

## IX. PETITIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### NOTES:

The petitions to the 2015 session are printed here in the form in which they were approved. They are not in every case identical to the form in which they were originally submitted. In the interest of clarity and economy, the texts of petitions which were not adopted or referred by the conference are not printed.

Whenever the text of a petition is printed elsewhere in the journal, as in the case of proposals from the agencies of the conference, the reader will be referred to the appropriate section. Record of action is recorded in the Daily Minutes , Section IV.D., page 150.

- PETITION 1** Subject: **2016 Conference Funds and Financial Policies and Budget**  
**Submitted by:** Laurie S. Guy, President on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration  
**Text:** See the proposal and conference budget in the report found in Section VIII.A, page 223.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted Petition
- PETITION 2, Part a** Subject: **Pension/Health Benefit Programs and Policies**  
**Submitted by:** M. Lynne Gilbert, President on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
**Text:** See the proposals in the report found in Section VIII.L, Page 265.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 2, Part b** Subject: **Pension/Health Benefit Programs and Policies**  
**Submitted by:** M. Lynne Gilbert, President on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
**Text:** See the proposals in the report found in Section VIII.L, page 268.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 3** Subject: **Camp and Retreat Ministries Boards of Trustees**  
**Submitted by:** Carroll B. Harris, WNCC Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries  
**Text:** See the proposals in the report found in Section VIII.B.5, page 233.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 4** Subject: **Advance Specials for 2015-2016**  
**Submitted by:** Jaylynn Byassee, WNCC Director of Mission Pathways  
**Text:** See the proposal in the report found in Section VIII.B.6, page 236.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 5** Subject: **Central Congo Partnership UMC Missions**  
**Submitted by:** David Miner, Pastor, Clover Hill-Mt. Moriah-New Home  
**Text:** See the proposal in the report found in Section VIII.B.6.a, page 240.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 6** Subject: **Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation**  
**Submitted by:** Roy J. Helm, Jr., President and Rev. Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors  
on behalf of the Board of Directors.  
**Text:** See the nomination of directors in the report found in Section VIII.B.6.i, page 244.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 7** Subject: **Brevard College Trustees**  
**Submitted by:** Board of Trustees, Brevard College  
**Text:** See the nominations found in Section VIII.D, page 250.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 8** Subject: **Duke University Trustees**  
**Submitted by:** Richard V. Riddell, Vice President and University Secretary, Duke University  
**Text:** See the nominations found in Section VIII.D, page 250.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 9** Subject: **High Point University Trustees**  
**Submitted by:** Nido R. Qubein, President and the Board of Trustees, High Point University  
**Text:** See the nominations found in Section VIII.D, page 250.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 10** Subject: **Campus Ministry Boards**  
**Submitted by:** Ben Carson, Chairperson Council on Campus Ministries and each individual board.  
**Text:** See the nominations for each campus ministry board found in the report found in Section VIII.E, page 251.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 11** Subject: **Board of Directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.**  
**Submitted by:** Suzanne Hodge Pugh, President and CEO and William K. Springs, Chairperson, Board of Directors  
**Text:** See the nomination of directors found in Section VIII.F.1, page 252.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition

- PETITION 12** Subject: **Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.**  
**Submitted by:** W. David Piner, President and CEO and Victoria P. Hunt, Chairperson, Board of Directors  
**Text:** See the nomination of directors found in Section VIII.F.2, page 253.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition.
- PETITION 13** Subject: **The Children's Home Trustees**  
**Submitted by:** Jenny Taylor, Interim CEO  
**Text:** See the nomination of trustees found in Section VIII.F.3., page 255.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition. Reference Section IV.D., page 158.
- PETITION 14** Subject: **Givens Board of Directors**  
**Submitted by:** Kenneth M. Partin, President and Chief Executive Officer  
**Text:** See the nomination of directors found in Section VIII.F.4, Page 256.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 15** Subject: **Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc.**  
**Submitted by:** Marilyn Garner, President  
**Text:** See the nomination of trustees found in Section VIII.F.5, page 257.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 16** Subject: **Board of Directors of Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services**  
**Submitted by:** Chris Westmoreland, Chairperson and John V. Arey, Jr., Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Directors  
**Text:** See the nomination of the board found in Section VIII.F.6, page 258.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 17** Subject: **Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center Board of Directors**  
**Submitted by:** Gary L. Kling Executive Director  
**Text:** See the proposals in the report found in Section VIII.F.8, page 259.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 18** Subject: **Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines**  
**Submitted by:** Sara M. Williams, Chairperson, on behalf of the Commission on Equitable Compensation  
**Text:** See the proposals in the report found in Section VIII.T, page 276.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 19** Subject: **Trustee of Cole Foundation**  
**Submitted by:** James C. Windham, Jr., Chairperson on behalf of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation  
**Text:** See the nomination of the trustee found in Section VIII.X, page 277.  
**Conference Action:** Adopted petition
- PETITION 20** Subject: **Save ONE HIV and AIDS**  
**Submitted by:** Sarah Kalish, Pastor, Cokesbury (Charlotte); and the WNCJ Justice and Reconciliation Team  
**Text:**

