote a safe and welcoming learning  
96 environment for all that local churches identify schools, colleges, and professional sports  
97 teams in their towns, municipalities, and counties which engage in practices of “Native”  
98 name-calling, mascotting and cultural appropriation, and urge them to change their team  
99 identities and behaviors.

100

101 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that in the interest of furthering the conversation and  
102 continuing the Journey of Repentance the CoNAM acknowledges that some of the names  
103 used by local schools and colleges are based on the language of the Native American  
104 Nations who first inhabited the land where they now reside. In light of this, we encourage  
105 local churches who are located near such schools and colleges to speak with these  
106 entities about engaging with Native youth and parents from the community and the  
107 schools in ways that are respectful of tribal culture and respects the right of each tribe  
108 and tribal community to decide how best to protect and celebrate Native heritage and  
109 traditions.

110

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

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 21(Consent Calendar)**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to Advance Special Applications**  
4 **Presented by Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**  
5 **(CSGM)**

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

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

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, practicality indicates a change in the time period covered by a list of  
17 conference advance special to as soon as possible after they are approved;

18  
19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following program and ministries of the annual  
20 conference having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of  
21 Conference Advance Specials for the year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

22  
23 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Barbara Drake, Conference  
24 Secretary of Global Ministries.

25  
26 **ANCHORAGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM** ..... \$10,000.

27 Applicant: Rev. Joseph F. DiPaolo  
28 Director: Patty Eastep  
29 717-682-9976 [director@anchoragebreakfast.org](mailto:director@anchoragebreakfast.org)  
30 This 501c3 organization provides free breakfast meals at First UMC, Lancaster from  
31 Monday through Friday, 52 weeks per year. An average of 4000 hot meals are served  
32 per month to over 120 people of Lancaster who are low income, unsheltered, and  
33 socially-excluded. Social Service agencies are invited to be present as a resource.  
34 Volunteer chaplains are available for those seeking spiritual counsel.

35  
36 **EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND** ..... \$15,000

37 Applicant: Lenora Thompson  
38 215-472-8219, 215-666-1000, [lenorathompson@hotmail.com](mailto:lenorathompson@hotmail.com)  
39 Provides scholarships twice a year in various amounts to lay and clergy persons in EPA  
40 who are full-time students attending approved colleges, universities, or seminaries.  
41 They must be active members of a UMC for at least 2 years, and they must maintain a  
42 2.5 grade point average.

43  
44 **4<sup>th</sup> GENERATION CHILDREN’S MINISTRY** ..... \$5,000

45 Applicant: Rev. W. Matthew Whayland  
46 164 Black Oak Road, Lebanon, PA 17043

47 St. John's UMC, 1709 Center Street, Lebanon, PA 17043  
48 Director: Madaline Amill  
49 717-980- 7189, [madylove64@gmail.com](mailto:madylove64@gmail.com)  
50 This ministry is an outreach to children of the Pleasant Hill section of Lebanon, by  
51 members of St. John's UMC and New Birth UMC, who staff the Monday evening  
52 program of scripture stories, art, drama, media, and a hot meal.

53  
54 **HELPING HANDS MINISTRY** ..... \$100,000

55 Applicant: Rev. William J. Ritzenthaler  
56 7860 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080, 610-767-6233. [ritz007@verozon.net](mailto:ritz007@verozon.net)  
57 This ministry of St. Peter's UMC, Emerald, provides food to food banks, soup kitchens,  
58 individuals facing emergencies, and food back packs to middle school students.  
59 Clothing and furniture are provided to families in need. A community center is run in  
60 Parryville with Wednesday Bible study for elected officials and business owners and  
61 with a Saturday night Lifetree Café. A teen center is planned for June 2018.

62  
63 **HOPE CHRISTIAN COUNSELING** ..... \$3,000

64 Applicant: Rev. Susan L. Worrell  
65 Mail: P.O. Box 91, Unionville, PA 19375. Location: UMC of West Chester, 129 High St.  
66 West Chester, PA. 610-436-9298. 484-732-8269 484-883-7628.

67 [HopeChristianCounseling@gmail.com](mailto:HopeChristianCounseling@gmail.com)

68 This non-profit ministry offers professional counseling, spiritual direction, retreat and  
69 workshop facilitation and training for individuals and groups by qualified, certified, or  
70 licensed professionals and/or ordained clergy who have expertise in areas including but  
71 not limited to addictive/compulsive behaviors, mental health concerns, grief, loss, life  
72 transitions, relationship issues, visitation ministry, and small group ministry. Service is  
73 available to all regardless of ability to pay a full fee.

