

Document 600.01 - Budget						
2023 Budget						
The Purpose of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local faith communities for a ministry of witness, justice, hope and love, and by providing a connection for the mission beyond the congregation; all to the glory of God.						
	2021	2022	2023			
	Actual	Budget	Recommended	Notes		
SOURCES OF FUNDS						
Anticipated Apportionments from Local Churches	4,700,118	4,045,981	4,700,118	81% payment rate on \$5,773,685 apportionment		
Other Sources						
GCFA Episcopal Office Support	89,441	85,000	85,000			
Program Endowments, Restricted Gifts, PPP	159,935	200,950	225,138	includes Sp. Sundays, endowments etc.		
TOTAL INCOME	4,949,494	4,331,931	5,010,256	678,325	Increase (decrease)	
USES OF FUNDS						
Cabinet Ministries						
Equipping Local Churches						
New Faith Communities	98,926	250,000	250,000	explanatory materials follow		
Church Redevelopment Programming	32,014	64,000	64,000			
Support to Local Churches	209,087	240,000	240,000	explanatory materials follow		
Intervention	47,451	50,000	50,000			
Clergy Relocation Expenses	81,198	130,000	130,000			
Meetings, District Events, and Ministries	47,094	67,500	67,500			
TOTAL Amenable to Cabinet Decisions	515,770	801,500	801,500	-	increase (decrease)	
Program Ministries						
Conference Programming	436,968	605,700	605,700	explanatory materials follow		
Conference Program Staff	341,813	394,884	457,426	4 fulltime, 1 part-time, 2 vacant in 2021		
Shepherding Team Strategic Plan	47,500	47,500	47,500	includes Part-time consultant		
Jurisdictional Apportionments	14,627	14,627	14,627			
General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegation	0	13,800	0			
Annual Conference Sessions and Secretary	47,154	85,000	85,000	additional costs for legislative sessions		
TOTAL Program Council	888,062	1,161,511	1,210,253	48,742	increase (decrease)	
	2021	2022	2023			
	Actual	Budget	Recommended			
Cabinet Expenses						
Ministerial Education Fund - Conference	49,181	57,965	52,247			
District Superintendent Salary and Benefits	746,936	723,247	734,472	91,858	salary per DS	
Cabinet Support Staff Salary and Benefits	308,837	304,699	317,855			
Episcopal Support Staff Salary and Benefits	155,675	159,201	166,282	1 Fulltime 1 half-time, details below		

TOTAL Cabinet					1,260,629	1,245,112	1,270,856	25,745	increase (decrease)
Conference Committees and Boards									
Board of Ordained Ministry Expenses					5,687	12,000	12,000		
Trustee Expenses					59,681	55,000	55,000		repairs to district parsonages
Property and Liability Insurance					50,391	66,000	66,000		Umbrella, auto, D&O,
Legal Fees					20,395	40,000	40,000		
Archives					100	9,200	9,200		rent and supplies for archives
Audit					31,800	33,500	33,500		
Administrative Staff and Benefits					427,308	488,394	520,568		Health insurance increases
Office Expenses, Rent, Copying, Telephone, etc.					259,915	299,780	300,668		details below
IT purchases, software, support					110,218	119,934	110,218		
TOTAL Administrative Committees					965,495	1,123,808	1,147,154	23,346	increase (decrease)
TOTAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES					3,629,956	4,331,931	4,429,763	97,833	increase (decrease)
Apportionments in support of General Church									
TOTAL Apportioned Amounts in Support of Ge					502,519	1,722,057	1,643,688	All monies collected from local churches dedicated to these funds shall be forwarded to GCFA	
General Apportionment: Paid as collected									
World Service Fund					926,091	980,675	883,946	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
Episcopal Fund					274,253	290,418	261,772	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
Ministerial Education Fund - General Church					234,593	248,420	223,917	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
Black Colleges Fund					124,769	132,123	119,091	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
General Church Administration					109,966	116,447	104,961	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
Africa University					27,923	29,569	26,652	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund					24,462	25,904	23,349	100%	of 2021 apportionment paid
TOTAL General/Jurisdictional Apportionment					1,722,057	1,823,556	1,643,688	(179,868)	increase (decrease)
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES					5,352,013	6,155,487	6,073,451	(82,036)	
2023 Budget Details									
<i>Below, find details for the totals reported above. These are not additional budget lines, but explanations of the budget lines that appear above.</i>									
					<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Taxes, Cont. Ed.</u>	<u>Parsonages/ Travel</u>	<u>Totals</u>
District Superintendent Salary and Benefits					459,291	187,590	10,625	76,966	734,472
Cabinet Staff - District Admins and NCD					231,051	64,325	11,855	10,624	317,855
Episcopal Support Staff and Benefits					107,424	40,911	6,517	11,430	166,282
Conference Program Staff and Benefits					317,237	100,869	18,448	20,872	457,426
Administrative Staff and Benefits					349,721	122,070	32,033	16,744	520,568
<u>Meetings, Events, and Ministries</u>					2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget		

