

**DOCUMENT 100 - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
2024-2028**

Conference Council on Finance and Administration (elects its own President, Vice President, and Secretary)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Brooks, Joan	PN	L	W	F	A		2022
Christy, Scott	LN	C	A	M	A		2023
Dunfrund, William	PS	L	W	M	O		2021
Emery, Kim	PN	L	W	F	A		2019
Gracie, Elizabeth	LN	L	W	F	O		2024
Hartzell, Linny	LS	C	A	F	A		2022
Isaac, Brittany	LN	C	W	F	A		2024
Lagos-Fonseca, David	PC	C	H	M	A		2020
Lee, Jeremiah	PC	C	A	M	A		2024
Mann, Michael	PC	C	W	M	A		2024
Messing, Cathleen (Katie)	PS	L	W	F	O		2024
Oh, Grace	LS	C	A	F	A		2022
Rausa, Frank	PS	L	A	M	O		2023
Smith, Rebecca	LN	L	W	F	A		2020
Sutton, Barbara	LS	L	B	F	O		2023
Topcik, Gerold (Jerry)	PC	L	W	M	O		2023
Assistant to the Bishop: Anderson, Danita	-	-	-	-	-		-
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-
Treasurer: Moy, Elaine	-	-	-	-	-		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Committee on Personnel (elects its own officers)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Rachel	LS	C	W	N	A		2023
Fleming, Richard	PC	L	W	M	O		2023
Hagedorn, James	LN	L	W	M	O		2023
Lee, Hyujae	PC	C	A	M	A		2023
Pirtle, Pamela	LS	C	B	F	A		2023
Roderick, Paula	LN	L	B	F	A		2023
Smith, David	PS	L	W	M	O		2023
Williams, Fe	PC	L	B	F	A		2023
Bishop: Schwerin, Dan	-	-	-	-	-		-
Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services: Moy, Elaine	-	-	-	-	-		-
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (elects its own Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Dangerfield, Deborah	LS	L	B	F	A	2028	2018
Fischer, Kristin	PC	L	W	F	O	2028	2022
Gaughan, Kristina	LS	L	W	F	A	2028	2018
Massey, Glynis P.	LS	L	B	F	A	2032	2024
Nicol, Harry	LN	C	W	M	O	2028	2022
Reyes-Rosario, Luis F.	PS	C	H	M	A	2032	2024
Smith, Matthew	PN	C	W	M	A	2032	2024
Swanick, Beth	LN	L	W	F	A	2028	2018
Van Haften, Dan	PC	L	W	M	O	2028	2022
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conference Benefits Officer: Weaver, Cheryl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasurer: Moy, Elaine							
Assistant to the Bishop: Anderson, Danita	-	-	-	-	-		-

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	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Board of Trustees (elects its own officers)							
Blade, Nancy	PS	C	W	F	A		2017
Bailey, Grant	LN	L	W	M	Y		2023
Birmingham, Sabrina	LN	L	W	F	A		2022
Brace, Jeff	PS	C	W	M	A		2020
Doty, Karen	LN	L	W	F	O		2022
Dunham, Mark	LS	L	B	M	Y		2023
Hong, Sarah	PN	C	A	F	A		2018
Loeppert, Jim	PC	L	W	M	O		2024
Miller, James H.	PS	C	W	M	O		2024
Saavedra, Daniel	PN	L	H	M	A		2022
Wood, Bob	LS	L	W	M	O		2020
Conference Treasurer: Moy, Elaine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola							
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Door Fund (elected by Red Door Fund Board; information only)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Roselieb, Doug (Chair)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashely, Corey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hutchison, Jonathon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prather, Phil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisdom, Richard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabinet representative:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasurer: Moy, Elaine							
Archives & History	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Swinson, Dan (Conference Historian, Convener)	PS	C	W	M	O		--
Steenwyk, Marilyn		L		F			2024
Wang, Richard	PN	C	W	M	O		--
Whitcomb, Cate	LN	L	W	F	O		2024
General Commission on Archives & History: Noren, Carol	LN	C	W	F	A		--
Committee on Nominations	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Lyall, Alka (Chair, 2024)	LN	C	A	F	A		2021
Carter, Mildred	LN	L	B	F	A		2024
Cunningham, Jessie	LS	L	B	F	A		2020
Harris, Darryl D.	LS	L	B	M	A		2024
Heimann, Ben	PC	L	W	M	A		2024
Lee, Paul	PS	C	A	M	A		2018
McCune, Kelly	PS	C	W	F	A		2024
Peddicord, Marcia	PS	L	W	F	O		2024
Reid, Adonna Davis	LN	C	B	F	A		2024
Rochet, Auderine	PN	C	H	F	A		2024
Sagami, Donna	LN	L	A	F	A		2024
Shin, Jay	PN	C	A	F	A		2024
Black Methodists for Church Renewal Rep.: Dangerfield, Deborah	-	-	-	-	-		-
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-
Conferece Co-Lay Leader: Williams, Eugene	-	-	-	-	-		-
Fellowship of Asian Americans Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-
Hispanic/Latine Ministry Team Representative: Meza, Noemi	-	-	-	-	-		-
Retired Clergy Association Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-

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UW Faith Representative: Jayapalan, Beth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UMM Representative: McGregor, Craig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Conference Committee	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Dangerfield, Deborah (Chair 2020)	LS	L	B	F	A		2020
Fu, James (Chair of Daily Proceedings, Vice Chair 2024)	PC	C	A	M	A		2021
Oskiwicz, Linda (Secretary, 2024)	LN	L	W	F	A		2022
Anderson, Robert	PC	L	W	M	O		2020
Bell, Veletta	LS	L	B	F	A		2021
Chapman, Kim	PN	C	W	F	A		2021
Cho, Jake	LN	LP	A	M	A		2022
Doolittle, Eric	PC	C	W	M	A		2024
George, John	LS	L	W	M	O		2021
Hoffmann, Charlette	PN	C	W	F	A		2019
Mariani, Matthew	PN	C	ME	M	Y		2020
Rice, Sharon	PC	C	W	F	A		2021
Rudy, Martha	LN	L	W	F	A		2023
Shields, Addison	LS	C	B	M	A		2020
Tipantasig-Wolverton, Jacob	PC	C	W	M	A		2024
Conference Secretary: Hayes, Randy	-	-	-	-	-		-
Conference Co-Lay Leader: Williams, Eugene	-	-	-	-	-		-
UMM Representative: McGregor, Craig	-	-	-	-	-		-
UW Faith Representative: McIntosh, Erica	-	-	-	-	-		-
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-
Credentials Committee Representative: Sutton, Ryan	-	-	-	-	-		-
Conference Registrar: Wadlington, Bri	--	--	--	--	--		--
Director of Communications: Rebeck, Victoria	-	-	-	-	-		-
Communication Specialist: Smith, Lisa	-	-	-	-	-		-
Bishop: Schwerin, Dan	-	-	-	-	-		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Credentials Committee	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Sutton, Ryan (Chair)	PN	C	W	M	A		2010
Curless, Roger	PC	L	W	M	O		2010
Davis, Diana	LS	L	B	F	A		2016
Lee, Rosa	PS	C	A	F	A		2024
Pendergrass, Nancy	LN	L	W	F	A		2024
Conference Registrar: Wadlington, Bri	--	--	--	--	--		--
Board of Ordained Ministry (appointed by Bishop and elected by Annual Conference)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Bell, James	PN	E	W	M	A		2016
Blachford, Eric	PC	E	W	M	A		2021
Brock, Kathy	LS	L	B	F	A		2013
Brown, Norval I.	PC	E	B	M	O		2018
Christian, Avani-Cossett	PC	E	A	F	A		2017
Conway, Jacques	LS	E	B	M	A		2023
Cox, Brittany R. M.	LN	E	W	F	Y		2018
Cunningham, Jessie	LS	L	B	F	O		2016
Davis, Kimberly	LS	D	B	F	A		2022
Dickson, Wesley	LS	E	W	M	A		2014
Dukes, Beverly	PC	E	B	F	A		2023

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Engert, Sharon	PS	RLP	W	F	O		2016
Friedrich, Laura Dean	LN	L	W	F	A		2016
Fu, James	PC	E	A	M	A		2023
Garcea, Tiffany	PS	E	W	F	Y		2019
Harris, Darryl	LS	L	B	M	A		2024
Himel, Scott	LN	E	W	M	Y		2016
Hoffman, Charlette	PC	RE	W	F	A		2019
Hong, Yong-Min (Caleb)	PN	E	A	M	O		2016
Jang, Sejoon	PS	E	A	M	A		2016
Javore, Barbara B.	LN	D	W	F	A		2018
Jayapalan, Jay	LN	L	A	M	A		2023
Johnson, Joseph	PC	E	W	M	A		2016
Kehr, GleeAnn	PC	L	W	F	A		2021
Kim, Heewon	PN	E	A	M	A		2017
Lagos-Fonseca, David	PC	E	H	M	A		2022
Lee, Hyujae	PC	E	A	M	A		2021
Lee, Paul	PS	E	A	M	A		2019
Lee, Taekhawan	PN	E	A	M	A		2024
Lukasick, Carolyn	PN	E	W	F	A		2023
Marasigan, Ligaya	LN	L	A	F	O		2016
McBride, Carolyn J.	LS	L	B	F	A		2018
McKinney, Mary Gay	PS	RE	W	F	O		2017
Meyers, Mark	LS	E	W	M	Y		2014
Meyers, Melissa	PC	E	W	F	A		2016
Morris, Brenda	PN	LP	W	F	A		2023
Nesbit, Caitlyn	LS	E	W	F	A		2023
Newcomb, Howard	PN	E	W	M	A		2023
Oberwise-Lacock, Michelle	PC	RE	NA	F	A		2023
Oh, Hyo Sun	PC	E	A	F	A		2016
Reyes-Rosario, Luis F.	PS	E	H	M	A		2019
Rochet, Auderine	PN	LP	H	F	A		2023
Rogers, Derek	PS	E	W	M	Y		2014
Rossmiller, Pam	PN	RE	W	F	A		2014
Rutherford, Elizabeth	PN	E	W	F	A		2023
Shin, KyungHae Anna	PC	E	A	F	A		2021
Showalter-Swanson, Grant	LN	D	W	M	A		2021
Siaba, Judith	LN	L	H	F	O		2021
Smick, Megan A.	PS	E	W	F	A		2018
Smith, Brian	LN	E	W	M	A		2019
Smith, Sandra	PS	L	W	F	A		2021
Steele, Sherry	PC	D	W	F	A		2022
Sudhakar, Solomon	PS	E	A	M	A		2024
Thompson, Megan	PS	E	W	F	A		2023
Weber, Jenny	PS	E	W	F	A		2022
Wellman, Kathy	PS	D	W	F	A		2021
Wills, Jaclyn K.	PN	LP	W	F	A		2018
Yim, Dave	PN	E	A	M	A		2023
Cabinet Representative:	--	--	--	--	--		--
Conference Co-Lay Leader: Williams, Eugene	-	-	-	-	-		--
Committee on the Episcopacy (moving to joint committee for Episcopal Area)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Hayag, Joy	PN	L	A	F	A		2020
Lee, Esther Eungin	LN	C	A	F	A		2020
Board of Trustees Representative:							
NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy: Gilbert, Brian	PS	C	W	M	A		2020
NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy: Lyall, Ronnie	LS	L	A	M	Y		2023

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Conference Co-Lay Leader: Williams, Eugene	CS	L	B	M	O		--
Administrative Review Committee (information only)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
<i>Committee</i>							
Kim, So Young		C	A	F	A		2020
Kruse-Safford, Lisa		C	W	F	A		2020
Preston, James		C	W	M	A		2024
<i>Alternates</i>							
King, Claude		C	B	M	A		2024
Samson, Ayla		C	A	F	A		2024
Committee on Investigation (appointed by Bishop and elected by Annual Conference)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
<i>Clergy</i>							
Alagodi, Melwyn		C	A	M	A		2024
Bross, Jeffrey		C	W	M	A		2024
Isaac, Brittany		C	W	F	A		2024
Oh, Mori		C	A	F	A		2024
<i>Alternate Clergy</i>							
Keate, Leanne		C	W	F	A		2024
Park, Sam		C	B	M	A		2024
Rawlinson, Tom		C	NA	M	A		2024
<i>Laity</i>							
Augsburger, Connie		L	NA	F	A		2024
Dexter, Chuck		L	W	M	A		2020
Lusk, Donald		L	B	M	A		2024
<i>Alternate Laity</i>							
Aves, Kris	PN	L	W	F	A		2020
Carver, Dale		L	W	M	A		2024
Maxon, John		L	W	M	A		2024
Sam, Cindy		L	B	F	A		2024
Keagy Town and Rural Committee (appointed by Prairie North and Prairie South districts; information only)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Rutherford, Elizabeth (Chair)	PN	C	W	F	A		
Alagodi, Melwyn	PN	C					
Hecathorn, Ann		L	W	F	A		
Keate, Leanne	PS	C	W	F	A		
Lee, Rosa	PS	C	A	F	A		
Lucas, Toni	PS	C					
Oorlog, Robert		L					
Saam, David		L					
Thompson, Jeremiah	PS	C					
Prairie North District Superintendent: Chong, Hwa-Young	PN	C	H	F	A		
Prairie South District Superintendent: Gilbert, Brian	PS	C	W	M	A		
Board of Laity (information only)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Conference Co-Lay Leader: Augsburger, Constance	PS	L	ME	F	A		2020
Conference Co-Lay Leader: Williams, Eugene	LS	L	B	M	A		2020
Clergy Representative: Hoffmann, Char		C	W	F	A		2012
Conference Lay Servant Ministries Director: Hansen, Peggy	PC	L	W	F	A		2016
District Lay Leader: Jones, Leonard	PC	L	B	M	A		2020

