

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING STANDING RULE CHANGE
IN RE: CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM AND
COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN

Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions

Date Adopted: 3-13-2013

Number on Board 14; Number Present: 10

Number Voting YES: 10; Number Voting NO: 0; Number Abstaining: 0

Background

The 2012 General Conference made significant changes to the Clergy Retirement Security Program. One of the most notable amendments involved participant eligibility. Fulltime clergy continue to be eligible for automatic participation in the plan. Part-time clergy (¾ or ½ time) are optional participants as determined by the Annual Conference. 25% time clergy are no longer eligible to participate in CRSP, but may enroll in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. The following change to our Standing Rules continues to provide CRSP and CPP eligibility to clergy serving in ¾ or ½ time appointments.

The Board of Pensions recommends the following change to the Standing Rules regarding CRSP and CPP:

Division IX. Pensions and Benefit Programs

B. Current Service Pension Funding; The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP):

- ~~1. Between January 1, 1982 and December 31, 2006, pension funding for the current service of eligible pastors was made under a defined contribution program, known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).~~
- ~~2. The Annual Conference participated in MPP/CPP in accordance with the Discipline and the MPP/CPP Plan Documents, as adopted and amended by the General Conference.~~
- ~~3. Beginning~~ In 2007, the Annual Conference began participating in the UMC Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), as adopted by the 2004 General Conference and amended by the 2012 General Conference. Additionally, the Annual Conference continues to participate in the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) as adopted and amended by the General Conference. Contribution Method: ~~From 2007 to 2011, the church contributions for CRSP and CPP shall continue to be made through regular apportionment payments to the Conference Treasurer. Through 2011, the Conference Treasurer shall remit the CRSP and CPP contributions to the plan monthly on behalf of Conference participants.~~ Beginning in 2012, the full cost of CRSP and CPP for eligible appointed clergy shall be direct-billed to the local church or other salary-paying unit where they are appointed by the Bishop. Each local church or other salary-paying unit shall be

1 responsible for remitting the full cost of these programs directly each month. The billing method
2 shall be established by the Conference Board of Pensions.

3 4. Eligibility for Conference CRSP and CPP Payments: All appointed pastors are eligible for
4 UMC pension plan enrollment, subject to the rules of the applicable Plan Documents. The
5 following pastors are eligible to participate in the CRSP and CPP program sponsored by the
6 Annual Conference:

7 a. Any person in one of the following categories who is under Episcopal appointment to
8 serve as pastor of a local church within the bounds of the Annual Conference, provided
9 that they are receiving clergy compensation for their appointed services:

10 (1) Conference clergy members including Deacons, serving fulltime, ¾ time, or ½
11 time;

12 (2) Local pastors, serving fulltime, ¾ time, or ½ time (CPP is not available for
13 less than fulltime local pastors); and

14 (3) Eligible clergy of other denominations, serving fulltime, ¾ time, or ½ time.

15 b. Conference clergy members appointed as ~~District~~ Superintendents or as Annual
16 Conference Council on Ministries staff, ~~or as Conference Treasurers.~~

17 5. Elective Deferrals to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP), equal to not
18 less than three percent of the participant's contribution base, are strongly recommended for all
19 participants.

20 6. Each year, the Conference Board of Pensions shall recommend an amount to the Council on
21 Finance & Administration necessary for payment of any uncollected current service pension
22 costs (CRSP and CPP), and request that it be placed in the Conference Apportionment budget for
23 the following fiscal year (This shall not conflict with the Board of Pensions responsibility under
24 Par 639.4, 2012 Book of Discipline).

25 7. A church other than a United Methodist Church included in an ecumenical parish served by a
26 United Methodist pastor shall arrange with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of
27 the United Methodist Church for the direct billing of the applicable pension and/or protection
28 plan contributions required of that parish. A United Methodist Church included in an ecumenical
29 parish shall pay apportionments as required by the Conference Treasurer or CFA.

30 **C. Parity Between Pension Plans**

31 Striving to Maintain parity between the benefits of the various clergy Pension programs shall be
32 the policy of this Annual Conference. (~~Par 1506., 2008 Book of Discipline~~).

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35 **Accompanying Notes:**

- 36 1. There are three components to the California-Nevada Annual Conference's pension bill:
37 CRSP Defined Benefit, CRSP Defined Contribution and the Comprehensive Protection
38 Plan (CPP).

- 1 2. The total cost for the 2013 CRSP Defined Benefit portion of the bill is \$2,016,247. The
2 total cost for the 2014 CRSP Defined Benefit (assuming contributions for ½ time and
3 above) is \$1,440,710.
- 4 3. The 2013 pension cost for a pastor receiving Conference Average Compensation (CAC)
5 (\$63,693) is approximately \$12,142. The estimated 2014 pension cost for a pastor
6 receiving CAC (\$64,944 in 2014) is \$10,432.
- 7 4. The CRSP plan formula was modified by the 2012 General Conference. Under the
8 current CRSP, the formula for determining the defined benefit (DB) component is 1.25%
9 of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years
10 of service since January 1, 2007. The multiplier has been reduced to 1% for years of
11 service beginning January 1, 2014. The current CRSP benefit formula will remain
12 effective for all covered service prior to January 1, 2014. The defined contribution (DC)
13 component of CRSP will also change. Beginning January 1, 2014, the Church will
14 contribute 2% of compensation. In addition, the Church will match participant
15 contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)—up to 1% of
16 compensation—and deposit those matching funds into participant CRSP DC accounts.
17 Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of compensation to UMPIP, his or her
18 CRSP DC contributions will be 3%, as currently under CRSP.

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**RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CHANGE IN
STANDING RULES DIVISION VI, SECTION D**

*Submitted by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
Yes – 7 No – 0 Abstain – 0 The date was March 9, 2013 Contact: Ralph Davis*

Explanatory Section:

This proposal deletes Standing Rules Division VI, Section F. and adds new section D.

The remaining sections are renumbered as follows:

- D. Second Mile Giving becomes new section E. Second Mile Giving;
- E. Operating Reserve Fund becomes new section F. Operating Fund;
- I. Member's Expense for the Annual Conference Session becomes new section G. Member's Expense for the Annual Conference Session;
- J. Travel Reimbursement becomes new section H. Travel Reimbursement;
- K. Dependent Care Expense becomes new section I. Dependent Care Expense;
- L Equal Employment Opportunity Agreement becomes new section J. Equal Employment Opportunity Agreement

Division VI. Finance

~~F. Local Church Apportionments~~

- ~~1. As members of Christ's universal church, we have professed our loyalty to the United Methodist Church and have promised to do all in our power to strengthen its ministries. The ministries of the United Methodist Church extend beyond our local churches to endeavors throughout the world. We fund these endeavors through our apportionment giving.~~
 - ~~2. In the California Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a church's or fellowship's apportionment amount is a percentage of the annual budget approved by the Annual Conference in the preceding year. This percentage is determined annually using information from each church's "Local Church Report, Table II."~~
 - ~~3. Each March, the Conference Treasurer shall total the following lines from the "Table II" for each church and fellowship from the previous calendar year:~~
- ~~All staff, operating and program expenses (lines 64 through 72)~~
 - ~~From this total, the Conference Treasurer will subtract any parsonage rental income (line 96) up to the amount of pastor's housing allowance(s) (line 66).~~

- 1 ~~4. The resulting amount is the local church's "net total paid" for the year (LCntp). This amount is~~
2 ~~considered a measure of that church's or fellowship's financial strength relative to all other~~
3 ~~churches/fellowships in the Annual Conference. The Conference Treasurer shall then add~~
4 ~~together all of the "net total paid" amounts (LCntps) to get the Annual Conference's "net total~~
5 ~~paid" (ACntp).~~
- 6 ~~5. In recognition that more of the financial strength of the smallest churches is needed to cover~~
7 ~~the fixed costs of operations, only 80% of the net total paid of the smallest churches will be~~
8 ~~included in this apportionment allocation. These smaller churches are defined as those with a net~~
9 ~~total paid less than the conference average compensation (CAC) for clergy.~~
- 10 ~~6. The "net total paid" for each local church and fellowship (LCntp) shall be divided by the "net~~
11 ~~total paid" for the Annual Conference (ACntp). The resulting decimal figure shall be multiplied~~
12 ~~by the total budget adopted by the Annual Conference Session in order to determine each~~
13 ~~church's and each fellowship's share of the adopted budget.~~
- 14 ~~7. For purposes of the above calculation, The Council on Finance and Administration shall have~~
15 ~~the discretion to determine the "net total paid" (LCntp) for any church or fellowship not turning~~
16 ~~in its "Table II" report by February 28th. The Council can increase the "net total paid" (LCntp)~~
17 ~~up to 25% over the prior year's amount for these churches.~~
- 18 ~~8. For purposes of the above calculation, The Council on Finance and Administration in~~
19 ~~consultation with the District Superintendent shall have the discretion to decrease the "net total~~
20 ~~paid" (LCntp) of a newly organized church or fellowship in the first five years of its operation.~~
- 21 ~~9. The Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend a budget to the Annual~~
22 ~~Conference that includes a total percentage change no greater than the percentage change in the~~
23 ~~Annual Conference's net total paid (ACntp).~~
- 24 ~~10. The Annual Conference may adopt by majority vote a budget that is the same or less in total~~
25 ~~than the budget recommended by the Council on Finance and Administration. The Annual~~
26 ~~Conference may adopt by a two-thirds vote a budget that exceeds the budget recommended by~~
27 ~~the Council on Finance and Administration.~~

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29 **D. Congregational Tithing**

30 As members of Christ's universal church, we have professed our loyalty to the United
31 Methodist Church and have promised to do all in our power to strengthen its ministries. The
32 ministries of the United Methodist Church extend beyond our local churches to endeavors
33 throughout the world. We fund these endeavors through our congregational tithing.