	Interviews, Retreats, Recruitment					21,482	32,000	32,000		
	District Events					19,962	25,000	25,000		
	Town and Rural Ministries					5,650	10,000	10,000		
	NCJ Rural Ministries					0	500	500		
						47,094	67,500	67,500		
	<u>Office Expenses, Rent, Copying, Telephone, etc.</u>									
	Supplies and Expenses					17,498	22,409	20,123	paper, pens, envelopes, binders,	
	Bank Fees					20,776	19,037	23,892		
	Postage					8,979	12,007	10,326	includes postage machine lease	
	Hospitality					2,377	5,000	5,000		
	Printing					21,678	37,348	37,348	5 copier leases, toner, desktop printing	
	Volunteer Travel to meetings					0	10,000	10,000		
	Rent and Utilities					123,805	149,342	149,342	Chicago Temple and Elgin First (storage)	
	Telephone					32,341	28,636	28,636	landlines, equipment, cell phones	
	Interns/Consultants					10,600	8,000	8,000		
	Contracted Services					21,861	8,000	8,000		
	Sub-Total					259,915	299,779	300,667		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
56															
57	<u>Explanatory Materials</u>														
58	Conference groups and boards make application to a Shepherding Team committee to receive 2023 grant from the \$605,700 programming funds. Application involves specificity to the project's goals and methods and fund useage details. No awards have been made for 2023. We list the projects supported in 2021 and 2022 as illustrative of the types of work that may be supported in 2023.														
59															
60	<u>Program Ministries</u>														
												<u>2021 Actuals</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>		
61	Goal #1: To Grow and Reach New Discipies of Jesus Christ														
62	Board of Higher Ed and Campus Ministries											229,493	245,208		
63	Board of Laity											439	1,200		
64	Outdoor and Retreat Ministries											60,000	55,000		
65	Pembroke Institute (BMCR)											0	24,600		
66	Spiritual Formation											0	7,000		
67	Young Peoples Ministries											0	1,500		
68	Older Adult Ministries											243	2,000		
69	Discipleship Strategic Goal (ACST)												5,500		
70															
71	Goal #2 To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching														
72	Anti-Racism Strategic Goal (ACST)											21,293	42,800		
73	Black Family Link in the Chain (BMCR)											8,035	7,900		
74	Commission on Religion and Race											995	4,200		
75	Global Justice; CRLN (CBCS)											0	500		
76	Justice for Our Neighbors											18,003	20,000		
77	Keeping Hope Alive (BMCR)											0	7,900		
78	Refugee (CBGM)											0	100		
79	Urban Youth Initiative (BMCR)											0	900		
80															
81	Goal #3: To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations														
82	Accessibility Ministry											3,500	3,500		
83	Asian American Fellowship											8,553	9,000		
84	Black Church Mobilization (BMCR)											8,104	8,700		
85	Congregational Redevelopment Grants											0	10,000		
86	Creative Ministry Grants											13,300	15,000		
87	Hispanic Ministry Team											792	8,000		
88	Media Resources											5,200	6,000		
89															
90	Justice and Mercy Ministries														
91	Antigambling Task Force											1,000	1,000		
92	CBGM-Program/Training (CBGM)											0	6,250		
93	COSROW											0	1,000		
94	Disaster Response Program and Training (CBGM)											50	1,400		
95	Kids Above All (formerly Childserve)											1,000	1,000		
96	Methodist Youth Services											1,000	1,000		
97	Mission Secretary (CBGM)											0	1,500		
98	Rosecrance											1,000	1,000		
99	Social Reform Grants (CBCS)											0	15,000		
100	Volunteers in Mission (CBGM)											120	10,000		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
101			Native American								2,715		3,700		
102															
103			Ecumenism (CCUIR)												
104			Ecumenical & Interreligious Dialogue								390		1,000		
105			Ecumenism Metro Chicago								0		100		
106			Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries								3,400		3,400		
107			Illinois Conference of Churches								5,000		5,500		
108			Niagara-Abrahamic Table								0		500		
109			Ecumenical Officer										2,000		
110			SEED Grants										1,000		
111			National Workshop on Christian Unity										3,000		
112			World Methodist Conf and Council										1,000		
113															
114			Other Support for above Ministries												
115			ACST Administrative								0		3,500		
116			Communications								29,475		35,000		
117			Leadership Development								6,268		20,342		
118											<u>436,968</u>		<u>605,700</u>		
											TOTAL				

1 **Document: 640.01**
2 **Special Sundays with Offerings for 2023**
3 **Author(s): Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
4

5 **ACTION:**
6 The Northern Illinois Conference recommends the following Special Sundays with
7 offerings for 2023:
8
9

10 Special Sundays
11

12 General Church Offerings 2023

13	Human Relations Day	January 15, 2023
14	UMCOR Sunday	March 19, 2023
15	Native American Ministries Sunday	April 23, 2023
16	Peace with Justice Sunday	June 4, 2023
17	World Communion Sunday	October 1, 2023
18	United Methodist Student Day	November 26, 2023

19
20
21 Conference Offerings 2023

22	Scouting Ministries	Any Sunday in February or March*
23	Golden Cross	May 7, 2023
24	Volunteers in Mission	Any Sunday in July or August
25	Christian Education	September 3, 2023
26	Accessibility Sunday	November 5, 2023
27	HIV/AIDS Awareness	December 3, 2023
28	United Voices for Children	Every 5th Sunday (January, April, July, October, December)

29
30
31 * This fund supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and
32 Amachi programs.
33

1 **Document: 650.01**
 2 **Minimum Salaries for Full-Time Clergy**
 3 **Author(s): CCFA Task Force on Equitable Compensation**

4
 5 **ACTION:**

- 6
 7 1) Minimum salaries for full-time clergy appointed in the NIC will be as follows, showing
 8 an increase of 3% for the next fiscal year:
 9

YEAR OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT (minimum salary set at the beginning of a new appointment, typically July 1)							
	2017 (\$34,200)	2018 (\$34,450)	2019 (\$34,800)	2020 (\$35,300)	2021 (\$36,360)	2022 (\$36,360)	2023 (\$37,500)
Resolution passed in:							
2017 for FY 2018	\$34,542						
2018 for FY 2019	\$34,887	\$34,795					
2019 for FY 2020	\$35,375	\$35,282	\$35,287				
2020 for FY 2021	\$36,437	\$36,341	\$36,346	\$36,359			
2021 for FY 2022	\$36,437	\$36,341	\$36,346	\$36,359	\$36,360		
Proposed in 2022 for FY 2023	\$37,530	\$37,431	\$37,436	\$37,449	\$37,450	\$37,450	

10
 11 *Chart interpretation: Each year, a minimum salary is set for new appointments. This salary amount is*
 12 *listed in the first row, beneath the year the new appointment is made (which typically begins July 1.) A*
 13 *minimum salary is also set for appointments made in previous years. The number listed in the column*
 14 *beneath each year indicates the minimum salary for the pastor appointed to that charge each fiscal year*
 15 *(which typically begins January 1.) Numbers in bold print in the bottom row are the minimum salaries*
 16 *recommended to the Annual Conference in 2022.*

- 17
 18 2) Local churches are to provide at a minimum of \$5,500* for accountable reimbursements
 19 for their appointed pastor. This covers costs related to travel, continuing education, and
 20 other expenses incurred in the course of providing pastoral ministry. Information about
 21 accountable reimbursements can be found at: Accountable Reimbursement Policy Q&A

1 **This year, the recommendation is to increase this amount from \$5,000 to \$5,500 to take*
2 *into account rising fuel costs.*

3
4
5 **RATIONALE:**

6
7 While the cost of living adjustment (COLA) established by the SSA for 2022 is 5.9%, CCFA is
8 recommending an increase in minimum required salaries of 3%, with the following comments:
9

- 10 • A portion of the COLA is due to rising energy/utility costs; a good portion of these costs
11 are already largely assumed by churches as they provide both utility-covered
12 parsonages to clergy and reimbursement for travel expenses. (see Action point 2 for
13 details.)
- 14
- 15 • The NIC took steps in 2020 to increase the minimum required salary to more closely
16 match the average salary in the North Central Jurisdiction (approving an increase of
17 3%). In addition, health insurance premiums continue to be fully covered by the local
18 churches at a yearly cost of \$19,200. This benefit helps to make the overall compensation
19 package of full-time clergy in the NIC more equitable to other conferences in the NCJ.
20
- 21 • Together with base compensation, church-paid health insurance premiums, accountable
22 reimbursements, and church-paid pension contributions, the total minimum
23 compensation package for full-time clergy is \$68,200. In addition, churches provide
24 housing through utility-covered parsonages or cash housing allowances, which
25 completes the compensation package. This total has become increasingly difficult for
26 un-yoked churches to maintain full-time clergy. The NIC seeks to maintain as many
27 full-time appointments as possible to fulfill the guarantee of a full-time appointment for
28 our commissioned and ordained elders. As a result, we may continue to see an increase
29 in multiple-point charges for full-time clergy to serve.

1 **Document Number: 680.01**

2 **Name: Benefit Programs**

3 **Author(s): Lonnie Chafin and Katherine Paisley**

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, 2023.