74  
75 **LIGHT OF MARNIE** ..... \$10,000

76 Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty  
77 John: 610-470-1369 [JohnL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JohnL@lightofmarnie.org). Jennifer: 610-766-0944  
78 [JenL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JenL@lightofmarnie.org)  
79 Office: 610-384-4228

80 SHALOCA Christian Academy is an elementary school, grades K-6, in Liberia, West  
81 Africa, providing basic education and Christian education for 75-100 children annually  
82 for over 10 years. The ministry will be working with the government of Liberia to bring  
83 clean piped water to the school property, and raising funds to install bathrooms. The  
84 Board of Directors does fundraising through presentations to churches and community  
85 groups to urge support for the school. Rev. James Coleman, founder and President of  
86 SHALOCA Ministries is a member of First Media UMC. Light of Marnie is supported by  
87 Thorndale UMC.

88  
89 **LUMINA** ..... \$10,000

90 Applicant: Correen M. Russo  
91 20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-394-8412, 717-808-8633,  
92 [correen.lumina@gmail.com](mailto:correen.lumina@gmail.com)

93 This ministry serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in Lancaster  
94 annually using volunteers from 75 churches in West District. The program has 3 focus  
95 areas:

- 96 • Children: weekly Kids' Nights, summer day camp, field trips, scholarships for  
97 residence camps.
- 98 • Clothing: professional for work and school uniforms.
- 99 • Nutrition education.

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

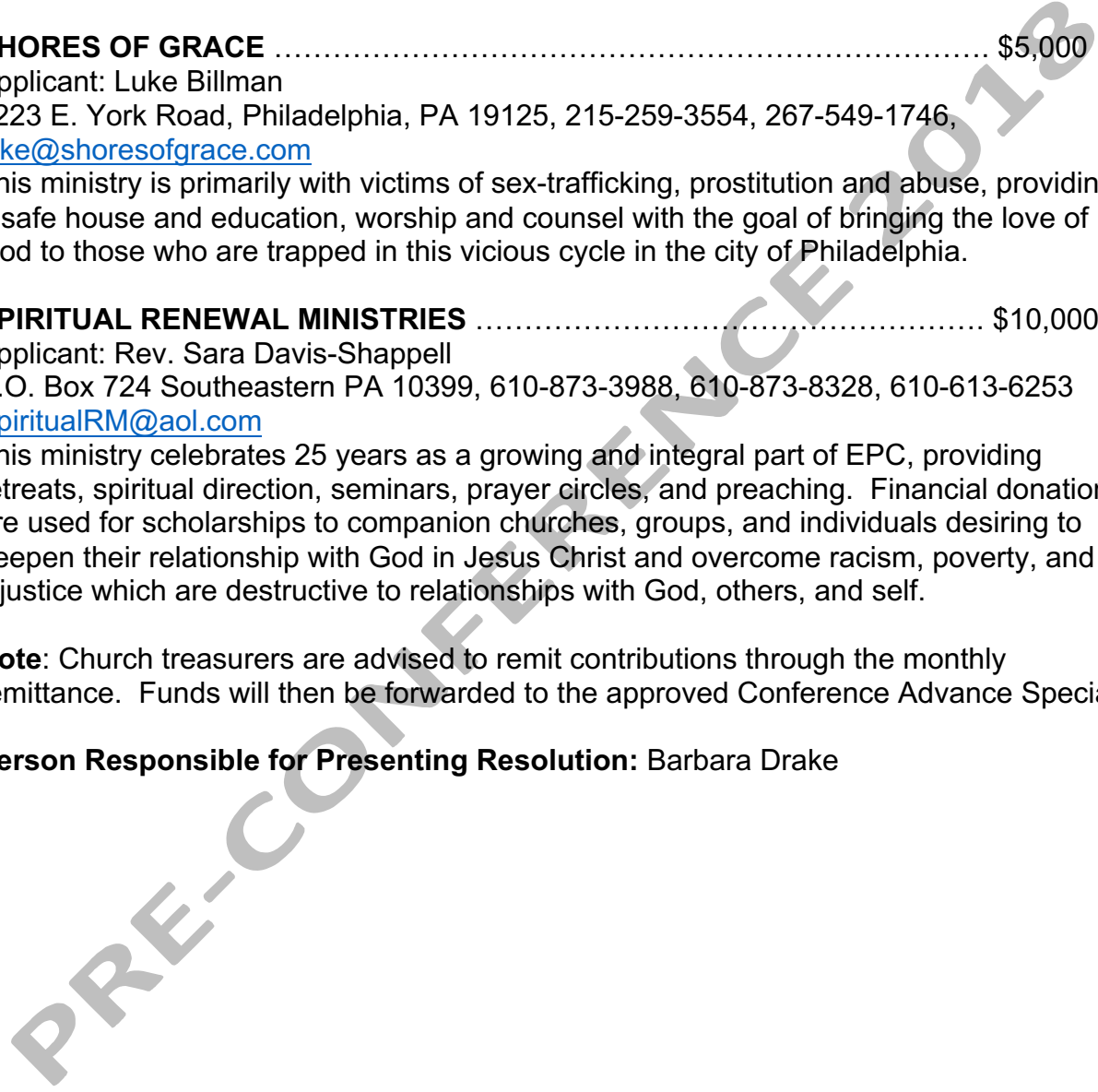
Applicant: Luke Billman  
2223 E. York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19125, 215-259-3554, 267-549-1746,  
[luke@shoresofgrace.com](mailto:luke@shoresofgrace.com)  
This ministry is primarily with victims of sex-trafficking, prostitution and abuse, providing  
a safe house and education, worship and counsel with the goal of bringing the love of  
God to those who are trapped in this vicious cycle in the city of Philadelphia.