- 34 1. In the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a church or
35 fellowship's congregational tithing amount shall be calculated as a tithe of ten percent
36 (10%) of the total income received by the local church operating budget as reported on line
37 67 of Table III.
- 38 2. The Council on Finance and Administration shall calculate a total income amount that
39 reflects a reasonable expectation of growth over the prior year for a church or fellowship
40 that fails to submit a completed Table III.

- 1 3. Each February 15th, the Conference Treasurer shall report to the Council on Finance and
2 Administration the total amount of income as reported on line 67 of Table III by all
3 churches and fellowships for the calendar year immediately preceding the annual
4 Conference Session. This amount shall be known as the congregational tithing base.
- 5 4. On or before February 15th of each year all ministry focus areas shall submit to the Council
6 on Finance and Administration a recommendation of funding amounts to cover reasonably
7 anticipated operating and program expenses for the next fiscal year.
- 8 5. The Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend a budget to the Annual
9 Conference whose total shall not exceed 10% of the congregational tithing base as reported
10 by the Conference Treasurer in D.3 above. The Annual Conference shall adopt by majority
11 vote a budget that is equal to or less than the total budget recommended by the Council on
12 Finance and Administration.

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**RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING CHANGE IN
STANDING RULES, DIVISION 6, SECTIONS A, B AND C**

*Submitted by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
Yes – 7 No – 0 Abstain – 0 The date was March 9, 2013 Contact: Ralph Davis*

This proposal deletes Standing Rules Division VI, sections A, B, C, G and H. They are replaced with new Sections A, B, and C. The new sections contain editorial updates and reflect new language from the 2012 Book of Discipline.

Division VI. Finance

~~A. The Conference Treasury~~

~~The Conference treasury is designated as the central treasury for all Conference agencies participating in the Conference Budget. Refer Para. 612.11, 2004 Discipline.~~

~~B. Office of the Treasurer~~

~~Conference Treasurer unless otherwise provided in the Discipline, the person serving as Conference Treasurer shall serve as treasurer of each Conference agency participating in the Conference Benevolence Budget. In cases where the Discipline requires that a treasurer be elected by any Conference agency participating in the Conference Budget, it is recommended that such agency elect the Conference Treasurer as its Treasurer.~~

~~C. Council on Finance & Administration~~

~~The Conference Council on Finance & Administration, in consultation with the appropriate Conference agencies, is hereby empowered to exercise authority, when necessary, to restrict spending in such a manner as to avoid continued and projected deficits when disbursements by a Council, Board, agency, or Committee are projected to exceed anticipated income. These adjustments shall be reported to the next Annual Conference Session.~~

And:

~~G. Dividing Apportionment Collections~~

~~The Conference Treasurer shall divide on a percentage basis amount the various funds comprising each of the apportionment budgets listed below all amounts received from charges designated for Annual Conference Ministries and Pensions. General and Jurisdictional Apportionments shall be paid the total amounts received.~~

~~H. Apportionment Payment Plan~~

~~The apportionments to each church for Annual Conference Ministries and Pensions shall be payable in twelve monthly installments each year.~~

1 **A. The Conference Treasury**

2 The Conference treasury is designated as the central treasury for all Conference agencies
3 participating in conference Budget. (*Book of Discipline, 2012, ¶ 613.12*)

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5 **B. Office of the Treasurer**

6 Unless otherwise provided in the Discipline, the person serving as Conference Treasurer shall
7 serve as treasurer of each Conference agency.

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9 **C. Council on Finance & Administration**

10 The purpose of the council is to provide fiscal and administrative support for the various
11 functions of ministry and connectional relationships. The council shall develop, maintain, and
12 administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies,
13 procedures, and management services for the annual conference. (*Book of Discipline, 2012, ¶*
14 *611 and following.*)

15 The Conference Council on Finance & Administration, in consultation with the appropriate
16 Conference agencies, is empowered to exercise authority, when necessary, to restrict spending
17 in such a manner as to avoid continued and projected deficits when disbursements by a
18 council, board, agency, or committee are projected to exceed anticipated income. These
19 adjustments shall be reported to the next Annual Conference Session.

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RECOMMENDATION SETTING

2014 ‘PAST-SERVICE’ (PRE-1982 SERVICE) PENSION RATE

Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions

Date Adopted: 3-13-2013

Number on Board 14; Number Present: 10

Number Voting YES: 10; Number Voting NO: 0 Number Abstaining: 0

- 1 The Board of Pensions recommends that the Minimum Past Service Pension Rate
- 2 paid for Pre-1982 service during the year 2014 be set at \$828 per year of service.
- 3 This represents a 0% increase over the 2013 rate of \$828 per year of service.

RECOMMENDATION SETTING 2014 RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGY

RENTAL/HOUSING EXCLUSION

Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions

Date Adopted: 3/13/2013

Number on Board 14; Number Present: 10

Number Voting YES: 10 ; Number Voting NO: 0 : Number Abstaining: 0

The California-Nevada Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for retired or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

BACKGROUND:

1. The religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");
2. The practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;
3. Pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and
4. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2014 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

1 THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be
2 any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the
3 *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity
4 company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity,
5 or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to
6 this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to any
7 local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of
8 the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that
9 employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its
10 predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan,
11 annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or
12 her gross compensation.

13 ACCOMPANYING NOTES:

14 A. The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income
15 in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code
16 section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the
17 rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate
18 body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year;
19 (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such
20 year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances
21 (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.
22

23 B. For decades, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church and the Investment
24 Guidelines of the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits (GBOPHB) have required
25 significant screening for socially responsible investing, related to the pension and benefit
26 plans for UMC clergy and lay workers. By action of the Directors of the GBOPHB in
27 November 2003, many retirement annuities for both clergy and lay workers are being
28 'outsourced' to secular, commercial annuity companies, beginning 1-1-04. For these
29 retirement annuities, the historic denominational screening for socially responsible
30 investing is being changed and compromised.
31

32 In light of this change, the California-Nevada Annual Conference Board of Pensions urges all
33 Conference Claimants with 'outsourced' UMC retirement annuities to continue pursuing
34 investment inquiries, shareholder resolutions, and other advocacy related to socially
35 responsible investing, with whichever commercial firm you elect to place your UMC
36 retirement annuity contract.

37 Further information about the UMC program of Socially Responsible Investing can be
38 found by visiting the GBOPHB website: www.gbophb.org

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RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS

2014 Comprehensive Funding Plan

Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions

Date Adopted: March 13, 2013

Number on Board 14 ; Number Present: 10

Number Voting YES: 10 ; Number Voting NO: 10 : Number Abstaining: 10

BACKGROUND: The 2012 Discipline ¶1506.6 requires each annual conference to develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations. “The funding plan or plans shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.” (GBOPHB)

2014 COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING PLAN

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)

Effective January 1, 2014, the California-Nevada Annual Conference election for Fulltime Equivalent (FTE) eligibility requirement for CRSP-DB participation is 50% and greater. Based on the election of 50% and greater the required contribution as of 12/31/2014 for CRSP-DB is \$1,440,710, which will be funded by direct billing of local churches.

Effective January 1, 2014 the CRSP-DC is modified by action of General Conference to 2% of compensation non-matching contribution along with a matching contribution of up to 1% of compensation of the clergy’s contribution to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP), a 403(b) pension fund. The CRSP-DC portion (3% of compensation) will be billed to/collected from the local church/salary-paying-unit and remitted to the GBOPHB monthly.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

The MPP Annuities as reported by the GBOPHB has a funded status as of 1/1/2012 of 111%, requiring no contribution in 2014.

Pre -82 Benefit

The 2014 Past Service Pension Rate (PSR) recommended to the California Nevada Annual Conference is \$828 per year of service. The 2014 rate of \$828 is equal to 1.27% of the 2014 California Nevada Conference Average Compensation (CAC) of \$64,944.

Annual increases in our CAC have averaged about 2.6% over the past 10 years, and although

1 slowing somewhat, future increases are likely to be similar over time. Prior to the onset of the
2 new CRSP funding requirements (2007), we would have anticipated PSR increases to average
3 2% to 3% per year and as market returns and Conference funding sources would permit.
4 However, based on the CRSP funding requirement that the entire cost of any rate increase be
5 paid in full immediately (and not amortized), we now expect the California Nevada PSR to not
6 be more than a 2% annual increase. The rate is presently set at \$828. This rate is still the highest
7 in the denomination.

8 The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in the Supplement One of the CRSP-DB
9 actuarial valuation has determined that the portion of the pre-1982 plan liability attributable to
10 the California Nevada Annual Conference as of 1/1/2012 for 2014 is \$40,643,623, with a 0%
11 annual PSR increase assumption. This figure is based on the 2014 PSR of \$828. Plan funds
12 currently held with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits have a value of
13 \$31,876,150 as of January 1, 2012 for 2014.

14 The difference between the total plan liability and current plan funding as of 1/1/2012 is
15 \$8,767,473. This represents the unfunded plan liability and will be provided through non-plan
16 funds that are held in various investment accounts. The Conference intends for contributions to
17 be made within the remaining amortization period, ending December 31, 2021. The annual
18 contribution, if paid in equal installments over that period, *and based on the plan balances*
19 *shown above*, is estimated to be not more than \$1,281,334 based on 2.0% PSR increases.
20 Changes in market values which occurred during 2012 and later will impact the annual cost of
21 this program. Further, electing to forego the 2% annual increase may result in a lower payment
22 during the fiscal year.

