

IX. PETITIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The petitions to the 2018 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.C., page 147.

- PETITION 1**
Submitted by: Subject: **2019 Conference Funds and Financial Policies; and Budget**
 Glenn Kinken, President, on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration
Text: See Section VIII.A, pages 220 and 223
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018
- PETITION 2, Part a**
Submitted by: Subject: **Pension Programs and Policies**
 Michael Watson, President, on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Text: See Section VIII.L, Page 264
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018
- PETITION 2, Part b**
Submitted by: Subject: **Health Benefits Program and Policies**
 Michael Watson, President, on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Text: See Section VIII.L, page 267
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018
- PETITION 3**
Submitted by: Subject: **Advance Specials for 2018-2019**
 Brian Mateer, Chairperson, on behalf of the Mission Engagement Team
Text: See Section VIII.B.5, page 231
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 4**
Submitted by: Subject: **Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation**
 Roy J. Helm, Director, and Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.B.5, page 234
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 5**
Submitted by: Subject: **Board of Directors for Western NC Conference Camps**
 Carroll Harris, WNCC Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries
Text: See Section VIII.B.6, page 235
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 6**
Submitted by: Subject: **Brevard College Trustees**
 Board of Trustees, Brevard College
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 248
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 7**
Submitted by: Subject: **High Point University Trustees**
 Board of Trustees, High Point University
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 248
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 8**
Submitted by: Subject: **Campus Ministry Boards**
 Council on Campus Ministries; and each individual board
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 249
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 9, Part a**
Submitted by: Subject: **Board of Directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.**
 Suzanne Pugh, President and CEO, on behalf of the Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.1, page 252
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 9, Part b**
Submitted by: Subject: **Board of Directors of Aldersgate At Home, Inc.**
 Suzanne Pugh, President and CEO, on behalf of the Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.1, page 252
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 10**
Submitted by: Subject: **Board of Directors of Arbor Acres Retirement Community, Inc.**
 Andrew W. Applegate, President and CEO, and Susan Schwartz, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.2, page 253
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

- PETITION 11** Subject: **UM Trustees of Crossnore School & Children's Home**
Submitted by: Brett A. Loftis, CEO
Text: See Section VIII.F.3, page 254
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 12** Subject: **Board of Directors of Givens Communities**
Submitted by: Kenneth M. Partin, President and Chief Executive Officer
Text: See Section VIII.F.4, Page 255
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 13** Subject: **Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc.**
Submitted by: Marilyn Garner, President & CEO
Text: See Section VIII.F.5, page 256
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 14** Subject: **Board of Directors of Sanctuary Counseling Group**
Submitted by: Martha Rick, Chairperson, and John V. Arey, Jr., Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.8, page 257
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 15** Subject: **Board of Directors of Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center**
Submitted by: Gary L. Kling, Executive Director
Text: See Section VIII.F.6, page 257
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 16** Subject: **Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines**
Submitted by: Neal Jones, Chairperson, on behalf of the Commission on Equitable Compensation
Text: See Section VIII.U, page 277
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 17** Subject: **Trustee of Cole Foundation**
Submitted by: James C. Windham, Jr., Chairperson, on behalf of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation
Text: See Section VIII.X, page 278
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
- PETITION 18** Subject: **Support of NETworX**
Submitted by: RFD CDC Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.Z, page 280
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018
- PETITION 19** Subject: **Change in Percentage of Proceeds from Closed Church Properties**
Submitted by: WNCC Connectional Table, WNCC Cabinet, and WNCC Church Vitality Team
Text:
Whereas, since 2003, the proceeds after expenses of sold closed church properties have be distributed such that 75 percent remain in the district and 25 percent are allocated to the conference, both for new church development and revitalization efforts; and
Whereas, the funding of new church starts and new faith communities has become less the responsibility of a particular district and more a collaborative effort between a district and the Conference Church Vitality Team; and
Whereas, the best location for a new church start or new faith community may or may not be in a district where closed church properties have been sold; and
Whereas, for the wise and faithful stewardship of closed church proceeds it is important that a conference-wide perspective be utilized; and
Whereas, the Church Vitality Team, Cabinet, and Connectional Table are recommending this change in the distribution percentage of sold church properties; therefore, be it
Resolved that the proceeds after expenses for closed church properties sold on or after July 1, 2018 be distributed such that 25 percent remain in the district and 75 percent are allocated to the Conference Church Vitality Team to be used for new churches, new faith communities, new missional initiatives and other revitalization efforts described in ¶ 2549.7 of The 2016 Book of Discipline.
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018
- PETITION 20** Subject: **Encouraging Gracious Exit Accommodation**
Submitted by: Christ UMC, Hickory, CV District, and Green Street UMC, Winston-Salem, YV District
Conference Action: Petition ruled out of order June 23, 2018

PETITION 21Subject: **Just Policy for Local Church Employees****Submitted by:**

Faith Walk UMC, NP District; First UMC, Charlotte, ME District; Green Street UMC, YV District; Haywood Street Congregation, BR District; Inclusion UMC, ME District; Mars Hill UMC, BR District

Text:

Whereas, ¶ 161G of *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* states: “We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence” (*The 2016 Book of Discipline*); and

Whereas, ¶ 161G of *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* also states: “We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.” (*The 2016 Book of Discipline*); and

Whereas, ¶ 162J of *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* states: Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.... Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (*The 2016 Book of Discipline*); and

Whereas, that same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst such basic rights and liberties; and

Whereas, most United Methodist churches – regardless of their stand on *The Book of Discipline* and LGBTQ persons – frequently state that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are welcome in their local church; and

Whereas, some United Methodist Churches practice a policy that inquires about sexual orientation during the interview process and forbids the employment of called and qualified laity to non-appointed staff positions if they are lesbian or gay; and

Whereas, laity employed by United Methodist Churches have been fired from their non-appointed staff positions based solely on their sexual orientation; and

Whereas, such dismissal is in direct conflict with the aforementioned Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and causes significant harm; and

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Conference wishes for each of our local churches a staff that possesses the gifts and graces for relative and effective ministry, and would *not* wish for either our churches or the neighbors we serve to be denied the most qualified person due to a practice that prevents employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference is committed to employment practices that are aligned with *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church*. The Western North Carolina Conference encourages and supports local church policies in which laity called to serve are employed and dismissed based solely on their gifts and graces without regard for sexual orientation or gender identity.

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

FLOOR PETITIONSubject: **Reunite Immigrant Families****Submitted by:**

Katherine R. Bryant, Provisional Elder, UW District

Text:

See Section IV.C, page 157

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

