

172ND SESSION OF THE
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2020



**Recommendations, Resolutions, and Petitions
August 18, 2020**

Item #	Title	Pages
1	2021 Budget Recommendation	2-3
2		
3A	Recommendation for the Closure of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Bakersfield, CA	4-5
3B	Recommendation for the Closure of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Berkeley, CA	6-7
3C	Recommendation for the Disaffiliation of the Coulterville Community United Methodist Church in Coulterville, CA	8-9
4	Recommendation for 2020 'Past-Service' (Pre-1982 Service) Pension Rate	10
5	Recommendation for 2020 Retired Clergy Rental Housing Exclusion	11-12
6	Recommendation for 2021 Minimum Salary	13
20	Resolution for Stopping the Mad March to Nuclear Disaster	14-15
21	Resolution in Support of The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	16-17
22	Resolution on Dismantling Racism and Ending Criminalization of Children and Youth	18-20

2021 Budget Recommendation

Item 1

Submitted by: Council on Finance and Administration

Number of Members: 14

Members present when voting: 13

Members voting for: 13

Members voting against: 0

Members abstaining: 0

Date adopted: July 29, 2020

Contact person: Diane Knudsen, Executive Director of Finance and Administration (dianek@calnevumc.org)

	2019 Actual Spending	2020 Tithe Budget	Funding from Other Sources		2020 Budgeted Spending	2021 Tithe Budget	Funding from Other Sources		2021 Budgeted Spending
1 Leadership Development Mission Focus Area	\$ 78,516	\$ 54,963	\$ 84,037	ABCK	\$ 139,000	\$ 54,963	\$ 41,000	A	\$ 95,963
2 Congregational Development Mission Focus Area	481,420	68,500	614,335	DEF	682,835	68,500	906,000	DEF	974,500
3 Compassion and Justice Mission Focus Area	27,379	44,000	600,000	G	644,000	34,500	50,000	G	94,000
4 Partners in Ministry Focus Area	7,118	11,000	-		11,000	11,000	-		11,000
5 Core Team	2,803	4,500	-		4,500	12,500	-		3,000
6 Total: Core Team and Mission Focus Areas **	\$ 597,236	\$ 182,963	\$ 1,298,372		\$ 1,481,335	\$ 181,463	\$ 997,000		\$ 1,178,463
7 Staff: Connectional Ministries	1,032,885	920,693	337,521	DG	1,258,214	865,423	286,323	DG	1,151,746
8 Staff: District Superintendency	1,074,285	1,005,152	192,000	IJ	1,164,223	1,001,191	106,000	IJ	1,107,191
9 Staff: Finance & Administration	528,395	568,444	-		568,444	520,555	-		520,555
10 Staff: Professional Expense	195,013	238,217	48,201	DG	286,418	225,282	33,201	DG	258,483
11 Total: Conference Staff *	\$ 2,830,578	\$ 2,732,506	\$ 577,722		\$ 3,277,299	\$ 2,612,452	\$ 425,524		\$ 3,037,976
12 Episcopal Office	40,000	40,000	-		40,000	40,000	-		40,000
13 Episcopacy Committee	226	2,500	-		2,500	2,500	-		2,500
14 Total: Episcopacy	\$ 40,226	\$ 42,500	-		\$ 42,500	\$ 42,500	-		\$ 42,500
15 Board of Ordained Ministry	65,019	51,600	30,320	H	81,920	51,600	50,600	H	102,200
16 Equitable Compensation Commission	245,297	275,000	-		275,000	275,000	-		275,000
17 Circuit Leader Travel	10,620	-	10,000	L	285,000	-	10,000	L	10,000
18 Clergy Moving Expenses	107,036	120,000	-		120,000	120,000	-		120,000
19 Investigation and Judicial Process	333	5,000	-		5,000	5,000	-		5,000
20 Total: Clergy Support	\$ 428,305	\$ 451,600	\$ 40,320		\$ 766,920	\$ 451,600	\$ 60,600		\$ 512,200
21 CFA	3,382	2,500	-		2,500	2,500	-		2,500
22 Insurance	140,247	87,540	47,460	N	135,000	155,000	-		155,000
23 Legal	16,833	20,000	200,000	M	220,000	20,000	-		20,000
24 Audit	23,700	25,000	-		25,000	25,000	-		25,000
25 Office Costs	137,936	160,000	-		160,000	158,000	-		158,000
26 Facilities	175,000	125,000	20,000	J	145,000	125,000	-		125,000
27 HR Team	10,494	5,000	-		5,000	5,000	-		5,000
28 Communications Non-Staff Expenses	49,006	35,000	-		35,000	35,000	-		35,000
29 Total: Administrative	\$ 556,598	\$ 460,040	\$ 267,460		\$ 727,500	\$ 525,500	-		\$ 525,500

2021 Budget Recommendation

	2019 Actual Spending	2020 Tithe Budget	Funding from Other Sources	2020 Budgeted Spending	2021 Tithe Budget	Funding from Other Sources	2021 Budgeted Spending
30 Annual Conference Session	89,436	110,000	-	110,000	110,000	-	110,000
31 Conference Secretary and Journal	4,668	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
32 Archives and History	563	500	-	500	500	-	500
33 General and Jurisdictional Conference Costs	12,000	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
34 General and Jurisdictional Apportionments	2,107,076	2,015,891	-	2,015,891	2,071,985	-	2,071,985
35 Total: Connectional	\$ 2,213,743	\$ 2,130,391	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,145,391	\$ 2,186,485	-	\$ 2,186,485
36 Total Budget	\$ 6,666,686	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 2,198,874	\$ 8,440,945	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 1,483,124	\$ 7,483,124

* Executive Directors and District Superintendents earn the same salary. Total Compensation varies because of differences in housing or healthcare costs.

