



*possibility*

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023  
SPECIAL SESSION WORKBOOK





# CONTENTS

2024 Budget and Fund Legislation ..... 4  
Relating to Jury Justice ..... 16  
Relating to Human Trafficking Study ..... 17  
In Support of Creating a US Regional Conference ..... 19  
Relating to a Revised 2023 Process and Terms for Congregations Seeking to Disaffiliate ..... 21

# 2024 BUDGET AND FUND LEGISLATION

## RESOLUTION #2023 - 06

### Relating to 2024 Budget and Fund Legislation

Presented by ~~Steve Cherry, Irene Dickinson, President~~ Council on Finance and Administration

And Jo Fielding, ~~Interim~~ CFO/Treasurer

Whereas the council on finance and administration (CFA) is charged in The Book of Discipline with the following responsibilities:

1. Paragraph 613.1 - To recommend to the annual conference for its action and determination budgets of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for all funds that provide for the annual conference clergy support, annual conference administrative expenses, and annual conference benevolence and program causes;
2. Paragraph 613.5 - To develop policies governing the investment of conference funds (except for pension funds as provided in paragraph 1508), whether in debt or equity, short-term instruments, with the aim of maximizing funds available for mission in a manner **consistent with the preservation of capital**, the **policies relative to socially responsible investing**. A statement of such polices shall be printed in the conference journal at least once in each quadrennium;
3. Paragraph 613.8 - To recommend to the annual conference for its action, procedures for dealing responsibly for situations in which budgeted funds, as approved by the annual conference, are inadequate to meet emerging missional needs or unforeseen circumstances;
4. Paragraph 613.12 - To work in cooperation with other annual conference agencies for the design and implementation of a plan by which the annual conference may designate the conference treasury as a central treasury for funds designated for any or all conference agencies participating in conference funds;
5. Paragraph 614.1 (d) - After consultation with the conference board of pensions, the council shall report to the annual conference the amounts computed by that agency as necessary to meet the needs for pensions and benefits programs of the conference. Such amounts need not to be derived solely from the apportionments;
6. Paragraph 614.2 - The council shall recommend to the annual conference estimates of administrative expenses of the annual conference, including its own expenses and those of the conference treasurer's office. It shall also consult with the conference agencies and officers to be included in the administrative budget regarding the estimated budgets of their expenses and base its conference administration budget recommendations on information thus received; and

Whereas the board of trustees is charged in The Book of Discipline with the following responsibility:

Paragraph 2512.3 (a) - The board of trustees shall have the following authority with respect to the properties of the annual conference and its agencies: a) The said corporation shall receive, collect, and hold in trust for the benefit of the annual conference any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the said board or to the annual conference as such for any benevolent, charitable, or religious purpose, and shall administer the same and the income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator and in the interest of the church, society, institution, or agency contemplated by such donor, trustor, or testator, under the direction of the annual conference. When the use to be made of any such donation, bequest, or devise is not otherwise designated, the same shall be used as directed by the annual conference.

Whereas the annual conference is to approve the EPA designated funds and their use.; and

Whereas EPA regularly sells property and may have budget surpluses that need a uniform disbursement to funds to preserve capital (Book of Discipline 613.5) and the long-term health and mission of EPA; and

Whereas EPA has a \$580,000 share of a \$30,000,000 United Methodist settlement with BSA survivors, and

1  
2 Whereas a consolidated budget of all clergy support, benevolence, program and administration is to be  
3 recommended by CFA for approval by the annual conference; and  
4

5 Whereas the aligning of the EPA budget to advance the strategic direction, mission, goals and strategies of EPA  
6 is good stewardship and in the best interest of growing vital mission congregations; and  
7

8 Whereas EPA must assess shared services and administrative fees to fund its expenses; and  
9

10 Whereas the composite rate for health care billing was developed to support congregations in lower income  
11 communities and has created an increasing complex system that over time has increased the burdened on a  
12 smaller and smaller amount of churches to pay a greater share of health care billings, and that the original intent  
13 of the composite rate was to address billings in low-income communities which the A Path Toward  
14 Wholeness/Journey of Hope economic justice plan now addresses; and  
15

16 Therefore, be it resolved that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference adopt the 2024 Budget that includes  
17 the following:

- 18 1. A ~~comprehensive-consolidated~~ budget of all billings to congregations, ~~EPA-benevolence~~, program  
19 ~~ministry~~ and mission ministry, clergy support, administration, property, and general church  
20 apportionments.
- 21 2. Apportions congregations 7.2% for EPA shared ministry apportionments and 2.6% for general church  
22 apportionment.
- 23 3. Salary and support for four district superintendents and the two regional superintending teams.
- 24 4. The addition of one staff person to work with the southeast region so that both the southeast and  
25 northwest regions each have a person to assist congregations and clergy to make disciples of Jesus  
26 Christ and grow vital mission congregations for the transformation of the world and that the additional  
27 person have expertise in urban ministry.
- 28 5. Allocation of designated and restricted funds that follow the EPA fund policy, the conference  
29 designation of funds and donor restricted funds so that distributions are **consistent with the**  
30 **preservation of capital** (Book of Discipline 613.5, emphasis added).
- 31 6. Assess up to a ~~5-8%~~ administrative fee for shared services and up to 1% administrative fee for restricted  
32 funds and trusts to pay for services EPA provides to agencies that includes but is not limited to EPA staff  
33 support, legal support, administration, technology, office space and all other services that must be  
34 provided to maintain the programs and operations of the specific ministry/activity and of EPA.
- 35 7. Provides qualifying congregations identified according to the A Path Toward Wholeness/ Journey of  
36 Hope Journey of Hope equity legislation that shared ministry apportionments, general church  
37 apportionments and billings be assessed according to the community income guidelines as approved in  
38 the 2022 annual conference.
- 39 8. Provides a monthly remittance statement to congregations that include the following.
  - 40 a. The total apportionment to the congregation for EPA shared ministry.
  - 41 b. The total apportionment to the congregation on behalf of the general church.
  - 42 c. Direct billings to the congregation from EPA, which includes but is not limited to, blended rate  
43 for active healthcare and incremental contributions for self-elected benefits (health, dental,  
44 vision, and health reimbursement accounts) for active pastors/lay employees, workers  
45 compensation, property insurance and back payments for past billings.
- 46 9. The following budget is submitted to accomplish the strategic direction, mission, goals, and strategies of  
47 EPA.
- 48 10. Historically, total church giving to the General Church funds has averaged 82-85%. As a commitment to  
49 Social Justice, and Racial Equity, EPA shall ensure ~~the two~~ of the five ~~funds~~ General Conference Funds  
50 (Black College Fund and Africa University) are paid to the General Church at 100% if there is a surplus in  
51 shared ministry giving after year-end financial close. ~~The approximate cost is \$26,000 based on current~~  
52 giving rates.