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 until they are eligible for Medicare or for Social Security disability at the cost of the
24 Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. At age 65 from a premium payment
25 standpoint, each will be treated as retired pastors and subject to the HRA guidelines
26 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 HealthCare premium established by the Conference Board of
36 Pensions.

- 1 b) Each quarter the Churches will receive a rebate of one month's premium of the
 2 HealthCare premium.
 3 c) The clergy person will receive a reimbursement check from the conference equal to the
 4 amount of the alternative coverage and an estimate of the taxes owed for the amount.
 5 The maximum amount the Conference Board of Pensions will provide in cash is \$1,000
 6 per month to support clergy to enroll with an alternative carrier and to help pay for
 7 additional personal taxes. The amount provided by the Conference is considered as
 8 taxable cash compensation.
 9 d) If Churches fail to make premium payments the Conference holds the right to
 10 discontinue the cash support provided to the Pastors.
 11

12 C. Local Church and Extension Ministry Coverage Options

13 1. A local church or extension ministry may elect health insurance in the conference plan
 14 available to participants in the following categories **who meet the required eligibility 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 with 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 2. 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 3. The decision to offer coverage is made by the salary paying unit. The choice to accept
 4 the offer of coverage shall be made by the participant. The salary paying unit may elect to
 5 offer health insurance to one or all categories of persons listed above in Section C. 1. The
 6 salary paying unit must make health insurance available to and will be billed for all persons
 7 within any specific category employed with the agency or local church. Failure to make
 8 prompt payment results in termination of the participant in the plan.
- 9 4. Each salary paying unit must execute annually a sub-adoption agreement with the
 10 annual conference, should they desire to offer health coverage to persons in these categories.
- 11 5. 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 pay 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

12
 13 **D. Retirement Health Administration -**

- 14 1. For 2023, the Conference extends a program of support for some retired clergy persons
 15 in continued clergy relationship to the Conference. The program commitment is for one
 16 year only and is a nonvested benefit to certain clergy retirees of the annual conference.
 17 To qualify, the retired clergy person must be a member of the Conference on January 1,
 18 2023, or be a dependent of a current clergy member or surviving spouse of a clergy
 19 person in good standing at the time of death.
- 20 2. Clergy persons enrolled in the health plan or participating in the pilot program (Section
 21 B, above), at Mandatory Retirement (Discipline paragraph 357.1), Early Retirement
 22 (Discipline paragraph 357.2b), Full Retirement (Discipline Paragraph 357.2c), or
 23 Involuntary Retirement (Discipline paragraph 357.3) may be eligible for health benefits
 24 in retirement through the conference plan if such enrollment or participation is for the
 25 continuous five years prior to retirement. No clergy member retiring under the "20-
 26 year rule" (Discipline paragraph 357.2a) is eligible for retiree health coverage.
- 27 3. A clergy spouse (or surviving spouse after death of an active member) enrolled in the
 28 health plan 5 consecutive years before retirement or enrolled when first eligible for
 29 coverage (when prior to participant's retirement) is eligible for coverage after retirement.
 30 The family status of the participant cannot change during retirement, except in cases of
 31 adoption, childbirth or death. Participants electing to not participate in retirement
 32 health plan at time of retirement may not elect to enroll at a later time.
- 33 4. Upon retirement the annual conference shall establish a Health Reimbursement Account
 34 (HRA) for the household in the retiree's name. Participants and their spouses who meet
 35 the retiree eligibility rules may use the funds in the HRA to pay for medical expenses
 36 including premiums, co-pays, deductibles, dental services, medical services,
 37 coinsurance, etc. Like a savings account, the funds do not need to be expended by the
 38 end of the calendar year and balances roll forward when unused.
- 39 5. For 2023, the annual conference will provide a benefit equal to \$100 per year of
 40 ministerial service. This benefit also extends to the Pastor's spouse . This amount is

1 subject to change based on the needs and circumstances of the Conference and/or
2 participants.

- 3 6. Only the first 40 years of service shall be tabulated when determining the amount of
4 benefit. In the case of clergy couples, the clergy member with the highest number of
5 years of service, up to the cap of 40, shall determine the benefit amount.
- 6 7. Ministerial service years are determined by the Conference Board of Pensions and
7 Health Benefits. Only years served under appointment to Northern Illinois Conference
8 local churches or connectional structure are considered in the HRA calculation. Special
9 exceptions may be made based on approval by NIC Board of Pensions. Any counting of
10 service years earned by service to non-Northern Illinois Conference appointments
11 recognized prior will not be recognized effective January 1, 2022 or after.
- 12 8. The Conference at the discretion of their Board of Pension has the right to change or
13 modify the retiree benefit and or contributions at any time. The annual conference does
14 not make a commitment to additional funding in future years.
- 15 9. Full Time Lay Conference employees of the annual conference with 5 continuous years
16 of coverage before retirement will have a contribution equal to \$100 per year of service
17 to the annual conference deposited in their HRA annually. Eligibility for the HRA is
18 contingent on a participant's enrollment in Medicare B and engagement with the
19 Conference's selected provider.
- 20 10. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits engages Via Benefits to aid clergy
21 retirees aged 65 and above in selection of suitable Medicare supplement coverage and to
22 act as a patient advocate when necessary. To receive the HRA benefit eligible
23 participants must enroll through the Via Benefits program and be enrolled in Medicare B.
24 Clergy who retire prior to 65 and meet the eligibility rules will have the HRA equivalent
25 deducted from the cost of their conference provided medical coverage until they reach
26 Medicare eligibility, enroll in Medicare B and enroll in Supplemental programs through
27 Via Benefits. Retired clergy will be responsible for costs of coverage in excess of that
28 HRA amount.

29 30 **E. Active Health Administration**

- 31 1. Monthly premiums are billed to each charge or salary-paying unit at rates established by
32 the Conference Board of Pensions. Premiums are due the first of each month. Accounts
33 90 days in arrears are subject to termination as explained in the arrearage policy
34 approved by the Board and the NIC Cabinet. This policy describes the efforts that will
35 be made by the Conference office and the Cabinet to work with Churches that are more
36 than 90 days in arrears. If all efforts to receive payment or develop a payment plan have
37 been exhausted, then termination of coverage may be the final option. Notification of
38 accounts in arrears will be provided to the District Superintendent, the pastor, the local
39 church PPRC chair, and the local church treasurer prior to termination.
- 40 2. If a participant enrolls in one of the HealthFlex Exchange programs that require a
41 payroll deduction to the Conference and those deductions are not made the Conference
42 can have the participant placed in a plan that does not require a payroll deduction.
- 43 3. Churches should care that tax reporting is correctly administered for all payroll
44 deductions around health insurance provisions.
- 45 4. Active participants are able to make choices in the provision of their coverage through
46 the enrollment period, as made available through Healthflex administration.

1 Problem resolution and inquiries regarding coverage should be directed to the HealthFlex
2 Team at Wespath 1-800-851-2201.