*Whereas*, the Global Health Initiative is one of four major focus area of The United Methodist Church which aims to combat diseases of poverty around the world; and

*Whereas*, HIV and AIDS is one of the three primary poverty-related diseases in our world and the one that takes more lives each year than any other infectious disease; and

*Whereas*, 35 million people now live with HIV and AIDS and more than 15 million children have been orphaned because of HIV and AIDS; and

*Whereas*, The United Methodist Church in 2004 established the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund as an UMCOR Advance Special (#982345) to mobilize resources to support church-oriented and Christ-centered HIV and AIDS ministries around the world through its unique connectional system; and

*Whereas*, the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) has supported more than 200 projects in 38 countries that have cared for AIDS orphans, educated and empowered young people to prevent new infections, and helped alleviate the suffering of those living with HIV and AIDS; and

*Whereas*, the UMGAF has launched the "Just Save One" initiative which is an effort to eradicate the transmission of HIV from Mother-to-Child; and

*Whereas*, in order to continue this important work, annual conferences and local churches must educate their congregations about the UMGAF, invite individual United Methodists to support the fund and explore ways each person can "Just Save One."

*Resolved*, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference will:

1. Capitalize on the secular observance of World AIDS Day as a means of highlighting the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund in December 2015;
2. Join other annual conferences in using the theme "Just Save One" to emphasize how individuals can make a difference through education on how we can prevent the spread of HIV and how to care for those living with HIV and AIDS.
3. Encourage United Methodists throughout the conference to contribute to the UMGAF (Advance #982345) in December 2015.
4. Urge local congregations to support the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund and send those funds to the conference treasurer, 25% of which will be available to the conference for domestic HIV and AIDS projects;

5. Remind our congregations of the biblical mandate to “care for the widow and the orphan” and how Jesus “went about all the cities and villages ... curing every disease and every sickness” (Matthew 9:35) and instructing his disciples also “to cure every disease and every sickness” (Matthew 10:1) without condition or qualification;
6. Authorize the Justice and Reconciliation Team to provide materials, flyers, and bulletins promoting “Just Save One” and educating members of the annual conference about ways that stigma and discrimination against persons infected and affected by HIV and AIDS can perpetuate personal and social injustice and hinder HIV and AIDS prevention and care efforts;
7. Further authorize the Justice and Reconciliation Team to determine how the 25% of funds raised for UMGAF that stay in the conference should be used to advance HIV and AIDS prevention and care locally; and
8. Invite Bishop Goodpaster to distribute a pastoral letter describing the church’s response to the global HIV and AIDS epidemic.

**Conference Action:** Adopted petition June 19, 2015

**PETITION 21** Subject: **Promote Healthy Conversations**

**Submitted by:** Ravina Towe, Oakley (Asheville) Marcia F. Longknight, Central (Asheville)  
 Richard LeDuc, Central (Asheville) Sharon LeDuc, Central and Haywood St. Congregation (Asheville)  
 Sandi Rice, Oakley (Asheville) Stephen M. Noblitt, Central and Haywood St. Congregation (Asheville)  
 Pamela McNally, Weaverville UMC Rev. Wiley B. Cooper, Central (Asheville)  
 Darren Lackey, Central (Asheville) McKencie C. Dillingham, Weaverville UMC  
 Pat Horton, Central (Asheville) Rev. Rick Schilling, Oakley (Asheville)  
 John Mild, Central (Asheville) Suzanne Schilling, Oakley (Asheville)  
 Carlene Wood, Oakley (Asheville) Mary Z. Longknight, Central (Asheville)  
 LeGrand Smith, Biltmore (Asheville) Ronald J. Ballard, Central (Asheville)  
 Jayne S. Smith, Biltmore (Asheville) Douglas Wingeier, First (Waynesville)  
 Maxine Huggins, Matthews UMC Esther Megill, Biltmore (Asheville)  
 Leigh Noblitt, Central (Asheville) Majorie C. Ruegger, Central (Asheville)  
 Elaine M. Dye, Weaverville UMC Linda C. McCracken, Weaverville UMC  
 Mary M. Shaw, Weaverville UMC Carol Wingeier, First (Waynesville)  
 Emily L. Cooper, Central (Asheville) Karen Ballard, Central (Asheville)

**Text:**

*Whereas*, in the fall of 2014, Bishop Goodpaster initiated local gatherings in all districts inviting clergy and laity to discuss controversial issues in general, and human sexuality and same gender relationships in particular, for United Methodists to move beyond decades of controversy and impasse;

*Whereas*, Jesus’ teaching calls people of God to embody the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and to extend Christ’s hospitality to all persons. Amid a climate of controversy, the usual legislative process stifles honest discussion and mutual understanding. To faithfully exemplify Christ’s community of unity in diversity, alternatives for healthy conversations are needed.