2024 BUDGET	Budget Totals		Connectional Ministries			Camping Board	Communi- cations	Board of Benefits	Trustees
	Original Presentation	Revised	Leadership Development	Congregational Development	Mission and Justice	Camping	AC/Com munications	Clergy Benefits	Property & Workers Comp
<b>Income</b>									
Shared Ministry Apportionment	3,954,108	4,651,892	860,600	1,442,087	1,055,979	497,752	493,101	116,297	186,076
EPA Share of MEF	61,607	61,607	61,607						
Local Church Health Billing	3,713,180	3,811,760						3,811,760	
Local Church Pension Billing	2,837,675	2,939,020						2,939,020	
Retiree Health Insurance	1,140,306	1,170,579						1,170,579	
Local Church Property Billing	4,658,304	4,432,000							4,432,000
Grants and Donations	88,500	88,500		40,500	48,000				
Registrations	200,000	200,000					200,000		
Camp and Retreat Ministries	2,979,495	2,979,495				2,979,495			
Shared Services	138,996	138,996	25,714	43,089	31,274		38,919		
Funds Distribution	607,382	770,585	18,749	165,658	74,341	92,235		349,881	69,721
Billing Uncollectable		(1,065,203)						(622,003)	(443,200)
Apportionment Uncollectables		(698,482)	(129,090)	(216,313)	(158,397)	(74,663)	(74,663)	(17,445)	(27,911)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,379,552</b>	<b>19,480,750</b>	<b>837,580</b>	<b>1,475,020</b>	<b>1,051,197</b>	<b>3,494,820</b>	<b>657,357</b>	<b>7,748,090</b>	<b>4,216,685</b>
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Clergy Support and Personnel</b>									
Clergy Health Insurance	3,286,000	3,286,000						3,286,000	
Clergy Pension	2,533,638	2,533,638						2,533,638	
Retiree Health Insurance	1,009,120	1,009,120						1,009,120	
Pre-82 contributions	250,000	250,000						250,000	
Staff Compensation	2,701,938	2,701,938	486,349	459,329	567,407	81,058	162,116	540,388	405,291
Camp and Retreat Personnel	1,609,329	1,609,329				1,609,329			
<b>Benevolences and Program</b>									
Mission and Justice Ministries	398,518	398,518			398,518				
Congregational Development	930,500	930,500		930,500					
Leadership Development	265,109	265,109	265,109						
Camp & Retreat Ministries	124,250	124,250				124,250			
<b>Administration</b>									
Communications	410,000	410,000					410,000		
Property	4,364,393	3,683,554							3,683,554
General Administration	679,724	679,724	86,104	85,104	85,104	84,103	85,103	127,103	127,103
Camp & Retreat Administration	1,595,819	1,595,819				1,595,819			
<b>Total EPA Expenses</b>	<b>20,158,338</b>	<b>19,477,499</b>	<b>837,562</b>	<b>1,474,933</b>	<b>1,051,029</b>	<b>3,494,559</b>	<b>657,219</b>	<b>7,746,249</b>	<b>4,215,948</b>
	221,214	3,251	18	87	168	260	138	1,841	737



1 **General Church Apportionments**

2 Apportionment Base	\$64,630,227
3 General Church Apportionment	\$1,668,602
4 Percent of Base	2.6%

5  
6 Be it further resolved that the annual conference adopt the following fund policies, processes, and procedures.  
7

8 **EPA Fund Policies, Processes, and Procedures**

9 The world needs a strong EPA to transform lives and communities as we recruit and develop transformational  
10 leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ and grow vital congregations to transform the world. Key to this mission  
11 are strategic funds that help fund present vital ministry and ensure a sustainable future mission and ministry for  
12 EPA.  
13

14 The Board of Trustees and Council on Finance & Administration through an investment committee will ensure  
15 funds are invested in accordance with the social principles of the UMC and prudently to maximize gains so that  
16 balances keep pace with present AND future ministry needs. Further, the funds are overseen so that funds are  
17 only used for the designated or restricted purpose.  
18

19 Funds are created to sustain the long-term health of the mission and ministry of EPA. By investing wisely and  
20 making prudent disbursements, they will continue to grow and provide financial support for the important  
21 ministry and mission of EPA. Healthy fund levels spur innovation and longevity of core ministry especially during  
22 financially challenging times. Appropriate levels enable EPA to do more with less support from shared ministry  
23 apportionment giving. The Book of Discipline, 613.5 indicates that CFA’s aim is to maximize funds available for  
24 mission in a manner **consistent with the preservation of capital.**  
25

26 Therefore, the Council on Finance & Administration, the Board of Trustees and the investment committee will  
27 adhere and ensure all agencies of or affiliated with EPA adhere to the following Designated Fund Policies,  
28 Processes and Procedures.  
29

30 I. Two types of Funds shall be categorized:

- 31 a. Donor *Restricted funds* shall be contributions from an individual, or group of individuals, with a  
32 restricted purpose that can only be changed by the individual(s) or their estate when so designated or  
33 by a legal process. EPA must use restricted funds for the purpose designated by the donor. Only the  
34 donor may restrict funds, not EPA. All restricted funds will be managed and dispersed according to the  
35 donor’s restriction.  
36
- 37 b. EPA *Designated funds* are designated by the annual conference and are overseen by a designated body.  
38 The annual conference session may change the designated purpose as needed.  
39

40 II. CFA will establish an EPA Fund Committee as follows:

- 41 a. There shall be a nine-member Fund Committee made up of at least three persons from the CFA  
42 investment committee, the CFO/Treasurer and one person from each of the following agencies – the  
43 Board of Trustees, the Board of Benefits, Camp and Retreat Ministries Board, the Connectional Table,  
44 and the Cabinet. The Fund Committee is to report *at least twice a year* to each of the above agencies the  
45 state of each EPA designated funds including balances and disbursements made toward approved uses  
46 (as defined in this policy), progress towards the fund goal amount, and recommend to the Board of  
47 Trustees and CFA policy updates as needed.  
48