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

Applicant: Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell  
P.O. Box 724 Southeastern PA 10399, 610-873-3988, 610-873-8328, 610-613-6253  
[SpiritualRM@aol.com](mailto:SpiritualRM@aol.com)  
This ministry celebrates 25 years as a growing and integral part of EPC, providing  
retreats, spiritual direction, seminars, prayer circles, and preaching. Financial donations  
are used for scholarships to companion churches, groups, and individuals desiring to  
deepen their relationship with God in Jesus Christ and overcome racism, poverty, and  
injustice which are destructive to relationships with God, others, and self.

**Note:** Church treasurers are advised to remit contributions through the monthly  
remittance. Funds will then be forwarded to the approved Conference Advance Special

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Barbara Drake



1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 22**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Agape Love for All**

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

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, in The Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus illustrates the expansiveness  
11 of God's love. Jesus answers the question: "Who is my neighbor?" with a parable. The  
12 religious leaders maintaining ritual and religious obligations walk past the injured traveler.  
13 A Samaritan, an outcaste, stops to help. The answer to the question is clear. Agape love  
14 is more than good intentions; it is direct action that breaks through all barriers and delivers  
15 healing, hope, and wholeness wherever there is pain, exclusion, harm, and oppression.

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Commission on the Way Forward is focused on the  
18 discriminatory language of the Book of Discipline that bars LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay,  
19 bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual) persons from full  
20 inclusion in the life of the church. That purpose gains integrity if it informs the church at  
21 all levels on how to move forward in a way that interrupts the injury and pain that has  
22 been too long ignored at the intersection of systemic and everyday racism, sexism,  
23 ableism, classism, and disregard for the environment.

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, agape love provides hope for a heavenly home one day. Yet, it also requires  
26 that the Good Samaritan in each of us to apply the healing remedy of racial justice,  
27 adequate healthcare, economic dignity, gender equity, full inclusion and acceptance of  
28 LGBTQIA persons, environmental preservation, accessible accommodations, and  
29 educational opportunity to all persons we meet along our way in the here and now.

30  
31 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference commit to  
32 our own way forward that seeks the integrity of the church and puts into practice the  
33 agape love illustrated by the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

34  
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference send to the  
36 secretary of the Council of Bishops an electronic copy of this resolution for electronic  
37 distribution to all of the COB members, which states that the EPA conference believes  
38 that any restructuring of the Church in response to the Commission on the Way Forward  
39 must actively seek to redress the legacy of racism, heterosexism, ableism, classism,  
40 sexism, and all other systems of oppression.

41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference seeks to  
43 eliminate other forms of discrimination and that it send to the secretary of the Council of  
44 Bishops an electronic copy of this resolution for electronic distribution to all of the COB  
45 members, which states that the EPA conference asks the Council of Bishops, in its  
46 response to the Commission on the Way Forward, to call on General Conference to

47 remove all language that diminishes the humanity and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual  
48 and transgender people--and thus, enhance the dignity of us all.

