

2019 Resolutions

Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, June 13-15, 2019



**tell
to the
coming
generation**

psalm 78:4

**233rd Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456**

2019 Resolutions

Table of Contents

2019 – 01A	CC Hancock Discontinuance	01
2019 – 01B	Hazleton Diamond Discontinuance	02
2019 – 02	EPA Mission Links	03
2019 – 03	Retiree Registration	04
2019 – 04	Automatic Enrollment	05
2019 – 05	* PSR Resolution	06
2019 – 06	Retiree Health Care	07
2019 – 07	* Housing Allowance	09
2019 – 08	* Joint Caring Committee	11
2019 – 09	Healing the Wounds	12
2019 – 10	Motto Change	13
2019 – 11	Advanced Training	15
2019 – 12	* Advance Specials	17
2019 – 13	One Plan Conference	21
2019 – 14	Native American Advocacy	23
2019 – 15	Introductory Training	24
2019 – 16	* Equitable Compensation	25
2019 – 17	Voting Rights	27
2019 – 18L	Pro Rata Pension Obligation	30
2019 – 19L	Discipline Paragraph 2553	32

(* Bolded Resolutions are on a Consent Calendar)

1 **Resolution #2019 - 01A**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to the Discontinuance of the CC Hancock United Methodist Church**

4 **Submitted by the South District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, CC Hancock United Methodist Church, located in Delaware County, was
7 founded in 1956 and has a long and proud history of ministering to the community in
8 Springfield, PA.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the church conference of CC Hancock, voted on March 10, 2019 to
11 discontinue the church; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the District Superintendent has recommended the discontinuance of CC
14 Hancock and transfer of membership to Lima UMC.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the remaining congregation of CC Hancock and the Superintendent has
17 recommended that the property be sold and conference Trustees distribute the
18 proceeds following the recommendations continued herein;
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the remaining congregation request the Conference Board of Trustees to
21 allocate 1/3 to the conference Trustees; up to 1/3 of the sale proceeds to the Chester:
22 St. Daniel's New Church Start on the former Trinity Campus in Chester, PA; and up to
23 1/3 to the creation of Church Development under the direction of the EPA Cabinet.
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop; the
26 district superintendents, and the district Board of Church Location and Building; and all
27 property Disciplinary requirements have been complied with; and
28

29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CC Hancock United Methodist Church be
30 discontinued effective June 30, 2019
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Trustees of the Eastern PA Conference
33 distribute the assets from the sale of property and other remaining assets held by CC
34 Hancock United Methodist Church, following the above recommendations, as they
35 deem appropriate.
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that historical records be forwarded to the Eastern
38 Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Archives and History located at St. George's
39 United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.
40

41 **Person Responsible for Presenting the Resolution:** Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm

1 **Resolution #2019 - 01B**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to the Discontinuance of Hazleton: Diamond United Methodist Church**
4 **Submitted by the North District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Hazleton: Diamond United Methodist Church, established in 1905 in
7 Hazleton, Pennsylvania has a long and proud history of serving the people of Hazleton;
8 and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Hazleton: Diamond United Methodist Church voted at their Annual Charge
11 Conference on November 1, 2018 with the last service to be on Sunday, January 6,
12 2019; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Hazleton: Diamond United Methodist Church contacted the North District
15 Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference to inform the District
16 Superintendent of the congregation's decision to close as of January 6, 2019; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania
19 Annual Conference have given their approval; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Board of Trustees was granted
22 full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets,
23

24 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Hazleton: Diamond United Methodist Church
25 discontinue effective January 6, 2019 with thankful gratitude for 113 years of faithful
26 service to the Hazleton area.
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any assets resulting from the sale of the property
29 and other remaining assets held by Hazleton: Diamond United Methodist Church after
30 all prior obligations have been met, will be distributed according to the following
31 percentages; 25% to Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center, 25% to Gretna Glen
32 Camp and Retreat Center and 50% to North District Ministries.
33

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the historical records of Hazleton: Diamond United
35 Methodist Church be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church
36 in Philadelphia, PA.
37

38 **Person Responsible for Presenting the Resolution:** Rev. Steve Morton

1 **RESOLUTION #2019 - 02**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution Relating to changing the name Mission ConneXion to Mission Link**
4 **Presented by the Eastern PA Conference Cabinet**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the churches of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference desire to be
7 effective in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our
8 communities and world; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the communities in which we find ourselves desperately need the Good
11 News of the love of Jesus Christ embodied in their midst; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, we are stronger when we work together than we can be in isolation; and:
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the congregations of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference are aligned
16 successfully in mission clusters of 4 to 15 churches in a plan for collaborative ministry
17 and mission as spelled out in the document "Creating a Mission ConneXion 2013,"
18

19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference continue
20 to provide for the alignment of all churches in mission clusters, but the new name of the
21 mission clusters be changed from "Mission ConneXion" to "EPA Mission Link;"
22

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all documents and communications of the
24 annual conference, and all churches and ministry entities within it, begin immediately
25 using the new name of "EPA Mission Link."
26 .