23 Our conference funds the Pre-1982 plan benefits through several funding sources. Both the
24 interest earnings and principal of non-plan funds may be available for Pre-1982 benefit funding
25 needs. Below is a description of the primary non-plan asset which is available to pay the present
26 value of future contributions:

- 27
- 28 • The Annual Conference maintains a Deposit Account with the General Board of Pension and
29 Health Benefits that has a value of \$15,412,312 as of January 1, 2013. Both the interest and
30 principal from this account are available to meet future contribution requirements for Pre-
31 1982 plan benefits. Pre-1982 Plan benefits are identified as the primary claim upon the funds
32 in this Deposit Account.
 - 33 • To the extent that it would be prudent and reasonable beyond the needs of the Pre-1982 Plan
34 funding, this Deposit Account may also be used to assist the Conference with retiree health
35 care funding, and with administrative costs related to the operations of the Conference Board
36 of Pensions.
 - 37 • Although not presently utilized, our Conference retains the ability to seek annual
38 apportionments from the local churches and other fund-raising efforts as necessary to obtain
39 additional sources for pre-82 pension funding. The Conference would expect to use such

1 funding methods however, only as needed after the Conference Deposit Account,
2 Endowment Board funding and other related resources have been significantly depleted. The
3 Endowment Board gift to the Conference is presently \$1.6 Million annually.
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5 **Post-Retiree Medical Benefits**

6 The CNUMC retiree health care premium subsidy is based on a fixed rate (as determined
7 annually by the Board of Pensions) times years of service as specified in the Standing Rules. The
8 subsidy is funded by an annual contribution from the Endowment Board.
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10 **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**

11 The Comprehensive Protection Plan is directly billed to the local church based on appointments
12 and compensation of clergy. The billing rate beginning 1/1/2014 will be 3.5% of compensation
13 for all fulltime appointments. CPP eligible clergy appointed 1/2-time and 3/4-time have mandatory
14 participation under special arrangements at an annual premium of 3.9% of the DAC billed on a
15 monthly basis.
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17 Revenue from the CPP bill will also be used to support the Voluntary Transition Program
18 (adopted by the 2012 General Conference) and a short-term disability program administered by
19 the Conference Board of Pensions.
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21 **Death and Disability Plan for Conference Lay Employees**

22 The UNUMLife Options welfare plan provides death benefits to conference lay employees
23 working 30 hours per week or more. Long term disability insurance (Prudential) is also provided
24 to conference lay employees who work 30 hours or more per week. The UNUMLife premiums
25 and Prudential Disability Insurance for conference lay employees are funded through the
26 conference staff apportioned budget.
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28 **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)**

29 The conference office lay employees working an average of 30 hours per week or more are
30 eligible for a pension contribution of 12% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to contribute
31 personal funds toward their retirement through payroll reductions to the UMPIP. The conference
32 contribution is funded through the conference staff apportioned budget.
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35 **Active Medical Benefits**

36 Current active clergy premiums are paid by the local church (100%). Conference lay employees
37 participating in the conference health care have their premiums paid out of the conference staff
38 apportioned budget.
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RECOMMENDATION FOR REDIRECTING FUNDING FROM GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND TO MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

Submitted by Elk Grove United Methodist Church. Church Council 16 members were present and 16 voted to adopt the recommendation. On March 12, 2013. Contact: Church Council Chair Theresa Badley No fiscal impact is anticipated

BACKGROUND: The 2012 General Conference decided against amending the Book of Discipline to remove language that excludes LGBTQi people. Such discrimination is not consistent with the Wesleyan principles of “do no harm” or the basic membership vow “to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.”

We value and support the global UMC – we support the global church through payment of apportionments. We do not support the decision of the General Conference and cannot support its actions financially.

RECOMMENDATION: California-Nevada Conference withhold from the General Administration Fund that portion of funds used to support the General Conference (currently 32%). These funds would then be allocated to the Ministerial Education Fund.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WORKERS’ UNIONS AND
ADOPTING WORKER-FRIENDLY PROTECTIVE LANGUAGE IN CONTRACTS**

BACKGROUND

*Submitted by: Karen Oliveto, Phil Lawson, Donna Wood,
Sandy Gess, Michael Yoshii, Alan Jones
Contacts: Phil Lawson, Israel Alvaran.
Fiscal Impact: None*

Historically, The United Methodist Church has been concerned about the plight of working men and women. In the United States, we were among the first supporters of the labor movement where both lay and clergy members played leadership roles in supporting garment workers, textile workers, farm workers, and factory workers and advocating passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the National Labor Relations Act. From our beginnings and across the globe, we have led the way in seeking improved conditions and stronger unions for workers. Through public policy work, shareholder advocacy, and consumer power, the Church and its members have sought to influence political and corporate decisions affecting working conditions around the world.¹

To concretely show support for the rights of workers to have a voice on the job, just wages, and better working conditions – standards that the UMC and workers’ unions consistently uphold – this resolution calls for:

1. A conference policy to patronize services provided by union labor, whenever possible, i.e. hotels and food service. Patronizing union labor helps in raising standards for workers in a given city or community. Non-union shops compete by cutting labor costs – meaning lower wages, lack of benefits i.e. health care, vacation/sick pay, and job security. We contribute to efforts to uphold and protect workers’ rights when we choose to use services by union labor.
2. Use of worker-friendly protective language in contracts that allows the conference and its constituent organizations and congregations to cancel contracts without paying cancellation fees or incurring any liabilities in the event of any labor dispute like strikes, pickets, and boycotts. The use of protective language in contracts empowers the conference and its organizations and congregations to stand in solidarity with workers and avoid having our social justice principles held hostage by legal liabilities and cancellation fees.

¹ Resolution 4135, Rights of Workers, 2012 Book of Resolutions.

1 The United Methodist Church supports workers' rights to freely organize into unions and collectively
2 bargain,² and has historically been engaged in strengthening the union movement in the United States;

3 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** The California-Nevada Annual Conference and its organizations
4 and congregations, in an expression of support for unions and the rights of workers as outlined in our
5 Social Principles, are to contract union labor for services it needs, whenever this option is possible;

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** The California-Nevada Annual Conference and its organizations and
7 congregations, standing in solidarity with workers, are to adopt worker-friendly protective language in
8 their contracts³ that would allow the cancellation of these contracts in the event of a labor dispute, pickets,
9 and boycotts, without the conference incurring any liabilities or cancelation fees.

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² Par. 163, The Economic Community (Social Principles), 2012 Book of Discipline.

³ Sample protective language from Interfaith Worker Justice (www.iwj.org):

EXCUSED NON-PERFORMANCE DUE TO LABOR DISPUTE. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, if performance hereunder would foreseeably involve [Group] in or subject it to the effects of a boycott, strike, lockout, picketing or other labor dispute and [Group] therefore withholds, delays or cancels performance, it shall have no liability there from, provided that [Group] may not withhold, delay or cancel performance based upon a labor dispute involving its own employees. In the event of a cancellation under this Section, neither [Group] nor its members shall have any future obligation under this Agreement, and any deposits or other payments made to the Hotel by [Group] or its members to reserve rooms or other space for use, and/or for services to be provided, shall promptly be refunded to [Group] or its members. This Section shall supersede all other provisions of this Agreement and shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of [Group's home state here].

NOTIFICATION OF LABOR DISPUTE. The Hotel agrees to notify [your Group] in writing within ten (10) days after it becomes aware of any labor relations dispute involving the Hotel and its employees including, but not limited to, union picketing, the filing of an Unfair Labor Practice charge by a union, the expiration of a negotiated labor contract, an existing or impending strike or lockout or any other matter which could reasonably be construed as a labor-management relations dispute.

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE THE RAIN FORESTS

*Submitted by Ballard W. George (contact person), Ingrid McCleary,
James Eskridge, and Florence Lord*

Members of First United Methodist Church, Sunnyvale, California

Date: March 28, 2013

Contact person: Ballard W. George, ballardgeorge1960@yahoo.com

Fiscal effect: Not significant

God made the land and the oceans (**Genesis 1**), and he made the tropical rainforests. And we are stewards over His handiwork

William Cullen Bryant wrote: “The forest is the perpetual work of Thy creation; finished, yet renewed forever.”

These forests cover six percent of the earth’s land surface, and are inhabited by at least fifty percent of the species. There could be millions of species; many are yet to be scientifically studied, and named. Extraordinary discoveries in these forests are made all the time.

Over the last few hundred years, the wealth of resources found in rainforests has proven to be of **enormous benefit** to the survival and well-being of humankind. From foods and beverages such as bananas, avocados, and cocoa, to medicine such as quinine (and many others for treating a wide range of diseases, including cancer) and industrial products derived from the Brazilian rubber tree, the biological diversity of rainforests has had a profound effect on the development of human society. Many of the rainforests’ secrets have been revealed to us by indigenous peoples, whose livelihoods and cultures depend on their environment and who often have a deep knowledge of wildlife.

They (rainforests) flourish only where the weather is wet and warm all year. Water is the lifeblood of the rainforest. These need at least 67” of rain per year, spread out generally over the year. Some get much more.

Virgin rainforest can feel like a lost world, a reminder of what our planet was like before nature was tamed by humanity. The upper layer of lowland forest is the canopy. The canopy is basked in light but bears the brunt of the weather. Species compete for life and light.