3 4 **II. Pension Programs**

5 **A. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Eligibility.** The General Conference of
6 the United Methodist Church established the CRSP as the primary pension program for
7 United Methodist clergy in 2007. Mandatory participation is required when both 1 and
8 2 are met:

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

29 **B. Clergy Retirement Security Program.**

30 1. **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).** The Comprehensive Protection Plan is the
31 primary death and disability benefit for enrolled clergy. The billing rate for CPP will be
32 established by the Conference office. Appointments with compensation less than full
33 time and those that were considered under special arrangements will be covered and
34 billed based on rates established by UMLifeOptions.

35 **2. CRSP - Defined Contribution**

- 36 a. The CRSP pension program includes a defined contribution component. Each
37 clergy member will have 2% of plan compensation deposited in an individual
38 account at the Wespath. All contributions into the account are invested and the
39 enrolled clergy member receives the appreciated value of the account upon
40 retirement.
- 41 b. Clergy persons are encouraged to contribute 1% of their plan compensation into
42 their UMPIP account as a salary deduction. The annual conference will match
43 the first 1% of UMPIP contributions paid into the participants CRSP-DC account.
- 44 3. **CRSP - Defined Benefit program.** With the defined benefit component each enrolled
45 clergy member will receive a monthly cash benefit from the plan upon retirement.
46 Funds collected from local churches are used for annual contributions made by the
47 conference will be invested by Wespath so that the NIC obligation can be met. A

1 portion of defined benefit funding may accrue to a reserve fund for funding future
2 variation in market results and other benefits to retirees and future retirees.

3 **C. Billing Methods.** The Annual Conference will invoice local churches monthly **16% (3%**
4 **(CPP) + 3% (CRSP DC) + 10% (CRSP DB)** based on clergy plan compensation required for
5 support of the CRSP and CPP programs. Currently, churches are being billed 16% of clergy plan
6 compensation. **Increases may be necessary in the future.**

7
8 **D.Pre-82 Defined Benefit Past Service Rate for 2021**

9 1. The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the annual pension rate for
10 service prior to 1982, effective January 1, 2023, be \$605 per service year, an increase of 0% from
11 2022. Surviving spouses shall be supported at the rate of 85% of participant pension benefit
12 amounts. Special grants will be provided as identified in Section F.

13
14 **E. Excludable Housing allowance for retired clergy.** In accordance with the Private Ruling
15 Letter from the Internal Revenue Service, the Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference
16 Session reaffirms the limits to housing allowance exclusion for retired and disabled clergy
17 found in the Standing Rules, at Section IV. C. 1, which states: *Disabled clergy have the same legal*
18 *relationship to an Annual Conference as do the retired clergy and, thus, this Conference is also the*
19 *appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for disabled ordained or local pastors*
20 *who are members of this Conference.*

21 *An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received by a retired clergy, or 100% of the disability*
22 *payments received by a disabled clergy, is designated as rental/housing allowance respectively for each*
23 *retired or disabled ordained or local pastor of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of*
24 *the Northern Illinois Conference at the time of retirement or disability.*

25
26 **F. Special Grants**

- 27 1 Beginning in 2020 Northern Illinois Conference Session the Board of Pensions approved
28 grants for participants meeting the following eligibility criteria:
- 29 a. Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference who retired from an
30 appointment in the conference;
 - 31 b. Who have at least 15 years of service prior to 1982 compensated at the Past
32 Service Rate (excludes those at the DBSM rate); and,
 - 33 c. Who have less than 10 years of service to Northern Illinois Conference
34 appointments served while enrolled in the MPP program.
- 35 2. For 1/1/2023 the amount provided to eligible participants will be \$700 times their pre-
36 82 years of service calculated at the PSR. This amount will remain in place until
37 otherwise changed by the Board of Pensions
- 38 3. The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends that a special grant be made to
39 James W. French for his 3.5 years of service with this Annual Conference from June 1,
40 1978 through December 31, 1981. We recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2022
41 to June 30, 2023, a grant of \$140.95 monthly be paid based on the present pension rate,
42 but actuarially reduced since payments are starting prior to full retirement age.

43 **III. Group Life Insurance**

44 The Conference Board of Pensions enrolls in the UMLifeOptions program. Every eligible
45 retired clergy person will be enrolled in the plan with a benefit of \$5,000 at no cost to the
46 participant. Active clergy persons have \$10,000 in coverage at the NIC expense when an

- 1 application is filed during the open enrollment period. Coverage beyond this amount is at the
- 2 cost of the participant and will be billed directly from UMLifeOptions.

1 **Document: 700.01**

2 **Name: Advocating for the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under**
3 **Israeli Military Occupation**

4 **Authors: United Methodists for Kairos Response, Paula Roderick; NIC Church and Society,**
5 **Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC MFSA Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs; NIC RMN Alka Lyall,**
6 **Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators**

7

8 **Action:**

9 The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church joins the United Methodist
10 General Board of Church and Society, as well as numerous other Christian denominations and
11 organizations, in endorsing H.R. 2590, Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children
12 and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act; and

13

14 The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church

- 15 • calls upon all clergy and laity of the Conference to educate themselves about the plight
16 of Palestinian children and families living under Israeli military occupation and the
17 reasons for Christians to oppose U.S. funds being used to detain, torture, and imprison
18 Palestinian children in military detention, to subject Palestinian families to widespread
19 home evictions and demolitions, and to annex Palestinian territory; and
- 20 • encourages all clergy and laity of the Conference to write, call, or meet with their
21 legislators in Congress, to urge their Representative to co-sponsor H. R. 2590 and to urge
22 their Senators to introduce, co-sponsor, and support a companion bill to H. R. 2590; and,
- 23 • directs the Conference Secretary to write to all legislators representing the region of the
24 Conference in the U.S. Congress, informing them that the Conference has endorsed H.R.
25 2590 and that the Conference urges them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 2590 in the
26 House of Representatives or to introduce, co-sponsor, and support a companion bill in
27 the Senate. A full copy of this resolution should be provided with that correspondence.

28

29 **Rationale:**

30

31 In April 2021, Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-4) legislation to the U.S. Congress: H.R. 2590, the
32 Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military
33 Occupation Act.¹

34

35 The United Methodist General Board of Church and Society has joined over 170 human rights
36 and faith-based organizations in endorsing H.R. 2590.

37

38 This bill “seeks to promote justice, equality and human rights for Palestinian children and
39 families by prohibiting Israeli authorities from using U.S. taxpayer funds to detain and torture
40 Palestinian children, demolish and seize Palestinian homes, and further annex Palestinian Land
41 in the occupied West Bank,” in violation of international law.

42

43 Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in military courts,
44 where each year approximately 700 Palestinian children enter the abusive Israeli military
45 detention system that a UNICEF report has described as “widespread, systemic, and
46 institutionalized”, where children as young as twelve have been subjected to arrest and

1 imprisonment, are often held and interrogated for hours or days with no attorney and without
2 the presence or knowledge of their parents, and where a large majority of these children report
3 severe physical and emotional abuse during their detention.³

4
5 United Methodists have repeatedly adopted resolutions and endorsed measures to protect the
6 rights of Palestinian children, at both the general church and annual Conference levels.