27 **Person Responsible for Presenting this Resolution:** EPA Cabinet

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 03**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Conference Registration Fee for Retired Clergy**

4 **Presented by Executive Committee of the Retired Preachers Association**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, many clergy persons in retirement do not serve a member church of the
7 Eastern Pa Conference and thus have no church to sponsor their conference
8 registration fee;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, many retired clergy persons are living on fixed incomes;

11
12 **AND WHEREAS**, the decisions of the annual conference are enriched by the presence
13 of retired clergy persons and their years of experience;

14
15 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that henceforth the annual conference will offer a
16 Retired Clergyperson Registration rate for retired clergy not serving a local church or
17 United Methodist agency;

18
19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the retired clergy registration fee shall not
20 exceed the cost of meals for the event.

21
22 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Bronwyn Yocum

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 04**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution to Enable Automatic Enrollment in the UMPIP**

4 **Presented by The EPA Board of Health Benefits, Coleen Painter, President**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, The Board of Pension and Health Benefits is concerned with the number of
7 clergy who are not prepared for a comfortable retirement, and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, reports from Wespath confirm that we are often very late to enroll clergy at
10 appointment changes or eligibility changes due to incomplete or unsubmitted forms,
11 and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, we recognize the importance of saving for a secure retirement, and

14 **WHEREAS**, Wespath has created a process for conferences to approve the automatic
15 enrollment of eligible clergy into the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan,
16

17 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that effective January 1, 2020, all clergy
18 appointed to a local church, charge, or conference elected entities who are not yet
19 enrolled shall automatically be enrolled in the United Methodist Personal Investment
20 Plan at a 1% contribution.
21

22 **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that after 1/1/2020 all clergy will automatically be
23 enrolled at a 1.0% contribution rate when they become eligible to participate in the
24 UMPIP.
25

26 **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that clergy will retain the right to opt out of the plan
27 by completing and submitting a UMPIP contribution election form.
28

29 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Coleen Painter

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 – 05**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program**
4 **(CRSP) for the Year 2020**

5 **Presented by Coleen Painter, President Board of 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, 2020. 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 2020. 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, 2020 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

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 – 06**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution Concerning Retiree Health Care**

4 **Presented by Coleen Painter, President Board of Health Benefits**

5
6 **WHEREAS** the future unfunded liability for Post-Retirement Health insurance as
7 recorded in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (EPA) annual audit was \$24 million
8 as of December 31, 2012 and has decreased to just under 10 million on December 31,
9 2018 through the changes made over the past 5 years; and

10
11 **WHEREAS** we are charged by Wespath to submit annual plans for funding of this future
12 liability for Post-Retirement health insurance; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, 98% of our retirees were enrolled into the group plan offered which is the
15 most costly plan for retirees and more insurance than the majority of retirees need; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, we have continued to have customer service issues with our current
18 provider over the last few years; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, Wespath offers a service called Via Benefits which assists retirees in
21 enrollment to the plan best suited for their needs, and would provide seamless transition
22 from our HealthFlex for active clergy to the Retirement Insurance; and

23
24 **WHEREAS** a study by Wespath revealed that lowering our subsidy by 17% would allow
25 93% of our retirees to have the same or less out of pocket expenses, and would assist
26 in lowering our future liability cost while “resetting” the subsidy start point; and

27
28 **WHEREAS** these outsourced options will provide retirees with expert one-on-one
29 assistance provided through Wespath and more medical plan flexibility and options; and

30
31 **WHEREAS** The Group Insurance Committee has authorized investigation and due
32 diligence on this option; and

33
34 **WHEREAS** most retirees would see a reduction in the cost of their health plan choice
35 for 2020;

36
37 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
38 shall enroll with Via Benefits effective January 1, 2020, with an Annual Election period in
39 October and November of 2019;

40
41 **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is
42 authorized to contribute an annual subsidy, reduced by 15% over past years, per
43 retiree, payable monthly, in the following amounts:

- 44 • \$2,550 for each Pre-2003 Retiree with at least 20 years of enrollment in the EPA
45 Plan.

