

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 connexional 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: 700.12**
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.