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District Co-Lay Leader: Feliciano, Ellen	LN	L	W	F	A		-
District Co-Lay Leader: Lacey, Chester	LN	L	B	M	A		2020
District Co-Lay Leader: Butler, Lisa	LS						
District Co-Lay Leader: Shires, Dawn	LS	L	B	F	A		-
District Lay Leader: Weber, Tom	PS	L	W	M	O		-
District Lay Leader: Aves, Kris	PN	L	W	F	A		2024
UW Faith President: Farley, Barb	-	-	-	-	-		-
UW Faith Representative: Steenwyk, Marilyn	-	-	-	-	-		-
UMM Representative: McGregor, Craig	-	-	-	-	-		-
UMM Youth Services Representative: Loeppert, Jim	-	-	-	-	-		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Discipleship Ministries							
Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Cochran, Daniel (Chair, 2024)	PC	C	W	M	A		2021
Edward, Clayton	LN	C	W	M	Y		2024
McClellan, Joel	PN	C	W	M	A		2024
Segrest, Philip	LS	L	W	M	A		2021
Tipantasig-Wolverton, Jacob	PC	C	W	M	A		2024
Ward, Tyler	PC	C	W	M	A		2021
Campus Ministry Rep., The Inclusive Collective (NIU):							
Campus Ministry Rep., The Inclusive Collective (UIC):							
Campus Ministry Rep., Korean American Campus Ministry: Hwang, Alex							2021
Campus Ministry Rep., North Central College: Birdsong, Shelley							2021
Campus Ministry Rep., University Christian Ministries: Brick, Katie							2021
Cabinet Representative:	-	-	-	-	-		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Council on Older Adult Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Reimer, Amy (Chair, 2024)	LN	LD	W	F	A		2024
Bennett, Fay	LN	L	B	F	O		2021
Campanano, Juancho	LS	C	A	M	A		2018
Hayag, Joy	PN	L	A	F	A		2024
Javier Jr., Aquilino	LN	L	A	M	O		2013
Lundgren, Martha	LN	LD	W	F	A		2024
Melad, Joann	LN	LD	A	F	A		2024
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Council on Young People's Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Rice, Sharon (Chair, 2024)	PC	C	W	F	A		2021
de Castro, Fernando	LN	C	B	M	Y		2024
Hagedorn, James	LN	L	W	M	O		2023
Javore, Barbara	LN	C	W	F	O		2021
Lee, Taekhwan (TK)	PN	C	A	M	A		2024
Ostwald, Leah	PC	L	W	F	A		2024
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Board of Outdoor & Retreat Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Huffman, Karen (Co-Chair, 2016)	PN	L	W	F	A		2014

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Rea, Charles (Co-Chair, 2016)	PS	L	W	M	A		2016
Pries, Lynn (Secretary, 2024)	PC	C	W	M	O		2015
Dunham, Don	LS	L	W	M	O		2020
Edwards, Susan	PS	L	W	F	O		2024
Kloepfing, Jason	PS	L	W	M	A		2017
Lane, James	LN	L	W	M	O		2024
Massey, Sr., Robert D.	LS	L	B	M	A		2024
Nesbit, Claude	LS	L	W	M	A		2024
Director of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries: Casey, Jeff	-	-	-	-	-		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
VITAL CONGREGATIONS MINISTRIES							
Congregational Development and Redevelopment (appointed by District Superintendent)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Craill, Jonathan (Chair 2020)	PS	C	W	M	A		2020
Cross, Harriette	LS	C	B	F	A		
Eddy, Edward	PN	C		M			2024
Moreno, Roberto	LN	C	H	M	A		2024
Severing, Jarrod	PC	C	W	M	A		2020
Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment: Coon, Christian	-	-	-	-	-		-
Spiritual Formation/Discipleship	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Enright, Seamus (Chair, 2024)	PS	C	W	M	A		2024
Davis, Diana	LS	L	B	F	A		2024
Feliciano, Ellen	LN	L	W	F	O		2024
Howell, Katherine	PN	L	NA	F	O		2024
Kim, Heewon	PN	C	A	M	A		2020
Shelton, Tina	PC	C	B	F	A		2021
UW Faith Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Harris-Black, Yvette							-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Committee on Accessibility Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Crusius, Christina (Co-Chair, 2024)	LN	L	W	F	Y		2023
Dungan, Alexander (Co-Chair, 2024)	LN	L	W	O	Y		2023
Jungnickel, David	PS	C	W	M	A		2018
Kloepfer, Amanda	PN	L	W	F	A		2024
Rich, Gary	PN	C	W	M	O		2024
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-		-
Hispanic/Latine Ministry Team (information only)	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Aragon, Lino (Chair)	LN	LP	H	M	A		2023
Meza, Noemi E. (Chair)	LN	E	H	F	A		2023
Aragon, Xiomara	LN	LP	H	F	A		2023
Cripps-Vallejo, Paula	LN	E	W	F	A		2018
Junker, Débora	PN	L	H	F	A		2024
Junker, Tércio	PN	E	H	M	A		2018
Rochet, Audrey	PN	LP	H	F	A		2024
Moreno, Luis Roberto	LN	LP	H	M	A		2023
Reyes-Rosario, Luis F.	PS	E	H	M	A		2018
Salgado, Jacqueline	LN	LP	H	F	Y		2023

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Director of Congregational Development: Coon, Christian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JUSTICE AND MERCY MINISTRIES							
Board of Church and Society	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Rachel (Chair, 2024)	LS	C	W	N	A		2024
Chapman, Kim	PN	C	W	F	A		2021
Fetters, Piers	LS	L	W	M	Y		2020
Johnicker, Violet	PN	C	W	F	A		2024
General Board of Church and Society Member: Lonnie Chafin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UWFaith Social Action Coordinator: Tiffin, Kathy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Board of Global Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Samson, Ayla (Chair, 2024)	PS	C	A	F	A		2024
Boutell, Jonah	PC	C	W	M	Y		2024
Ntim, Kwadwo	LN	C	B	M	O		2022
Marasigan, Ligaya	LN	L	A	F	A		2024
Oh, Hyo Sun	PC	C	A	F	A		2024
District Mission Secretary:	LN						
District Mission Secretary:	LS						
District Mission Secretary:	PC						
District Mission Secretary: Stanford, Dale	PN						
District Mission Secretary: Stanford, Leslie	PN						-
District Mission Secretary:	PS						-
NIC UWFaith E&I Coordinator: Messley, Karen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District UWFaith E&I Coordinator: Davis, Diana	LN	-	-	-	-	-	-
District UWFaith E&I Coordinator: Stratton, Marlene	PC	-	-	-	-	-	-
District UWFaith E&I Coordinator:	LS	-	-	-	-	-	-
District UWFaith E&I Coordinator:	PS	-	-	-	-	-	-
District UWFaith E&I Coordinator:	PN	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Coordinator: Monk, Colin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UMM Representative: McGregor, Craig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refugee Coordinator: Crail, Jonathan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refugee Coordinator: Crail, Rhodalynne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VIM Coordinator: Dunlap-Berg, Larry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VIM Coordinator: Aves, Kris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conference Mission Secretary: Pulgar-Hughes, Shirley	PC	C	H	F	A		-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Pries, Lynn (Chair, 2024)	PC	C	W	M	O		2019
Ahn, Kicheon (Peter)	PS	C	A	M	Y		2024
Cunningham, Jessie	LS	L	B	F	O		2019
Doh, Eunbae	LN	C	A	M	A		2019
Doolittle, Eric	PC	C	W	M	A		2024
George, John	LS	L	W	M	O		2021
Gullspie, Tura Foster	LN	L	W	F	Y		2018
Hyon, Hyewon (Sophia)	LS	C	A	F	A		2024
Kang, Sun-Ah	PS	C	A	F	A		2024
Meza, Noemi	LN	C	H	F	A		2023

**DOCUMENT 100 - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
2024-2028**

Ecumenical Officer: McKay, Catiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conference Commission on Religion and Race	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Kanhai, Nadia (Chair, 2018)	PC	L	A	F	A		2018
Alexander, Tim	PC	L	W	M	O		2024
Aragon, Lino	LN	C	H	M	A		2024
Krings, Matthew	LN	C	W	M	A		2024
Lee, Alex	PN	C	A	M	A		2024
Lucas, Toni	PS	L	W	F	O		2024
Lyll, Alka	LN	C	A	F	A		2020
Pirtle, Pamela	LS	C	B	F	A		2024
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Clark, Irma (Chair, 2018; Co-Chair 2024)	LS	L	B	F	O		2013
Smith, Rita L. (Co-Chair 2024)	LS	L	B	F	A		2020
Aragon-Castro, Xiomara	LN	C	H	F	A		2024
Gonzalez, Annie	LS	C	H	F	A		2024
Isaacson, Margaret (Peg)	LS	L	W	F	O		2024
Jeon, Juyeon	LN	C	A	F	A		2024
Lee, Rosa	PS	C	A	F	A		2024
UW Faith Social Action Coordinator: Tiffin, Kathy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committee on Native American Ministries	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Oberwise Lacock, Michelle (Chair, 2016)	PS	C	ME	F	A		2014
Blade, Nancy	PS	C	W	F	A		2014
Buckholz, Bill		L	NA	M	O		2018
Curiel, Michelle	PC	L	H	F	Y		2021
Green, Gene L.	PC	L	W	M	A		2022
Miller, Craig R.	PC	C	W	M	O		2017
Parks, Judy	PN	L	W	F	O		2022
Rawlinson, Thomas	LN	C	NA	M	A		2022
Rendel, Jim	LS	C	A	M	A		2017
Swanson, Grant	LN	C	W	M	Y		2019
Stricker, Adrienne	PC	C	NA	F	Y		2012
Schranz, Joseph Standing Bear (Consultant)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Johnson, Andrew (Consultant)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Connectional Ministries: Grandon-Mayer, Fabiola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Conference Shepherding Team							
Co-Chair: Manzi, Mark							
Co-Chair: Shin, Anna (KyungHae)							
Discipleship Ministries: Hayag, Joy	PN	L	A	F	A		2024
Justice and Mercy Ministries: Cox, Britt	LN	E	W	F	Y		
Vital Congregation Ministries: Smick, Megan	PS	E	W	F	A		
Black Methodists for Church Renewal Representative: Harris, Darryl D.							
Conference Positions:							

**DOCUMENT 100 - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
2024-2028**

	District	Lay Clergy	Race Ethnic	Gender	Age	Class	1st Year
Conference Co-Lay Leader: Augsburg, Constance	PS	L	NA/W	F	A		2020
Conference Co-Lay Leader: Williams, Eugene	LS	L	B	M	O		2020
Conference Secretary: Hayes, Randy	PS	L	W	M	O		2020
Assistant Secretary for Standing Rules: Pendergrass, Nancy	LN	L	W	F	A		2024
Secretary of Global Ministries: Pulgar-Hughes, Shirley	PC	C	H	F	A		2013
Treasurer: Moy, Elaine	-	-	-	-	-		2024
Statistician: Quinn, David	-	-	-	-	-		2021
Conference Chancellor: Godfrey, Richard	-	-	-	-	-		2016
Conference Historian: Swinson, Dan							2016
Conference Lay Servant Ministries Director: Hansen, Peggy		L	W	F	A		2016
Conference Registrar: Wadlington, Bri	--	--	--	--	--		--
Conference Ecumenical Officer: McKay, Catiana		C	W	F	A		
Conference Disaster Coordinator: Monk, Colin		L	W	M	A		
VIM Coordinator: Berg-Dunlap, Larry		C	W	M	A		
VIM Coordinator: Aves, Kris	PN	L	W	F	A		
Refugee Co-Coordinator: Crail, Jonathan	PS	C	W	M	A		
Refugee Co-Coordinator: Crail, Rhodalyne	PS	L	W	F	A		

KEY

DISTRICT

Lake North - LN

Lake South - LS

Prairie Central - PC

Prairie North - PN

Prairie South - PS

MEMBER TYPE

Lay = L

Deaconess = LD

Clergy = C

Elder = E

Deacon = D

Retired Elder = RE

Retired Deacon = RD

Associate Member = A

Local Pastor = LP

Retired Local Pastor = RLP

RACE/ETHNICITY

Asian = A

African American = B

Hispanic = H

Multi-ethnic = ME

Native American = NA

White = W

Notes:

Offices or committees listed before person's name indicate membership because of office. These persons are ex-officio and have both voice and vote, but are not elected by Annual Conference. They are chosen by the organizations, committees that they represent, or are members because of the office they hold.

Consultants have voice but not vote.

Document 600 - Budget

2025 Budget

The Purpose of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local faith communities for a ministry of witness, justice, hope and love, and by providing a connection for the mission beyond the congregation; all to the glory of God.