- \$1,870 for each Post-2003/Pre-2015 Retiree with 20 Years of enrollment in the EPA Plan
- \$1,020 for each Post-1/1/2015 Retiree in the Pre-Funding Plan with contributions paid in full, with 20 years of service in The United Methodist Church, once they transfer their contribution balance to the conference.
- No contributions will be made for members over the age of 40 who elected not to participate in the prefunding plan, but they will be able to utilize the enrollment assistance of the Medical Exchange Program.
- \$600 for each age 67 or above Post-1/1/2015 Retiree under the age of 40 as of 1/1/2015, with 20 years of service in the United Methodist Church.
- \$335 for each Retiree age 65-67 with 20 years of service in the United Methodist Church.
- Members who retire with less than 20 years in in the United Methodist Church, but more than 10 years, will receive 5% less contribution for each year of service less than 20.
- No contribution will be made for members who have less than 10 years of service with The Eastern PA Conference, but they will be able to utilize the enrollment assistance of the AmWins group.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that future subsidy contributions will be recommended by the EPA Board of Pension and Health Benefits for approval by the annual conference,

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that for members to be eligible for a retiree health care subsidy, they must be enrolled in Medicare and have been a member of our conference the last ten years of their ministry.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that for members to be eligible for a retiree health care subsidy, they must be enrolled in a Via Benefits plan through Wespeth.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the rules for spousal coverage do not change.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Coleen Painter

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 07**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons**

4 **Presented by Coleen Painter, President Board of 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 Wespeth during the year 2020 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 Wespeth and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from
35 benefits accrued under a Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the
36 *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or
37 that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church,
38 annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the
39 Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer
40 that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the
41 Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a
42 benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergyperson’s
43 pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

44
45 **NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s
46 gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal

Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Coleen Painter

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 08**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution to disband the Joint Committee on Incapacity and reform as The Joint**
4 **Caring Committee**

5 **Presented by The EPA Board of Benefits and The Board of Ordained Ministry**
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996)
8 that provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information
9 has eliminated the authority of our joint committee to approve medical leave on based
10 medical conditions, and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the language in the **2016 Discipline**, paragraph 652 has been modified to
13 allow annual conferences a choice in the need for this committee, and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Board of Pension and
16 Health Benefits all have a process in place to determine the need for a medical leave
17 appointment with or without the Comprehensive Protection Plan, and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The Board of Ordained Ministry and The Board of Pension and Health
20 Benefits must continue to formally approve both a Medical Leave and a return from
21 Medical Leave, and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Wespeth outsources this medical authority to Liberty Mutual once
24 eligibility is established, and
25

26 **IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

27 A.) The Eastern PA Conference shall disband the Joint Committee on Incapacity as of
28 July 1, 2019, and

29 B.) Shall form a new Joint Caring Committee to provide support, advocacy, and contact
30 to our members on Medical Leave.
31

32 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Coleen Painter

1 **RESOLUTION # 2019 – 09**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team**

4 **Presented by the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the 1996 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference “Plan toward the
7 Elimination of Racism Within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference” establishes, as an
8 Accountability Group for the plan, “A cross-cultural team of 12 persons” who will
9 “evaluate the process at every step, ... reporting their finding to the Conference
10 Transformation Team and to the Commission on Religion and Race; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, that team is known as the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core
13 Accountability Team,

14
15 **WHEREAS**, staffing and organizational patterns have shifted; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Religion and Race, whose responsibilities complement
18 those of the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Team, now reports to the Executive
19 Director of Connectional Ministries;

20
21 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core
22 Accountability Team now report its findings to the Executive Director of Connectional
23 Ministries.

24
25 **Persons responsible for presenting the resolution:** Mert Shane and David Brown
26 (Elder), Co-Conveners, Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 10**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution relating to the “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” motto of the**
4 **United Methodist Church.**

5 **Presented by Rev. Jimmy Montgomery and Cochranville United Methodist**
6 **Church.**

7 **WHEREAS**, the doctrinal standards of the United Methodist Church are based on the
8 Bible, as listed in Part II of the Book of Discipline (1) John Wesley’s Explanatory Notes
9 Upon the New Testament (2) the Standard Sermons of John Wesley; (3) the Articles of
10 Religion of the Methodist Church and (4) the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical
11 United Brethren; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**; Wesley wanted his notes to emphasize the biblical message in a way that
14 inspired and challenged readers and believed that God speaks through the scriptural
15 text to move the reader to love and serve God and neighbor, and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the writings of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, are saturated with
18 biblical ideas and quotations, and his commitment to teaching the Bible at every
19 opportunity, and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the current motto of the United Methodist Church is incomplete for the
22 Christian apart from Holy Scriptures; i.e., to have an “open heart” (John 3:16, Romans
23 10:9-10) to have “open minds” (Romans 12:1-2), and “Open Doors”, (Rev. 3:20), and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, Article IV of the Evangelical United Brethren Confession of Faith is printed
26 in and part of the Book of Discipline reads; “We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New
27 Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to
28 be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice.
29 Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an
30 article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.”, and

31
32 **WHEREAS** the Book of Discipline states our calling is “to spread **scriptural** holiness
33 over these lands” (para 63) and,

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the current motto omits the most important element of Wesley’s
36 quadrilateral of (1) Scripture, (2) tradition, (3) reason, and (4) experience; for United
37 Methodists, Scripture (Open Bibles) is the primary source and standard for Christian
38 doctrine, while tradition (Open Hearts) is the witness of development and growth of the
39 faith through the past centuries, reason (Open Minds) the individual Christian brings to
40 bear on the Christian faith discerning and cogent thought, and experience is the
41 individual’s understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of his or her own
42 life.(Open Doors), scripture is listed first for a reason and the filter through which
43 tradition, reason, and experience must pass to be Christian.