- 1 b. Every March and September, the six agencies (CFA, Board of Trustees, Board of Benefits, Camp and  
2 Retreat Ministries Board, Connectional Table and Cabinet) and any EPA mission partners who have  
3 funds invested shall meet jointly with the investment institution(s) to hear about each fund's short,  
4 medium and long-term performance, their expectations for the market based on the trends observed  
5 and their economic forecasts and a report on the social impact our funds are making to create a more  
6 just and socially responsible world.  
7
- 8 c. EPA designated funds will have a goal. The goal is a target balance the EPA fund committee sets that  
9 should be attained over time. When the goal is reached, CFA, the Board of Trustees and the agency that  
10 carries out the ministry and mission of the fund will review the goal and see if it is adequate or if it  
11 needs to be adjusted.  
12
- 13 d. The CFA investment committee shall be responsible to make the investment decision for each fund.  
14 These decisions should be communicated to the CFO in writing or by email who shall then be  
15 responsible for executing the necessary trades and reporting back the executions to the CFA Investment  
16 Committee in a timely manner. The investment committee's charter, policies and investment guidelines  
17 are to be incorporated into CFA's policies.  
18

### 19 **III. Fund Procedures**

- 20 a. Fund Purpose Designation  
21 The Annual Conference shall identify and state the purpose of each fund. Any proposed changes in  
22 purpose shall be submitted as legislation according to the date set by the conference rules. If an  
23 amendment is made to the purpose or designation of a particular fund, CFA will have the opportunity to  
24 review its impact on the annual conference and/or a particular ministry prior to any vote being taken  
25 and make its recommendation to the annual conference session.  
26
- 27 b. Fund Monitoring  
28 The Annual Conference shall identify who monitors the use of the fund. The group or individual who is  
29 to monitor shall ensure the policies governing the fund are followed and the use of the funds is  
30 achieving the desired purpose and impact. The individual or group that is to monitor the fund may  
31 designate authority to monitor the fund to another appropriate individual, but the assigned monitor  
32 must receive and report progress and any concerns.  
33
- 34 Any use outside the fund purpose and policy is to be reported to the chairpersons of CFA and Trustees,  
35 and the bishop. For example, in the case of the Congregational Development Fund, the Connectional  
36 Table has been currently assigned the monitor of this fund and is to ensure the proceeds of the fund are  
37 being used for the stated purpose. The Fund Monitor has no direct access to the investment company to  
38 designate investment mix nor to the funds to initiate withdrawals. Only the CFA investment committee  
39 can designate investment mix and only the CFO, with approvals outlined in the policy in writing via email  
40 or letter, can execute the investment mix and withdrawals. The monitor is also to ensure any funds  
41 designated to urban congregations and ministry from the sale of urban property as identified in The  
42 Book of Discipline is to ensure that the at least the amount from urban property sales go to urban  
43 congregations and ministry.  
44
- 45 c. Fund Disbursements  
46 In consultation with the fund's monitor(s), in the last quarter of the year, the investment committee of  
47 CFA will review market performance of the last year and recommend between a 0-5% disbursement to



1 the Board of Trustees and CFA to be disbursed to the appropriate mission and ministry and used for  
2 mission and ministry for the coming year. The Board of Trustees and CFA are each to vote on the  
3 recommendation and the CFO/Treasurer is to make the disbursement as approved from the fund by  
4 November 15<sup>th</sup>. No further amounts are to be disbursed during the course of the year unless a need  
5 arises and then, as approved in letter “d” in the following paragraph. If a disbursement is not made in a  
6 particular year, they cannot be cumulatively disbursed in subsequent years - only the 0-5% set by CFA  
7 for that year may be disbursed.

8  
9 d. Emergency Use and Needs of Funds

10 Emergency use of designated funds may be approved if there is **insufficient** cash available for critical  
11 mission and ministry. An emergency is not defined as poor budgeting or overspending or under raising  
12 of income for the budget. These issues must be addressed in the budgeting process. Before taking an  
13 emergency disbursement, spending reductions and fundraising shall be applied first.

14  
15 An emergency use requires a 75% approval of those present at each of the board of trustees and CFA  
16 meetings. The emergency usage is to be reported at the next annual conference session.

17  
18 To the extent resources become available later, paying back the emergency disbursement should be a  
19 priority of the Treasurer, board of trustees and CFA.

20  
21 e. Borrowing from Funds

22 Borrowing from EPA designated funds is not recommended but can be considered for capital projects if  
23 it is in the best interest of the ministry and mission of EPA.

24 Only up to 20% of the fund may be borrowed and only with the approval of 75% of those present at  
25 each of the Board of Trustees and CFA meetings. The annual conference must be notified of any  
26 borrowings at the next session. These borrowings are to be paid back within five years at the market  
27 interest rate.

28  
29 For example, borrowing may be requested to purchase a new district parsonage. Before approval is  
30 given to borrow, careful consideration must be given as to whether borrowing the money commercially  
31 is more advantageous to the mission and ministry of EPA. Specifically, the opportunity cost of not being  
32 invested in the market as a result of making the loan should be considered.

33  
34 Be it further resolved that the annual conference adopt the following fund names, descriptions, designations,  
35 monitor and purpose, and that the CFO/Treasurer inform the Board of Benefits of modifications to funds  
36 stewarded by The Board of Benefits.

## CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Vital Mission Congregations Fund** – a designated fund. The Vital Mission Congregations Fund, distributes up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used for grants to assist congregations to: 1) grow worship attendance through worship that inspires and connects with the people in the community, 2) increase participation in and the number of small groups to deepen faith in Jesus Christ, 3) increase community justice and mercy ministries with people in the community and increase the number of people engaged in hands on mission, 4) equip the congregation to share their faith and invite new people to participate in the life of the church, and 5) grow giving and generosity for the mission and ministry of the church.

**George Dewees Fund** – a restricted fund. The Dewees Fund was created in 2007 through a bequest from the Dewees Estate for the purpose of giving grants typically not to exceed \$5,000 to carry out mission. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy and the restrictions of the original gift may provide grants for mission through vital mission congregations and Hope Centers to carry mission in their communities and other mission of EPA.

**William Penn Foundation-Wharton Wesley Fund** – a restricted fund to support capital projects of Wharton Wesley United Methodist Church. More than a 5% distribution may be taken from this fund to fulfill the purpose.

## STRATEGIC DISCIPLE MAKING

**New Faith Communities Fund** – a designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used for grants to congregations and initiatives to start new faith communities. A new faith community is a ministry that reaches new people to engage in a new worship service, second site or new worshipping congregation.

**General Camp and Retreat Ministry Fund** – a designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used to support camping ministry and its development at EPA camps.

**General Camp and Retreat Scholarship Fund** – a restricted fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy or the donor's restrictions, may be used to support camp and retreat scholarships at EPA camps.

**Carson Simpson** – a restricted fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy and restrictions of the donors, may be used for supporting the camping program at Carson Simpson Farm. This Fund is a Fund of Metro Ministries and by agreement, the funds are invested through the Mid-Atlantic Foundation and the proceeds are used by EPA to operate camp and retreat ministries at Carson Simpson Farm.