Everything is lush, serene, brooding; there is no horizon, no sky. Here is the greatest celebration of life our planet has ever seen.

1 The discovery of thousands of unknown beetles in the tropical rainforest canopy should not have
2 been a surprise to biologists. Nature reaches its fullest expression in the tropical forest, whether
3 measured by sheer numbers of species or by the complexity of their interactions.

4 The intense evaporative power of the overhead sun draws moisture from the soil by way of the
5 foliage of trees in a process called transpiration.

6 The tropical forests are responsible for a conspicuous percentage (up to 69 percent) of earth's
7 biological productivity. Nothing could demonstrate the significance of our dependence on this
8 biome more than to recall the transpiration dynamics of a single large emergent (standing out)
9 forest tree pumping some 200 gallons of water daily into the atmosphere. Through this process,
10 one acre of tropical rainforest releases 20,000 gallons of water into the atmosphere daily for
11 cloud formation, twenty times the amount the sea contributes through evaporation from the same
12 surface area.

13 Were we to search for a single mechanism to preserve soil fertility, percolate water evenly
14 through the seasons, and so prevent flood, erosion and drought, release atmospheric water, store
15 atmospheric carbon, cleanse the air, moderate global temperature and climatic balance, beautify
16 the terrain, and support a varied flora and fauna - none could be found to serve better than a tree.

17 The exuberant pantheon of the tropical rainforest contains fully four-fifths of the earth's
18 terrestrial vegetation. It is the largest terrestrial biomass, and contains, inch for inch, more life
19 than the productive oceanic kelp beds, coral reefs, or African savannas. Given that the tropical
20 forests cover only 6 percent of the earth's land surface, yet shelter up to an estimated 30 million
21 species - a large portion of our planet's total - it is seen that our lives are immensely enriched by
22 this habitat.

23 An intriguing aspect of rainforest life is its mutualism, a dependence of organisms on each other.
24 Most rainforest trees are dependent on animals (including humans) for pollination or seed
25 dispersal. The extinction of a pollinator or seed dispenser may cause the death of a plant species
26 and with it many other species, especially invertebrates, which depend on it. Author Ghilleen
27 Prance stated: "*It seems to me that human survival, even if promoted by self-interest, is a good*
28 *argument for saving rainforests.*"

29 **Unfortunately**, (as of the 1990s) an estimated 19 million trees are felled - *daily*. How many
30 species have already been lost? The rainforests have become a battleground between those who
31 want short-term gain and those who decry the ethos of greed and indifference with which our
32 biodiversity is casually squandered. Ranchers cut century-old trees to make cattle pastures;
33 developers, often with international cooperation, destroy forests by building roads, hydroelectric
34 dams, and mines; and loggers denude the landscape with cut and run practices. Pillaging pays.
35 Governments are involved.

36

1 The implications of tropical deforestation are so manifold and provocative that the global
2 scientific and environmental community has variously described this as “*the sleeper issue of the*
3 *twentieth century*,” “*the greatest natural calamity since the Ice Age*,” “*the greatest biological*
4 *disaster ever perpetuated by man*,” and “*a threat to civilization second only to nuclear war*.”
5 (Arnold Newman, 1990).

6 The action for which our descendants are least likely to forgive us is the loss of genetic and
7 species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. Unless we curtail our activities in these
8 areas, the effects of the loss of such a large portion of species will have the most serious long-
9 term consequences.

10 Threats to the forest include agriculture, international logging, fuel wood collection, the paper
11 chase and other factors; population increases are a factor.

12 Given the astonishing regrowth of secondary species that materializes if the forest is opened up
13 by a canopy tree windfall, why not remove the hardwoods; why not plant corn (say, for a some
14 limited period)? One of the major disappointments of the tropics, and the unpalatable answer to
15 these questions, is that the forest has an Achilles heel. The closed cycle which perpetuates its
16 productivity is quite easily broken, and this outflow of energy cannot be harnessed sustainably
17 by methods currently in use. It is also true that technologies are available that will allow us to
18 successfully manipulate or even mimic the primary forest without irrevocably breaking the
19 closed cycle (given the political will to do so).

20 Any large-scale disturbance, such as clear-cutting or burning, that results in the breaking of
21 recycling mechanisms will lead to a rapid loss of the accumulated nutrient capital. Local
22 extinction of many species is thus the inevitable consequence of using the land for short-term
23 gain.

24 When humans gather products from the tropical forest - whether timber, fruits or game - we must
25 stay within the limits imposed by the natural processes of weathering and nutrient capture.
26 Outputs and inputs must balance; this is the essence of sustainability. Newman notes that
27 the original indigenous population produced almost exclusively for their own sustenance.

28 In standard practice (Newman, 1990) each citizen of the United States throws away in paper
29 three whole conifer trees yearly. This represents only paper wasted, not the total amount
30 consumed. This means that approximately one billion trees (6725 square miles, an area larger
31 than the state of Hawaii) are being wasted by one country alone. In developing nations, the usage
32 is considerably less.

33 The extraction of mineral resources from forest lands is often accompanied by circumstances
34 that produce far more damage than the mining process itself. The most expedient source of
35 charcoal for smelters associated with the process is the surrounding forest.

1 The situation has progressed, that is, deteriorated, for some years now, as has been the case with
2 climate change. (Each of the book references used herein, for which a date is given, is from the
3 period of the 1990s and two are from 1990 to 1992!)

4 The harvesting of palm oil has resulted in large-scale destructive expansion into the rainforests of
5 Africa.

6 Today's most endangered hot spot is Indonesia, home to the largest rainforests left in Asia and
7 some of the world's most unique species, including orangutans, Sumatran tigers, and Asian
8 elephants (Rainforest Action Network, 2013). Indonesia has already lost more than half of its
9 forests, thanks to the unchecked expansion of industrial palm oil and pulp and paper plantations.

10 On the *positive side*, Chevron is working with farmers for sustainability in their Salak project in
11 a park in Indonesia. Also, Rainforest Action Network reports: Burger King stopped buying beef
12 from cattle grazed on converted rainforest lands; Home Depot and Lowe's stopped selling wood
13 products from all endangered forests; FedEx Kinko's (now FedEx Office) no longer uses paper
14 made from old-growth forests and is dramatically increasing recycled content of the paper it
15 uses. And Citi became the first bank with comprehensive environmental standards for
16 investment. Various companies have divested from Asia Pulp and Paper Company as a result of
17 its harmful practices in regard to palm oil. These efforts are to be appreciated. The Adopt an
18 Acre project has been used to set aside and protect forest land.

19 Forest.org reports that an Ecuadorian tribe will die fighting to defend rainforest, against oil
20 prospecting by the state-backed company, Petroamazonas.

21 It is recognized that there are tradeoffs and adjustments involved with some of the measures
22 which might be taken for rainforest preservation. But the forest is a vital and irreplaceable
23 resource. The political and socio-economic factors are to a degree as complex as the ecosystem
24 itself.

25 We note that whatever helps to sustainably manage our temperate-zone (or other) timber forests
26 would be expected to help in reducing the pressure for harvesting rainforest trees.

27 An ideal solution to the problem of limited financial resources available to establish and maintain
28 tropical forests exists in having the tribal people themselves patrol and maintain their own
29 homelands as national parks, reporting to senior officers employed by national parks
30 departments.

31 Environmentalist Jose Luzenbege has said: "*This talk of 'We can do with our land exactly what
32 we want' is not true. If you set your house on fire, it will threaten the homes of your neighbors.*"

33 Sources: Thomas Marent, Rainforest;

34 Arnold Newman, Tropical Rainforest, 1990;

- 1 Sir Ghillean Prance, with photographer Art Wolfe, Rainforests of the World, 1998;
- 2 John Terborgh, Diversity and the Tropical Rainforest, 1992.
- 3 Internet sources including Rainforest Network, Rainforest Alliance and Forest org. Specific
- 4 references have been given in some cases for clarity.

5 **Be it resolved:**

- 6 1. The conference secretary is to prepare a communication for publication through the
- 7 conference email list serve to all the churches encouraging them to
- 8 • purchase Rainforest Certified products.
- 9 • support the trend toward recycling and reduced use of paper for documentation,
- 10 • support the use of reusable shopping bags,
- 11 • and encourage parishioners to call on Dr. Oz to reconsider promoting the
- 12 distribution of palm oil to thousands of consumers who will be unwittingly
- 13 contributing to encroachment on and demise of tropical rainforests and all the
- 14 fragile services that depend on them.
- 15
- 16 2. The conference secretary is to write to the US Senators representing California and
- 17 Nevada to
- 18 • work diplomatically through the United Nations, and other international fora
- 19 where appropriate, to ease the debt burden of governments in rainforest areas and
- 20 to reduce pressure for development;
- 21 • to support the United Nations in providing technical assistance to farmers
- 22 adjacent to rainforest areas to enable a greater yield per acre and create less
- 23 pressure to clear-cut forest land;
- 24 • and to support the United Nations in efforts to set aside forest parks in rainforest
- 25 countries, allowing tribal people to patrol and maintain their own homelands, and
- 26 reporting to park department authorities.

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RESOLUTION REGARDING VISITING OTHER

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Submitted by Yoshiro Nakajima, Emily Allen, Delilah Fakalata, Theon Johnson,
Jamie Michaels and Gayle Kurasaki
March 19th, 2013

Contact: Yoshiro Nakajima 408 858 9674 yoshn@asburylive.org
There is no fiscal impact

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference encourages all of it's members to
visit a different place of worship twice a year.