44
45 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference,
46 prior to the closing of this Annual Conference, expand and adopt for its own motto
47 “Open Bibles, Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”., and

48
49 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual
50 Conference
51 submit to the 2020 General Conference a resolution that calls for the motto of the
52 United Methodist Church “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”, to be expanded to
53 read “Open Bibles, Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”.

54
55 **Persons Responsible for Presenting this Resolution:**
56 Rev. Jimmy Montgomery and Cochranville United Methodist Church

1 **RESOLUTION # 2019 - 11**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Introductory and Advanced Training for Dismantling Racism**
4 **Presented by the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference has had a stated
7 commitment since 1996 to work toward dismantling racism within the Annual
8 Conference, its churches, and the communities it and its churches serve; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, training for dismantling racism has been essential for carrying out this
11 commitment, transforming the lives and ministries of both clergy and laity who have
12 experienced it; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, effective training and work toward dismantling racism requires that training
15 be kept vital, up to date, and comprehensive, including an emphasis on active follow-up
16 using what people have learned; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team, acting in
19 accord with the 1996 "Plan toward the Elimination of Racism within the Eastern
20 Pennsylvania Conference," has developed effective resources and experience for
21 conducting training for dismantling racism; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, experience has led to recognition of the depth of the transformational
24 journey for individuals and institutions learning about and acting toward dismantling
25 racism, leading to the need for ongoing training for dismantling racism; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team has worked
28 together with the Commission on Religion and Race to provide one-day workshops
29 supplementing the "Changing Racism" workshops; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Religion and Race has taken on dismantling racism
32 responsibilities that preclude their further involvement in such workshops; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team has worked
35 with the Visions, Inc. facilitators to increase the dismantling racism impact of the
36 introductory workshop;
37

38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core
39 Accountability Team be charged with primary responsibility for and oversight of all
40 training for dismantling racism provided by/through the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual
41 Conference, including working with outside trainers such as Visions, Inc.; and
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability
44 team be charged with developing and arranging for presentation of three to five one-day
45 "advanced" workshops per year on various aspects of understanding and dismantling
46 racism, to be held in locations throughout the Annual Conference bounds; and

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Annual Conference encourage the Board of
48 Ordained Ministries to establish a requirement for advanced training for dismantling
49 racism similar to the requirement for advanced sexual ethics training.

50

51 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:**

RESOLUTION 2019 - 12

RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Resolution relating to Advance Special Applications

Presented by Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM)

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials for the year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Barbara Drake, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries.

ANAWIM COMMUNITY PROJECT OF CASA DEL PUEBLO.....\$10,000

Applicant: Rev. Lilian S. Cotto

Director: Juan Suarez

215-254-0225

lucreciacotto3@gmail.com

Casa del Pueblo is the Latino ministry of Lehman Memorial UMC in Hatboro. ANAWIM, meaning "the blessed poor of Yahweh", the poor who depend on the Lord for deliverance, is the outreach program and first phase of a Community Center, which was started in 2016. Serving neighbors from Hatboro, Willow Grove, Horsham, Warminster, and Warrington, the ministry provides food, clothing, housing referrals, medical and dental referrals and transportation to appointments. ANAWIM seeks to develop disciples of Christ by exposing participants to music that glorifies God and witnesses to the Christian message. It celebrates diversity by attracting Latino families from different countries and providing them with instrumental music classes, liturgical and folkloric dance classes. The ministry is committed to love and justice by providing immigration referrals, legal and family counseling, GED classes in Spanish, translation services, and ESL classes. Participants are exposed to Latino role models in a positive atmosphere of care, respect, and affirmation.

ANCHORAGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM \$10,000

Applicant: Rev. Joseph F. DiPaolo

Director: Patty Eastep

717-682-9976

director@anchoragebreakfast.org

This 501c3 organization provides a free breakfast at First UMC, Lancaster for people who are economically challenged. Meals are served from Monday through Friday between 8:30 and 9:45 am. Anchorage serves a hot breakfast to 150-200 guests each morning, and does not close for inclement weather or holidays. In 2018, 40,074 meals were served by 150 volunteers, divided into daily teams who prepare the food and staff the cafeteria line. Social Service agencies are invited to be present as a resource. Volunteer "listeners" circulate among the guests to encourage and assist them. Funds from Advance Special giving will be used this year for an additional freezer and the daily food expenses.