49

50 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Jerry Noone

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018



1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 23**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution relating to the reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante**  
4 **National Monuments in Utah**

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

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church has begun a Journey of Repentance,  
9 Reconciliation, and Healing with Native People and has demonstrated a commitment to  
10 continue the journey as evidenced by resolutions in the 2016 *Book Of Resolutions* from  
11 paragraph 3321 to 3334, spelling out action steps to fulfill that commitment to “covenant  
12 together with Native People to work toward healing of their historic grief and traumas”;  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, these resolutions refer specifically to “American Indian Sacred and Religious  
15 Life, Practice, and Location,” and encourage United Methodists to “stand in solidarity with  
16 American Indians on these important religious issues and to provide mediation when  
17 appropriate for ongoing negotiations with state and federal agencies regarding these  
18 matters,” (BOR, page 327);  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah are  
21 deemed sacred and held by Native Peoples under the sovereign rights of the Indian  
22 nations secured by Indian treaties and agreements with the United States under the laws  
23 and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of  
24 Indigenous Peoples, and with that consideration, by Presidential proclamation Bears Ears  
25 was declared a National Monument under the Antiquities Act on December 28, 2016, as  
26 a means to secure permanent protection for these lands and to oppose any attempt to  
27 reverse the protection;  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, a Presidential proclamation on December 4, 2017, reduced the size of Bears  
30 Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah by nearly 2 million  
31 acres threatens Native Peoples’ land and sacred sites for the purpose of amassing profit  
32 for energy and mining companies by the extraction of fossil fuels and minerals;  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel, in  
35 expressing his support for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, has stated that “The  
36 original intent of the Antiquities Act was to protect our tribal sacred sites and the cultural  
37 objects in those sites. The history of our indigenous ancestors lives in these sacred  
38 places. The actions to reduce Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante endangers our  
39 freedom of religion, our histories and our communities”;  
40

41 **WHEREAS**, Senator Tom Udall stated in the Congressional Response to NCAI President  
42 Keel’s State of Indian Nations address on February 12, 2018, that he is doing all he can  
43 in the Senate to “partner with Tribes to protect sacred places for generations to come,”  
44 including introducing the Antiquities Act of 2018, after consultation with Tribal leaders and  
45 organizations, to “reaffirm the boundaries set forth in the monument designation since  
46 1996”;