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Recommended	Notes	
SOURCES OF FUNDS					
Anticipated Apportionments from Local Churches	4,366,937	4,541,239	4,312,446	80% payment rate on	\$5,390,558
Registration Fees - Annual Conference	68,448		70,000		
Other Sources					
GCFA Episcopal Office Support	89,614	85,000	42,500		
Program Endowments, Restricted Gifts, PPP	<u>138,450</u>	<u>229,703</u>	<u>257,472</u>		
TOTAL INCOME	4,663,449	4,855,942	4,682,418	(173,524)	Increase (decrease)
USES OF FUNDS					
Cabinet Ministries					
Equipping Local Churches					
New Faith Communities	237,358	225,000	250,000		
Church Redevelopment Programming	84,677	55,000	85,000		
Support to Local Churches	113,749	225,000	175,000		
Intervention	74,913	40,000	47,500		
Clergy Relocation Expenses	99,213	109,000	100,000		
Meetings, District Events, and Ministries	84,269	62,500	85,000		
TOTAL Amenable to Cabinet Decisions	694,179	716,500	742,500	26,000	increase (decrease)
Program Ministries					
Conference Programming	685,654	585,700	585,000		
Conference Program Staff	329,479	465,252	450,099	4 Full-time	
Shepherding Team Strategic Plan	34,658	47,500	47,500	includes Part-time consultant	
Jurisdictional Apportionments	10,970	14,784	18,048		
General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegation	1,638	10,000	-		
Annual Conference Sessions and Secretary	<u>172,346</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>		
TOTAL Program Council	1,234,745	1,203,236	1,275,647	72,411	increase (decrease)
Cabinet Expenses					
Ministerial Education Fund - Conference	38,936	52,550	55,560	BOOM money	
District Superintendent Salary and Benefits	714,020	737,156	775,353	95,744 salary per DS	
Cabinet Support Staff Salary and Benefits	288,297	327,056	494,427	4 Full-time	
Episcopal Support Staff Salary and Benefits	<u>207,310</u>	<u>238,027</u>	<u>94,491</u>	1 Full-time	
TOTAL Cabinet	1,248,563	1,354,789	1,419,831	65,042	increase (decrease)
Conference Committees and Boards					
Board of Ordained Ministry Expenses	8,232	12,000	12,000		
Trustee Expenses	34,528	55,000	50,000	repairs to district parsonages	
Property and Liability Insurance	46,651	61,000	66,000	Umbrella, auto, D&O,	
Legal Fees	67,880	40,000	58,000		
Archives	-	9,200	9,200		
Audit	44,000	33,500	54,000		
Administrative Staff and Benefits	305,352	488,726	535,027		
Office Expenses, Rent, Copying, Telephone, etc.	662,724	275,688	270,688		
IT purchases, software, support	<u>106,120</u>	<u>137,205</u>	<u>137,205</u>		
TOTAL Administrative Committees	1,275,487	1,112,319	1,192,120	79,801	increase (decrease)
TOTAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES	4,452,974	4,386,844	4,630,098	243,254	increase (decrease)

Apportionments in support of General Church								
TOTAL Apportioned Amounts in Support of General Funds				612,450	1,653,199	1,395,514		All monies collected from local churches dedicated to these funds shall be forwarded to GCFA
General Apportionments	Paid as collected							
World Service Fund				695,216	889,061	636,934		
Episcopal Fund				250,653	263,287	313,955		
Ministerial Education Fund - General Church				139,006	225,212	220,314		
Black Colleges Fund				96,440	119,780	87,881		
General Church Administration				82,871	105,569	107,646		
Africa University				21,076	26,806	19,667		
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund				10,067	23,484	9,117		
TOTAL General/Jurisdictional Apportionments				1,295,329	1,653,199	1,395,514	(257,685)	increase (decrease)
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES				5,748,303	6,040,043	6,025,612	(14,431)	increase (decrease)

1 **Document: 640**
2 **Name: Special Sundays Offerings for 2025**
3 **Author: Conference Council on Finance and**
4 **Administration CCFA Comment:**

5 **ACTION:**

6 The Northern Illinois Conference recommends the following Special Sundays with
7 offerings for 2025:

8
9 Special Sundays

10 General Church Offerings 2025

11	Human Relations Day	January 19, 2025
12	UMCOR Sunday	March 23, 2025
13	Native American Ministries Sunday	May 11, 2025
14	Peace with Justice Sunday	June 15, 2025
15	World Communion Sunday	October 5, 2025
16	United Methodist Student Day	November 23, 2025

17
18 **(NIC Churches are encouraged to celebrate UM Student Day any Sunday in October or**
19 **November and are encouraged to connect with the NIC Board of Higher Ed to create**
20 **space and connections with campus ministries located throughout the NIC.)**

21
22 Conference Offerings 2025

23	Scouting Ministries	Any Sunday in February or March*
24	Golden Cross	May 4, 2025
25	Volunteers in Mission	Any Sunday in July or August
26	Christian Education	September 14, 2025
27	Disability Awareness Sunday	November 2, 2025
28	HIV/AIDS Awareness	December 7, 2025
29	United Voices for Children	Every 5th Sunday
30		(March, June, August, November)

31
32 * This fund supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and
33 Amachi programs.

1 **Document: 650.01**
 2 **NAME: Minimum Salaries for Full-Time Elders**
 3 **Author(s): Equitable Compensation Task Force as created by 2023 Annual Conference Action.**
 4 **Judith Gazaway, Rev. Brittany Isaac, Rev. Dennis Langdon, Rev. Noemi Meza, Karen Newby,**
 5 **Betsy Smith, Rev. Matthew Smith, Beth Swanick, Fe Williams, Rev. Illhan You**
 6 **CCFA Action:**
 7 **Legislative Section:**
 8
 9 **ACTION:**

10 1) Minimum cash salaries for full-time Elders appointed in the NIC will be as follows, showing
 11 an increase of 7.0% for the next fiscal year:
 12

Status	2023 actual	2024 actual	2025 recommended	2026 projected	2027 projected
Elder	(\$37,450)	(\$40,763)	(\$43,616)	(\$46,669)	(\$49,936)
LLP	(\$37,450)	(\$40,763)	(\$41,782)		

13
 14 2) Local churches are to provide a minimum of \$2,500* for accountable reimbursements for
 15 their appointed Elder(s). This covers the costs of providing travel, continuing education, and
 16 other expenses incurred in the course of providing pastoral ministry. Information about
 17 accountable reimbursements can be found at: [Accountable Reimbursement Policy Q&A](#)
 18 **Ideally the church maintains \$5,500 but, in an effort to maintain full-time, some churches may*
 19 *need to reduce the reimbursement to \$2,500. Anything lower will not*
 20 *allow the pastor to engage in fruitful ministry.*
 21

22 **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 23 • While the charge for the Equitable Compensation Task Force (ECTF) was a
 24 recommendation for FY 2025 only, the ECTF is recommending a minimum salary for
 25 fulltime Elders to be approximately \$50,000 by 2026 for FY 2027, achieved by 7.0%
 26 increases over the next three fiscal years (2025, 2026, and 2027). This becomes a
 27 minimum for fulltime Elders of \$43,616 in FY 2025, \$46,669 in FY 2026, and \$49,936 in FY
 28 2027.
- 29 • The United Methodist Book of Discipline does not require Annual Conferences to
 30 establish a minimum salary for LLPs. However, to responsibly recognize changes in
 31 buying power, the ECTF recommends that the minimum salary for Licensed Local
 32 Pastors for these three years at least mirror the Cost-of-Living Index as defined by
 33 governmental agencies FY2025 (\$41,782).

- 1 • The ECTF recommends that the Conference Board of Pensions and Benefits be
2 responsible for establishing annual minimum compensation amounts for Elders in
3 addition to their pension and benefits responsibilities. This would satisfy the UMBoD
4 requirement of the establishment of and Equitable Compensation Commission.

5 **RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY:**

- 6 • The ECTF submitted surveys to all US Annual Conferences and received 18 replies. The
7 NIC is currently second to last in minimum salary (by a sliver margin of \$165) among
8 the 18 annual conferences responding to the survey. Had the 2023 Annual Conference
9 not approved the 8.7% increase, bringing the current minimum to \$40,763, NIC would
10 be at the bottom. Current minimums across annual conferences range from \$40,598 to
11 \$50,923.
- 12 • The ECTF determined that their recommendation would be focused on base
13 compensation only, having found it impossible to identify/consider values of
14 parsonages, housing allowances, or health insurance benefits due to the wide disparities
15 between conferences and the extreme difficulties in assigning dollar values.
- 16 • This survey showed that a lower minimum salary for LLPs is consistent with the other
17 annual conferences responding to the survey.
- 18 • A study of current A/R practices among NIC churches shows that the average A/R is
19 \$4930, already below the currently recommended \$5,500. Lowering this amount to
20 \$2,500 could make it easier for NIC churches who struggle to reach the new minimum
21 salary.
- 22 • A study determined that the proposed 7% increase and decrease of accountable
23 reimbursements would affect only 6 NIC churches, none of whom are currently paying
24 the established 2024 minimum.
- 25 • The UMBoD ¶342 speaks only to “Elders in full connection” who assume “the obligations of
26 the itinerant ministry” and who bear the burden of extensive student loans from the
27 required Master’s degree. Further, “the Church shall provide, and the ordained minister is
28 entitled to receive, not less than the equitable compensation established by the annual conference
29 for clergy members.”
- 30 • The UMBoD states in ¶625.2(a) that the Equitable Compensation Commission be
31 responsible for “recommending conference standards” for pastoral salaries, and (b)
32 “administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation.”
- 33 • The NIC BoP&B agreed at their meeting on March 2 to assume equitable compensation
34 for 2025 and beyond as part of their charge and ongoing work.

1 **Document Number: 680.01**
2 **Name: Benefit Programs**
3 **Author(s): Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**
4 **CCFA: No action required**

5
6 **Action:**

7 The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, partnering with Wespath recommends
8 the following policies for clergy and other eligible participants enrolled in welfare, health and
9 pension benefits.

10
11 **I. Health Insurance**

12 The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the Annual Conference establish the
13 following policies and procedures for administration of the Conference Health Care Program,
14 effective January 1, 2025.

15
16 **A. Mandatory Coverage**

17 1. The following categories of employees are mandated to participate in the Annual Conference
18 health insurance program. In all cases, the spouses, and dependents (such as children) of
19 eligible employees may enroll in the health plan at the election of the participant.

20

Category	<i>Discipline 2016</i>
Elder in full connection (including those from another Methodist denomination and those from another conference) appointed to full-time service to a conference local church or campus ministry	338.1, 346.1, .2, &,3
Associate member appointed to full-time service	321
Provisional Members on elder track appointed to full-time local church service	326.2
A full-time local pastor who is under Episcopal appointment to a charge located in the conference	318.1

21
22 2. Elders appointed to disability status prior to age 65 will be covered under the conference
23 plan at the cost of the Conference Board of Pensions and health benefits until they are
24 eligible for Medicare or for Social Security disability coverage. At age 65 from a premium
25 payment standpoint, each will be treated as retired pastors and subject to the HRA
26 guidelines explained in Section D of this Resolution.

27
28 **B. Release from Mandatory Coverage - THE PILOT PROGRAM**

29 1. Clergy members may waive mandatory coverage only with the consent of the Conference
30 Board of Pensions when enrolled in an Affordable Care Act plan, Medicare, Tricare,
31 CHAMPUS, or on a plan provided by a spouse's employer. The objective of allowing Churches
32 to opt out of HealthFlex is to provide a means to help Churches lower the cost of medical
33 insurance and be able to maintain the promised medical benefit to NIC pastors. To elect this
34 option the Churches agree to the following:

35 a) Agree to pay the monthly health care premium established by the Conference Board of
36 Pensions.

- 1 b) Each quarter the Church will receive a rebate of one month's premium.
 2 c) The clergy person will receive a reimbursement check from the conference equal to the
 3 amount of the alternative coverage and an estimate of the taxes owed for the amount.
 4 The maximum amount the Conference Board of Pensions will provide in cash is \$1,000
 5 per month to support clergy to enroll with an alternative carrier and to help pay for
 6 additional personal taxes. The amount provided by the Conference is considered as
 7 taxable cash compensation.
 8 d) If Churches fail to make premium payments the Conference holds the right to
 9 discontinue the cash support provided to the pastors.

10
 11 **C. Local Church and Extension Ministry Coverage Options**

12 I. A local church or extension ministry may elect health insurance in the conference plan
 13 available to participants in the following categories who meet the required eligibility
 14 criteria:
 15

Category	<i>Discipline 2016</i>	Premium Billed to
Ordained elder appointed to extension ministries within the connectional structure (other than a unit of the conference or general agency), within an ecumenical agency, within a GBHEM endorsed extension ministry or within a special ministry outside the connectional structure	344.1a(3), 344.1a(4), 344.1b, 344.1d	Salary Paying Unit
Ordained elder from another denomination (other than UMC) appointed to half-time or more service to a Conference local church or a unit of the Conference	346.2, 346.3, 338.2, 346.1	Salary Paying Unit
Provisional, Associate, or full clergy member granted voluntary leave of absence not to exceed 1 year	354.1 354.2	Participant
Clergy member granted Sabbatical Leave from a local church appointment for up to one year if enrolled in the health program at time of request and Board of Ordained Ministry designates a premium paying unit with their approval.	351	Board of Ordained Ministry or participant
Elder of the Annual Conference granted medical leave from an appointment to an NIC local church or within the connectional structure for up to one year.	357	Board of Pensions
Deacon in full connection appointed to full-time basis in a conference local church, beyond the local church, or UMC related agencies and schools.	331.1a, 331.1b	Salary Paying Unit
A Provisional member on the Deacon track appointed to serve on a full-time basis to an NIC congregation or to the conference.	326.1	Salary Paying Unit
75% of eligible Lay Employees of a local church in the conference normally scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week inclusive of a calendar year		Salary Paying Unit

- 1 II. In accord with Illinois law, state recognized civil union partners of lay or clergy
- 2 employees are eligible for coverage in a manner similar to spouses.
- 3 III. The decision to offer coverage is made by the salary paying unit. The choice to
- 4 accept the offer of coverage shall be made by the participant. The salary paying unit
- 5 may elect to offer health insurance to one or all categories of persons listed above in
- 6 Section C. 1. The salary paying unit must make health insurance available to and
- 7 will be billed for all persons within any specific category employed with the agency
- 8 or local church. Failure to make prompt payment results in termination of the
- 9 participant in the plan.
- 10 IV. Each salary paying unit must execute annually a sub-adoption agreement with the
- 11 annual conference, should they desire to offer health coverage to persons in these
- 12 categories.
- 13 V. These categories of persons are also eligible for coverage :