BREAD OF CHRIST FEEDING MINISTRY OF FIRST UMC, BANGOR.....\$15,000

This ministry uses the church kitchen to feed people through a variety of programs. A community lunch is served on the 4th Sunday of every month, providing a free, hot, nutritious meal for about 100 people each month. Pasties, a local Welsh tradition, are made by church members and sold on the 2nd Saturday, eight times per year, to raise funds for the ministry and to give to the needy. Breakfast with Santa is a free breakfast buffet that serves 100 children and their families, while sharing the gospel of Christ through word and action. Ride for Relief is an annual motorcycle charity ride benefitting UMCOR, while providing a hot breakfast and hot lunch to riders. Back-to-School welcomed over 400 people last summer to receive backpacks with school supplies, haircuts, and manicures, while snacks prepared in the kitchen were distributed. New in 2019 will be the Summer Lunch Program in partnership with the Slate Belt YMCA. It will provide free lunches to children and their families every day during the summer. Funding is needed to update the kitchen with efficient appliances, including a commercial oven/stove, refrigerator, chest freezer, and dishwasher.

COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM\$3,000

Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo

307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061

610-416-5112. 610-485-6162, smcislo@yahoo.com

This is a ministry of Cokesbury UMC, which provides a 4 week, free summer reading program and healthy lunch for 60-75 children, grades K-4, who live in high poverty areas of Marcus Hook, Trainer, and Lower Chichester. Recognizing that education can be the key to unlocking the chains of poverty, this ministry encourages children to read over the summer in order to avoid the educational setback associated with summer break. Because school lunch is often the only nutritionally sound meal that children in poverty receive, and because it is not available in summer, a healthy lunch is provided along with education by certified teachers and trained instructional assistants.

4th GENERATION CHILDREN'S MINISTRY..... \$5,000

Applicant: Rev. W. Matthew Whayland

1709 Center St., Lebanon, PA 17042

St. John's UMC 717-273-4011 wmmwhayland3@gmail.com

This ministry is an outreach to children of the Pleasant Hill section of Lebanon, by members of St. John's UMC, who staff the weekly evening program of scripture stories, songs, crafts, and a hot meal from September to June, and summer activities from June to August, including a backyard carnival, campmeeting, Vacation Bible School, and day trips.

HOPE CHRISTIAN COUNSELING \$3,000

Applicant: Rev. Susan L. Worrell

Mail: P.O. Box 91, Unionville, PA 19375. Location: UMC of West Chester, 129 High St.

West Chester, PA. 610-436-9298. 484-883-7628.

hopechristiancounseling1@gmail.com

This non-profit 501c3 ministry offers Christian based professional counseling, spiritual direction, retreat and workshop facilitation and training for individuals and groups by qualified, certified, or licensed professionals and/or ordained clergy who have expertise in areas including but not limited to addictive/compulsive behaviors, mental health concerns, grief, loss, life transitions, relationship issues, visitation ministry, and small group ministry. Service is available to all regardless of ability to pay a full fee.

LIGHT OF MARNIE \$10,000

Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty

315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372

John: 610-470-1369 JohnL@lightofmarnie.org.

Jennifer: 610-766-0944 JenL@lightofmarnie.org

SHALOCA Christian Academy is the perfect example of our Global Ministries "ABUNDANT HEALTH", Our Promise to Children Initiative. It is an elementary school with classes from Preschool to 8th grade, in Lower Johnsonville, Liberia, West Africa. The school has provided education for children for 11 years, and presently has 173 students, who receive basic and Christian education. In the past year there has been building expansion and other improvements including bathrooms. Work is underway with the government to bring clean piped water to the school. Rev. James Coleman, an ordained Wesleyan pastor, founded the school when he was serving in Liberia. He has completed his M.Div. at Drew Seminary and hopes to be ordained in the United Methodist Church. Light of Marnie is supported by Thorndale UMC.

LUMINA \$10,000

Applicant: Correen M. Russo

20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-394-8412 (office), 717-808-8633 (cell),

correen.lumina@gmail.com

LUMINA serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in Lancaster annually using volunteers from 75 churches in West District. The program has 4 focus areas:

- Children's Ministries: weekly Kids' Night discipleship programs, summer day camp, field trips, scholarships for residence camps.
- Clothing Bank: professional clothes for men and women returning to work after job loss, domestic abuse, illness, recovery from addiction, or incarceration.
- Nutrition education and cooking classes for children and adults.
- Affordable housing for low income families through rehab of blighted city properties in partnership with Manifest.