7
8 1. The bill, H.R. 2590: Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living
9 Under Israel Occupation Act

10 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2590/>

11 3. Defense for Children International–Palestine (DCIP) No Way To Treat A Child campaign:

12 <http://nwtac.dci-palestine.org;>

13 3. United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) resource: Palestinian Children & the Israeli
14 Occupation: https://www.kairosresponse.org/quick_facts_series.html

1 **Document: 700.02**
 2 **Name: Affirming “A Call to Grace”**
 3 **Author: NIC General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**
 4 **CCFA Comment:**
 5

6 **ACTION:**

7 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference affirms “A Call to Grace” (please see complete text
 8 below, www.acalltoGrace.com), written by a grassroots movement and released November 1,
 9 2021. In support of this affirmation the Northern Illinois Annual Conference:

- 10 • directs its bishop, the Cabinet, and clergy to provide the resources and support
 11 for congregational discernment as described in “A Call to Grace”; and,
- 12 • directs the Conference Secretary to sign “A Call to Grace” on its behalf.

13

14 **RATIONALE:**

15 As the writers posited, “that continued delay in making decisions about the future of The
 16 United Methodist Church hurts our mission and is especially harmful to our central conference
 17 and LGBTQIA+ siblings who are caught up in this conflict.” The Body of Christ is best served
 18 by honoring how people are called to be in ministry. The North Central Jurisdiction, at its
 19 Special Session November 10-11, 2021, affirmed “A Call to Grace” with 80.5% in support.

20

21 **A CALL TO GRACE**

22 “For everything, there is a season.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

23

24 We recognize that COVID 19 continues to spread globally and that many throughout our global
 25 connection continue to suffer from the inequitable distribution of vaccines. Given the safety
 26 considerations that result from this tragedy, it appears likely that the General Conference,
 27 scheduled for August-September 2022, may be postponed again.

28

29 As the writer of Ecclesiastes notes, “For everything there is a season,” and the season for
 30 waiting on General Conference legislative solutions as the only way forward has passed. We
 31 recognize that continued delay in making decisions about the future of The United Methodist
 32 Church hurts our mission and is especially harmful to our central conference and LGBTQIA+
 33 siblings who are caught up in this conflict.

34

35 Therefore:

36

37 - We call the church to a pastoral response to the anxiety generated by having to delay decisions
 38 that impact peoples’ lives and ministries.

39

1 - We call on bishops and annual conferences to develop resources to assist local churches in
2 discerning their future, including resources on how to have difficult conversations in ways that
3 reduce harm.

4
5 - Honoring the expressed desire of some churches and church leaders to leave The United
6 Methodist Church and participate in other denominations, we call bishops and annual
7 conferences to use existing disciplinary authority to find grace-filled ways for these leaders and
8 churches to follow their call now, allowing them to take their church property with them where
9 appropriate.

10
11 - We further call upon churches and leaders who wish to leave and join other denominations to
12 engage their bishops in dialogue about how they can realize their hoped-for future.

13
14 - In this time of great transition, we call on our episcopal leaders to continue a grace-filled
15 approach and hold in abeyance any complaints related to ministry with LGBTQIA+ persons
16 and matters concerning the future direction of the church.

17
18 Those who have decided to remain in The United Methodist Church wish to begin doing the
19 work now of envisioning the future UMC. To be able to do that requires the ability to graciously
20 release others to their own future. As our Book of Discipline notes, "We make disciples as we...
21 send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick,
22 feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a
23 compassionate caring presence and working to develop social structures that are consistent
24 with the gospel." (Paragraph 122)

1 **Document: 700.03**

2 **Name: Affirming “A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church”**

3 **Author: NIC General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**

4 **CCFA Comment:**

5

6 ACTION:

7 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference affirms “A Narrative for the Continuing United
8 Methodist Church” (please see complete text below), released by the Council of Bishops on
9 November 4, 2021.

10

11 RATIONALE:

12 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference experiences ministry in all the ways described below
13 and believes it will be most fruitful if it can continue to do so. The North Central Jurisdiction, at
14 its Special Session November 10-11, 2021, affirmed “A Narrative for the Continuing United
15 Methodist Church” with 80.9% in support.

16

17 **A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church**

18

19 United Methodists all over the globe are liturgical, contemporary, charismatic, social
20 activists, urban, suburban, small town, rural and much more. We are children, youth,
21 young adults, senior adults, new Christians, and mature Christians. We are present on
22 four continents, in more than 45 countries, and we comprise an unknown number of
23 cultures and languages. We are a holy communion of different races, ethnicities,
24 cultures, and perspectives united by the Holy Spirit, driven by the mission of Christ, and
25 bearing the good news of an unmerited grace that changes lives and transforms
26 communities.

27

28 Christ’s prayer for our unity and command to gather all to the table, to make space for
29 one another, appreciate one another, and look for Christ in each other, prohibit us from
30 creating individual tables only for those who think, act, look, and perceive the world like
31 we do. We cannot be a church that fractures its identity and commitment to Christ by
32 aligning itself with political parties. We cannot be a traditional church or a progressive
33 church or a centrist church. We cannot be a gay or straight church. Our churches must
34 be more than echo chambers made in our own image arguing with each other while
35 neglecting our central purpose. This is the way of the world.

36

37 Instead, we must be one people, rooted in scripture, centered in Christ, serving in love
38 and united in the essentials. It is hard work. It is sacred work. It is the ministry of
39 reconciliation that Christ gave to each of us. Our best witness is to love each other as
40 Christ loves us, to show the world the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to bind us

1 together despite our differences. This is living out the gospel.

2

3 We are a church:

- 4 • Confident in what God has done in Christ Jesus for all humankind
- 5 • Committed to personal and social salvation/transformation
- 6 • Courageous in dismantling the powers of racism, tribalism, and colonialism

7

8 All of our members, clergy, local churches, and annual conferences will
9 continue to have a home in the future United Methodist Church, whether they consider
10 themselves liberal, evangelical, progressive, traditionalist, middle of the road,
11 conservative, centrist, or something else. We hold on to our Wesleyan heritage that “the
12 living core of the Christian faith is revealed in Scripture, illuminated by tradition,
13 vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason”.

14

15 We are longing for a United Methodist Church that will move towards new forms of
16 being a connectional church, a General Conference focused on global essentials, and an
17 empowerment of regions for contextually relevant forms of living our common mission
18 mandate. Deeply rooted in the Doctrinal Standards of the UMC,
19 we pledge to exercise our episcopal role in ways that enable as many United Methodists,
20 lay and clergy, as are willing to remain in the UMC and – together – to continue in
21 making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And, because we
22 are part of the Church Universal, we seek to be united visibly and in ministries with
23 other parts of the Body of Christ in God’s mission for the human family and creation.

24

25 We are committed to strengthening every local church, where the word is preached and
26 Christ is offered, and where the table is set before all who hunger and thirst for
27 righteousness, confident in the prayer we have learned to say and share:

28

- 29 • Make us one with Christ – this is faithfulness.
- 30 • Make us one with each other – this is unity.
- 31 • Make us one in ministry to all the world – this is fruitfulness.