Category	Billed for Active's Premium
Surviving spouse or dependent children enrolled in the health plan at time of a participant's death for a period of up to one year	Participant pays 25%, Salary Paying Unit (or Board of Pensions) 75%
Divorced spouse enrolled in the plan at time of divorce for 2 years or in accordance with State and Federal law or court order	Divorced Spouse

14
15 **D. Retirement Health Administration -**

- 16 I. For 2025, the Conference extends a program of support for some retired clergy persons
- 17 in continued clergy relationship to the Conference. The program commitment is for one
- 18 year only and is a nonvested benefit to certain clergy retirees of the annual conference.
- 19 To qualify, the retired clergy person must be a member of the Conference on January 1,
- 20 2025 or be a dependent of a current clergy member or surviving spouse of a clergy
- 21 person in good standing at the time of death
- 22 II. Clergy persons enrolled in the health plan or participating in the pilot program (Section
- 23 B, above) at Mandatory Retirement (Discipline paragraph 357.1), Early Retirement
- 24 (Discipline paragraph 357.2b), Full Retirement (Discipline Paragraph 357.2c), or
- 25 Involuntary Retirement (Discipline paragraph 357.3) may be eligible for health benefits
- 26 in retirement through the conference plan if such enrollment or participation is for the
- 27 continuous five years prior to retirement. No clergy member retiring under the "20
- 28 year rule" (Discipline paragraph 357.2a) is eligible for retiree health coverage.
- 29 III. A clergy spouse (or surviving spouse after death of an active member) enrolled in the
- 30 health plan 5 consecutive years before retirement or enrolled when first eligible for
- 31 coverage (when prior to participant's retirement) is eligible for coverage after retirement.
- 32 The family status of the participant cannot change during retirement, except in cases of
- 33 adoption, childbirth or death. Participants electing to not participate in retirement
- 34 health plan at time of retirement may not elect to enroll at a later time.
- 35 IV. Upon retirement the annual conference shall establish a Health Reimbursement Account
- 36 (HRA) for the household in the retiree's name. Participants and their spouses who meet
- 37 the retiree eligibility rules may use HRA funds to pay for medical expenses including
- 38 premiums, co-pays, deductibles, dental services, medical services, coinsurance, etc. Like
- 39 a savings account, the funds do not need to be expended by the end of the calendar year
- 40 and balances roll forward when unused.

- 1 V. For 2025 the annual conference will provide a benefit equal to \$100 per year of
2 ministerial service (as limited by I.D.7. below). An additional \$100 per year of service is
3 also extended to the Pastor's spouse. This amount is subject to change in future years
4 based on the needs and circumstances of the Conference and/or participants.
- 5 VI. Only the first 40 years of service shall be tabulated when determining the amount of
6 benefit. In the case of clergy couples, the clergy member with the highest number of
7 years of service, up to the cap of 40, shall determine the benefit amount.
- 8 VII. Ministerial service years are determined by the Conference Board of Pensions and
9 Health Benefits. Only years served under appointment to Northern Illinois Conference
10 local churches or connectional structure are considered in the HRA calculation. Special
11 exceptions may be made based on approval by NIC Board of Pensions. Any counting of
12 service years earned by service to non-Northern Illinois Conference appointments
13 recognized in prior years will not be recognized effective January 1, 2025 or after.
- 14 VIII. The Conference at the discretion of their Board of Pension has the right to change or
15 modify the retiree benefit and or contributions at any time. The annual conference does
16 not make a commitment to additional funding in future years.
- 17 IX. Full Time Lay Conference employees of the annual conference with 5 continuous years
18 of coverage before retirement will have a contribution equal to \$100 per year of service
19 to the annual conference deposited in their HRA annually. Eligibility for the HRA is
20 contingent on a participant's enrollment in Medicare B and engagement with the
21 Conference's selected provider.
- 22 X. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits engages Via Benefits to aid clergy
23 retirees aged 65 and above in selection of suitable Medicare supplement coverage and to
24 act as a patient advocate when necessary. To receive the HRA benefit eligible
25 participants must enroll through the Via Benefits program and be enrolled in Medicare B.
26 Clergy who retire prior to 65 and meet the eligibility rules will have the HRA equivalent
27 deducted from the cost of their conference provided medical coverage until they reach
28 Medicare eligibility, enroll in Medicare B and enroll in Supplemental programs through
29 Via Benefits. Retired clergy will be responsible for costs of coverage in excess of that
30 HRA amount.

31

32 **E. Active Health Administration**

- 33 I. Monthly premiums are billed to each charge or salary-paying unit at rates established by
34 the Conference Board of Pensions. Premiums are due the first of each month. Accounts
35 90 days in arrears are subject to termination as explained in the arrearage policy
36 approved by the Board and the NIC Cabinet. This policy describes the efforts that will
37 be made by the Conference office and the Cabinet to work with Churches that are more
38 than 90 days in arrears. If all efforts to receive payment or develop a payment plan have
39 been exhausted, then termination of coverage may be the final option. Notification of
40 accounts in arrears will be provided to the District Superintendent, the pastor, the local
41 church PPRC chair, and the local church treasurer prior to termination. Any unpaid
42 clergy benefit invoices shall be collected from the sale of a closed church when sold by
43 the Conference Trustees, and, requested from the proceeds of church building sales in
44 local church mergers.
- 45 II. If a participant enrolls in one of the HealthFlex Exchange programs that require a
46 payroll deduction to the Conference and those deductions are not made the Conference
47 can have the participant placed in a plan that does not require a payroll deduction.

- 1 III. Churches should care that tax reporting is correctly administered for all payroll
- 2 deductions around health insurance provisions.
- 3 IV. Active participants are able to make choices in the provision of their coverage through
- 4 the enrollment period, as made available through Healthflex administration. Problem
- 5 resolution and inquiries regarding coverage should be directed to the HealthFlex Team
- 6 at Wespath 1-800-851-2201.
- 7

8 **II. Pension Programs**

- 9 A. **Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Eligibility.** The General Conference of
- 10 the United Methodist Church established the CRSP as the primary pension program for
- 11 United Methodist clergy in 2007. Mandatory participation is required when both 1 and
- 12 2 are met:
 - 13 I. The clergy member relationship to the conference is as a:
 - 14 a. Commissioned Members (Deacon or Elder)
 - 15 b. Elders in Full Connection
 - 16 c. Members of Other Conferences appointed in the Northern Illinois Conference
 - 17 (paragraph 346.1 appointments)
 - 18 d. Full Time Local Pastors
 - 19 e. Deacons in Full Connection
 - 20 f. Members of other denomination, appointed to service in an NIC local church
 - 21 if no other pension is provided by their denomination.
 - 22 II. The clergy member is under Episcopal appointment half-time or more to the
 - 23 following service types:
 - 24 a. to local churches in the Northern Illinois Conference
 - 25 b. to the Conference (staff or Cabinet)
 - 26 c. to a Conference controlled entity (such as a campus ministry or ORM)
 - 27 d. to Incapacity leave with CPP benefits
 - 28 III. In order to waive participation, a half-time or 75% appointed clergy member must
 - 29 sign a waiver form at time of appointment. Please note that persons assigned, but
 - 30 not appointed are not eligible in the program.
 - 31 IV. Local churches are encouraged to enroll as a plan sponsor of UMPIP and to make
 - 32 employer contributions into the accounts of clergy appointed quarter-time.

33 **B. Clergy Retirement Security Program.**

- 34 I. **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).** The Comprehensive Protection Plan is the
- 35 primary death and disability benefit for enrolled clergy. The billing rate for CPP will be
- 36 established by the Conference office. Appointments with compensation less than full
- 37 time and those that were considered under special arrangements will be covered and
- 38 billed based on rates established by UMLifeOptions.
- 39 II. **CRSP - Defined Contribution**
 - 40 a. The CRSP pension program includes a defined contribution component. Each
 - 41 clergy member will have 2% of plan compensation deposited in an individual
 - 42 account at the Wespath. All contributions into the account are invested and the
 - 43 enrolled clergy member receives the appreciated value of the account upon
 - 44 retirement.
 - 45 b. Clergy persons are encouraged to contribute 1% of their plan compensation into
 - 46 their UMPIP account as a salary deduction. The annual conference will match
 - 47 the first 1% of UMPIP contributions paid into the participants CRSP-DC account.

1 III. **CRSP - Defined Benefit program.** With the defined benefit component each enrolled
2 clergy member will receive a monthly cash benefit from the plan upon retirement.
3 Funds collected from local churches are used for annual contributions made by the
4 conference will be invested by Wespath so that the NIC obligation can be met. A
5 portion of defined benefit funding may accrue to a reserve fund for funding future
6 variation in market results and other benefits to retirees and future retirees.

7 **C. Billing Methods.**

8 The Annual Conference will invoice local churches monthly **16% (3% (CPP) + 3% (CRSP**
9 **DC) + 10% (CRSP DB)** based on clergy plan compensation required for support of the
10 CRSP and CPP programs. Increases may be necessary in the future.

11
12 **D.Pre-82 Defined Benefit Past Service Rate for 2021**

13 The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the annual pension rate for service
14 prior to 1982, effective January 1, 2025, be \$605 per service year, an increase of 0% from
15 2024. Surviving spouses shall be supported at the rate of 85% of participant pension
16 benefit amounts. Special grants will be provided as identified in Section F.

17
18 **E. Excludable Housing allowance for retired clergy.**

19 In accordance with the Private Ruling Letter from the Internal Revenue Service, the
20 Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference Session reaffirms the limits to housing
21 allowance exclusion for retired and disabled clergy found in the Standing Rules, at
22 Section IV. C. 1, which states: *Disabled clergy have the same legal relationship to an Annual*
23 *Conference as do the retired clergy and, thus, this Conference is also the appropriate organization*
24 *to designate a housing/rental allowance for disabled ordained or local pastors who are members of*
25 *this Conference. An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received by a retired clergy,*
26 *or 100% of the disability payments received by a disabled clergy, is designated as rental/housing*
27 *allowance respectively for each retired or disabled ordained or local pastor of The United*
28 *Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Northern Illinois Conference at the time of*
29 *retirement or disability.*

30
31 **F. Special Grants**

- 32 I. Beginning in 2020 Northern Illinois Conference Session the Board of Pensions approved
33 grants for participants meeting the following eligibility criteria:
34 a. Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference who retired from an
35 appointment in the conference;
36 b. Who have at least 15 years of service prior to 1982 compensated at the Past
37 Service Rate (excludes those at the DBSM rate); and,
38 c. Who have less than 10 years of service to Northern Illinois Conference
39 appointments served while enrolled in the MPP program.
40 II. For 1/1/2024⁵ the amount provided to eligible participants will be \$700 times their pre-
41 82 years of service calculated at the PSR. This amount will remain in place until
42 otherwise changed by the Board of Pensions
43 III. The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends that a special grant be made to
44 James W. French for his 3.5 years of service with this Annual Conference from June 1,
45 1978 through December 31, 1981. We recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2024

1 to June 30, 2025, a grant of \$140.95 monthly be paid based on the present pension rate,
2 but actuarially reduced since payments are starting prior to full retirement age.

3 **IV. Group Life Insurance**

4 The Conference Board of Pensions enrolls in the UMLifeOptions program. Every
5 eligible retired clergy person will be enrolled in the plan with a benefit of \$5,000 at no
6 cost to the participant. Active clergy persons have \$10,000 in coverage at the NIC
7 expense when an application is filed during the open enrollment period. Coverage
8 beyond this amount is at the cost of the participant and will be billed directly from
9 UMLifeOptions.

1 **Document: 700.01**

2 **Title: Apology for Illegal Overthrow of Hawaiian Kingdom**

3 **Authors: NICMFSA, Luis F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICRMN, Luis F**
4 **Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICBC&S, Elisa Gatz, chair**

5 **CCFA Action: No financial implications**

6 **Legislative Section:**

7
8 **Action:**

9 The United Methodist Church acknowledge the history of racism and imposed colonial rule
10 that has impacted Native Hawaiians from since the overthrow to the present,

11 The United Methodist 2028 General Conference issue a formal public apology to Native
12 Hawaiians for the church's complicity in the illegal overthrow of thenHawaiian Monarchy in
13 1893.

14 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference send this resolution to the General Board of Church
15 and Society, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Board of Discipleship,
16 and the 2028 General Conference for its support and passage,

17 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference Bishop appoint a task force to engage Native
18 Hawaiians in a time of listening in order to prepare for a meaningful apology and to nurture
19 authentic community.

20
21 **Rationale:**

22 The 2012 General Conference Resolution 3324, The United Methodist Church acknowledged
23 that Christianity's spread across the world has often "damaged the culture, life ways,
24 and spirituality of indigenous persons," and, called on every conference and local congregation
25 to "develop and nurture relationships with indigenous persons."

26 On January 17, 1893 American businessmen and leaders orchestrated the illegal
27 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and Queen Lili'uokalani. In spite of five treaties signed by
28 the U.S. Government with the Hawaiian Kingdom, and the fact that sixteen other nations
29 maintained official diplomatic ties with Honolulu, resident businessmen – some of whom were
30 descended from the original missionaries – calling themselves "the Committee of Safety" seized
31 power by illegally occupying the government building, with the assistance of 162 U.S. Marines
32 and Navy sailors. According to newspaper articles and church archival documents, the Rev. Dr.
33 Harcourt W. Peck supported the illegal overthrow and served as sharpshooter and acting
34 adjutant

35 for Colonel J. H. Fisher, commander of the forces who dethroned Queen Lili'uokalani. When he
36 returned to Hawai'i a year later to serve as pastor of First Methodist Episcopal Church, he
37 rejoined the sharpshooter company and served as chaplain of the new forcibly established
38 Republic of Hawai'i. Rev. Peck's armed participation against the legal and internationally
39 recognized indigenous government of Hawai'i, as well as his continued solidarity with those
40 who orchestrated the overthrow, solidified First Methodist Episcopal Church's establishment in
41 Honolulu. The United Methodist Church has not acknowledged or addressed its historic
42 participation and complicities with injustices related to the Hawaiian people. The offense was
43 against the entire Hawaiian Kingdom, its subjects and other residents, not indigenous
44 Hawaiians
45 alone.