NANTMEAL UMC NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY.....\$2,000

Applicant: Rev. Dennis Keen

359 Nantmeal Road, Glenmore, PA 19343

610-948-3787. 484-942-7935

Dennislindakeen@gmail.com

For three years, Nantmeal UMC has been supplying the children of Dupree Elementary School on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in Dupree, South Dakota, with clothing, personal hygiene products, and school supplies. Dupree is a town of abject poverty with prevalent problems of drug abuse, alcoholism, and suicide. It is located in Ziebach County, one of the poorest counties in the country. In 2018, the Commission on Native American Ministries (CONAM) donated \$1,000 which enabled Rev. Keen to visit Dupree and see the living conditions of the children and their need for winter coats, hats, gloves, and boots, plus backpacks, books, pencils, and crayons. By donating these items, the congregation is making a difference in the lives of the children, and hopefully will be able to help break the cycle of poverty.

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

This ministry celebrates over 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. Members of the conference clergy and laity make up the board of directors.

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

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 13**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Affirming that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is a “One Church**
4 **Plan” Conference**

5 **Presented by Rev. James F. McIntire and Rev. Lydia E. Muñoz**
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the 2019 General Conference Special Session was not in consensus
8 regarding adoption of a plan to unify the United Methodist Church; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Bishops and leaders from across the denomination have issued statements
11 which continue to lead the UMC forward toward a more unified body; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, it has been estimated that 65% of delegates from the United States voting
14 at the 2019 Special Session voted in support of the “One Church Plan” endorsed by our
15 Council of Bishops; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the question of the constitutionality of the adopted plan is before the
18 Judicial Council and questions regarding the validity of certain delegate credentials as
19 well as concerns regarding the exchange of money and gifts for votes are being
20 investigated; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in accordance with our United
23 Methodist Social Principles is firm in acknowledging “that sexuality is God’s good gift to
24 all persons,” that “all persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual
25 orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected
26 against violence,” and that we “implore families and churches not to reject or condemn
27 lesbian and gay members and friends;” and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, congregations, individuals, laity and clergy of the Eastern Pennsylvania
30 Conference are in full and faithful ministry in diverse ways with people of varying
31 expressions of sexual orientation and gender identity, including LGBTQIA+ persons;
32 and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, we as United Methodist followers of Jesus are committed to not excluding
35 anyone from access to God’s grace and to fully providing the most faithful ministries to,
36 for and with all of God’s children; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, our baptismal covenant calls us to “accept the freedom and power God
39 gives [us] to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present
40 themselves”
41

42 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that until or when the denomination resolves the
43 divisiveness evident in the 2019 Special Session, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
44 considers itself a “One Church” Conference in spirit, committed to continued support of
45 ministry to, for and with all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
46

47 **Persons responsible for presenting this resolution:** James F. McIntire and Rev.
48 Lydia E. Muñoz

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 14**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to government and corporate interests violating Native American land**
4 **rights**

5 **Presented by the EPA Conference Committee on Native American Ministries**
6

7 **Whereas**, the UMC, as the body of Christ, is committed to the Biblical mandate to “do
8 justly and love mercy” and to the *Book of Discipline*’s affirmation of the sacred worth of
9 all persons,

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the greatest challenge facing Native Americans today is invisibility, as
12 identified in the recent report *Reclaiming Native Truth*, researched by First Nations
13 Development Institute and Echo Hawk Consulting;
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Standing Rock is no longer front page news BUT violations of laws
16 protecting the air, water and soil continue in many places;
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the government supports multinational corporations to enrich themselves
19 instead of putting the best interests of the citizens first;
20

21 **WHEREAS**, pipelines and mining are damaging the environment with unreported spills
22 and methane flaring, and are creating sinkholes and damaging roads, affecting the
23 health and safety of the communities;
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the trust status of Indian lands makes them most susceptible to having
26 their land seized via executive order and without consultation;
27

28 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, as the Committee on Native American
29 Ministries, strongly request that the EPA Conference as the body of Christ use its voice
30 and influence to support organizations in the UMC such as Native American
31 Comprehensive Plan (NACP) as well as the National Congress of American Indians
32 (NCAI);
33

34 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we strongly request that EPA conference
35 also use its voice and influence to persuade congressional legislators to honor the land
36 rights spelled out in multiple treaties between NA tribes and the U. S. government;
37

38 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that, being called to be faithful to the
39 Biblical mandate to advocate for those whose voice is not heard in the halls of power,
40 we ask that a copy of this resolution signed by the Bishop, the Director of Connectional
41 Ministries and the co-chairs of the Committee on Native American Ministries, be sent to
42 the White House, the Majority and Minority Leaders of both the U. S. Senate and House
43 of Representatives, and the Representatives of the districts within the boundaries of
44 EPA Conference.
45

46 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Verna Colliver

1 **RESOLUTION # 2019 - 15**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to the Introductory Workshops of Healing the Wounds of Racism**

4 **Presented by the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Visions, Inc. was hired by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to provide
7 introductory educational services in the area of racism; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Healing the Wounds of Racism workshop was required by resolution; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the name that Visions, Inc. has used the title of the workshops "Changing
12 Racism"; and

13
14 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the name of the introductory workshops be
15 changed from "Changing Racism" to "Dismantling Racism" to more accurately reflect
16 the focus of the workshops and in keeping with the mission of the Conference.