** The Conference Core Team has disciplinary authority to adjust the budget of the Mission Focus Areas and their committees, staying within the total budget amount on line 6.

	2020 Funding from Other Sources	2021 Funding from Other Sources
A Registrations, Fees, or Donations	45,320	A 41,000
B Registration Income, Youth Service Fund, FX West Fund, Confirmation Fund	10,537	B -
C Camp Operating Fund, Fijian Camp and Scholarship Fund	35,000	C -
D New Church Development Fund and/or District Union Funds	329,335	D 840,681
E Ethnic-Minority Congregations Fund	72,000	E 25,000
F Hispanic Ministries Endowment Fund (5% Distribution Policy)	213,000	F 226,000
G Conference Disaster Relief Fund and/or UMCOR Grant	231,387	G 183,843
H Various Including Ministerial Education Fund	754,335	H 50,600
I Trustees: District Parsonage Fund	100,000	I 60,000
J GCFA Grants for Episcopal Office	112,000	J 46,000
K Core Team Reserve	23,500	K -
L District Funds	10,000	L 10,000
M Trustees: Hamilton SF Parsonage Fund	200,000	M -
N Earnings from Unit Insurance Fund	47,460	N -
O Reserve for the Delegation	15,000	O -
Total Funding from Other Sources	\$ 2,198,874	\$ 1,483,124

Item 3A

**Recommendation for the Closure of the Trinity United Methodist Church
in Bakersfield, CA**

Submitted by Bakersfield, Trinity United Methodist Church Charge Conference

Number of Members: 15 Members present when voting: 15

Members voting for: 15 Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: March 8, 2020

Contact person: William Blair, Church Council Chairperson

Approved by: The Appointive Cabinet

Number of Members: 6 Members present when voting: 6

Members voting for: 6 Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: April 14, 2020

Contact person: Debra Brady, Central Valley District Superintendent debrab@calnevumc.org

Fiscal Impact: There is no projected net expense to the Annual Conference. The Conference Board of Trustees will be reimbursed from the proceeds of sale for expenses related to building security and repairs.
Parliamentary Procedure

Recommendation:

1 Be it resolved as follows that:

2 1. In accordance with the provision of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) ¶2549.2, the Trinity United
3 Methodist Church in Bakersfield, CA be closed effective April 30, 2020, and the title to all the real
4 and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the
5 Annual Conference Board of Trustees.

6 2. The net proceeds of sale will be distributed according to Standing Rule IX.E.

7 3. The remaining Trinity United Methodist Church membership and all membership records shall be
8 transferred to the Bakersfield Wesley United Methodist Church.

9 4. All relevant, current, and historic records of the congregation shall be deposited with the Bakersfield
10 Wesley United Methodist Church in consultation with the Conference Commission on Archives and
11 History.

Background:

The Trinity United Methodist Church of Bakersfield, CA was organized in 1893. It was originally established as Chesbro Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. Over the years Trinity has had at least six names and has been located in four cities, yet has never left the corner of Niles and King Streets. The Church was condemned after the earthquake in 1952 and was remodeled and retrofitted at that time. Looking at old member rolls of Trinity, one can recognize many important names to our community.

In 2002 the Bethany and Trinity United Methodist Churches merged, beginning a new bilingual ministry to the quickly growing Hispanic population in this area. Pastor Mario Betancourt worked with the Hispanic Service. In October of 2004, Pastor Gabriela Perla became an Associate Pastor and took over the Hispanic Service. In 2009, Pastor Perla became the solo pastor for Trinity.

The congregation celebrated with two worship services for several years – one in English and one in Spanish. After some discernment about mission strategy, in 2016 the congregation decided to combine the

services and use a bi-lingual approach. Even though the decision was widely discussed and unanimously supported, the strategy resulted in significant decline in worship attendance.

In September 2019, the Leadership team decided to refocus on Hispanic-Latino ministry and worship was conducted only in Spanish. Few remaining worshippers spoke English but remained committed to support the mission strategy of the congregation.

Even with trying many ways to reach out and grow, the congregation has dwindled down to an insufficient number to maintain the viability of the church.