46 The illegal overthrow and systematic oppression of Native Hawaiians in 1893 has
47 continued to affect them to this day as Native Hawaiians:

1 -Have lower average education, higher unemployment, and lower incomes than the
2 non-Hawaiian population;1
3 -Make up 35% of homeless persons in Hawai'i;2
4 -Are less likely to be enrolled in college compared with Hawai'i's other major ethnic
5 groups;3
6 -Have higher rates of heart attack, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and asthma than
7 the state average;4
8 -Have twice the proportion of teenage mothers, the lowest rate of prenatal care, and highest
9 rate of infant mortality among major ethnic groups in Hawai'i;3
10 -Make up 24% of the general population in Hawai'i, but 27% of all arrests, 39% of the
11 incarcerated population, and 41% of parole revocations;5
12 -Are more likely to get a prison sentence, receive longer prison sentences, make up the
13 highest percentage of people incarcerated in out-of-state facilities, and has the largest
14 proportion of its population of women in prison, compared to other ethnic groups; 5
15 -Have a higher rate of dissatisfaction with life, are more likely to be depressed, and are more
16 likely to commit suicide compared with non-Hawaiians.3
17 1 Maris Mikelsons, the Urban Institute and Karl Eschbach, University of Houston (1993)
18 "Housing Problems and Needs of Native Hawaiians"
19 2 Yamane, D. P., Oeser, S. G., & Omori, J. (2010). Health Disparities in the Native Hawaiian
20 Homeless. *Hawaii Medical Journal*, 69(6 Suppl 3),
21 35-41. Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (2015) "Improving Media Representation of Hawaii's
22 Houseless."
23 3 Kamehameha Schools (2014) "Ka Huaka`I: Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment."
24 4 Office of Hawaiian Affairs (2011) "Native Hawaiian Health Fact Sheet."
25 5 Office of Hawaiian Affairs (2010) "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System."

1 **Document: 700.02**
2 **Name: Becoming peace-makers in our churches, our communities, our nation, and the wider**
3 **world**

4 **Authors: NICMFSA, Luis F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICRMN, Luis F**
5 **Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICBC&S, Elisa Gatz, chair**

6 **CCFA Action: No financial implications**

7 **Legislative Section:**

8

9 **Action:**

10 We resolve to renew our commitment, our mission, as Christians further informed by United
11 Methodist principles and inspired by John Wesley and his vision, to sustain the Message of
12 Jesus the Christ to be peacemakers in the ways, the places, by the means we have, to promote
13 peace in our time.

14 This calls us to work towards PEACE-MAKING by engaging in and promoting these actions:

- 15 • to read, consider, and explore the vision of peace articulated by Jesus, Isaiah and Micah;
- 16 • to reflect on how both individually and collectively we might become “co-conspirators”
17 for peace;
- 18 • to engage in study, reflection, and dialogue exploring actions and attitudes that support
19 and promote peace;
- 20 • to speak for and take actions, individually and collectively, that model and promote peace;
- 21 • to commit to better understanding of the means of promoting, encouraging, and making
22 peace, working toward fulfilling Jesus ’continuing ministry, Micah’s vision, and Wesley’s
23 “call to action.”

24 The accumulated actions described above articulate the commitment of the people called
25 “Methodist,” who seek to serve as peace makers, and peace keepers.

- 26 • to engage in study, reflection, and dialogue exploring actions and attitudes that support
27 and promote peace;
- 28 • to speak for and take actions, individually and collectively, that model and promote peace;
- 29 • to commit to better understanding of the means of promoting, encouraging, and making
30 peace, working toward fulfilling Jesus ’continuing ministry, Micah’s vision, and Wesley’s
31 “call to action.”

32

33 **Rationale:**

34 Christianity itself is rooted in the concept of peace and peace making (Matthew 5:9).

35

36 Jesus – often referred to as the Prince of Peace – modeled being a peacemaker, taught peace-
37 making in parables (e.g., The Good Samaritan; Luke 10: 25-27), and guided his disciples to also
38 live as peacemakers.

39

40 The ancient prophets were “seers” (esp. Isaiah & Micah) who envisioned a NEW world order
41 aligned with God’s plans, different from the contentions and disparities of war, hunger, need,
42 and greed. They envisioned a new social environment where guns used to kill were turned into
43 tools for planting crops to feed the people, where orchards and fields weren’t hoarded for a
44 few, but thrived as orchards to feed us all. Isn’t that the world we want, too?

45

1 Throughout civilizations, some have called for, modeled, and led us toward peace, while others
2 appealed to childish temptations to hoard, fight, even kill one another, despite God's
3 commandments.

4
5 John Wesley called early Methodists to recognize, respect, and even serve community needs so
6 that ALL might prosper rather than having some suffer.

7
8 Both the early Methodist and more recent United Methodist Church bodies composed and
9 ratified "social principles" specifying actions and practices that promoted peaceful communities
10 of shared resources and respectful co-existence.

11
12 The many ministries supported by UMC funds, direct work, and numerous physical and
13 human resources reflect a centuries 'old commitment to relieve, or alleviate, suffering resulting
14 from hostile actions of war, famine, and actions of repressive political regimes.

1 **Document: 700.03**
2 **Name: A Call for Peace with Justice in the Middle East**
3 **Author: Elisa Gatz**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**
6
7

8 **Action:**

9 The Northern Illinois Conference urges United Methodists to call on Congress and the President
10 to support steps for establishing a peace based on justice for all peoples in Israel and Palestine.
11 We urge United Methodists to take steps in their own communities to build peaceful
12 relationships with and deeper understanding of their Jewish and Muslim neighbors. To that
13 end, we encourage United Methodists to:

- 14 a. Condemn violence in all its forms, whether perpetrated by Hamas or other terrorist groups,
15 or the IDF (Israel Defense Forces.)
- 16 b. Call for a ceasefire by all parties so that innocent Palestine and Israeli citizens can rebuild
17 their lives and work toward establishing a just piece.
- 18 c. Communicate directly and regularly with our elected representatives to support policies
19 that lead to a peaceful and just resolution for all people in the Middle East, such as policies
20 supported by the General Board of Church and Society's recommendations for legislation.
- 21 d. Work toward eliminating Antisemitism and Islamophobia by recognizing Jewish and
22 Muslim holidays and the contributions of Jewish and Arab communities. This can include
23 the International Holocaust Remembrance Week in January and the celebration of Arab
24 American Heritage Month each April.
- 25 e. Include Palestinian and Israeli histories and issues into anti-bias, anti-racist training.

26
27 **Rationale:**

28 As stated by our General Board of Church and Society, "scripture is consistent in the call for
29 followers of Christ to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44-45a), forgive others their trespasses
30 (Matthew 6:14-15), to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), and to seek peace and pursue it
31 (Psalm 34:14). Peacemakers are blessed and called the children of God (Matthew 5:9)."
32

33 "As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers
34 of conflict. We must insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve
35 by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them." – United Methodist
36 Social Principles, ¶165.C
37

38 Seeking justice and serving as reconcilers includes advocating for policies that lead to a peaceful
39 and just resolution and accountability for the utilization of all military and humanitarian aid to
40 the Middle East, such as the passage of HR 3103: Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian
41 Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.
42

43 If we are to take Jesus' words seriously, rather than return hate for hate, we need to model what
44 it looks like to love our neighbors.
45
46
47

1 **Document: 700.04**
2 **Name: Condemning Apartheid in Palestine and Israel**
3 **Author: Elisa Gatz**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**
6

7 **Action:**

8 The Northern Illinois Conference publicly supports the efforts of Christians in the Holy Land
9 who seek to help their neighbors understand their shared heritage and to act for peace. We
10 condemn the harm caused by the Israeli National Government’s political and military
11 occupation and the resulting Apartheid conditions imposed on Palestinians in the Occupied
12 Territories.
13

14 **Rationale:**

15 Taking it as accepted that murder, mass arrests, indiscriminate bombing, kidnapping, and
16 withholding of food and water from children are all criminal acts whoever commits them; we
17 also recognize that

18 Israel’s continuing illegal occupation of Palestinian lands degrades their own claims over UN-
19 recognized lands, and increasingly puts all persons in the region at risk from reprisals,
20 including violence; in their Nation State Basic Law of 2018, the Israeli national government
21 granted self-determination exclusively to the Jewish citizens of Israel, and has seized more than
22 three-quarters of the occupied land of Palestine, also known as the West Bank and Gaza, that
23 forces Palestinians in those territories to live under Israeli military law for generations; since
24 2009, no fewer than six authoritative studies have declared Israeli actions as creating an
25 apartheid condition as defined by international law that describes apartheid as a “crime against
26 humanity”. These include the: Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa Report – 2009,
27 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) report – 2017,
28 Yesh Din Report – 2020, B’Tselem Report – January 2021, Human Rights Watch report – 2021,
29 and Amnesty International report – 2022;

30 The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state that we “commend and encourage
31 the self- awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them to
32 demand their just and equal rights as members of society,” and furthermore “calls the Church
33 to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities,” and to declare its opposition to the crime of
34 apartheid, calling it a “heresy” and “a sin” that must be “condemned unequivocally.”

1 Document: 700.05
2 Name: Creation Care Advocate Resolution
3 Author(s): Harriette Cross and Richard Alton
4 CCFA Action:
5 Legislation Section:
6

7 Action:
8

9 **That every local church be encouraged to name at least one Creation Care Advocate who will**
10 **strengthen the church's existing green actions, and**
11

12 **Advocate for creation care to be lifted up in all areas of ministry and mission**, including
13 preaching, liturgy, communications, education, outreach, administration and advocacy so that
14 the church will become an increasingly effective witness of loving God and neighbor.
15

16 **That these actions are to be communicated as an idea exchange and inspiration** throughout
17 the connection. They can be reported at charge conference and should be celebrated locally, in
18 the annual conference, and beyond.
19

20 **That the Northern Illinois Annual Conference will record the names of the Creation Care**
21 **Advocates in the Lay Portal and assist these leaders with resources and mentors**, as needed.
22 See Examples for Action below.
23

24
25 RATIONALE:
26

27 **Scripture** proclaims God created all – from Earth's hospitable atmosphere, mighty seas,
28 abundant forests and other plants to nutrient-rich soil, from majestic whales to the tiniest
29 microbes and all sentient and non-sentient beings in between; Scripture also proclaims God
30 called humans to be caretakers of creation (Genesis 1-2). Jesus declared the Greatest
31 Commandments are to love God and to love neighbor, especially the most vulnerable (Luke
32 10:25-37). Persons living in poverty, persons of color, and indigenous people in this country and
33 throughout the world are harmed first and most by the degradation of creation, and these same
34 groups have the fewest resources to recover from that harm. Care for creation is clearly a matter
35 of justice. Creation, including all people, is already or will be affected by the current and coming
36 level of danger from climate change and its consequences that intersect with multiple
37 expressions of injustice. It follows that loving God, the Creator, means loving God's Creation
38 and that loving neighbors in distress requires stopping harm and righting wrongs, in other
39 words, working for justice.
40

41 **Tradition** for United Methodists includes John Wesley's Three Simple Rules for living
42 faithfully: First, do no harm; second, do all the good you can; and third, stay in love with God.
43 Our proposed 2020 Social Principles begin with "The Community of All Creation," outlining
44 the care and justice work that is needed in the midst of the crises upon crises that are adversely
45 affecting God's creation and our neighbors. The 2009 Pastoral Letter of the Council of Bishops of
46 The United Methodist Church, *God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action*, pledges
47 leadership in addressing the work of renewal. The 2016 *Book of Discipline* (Paragraph 254)

1 includes an Earth Advocacy ministry group as a way “to fulfill the mission of the local church.”
2 It follows that the church provides both a mandate and guidance for doing what is needed.

3
4 **Reason** is a God-given gift. Our reasoning capabilities are informed by modern scientific
5 research and practices. The scientific community has given clear warning that creation is under
6 tremendous strain due to the poisoning of air, water, and land; habitat destruction; the
7 unsustainable consumption of earth’s finite resources; and the rapidly accelerating extinction of
8 species. Scientists have sounded the alarm of catastrophic harm to creation if global warming
9 and associated climate change are not halted and reversed. They point to how rising
10 temperatures have already intensified wildfires, hurricanes, drought, and sea-level rise
11 throughout the world with devastating impacts. Our reasoning capabilities are also informed by
12 the examples of indigenous peoples whose traditional wisdom and practices honor living in
13 harmony with nature. It follows that, globally, humans have the capacity for understanding the
14 damage and danger and for stopping or mitigating the effects. Individuals and congregations
15 have access to trustworthy knowledge and the reasoning ability to discern what is needed and
16 how to carry out plans in their local situations.

17
18 **Experience** is honored by United Methodists as a way of recognizing lifetime gains of
19 knowledge, understanding, perspectives, and practices of individuals, which they all bring to
20 the work before them. Functioning as a team, they become stronger in their efforts (Ecclesiastes
21 4:12). Experience is also honored as the varied ways in which humans encounter God. For many
22 people that meeting is through God’s gift of the natural world. It follows that a group of people
23 who care about creation and justice, working together can use their wisdom and passion to
24 create faithful and meaningful experiences that help others love God and neighbor.