**Gretna Glen Nancy A. Raab Fund** – A restricted fund from a bequest to support scholarships for campers from low-income families at Gretna Glen. A distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy and restrictions of the donor.

**Blackberry Hills Fund, Camp Innabah** – a restricted fund. The Fund supports Camp Innabah scholarship. A distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy or the donor's restrictions.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Scholarship Fund** – a restricted fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used for scholarships for EPA college and graduate students.

**Wesley Foundation of Philadelphia-Drexel** – a restricted fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy and original donor restrictions, may be used for student ministry at Drexel University.

## MISSION

**The Bradley Fund** – a restricted fund. The Bradley Fund was established through the bequest of Thomas Bradley in 1983 for the maintenance of the facilities at Cornwall Manor of The United Methodist church or other Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Retirement Homes so long as they continue to provide retirement housing for retired ministers, their spouses and widows/widowers of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and to the benefit of their ministers and their wives who are residents of these facilities. A board of five directors shall oversee and disperse the funds and shall include the bishop (president) of Eastern Pennsylvania, the treasurer of Eastern Pennsylvania, one additional person elected by the annual conference and two members elected by the Board of Benefits of Eastern Pennsylvania. The recipients of the grants shall be chosen by the Board of Pensions (Benefits) of Eastern Pennsylvania. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy and the restrictions of the bequest.

**Corson/Zerr Retirement Home Entrance Fee Fund** - A restricted fund. (Formerly, The Bookstore Fund) The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used to provide up to a \$5,000 grant to an EPA clergy person that served 10 or more years in EPA for their entrance fee into an EPA Senior Residence Facility.

## BENEFITS

**Preachers Aid Society Fund** – a restricted fund. The Preachers Aid Society (Formerly Board of Benefits General Fund) was started in 1869 as a nonprofit organization to aid preachers primarily in their retirement and their widows. Today the nonprofit is called the Board of Benefits and the fund continues to support clergy and their spouses/widows in retirement through the pre-82 pension program and the retiree health insurance program. The Board of Benefits is to adopt the Fund Investment Policy of EPA and follow the policy to support pre-82 pension and retiree health. The fund over time is to grow to at least \$7.6 million dollars or to \$7.6 million in conjunction with the Retiree Health Care Fund to back 100% of the retiree health care liability.

The Pre-82 retiree pension fund liability and the retiree health care liability are to be evaluated yearly by Wespath to determine if both are 100% funded. At any time one or both are not fully funded, the board of benefits is to evaluate the cause of under evaluation and address the issue over a two year period of time either using the maximum draws or requesting additional funds from the annual conference or as permitted by the investment policy utilizing a greater than 5% draw to bring the pre-82 liability and/or the retirement liability to at least 100% funded. Recognizing that funds may slip below the 100% level because of fluctuations in the market, and in such an instance, the Board of Benefits shall use good judgment to bring the funds to appropriate levels in no more than a three-year period of time.

**Pre – 82 Pension Past Service Rate Fund** – A restricted fund. (Formerly, the Capital Campaign Pre-82 Fund) The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used for to increase the past service rate for those in the pre-82 pension program. This is a Fund of and is stewarded by the Board of Benefits for EPA retirees who receive pre-82 pensions.

**Corson/Zerr Pre-82 Fund** – A restricted fund. (Formerly, The Bookstore Fund) The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used to increase the income of retirees in the pre-82 pension program.

**Retiree Health Care Fund** – a designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used to fund budgeted expenses for clergy retiree health care. This is a Fund of and is stewarded by the Board of Benefits for EPA retirees.

**Retiree Health Pre Funding Plan Fund** – a restricted fund for participants who contributed to the fund for their retiree health care. This fund is taking no more enrollments and must maintain a balance of funds as

determined by an outside review every even year. This is a Fund of and is stewarded by the Board of Benefits for EPA retirees who paid into the Fund.

**Par 2553 Pension Liability Fund** – a designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used for maintaining 100% funded plan for each of the defined clergy benefit pension programs. These funds were paid by disaffiliating churches under paragraph 2553 of The 2016 Book of Discipline amended in 2019. This is a Fund of and is stewarded by the Board of Benefits for EPA retirees who are in the denominational pension programs.

#### **PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS**

**Budget Operational Cash Flow** – a designated fund of 10% of the consolidated budget to maintain an appropriate level for cash flow. If at the end of the year there is more than 10%, the surplus is to be distributed by CFA to any of the designated funds to achieve all fund goals.

**Property Operations Fund** – a designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% unless additional funds are needed for a short fall in paying 100% of the property billings. Up to a 5% distribution a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy to fund EPA budget to operate the board of trustees and the property needs of EPA.

**Property Redevelopment Fund** – a designated fund to provide seed money to explore redevelopment of EPA church property to advance the mission and/or create income for congregational mission and ministry in the community. Up to a 5% distribution a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy,

**Property Insurance Fund** – A designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy, may be used to assist with property payments and property renewals.

**Cemetery Fund** – a restricted fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy may be used to fund budget line item for EPA owned cemeteries.

**Superintendents and Bishop Housing Fund** – a designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy for housing line items for superintendents and the bishop. If the conference or board of trustees determines that the purchase of a residence is required for a superintendent or bishop, the funds are to be taken from this fund and a plan developed to replenish the funds.

**Episcopal Office Fund** – A designated fund. The fund distribution of up to 5% a year unless otherwise stipulated by the investment committee as outlined in the fund policy for use by the bishop for discretionary and ministries through the bishop's office.

Fund	Res	Des	2022 Year End	Goal	Monitor
<b>CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Vital Mission Congregations Fund		X	3,313,160	20,000,000	Connectional Table Chair
George Dewees Fund	X		1,477,915	NA	President of Trustees or Designee
William Penn Foundation-Wharton Wesley	X		32,752	NA	President of Trustees or Designee
<b>STRATEGIC DISCIPLE MAKING</b>					
New Faith Communities Fund		X	0	4,000,000	Dean of the Cabinet
General Camp and Retreat Ministries Fund		X	422	2,000,000	Camp and Retreat Ministries Chair
General Camp and Retreat Ministries Scholarships Fund		X	196,866	1,000,000	Camp and Retreat Ministries Chair
Carson Simpson Farm Fund	X		545,226	NA	Camp and Retreat Ministries Chair
Black-Berry Hills Fund/Camp Innabah	X		50,695	NA	Camp and Retreat Ministries Chair
Gretna Glen Nancy A. Raab Scholarship Fund	X		1,051,922	NA	Camp and Retreat Ministries Chair
<b>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Scholarship Fund	X		374,984	NA	President of Trustees or Designee
Wesley Foundation/ Philadelphia-Drexel Fund	X		29,372	NA	President of Trustees or Designee
<b>MISSION</b>					
The Bradley Fund	X		1,486,817	NA	Bradley Fund President
Corson/Zerr Retirement Home Entrance Fee Fund	X		472,000	NA	Board of Benefits President
<b>BENEFITS</b>					
Retiree Health Care Fund		X	792,858	7,600,000	Board of Benefits President
Retiree Health Pre Funding Plan Fund	X		1,009,533	NA	Board of Benefits President
Corson/Zerr Pre-82 Fund	X		472,001	NA	Board of Benefits President
Pre – 82 Pension (Past Service Rate) Fund		X	291,841	NA	Board of Benefits President
Par 2553 Pension Liability Fund		X	722,874	NA	Board of Benefits President
Preachers Aid Society Fund	X		5,440,911	1,000,000	Board of Benefits President
<b>PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS</b>					
Budget Cash Flow		X	\$2,000,000	2,000,000	CFA President