The following steps were taken in the discernment and approval process:

1. In February of 2018, Central Valley District Superintendent Debra Brady called for a ¶213 task force to be formed to study the future ministry possibilities for Trinity. The ¶213 task force recommended that the congregation remain in the same location as it was viable for UMC ministry and to develop a working partnership with “Mansion of Life”, an ecumenical outreach ministry to reach people with the saving grace Jesus Christ. This partnership tried very hard but could not accomplish their shared goals.
2. In December 2018, the charge conference voted to sell their church buildings (retaining the parsonage) in order to find property in East Bakersfield that could be managed within the financial budget of the congregation. The property was placed on the market in March 2019. In addition, the congregation voted to seek a shared-space covenant with Wesley UMC during the interim strategy. The District Board of Church Location and Building approved the plan. Leadership groups of the Trinity and Wesley congregations completed the study over several weeks and developed a shared-space covenant. However, the Trinity UMC leadership realized that they could not implement the agreement until their property had sold. The property would be vulnerable to vandalism without a worship congregation present and the congregation could not afford to maintain the property and enter a covenant with Wesley UMC.
3. After 9 months on the market, no offers had been received for the Trinity UMC property. In addition, the congregation continued to decline in worship attendance and financial sustainability. The Leadership of Trinity contacted District Superintendent Debra Brady on February 10, 2020 to inform her of their decision to close Trinity and asked for a Special Charge Conference.
4. The Charge Conference was held on March 8, 2020 with District Superintendent Debra Brady presiding. The Charge voted unanimously to close Trinity UMC on June 30, 2020 and sell the parsonage in addition to the church buildings (previously approved). The final worship service was scheduled for June 7, 2020 with District Superintendent Debra Brady presiding.
5. The Central Valley District Board of Church Location and Building approved the modified plan for Trinity UMC including the sale of the parsonage and notified the Trinity UMC leaders of their decision on March 31, 2020.
6. The “Shelter in Place” (SIP) protocol associated with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the financial fragility of the congregation and vandalism of the property became untenable to manage. On April 5, 2020, the Pastor and Leadership team requested that the closure date be moved up to April 30, 2020 and that the Conference Board of Trustees assume responsibility for the property on May 1, 2020. The date for a final service will be determined after the SIP protocol has ended.

Recommendation for the Closure of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Berkeley, CA

Submitted by: The Appointive Cabinet

Number of Members: 6

Members present when voting: 6

Members voting for: 6

Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: March 6, 2020

Contact person: Staci Current, Bay District Superintendent stacic@calnevumc.org

Fiscal Impact: There is no projected net expense to the Annual Conference.

Parliamentary Procedure

Recommendation:

1 Be it resolved as follows that:

- 2 1. In accordance with the provision of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) ¶2549.3.b), the Trinity United
3 Methodist Church in Berkeley, CA be closed effective March 6, 2020, and the title to all the real and
4 personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall immediately vest in the Annual
5 Conference Board of Trustees.
- 6 2. The remaining Trinity United Methodist Church membership and all membership records shall be
7 transferred to Epworth United Methodist Church or Lake Merritt United Methodist Church as
8 designated by the individual member's request.
- 9 3. All relevant, current, and historic records of the congregation shall be in the care of the Conference
10 Board of Trustees in consultation with the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Background:

Trinity United Methodist Church was founded in 1958. The close proximity to University of California at Berkeley fostered Trinity UMC being a meeting space for University students, staff, and the surrounding community to come together. Noted religious scholar and author, Huston Smith was a vibrant member of the church community for many years. Trinity UMC also reached out to the community of Berkeley by hosting the Berkeley Free Clinic in their basement since 1969. The church has also hosted East Bay Sanctuary Covenant and many other groups that provide vital services. The church education building provided space for the District Office as well as a small, private high school for many years. Even as the church campus was such an important part of the fabric of the community, the property was not without its major challenges. The large and beautiful sanctuary had major structural damage and the congregation was forced to relocate to the smaller chapel on site a little over 40 years ago. For the better part of almost four decades, Trinity UMC has explored various means of redeveloping the church campus in an effort to solve the issue of having a huge sanctuary that was unusable and a desire to use the property for its highest and best use for the reign of God. Over the years many plans were explored, all with the vision of ensuring a vibrant United Methodist witness for the UC Berkeley campus and community. In spite of this challenge, the congregation continued to be a presence in the community. In 2008, Montclair United Methodist Church in Oakland, CA sold their building (due to seismic concerns) and merged with Trinity UMC. A small, but highly committed core group of leaders continued to pursue options for redevelopment in hopes of being able to see a new church and new building at the location. Trinity UMC has been in the process of researching, planning, and attempting to enter development/re-development of its campus. There have been several attempts made at developing the property into senior housing, low income housing, fair market value housing, and others. Although many attempts have seemed promising none came to fruition. For a period of time, the Cabinet and Church Building and Locations Committee offered support for pursuing these efforts. However, there were several false starts in which the proposed projects