25
26 On June 4, 2018 the Northern Illinois Conference passed resolution 700.01 “Advance our Care
27 for the Earth” to encourage churches to form Green Teams, conduct energy audits and to
28 eliminate use of Styrofoam plastics. In five years many of our churches have not responded to
29 this encouragement. The Net Zero Strategy task force recommends that a leader from each
30 church be named in the Lay Portal to receive materials and coaching.

31 32 **EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS**

33
34 **Resources** may include the monthly newsletter, website, and Creation Justice Tips from the
35 United Methodist Creation Justice Movement (umcreationjustice.org) and the attached listing of
36 examples from “What Churches Are Doing” in addition to others from the general church.

37
38 **Mentors** may choose to use the SMARTIE planning tool below in addition to their own skills
39 and tools.

40
41
42 This listing is to encourage Creation Care Advocates with ideas of what a church can do, to give
43 the group a starting point. It is not exhaustive. The gifts and graces of the team members and
44 the local context, needs, and opportunities will be the ultimate inspiration for what they *can* do.

45
46
47 **Worshiping**

- 1 • Praying every Sunday on behalf of God’s Creation
- 2 • Hosting a prayer vigil focused on creation care
- 3 • Observing Earth Day (April 22)
- 4 • Creating an outdoor worship service
- 5 • Putting together a Lenten calendar with actions that connect to faith
- 6 • Writing elements of liturgy focused on creation care
- 7 • Providing a prayer for the whole congregation to pray for a specified time
- 8 • Incorporating personal testimony related to creation care and faith
- 9 • Integrating creation care and justice in sermons and liturgy

10

11 Educating

- 12 • Facilitating regular nature experience events for various age groups and groupings,
13 including walks in the woods, wildflower walks, “I spy” challenges, trip to a beach or
14 waterway, a zoo, and so on to help people love and learn to protect creation
- 15 • Leading a Bible study and programs on creation care
- 16 • Hosting a watch party for a film and discussion related to creation care
- 17 • Writing a resolution for the congregation to consider, which will start a conversation;
18 adopting it will give direction to the church
- 19 • Inviting people from a local congregation largely with members from a different race to
20 learn about how they experience creation justice or injustice
- 21 • Asking Sunday school classes to schedule speakers or follow a curriculum related to
22 creation care
- 23 • Arranging for speakers with environmental expertise, especially about local issues, to
24 speak to church groups
- 25 • Adding “green space” to their websites, with a focus on what the church is doing for
26 creation care
- 27 • Engaging children in recycling conversations through collecting broken and used
28 crayons, which are made of petroleum and would otherwise go into a landfill, and
29 recycling them through Crazy Crayons (crazycrayons.com) into new, fun crayons and
30 then helping to “close the loop” through purchasing the recycled product, which enables
31 the company to stay in business
- 32 • Encouraging clergy and congregational members to participate in the Lay Servant
33 course, *Loving People and Planet in the Name of God*, which is resourced by Discipleship
34 Ministries.
- 35 • Identifying and funding one or more members to become a United Methodist
36 EarthKeeper, trained and certified by Global Ministries

37

38 Practicing

- 39 • Deciding to stop mowing a section of the property, allowing it to go wild for the
40 pollinators and local wildlife
- 41 • Stopping the use of Styrofoam and plastic plates and cups for meals

- 1 • Encouraging meatless dishes for potlucks; providing copies of recipes
- 2 • Setting up a compost system for food waste after meals or events
- 3 • Establishing a compost site for members and neighbors to use
- 4 • Including Creation Justice Tips in newsletters and bulletins
- 5 • Adding a focus on creation actions on the church website
- 6 • Installing a rain barrel system for watering
- 7 • Being more conscious of water use and practicing water conservation
- 8 • Placing recycling bins where needed and visible
- 9 • Touring the building and grounds to identify potential energy-efficiency projects,
10 including caulking leaking windows, changing to LED lighting, adding motion-sensor
11 lights and smart thermostats
- 12 • Taking steps toward renewable and just energy sources (solar, geothermal, wind) to
13 minimize fossil fuel usage that contributes to climate change
- 14 • Purchasing bamboo toilet tissue with no plastic wrapping
- 15 • Adding a bicycle rack to encourage reducing emissions
- 16 • Preparing a pizza garden by planting the ingredients, such as oregano, tomatoes,
17 jalapeño peppers, banana peppers, mushrooms, basil, and thyme, and then having a
18 pizza party celebration featuring the homegrown ingredients
- 19 • Creating a rain garden
- 20 • Adding new trees to the church property
- 21 • Landscaping for a neighbor whose home is being rebuilt after a tornado
- 22 • Choosing native plants for butterflies and other pollinators
- 23 • Developing a community garden with vegetables and flowers to give away to both those
24 near the church, those who come to help, and to local organizations that provide food in
25 the community
- 26 • Adopting a nearby road or stream and picking up the litter and other trash as part of a
27 one-day event or a regular practice; then advocating for change
- 28 • Hosting a recycle day event in the church parking lot
- 29 • Going through items that are no longer in use and stuffed in church closets and
30 recycling or donating for reuse
- 31 • Arranging a collection of items that would otherwise be sent to the landfill and sending
32 them instead to an alternative service, such as ReTold (fabric), Terracycle (numerous
33 items), prescription drugs (police departments), for example
- 34 • Learning from and working with the conference Green Team
- 35 • Finding out from other churches what they are doing, learning from their experiences,
36 and possibly joining their efforts
- 37 • Seeking support and possible funding from the annual conference

38

39 Speaking Up

- 40 • Encouraging planning groups to use the lens of creation care
- 41 • Researching an issue, identifying the change-makers, and communicating with them

- 1 • Informing the congregation on local issues related to creation care and encouraging
- 2 them to communicate their values to the appropriate decisionmakers
- 3 • Putting together a letter-writing or calling advocacy event around a local issue
- 4 • Preparing a resolution for the annual conference agenda
- 5 • Making available reusables, such as mugs, shopping bags, or T-shirts, printed with a
- 6 creation care or justice message
- 7 • Inviting another nearby church to join in and work together on creation care efforts
- 8 • Making a list of sustainability decisions to use as criteria in planning events
- 9 • Writing “letters to the editor” about an issue

10

11 Signatures:

12 NIC Net Zero Task Force: Rev. Harriette Cross and Richard Alton

13

14 The Creation Justice Annual Conference Support Team, Model Resolutions sub-team, Rev.
15 Richenda Fairhurst (Pacific Northwest Annual Conference) and Mr. Bob Downs (West Ohio
16 Annual Conference.

17

1 **Document: 700.06**
2 **Name: End Gun Violence**
3 **Author(s): NICMFSA, Luis F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICRMN, Luis**
4 **F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICBC&S, Elisa Gatz, chair**
5 **CCFA Action: No financial implications**
6 **Legislative Section:**

7
8 **Action:**

9 We support elected leaders who are willing to represent us by taking action on gun violence by
10 engaging in meaningful conversation and working across party affiliations regarding gun safety
11 legislation toward a goal of reducing the gun violence Illinois experience. Toward this end,
12 we advocate for the passage of red flag laws and we encourage our churches to engage the Gun
13 Violence Study Materials ([https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum\(1\).pdf](https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum(1).pdf)), which was
14 created to equip clergy and laity with biblical and theological foundations around the issue of
15 gun violence and to offer opportunities for Wesleyan formation and Christian responses.

16
17 United Methodists in Northern Illinois will choose one or more ways to “advocate
18 at the local and national level for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence, including:

- 19 • Universal background checks on all gun purchases
- 20 • Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty
- 21 • Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers
- 22 • Prohibiting all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a fixed time
23 period
- 24 • Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing
25 a gun
- 26 • Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their
27 communities, from purchasing a gun
- 28 • Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness
- 29 • Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession
- 30 • Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds
31 each time the trigger is pulled
- 32 • Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and
33 promote public safety.”

34 (The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016, 3428.8 “Our Call to End Gun
35 Violence”)

36
37 **Rationale:**

38 June is National Gun Violence Awareness month. Gun violence continues to be an epidemic in
39 our country. Every day, more than 300 people are directly impacted by gun violence in the
40 United States. Gun Violence Awareness Month was created to draw attention to this tragic
41 reality and demand life-saving change.
42 Research shows that states with the strongest gun laws generally have less gun violence.
43 (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: Gun Violence Statistics); and
44 “ the strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens.
45 The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting
46 policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust.”

1 (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, Social Principles ¶164.B Political
2 Responsibility)
3 In Illinois, 39% of gun deaths are suicides and 58% are homicides. This is compared to 61% and
4 36% respectively, nationwide. The rate of gun deaths in Illinois increased 32% from
5 2009 to 2018, compared to an 18% increase over this same time period nationwide. In Illinois,
6 the rate of gun suicide increased 39% and gun homicide increased 29% from 2009 to 2018,
7 compared to a 19% increase and an 18% increase nationwide, respectively. Firearms are the 1st-
8 leading cause of death among children and teens in Illinois. In Illinois, an average of 183
9 children and teens die by guns every year, and 82% of these deaths are homicides. In the
10 United States, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.
11 Black children and teens in Illinois are 13 times as likely as their white peers to die by guns.
12 Thoughts and prayers are not sufficient to address the evil of gun violence.
13
14 **Gun Violence Study Materials** ([https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum\(1\).pdf](https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum(1).pdf))

1 **Document: 700.07**
2 **Name: Witnessing and Voting for Civility, Compassion, and Democracy in 2024 Legislation**
3 **Author: Elisa Gatz**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**
6
7

8 **Action:**

9 The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church urges all United Methodists
10 and United States citizens to use personal courtesy (PC) in political conversations and to vote
11 for civility, compassion, and democracy.

12
13 We urge Illinois United Methodists to speak out against politicians who use dehumanizing
14 language, vulgarities, name calling, insults, and veiled threats of violence.

15
16 We urge pastors and lay leaders to use Sunday School lessons, communications, sermons,
17 letters to the editor, op eds, and advertisements to remind Americans to be civil and
18 compassionate in political conversations. Let us remind each other and the public that all the
19 world's major religions counsel us to speak respectfully with others as we would have them to
20 speak respectfully with us.

21
22 We urge pastors and lay leaders to use these two resources to advance democracy and good
23 citizenship: General Conference Resolution 3422, "Speaking Out for Compassion: Transforming
24 the Context of Hate in the U.S." and "Strengthening our democracy," a statement from 13
25 presidential centers that promotes, "civil dialogue; respect for democratic institutions and rights;
26 and safe, secure, and accessible elections." (bushcenter.org, 9-7-23)
27

28 We urge Illinois United Methodists and friends to participate in Get Out The Vote (GOTV) with
29 organizations such as the League for Women Voters, the NAACP, and political parties.
30

31 **Rationale:**

32 "Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." -Exodus 20: 16

33 God will be displeased if United Methodists don't speak out at this time of rising vitriol, racism,
34 Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Palestinian rhetoric, hate, and violence. United Methodists
35 cannot countenance white supremacy. We can't allow intolerant voices to drown out different
36 opinions. We must "end complicity with hate by speaking out when jokes, disparagements, and
37 stereotypes are based on difference." (UMC Resolution 3422)

38 We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on national origin,
39 ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. (UMC Social Principles, 162) We cannot afford to pass
40 up opportunities to speak out for civility, compassion, and democracy in 2024.

1 **Document: 700.08**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of BLUE ISLAND: GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray Lake South District, UMC**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the GRACE UMC located in the City of Blue Island, Illinois at the commonly
9 **known address** 12739 Maple Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406 in Worth Township of
10 Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its
11 community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024 and

12 WHEREAS the Grace UMC faithfully served the community in the City of Blue Island, IL
13 and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

14 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
15 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
16 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
17 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
18 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
19 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
20 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
21 recommendation to discontinue said church;

22 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
23 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
24 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
25 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
26 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
27 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
28 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
29 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
31 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
32 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
33 known as 12739 Maple Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406,
34 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
35 United Methodist Church, and
36 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
37 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
38 referred to above
39 pending sale or other disposition; or

1 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
2 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to
5 **Olympia Fields UMC** in Olympia Fields, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the
6 pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

7 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
8 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
9 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
10 recommend to effectuate the above.

11 **RATIONALE:**

12 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ, Blue
13 Island: Grace UMC has come to a place of transition and closure as membership and
14 attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
15 ministry but to no longer remain in service as **Blue Island: Grace UMC**. The closure has been
16 recommended by the **Lake South** Board on Church Location and Buildings and the District
17 Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.09**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of MANDELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
3 **Author: Rev. Brittany Isaac, District Superintendent, Lake North District,**
4 **UMC**
5 **CCFA Action:**
6 **Legislative Section:**

7
8 **ACTION:**

9 WHEREAS the MANDELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located in the
10 City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois was formed in 1894 and has witnessed to
11 Jesus Christ and served its community and the world for 130 years; and

12
13 WHEREAS the MANDELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH faithfully served
14 the community in the City of Chicago and boldly risked themselves in this effort;
15 and

16
17 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline*
18 *of The United Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake North District Superintendent has
19 recommended with the approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be
20 discontinued effective June 30, 2024. The Lake North District Committee on
21 Building and Location has voted to concur with the District Superintendent's
22 recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop and the
23 majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual
24 Conference of The United Methodist Church have consented to the District
25 Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

26
27 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future
28 bequests to the Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference
29 recommends that the said Church, though discontinued under the Canon Law
30 of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be maintained in perpetuity
31 under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by the Bishop
32 under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
33 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church
34 under the procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned
35 Church Reincorporation" of the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual
36 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
39 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
40 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
41 known as 5000 W. Congress Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60644,

1 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
2 United Methodist Church, and
3 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
4 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
5 referred to above
6 pending sale or other disposition; or
7 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
8 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
9

10
11 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois
12 Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed
13 to execute on behalf of the said Conference any and all such additional
14 documents as legal counsel shall recommend to effectuate the above.
15

16 RATIONALE:

17 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus
18 Christ, MANDELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH has come to a place of
19 transition and closure as membership and attendance have declined. The
20 congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past ministry but to no
21 longer remain in service as MANDELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. The
22 closure has been recommended by the Lake North District Strategy Team, the
23 Lake North District Board on Church Location and Buildings and the District
24 Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.10**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of CHICAGO: NEW GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray, Lake South District, UMC**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the New Gresham UMC located in the City of Chicago, Illinois at the
9 **commonly known address** 8700 S. Emerald Avenue, Chicago, IL 60620 in Chicago
10 Township of Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ
11 and served its community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024
12 and

13 WHEREAS the New Gresham UMC faithfully served the community in the City of
14 Chicago, IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
16 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
17 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
18 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
19 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
20 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
21 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
22 recommendation to discontinue said church;

23 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
24 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
25 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
26 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
27 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
28 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
29 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
30 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
32 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
33 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
34 known as 8700 S. Emerald Avenue, Chicago, IL 60620,
35 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
36 United Methodist Church, and
37 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
38 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
39 referred to above

1 pending sale or other disposition; or
2 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
3 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to
6 **Wesley UMC** in Chicago, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the pastor of the
7 transferee church otherwise; and

8 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
9 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
10 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
11 recommend to effectuate the above.