Explanatory section-

This resolution is not meant as a commandment, but rather a gentle reminder for our
connectional church to connect more deeply with our communities, other churches and one
another.

By leaving our walls, we might be filled in ways we had not expected, gain insight on how to be
a more welcoming Church, encounter chances to listen to people and to share our faith, and at
the very least, appreciate the worship experiences of our own congregation.

**RESOLUTION FOR A CELEBRATION OF A PILGRIM PEOPLE:
100 YEARS OF FILIPINO MINISTRY IN NORTH AMERICA**

Submitted By: Laddie Perez-Galang, Lake Park UMC – Oakland, CA
Date Adopted: April 6, 2013
YES: 14; NO: 0; ABSTAINING: 0; Present: 14
Contact Person: Laddie Perez-Galang, Lake Park UMC – Oakland, CA
Fiscal Impact: None

Whereas,

- In 1912, a Filipino Mission in Hawaii had taken hold on three different places—in a Honolulu boarding school for boys, in plantation camps on the islands, and in the Chinatown of Honolulu.
- The Rev. Rudolf Zurbucken, a faculty member of Mills School of the Pacific and an ordained minister serving the Korean Methodist Church in Honolulu, noticed the growing presence of Filipino boys boarding at Mills School and the arrival of thousands of Filipino farm laborers since 1906 who were working in Hawaii plantations.
- With Placido Alviar, the first ordained Filipino pastor in Hawaii; Isaac Granadosin and others; they shared their deep pastoral concerns for Filipinos with Hawaii Methodist Superintendent, John Wadman. As a result, a Methodist Mission outpost was dedicated for the glory of God on November 12, 1912.
- The Filipino ministry grew rapidly in different islands because early preachers read the Bible in their native languages, as well as in English. They interpreted the Scripture through their personal experiences of God’s redeeming grace as one who moved “from darkness into light.” Early Filipino Methodist preachers considered their personal calling as “one beggar telling another beggar where to find the bread.” They made the Christian message come alive!
- The history of a pilgrim people is told not only in books and historical documents, but in their songs as well. The early Filipino Methodist, like a bamboo bends in the midst of suffering and struggle, survived being “strangers from different shores” as they cherished in their hearts the two jewels of life—“the jewel of faith and the jewel of music.”
- From a humble beginning in Hawaii, the Lord bless the Filipino ministry as they sing the Lord’s song and “spread scriptural holiness” throughout the land.
- With gladness in our hearts, we offer you our treasured gift—the richness of Filipino faith and culture and invite you to join us in the Centennial of Filipino Ministry.

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Therefore, be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church declare either November 10 or 17, 2013, as Filipino Sunday in all churches in the Conference. Filipino American Ministry will provide every congregation with a Filipino liturgy that include a prayer, original Filipino hymns, and a video presentation that portray the faithful and fruitful ministry of a pilgrim people across the nation.

**RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA AB 123:
TEACH CALIFORNIA STUDENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF FILIPINOS’ CONTRIBUTION TO FARM LABOR MOVEMENT**

Submitted By: Dodge Peralta, Wayside UMC – Vallejo, CA

Date Adopted: April 6, 2013

YES: 14 ; NO: 0 ; ABSTAINING: 0 ; Present: 14

Contact Person: Dodge Peralta, Wayside UMC – Vallejo, CA (dodgeperalta@yahoo.com)

Fiscal Impact: None

Whereas,

- The Filipino American population composes the second largest Asian population in California. It continues to grow, yet, the story of Filipinos and their crucial efforts to the farm labor movement is an untold part of California history.
- The names and their historical significance of vastly influential leaders in the farm labor movement, such as Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz are unknown to the general public.
- California residents need to learn about the pioneering efforts of Filipino farm laborers and leaders in instigating the 1965-1970 Delano Grape Strike which helped launch the American farm labor movement.
- California AB 123 will require school districts to include within their social study instructions the contributions of Filipinos to the farm labor movement in California. It will supplement California’s rich farm worker history with the contribution of Filipinos and Filipino American community.
- AB 123 will give students more complete account of California’s farm labor movement and ensure that these important leaders are remembered by future generations of Californians.
- Latino farm worker icon, Dolores Huerta, affirm, “the students of California need to learn the sacrifices made both by Filipinos and Latino workers in California and will ensure that the history is taught accurately.” It is time recognize the contributions of the Filipinos to the history of our state and country by including them in in the social sciences curriculum taught in California schools.

1 **Therefore, be it resolved that** the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United
2 Methodist Church support California AB 123;

3 **That** the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary shall send a letter of support to the
4 California Assembly Appropriations Committee and to the California Assembly and a copy of
5 the letters to Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), the sponsor of the bill.

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**RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT STRONGER
GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION**

*Submitted by the Conference Committee on Advocacy and Justice (14 members)
Date March 23, 2013, and by follow-up e-mail,
12 aye, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, 2 non-responsive. Contact: Susan Griffin
Fiscal Impact: None*

BACKGROUND:

Although our Book of Discipline does not speak specifically to U.S. national gun control, it does deplore violence in every form from abuse of children, women (Book of Discipline 2008, paragraph 162C) and 162F)) to use of aggression in cases of war between nations (Book of Discipline 2008 paragraph 165C)) to opposition of the death penalty (Book of Discipline 2008 paragraph 164G)). There can be no doubt that the protection of children and the community and the abhorrence of violence should encompass our covenant to advance the cause of reasonable gun control. The General Board of Church and Society, Civil and Human Rights division, has recently urged all United Methodists to end gun violence by implementing legislative measures to protect all citizens by supporting Congressional efforts to institute universal background checks on every gun sale, a ban on high capacity gun magazines and a ban on military-style assault weapons.

According to Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children’s Defense Fund, the massacre at Sandy Hook woke up many Americans to the epidemic of gun violence which has snuffed out the lives of 148,000 children since 1968. Every 30 minutes a child or teen is shot in the United States, and every 3 hours and 15 minutes a child dies from gun violence. In 2010 the U.S. gun death rate (homicides, suicides and accidents) for children and teens was 65 times higher than the rates in the United Kingdom and Germany, and 108 times higher than in Spain. Yet Jesus commanded “‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them” Matthew 19:13-15.

In a 2007 study of 178 countries by the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the U.S. ranked number one in the number of guns per person, far ahead of all the other countries in the study. Although the U.S. accounts for less than five percent of the global population, Americans own an estimated 35 to 50 percent of all civilian-owned guns in the world.

And the shootings in an Aurora, Colorado movie theater and at a Tucson, Arizona constituent

1 meeting did not limit this phenomenon to children.

2

3 In a Department of Justice study, Jeffrey Roth and Christopher Koper found that the 1994
4 Assault Weapons Ban (which expired in 2004) was responsible for a 6.7 percent decrease in total
5 gun murders, holding all other factors equal. They write: "Assault weapons are
6 disproportionately involved in murders with multiple victims, multiple wounds per victim, and
7 police officers as victims." See "Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational
8 Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994," The Urban Institute (March 1997). In a follow-up report
9 in 2004 for the University of Pennsylvania, Christopher Koper reports that the use of assault
10 weapons in crime declined by more than two-thirds by about nine years after 1994 Assault
11 Weapons Ban took effect. See "An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban:
12 Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003," (June 2004).

13 In a Washington Post story, reporters David Fallis and James Grimaldi wrote that the percentage
14 of firearms seized by police in Virginia with high-capacity magazines dropped significantly
15 during the Assault Weapons Ban. That figure has doubled since the ban expired.

16 In a letter to the editor in the American Journal of Public Health, Douglas Weil and Rebecca
17 Knox found that when Maryland imposed a more stringent ban on assault pistols and high-
18 capacity magazines in 1994, it led to a 55 percent drop in assault pistols recovered by the
19 Baltimore Police Department. See Letter to the Editor, "The Maryland Ban on the Sale of
20 Assault Pistols and High-Capacity Magazines: Estimating the Impact in Baltimore," 87
21 American Journal of Public Health 2, Feb. 1997, at 297-98.

22 Finally, a report by the Police Executive Research Forum finds that 37 percent of police
23 departments reported seeing a noticeable increase in criminals' use of assault weapons since the
24 Assault Weapons Ban expired. See Police Executive Research Forum, "Guns and Crime:
25 Breaking New Ground by Focusing on the Local Impact," (May 2010).

26 The initiative to reduce gun violence announced by President Obama in mid-January of 2013
27 includes both legislative proposals that would need to be acted on by Congress and executive
28 actions he can do on his own. Many of the executive actions involve the president directing
29 agencies to do a better job of sharing information so as to improve the ability to do background
30 and mental health checks. The proposed congressional actions include the following:

- 31 • Requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales, including those by private sellers
32 that currently are exempt.
- 33 • Reinstating and strengthening the ban on assault weapons that was in place from 1994 to
34 2004.
- 35 • Limiting ammunition magazines to 10 rounds.
- 36 • Banning the possession of armor-piercing bullets by anyone other than members of the
37 military and law enforcement.

- 1 • Increasing criminal penalties for "straw purchasers," people who pass the required
- 2 background check to buy a gun on behalf of someone else.
- 3 • Eliminating a restriction that requires the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- 4 to allow the importation of weapons that are more than 50 years old.
- 5 • Providing financing to expand mental health programs for young people.
- 6

7 Bowing to the pressure of the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun groups, gun control
8 legislation has been slow to take action to protect our children and communities. While it would
9 be lovely to live in a world free of all weapons, at the very least our government should enact
10 common-sense legislation preventing dangerous people from getting weapons to kill large
11 numbers of people quickly. At the very least, there should be laws requiring background checks
12 as a part of all sales (including private sales and gun show sales). At the very least our laws
13 should prohibit sale, transfer, manufacturing and importation of military-style assault weapons
14 and high capacity ammunition magazines.