fell through. This resulted in several years of no real progress alongside Trinity's worship attendance and membership decreasing sharply. This extended period of being focused on the building cost the church greatly in its spiritual life. There was the hope of working on programming and ministry once a new building was built. Unfortunately, the congregation began to decrease in size. From 2004 to 2019 attendance decreased from an average of 76 per Sunday to 26 per Sunday. In the period of 2013-2018, there were zero professions of faith. This represents well over a 60% decline and hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent following these efforts that did not materialize. In Spring of 2019, the Bishop and Extended cabinet met with Trinity church leaders and the appointed pastor at the time. We informed them that the potential development deal they were working on did not have the approval of the Extended Cabinet and they were instructed to not move forward with signing any contracts with the possible developer. This decision was discerned after seeking professional outside expert counsel in church planting and growth and a professional peer review of the potential development deal Trinity was contemplating. The conclusion was two-fold: the current members of Trinity (which had shrunk to roughly 15-20 people in worship) did not have the capacity or DNA to plant a vibrant new church that would be relevant to the UC Berkeley community. Second, the peer review of the development proposal informed us that the development proposal as presented was not in alignment with our missional goals. Since July 2020 many long-standing issues were discovered and it was confirmed that Trinity UMC did not have the capacity to be a fully operational United Methodist Church and even more so, has been negligent in caring for the fundamental responsibilities of being an organized United Methodist Church. There were financial, legal, administrative and property issues that were uncared for and out of compliance thereby exposing the church to significant liability. This resulted in the need for the exigent solution of closing the church and placing the property into the care of the Conference Board of Trustees in order to preserve the property for the future benefit of the United Methodist witness in Berkeley.

A report was made to Bishop Carcaño and the Appointive Cabinet by District Superintendent Staci Current on March 6, 2020. The Cabinet voted unanimously to close Trinity UMC effective immediately on March 6, 2020. The Bay District Board of Church Location and Buildings unanimously supported the action for closure of Trinity UMC at their meeting on March 13, 2020. The Trinity UMC leaders were notified of this decision on March 27, 2020.

**Recommendation for the Disaffiliation of the Coulterville Community United Methodist Church
in Coulterville, CA**

Submitted by: The Appointive Cabinet

Number of Members: 6

Members present when voting: 4

Members voting for: 4

Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: June 25, 2020

Contact person: Debra Brady, Central Valley District Superintendent debrab@calnevumc.org

Fiscal Impact: There is no projected net expense to the Annual Conference.

Parliamentary Procedure

Recommendation:

1 Be it resolved as follows that:

2 1. In accordance with the provision of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) ¶2529.1. b) (3) and ¶2549.2, the
3 Coulterville Community United Methodist Church in Coulterville, CA be closed effective June 30,
4 2020 in support of the request of the members and constituents who wish to disaffiliate from the
5 United Methodist Church and reorganize as an independent community church.

6 2. The title to all the real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the local church shall
7 immediately vest in the Annual Conference Board of Trustees and that the Board will negotiate a
8 sale of the church property to the newly re-organized congregation called Coulterville Community
9 Church.

10 3. The net proceeds of sale will be distributed according to Standing Rule IX.E.

11 4. Any members who wish to remain in the United Methodist Church and all membership records shall
12 be transferred to the Tuolumne Community United Methodist Church in Tuolumne, CA.

13 5. All relevant, current and historic records of the congregation shall be entrusted to the Conference
14 Commission on Archives and History.

Background:

In 1955, Pastor John L. Robie was the first appointed pastor of the newly organized Methodist Church of Coulterville at the intersection of Highway 49 and Highway 132 in the beautiful western foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in Mariposa County. In their first year, the congregation reported 29 members, 6 baptisms and annual pastoral compensation of \$500. Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of California in October 1956. Logging was a key industry in the county and members of the congregation sawed and honed the timber to build their sanctuary. The local Extension Society was a key support system and encouraged other Methodist church in the society to support Coulterville's monthly roast beef fundraising dinners which continued for decades and provided the additional funding to add on an office, kitchen and fellowship hall. Over the years, the area has largely attracted retirees from a variety of professions who yearn to enjoy rural life. The church has prided itself in a robust music ministry. In 2010, the congregation could no longer afford a part-time appointed pastor. Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Stan Skooglund was assigned until his retirement in 2019. The Cabinet was unable to identify another qualified CLM who was willing to serve in this remote location. The Rev. Kevin Campbell (appointed to neighboring parishes in Tuolumne and Soulsbyville) was assigned as their Supervising Elder to provide oversight, develop a preaching schedule utilizing lay speakers from the Gold N' Valley Circuit, and ensure that the sacraments were regularly and properly celebrated. In 2019, the congregation reported 44 members and an average worship attendance of 18.

The following steps were taken in the discernment and approval process:

1. On December 4, 2019, District Superintendent (D.S.) Debra Brady presided at the annual church conference held at the Coulterville church. In addition to the usual matters, the agenda focused on the future mission strategy and viability of the congregation. About half of the attendees, including those proposed for key leadership roles requiring church membership, indicated that they were not members of the church. Many asked questions about the polity and doctrine of the UMC. Many expressed anger and frustration about the various social stances of the California-Nevada conference. D.S. Brady and Supervising Elder Kevin Campbell proposed a series of membership classes to begin in January. Those present seemed enthusiastic.
2. On January 12, 2020, D.S. Debra Brady returned to Coulterville to lead worship and preside at Holy Communion and was prepared to lead the first membership class following worship. Those present declined to participate in the class explaining they had no intention of becoming members. They reiterated concerns expressed at the church conference the previous month, and that they believed their affiliation with the UMC was detrimental to their evangelism strategy in a conservative community, and that they were unwilling to comply with the polity of the UMC.
3. D.S. Brady reported this development to the Cabinet during the appointment audit. In collaboration with the elders in the circuit and the chairperson of the District Board of Church Location and building, D.S. Brady conducted an assessment of mission potential and reported to the Cabinet the team's conclusion that there was not a viable mission opportunity for a UMC congregation in the Coulterville area. The 2010 census reported the population of Coulterville as 200. The neighboring towns of Greeley Hill (7 miles away; population 915) and Don Pedro (20 miles away, population 1077) are already served by several churches.
4. The unfolding coronavirus pandemic interrupted communication with the congregation. On June 3, 2020, D.S. Brady received a letter signed by five people identified as the Coulterville Board of Trustees. The letter announced their prayerful decision to disaffiliate from the Conference and UMC and requested a signature of acknowledgment.
5. D.S. Brady was unable to reach the Chairperson of the Trustees and instead spoke to the Church Council Chairperson. The congregation returned to in-person worship on May 31, 2020 when the California Governor gave permission but without regard for CA-NV conference protocols. D.S. Brady explained the disciplinary process for making such decisions and negotiated a date for a special charge conference. A letter was sent to the congregation announcing a special charge conference for June 28, 2020. D.S. Brady received a reply on June 24, 2020 signed by 16 members of the congregation stating that while she was welcome to attend worship, they refused to participate in a charge conference.
6. On June 25, 2020, the Cabinet reviewed the documentation and communication with the congregation and voted to support the congregation's request for disaffiliation so that the members might work with the Conference Board of Trustees to purchase the property and reorganize as an independent church. D.S. Brady attended worship with the Coulterville Congregation on June 28, 2020 as planned and noted that they had removed "United Methodist" from their signage and bulletin templates although they continue to use the UM Hymnal and order of worship.

Recommendation for 2021 'Past-Service' (Pre-1982 Service) Pension Rate

Submitted by: Conference Board of Pensions

Number of Members: 12

Members present when voting: 11

Members voting for: 11

Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: March 25, 2020

Contact person: Paul Extrum-Fernandez, Executive Officer, Board of Pensions

Fiscal Impact: \$0 from the Conference Budget; \$997,542 from Board of Pensions reserves

Parliamentary Procedure

Recommendation:

- 1 The Board of Pensions recommends that the Minimum Past Service Pension Rate paid for Pre-1982
- 2 service during the year 2021 be set at \$913 per year of service. This represents a 1% increase over the
- 3 2020 rate of \$903 per year of service.

Background:

This Past-Service Pension Rate (PSR) recommendation comes to the Annual Conference every year from the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP), as required by *The Book of Discipline*. It sets the following year's minimum pension amount to be paid (per year of service) to clergy who are already retired, for their years of service in this Conference prior to 1982.

Our Standing Rules (see Division IX. Pension and Benefit Programs C. Parity) encourage parity between all the various pension programs administered by the Conference Board of Pensions. Our present PSR of \$903 is equal to 1.20% of the 2020 CAC of \$75,237. A PSR rate of \$913 in 2021 is equal to 1.17% of the 2021 CAC of \$78,305. The goal is to maintain a 1.20% ratio between the PSR and the CAC. It has been one of the highest UMC pre-82 pension rates in the nation. Also, our retiree health insurance subsidy program provides a significant UMC insurance benefit to retired clergy members of the Conference.

The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) has indicated that our projected unfunded pre-1982 liability was \$2,316,160 on January 1, 2020 and is expected to decrease to \$1,009,060 on January 1, 2021. Our expected payment of \$866,174 (plus \$131,368 for a 1% PSR increase if adopted) will be made on 12/31/2021.

There are no funds in the Conference apportionment budget for this program. This program is currently funded from Board of Pension reserve funds (\$17,317,503 as of 12/31/2019). ¶1506.6 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) reads, in part, "Each annual conference shall develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations..." Additionally, any future liability to either the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) program or the current Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB) pension plan would have a claim against the pension reserve fund.

Recommendation for 2021 Retired Clergy Rental/Housing Exclusion

Submitted by: Conference Board of Pensions

Number of Members: 12

Members present when voting: 11

Members voting for: 11

Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: March 25, 2020

Contact person: Paul Extrum-Fernandez, Executive Officer, Board of Pensions

Fiscal Impact: Provides a housing allowance exclusion for retired and disabled clergy

Parliamentary Procedure

Recommendation:

1 That an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under
 2 *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments
 3 from Wespeth (formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits), during the year 2021 by each
 4 retired or disabled Clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and
 5 hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy person; and

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

Background:

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

Accompanying Notes:

The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person’s

employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Recommendation for 2021 Minimum Salary

Submitted by: Conference Equitable Compensation Commission

Number of Members: 6 Members present when voting: 5

Members voting for: 5 Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: June 16, 2020

Contact Person: Janette Saavedra, Chair (janettesaa@aol.com)

Fiscal Impact:

Parliamentary Procedure

Recommendation:

- 1 Be it Resolved that the minimum salary for full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual
- 2 conference for calendar year 2021 shall be as set forth in Column 2021 below for the clergy's years of
- 3 service. The "Cash Salary" includes all cash salary, social security payments, and any tax deferred annuity
- 4 and discretionary furnishings allowance. The Cash Salary does not include housing costs.

Background:

The Conference Equitable Compensation Commission "shall recommend annually to the conference for its action a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors or those clergy members of the annual conference appointed less than full-time to a local church, subject to such rules and regulations as the conference may adopt." – ¶1625 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016).