Property Operations Fund		X	\$744,270	1,000,000	President of Trustees or Designee
Property Redevelopment Fund		X	\$0	5,000,000	President of Trustees and Dean of the Cabinet
Property Insurance Fund		X	\$252,850	NA	President of Trustees or Designee
Cemetery Fund	X		\$19,457	NA	President of Trustees or Designee
Superintendents and Bishop Housing Fund		X	\$377,835	3,000,000	President of Trustees and/or Chair of Episcopacy Residence
Episcopal Office Fund		X	\$106,000	500,000	Episcopacy Com Chair
			\$21,262,562	\$47,100,000	

Of the Vital Mission Congregations Fund, \$244,541 is from the sale of Bustleton UMC. Each year there will be an accounting of the Fund and how much is for and granted to urban churches.

By 1993 agreement between EPA and Metro Ministries, the Camping Board is to operate and manage a camping program at Carson Simpson Farm and utilize funds designated for such purpose that are deposited with the Mid Atlantic Foundation.

1 Be it further resolved that if any information from original documents is presented that alters any of these funds  
2 or amounts allocated to the funds by donor restrictions, CFA and the board of trustees are to review the  
3 documents and certify and make the changes to the funds.

4  
5 Be it further resolved that no member of an agency or group that reviews, recommends and/or approves grants  
6 to congregations, organizations or ministries and is also a member of a potential congregation, organization or  
7 ministry that may be a recipient of a grant may participate in the meeting in which the grants are reviewed,  
8 recommended and/or approved.

9  
10 Be it further resolved that in order to develop funds to sustain the mission and ministry of EPA, the distribution  
11 of the proceeds of property sales after paying for cost associated with the sale and \$5,000 to St. Georges UMC  
12 for the archives shall be distributed to the funds as directed by CFA. Once all funds have reached their goal, the  
13 funds shall be distributed as follows.

- 14 • Congregational Development Fund, *Vital Mission Congregations* – 50%
- 15 • Strategic Disciple Making Fund – 20%
- 16 • Retiree Health Care – 15% until retiree health care is fully funded and once this occurs, the 15%  
17 from this line item add 5% to each of the other three-line items.
- 18 • Property Redevelopment Fund – 15%

19  
20 Submitted by:  
21 Irene Dickinson, President, Council of Finance and Administration

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## Fund Projections

		2022 Balance	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Beginning Balance		18,728,438	18,728,438	20,490,291	22,018,500	23,915,325	25,887,599
Market Growth (7%)			21,323,429	23,227,872	24,882,604	26,932,049	29,062,521
Distribution to Ministry Budget - 4% Average			852,937	929,115	995,304	1,077,282	1,162,501
Ending Balance			20,470,492	22,298,757	23,887,300	25,854,767	27,900,021
<b>2553 Distribution</b>							
Property Income to Distribute to Funds 1.5% increase a year			1,200,000	1,218,000	1,236,270	1,254,814	1,273,636
Light Green Receives Propety Distribution							
Dark Green Reaches Goal							
<b>Funds</b>	<b>Goal</b>						
<b>CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Vital Mission Congregations Fund	20,000,000	3,313,160	3,412,555	3,514,931	3,620,379	3,728,991	3,840,860
George Dewees Fund	NA	1,477,915	1,522,252	1,567,920	1,614,958	1,663,406	1,713,309
<b>STRATEGIC DISCIPLE MAKING</b>							
New Faith Communities Fund	4,000,000	0	0	0	309,068	632,043	969,413
General Camping Fund	2,000,000	414	300,426	613,939	941,425	1,283,371	1,640,281
General Camping Scholarships Fund	1,000,000	138,948	443,116	760,910	1,092,805	1,125,589	1,159,357
Carson Simpson Farm Fund	NA	623,532	642,238	661,505	681,350	701,791	722,844
Gretna Glenn Raab Scholarship Fund	NA	1,082,238	1,114,705	1,148,146	1,182,591	1,218,068	1,254,610
<b>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Scholarship Fund	NA	374,984	386,234	397,821	409,755	422,048	434,709
<b>MISSION</b>							
The Bradley Fund	NA	1,486,817	1,531,422	1,577,364	1,624,685	1,673,426	1,723,628
<b>BENEFITS</b>							
Benefits General Fund	1,000,000	5,440,911	5,604,138	5,772,262	5,945,430	6,123,793	6,307,507
Retiree Health Care Fund	7,600,000	792,858	816,644	841,143	866,377	892,369	919,140
Retiree Health Pre Funding Plan Fund	NA	1,009,533	1,039,819	1,071,014	1,103,144	1,136,238	1,170,325
Corson/Zerr Pre-82 Fund	NA	472,001	486,161	500,746	515,768	531,241	547,179
Pre -82 Pension (Past Service Rate)	NA	291,841	300,596	309,614	318,903	328,470	338,324
Par 2553 Pension Liability Fund	NA	722,874	744,560	766,897	789,904	813,601	838,009
<b>PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS</b>							
Property Operations Fund	1,000,000	744,270	766,598	789,596	813,284	837,682	862,813
Property Redevelopment Fund	5,000,000	0	0	0	0	313,704	641,524
Property Insurance Fund	NA	252,850	260,436	268,249	276,296	284,585	293,122
Cemetery Fund	NA	19,457	20,041	20,642	21,261	21,899	22,556
Superintendents/Bishop Housing Fund	3,000,000	377,835	689,170	1,014,345	1,353,843	1,708,162	2,077,816
Episcopal Office Fund	500,000	106,000	409,180	421,455	434,099	447,122	460,536
<b>Budgeted Fund Totals</b>	<b>45,100,000</b>	<b>18,728,438</b>	<b>20,490,291</b>	<b>22,018,500</b>	<b>23,915,325</b>	<b>25,887,599</b>	<b>27,937,863</b>
Budget Operational Cash Flow		2,000,000	2,060,000	2,121,800	2,185,454	2,251,018	2,318,548
Corson/Zerr Entrance Fee Fund	NA	472,000	490,880	510,515	530,936	552,173	574,260
Wesley Foundation/Drexel Fund	NA	29,372	30,547	31,769	33,040	34,361	35,736
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,501,372</b>	<b>2,581,427</b>	<b>2,664,084</b>	<b>2,749,429</b>	<b>2,837,552</b>	<b>2,928,544</b>
<b>Total Funds Stewarded</b>		<b>21,229,810</b>	<b>23,071,718</b>	<b>24,682,584</b>	<b>26,664,754</b>	<b>28,725,151</b>	<b>30,866,407</b>