32

33

34 This is the United Methodist Church we love and serve!

1 **Document: 700.04**

2 **Name: Affirming *Covenant to Build BeLoved Community* passed by the North Central**
3 **Jurisdiction**

4 **Author: NIC General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**

5 **CCFA Comment:**

6

7

8 ACTION:

9 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference affirms *Covenant to Build Beloved Community* written
10 and passed by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference. The Northern Illinois Annual
11 Conference:

- 12 • recommends that local congregations use *Covenant to Build BeLoved Community* in
13 ways that are contextually appropriate;
- 14 • receives the challenge of using annual conference resources in ways that counters
15 racism in the world and within our conference;
- 16 • encourages the Bishop and Cabinet to continue to be intentional in their support
17 of clergy and churches that are cross-cultural appointments to ensure their
18 success and strengthen the vitality of our conference; and,
- 19 • affirms sending the Commission on Religion and Race and Anti-Racism Task
20 Force to the Jurisdictional gathering that *Covenant to Build BeLoved Community*
21 creates.

22

23 RATIONALE:

24 At its Special Session November 10-11, 2021, the North Central Jurisdiction passed *Covenant to*
25 *Build BeLoved Community* (see complete text below) with 80.8% of voting delegates. This is an
26 aspirational covenant casting a vision for what the future of the United Methodist Church can
27 look like as we live together in relationship with one another. By affirming *Covenant to Build*
28 *BeLoved Community*, we are agreeing to participate with the other annual conferences of the
29 North Central Jurisdiction to create a United Methodist Church that is the work of dismantling
30 racism, welcoming all to the table of Christ, and building a community together that lives into
31 the scriptural call to “draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us,
32 since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with
33 pure water. Let’s hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who
34 made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of
35 sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some
36 people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see
37 the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10: 22-25)

38

39 **Covenant to Build BeLoved Community**

1 United Methodism is at a crucial inflection point – facing the challenges of a global
 2 pandemic, racial injustice, impacts of climate change, denominational decline, and
 3 interdenominational strife. More than ever, we need to lean into the call of Hebrews 10:22-
 4 25 (CEB): “Therefore, let’s draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith
 5 gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are
 6 washed with pure water. Let’s hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering,
 7 because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other
 8 carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together
 9 with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead,
 10 encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.” As the North Central
 11 Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church (NCJ), we covenant to Build BeLoved
 12 Community.

13
 14 Baptism is the foundation of the BeLoved Community, as through it we are called into a
 15 covenantal relationship with God, with each other, and with all of God’s creation. It is in
 16 the spirit of this covenantal relationship that we affirm our baptismal vows ...

17
 18 *Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this*
 19 *world, and repent of your sin?*

20
 21 **We do.** We confess our need for God’s grace as we struggle to renounce and reject the
 22 spiritual forces and evil powers of colonialism, racism, sexism, classism, and
 23 heterosexism. We apologize for the ways the NCJ has and continues to harm people who
 24 live in other parts of the world, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC),
 25 people who live in poverty, and LGBTQIA+ people.

26
 27 Now is the moment to repent of these sins and turn toward the future to which God is
 28 calling the NCJ.

29
 30 *Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and*
 31 *oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?*

32
 33 **We do.** We pray for God’s freedom and power to resist colonialism and racism in all the
 34 forms they present themselves.

35
 36 We stand in solidarity with ongoing efforts of many, who have worked tirelessly to end
 37 racism. We recognize this is a journey; that the work of ending racism is ongoing because
 38 it is a way of being - as the body of Christ. All of our work as a Church should be done in
 39 an anti-racist manner.

40
 41 We request the NCJ Bishops of Color convene all BIPOC delegates to discuss how to
 42 begin to address the trauma in communities of color.

43
 44 We request that the Mission Council, in conjunction with the NCJ College of Bishops,

1 develop an exercise for the NCJ delegates to engage in a conversation during the next
 2 session of the NCJ that seeks to understand the impact of white supremacy and Christian
 3 nationalism/white nationalism within The United Methodist Church.

4
 5 We request the Mission Council evaluate their budget and demonstrate, and report at the
 6 next Jurisdictional Conference, how the budget incorporates antiracism work and healing
 7 institutional trauma.

8
 9 The Mission Council must designate sufficient NCJ funds for the purpose of convening
 10 Conference Commissions on Religion and Race and Annual Conference antiracism task
 11 force representatives in 2022 to operationalize and share a report at the next
 12 Jurisdictional Conference:

- 13 • A racial analysis of: local church's total budgets, clergy salaries, new church
 14 starts/revitalizations, church closures, Conference staff, board, task force and
 15 committee members, and delegates to GC/JC.
- 16 • Alignment of Annual Conference budget with antiracism work, creation of
 17 whistleblower policies, on-going training and support for cross racial/cross cultural
 18 appointments, prioritization of new church starts and congregational revitalization
 19 in communities of color, resources to support the recruitment and development for
 20 leaders of color (lay and clergy) and developing programs for youth/young adults
 21 of color.

22
 23 *Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace,*
 24 *and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ*
 25 *has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?*

26
 27 **We do.** We also affirm Christ has opened the Church to people of all sexual orientations
 28 and gender identities. All people are of sacred worth.

29
 30 LGBTQIA+ clergy and laity are a gift to the Church. We implore all in the NCJ to do no
 31 harm and to create a culture in which abundance and diversity can be celebrated and
 32 lived. Therefore, we urge all members of the NCJ to avoid pursuing charges for
 33 LGBTQIA+ clergy and allies, and request our episcopal leaders dismiss charges related
 34 to LGBTQIA+ identity or officiating same gender weddings. Because we are all beloved
 35 children of God, we, in the NCJ, implore all our conference leaders, boards and agencies,
 36 to bring no harm to LGBTQIA+ people. We will not restrict God's calling based solely on
 37 a candidate's sexual orientation or gender identity. We commit to doing good by pursuing
 38 healing and reconciliation with all who have experienced harm and exclusion related to
 39 sexual orientation and gender identity.

40
 41 We request the Mission Council in conjunction with the NCJ College of Bishops develop
 42 an exercise for the NCJ delegates to engage in conversation to understand the impact of
 43 homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism within United Methodist Churches during the
 44 next meeting of the jurisdiction.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

We will. We who will remain and continue to be faithful members of The United Methodist Church, commit to leading the NCJ through this difficult moment. We remain committed to our continuing call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and by sharing and living the Gospel.

We value episcopal leadership and commit to electing bishops as soon as possible. If and only if the 2020 General Conference, currently scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022, is postponed or canceled, and the regular session of the jurisdictional conference is subsequently proposed to be postponed or canceled, this special session of the NCJ Conference authorizes the duly elected heads of the conference delegations and the NCJ College of Bishops to work together to call a special session of the jurisdictional conference for November 2-5, 2022, the time currently scheduled for the regular session of the jurisdictional conference, for the purpose of the election of bishops, acting on nominations for jurisdictional committees and general agencies, budgeting and other necessary matters.