At the 2016 Annual Conference Session, the standing rules were amended to provide for use of the Consumer Price Index as a continuing guideline for annual adjustments to the minimum salary structure for the conference. (See Division VI. of the Standing Rules, found on pages 358 ff. of the 2019 Journal.)

Column 2021 sets forth an across-the-board cost-of-living increase for 2021 that is based on the January, 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Western States (CPIUWEST) of 2.9%. This is the same methodology that the Annual Conference Session adopted to compute the minimum salary schedule for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

2021 Minimum Compensation		2019	2020	2021
Cash Salary Basis		\$51,886	\$53,287	\$56,697
CPI-WEST %		3.10%	2.70%	2.90%
Conference Average Compensation (Includes Housing)		\$73,855	\$75,237	\$78,305
Denominational Average Compensation (Includes Housing)		\$71,361	\$72,648	\$74,199
Years of Service	% of Cash Salary Basis			
1 to 5	80%	\$41,509	\$42,630	\$43,866
6	81%	\$42,028	\$43,163	\$44,414
7	82%	\$42,547	\$43,696	\$44,963
8	83%	\$43,066	\$44,228	\$45,511
9	84%	\$43,585	\$44,761	\$46,059
10	85%	\$44,103	\$45,294	\$46,608
11	86%	\$44,622	\$45,827	\$47,156
12	87%	\$45,141	\$46,360	\$47,704
13	88%	\$45,660	\$46,893	\$48,253
14	89%	\$46,179	\$47,426	\$48,801
15+	90%	\$46,698	\$47,959	\$49,349

Resolution for Stopping the Mad March to Nuclear Disaster

Submitted by: John Chamberlin

Number of Members:

Members present when voting:

Members voting for:

Members voting against:

Date adopted: March 30, 2020

Contact person: John Chamberlin easttim@jps.net 510-270-8399

Fiscal Impact: None

Parliamentary Procedure

Resolution:

1 Be it resolved that this year as we observe the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and
 2 Nagasaki, the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges its members,
 3 pastors, local churches, boards and agencies, to use this occasion to raise public awareness of the real
 4 and present danger still posed by nuclear weapons and by this means to turn the imminence of this global
 5 threat into a platform for peacemaking and mission.

6 Be it further resolved that members be made aware of the public policy stance taken by The United
 7 Methodist Church in *The Book of Resolutions* (2016), which in part reads:

8 *“We affirm the prophetic position of our bishops who said in a statement “In Defense of Creation”:*

9 *“We say a clear and unconditional ‘No’ to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons. We*

10 *conclude that nuclear deterrence is a position that cannot receive the church’s blessing.” (p. 639)*

11 Longstanding Council of Bishops statements categorically reject production, testing, stockpiling, and use of
 12 nuclear weapons, and call for their complete elimination.

13 Be it further resolved that our annual conference recommend Daniel Ellsberg’s book, *The Doomsday*
 14 *Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner* (2017) as a resource for study and advocacy.

15 The Rev. Nobuaki (Nobu) Hanaoka, A-bomb survivor and well-known antinuclear activist, is another
 16 invaluable resource.

Background:

The human species finds itself confronted with two approaching threats to survival: nuclear war and catastrophic environmental change. Most people are aware of the threat climate change poses. The danger of nuclear annihilation is even closer at hand, but largely ignored. This prospect wasn’t even discussed in the presidential debates despite the Trump administration’s announcement of a multibillion-dollar plan to “modernize” the nation’s nuclear weapons arsenal. According to Congressional Budget Office estimates, the first 10 years of this program will cost nearly \$500 billion, and over a 30-year span \$1.2 trillion.

At the beginning of this year the dangers of nuclear risk, global warming, and disinformation prompted the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* to reset the Doomsday Clock, moving it forward to 100 seconds to midnight (the symbolic hour of the apocalypse) – the closest it has ever been to human-made global destruction since the clock was introduced in 1947. The need for action is increasingly urgent.

Those who harbor doubts about the dire nature of the current crisis would do well to read Daniel Ellsberg’s book, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner* (2017). An article in *Berkeleyside* online newspaper highlights Ellsberg’s longtime struggle to sound the warning alarm:

“People are living in denial about the possibility of nuclear war. They are living in denial because they are lied to by the government as to what the risks are, and what the scale of destruction would be.”

People are in as much denial about nuclear war as the Republican Party is about man-made climate change...

"What the people of Hawaii discovered with the false alarm [of a nuclear attack] a couple of weeks ago is what has been true for half a century," he said. "A false warning or escalation of a war can end everything in 30 minutes from the time of launch. I was reading that people were ducking into basements and driving fast on freeways to nowhere. None of that would have done them any good."

The chance of us "getting through another century is small, maybe 1 or 2%," Ellsberg warned. While he has no illusions, he hopes his book might double our chances (raising them to a full 4% or so) by bringing activism and attention to this danger.

"We are on the Titanic going at full speed on a very dark night," Ellsberg said, "but we haven't hit the iceberg yet."

The Titanic was not doomed to sink, he explained: as it turns out, many other ships were in those same icy waters on that same dark night. But other captains made different choices regarding the route, and they managed to arrive home safely.