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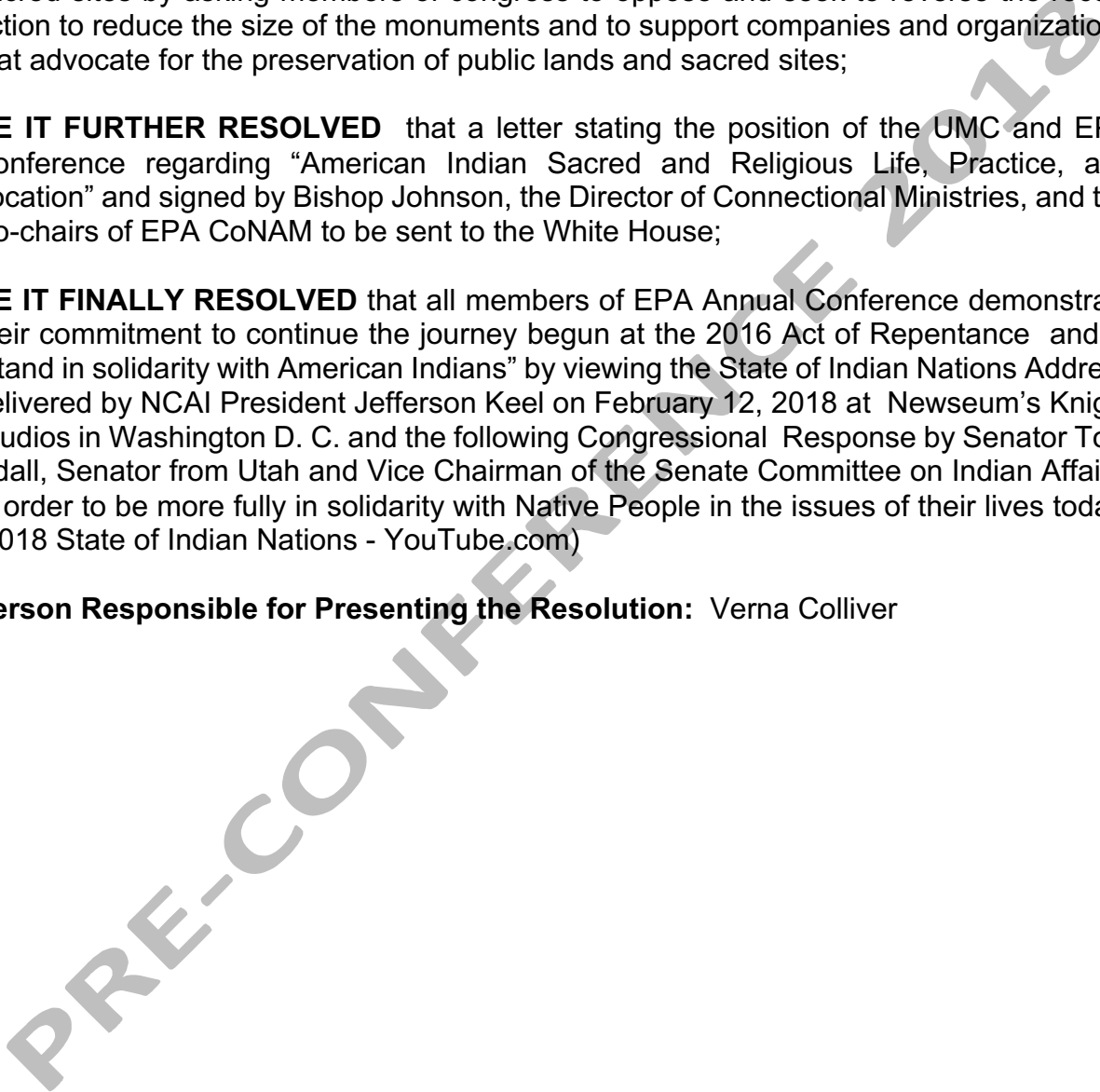
**WHEREAS**, the majority of the people of the United States, major outdoor sports companies, and major conservation organizations support the protection of these monuments and sacred sites;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that members of the Eastern PA Annual Conference and local church members are urged to support and advocate for actions to protect these sacred sites by asking members of congress to oppose and seek to reverse the recent action to reduce the size of the monuments and to support companies and organizations that advocate for the preservation of public lands and sacred sites;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a letter stating the position of the UMC and EPA Conference regarding “American Indian Sacred and Religious Life, Practice, and Location” and signed by Bishop Johnson, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Co-chairs of EPA CoNAM to be sent to the White House;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all members of EPA Annual Conference demonstrate their commitment to continue the journey begun at the 2016 Act of Repentance and to “stand in solidarity with American Indians” by viewing the State of Indian Nations Address delivered by NCAI President Jefferson Keel on February 12, 2018 at Newseum’s Knight Studios in Washington D. C. and the following Congressional Response by Senator Tom Udall, Senator from Utah and Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, in order to be more fully in solidarity with Native People in the issues of their lives today. (2018 State of Indian Nations - YouTube.com)

**Person Responsible for Presenting the Resolution:** Verna Colliver



1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 24**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution Relating to Repeal and Reenactment 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  
28 spirit of 2012-21 on month-to-month and year-to-year bases; and

29  
30 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that tiers one and three of Resolution 2012-21 be  
31 repealed retroactively to January 1, 2018; 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) apportionments  
42 and other billings balances as of December 31, 2017 for local churches in the conference  
43 (hereinafter referred to as "prior-year's balances):

- 44  
45 a) Immediate cancellation of prior-years' balances shall apply to all churches  
46 with balances in "Apportionments" and "Other billings" showing on

47 remittance forms to December 31, 2017. "Apportionments" are defined as  
48 including Connectional Ministries Fund (CMF), World Service Fund (WSF),  
49 and the General Church Fund (GCS). "Other billings" are defined as  
50 Connection Health Care (CHC), Mandatory Health Care (MHC); Church  
51 Vehicle Insurance (CVI), and Personal Health Savings;

- 52  
53 b) Prior-years' balances which cannot be cancelled include all arrearages of  
54 Pension Benefits, Health Insurance Benefits for clergy and laity, Property  
55 and Liability Insurance, Retired Clergy and Health Obligation, and Workers  
56 Compensation; the aforementioned items are commonly referred to as  
57 "other billings" on remittance forms;

58  
59 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the net proceeds of the sale of church properties  
60 outside urban centers due to closings, or mergers of congregations, be first used to pay  
61 prior-years' balances not otherwise cancelled by this resolution. Net proceeds are those  
62 remaining after the payment of settlement costs and other legal encumbrances such as  
63 mortgaged debt.