*Resolved*, that under the Bishop’s guidance, the Vision Alignment Team with the Justice and Reconciliation Team, shall collaborate to develop plans that lead, model, resource, and cultivate holy conferencing and congregation round table study and conversations for the full participation of all. These actions, shall be implemented between Annual Conferences to promote discernment in local and conference settings in the Wesleyan tradition, merging the relevant Biblical and *The Book of Discipline* texts, theology, and practices. The resulting actions and recommendations shall be reported to the 2016 Annual Conference.

**Conference Action:** Adopted petition June 19, 2015

**PETITION 22** Subject: **Parsonage Home Inspections for Pastoral Transitions**

**Submitted by:** Jeremy Troxler, Pastor, Spruce Pine UMC  
 James C. Parsons, Pastor, Indian Trail UMC  
 Town and Country Team of the Western NC Conference

**Text:**

*Whereas*, the practice of itinerancy is a core component of the United Methodist heritage;

*Whereas*, both congregations and clergypersons live in connection and covenant with one another;

*Whereas*, the issue of needed parsonage repairs and improvements is often a source of anxiety and stress for moving clergy families;

*Whereas*, standards of “adequate housing” often vary from place to place and person to person;

*Whereas*, the heavy responsibilities placed upon District Superintendents keep them from being able to fully attend to the state of all of the parsonages within their districts;

*Whereas*, miscommunication and differing expectations regarding pastoral housing can produce tension between the clergyperson and congregation in the first days of a new pastorate and detract from the church’s mission;

*Whereas*, the North Carolina “Home Inspector Licensure Act” provides for the licensing and regulation of home inspectors through the North Carolina Department of Insurance;

*Whereas*, it is standard practice for licensed home inspectors to be employed in the selling or buying of a home to provide a written evaluation of heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical, structural, foundation, roof, masonry, exterior, interior, or other related housing components;

*Whereas*, the employment of a licensed home inspector would allow for an unbiased assessment of needed repairs upon a particular parsonage;

*Whereas*, the sharing of the licensed home inspector's report with the church, district, and pastoral leaders involved would facilitate communication and accountability;

*Whereas*, the sharing of such an evaluation 30 days prior to Moving Day would allow time for needed repairs to be made before the pastoral transition;

*Whereas*, the average cost of such a licensed home inspection (approximately \$250-\$300, according to the NC Licensed Home Inspector Association, and varying with location) would be worth the investment involved.

*Resolved*, beginning in calendar year 2016, the Western North Carolina Conference will require that a church/charge undergoing a pastoral transition shall arrange and pay to have its parsonage inspected by a third-party licensed home inspector prior to the pastoral transition, and the church/charge shall provide a copy of the home inspector's evaluation report to the Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the Chairperson of the Parsonage Committee, the District Superintendent, the Chair of the District Committee on Location and Buildings, the outgoing pastor, and the incoming pastor by no later than 30 days prior to moving day.

*Resolved*, a parsonage which has been newly constructed within the past four years or which has received a licensed home inspection within the past four years will be exempt from the above requirement.

**Conference Action:** Adopted petition June 19, 2015

**PETITION 23** Subject: **Removal of Language Found in ¶ 161 in the *Book of Discipline***

**Submitted by:** Richard LeDuc, Central (Asheville) Sharon LeDuc, Central and Haywood St. Congregation (Asheville)  
 Esther Megill, Biltmore (Asheville) Marcia F. Longknight, Central (Asheville)  
 Elaine M. Dye, Weaverville UMC Stephen M. Noblitt, Central and Haywood St. Congregation (Asheville)  
 Carol Wingeier, First (Waynesville) Dave Holland, Central and Haywood St. Congregation (Asheville)  
 Jody Halstead, Central (Asheville) McKencie C. Dillingham, Weaverville UMC  
 Mary M. Shaw, Weaverville UMC Rev. Wiley B. Cooper, Central (Asheville)  
 Suzanne Brown, Central (Asheville) Daryl Trolan, Covenant Community (Asheville)  
 Stephen Brown, Central (Asheville) Tom Hayes Brown, Jr., Central (Asheville)  
 Pamela McNally, Weaverville UMC Majorie C. Ruegger, Central (Asheville)  
 Pat Horton, Central (Asheville) Darren Lackey, Central (Asheville)  
 John Mild, Central (Asheville) Linda C. McCracken, Weaverville UMC  
 Sandi Rice, Oakley (Asheville) Carlene Wood, Oakley (Asheville)  
 Rev. Rick Schilling, Oakley (Asheville) Suzanne Schilling, Oakley (Asheville)  
 Jayne S. Smith, Biltmore (Asheville) LeGrand Smith, Biltmore (Asheville)  
 Maxine Huggins, Matthews UMC Mary Z. Longknight, Central (Asheville)  
 Leigh Noblitt, Central (Asheville) Douglas Wingeier, First (Waynesville)  
 Emily L. Cooper, Central (Asheville) Ronald J. Ballard, Central (Asheville)  
 Karen Ballard, Central (Asheville) Amy Leachman, Central (Asheville)  
 Lesli Hollowell, Central (Asheville) David Hollowell, Central (Asheville)  
 Ravina Towe, Oakley (Asheville)

**Text:** 2015 Program and Reports, Page 107

**Conference Action:** Petition not adopted June 19, 2015