12 **RATIONALE:**

13 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
14 Chicago: New Gresham UMC has come to a place of transition and closure as membership
15 and attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
16 ministry but to no longer remain in service as **Chicago: New Gresham UMC**. The closure has
17 been recommended by the **Lake South** Board on Church Location and Buildings and the
18 District Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.11**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of CHICAGO: FREEDOM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr Audrea F. Nanabray, Lake South District, UMC**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the Freedom UMC located in the City of Chicago, Illinois at the commonly
9 **known address** 2000 W. 68th Street, Chicago, IL 60636 in Chicago Township of
10 Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its
11 community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024 and

12 WHEREAS the Freedom UMC faithfully served the community in the City of Chicago, IL
13 and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

14 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
15 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
16 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
17 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
18 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
19 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
20 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
21 recommendation to discontinue said church;

22 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
23 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
24 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
25 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
26 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
27 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
28 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
29 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
31 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
32 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
33 known as 2000 W. 68th Street, Chicago, IL 60636,
34 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
35 United Methodist Church, and
36 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
37 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
38 referred to above
39 pending sale or other disposition; or

1 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
2 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to
5 **Englewood Rust UMC** in Chicago, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the pastor of
6 the transferee church otherwise; and

7 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
8 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
9 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
10 recommend to effectuate the above.

11 **RATIONALE:**

12 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
13 Chicago: Freedom UMC has come to a place of transition and closure as membership and
14 attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
15 ministry but to no longer remain in service as **Chicago: Freedom UMC**. The closure has been
16 recommended by the **Lake South** Board on Church Location and Buildings and the District
17 Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.12**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of CHICAGO: FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray Lake South District, UMC**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the Faith UMC located in the City of Chicago, Illinois at the commonly
9 **known address** 335 W. 75th Street, Chicago, IL 60620 in Chicago Township of
10 Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its
11 community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024 and

12 WHEREAS the Faith UMC faithfully served the community in the City of Chicago, IL and
13 boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

14 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
15 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
16 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
17 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
18 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
19 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
20 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
21 recommendation to discontinue said church;

22 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
23 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
24 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
25 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
26 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
27 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
28 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
29 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
31 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
32 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
33 known as 335 W. 75th Street, Chicago, IL 60620,
34 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
35 United Methodist Church, and
36 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
37 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
38 referred to above
39 pending sale or other disposition; or

1 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
2 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to
5 **Wesley UMC** in Chicago, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the pastor of the
6 transferee church otherwise; and

7 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
8 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
9 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
10 recommend to effectuate the above.

11 **RATIONALE:**

12 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the
13 name of Jesus Christ, Chicago: Faith UMC has come to a place of
14 transition and closure as membership and attendance have
15 declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its
16 past ministry but to no longer remain in service as **Chicago: Faith**
17 **UMC**. The closure has been recommended by the **Lake South**
18 Board on Church Location and Buildings and the District
19 Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.13**

2 **Name: Discontinuance of HOMEWOOD: ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray, Lake South District, UMC**

4 **CCFA Action:**

5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7
8 **ACTION:**

9 WHEREAS the ST. ANDREW UMC located in the City of Homewood, Illinois at the
10 **commonly known address** 18850 Riegel Road, Homewood, IL 60430 in Bloom
11 Township of Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ
12 and served its community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024
13 and

14 WHEREAS the St. Andrew UMC faithfully served the community in the Village of
15 Homewood, IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
17 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
18 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
19 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
20 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
21 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
22 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
23 recommendation to discontinue said church;

24 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
25 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
26 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
27 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
28 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
29 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
30 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
31 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
33 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
34 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
35 known as 18850 Riegel Road, Homewood, IL 60430,

36 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
37 United Methodist Church, and

38 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:

- 1 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
2 referred to above
3 pending sale or other disposition; or
4 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
5 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to
8 **Olympia Fields UMC** in Olympia Fields, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the
9 pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

10 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
11 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
12 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
13 recommend to effectuate the above.

14 **RATIONALE:**

15 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
16 Homewood: St. Andrew UMC has come to a place of transition and closure as membership
17 and attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
18 ministry but to no longer remain in service as Homewood: St. Andrew UMC. The closure
19 has been recommended by the Lake South Board on Church Location and Buildings and the
20 District Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.14**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of LITTLE WHITE CHURCH**
3 **Author: Rev. Brittany Isaac, District Superintendent, Lake North District,**
4 **UMC**
5 **CCFA Action:**
6 **Legislative Section:**

7
8 **ACTION:**

9 WHEREAS the LITTLE WHITE CHURCH, located in the Village of Melrose
10 Park, Proviso Township Township of Cook County, Illinois was formed in 2005
11 and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its community and the world for
12 18 years; and

13
14 WHEREAS the LITTLE WHITE CHURCH faithfully served the community in
15 the Village of Melrose Park and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

16
17 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline*
18 *of The United Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake North District Superintendent has
19 recommended with the approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be
20 discontinued effective July 1, 2023. The Lake North District Committee on
21 Building and Location has voted to concur with the District Superintendent's
22 recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop and the
23 majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual
24 Conference of The United Methodist Church have consented to the District
25 Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

26
27 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future
28 bequests to the Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference
29 recommends that the said Church, though discontinued under the Canon Law
30 of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be maintained in perpetuity
31 under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by the Bishop
32 under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
33 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church
34 under the procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned
35 Church Reincorporation" of the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual
36 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
39 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
40 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
41 known as 1417 N. 37th Avenue, Melrose Park Illinois 60160,

1 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
2 United Methodist Church, and
3 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
4 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
5 referred to above
6 pending sale or other disposition; or
7 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
8 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
9

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be
12 transferred to the Franklin Park First United Methodist Church, unless any such
13 members shall inform the pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and
14

15 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois
16 Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed
17 to execute on behalf of the said Conference any and all such additional
18 documents as legal counsel shall recommend to effectuate the above.
19

20 RATIONALE:

21 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus
22 Christ, LITTLE WHITE CHURCH has come to a place of transition and closure
23 as membership and attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed
24 its desire to celebrate its past ministry but to no longer remain in service as
25 LITTLE WHITE CHURCH. The closure has been recommended by the Lake
26 North District Strategy Team, the Lake North District Board on Church Location
27 and Buildings and the District Superintendent.

1 Document: 700.15
2 Name: Discontinuance of Naperville: Korean UMC
3 Author: District Superintendent, Jeffry Bross, Prairie Central District, UMC
4 CCFA Action:
5 Legislative Section:

6
7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the Naperville: Korean UMC located in the City of Naperville,
9 Illinois at the commonly known address of 2403 W. Diehl Road in __
10 Naperville Township of DuPage County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed
11 to Jesus Christ and served its community and the world for having closed on May301,
12 2023 and

13
14 WHEREAS the _____ Naperville: Korean UMC faithfully served
15 the community in the Village of Lisle, IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The*
19 *United Methodist Church 2016*, the Prairie Central District Superintendent has
20 recommended with the approval of the Bishop and unanimous vote of the District
21 Superintendents that the church be discontinued effective May 30, 2023. The Prairie
22 Central District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
23 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the
24 presiding Bishop and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern
25 Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church have consented to the
26 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

27
28 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to
29 the Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said
30 Church, though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church,
31 nevertheless be maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a
32 reincorporation thereof by the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious
33 Corporation Act, with the incumbent Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees
34 of the Discontinued Church under the procedure established by Article VII
35 "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of the By-laws of the Northern
36 Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred
39 to New Church Start Korean Church in Naperville, Illinois, unless any such members
40 shall inform the pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

41
42 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois
43 Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to

1 execute on behalf of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal
2 counsel shall recommend to effectuate the above.

3

4 **RATIONALE:**

5 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
6 **Naperville Korean UMC** has come to a place of transition. The actions of the pastor and
7 leadership has required immediate protection of the church property per par. 2549.3. The
8 presiding bishop, along with the majority of district superintendents and the district
9 board of church location and building all consent and declare exigent circumstances exist
10 that require the immediate closure of the church. Those church members who desire a
11 continued relationship with the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist
12 Church shall worship under a newly appointed elder until such time as a new church
13 might be chartered.

1 **Document: 700.16**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of THORNTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray, Lake South District, UMC**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the THORNTON UMC located in the City of Thornton, Illinois at the
9 **commonly known address** 712 Chicago Road, Thornton IL 60476 in Thornton
10 Township of Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ
11 and served its community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024
12 and

13 WHEREAS the Thornton UMC faithfully served the community in the City of Thornton,
14 IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
16 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
17 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
18 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
19 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
20 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
21 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
22 recommendation to discontinue said church;

23 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
24 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
25 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
26 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
27 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
28 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
29 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
30 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
32 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
33 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
34 known as 712 Chicago Road, Thornton, IL 60476,
35 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
36 United Methodist Church, and
37 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
38 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
39 referred to above

1 pending sale or other disposition; or
2 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
3 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to **First**
6 **UMC** in **Lansing**, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the pastor of the transferee
7 church otherwise; and

8 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
9 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
10 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
11 recommend to effectuate the above.

12 **RATIONALE:**

13 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
14 **Thornton UMC** has come to a place of transition and closure as membership and
15 attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
16 ministry but to no longer remain in service as **Thornton UMC**. The closure has been
17 recommended by the **Lake South** Board on Church Location and Buildings and the District
18 Superintendent.

1 **Document: 702.01**

2 **NAME: Amend the Standing Rules to Create The Joint Board of Pensions, Health Benefits,**
3 **and Equitable Compensation**

4 **Author(s): Beth Swanick (and those listed below)**

5 **CCFA Action:**

6 **Legislative Section:**

7

8 SUBMITTED BY: Conference Board of Pension and Benefits (Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Rev.
9 Brittany Isaac, Rev. Caleb Hong, Lois Long, Rev. Deborah Dangerfield, Rev. Harry Nicol,
10 Kristina Gaughan, Lisa Schilling, Rev. Christina Vosteen, Beth Swanick, Kristina Fisher, Dan
11 VanHaften), and the Equitable Compensation Task Force as created by 2023 Annual Conference
12 Action (Judith Gazaway, Rev. Brittany Isaac, Rev. Dennis Langdon, Rev. Noemi Meza, Karen
13 Newby, Betsy Smith, Rev. Matthew Smith, Beth Swanick, Fe Williams, Rev. Illhan You)

14

15 **ACTION:**

16 **The Equitable Compensation Task Force, partnering with the Conference Board of Pensions**
17 **and Benefits, recommends amending the Standing Rules to add Equitable Compensation**
18 **responsibilities (§625) to the Board of Pensions (§ 639), as the Joint Board of Pensions,**
19 **Health Benefits, and Equitable Compensation.**

20 Membership: 10 persons: an equal number of lay and clergy, one-third laywomen, one-third
21 laymen and one-third clergy, with at least 5 persons representing churches of less than 200
22 members, and one DS recommended by the Cabinet. Each will serve for 8 years, one-half
23 elected each quadrennium. Officers: Elected by the Joint Board members at the start of each
24 program year as needed.

25 **RATIONALE:**

26 The Joint Board of Pensions, Benefits, and Equitable Compensation is responsible for overseeing
27 the pension, and group health/ disability insurance plans (administered through the Conference
28 Finance Office) for the Northern Illinois Conference's clergy members and lay employees, and
29 for recommending conference standards for base clergy compensation, as follows:

30 1: *"Shall have charge of the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief,*
31 *assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the*
32 *institutions, organizations, and agencies within that annual conference of The United Methodist*
33 *Church."* ¶ 639.1.

34 2: *"Support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a)*
35 *recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base*
36 *compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to*
37 *district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage*
38 *policy to be adopted by the annual conference."* ¶ 625.2

39

40 The Joint Board allows one group to examine the total rewards of pastoral compensation,
41 including pension, benefits, and base compensation. This aligns with the structure of the
42 Wisconsin Annual Conference, to facilitate ease of shared Conference Benefits Officer.

1 **Document: 702.02**
2 **Name: Amend Standing Rule Section II B. 3. b.**
3 **Author(s): General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation of the Northern Illinois**
4 **Conference**
5 **CCFA Action:**
6 **Legislation Section Assignment:**

7 **Action:**
8 Amend Standing Rule Section II Annual, General, and Jurisdictional Conference Elections, B.
9 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 3. Reserve delegates, b. as follows:

10
11 Northern Illinois Conference shall bear the expenses for ~~two~~ clergy and ~~two~~ lay reserve
12 delegates for the sessions of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences respectively, **that**
13 ~~unless the expenses are~~ **not** paid by General or Jurisdictional Conference.