1 **RELATING TO JURY JUSTICE**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION #2023 - 12**

4 **Relating to Jury Justice**

5 **Submitted by Fight for Floyd and Beyond Policy Committee**

6  
7 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania adopted “[42 PaCSA § 4561\(a\)](#). Compensation of and travel allowance for jurors” in  
8 1959, when minimum wage was \$1/hr. Eight hours of jury service, plus one hour of travel time, equaled \$9/day.

9  
10 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania’s minimum wage is now \$17/hr, so jurors suffer a \$76.00 daily loss. Employers  
11 receive zero compensation for the lost day. Both individual county taxpayers and the Administrative Office of  
12 Pennsylvania Courts suffer tens of thousands of dollars in uncompensated mandates. Schuylkill County, for  
13 example, suffers a \$41,149.52 annual loss.

14  
15 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania’s -well-intentioned- 1959 Juror Compensation Act is no longer fiscally responsible in  
16 2023.

17  
18 **WHEREAS:** Our \$9/day law is a clear nexus on a criminal defendant’s right to a fair trial. Low compensation  
19 means low-income residents cannot serve on juries. They can’t afford to take a day off, and their employer won’t  
20 compensate them for time off; they can’t afford childcare; they even risk losing their jobs if they were to take  
21 time off to serve on a jury. Wage earners in the lower strata of society cannot take a day off work in exchange for  
22 a \$9 jury fee.

23  
24 **WHEREAS:** [Pennsylvania juries](#) tend to be 83.9% white and 54.3% male. They tend to be upper or upper-middle  
25 class with some advanced education. This too eliminates several sectors of our society. There is a 64.3% chance  
26 that a Pennsylvania jury will have no minority member. Cases with no minority members in the jury pool convict  
27 minority defendants 81% of the time. White defendants are convicted 66% of the time. When the jury pool  
28 includes at least one minority person, the conviction rates were nearly identical: 71% for minority defendants,  
29 73% for whites.

30  
31 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania’s \$9/day law is illegal! The Fair Labor Standards Act mandates that employers pay  
32 their employees a flat rate during jury service. The Internal Revenue Service reports that jury service is a tax-  
33 deductible, employee-related business expense. Pennsylvania’s Department of Revenue also reports that jury  
34 service is [recoverable](#) in Pennsylvania, and does not pose a serious budgetary impact. Pennsylvania’s [Tax Reform](#)  
35 [Code of 1971](#) provides that juror compensation is recoverable. Over [19 states](#) and territories have already  
36 adopted legislation consistent with FSLA/IRS criteria without serious litigation.

37  
38 **WHEREAS:** the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, proposed [The Juror Compensation Bill](#) in 2007. The 2007 language,  
39 as amended by current regulations, resolves every issue of law and equity from our current \$9/day statute.

40  
41 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the clergy and laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United  
42 Methodist Church call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to actively support legislation, similar to the  
43 Juror Compensation Bill, to enhance Pennsylvania’s jury system.

44  
45 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist  
46 Church authorizes the author of this Resolution (Roger Thomas) to promptly deliver it to the Chairs of the  
47 appropriate committees in the General Assembly in accordance with Conference Rule 2.3.8.1.3.

48  
49 **Person Responsible for Presenting this Resolution:** Rev.Dr.Roger L. Thomas ([https://www.academia.  
50 edu/43740205/Pennsylvania\\_Committee\\_for\\_the\\_Analysis\\_and\\_Reform\\_of\\_Our\\_Criminal\\_System](https://www.academia.edu/43740205/Pennsylvania_Committee_for_the_Analysis_and_Reform_of_Our_Criminal_System))

1 **RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING STUDY**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION #2023 - 13**

4 **Relating to Human Trafficking Study**

5 **Submitted by Fight for Floyd and Beyond Policy Committee**

6  
7 **WHEREAS** More than 1,200 human trafficking cases were reported in Pennsylvania between 2007 and 2020.  
8 Pennsylvania is 10th on Insider Monkey’s list of top human trafficking states.<sup>4</sup> The International Labour  
9 Organization estimates human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry, of which \$99 billion is generated by sexual  
10 exploitation.

11  
12 **WHEREAS** Human Trafficking in Pennsylvania is governed under 18 PaCSA Chapters 30 & 31. Even the most  
13 cursory reading of this Act shows that those chapters are an agglutination of bits and pieces of legislation which  
14 lack either purpose or consistency.

15  
16 **WHEREAS** Sen. Stewart Greenleaf started Pennsylvania’s Human Trafficking clean-up campaign in 2014 and 2018.  
17 Sen. Kristen Phillips-Hill sustained these clean-up efforts with Act 1 of 2020. These laws brought us closer to  
18 Federal Standards.

19  
20 **WHEREAS** Major inconsistencies remain within our Human Trafficking Act. It is not up to “the best of practice”.

21 The victim’s right to recover against the culprit is completely confusing.  
22 14-year-old victims are required to endure -and pay for- five excimer laser surgeries to remove the branding  
23 tattoos the culprits imprint as soon as they are recruited. Only then can the victim turn to our Victim  
24 Compensation Fund for indemnification.