15 Current (as of February 23, 2013) pending federal legislation:

16 Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, SR.150

17 Current (as of February 23, 2013) pending California state legislation:

18 Senate Joint Resolution 1 (to support urging the President and the Congress of the U.S. to
19 develop a comprehensive federal approach to reducing gun violence)

20 Senate Bill 47 (expanding ban on assault weapons)

21 Senate Bill 53 (requiring permits for certain ammunition purchases)

22 Assembly Joint Resolution 5 (to support the passage of the federal Assault

23 Weapons Ban of 2013, SR.150)

24 Assembly Bill 48 (certain restrictions on ammunition sales)

25 Assembly Bill 174 (ends "grandfathered" exemptions)

26 Assembly Bill 232 (creates a tax credit for surrendering firearms)

27

28 You may follow the bills on www.statescape.com or www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html and view
29 their history, updates and analyses:

30 **RESOLUTION:**

31 **Therefore be it resolved** the California-Nevada Annual Conference advocate on behalf of

1 stricter gun control legislation including bans on military-style assault weapons, large capacity
2 “quick-load” detachable magazines, for universal background checks, and for increased funding
3 for mental health programs for youth and young adults. We also urge each United Methodist to
4 advocate on behalf of these same goals by writing letters, going to court, and visiting your
5 congressperson in your district.

6
7 **Be it further resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary write to our
8 federal legislators on behalf of the Annual Conference asking them to support SB.150 (Assault
9 Weapon Ban 2013), California state senators asking them to support SJR 1, SB 47, SB 53, and
10 California state assembly members asking them to support AJR 5, AB 48, AB 174, AB 232.

11
12 **Be it further resolved** that each local church be urged to advocate on behalf of these same goals
13 by writing their federal legislators asking them to support SB.150 (Assault Weapon Ban 2013),
14 and by writing to their California and Nevada state legislators in support of stronger gun control
15 legislation.

SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM/TRUST ACT (AB 1081)

Submitted by the Conference Committee on Advocacy and Justice (14 members) as voted upon March 23, 2013, and by follow-up email, by a vote of 12 aye, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, 2 non-responsive. Contact: Linda Kuruhara. Fiscal Impact: None

BACKGROUND:

The California Trust Act (AB 1081) dubbed “The Anti-Arizona Act” is officially titled “Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools.” Assemblyman Tom Ammiano is the author, and the Act has many co-authors. It was first introduced in the House on February 18, 2011. The Trust Act is an attempt by California to allow local government to back out of an agreement with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Secure Communities (“S-Comm”) program signed in 2008.

Secure Communities requires that police and law enforcement provide the federal government with fingerprints of criminal suspects detained by local authorities. The fingerprints are run through a federal database for dangerous undocumented criminals. The program automatically leads to immigration background of every individual, citizen or non-citizen, at the point of arrest by electronically cross-checking fingerprints through an immigration database allowing ICE officials to detain and deport non-citizen individuals without the basic right to a day in court.

While US Immigration’s Customs and Enforcement’s (ICE) stated mission for S-Comm is to target serious offenses, the program casts a far too wide net. ICE’s own data shows that in California 7 out of 10 of over 67,900 individuals deported under S-Comm had no convictions or were accused of only minor offenses. Unfortunately, this means that immigrant residents who are victims or witnesses to a crime now fear cooperating with the police since any contact with law enforcement can result in separation from their families and deportation.

The S-Comm program is eroding trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement. As a result, years of community policing initiatives are ruined as entire communities lose trust in law enforcement and stop reporting crimes or seeking help. S-Comm makes us all less safe and sends the state in the wrong direction. The program is exactly what ICE said it is not supposed to be, a simple tool for mass, indiscriminate non-criminal immigration enforcement.

In addition to the public safety concerns, S-Comm has also failed to provide accountability and

1 transparency. ICE has given contradictory and inconsistent answers to questions from Congress,
2 media, and local officials regarding the participation of unwilling jurisdictions. Forcing the
3 problematic program on localities against their will creates an undue burden and jeopardizes
4 local community policing strategies.

5
6
7 Local jails internalize the entire cost of submitting to ICE holds triggered by the program which
8 asks local authorities to hold individuals in local jails for a longer period of time. S-Comm does
9 not provide any reimbursement to localities for the cost of participating in the program. At a
10 time when localities are strapped for cash they should not be spending vital resources on federal
11 civil immigration enforcement.

12
13 AB 1081 will rebuild the trust that S-Comm has undermined between immigrant communities
14 and local police by establishing statewide standards for responding to burdensome ICE hold
15 requests. This bill sets a clear standard for local governments to not submit to ICE's request to
16 detain an individual unless the individual has a serious or violent felony conviction. AB 1081
17 also requires localities to develop a plan to prevent racial profiling and keep children, crime
18 victims, or survivors of domestic violence from being wrongfully targeted.

19
20 AB 1081 passed the state Assembly 47-26 on August 24, 2012. It passed the Senate 21-13 on
21 July 5, 2012. Governor Brown vetoed the bill without signature on September 30, 2012.
22 Governor Brown states that "I am unable to sign this bill as written. Under the bill, local officers
23 would be prohibited from complying with an immigration detainer unless the person arrested
24 was charged with, or has been previously convicted of a serious or violent felony.
25 Unfortunately, the list of offenses codified in the bill is fatally flawed because it omits many
26 serious crimes. For example, the bill would bar local cooperation even when the person arrested
27 has been convicted of certain crimes involving child abuse, drug trafficking, selling weapons,
28 using children to sell drugs, or gangs. I believe it's unwise to interfere with a sheriff's discretion
29 to comply with a detainer issued for people with these kinds of troubling criminal records. The
30 significant flaws in this bill can be fixed, and I will work with the Legislature to see that the bill
31 is corrected forthwith."

32
33 The California Immigration Policy Center, the Asian Law Center and Assemblyman Tom
34 Ammiano are working together to fix the "flaws" so that the Trust Act can be passed into law.
35 Over 50 organizations and a slew of elected local officials already support the Trust Act. The
36 only opposition is The California State Sheriffs' Association.

37
38 You may follow the bill on www.statescape.com and view its history, updates and analyses.

1 **RESOLUTION**

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3 **Therefore be it resolved** the California-Nevada Annual Conference advocate on behalf of
4 immigrants and their basic rights in our states and urge Governor Brown to sign the Trust Act
5 into law. In addition, each United Methodist is urged to become an advocate on behalf of
6 immigrants by educating themselves on immigration reform and by writing letters, going to
7 court, visiting their congressperson in their district, and providing support and advocacy on
8 behalf of the sojourners in our states.

9

10 **Be it further resolved** the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary write to President
11 Barack Obama, Senator Diane Feinstein, and Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi and Zoe Lofgren,
12 advocating on behalf of immigrants and their basic rights, urging these officials to continue to
13 work for comprehensive, humane and just immigration reform across our nation under federal
14 law.

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**RESOLUTION REGARDING
REALISTIC MINIMUM/LIVING WAGE
AS FUNDAMENTAL DISCIPLESHIP DIMENSION OF
“TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD”**

*Submitted by the Conference Committee on Advocacy and Justice (14 members)
as voted upon March 23, 2013, and by follow-up e-mail,
12 aye, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, 2 non-responsive.
Contact: Alan Jones. Fiscal Impact: None*

BACKGROUND:

Huge changes in wealth distribution have happened in the last generation in the United States. In 1980, the top 1% of all income earners brought in a total of 10% of all income; by 2008 this figure was 21.0% and it is continuing to increase.⁴ The number of households living in extreme poverty (less than \$2 per day) has doubled between 1996 and 2011; as a result 2.4 million children are living in these households.⁵

Jesus says clearly that the gospel message is *good news to the poor*.⁶ If the poor in our time are to hear good news, it has to be in a reversal of these statistics, especially in times of economic recession.

The people called Methodist have always followed John Wesley’s dictum that there is *no holiness but social holiness*. As a fundamental step in bringing good news to the poor and social holiness in California and Nevada it is proposed that every United Methodist in California-Nevada Annual conference became involved in bringing good news to the poor through a significant increase in the minimum wage. Currently the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25; in California, the minimum is \$8.00 per hour and in Nevada \$8.25. No matter how hard-working the person is, they cannot support themselves on an income at this level. These amounts are still well below a living wage. A single adult in California needs \$11.20 per hour in order to cover the basic costs of living⁷, and a higher amount if there are other dependents.

⁴ *Income Inequality and the Great Recession*, Report by the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee, September 2010

⁵ *Children in Extreme Poverty, CPS 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement Table POV01*.

⁶ Luke 4:18c.

⁷ Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator, <http://livingwage.mit.edu/states/06>

1 **RESOLUTION**

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that every United Methodist within the bounds of the Annual Conference
4 be invited to join a movement so that every city and county in the Conference might raise their
5 minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour, as a first step in moving towards the more realistic living
6 wage.⁸ This amount will be reviewed annually, and proposed increases will be pegged to the
7 consumer price index, so that the wages never lose value.