We encourage conferences and local churches to strive for reconciliation and understanding. However, some congregations and clergy may feel called to a different future in the faith. We respect our siblings who depart and desire to do no harm as we anticipate cooperative ecumenical efforts in the future. We grieve each separation. NCJ annual conferences should use existing disciplinary and conference provisions to accommodate local congregations and clergy seeking disaffiliation.

We stand in solidarity with United Methodists around the world who long for a world-wide contextual and regional denominational structure.

We call on the NCJ College of Bishops and Mission Council to immediately begin working with other Jurisdictions, Central Conferences, and the Connectional Table to make regional equity and contextualization a reality. We fully support polity changes, such as the Christmas Covenant or Connectional Table's US Regional Conference proposals, that will lead to regional equity and contextualization.

We recommend Annual Conferences engage in conversations about regional equity and contextualization.

Covenanting to Build the BeLoved Community, we look to 2024 with promise. We pledge ourselves to God's call upon our lives, to each other, and to the future of The United Methodist Church.

With God's help we will proclaim the good news

1 *and live according to the example of Christ.*
2 *We will surround each other*
3 *with a community of love and forgiveness,*
4 *that we may grow in our trust of God,*
5 *and be found faithful in our service to others.*
6 *We will pray for each other,*
7 *that we may be true disciples*
8 *who walk in the way that leads to life.*

1 **Document: 700.05**
 2 **Name: Closure - Cortland UMC**
 3 **Author(s): Brian Gilbert**

4
 5 **Action:**

6 WHEREAS the Cortland United Methodist Church located in the Village of Cortland, DeKalb
 7 County, Illinois has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its community and the world; and

8 WHEREAS the Cortland United Methodist Church faithfully served the community and Village
 9 of Cortland and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

10 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2539 of The Book of Discipline of The
 11 United Methodist Church 2016, the Prairie South District Superintendent has recommended
 12 with the approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June
 13 30, 2022. The Prairie South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur
 14 with the District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the
 15 presiding Bishop and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois
 16 Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church have consented to the District
 17 Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

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

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church, including, but not
 27 limited to its existing and future gifts, devises , and bequests, its existing personal property and
 28 accounts and its real property commonly known as 45 W. Chestnut, Cortland , Illinois 60112,
 29 shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United
 30 Methodist Church and shall , in discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet , be
 31 either:

- 32 ■ Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois Religious corporation referred to above
 33 pending sale or other disposition; or
 34 ■ Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
 35 the United Methodist Church; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
 37 Conference of the United Methodist Church be authorized and directed to provide for the care,
 38 maintenance, and disposition of said assets and shall dispose of said assets in accordance with
 39 the relevant provisions of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016; and
 40 that any monies or other assets received from the sale or other disposition of the assets of said

1 discontinued Church be used to pay off all monetary obligations and arrearages with any
2 remaining monies to be deposited in the Closed Church Fund as directed by Standing Rule 11,
3 part A, Section V of the Standing Rules of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The
4 United Methodist Church; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to the
6 DEKALB FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in Dekalb, Illinois, unless any such members
7 shall inform the pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

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

12

13 Rationale:

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

1 **Document: 700.06**
2 **Name: Closure - Flowing Forth UMC**
3 **Author(s): Jeffry Bross**
4

5 WHEREAS the Flowing Forth United Methodist Church, located in Aurora, Illinois was formed
6 out of the merger of Flowing Grace United Methodist and Fourth Street United Methodist
7 Church in 2018; and
8

9 WHEREAS the merged churches faithfully served not only the community of Aurora but
10 adjacent communities as well; and
11

12 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of the Book of Disciplines of the
13 United Methodist Church 2016, the Prairie Central District Superintendent has recommended
14 with the approval of the District committee on Building and Location has approved that the
15 church be discontinued effective July 1, 2022. The presiding Bishop and the majority of the
16 District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist
17 Church have consented to the recommendation to discontinue said church;
18

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

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of said Church who reside north of Highway 88
29 shall be transferred to Batavia United Methodist Church and those who reside south of
30 Highway 88 shall be transferred to Wellspring United Methodist Church; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all remaining assets of said Church, including, but not limited
33 to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests, shall become the assets of the Northern
34 Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church and shall in the discretion of the Bishop in
35 consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
36

- 37 a. Retained by the reincorporation shell Illinois religious corporation referred to above
38 pending sale or other disposition; or
- 39 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the
40 United Methodist Church; and
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
43 Conference of the United Methodist Church be authorized and directed to provide for the care,
44 maintenance and disposition of the said assets and shall dispose of said assets in accordance
45 with the relevant provisions of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016; and
46 that monies or other assets received from the sale or other disposition of the assets of said
47 discontinued Church be used to pay off all monetary obligations and remainder monies to be

1 deposited in the Closed Church Fund as directed by Standing Rule 11, Part A, Section V of the
2 Standing Rules of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church;
3 and

4
5 BE IT FINALLY RESEOLVED that the appropriate officers of the Northern Illinois Annual
6 Conference of the United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf of
7 the said Conference and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall recommend to
8 effectuate the above.

9

10 RATIONALE:

11

12 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ, Flowing
13 Forth UMC has come to a place of transition and closure. The congregation has expressed its
14 desire to celebrate the past ministry but no longer can remain in service as a chartered United
15 Methodist Church. The closure has been recommended by the appropriate District leadership
16 teams and the District Superintendent.

1 **Document: 700.07**

2 **Name: Help Us Find Our Shawnee Children**

3 **Authors: Shawnee Tribe, Ben Barnes, Tribal Chief, Thomas Rawlinson, member of Shawnee**
4 **Tribe; NIC Church and Society, Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC MFSA Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz,**
5 **co-chairs; NIC RMN Alka Lyall, Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators**

6
7 **Action:**

- 8 • The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church acknowledges the
9 harm done to the Shawnee people at the Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian
10 Manual Labor School.
- 11 • The conference, individually and collectively, pledge its support in finding the remains
12 of the missing Indigenous children. This may include a time of prayer and
13 remembrance and an education of the history of Indian Boarding Schools in local
14 congregations. It also calls on the UMC to acknowledge their part in this history, repent
15 to the Shawnee people, and be open participants in the search for these missing
16 children.
- 17 • Furthermore, the NIC will sponsor similar legislation supporting the Shawnee people's
18 search for their missing children at the 2024 General Conference.

19

20 **Rationale:**

21 The Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School operated in Kansas from
22 1830-1870, near present-day Fairway. As with other mission schools such as the Kamloops
23 Indian Mission School in British Columbia, Native children were taken from their parents and
24 forced into a system that has been called "cultural genocide." The discovery last year of
25 hundreds of unmarked graves at Kamloops has forced an international reckoning of the role
26 churches played in such atrocities.