25 The victim’s statute of limitations conflicts with Federal law.

26 The definition of “victim” applies only to females.

27 Police report the victims as criminals for offenses committed while in bondage.

28 The statute of limitations is allowed to lapse during the pendency of criminal proceedings.

29  
30 **WHEREAS** Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission exists for the purpose of studying major social  
31 issues in the Commonwealth, and recommending resolutions. Examples of such studies are:

- 32 • MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE A Staff Study February 2021.  
33 ([HTTP://JSG.LEGIS.STATE.PA.US/RESOURCES/DOCUMENTS/FTP/PUBLICATIONS/2021-02-26 MHSSV WEB.PDF](http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/publications/2021-02-26_MHSSV_WEB.PDF))
- 34 • HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN PENNSYLVANIA: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION  
35 JUNE 2012, ([HTTP://JSG.LEGIS.STATE.PA.US/RESOURCES/DOCUMENTS/FTP/PUBLICATIONS/2012-283-2012](http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/publications/2012-283-2012_HUMAN_TRAFFICKING_REPORT.PDF)  
36 [HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT.PDF](http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/publications/2012-283-2012_HUMAN_TRAFFICKING_REPORT.PDF))

37  
38 **WHEREAS** The Pennsylvania General Assembly should direct the Joint State Government Commission to  
39 thoughtfully examine our Human Trafficking Act to make it cohesive and to elevate it to the best of practice.  
40 They should develop rehabilitation and treatment programs for sex crime victims to reduce recidivism.

41  
42 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the clergy and laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United  
43 Methodist celebrate the General Assembly’s continuous legislative initiatives to remedy Human Trafficking and  
44 Sex Trade.

45  
46 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the clergy and laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the  
47 United Methodist Church call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to authorize our Joint State Government  
48 Commission to conduct a detailed study of Pennsylvania’s Human Trafficking Act, 18 PaCSA Chapters 30 & 31.

49  
50 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the clergy and laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of

1 the United Methodist Church call upon the Joint State Government Commission and each member of the  
2 Pennsylvania General Assembly to actively develop -and pass- the legislation necessary to protect any person  
3 from sexual harassment or human trafficking. We specifically request that they:

- 4 1. Assist in removing victims’ branding tattoos,
- 5 2. Equalize the civil jurisdictions for all sex crime victims,
- 6 3. Protect the statute of limitations for adult victims,
- 7 4. Develop rehabilitation and treatment programs for sex crime victims to reduce recidivism.
- 8 5. Define “victim” to include both males and females, users and performers.

9

10 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the clergy and laity of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the  
11 United Methodist Church call upon each member of Pennsylvania’s law enforcement agencies to presume that  
12 persons apprehended for acts performed in compliance with human trafficking or sex trade are victims rather  
13 than offenders.

14

15 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist  
16 Church authorizes the author of this Resolution (Roger Thomas) to promptly deliver it to the Chairs of the  
17 appropriate committees of both the Pennsylvania Senate and the House of Representatives in accordance with  
18 Conference Rule 2.3.8.1.3.

19

20 **Person Responsible for Presenting this Resolution:** Rev.Dr.Roger L. Thomas

21 \_\_\_\_\_

22 ([HTTPS://WWW.ACADEMIA.EDU/43740205/PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE FOR THE ANALYSIS AND REFORM OF  
23 OUR CRIMINAL SYSTEM](https://www.academia.edu/43740205/PENNSYLVANIA_COMMITTEE_FOR_THE_ANALYSIS_AND_REFORM_OF_OUR_CRIMINAL_SYSTEM))

24 [ACT 105 OF 2014](#)

25 [ACT 130 OF 2018](#)

26 Act No. 1 of 2020,

27 The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) [HTTPS://WWW.STATE.GOV/INTERNATIONAL-  
28 AND-DOMESTIC-LAW/#LAWS](https://www.state.gov/international-and-domestic-law/#laws) 8 [HTTPS://CSEINSTITUTE.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2019/06/SPRING-2019-REPORT-  
29 6.21.19-PDF.PDF](https://cseinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/spring-2019-report-6.21.19-pdf.pdf), p, 10. 42 PaCSA 3011

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1 **IN SUPPORT OF CREATING A US REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION #2023 - 14**

4 **In Support of Creating a U.S. Regional Conference**

5 **A resolution submitted to the 2023 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference**

6

7 **WHEREAS** the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in  
8 mission together in 136 countries; and

9

10 **WHEREAS** the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are  
11 significant and vital to the continued mission and ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church; and

12

13 **WHEREAS** the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level has historically  
14 impeded each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific contexts; and

15

16 **WHEREAS** the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level diminishes our  
17 ability to be a vital and effective church and needs to be re-envisioned to achieve more fair and equitable church  
18 governance; and

19

20 **WHEREAS** the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional  
21 Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant ([HTTPS://WWW.CHRISTMASCOVENANT.COM/PAGECC](https://www.christmascovenant.com/pageecc)),  
22 developed by Central Conference leaders in Africa and the Philippines, would establish structural parity  
23 throughout the worldwide church; and

24

25 **WHEREAS** the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in legislation put forward by the Connectional  
26 Table ([HTTPS://MCUSERCONTENT.COM/F98D87D6B18D56820E5EF20AD/FILES/7375A848-06E9-4788-A50D-  
27 1F1AE7A92A6E/USRC\\_NARRATIVEBOOKLET\\_MIN.PDF](https://mcusercontent.com/f98d87d6b18d56820e5ef20ad/files/7375a848-06e9-4788-a50d-1f1ae7a92a6e/usrc_narrativebooklet_min.pdf)) will establish the governance necessary to allow each region  
28 to design ministry for its particular contexts, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
29 transformation of the world; and

30

31 **WHEREAS** the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference aspires to vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse  
32 ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church,  
33 and

34

35 **WHEREAS** in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of a U.S. Regional Conference  
36 was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences.

37

38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference supports the expressed intents  
39 of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation, including the creation of Regional Conferences in  
40 Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and

41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference recognizes and supports the  
43 leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the Christmas Covenant as well the  
44 Connectional Table's future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and

45

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference urges the Council of Bishops to  
47 expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences  
48 legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and

49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in line with the intent of the non-disciplinary petition submitted by the

1 Connectional Table, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference requests the Council of Bishops to immediately  
2 appoint a 20-25 member Interim Committee on Organization for a US Regional Conference to develop and  
3 propose to the 2024 general conference the structure and organization of a US Regional Conference. In line with  
4 the CT's legislation, this body would organize and plan for the establishment and functioning of a new United  
5 States Regional Conference comprising the five jurisdictions of the United States. Committee membership should  
6 have a minimum of 3 members of each US jurisdiction, 3 central conference members and shall meet standards  
7 of racial and gender diversity. The Committee should recommend a structure for the US Regional Conference  
8 including considerations such as its membership, committee structure, meeting time, agency, and function; and  
9

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference secretary shall send copies of this  
11 resolution to all delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, including alternates, to the Commission on  
12 the General Conference, and to the Council of Bishops.