(Daphne White, "Daniel Ellsberg says nuclear winter is a very real possibility, unless we act now," Berkeleyside, 26 January 2018.)

Perhaps we can believe with Theodore Roethke, that "in a dark time, the eye begins to see." The 75th anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki offers an opportunity to awaken people's awareness of the crisis humanity faces. We stand on the brink of self-annihilation. Helping people understand the unjust, immoral, and insane situation our leaders have created will motivate us to take action in defense of humanity and the planet.

Resolution in Support of The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Submitted by: Nobuaki Hanaoka

Number of Members:

Members present when voting:

Members voting for:

Members voting against:

Date adopted: February 1, 2020

Contact person: Nobuaki Hanaoka nobuh@pacbell.net 415-425-3254

Fiscal Impact: None

Parliamentary Procedure

Resolution:

1 Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church instruct the
2 Conference Secretary to communicate on behalf of the California-Nevada Annual Conference our serious
3 concerns about the emerging threat of nuclear disasters to President Donald J. Trump, the State
4 Department, and the Congressional Representatives within the bounds of the Annual Conference, urging
5 them to sign and ratify The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as adopted by the United
6 Nations General Assembly in 2017.

7 Be it further resolved that the Annual Conference encourage its member churches to study the content of
8 The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Council of Bishops' Pastoral Letter and
9 Foundational Document In Defense of Creation—The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace, and to pray for a
10 peaceful and nuclear-free world.

Background:

The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the first nuclear attack in history at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It destroyed those two cities and killed nearly a quarter of a million people altogether; and the radioactive fallout from the nuclear explosions has continued to destroy the immune system of those exposed to the radiation, inflicting unspeakable sufferings and eventually killing many of the survivors. Having witnessed the devastating power of nuclear weapons, almost all the scientists of conscience opposed the continuation of the nuclear program. Yet, in favor of a possible deterrent effect of the nuclear power, the US decided to continue the program. Instead of serving as deterrent, however, the US nuclear program resulted in the nuclear arms race and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Since the early years of the US nuclear weapons program, the United States has spent more than \$9 trillion in today's value for nuclear weapons, including the research, development, maintenance, delivery system and administration. It has been an enormous waste of resources, which could have been used for peaceful and humanitarian purposes. Alarmed by the insanity of the nuclear arms race, the United Nations adopted The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and it took effect in 1970. A total of 191 states have joined the treaty. The treaty meant that those states that do not have the nuclear weapons will never develop or possess them, and 9 nuclear states that already have such weapons will negotiate in good faith to gradually reduce the stockpiles and work toward complete elimination of such weapons. In July 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the goal of leading towards their total elimination. For the treaty to come into effect, signature and ratification by at least 50 countries is required. As of today, 81 states have signed the treaty and 36 states have ratified it. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a logical outcome of the spirit and the intention of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In the meantime, the threat of catastrophic nuclear crisis is emerging. In response to the Russian deployment of SSC-8 hypersonic nuclear cruise missiles in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with the US, the Trump administration simply nullified the treaty and vowed to produce more powerful nuclear weapons, thus practically resuming the nuclear arms race.

The Trump Administration has also walked out of the nuclear deal with Iran and has failed to stop the North Korean nuclear weapons program. While we have successfully banned chemical and biological weapons, it is absurd that we have not banned the nuclear weapons, much more destructive, much more inhumane, much more immoral weapons of mass destruction that could send the entire planet into Armageddon.

The Council of Bishops, in *In Defense of Creation — The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace*, clearly stated “We say a clear and unconditional ‘No’ to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons,” and their hope, that “the United Methodist people will overcome their ‘nuclear numbness,’ find their voices, and speak and act for nuclear disarmament.” We, the United Methodists, have been nurtured by the prophetic visions of peace and disarmament (Hosea 2:18; Isaiah 2:4). We have heard Jesus’ radical demand of discipleship in loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). We have also heard Paul reminding us all that Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). In the face of the emerging nuclear crisis, we are called upon to work toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Resources:

In Defense of Creation – The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace, Graded Press, Cokesbury, Nashville, 1986

The Doomsday Machine – Confession of a Nuclear War Planner, Daniel Ellsberg, Bloomsbury Publishing, New York, 2017

Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons, Joseph Cirincione, Columbia University Press, New York, 2007

2020 California-Nevada Annual Conference Resolution “Stopping the Mad March to Nuclear Disaster” submitted by Rev. John Chamberlin

The full text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is available at <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>

Resolution on Dismantling Racism and Ending Criminalization of Children and Youth

Submitted by: Criminalization of Children and Youth Task Force
 Number of Members: 6 Members present when voting: 6
 Members voting for: 6 Members voting against: 0
 Date adopted: August 28, 2020
 Co-sponsored by: Conference Advocacy and Justice Committee
 Number of Members: 14 Members present when voting: 9
 Members voting for: 7 Members voting against: 2
 Date adopted: September 5, 2020
 Contact person: Patricia Daugherty pdmc1234@gmail.com
 Fiscal Impact: None
 Parliamentary Procedure

Resolution:

- 1 Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference endorses the following federal legislation to
 2 protect children and youth:
- 3 1. H.R. 5325 “Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma
 4 Act of 2019” or the “Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2019”
 - 5 2. H.R.2407 “Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation
 6 Act”
 - 7 3. S.2936 / H.R.5210 “Refugee Protection Act” which incorporates S.292 / H.R.541 “Keep Families
 8 Together Act”
- 9 Be it further resolved that the Annual Conference Secretary will inform all members of Congress within
 10 Annual Conference boundaries of these endorsements, encouraging them to support and advocate for
 11 passage of these bills.
- 12 Be it further resolved that members of the Annual Conference are encouraged to contact their own
 13 members of congress urging them to support and advocate for passage of these bills, and to inform their
 14 congregations of these endorsements and recommend reading of the [report issued by the Criminalization
 15 of Children and Youth Task Force](#)¹ the contents of which informs these recommendations.
- 16 Be it further resolved that congregations are encouraged to study and engage locally and nationally with
 17 Poor People’s Campaign, particularly the Moral Budget² which has been endorsed by both the General
 18 Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women.

Background:

The The Criminalization of Children and Youth Task Force was created with the passage of Annual Conference 2019 Item 22 “Towards Ending Child Incarceration Through Support for the Rights of Children.”

Charged with studying the global intersection of the military, prison, and security industries and their relationship with racism, poverty and the criminalization of children and youth, Item 22 further charged the task force with issuing a report, study resources, and to provide recommendations for the Annual Conference 2020 actions.

¹ <https://endcriminalization.wordpress.com/>

² <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget/>

Illustrating the intertwining of racial justice, immigrant rights and Palestinian human rights struggle, the [task force report](#)³ identifies parallels and intersections between the so called “school to prison pipeline,” migrant children and youth at our southern border, and Palestinian children and youth caught up in Israeli military detention.

The report also exposes the linkages between racism, increased militarism both at home and abroad, and the profit motives behind criminalizing children and youth. In 2019, the militarized budget grew to 64.5 percent of discretionary spending while programs serving human needs remain underfunded.⁴ In a similar trend, U.S. law enforcement claim large portions of municipal discretionary funds compared to other crucial community service programs. This year, U.S. police budgets average between 20% to 45% of municipalities’ discretionary funding.⁵

The coronavirus crisis has magnified these challenges. Yet, at this same moment, the movement for racial justice is elevating collective awareness to the inherent racism that rationalizes, condones and profits from the criminalization of people of color, the poor, disenfranchised and vulnerable. This is a critical issue of faith for the Church and accompanying deepening awareness, must come action.

This resolution acts on specific recommendations by the task force to support pending federal legislation that support the rights of children and youth. It also recommends further study and the active engagement of our congregations in questioning military spending, war profiteering, and militarized policing in our communities. Ultimately, we have a moral responsibility to ensure that our tax dollars are not used for harm, rather used for the collective good.

H.R. 5325: In December 2019, Representative Ayanna Pressely of Massachusetts introduced “Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma Act of 2019” or the “Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2019” (H.R. 5325).⁶ This bill will work to disrupt the school-to-confinement pipeline by investing in safe and nurturing school environments for all students, especially girls of color, a phenomenon that has been called “push-out.”

“Push Out: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School” is the United Methodist Women 2020 Mission Issue Study.⁷ The UMW is actively promoting its membership to urge their Congress members to co-sponsor and support H.R. 5325

H.R. 2407: In April 2019, Representative Betty. McCollum of Minnesota introduced the "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act" (H.R. 2407).⁸ This bill would prohibit U.S. taxpayer funds from contributing to the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children by any country, including Israel.

In November, 2019, 26 faith leaders signed a letter in support of HR 2407. Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary General Board of Church and Society was among the signers.⁹ Over the past 5 years the California-Nevada Annual Conference has passed four resolutions specifically in support of the rights of Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation.¹⁰

S.2936 / H.R.5210: Introduced in November 2019, the “The Refugee Protection Act”^{11 12} incorporates “Keep Families Together Act” which was also introduced simultaneously in the House and Senate.

³ <https://endcriminalization.wordpress.com/>

⁴ <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/analysis/2020/militarized-budget-2020/>

⁵ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2020/06/12/how-much-are-us-cities-spending-on-policing-in-2020-infographic/#4ed3d0d5751a>

⁶ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5325>

⁷ <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/pushout-the-criminalization-of-black-girls-in-schools>

⁸ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2407>

⁹ https://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/faith_leaders_support_hr_2407

¹⁰ <https://iptaskforce.weebly.com/resolutions.html>

¹¹ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5210/text>

¹² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2936>

The bill would provide for the admission and protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable individuals, while ensuring that children are not separated from their families except when there is reason to believe that the child is being trafficked or abused.

Our faith commitments call us to pay close attention in safeguarding the rights of those most vulnerable. Endorsing these legislative efforts puts action behind our words to protect the humanity and dignity of children and youth.

In April 2018, the *Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival* released a *Moral Budget* along with a *Moral Agenda and Declaration of Fundamental Rights*.¹³ The demands contained within that document present a comprehensive response to the systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and war economy plaguing our country today. The Poor People's Campaign and the Moral Budget has been endorsed by both the General Board of Church and Society and the United Methodist Women.

¹³ <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-demands/>