64  
65 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Irene Dickinson, CCFA Chair

PRE-CONFERENCE 2018

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 25**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution Relating to an Act of Justice Cancelling all Allowable Apportionments**  
4 **and Other Billings**  
5 **Presented by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, for 101 years the all-black Delaware Annual Conference proudly birthed and  
8 nurtured a number of African American churches in the Philadelphia region that in 1965  
9 were transferred through merger into the predominantly -white Philadelphia Annual  
10 Conference. This action preceded the dissolution of the racially segregated Central  
11 Jurisdiction in 1968. Conference Journal records indicate that the 34 churches serving  
12 African American persons in the Delaware Annual Conference when it was founded grew  
13 to 253 churches (valued collectively at a little more than \$13 million) when the merger  
14 occurred; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, as documented by noted historian William C. Jason, Jr., this growth came at  
17 a price in that a large number of these congregations were housed in church buildings  
18 purchased by the African American congregations from formerly white congregations who  
19 had built them to suit a model that was already obsolete when they were sold. Burdened  
20 with buildings harboring significant energy inefficiencies, deferred maintenance and  
21 decreased equity, the African American churches pursued ministry faithfully in a context  
22 that perpetuated systemic economic and racial injustice; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, this decline would continue from the time the Delaware Annual Conference  
25 merged into the General Conference in 1965 to present day -- more than 50 years later  
26 --and,  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the reality of segregation in America and the act of mandating a principle of  
29 racial segregation in American Methodism were grave sins still needing atonement today.  
30 This resolution is one attempt at such an atonement.  
31

32 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that as an act of justice, the Annual Conference  
33 releases all Black Churches (former Delaware Conference, Philadelphia Conference, and  
34 current Eastern PA Conference churches), and/or their successor entities, (a listing of  
35 29 such congregations is available from the Treasurer's Office), from any further  
36 responsibility for any and all prior-years' balances accumulated prior to December 31,  
37 2017, excepting where The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, ¶ 639.4, disallows  
38 such action, as found in paragraph 639.4, concerning Pension Benefits and Health  
39 Insurance Benefits arrearages.  
40

41 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Irene Dickinson, CCFA Chair

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 26**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**  
3 **Resolution relating to a Love Offering for Puerto Rico**  
4 **Presented by Eastern Pennsylvania Task Force for Puerto Rico Recovery**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, Early on Wednesday, September 20, Hurricane Maria — a powerful  
7 Category 4 hurricane with 150 mph winds — made direct landfall on Puerto Rico,  
8 bisecting the entire island and drenching it with feet of rain;

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, FEMA National Director declared Hurricane Maria, as the biggest natural  
11 disaster in US history; longest sustained air mission of food and water in FEMA history;  
12 largest sea-bridge operation of federal disaster aid in FEMA history; and one of, if not the,  
13 largest disaster housing missions in FEMA history;

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, The Puerto Rico Methodist Conference and its one hundred church buildings  
16 suffered extensive devastation and it is struggling to recover;

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, 30% of the Methodist churches in the island were damaged with 10% not  
19 safe for use, and no clear path forward for rebuilding;

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States by virtue of the island's status  
22 as a U.S. territory;

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, Any successful recovery effort is a partnership of local people who are  
25 complemented by others who join with them to rebuild spiritual hope and physical  
26 structures;

27  
28 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**: that September 16, 2018, the first Sunday of the  
29 National Hispanic Heritage Month, be designated as the Eastern Pennsylvania Puerto  
30 Rico Methodist Church Recovery Love Offering Sunday, and that all Eastern  
31 Pennsylvania United Methodist congregations take a Love Offering for the Puerto Rico  
32 Methodist Church on that day.