13

14 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Robin Hynicka on behalf of the Arch Street United Methodist  
15 Church Council

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1 **RELATING TO A REVISED 2023 PROCESS AND TERMS FOR EASTERN PA CONGREGATIONS SEEKING**  
2  
3 **TO DISAFFILIATE UNDER PARAGRAPH 2553**  
4

5 **Presented by:** Rev. Joan Trout, Mr. Doug O’Connell, North District Lay Equalizing Delegate, Schuylkill Haven: First,  
6 Mr. Jeffery Pijanowski, Lay Member Hempfield UMC  
7

8 **Whereas, *The Book of Discipline*** of the United Methodist Church provides an avenue for churches to disaffiliate  
9 for reasons of conscience over certain issues concerning human sexuality until December 31, 2023 using  
10 Paragraph 2553; and  
11

12 **Whereas,** Paragraph 2553 designates the task of creating disaffiliation terms to the Conference Board of  
13 Trustees, as confirmed by recent Judicial Council decisions 1457, 1458, and 1460. Annual Conferences may not  
14 direct the Trustees in this matter, but may request or urge them to make changes as an aspirational goal; and  
15

16 **Whereas,** the provisions for disaffiliation created by the EPA Conference Board of Trustees, as confirmed by the  
17 2019 EPA Annual Conference in Resolution 2019-19L, further clarified by the 2021 EPA Annual Conference in  
18 Resolution 2021-6, and supplemented by additional requirements partly published at 2022 Annual Conference as  
19 part of Pathway VI (Resolution 2022-8 and Conference website additions), have made it practically impossible for  
20 many churches who wish to disaffiliate to depart, binding them with additional fees, costs, and procedures which  
21 are not specifically required by Par. 2553 in *the Book of Discipline*; and  
22

23 **Whereas,** a Conference office deadline of September 30, 2022 for declaring the intent to disaffiliate has already  
24 passed, but many churches who wish to depart are feeling disenfranchised and trapped by current terms and  
25 conditions; and  
26

27 **Whereas,** the EPA Conference is threatened with the possibility of major and costly long-term legal battles  
28 with churches and their members who wish to depart, but who find the current Conference disaffiliation  
29 requirements excessive, harsh, and unfair; and  
30

31 **Whereas,** it is a basic matter of fairness that the EPA Conference recognize that congregations wishing to  
32 disaffiliate are NOT ONLY responsible for their proportionate share of Unpaid Pension Liability, but ALSO in most  
33 cases have already contributed their proportionate share of unrestricted conference funds and reserves over the  
34 years through their apportionment payment; and  
35

36 **Whereas,** the Eastern PA Conference does not want to shackle churches to remain part of the Conference who  
37 cannot in good conscience remain within it; and  
38

39 **Whereas,** urging the Conference Trustees to consider establishing revised standards and processes that are  
40 fair and gracious for congregations wishing to disaffiliate in Eastern PA will reduce anxiety, create clarity and  
41 good will, empower local churches to make informed decisions, remove the real threat of costly and long-term  
42 legal action against the EPA Conference and Board of Trustees, and allow churches remaining and churches  
43 disaffiliating to depart from one another on amicable terms, parting ways and allowing each to keep their  
44 property and assets to fulfill their different calls of ministry; and  
45

46 **Whereas,** many other Annual Conferences in the United States have modified and passed more gracious terms  
47 of disaffiliation within the last year to facilitate an amicable departure;  
48

49 **Therefore, be it resolved,** that the 2023 Session of the Eastern PA Conference requests and urges the Board of  
50 Trustees of the Eastern PA Conference and other relevant conference officials to consider replacing its current

1 standards and conditions for disaffiliation under Par. 2553 with something like the following:

2

3 **General Provisions for Disaffiliation under Par. 2553, revised 2023.**

- 4 1. The deadline for a Church Council to request disaffiliation using the provisions of the BOD Par. 2553 shall be  
5 extended to July 31, 2023, by which date the Church Council or equivalent administrative body must inform  
6 the District Superintendent of its desire to hold a church conference to vote on disaffiliation.
- 7 2. A term sheet with accurate disaffiliation costs shall be presented to the Church Council within 30 days after  
8 the Church Council contacts the District Superintendent with its request to disaffiliate, or by August 30, 2023,  
9 whichever comes first, so the congregation may make a properly informed decision. The Church Council  
10 shall inform the congregation of the terms prior to the church conference and show due diligence to invite  
11 the full membership to the church conference.
- 12 3. No additional trainings, information sessions, or conference guided church discussions shall be required for  
13 local churches seeking to disaffiliate.
- 14 4. The district superintendent shall approve the request of the Church Council and shall preside or choose  
15 another elder to preside at a church conference to take place no later than 90 days after the request from  
16 the Church Council to disaffiliate under BOD Par. 2553 is received in writing. The church conference shall  
17 make the decision to disaffiliate according to the provisions of the *Discipline* and relevant Judicial Council  
18 Decisions, which decision must be passed by a 2/3rd majority vote.
- 19 5. The Term sheet shall include only the following costs (a, b, & c):
  - 20 a) **Apportionments:** The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior  
21 to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments.
  - 22 b) **Unfunded Pension Liability:** The local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount  
23 equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The  
24 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the  
25 annual conference using current market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which  
26 the annual conference will determine the local church's share.
  - 27 c) **Outstanding debts and liabilities:** The local church shall satisfy all other debts, loans, and  
28 liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to disaffiliation.
  - 29 d) A disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and  
30 intangible property. All transfers of property shall be made prior to disaffiliation. All costs for transfer of  
31 title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church.
- 32 6. No additional payments or sums of any kind shall be required by the disaffiliating local church to obtain  
33 release of all the congregation's property and assets from the trust clause.
- 34 7. Payment shall occur prior to the effective date of departure, or by December 31, 2023 at the latest.
- 35 8. The disaffiliating congregation may pay the disaffiliation costs using a loan negotiated with the EPA  
36 Conference Board of Trustees and/or a lender of its own choice.
- 37 9. EPA Churches which are still in the Conference which have already requested or attempted a disaffiliation  
38 vote using terms from 2022 or prior years may re-apply to request a vote for disaffiliation under these 2023  
39 rules.
- 40 10. The process of disaffiliation by a local church is not finalized until a simple majority of the annual conference  
41 acts to approve the motion for disaffiliation (Judicial Council Decision 1379). Therefore, the EPA Conference  
42 calls for a Special Session of the Annual Conference (Pursuant to BOD Par. 603.5.6), in November 2023, in  
43 consultation with the Bishop, whose purpose shall be to vote on all pending requests for disaffiliation. The  
44 session shall be organized by the Commission on Conference Sessions.

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46 This resolution is aspirational, urging but not directing the Conference Board of Trustees and relevant Conference  
47 officials to consider adopting these new Par. 2553 disaffiliation terms.

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