8

9 **Be it further resolved** that the Conference Committee on Advocacy and Justice committee
10 prepare a packet of material to be circulated on-line to all clergy and a designated “point person”
11 in each congregation. It is requested that this person be somebody who communicates well, and
12 is motivated for this task of spiritual transformation. The packet will include guidelines on:

- 13 • Interpreting eradication of poverty as a fundamental dimension of Christian discipleship,
- 14 • Approaching local officials,
- 15 • Letter/e-mail writing and making phone calls,
- 16 • Building alliances with other in the community working for change of this issue

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⁸ A handful of cities in the Conference have already taken this step. It is recommended they move to step 2 in pressing for a living wage, using the calculator in footnote 4.

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3 **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING**
4 **CONCERN FOR TRAFFICKED FILIPINO WORKERS OF**
5 **GRAND ISLE SHIPYARD (GIS) IN NEW ORLEANS, LA**
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7 *Submitted by the Conference Committee on Advocacy and Justice (14 members),*
8 *and the Philippines Solidarity Task Force as voted upon March 23, 2013*
9 *and by follow-up e-mail, by a vote of 12 aye , 0 opposed, 0 abstain, 2 non-responsive.*
10 *Contact: Jeanelle Ablola. Fiscal Impact: None*
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12 **BACKGROUND¹:**
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14 **Conditions of Workers**
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16 Highly skilled Filipino workers were trafficked by Grand Isle Shipyards (GIS) from the
17 Philippines with promises of visas, pay above \$16/hour, and quality jobs as welders, scaffolders,
18 and pipe-fitters. These promises were not kept for the GIS workers in Louisiana. The reality of
19 the situation for the Filipino migrant workers amounted to modern-day slavery along the Gulf
20 Coast in the American South.
21

22 GIS profited handsomely by violating the basic rights of these Filipino migrant workers. The
23 workers were paid just \$5/hour for working 10-14 hours/day, 6-7 days/week, sometimes up to 4
24 months straight with no overtime pay. Workers also experienced significant deductions for
25 housing ranging from \$1000 to \$3000 per month for a bunk bed, and the company also
26 fraudulently stole workers' tax refunds.
27

28 Migrant workers were housed in cramped quarters (10 ft. by 10 ft. rooms with 4-6 workers per
29 room), not allowed freedom to leave the GIS compound, and were even restricted from
30 practicing their religious faith. Workers were subjected to a 10 p.m. curfew, bunkhouse
31 lockdowns, constant surveillance from the 23 cameras in the bunkhouse and restriction of their
32 movements and communication with the outside world, even when they were not working. If
33 they did not follow these rules, they were threatened by GIS management with termination and
34 deportation back to the Philippines.
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36 ¹ From the website of Justice for GIS Filipino Workers,
37 <http://www.j4gisfilipinoworkers.wordpress.com>
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1 **Black Elk Explosion**

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3 GIS put the Filipinos to work on an oil production platform owned by Black Elk Energy – a
4 company that had racked up 315 documented “incidents of safety non-compliance” offshore
5 since 2010, according to federal regulators. On November 16, 2012, three Filipino workers died
6 when the Black Elk Energy platform exploded, and three others were seriously injured. The
7 incident brought increased attention to the practice of American companies hiring foreign guest
8 workers for potentially hazardous and unsafe jobs and the abuses and exploitation that often
9 comes from such arrangements.

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11 **United Methodism’s Interest in this Situation**

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13 The United Methodist Church has a long and distinguished tradition in support of the rights of
14 workers to organize freely, receive a living wage, and be treated with dignity and respect;²

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16 The United Methodist Church has called for the abolition of slavery, and voiced its opposition to
17 the egregious practice of trafficking human beings, mostly victimized migrant labor;²

18
19 The California-Nevada Annual Conference has previously expressed deep concern for human
20 rights for workers in the Philippines;²

21
22 **RESOLUTION**

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24 **Therefore be it resolved** the California-Nevada Annual Conference stand in solidarity with the
25 Filipino workers of Grand Isle Shipyards in New Orleans, LA, as they apply for federal
26 recognition of their status as trafficked individuals and seek justice in the courts of law;

27 **Be it further resolved** the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary write to the CEO of
28 GIS, Mark Prejeant on behalf of these migrant workers, insisting that in its treatment of its labor
29 force GIS comply with fundamental moral standards and the requirements of U.S. Labor Law.

30 **Be it further resolved** the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary write to Secretary of
31 State John Kerry, to Acting Secretary of the Department of Labor Seth D. Harris, and to the
32 Philippines Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., drawing their attention to the
33 plight of the workers and inviting their support to protect the rights of Filipino citizens and
34 immigrant workers.

35 _____
36 ² Par. 163, The Economic Community (Social Principles), 2012 Book of Discipline; Resolution 6021, Church
37 Supports Global Efforts to End Slavery, 2012 Book of Resolutions; Recommendations Adopter, Item 58, The
38 Philippines: Disappearances, Extrajudicial Killings, and Human Rights Violations, 2006 California-Nevada Annual
39 Conference of the United Methodist Church Conference Journal and Yearbook

**RESOLUTION REGARDING
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WESTERN JURISDICTION**

*Submitted by John Reynolds, member of First United Methodist Church San Rafael
(also member of CA-NV MFSA, and Western Methodist Justice Movement)*

BE IT RESLOVED that each local church of the CA-NV Annual Conference strongly urge its members and attenders and the CA-NV Annual Conference itself strongly urge its local churches to keep engaged, be part of what the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church is doing in the way of advancing full inclusion, substantive social justice in church and world.

And – on behalf of increasing the financial ability of the United Methodist Church Western Jurisdiction to carry out its advancing of inclusion and social justice in church and world –

BE IT RESOLVED that CA-NV Committee on Financial Administration publish and make available to the Annual Conference itself and local churches within the Annual Conference amount(s) of wider church Apportionments apportioned to the church’s Western Jurisdiction and

BE IT RESOLVED that each local church in the CA-NV Annual Conference strongly urge its members and attenders and the CA-NV Annual Conference itself strongly urge its local churches to contribute up to 110% of the contribution apportioned to it/them to fund the church’s Western Jurisdiction.

Rationale:

Jesus – in his forgiving, healing of diverse persons, in his welcoming diverse persons to table fellowship, in his calling into question religious and secular authorities that excluded persons from forgiving, healing, welcoming – brought us, the church the world a model for full inclusion, full social justice.

The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church – in it focus on Extravagant Hospitality, on ministry with people from Korea, Hispanics, Native Americans, on its inclusion of people of various races and ethnicities, men, women, youth and young adults, persons of various abilities and sexual orientations in its life and work, in its outreach to peoples of the world suffering from disease and disaster, in its work to address various social issues, as immigration, poverty, oppression of peoples in our own and other nations, in its work to revitalize existing congregations and plant new congregations in the Western United States founded on extravagant hospitality, engagement in mission and social issues – seeks to show forth Jesus’ model for full inclusion, full social justice in the Western United States for the wider United Methodist Church and world.

1 The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church in increasingly living into Jesus’
2 model for full inclusion and social justice in its providing of church vitality and growth on behalf
3 of so many unmet needs in the Western United States.

4 The Western Jurisdiction of the UMC may be able to do even more in the way of challenging
5 itself, the wider UMC and world to live out Jesus’ model for full inclusion and social justice with
6 increased involvement of and funding from local church people and annual conferences across
7 the jurisdiction.

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**RESOLUTION CONCERNING PARTICIPATION WITH
WESTERN METHODIST JUSTICE MOVEMENT (WMJM)**

Brought by John Reynolds, member of First United Methodist Church San Rafael, CA-NV (also member of MFSA, Western Methodist Justice Movement)

BE IT RESOLVED that lay, clergy, bishops, board and agency members, caucus and other group members, local congregation members and attenders of the CA-NV Annual Conference join one or more of Western Methodist Justice Movement’s (WMJM’s) Action Networks – Extravagant Hospitality and Congregational Inclusiveness, Racism, Biblical Obedience, Reproductive Justice, Youth and Young Adults, Justice in the Philippines, U.S. as a Central Conference, Studying the Future of the UMC – and/or suggest and commit to other Action Network(s) that may be part of what WMJM is doing to implement substantive social justice, full inclusion, local autonomy in the Western Jurisdiction, the wider church, the Western United States and world.

Accompanying Material:

The Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM) has arisen out of gathering of MFSA, RMN (Reconciling Ministries Network), caucus folk at time of the Western Jurisdiction Conference meeting in San Diego in July of 2012.

Its intent, its action has been to carry forward issues of social justice, full inclusion, local autonomy in the Western United States, in the Western Jurisdiction on the church, to work with Western Jurisdiction people, leaders and bishops to not just speak forth but take specific action(s) to carry forth social justice, full inclusion and local autonomy in church and world.

WMJM has taken up and has committed lay and clergy persons working on, engaged in conference calls, configured into Interrelated Action Networks to strategized and take action on the following issues:

EXTRAVAGANT HOSPITALITY AND CONGREGATIONAL INCLUSIVENESS – having to do with full inclusion of racially, ethnically, culturally, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation diverse persons in our local churches across the jurisdiction;

RACISM – having to do with countering, overcoming racism, New-Jim-Crow-ism in our church and society;

BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE – having to do with full inclusion of GLBTQ persons in the life and work of our church and society and full constitutional rights for these persons in our states and nation;

1 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE – having to do with maintaining our church’s support for and
2 involvement with groups that support full range of reproductive options for women, couples,
3 families in our nation and world;

4 YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS – having to do with providing equal footing for our youth
5 and young adults in our local churches, annual conferences across the jurisdiction, in our wider
6 church and world;

7 JUSTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES – having to do with partnering with people and leaders in the
8 Philippines, people and leaders in our own and other nations to counter extra-judicial killings,
9 disappear-ings, injustices perpetrated on Filipino people;

10 U.S. AS A CENTRAL CONFERENCE – having to do with substantive conversations in our
11 local churches and in our annual conferences across the jurisdiction and wider church in the
12 direction of passing General Conference legislation that allows us as annual conferences in the
13 U.S. – and/or as annual conferences in the Western and other Jurisdictions – to operate with the
14 same local autonomy that current Central Conferences are operating with;

15 STUDYING THE FUTURE OF THE UMC – having to do with substantive conversations
16 across our local churches and annual conferences in the West – and beyond - on all options for
17 our national/global UMC going forward.