17
18 **Persons responsible for presenting this resolution:** David W. Brown (elder) and
19 Mertice Shane

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 16**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution Regarding Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2020**

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
17 and recognize the economic difficulties encountered by churches,
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks also to address the financial needs of clergy, we
20 evaluate the realities of the current financial environment, including the COLA (Cost of
21 living adjustment) established by the Social Security Administration,
22

23 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference establish the minimum
24 starting salaries reflecting a 2.8% increase for 2020. The schedule for persons under
25 appointment in the local church for 2020 shall be as follows:
26

27 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of
28 the United Methodist Church establishes the minimum base salary for persons under
29 appointment in the local church for the year 2020 as follows:
30

31 a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection\$43,967
32 b) Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary
33 appointments..... \$41,673
34 c) Associate Members.....\$40,799
35 d) Full-Time Local Pastors \$38,619
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to arrive at the minimum cash salary for each
38 pastor, the required service year increments will be added to the appropriate base listed
39 above in the amount of 1% of the pastor's base salary for each year of service under
40 appointment, whether part time or full time, for a maximum of 20 years; and
41

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any amount provided as a housing allowance is not to be considered part of the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution (§252.4(e), 2016 *Discipline*); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if a church or charge cannot meet the standard of support for a full-time pastor, the Cabinet will be notified as soon as possible and appropriate action taken by the Cabinet (§624.1, 2016 *Discipline*).

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Lou Hornberger

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 17**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating to Rights of Local Licensed Pastors and Commissioned Provisional**
4 **Elders to Nominate, Elect and be Elected as Delegates to General and**
5 **Jurisdictional Conferences and to Vote on Constitutional Amendments**
6 **Presented by Rev. Jason Perkowski and Rev. Kevin Kresge**
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the tradition and history of The United Methodist Church has been to
9 function as a representative democracy where all of the members of the church (laity
10 and clergy) have been able to have a voice in electing delegates to represent them at
11 Annual, General and Jurisdictional Conferences and on Boards and Agencies at those
12 levels;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the practice has been to elect an equal number of laity and clergy to serve
15 as delegates at Annual, General and Jurisdictional Conference—with laity electing laity
16 and clergy electing clergy;
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the current Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church prevents
19 certain classes of clergy from being able to elect delegates or to be elected as
20 delegates;
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the current Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church prevents
23 certain classes of clergy from being able to vote on amendments to the Constitution of
24 the United Methodist Church by which their rights and responsibilities as appointed
25 clergy are managed;
26

27 **WHEREAS**, those disenfranchised classes currently include Licensed Local Pastors
28 until they have completed the Course of Study and/or Seminary; Provisional Deacons,
29 Provisional Elders and Student Pastors until they have completed Seminary; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, this means that the talents, ideas, and votes of those entire classes of
32 individuals is lost in the church for a significant number of years;
33

34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the
35 United Methodist Church affirms that the following changes ought to be made to the
36 United Methodist Constitution and Book of Discipline and urges delegates at the 2020
37 General Conference to approve these changes:
38

39 **SUBSTITUTING** the following paragraph in place of the existing *2016 Book of Discipline*
40 *Paragraph 35. The Constitution. Section VI. Annual Conferences. Article IV.:* “The
41 clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central
42 conference shall be elected from and elected by all current clergy members of the
43 annual conference or provisional annual conference, including Elders in Full
44 Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Associate Members, Provisional Elders and
45 Deacons, Licensed Local Pastors, Student Pastors (in their home conference), Retired
46 Clergy, as well as all other Clergy under appointment at the time of elections.”

PENDING full approval and ratification of the Constitutional Amendment above, the following amendments (and any other necessary to reconcile with these changes) will immediately go into effect in the Book Of Discipline to align its language to match that of the amended constitution:

AMEND Paragraph 316.6 under Chapter 2. Section IV. License for Pastoral Ministry. Responsibilities and Duties of Those Licensed for Pastoral Ministry: “The membership of local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment is in the annual conference where they shall have the right to vote on all matters ~~except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to General, Jurisdictional, or central conferences, and matters of~~ ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment shall be eligible for election as delegates to the General, central, or jurisdictional conferences. Local pastors ~~who have completed Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election~~ may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences **and may vote on constitutional amendments.**”

AMEND Paragraph 321.1 under Chapter 2. Section V. Associate Membership: “1. Associate members shall have a right to vote in the annual conference on all matters ~~except~~ including the following: (a) constitutional amendments; (b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. 2. Associate members may serve on any board, commission, or committee of an annual conference. They shall ~~not~~ be eligible **to elect and to be elected** as delegates to the General or jurisdictional or central conferences.”