33  
34 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution – Rev. Nicolas Camacho**

1 **RESOLUTION 2018 - 27**

2 **RESOLUTION TTO 2018 Annual Conference Session**

3 **Relating to Sexual Abuse, Harassment, Misconduct, Appropriate Boundaries, and**  
4 **Misogyny**

5 **Submitted by: The Rev. Lydia E. Muñoz; Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck; The Rev.**  
6 **Joanne Miles; Ms. Bunnie Bryant; Ms. Mary Hankins; The Rev. Dr. Timothy**  
7 **Duchesne; The Rev. Victor Jimenez; Krystl D Johnson; and The Rev. Angela Kellie**  
8 **Ebo**

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, widespread naming of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual  
11 misconduct have become empowered this past year through the #MeToo campaign so  
12 that more than at any time in the past victims have been heard and believed, and  
13 offenders have experienced consequences for their actions; public outrage has been swift  
14 and strong, even though the long lists of offenders have been numerically and emotionally  
15 overwhelming; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, in The United Methodist Church (UMC), the term in general use is “sexual  
18 misconduct” (see Resolution 2044 “Sexual Misconduct Within Ministerial Relationships,  
19 2016 Book of Resolutions), yet a limitation of the definitions the United Methodist Church  
20 offers is that they focus primarily on interactions from clergypersons directed at  
21 laypersons while sometimes it comes from the other direction—laypersons sexually  
22 harassing clergy, especially female clergy—and sometimes it is related to the abuse of  
23 power perpetuated among bishops, district superintendents, and clergy, especially but  
24 not exclusively as experienced by females in these roles; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, a broader definition in use in society today is from the U.S. Equal  
27 Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC): “Harassment can include ‘sexual  
28 harassment’ or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal  
29 or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual  
30 nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person’s sex. For example,  
31 it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general.  
32 Both victim and the harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and harasser  
33 can be the same sex;” (For a definition that goes even further, see the Rape Abuse and  
34 Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization,  
35 at <https://www.rainn.org/articles/sexual-harassment>); and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church (UMC) Social Principles on “Women and Men”  
38 (161.F), “Sexual Abuse” (161.I), and “Sexual Harassment” (161.J) affirm our  
39 understanding of gender diversity as a gift from God, reject the ideas “that one gender is  
40 superior to another” and that “members of one gender may receive love, power, and  
41 esteem only at the expense of another,” and confirm our strident condemnation of sexual  
42 abuse and sexual harassment by lifting up our values and our understandings of God’s  
43 will for God’s people that speak to the damage inflicted by sexual abuse and sexual  
44 harassment; and

45

46 **WHEREAS**, data reflected in the General Commission on the Status and Role of  
47 Women's (GCSRW) recent update to their study on sexual misconduct in The UMC, (The  
48 report can be found at: [www.gcsr.org/MonitoringHistory/ WomenByTheNumbers/  
49 CurrentArticle.aspx](http://www.gcsr.org/MonitoringHistory/WomenByTheNumbers/CurrentArticle.aspx)) as well as anecdotes shared in countless private conversations all  
50 over this Annual Conference and across the church, clearly demonstrates that we utterly  
51 fail to live up to these values; and

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has engaged in confronting the sin of  
54 sexual harassment, sexism and misogyny through a rigorous sexual misconduct training  
55 which includes the "Do No Harm" training for Bishops and Laity in San Antonio, the work  
56 of the I-Care Team, the mandatory requirement of training CLM's and CSM's before  
57 engaging in ministry in our annual conference as well as the current Board of Ordained  
58 Ministries requirement for every candidate to ordained ministry to receive sexual ethics  
59 training and advanced sexual ethics training before moving on to ordination. Along with  
60 the extensive training and requirement for every congregation to provide a Safe  
61 Sanctuary Policy that is visible and accessible to every person in the congregation and  
62 the upcoming work of the newly formed Domestic Violence Team.

63  
64 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we affirm the ongoing work of the Annual  
65 Conference to confront and combat the sin of sexual harassment and abuse, misconduct,  
66 inappropriate boundaries, and misogyny in the Church, in our communities and in the  
67 world as we stand in solidarity with the #METOO movement.

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that clergy in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference  
70 continue grow in their knowledge and awareness of sexual harassment, sexual abuse,  
71 misconduct and misogyny in all its forms and to avail themselves of the resources our  
72 conference already provides as well as other denominational agency resources such as  
73 COSROW and General Board of Church and Society.

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the laity of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in every  
76 congregation be engaged in ongoing study, sensitivity training and awareness of the issue  
77 as part of their spiritual formation and discipleship in keeping with Paul's reminder that "if  
78 anyone be in Christ, they (he/she) is a new creation, old things have passed away and all  
79 things are made new." (I Corinthians 5:17)

80  
81 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Dr. Timothy Duchesne and  
82 The Rev. Victor Jimenez