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RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO KEYSTONE PIPELINE

*Submitted by: Doug Sibley and Derrick Rainbow,
members Conference Committee on Native American Ministry
Contact: Doug Sibley
Fiscal Impact on AC: Minimal*

Reference: The 2012 Book of Resolution of The United Methodist Church:

¶ 3335. **The Protection of Native American Sacred Sites** (pp. 430-431);

¶ 3336. **Native American Tribal Sovereignty** which, in part, acknowledges the efforts of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to “urge the US government to exercise moral responsibility in upholding treaty obligations and trust responsibilities with Native peoples” (pp. 431-434); and

¶ 3338. **Treaty Obligations with Native Americans** (page 435).

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MKE-11-030, adopted June 13-16, 2011, entitled **Opposition to Construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline and Urging the U.S. to Reduce Reliance on Oil from Tar Sands and Instead, to Work towards Cleaner, Sustainable Energy Solutions** reads, in part:

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and ...

WHEREAS, a major oil transmission pipeline is planned to extend from northern Alberta, Canada, from areas that have sand mixed with tar and oil, called “tar sands,” to refineries in the United States; and ...

WHEREAS, the route of the pipeline, called Keystone XL because it is the second oil transmission pipeline to be constructed by the same company that built the first Keystone pipeline, crosses through Indian country in northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, near and potentially over, many culturally significant areas for Tribal Nations within those provinces and states; and ...

1 **WHEREAS**, the pipeline is unnecessary as a number of other pipelines are not at full
2 capacity to carry oil from Canada to refineries in the U.S., and the oil is also not likely to
3 end up on the U.S. market but will be exported to foreign countries; and ...

4 **WHEREAS**, since the pipeline is designed to cross the U.S.-Canadian border, the United
5 States Department of State is the lead U.S. agency in evaluating whether the pipeline
6 should be allowed to be constructed in the U.S.; and ...

7 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby oppose the
8 Keystone XL pipeline and the Exxon-Imperial Heavy Haul proposal and their negative
9 impacts on cultural sites and the environment in those portions of Indian country over and
10 through which it is proposed to be constructed, and agrees to file comments regarding
11 this opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline with the Secretary of State as soon as
12 possible; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI hereby urges all affected Tribal Nations
14 to submit comments to the U.S. Department of State regarding the Keystone XL project;
15 and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI hereby expresses its solidarity with
17 Canadian First Nations in their efforts to protect their communities, aboriginal land and
18 treaty rights, and their request for a moratorium and better management practices on
19 expanded “tar sands” development and opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline; and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the United States is urged to reduce its reliance on
21 the world’s dirtiest and most environmentally destructive form of oil – the “tar sands” –
22 that threatens Indian country in both Canada and the United States and the way of life of
23 thousands of citizens of First Nations in Canada and American Indians in the U.S., and
24 requests the U.S. government to take aggressive measures to work towards sustainable
25 energy solutions that include clean alternative energy and improving energy efficiency;
26 ...

27 **Resolution:**

28 *Be it resolved*, that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church,
29 consistent with our Social Principles and 2012 Book of Resolutions, and in alliance with the
30 National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), call upon The U.S. President, the U.S.
31 Secretary of State, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the
32 U.S. Attorney General and the Justice Department’s Office of Tribal Justice to honor this
33 country’s sovereign tribal governments in their united opposition to approving the proposed
34 international Keystone Pipeline project.

35

1 ***Be it further resolved,*** that California-Nevada Annual Conference urge each of its members and
2 friends to consider taking a similar position and to lobby Congress to support and honor the
3 sovereignty of Native American tribal governments and their decisions to oppose this Keystone
4 pipeline project.

5 ***Be it further resolved,*** that the Conference Secretary of the California-Nevada Annual
6 Conference transmit this resolution to (1) each U.S. Senator and Representative representing the
7 people of our Annual Conference urging their support of the position of this resolution, as well
8 as to (2) the Executive Secretary of Native American Comprehensive Plan within the General
9 Board of Discipleship, and to (3) the General Secretary of the General Board of Church and
10 Society.

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**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE IN BY-LAWS
OF CALIFORNIA-NEVADA METHODIST HOMES**

*Submitted by California Nevada Methodist Homes
Number on Board: 14 Number Present: 12
Yes: 12; Yes by Letter: 1; No: 0; Abstaining: 0*

The California-Nevada Methodist Homes asks approval by the Annual Conference of the following change in its By-Laws:

That the minimum number of Trustees who must be United Methodist be changed from a simple majority of the 12-15 person membership to five (5).

Further, that the restriction that these United Methodist Trustees derive solely from the members of California-Nevada Annual Conference congregations be amended to include Trustees who are members of the United Methodist Church, whether inside or outside the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Background and rationale

California-Nevada Homes (CNMH) was founded in 1954 by a group of clergy and lay persons associated with the California-Nevada Annual Conference. These volunteers were members of a Conference committee created to help fulfill the housing and health care needs of older adults. Forest Hill in Pacific Grove, CA, created from an historic seaside hotel, began operation as CNMH’s first retirement community in 1955. Coincidentally, Pacific Grove was a turn-of-the-century site for a Methodist Church Camp and Retreat. CNMH constructed its second campus, Lake Park, adjacent to Oakland’s Lake Merritt and began operation in 1965.

Both Lake Park and Forest Hill operate as continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) providing full-service retirement living options ranging from residential and assisted living apartments and cottages at Forest Hill to skilled nursing care in their Health Centers. Lake Park has the unique distinction of housing the most diverse CCRC population in California and likely in the U.S. Both Forest Hill and Lake Park operate solely on private pay and Medicare revenues.

While CNMH does not have a legal or financial tie to the California-Nevada Annual Conference, the majority of the volunteers who currently serve on its Board of Trustees are members of congregations of the Annual Conference. The Board has experienced difficulty for a long time in locating a sufficient number of Board qualified candidates who are California-Nevada Annual Conference United Methodists. These revisions would assist us in keeping our Board strong and we ask your approval as required by our By-Laws.

RECOMMENDATION FOR MINIMUM SALARY

Be it Resolved that in accordance with ¶ 625 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, and upon the recommendation of the Equitable compensation Commission of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, the minimum salary for full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference for calendar year 2014 shall be as set forth in Column C below.

Be it Further Resolved that the Conference Equitable Compensation Commission shall study the way the Annual Conference historically has been calculating minimum clergy salary and report back to the next Conference session.

	A	B	C
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Calculated</u>
	2012	2013	2014
	Comp.	Comp.	Comp.
	<u>Figures:</u>	<u>Figures:</u>	<u>Figures</u>
Denominational Average Compensation			
(Includes Salary and Housing Amounts) (' <u>DAC</u>):	\$62,781	\$63,867	\$65,186
60% of DAC:	\$37,669	\$38,320	\$39,112
Cal-Nevada Conference Average Compensation			
(Includes Salary and Housing Amounts) (' <u>CAC</u>):	\$63,087	\$63,693	\$64,944
Cal-Nevada Conf. Average Cash Salary (' <u>CAS</u>) (<u>NO</u> Utilities):	\$44,045	\$45,231	\$46,770

(The Standing Rules for Conf. Minimum Salary
are on pgs 271-273 of the 2008 Conf. Journal):

'Minister Years'
And % of CAS:

<u>Schedule of Cal-Nev 'Minimum Salary' Amt:</u>					
	1-5	80%	\$35,236	\$36,185	\$37,416
	6	81%	\$35,676	\$36,637	\$37,884
(Based on the number of 'Minister years' served,	7	82%	\$36,117	\$37,089	\$38,351
and the corresponding % of the Conference	8	83%	\$36,557	\$37,542	\$38,819
Average Cash Salary, above. (the CAS - shown	9	84%	\$36,998	\$37,994	\$39,287
on line 3). When the pastor's salary is set at the	10	85%	\$37,438	\$38,446	\$39,755
"Minimum Salary" amount, it includes all cash	11	86%	\$37,879	\$38,899	\$40,222
salary, social security payments, and any TDA	12	87%	\$38,319	\$39,351	\$40,690
& discretionary 'furnishings allowance' amounts,	13	88%	\$38,760	\$39,803	\$41,158
shown on lines 5 and 6 of the clergy comp form.)	14	89%	\$39,200	\$40,256	\$41,625
	15+	90%	\$39,641	\$40,708	\$42,093
Annual Increase in the DAC			1.73%	1.73%	2.07%
Annual Increase in the CAC			1.43%	0.96%	1.96%
Annual Increase in the CAS			1.17%	2.69%	3.40%
Annual Increase in Min. Sal (Same # years)			1.17%	2.69%	3.40%

* Beginning in 2006, the 'Minimum Salary formula is based on the Conference Average Cash Salary (CAS), which includes cash and TDA amounts, but no longer includes utilities.