AMEND Paragraph 327.2 under Chapter 2. Section VI. Provisional Membership: “2. Provisional members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters ~~except the following: a) constitutional amendments; b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy who have completed all of their educational requirements~~ may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences. 3. Provisional members may serve on any board, commission, or committee of the annual conference except the Board of Ordained Ministry (635.1). They shall ~~not~~ be eligible for election as delegates to the General, central, or jurisdictional conferences.”

AMEND Paragraph 602.1. A., B., C., & D. under Chapter 4. The Conferences. Section IX. The Annual Conference: Composition and Character “1.a) Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and shall have ~~sole~~ responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. b) Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters ~~except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of~~ ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members ~~who have completed all of their educational requirements~~ may vote to elect clergy

93 delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences. c) Associate clergy
94 members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters ~~except~~
95 including constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and
96 conference relations of clergy. ~~When associate members are members of the~~
97 ~~conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on~~
98 ~~matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (635.1) Affiliate~~
99 clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters
100 except the constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General,
101 jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and
102 conference relations of clergy. d) Full-time and part-time local pastors shall have the
103 right to vote in the annual conference on all matters ~~except constitutional amendments,~~
104 ~~election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences, and~~
105 matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors
106 are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote
107 at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy
108 (635.1) Local pastors ~~who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and~~
109 ~~have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election~~
110 may vote to elect **and may be elected as** clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional
111 or central conferences.

112
113 **Person responsible for presenting this resolution:** Rev. Jason Perkowski

1 **RESOLUTION #2019 - 18L**

2 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Resolution Relating to the Formula for Pro Rata Share of Pension Obligation for**
4 **Disaffiliating Churches**

5 **Presented by The EPA Board of Benefits, Coleen Painter, President**
6

7 **WHEREAS**, In February 2019, the General Conference adopted petition 90016 from
8 Wespath, which added a new ¶1504, sub paragraph 23, AND
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The General Conference also added ¶2553 to *The Book of Discipline*. This
11 new paragraph allows a local church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church
12 “over issues related to human sexuality” until 2023. Among other things, it requires a local
13 church’s disaffiliation be “memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement,” which must
14 be consistent with certain provisions set forth within the paragraph. And,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, this new paragraph states that the local church or charge seeking to change
17 its relationship with the United Methodist Church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an
18 amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the
19 annual conference. And,
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the
22 aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a
23 commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local
24 church’s share. And,
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Wespath continues to provide the most current pension obligation for The
27 Eastern PA Conference for the Pre-1982 Plan, the Ministerial Pension Plan, and the
28 Defined Benefit portion of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan, AND
29

30 **WHEREAS**, the Eastern PA Conference Board of Benefits has met to evaluate the most
31 equitable methodology for determining the pro rata share for each church, AND
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the calculations for the remittance fund charged to each church is based
34 upon a three-year average of the church’s Grand Total Paid and factors in any special
35 appeals approved by CCFA and Cabinet,
36

37 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in such cases as a church has been approved for
38 disaffiliation from the Eastern PA Conference, the pro rata portion of the pension liability
39 will be based upon the church’s percentage of the Conference remittance figures for the
40 year of disaffiliation.
41

42 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if a church chooses to disaffiliate in accordance
43 with ¶ 2553 of the *Book of Discipline*, such withdrawal liability must be paid in full prior to
44 disaffiliation.

45 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such funds paid to The Annual Conference shall
46 be deposited into the restricted funds of the Board of Benefits to be used solely for
47 payment of future pension obligations.`
48

49 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Coleen Painter

1 **RESOLUTION 2019 - 19L**

2 **RESOLUTION to the 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Relating Regarding Resolution 2015-17 and New Discipline Paragraph 2553**

4 **Presented by the Conference Board of Trustees**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, in 2015, the Conference passed Resolution No. 2015-17, which provides for
7 certain conditions which would apply to any church of the Conference wishing to withdraw
8 from our denomination; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, in February 2019, the General Conference amended the Book of Discipline
11 to include a new ¶ 2553, which provides a limited path for local churches to disaffiliate
12 from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements
13 and provisions of the Book of Discipline with regard to issues of human sexuality; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2015-17 and the new Book of Discipline ¶ 2553 were not
16 designed to coordinate with one another and may either conflict or cause unanticipated
17 implementation problems, when read together.
18

19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that any church that seeks disaffiliation in accordance
20 with the new Book of Discipline ¶ 2553 shall not be subject to Resolution 2015-17.
21

22 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Bill Thresher