14
15 **Rationale:**
16 The delegation works as one team leading up to General Conference: meeting consistently,
17 reading and processing legislation, and brainstorming strategies. We all know General
18 Conference means sitting in session for long hours, staying focused and maintaining a presence
19 of mind for the fast pace at which the conference runs. Having all reserves at General Conference
20 will help in coalition building especially in legislative sections where we do not have NIC
21 delegates, and will open the possibility for all reserves to be seated at General Conference and to
22 gain experience as future General Conference delegates. This further strengthens the NIC
23 delegation, as a whole and helps the seated delegates to pay attention to self-care. sharp, as non
24 voting delegates can take on extra needed tasks and shoulder the burden of coalition building
25 and staying up to date on conversations and legislative amendments.

26
27

1 Document: 702.03

2 Name: Amend Standing Rule Section III Conference Agencies

3 Author(s): Northern Illinois Conference Committee on Nominations

4 Legislation Section Assignment:

5 **Action:**

6 Amend Standing Rule Section III, B. Nominations Procedure as follows:

7
8 3. Except as otherwise directed by The Discipline, when a vacancy occurs in any Conference
9 group:

10 a. Notification of a vacancy will be made to the Conference Committee on Nominations.

11 b. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall fill the vacancies within 60 days of
12 notification.

13 c. The Committee shall consider the office vacant after an attempt to notify by ~~first class~~
14 ~~mail~~ email said member of pending action has been made by the Committee and the
15 member has been given ~~10~~ 15 days to ~~appear before the Committee or to respond by letter~~
16 email to explain his/her/their inactivity.

17 4. Within 60 days after the Annual Conference session, current lists of names, email ~~and~~
18 addresses, and phone numbers of all members of the conference bodies shall be provided to all
19 their chairpersons or conveners by the Conference Secretary.

20
21 Amend Standing Rule Section III, C. Disciplinary Bodies as follows:

22
23 1. Council on Finance and Administration (§ 611-618)

24 Purpose: § 612.1 ~~To develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated~~
25 ~~plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the~~
26 ~~annual conference.~~

27 Membership: § 612.2 and Twenty-one (21) persons with a recommended balance of 7
28 clergy, 7 laymen and 7 laywomen, elected quadrennially.

29 Officers: § 612.3

30
31 3. Board of Pensions (§ 639).

32 Purpose: § 639.1.

33 Membership: § 639.2 and ~~Twenty members~~, at least two members from each district,
34 serving 8-year terms, one-half elected each quadrennium.

35 Officers: § 639.3.

36
37 4. Board of Trustees (§ 640 and 2512)

38 Purpose: § 2512 ~~±~~ 3-8. In addition, The Trustees shall be the custodian of any burial lots
39 belonging to the Conference.

40 Membership: § 2512.1 and ~~Twelve persons. The recommended membership is one third~~
41 ~~clergy, one third laymen, and one third laywomen elected in classes of three to serve four-~~
42 ~~year terms. E~~ each district shall have at least one representative. Within four weeks of the
43 close of each Annual Conference, the ~~District Superintendent~~ Cabinet Representative
44 assigned to the Board shall convene a meeting to elect officers.

45 Officers: § 2512.2.

1 Amend Standing Rule Section III, D. Conference Agencies as follows:

2
3 2. Committee on Nominations

4 Membership: A District Superintendent chosen by the Cabinet; Director of Connectional
5 Ministries; Conference Lay Leader; a representative from each of the following: United
6 ~~Methodist Women in Faith~~, United Methodist Men, Retired Clergy Association, Fellowship
7 of Asian-Americans, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and ~~Lajunta~~ Hispanic/Latinx
8 Ministry Team. An additional sixteen (16) members to be nominated by the Committee on
9 Nominations with a minimum of two from each district, and with care being given to honor
10 diversity relative to gender, ethnicity, and clergy-lay representation, will be organized in the
11 following terms ~~and classes~~:

12 Term: Four-year terms, limited to two full terms.

13 ~~Classes: Four classes with four members each.~~

14 Officers: Chair is nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the Annual
15 Conference for the Quadrennium. The committee shall elect such other officers as it deems
16 necessary from its membership.

17 When a district desires a District Committee on Nominations, it shall be established by its
18 District Council or District Conference.

19
20 3. Annual Conference Committee

21 Purpose: To make arrangements for the regular Annual, Special or Adjourned Sessions of the
22 Conference, to plan and arrange the Agenda of the Annual Conference Session in
23 consultation with the Bishop, to budget the expense, arrange the place of holding the
24 Conference, to provide for child care and to enlist such additional persons necessary for the
25 carrying out of the Conference Sessions and to be available to assist the bishop in organizing
26 and facilitating worship at the Annual Conference Sessions.

27 Membership: Twenty-four persons to serve terms of four years. It is recommended that 1/3
28 shall be clergy, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 laywomen. Ex Officio Members: The Bishop, District
29 Superintendents, Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, Conference
30 Secretary; Chairs or their representatives of the Boards of Church and Society, Discipleship
31 and Global Ministries, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships,
32 ~~Committee on Ushers~~, Credentials Committee and Council on Finance and Administration;
33 Presidents of UMM and ~~UMW-UW~~ UMW-UW Faith; and the host pastors for the coming session of the
34 Annual Conference.

35 Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary nominated by the Committee on Nominations and
36 elected by the Conference for the quadrennium. The Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair of Daily
37 Procedure.

38
39 4. Credentials Committee

40 Purpose: Monitor provisions of the equalization formula and be responsible for matters
41 pertaining to certification and seating of Conference members.

42 Membership: ~~Six persons~~, one person for ~~from~~ each district and the Conference Registrar.

43
44 5. ~~United Methodist of Northern Illinois Conference, Inc.~~ Midwest Methodist Foundation

45 Annual meeting: The Bishop chairs and convenes the members of the Conference as
46 members of the corporation to receive reports and proposals, to elect the Board of Directors
47 for the current class and to vacancies in other classes. At the close of the corporation's

1 business, the bishop, by the vote of the Conference, adjourns the corporation meeting and
2 resumes the Conference business.

3 Foundation Sunday: The third Sunday of May each year or another Sunday in May or June
4 that may be selected in the local church, not to take an offering but for the purpose of
5 increasing the awareness of church membership of the Christian stewardship opportunities
6 for one's family and church with a will, trust or life income plan.

7 Officers of the board: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all members of the
8 board; Assistant Treasurer is Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services.

9
10 8. Committee to Implement the Hispanic Plan

11 Membership: Nineteen, including two Hispanic clergy, two Hispanic laity, nine non-
12 Hispanic persons, one representative from ~~La Junta~~ Hispanic/Latinx Ministry Team, one
13 representative from Congregational Development and Redevelopment, Board of Global
14 Ministries and one representative each from the Board of Church and Society, and Higher
15 Education and Campus Ministry, plus a Cabinet representative.

16 Officers: Chair, vice chair and secretary, elected by the committee.

17
18 11. Shepherding Teams, II Annual Conference Shepherding Team, c Membership, ii Selection of
19 Members, 4 Designates, a

20 1. Vital Congregations Ministries (5 4 Constituent Groups)

- 21 • Committee of Accessibility Ministries
- 22 • Congregational Development and Redevelopment (Code Red)
- 23 • ~~Spiritual Formation Work Area~~
- 24 • Keagy Town & Rural Ministry
- 25 • Latinx/Hispanic Ministry Team

26
27
28 **Rationale:**

29 Update the Standing Rules to identify direction from the Book of Discipline of the United
30 Methodist Church, highlight where the Standing Rules are additive, and align with Northern
31 Illinois Conference practice. Additionally, there are a several editorial changes to update group
32 names and eliminate the duplication of Spiritual Formation. The full text of the Standing Rules
33 may be found beginning on page 255 of the 2023 Journal. An electronic copy of the 2023 Journal
34 may be found on the Northern Illinois Conference website under Communications, Journal.

1 **Document: 703.01**
2 **Name: Housing Covenant Policy 2024**
3 **Author(s): Nancy Blade**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **Action:**

8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the following housing covenant be approved as a document to be used
9 annually by each church of the Northern Illinois Conference.

10 **Rationale:**

11 The previous Housing Covenant in the policy section of the Journal of the Northern Illinois
12 Conference was approved June 7, 1999. In the last 25 years much has changed in the way we
13 maintain households. This document was edited by the Cabinet and the Trustee Board. It will
14 replace the current policy 703-02 on page 200 of the 2023 Journal.

15

16 HOUSING COVENANT BETWEEN PASTOR _____ AND
17 _____ UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS
18 CONFERENCE

19 The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is the advocate for the parsonage family, and it is their
20 responsibility to see that this covenant is followed. The Board of Trustees has responsibility for
21 the upkeep and general maintenance of the property, and it is responsible for its renovations
22 and good maintenance.

23 A parsonage is a dwelling place provided by the church for the use and occupancy of the
24 pastors of the United Methodist Church who may be entitled to occupy the same by
25 appointment every year. The justification of this option is that it is the backbone of our
26 denomination's appointment system. The parsonage is to be mutually respected by the
27 ministerial family as the property of the church and by the congregation as the private home of
28 the ministerial family therefore, church items should not be stored in the parsonage home.

29 The property is on loan. The pastor and family are entrusted with the care of the home for the
30 duration of the pastoral appointment. To be less than Christian stewards of this "trust"
31 decreases the effectiveness of the Christian ministry. Any damage done by pets and personal
32 equipment or tools, is considered more than normal wear. The pastor will be financially
33 responsible for professional cleaning and repair. All parsonages are non-smoking and
34 parsonages with smoke damage will also cause the pastor to be financially responsible for
35 cleaning and repainting. Good housekeeping is the responsibility of the pastor, including
36 changing filters and allowing access to service persons.

37 If there is no parsonage a housing allowance should be given to the pastor in lieu of providing a
38 home and utility support. If there is a parsonage and the pastor chooses to keep their own home
39 and has the approval of the church and the cabinet, the church shall not supply a housing

1 allowance for the upkeep of their home. If there are extenuating circumstances, the pastor can
2 work with the cabinet. (See Standing Rule IV-E -4 of the Conference Journal and Yearbook.)

3 It is the responsibility of the Trustees to keep a record of the parsonage and its equipment. It
4 should include such things as a history of the parsonage, decorating and renovation dates,
5 electrical circuits, guarantees, date and place of purchases, repairs, upgrading, and whom to call
6 for service. It is the responsibility of both the pastor and the trustees to keep these records
7 updated.

8 Before emergencies occur, it is essential that the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, the Trustees,
9 and the pastor agree on who is to act when major problems happen. When authority is granted,
10 the responsible party can act. Therefore, the following guidelines are to be used: Emergencies
11 that need to be dealt with on an immediate basis should be handled according to the repair
12 service list already approved by the Trustees. Non-emergency items of concern and repair
13 should be brought for consideration or action to the Trustees at a regular or special meeting.

14 The parsonage is to be inspected annually and at the change of pastors to ascertain what items
15 of routine maintenance and decorating need attention. The parsonage committee or trustees
16 should plan and work to see that reasonable amount (approximately 1-2% of the home value)
17 are included in each annual budget to attend to these matters. An Annual Local Church
18 Parsonage Report is to be made every year at the charge conference and submitted to the
19 district superintendent.

20 The Trustees are responsible for insurance on the basic parsonage structure and church owned
21 contents for fire, earthquake, accident, weather conditions, flood, and other external causes. The
22 pastor shall maintain a renter's insurance policy for personal liability, property liability,
23 personal property, theft and other actions consistent with the form of insurance.

24 It is strongly encouraged for the parish to investigate ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the
25 home, such as solar panels or removing natural gas appliances to electric. The Trustees will
26 work closely with the pastor to install and maintain the new technology.

27 The following chart shows the standard parsonage equipment which churches are expected to
28 furnish Pastor may waive items to be furnished by initialing those. In addition, a time schedule
29 will be agreed upon as to when the items will be completed. This agreement is expected to be
30 renewed every year.

31

Have	Not Have	Items	Pastor's Waiver	Timeline to be accomplished
		Stove, electric or induction		
		Electric refrigerator with freezer		
		Hot water heater, electric or tankless		

		Microwave		
		Automatic dishwasher		
		Hardwood or laminate floors for all the rooms of the house.		
		Window shades or blinds for all rooms		
		Water softener, where hardness of water indicates		
		Kitchen with ample cabinets, counter space, good lighting, durable floor covering and place for family to eat.		
		Adequate electrical wiring for modern appliances to current applicable code with appropriate grounding		
		Garbage disposal (except with septic systems)		
		Central Air Conditioner		
		Dehumidifiers, central or units in basement		
		Sufficient insulation/storm doors/windows to insure home warmth and efficiency from heating and AC system		
		Lawn mower, snow blower, Yard tools, water hose or a lawn and snow removal service		
		Garbage, recyclable, and compost containers appropriate for area		
		Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to code		
		Fire extinguisher on each level & garage		

		Exhaust/ventilation system for bathrooms and kitchen		
		GCI outlets near sinks in Kitchen & Baths		
		High speed internet		
		Automatic High efficiency washer and electric dryer		
		Sump pump, ejector pump, check valve		
		Radon pump (if required by county)		
		Garage, double desirable, with ample space for lawn and garden equipment.		
		Automatic door opener for garage		
		Mailbox separate from church & package delivery address		

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15

We have read the above and agree to the conditions set forth in this covenant.

Signed by the Chair of Trustees, Date

Signed by Staff/Parish Relations Committee Chair, Date

Signed by the Pastor, Date