27

28 In the words of Tribal Chief Ben Barnes, "It was here that the Methodists running the mission
29 forced young Shawnee children to work as field hands and manual laborers. In the windowless
30 attics of the still-standing dormitory, you can see where our children were forced to sleep and
31 carved messages left behind on the rafters. During our research, we discovered that parents
32 arrived at the school to check in on their children, only to learn right then they had died. We
33 are concerned because there is no cemetery at the Shawnee Indian Mission. We do not know
34 where these children of ours have been buried."

35

36 In 2012, the UMC initiated the Acts of Repentance. The Council of Bishops statement begins:
37 "As the Council of Bishops, we are here to repent and express remorse for the church's past
38 conduct in its relationships with Native and indigenous peoples in all the places where we have
39 extended the mission of the church for over two hundred years. We are here to commit
40 ourselves to addressing the wrong and asking for the forgiveness of those who have been
41 wronged by failing them so profoundly. We confess to God, acknowledging our guilt, resolving
42 to cease the harm, pledging ourselves to live differently, reversing the damage that has been
43 done through our participation in violence, maltreatment and neglect of Native and indigenous
44 peoples so that we may bring about healing and restoration to all."

1 **Document: 700.08**

2 **Name: Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land**

3 **Authors: United Methodists for Kairos Response, Paula Roderick; NIC Church and Society,**
4 **Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC MFSA Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs; NIC RMN Alka Lyall,**
5 **Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators**

6 **Action:**

7 The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms that apartheid is
8 antithetical to the Gospel message and that we recognize and oppose Israeli apartheid as we
9 strive to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves," and
10

11 The Conference calls on the U.S. government to condition U.S. funding to Israel upon Israel's
12 willingness to dismantle its apartheid system and implement all the rights due to Palestinians
13 under international law, and
14

15 The Conference urges all United Methodist clergy and laity to listen to the voices of Palestinians
16 regarding their situation, by meeting with them in their homeland, by seeking opportunities to
17 hear from them at online events, and through the study of the Palestinian Christians 'landmark
18 2020 document entitled "Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action."
19

20 **Rationale:**

21 In most of the region between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, Israel is the sole
22 governing power, and, in the remainder, Israel maintains primary control over Palestinians'
23 lives. Israeli authorities have demonstrated a clear intent to maintain domination over
24 Palestinians by enacting a system of laws and policies that grant full self-determination
25 exclusively to Jewish Israelis and enforce systematic oppression of Palestinians, which is the
26 essence of an apartheid system.
27

28 Apartheid is named as a "crime against humanity" under international law and the primary
29 features of apartheid include:

- 30 • codifying into law a preferred group of people and giving that group preferential
31 access to resources, benefits and services,
32 • segregating the population into geographic areas based on identity, and
33 • establishing laws and policies designed to suppress opposition to the regime and
34 enforcing domination through arbitrary imprisonment, torture, cruel and inhumane
35 treatment, and other violations of human rights.
36

37 Israel has seized more than three-quarters of the land of its Palestinian citizens and continues
38 their dispossession today, and Palestinians in the OPT have lived under Israeli military law for
39 generations without any protected civil rights.

40 If apartheid is to be opposed and abolished, it is essential for the international community to
41 recognize and name apartheid where it exists. The Social Principles of The United Methodist
42 Church state that United Methodists "commend and encourage the self-awareness of all racial
43 and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them to demand their just and equal rights
44 as members of society," and furthermore "call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures
45 or identities."
46

1 **Document: 700.09**
2 **Name: Let's Overcome Christian Nationalism**
3 **Authors: NIC Church and Society, Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC MFSA Luis F. Reyes and Elisa**
4 **Gatz, co-chairs; NIC RMN Alka Lyall, Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators**

5 **Action:**

- 6 • The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church condemns the use of
7 Christian symbols and prayers by the attackers on the U.S. Congress at the Capitol on
8 January 6, 2021. We invite our clergy and lay leaders to condemn that attack, as well as
9 any future attacks.
- 10 • The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church disavows the lies
11 spread about the 2020 Presidential Election that incited the mob carrying Christian
12 symbols to violently attack Congress while it was certifying the Electoral College votes
13 on January 6, 2021. We assert that the election of President Biden was free, fair, and
14 legal.
- 15 • We call upon our pastors and lay leaders to lead studies of Christian nationalism using
16 resources including www.ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org; "The Capitol
17 Insurrection Was as Christian Nationalist as It Gets," [www.nytimes.com/2021/02/28/](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/28/opinion/christian-nationalists)
18 [opinion/christian-nationalists](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/28/opinion/christian-nationalists); Taking America Back for God by Whitehead and Perry;
19 The Power Worshipers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalists by
20 Katherine Steward; and White Too Long, The Legacy of White Supremacy in American
21 Christianity by Robert Long.

22
23 **Rationale:**

24 Members of the Northern Illinois Conference were horrified at the assault on the U.S. Capitol on
25 January 6, 2021. We were dismayed by the use of Christian symbols during the violent attack on
26 the Congress. The sight of the cross, the Christian flag, "Jesus Saves" signs, and a "Jesus 2020"
27 flag modeled on the Trump campaign flag – along with the prayers professing a belief in God
28 empowering the insurrectionists onto victory – abused Christianity. We became more aware of
29 the dangerous ideology of Christian nationalism.

30 Our United Methodist faith compels us to recognize that Christian nationalism fuses Christian
31 and American identities so as to dishonor both the Christian faith and America's constitutional
32 democracy. We understand that Christian nationalism often overlaps white supremacy,
33 patriarchy, heteronormativity, authoritarianism, and militarism. We believe that no religion,
34 including Christianity, should be privileged by government policies. "The United Methodist
35 Church has for many years supported the separation of church and state." (UM Social
36 Principles)

37 We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires
38 acts of violence and intimidation – including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and
39 attacks on houses of worship – against religious communities at home and abroad.

1 **Document: 700.10**

2 **Name: Opposition to Unjust Theology Regarding the Holy Land**

3 **Authors: United Methodists for Kairos Response, Paula Roderick; NIC Church and Society,**
4 **Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC MFSA Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs; NIC RMN Alka Lyall,**
5 **Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators**

6

7 **Action:**

8 The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church declares its opposition to any
9 theology or biblical interpretation that would justify denying or violating the human rights of
10 Palestinians and other religious and ethnic minorities in Israel/Palestine.

11 The Northern Illinois Conference calls on its bishop to establish a task force to explore and
12 identify the biblical and theological reasons for opposing Israel's treatment of the Palestinian
13 people and to submit a report to the 2023 annual conference session which shall include
14 recommendations for actions the Conference should take in light of those findings.

15 **Rationale:**

16 Many Christians adhere to the theology of Christian Zionism, believing that the modern state of
17 Israel is a continuation of biblical Israel and a fulfillment of biblical prophecy and that "it is the
18 responsibility of Christians to support the State of Israel and its policies."¹

19 The New Testament does not prophesy a modern Israeli state controlled by any single group of
20 people, but does envision a time when Christ will have eliminated "the dividing wall of
21 hostility" between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14).

22 A statement endorsed by thirteen bishops and patriarchs of Palestinian Christian churches says
23 that Western Christians have attached "biblical and theological legitimacy to the infringement of
24 our rights" and calls on their fellow Christians to "deepen their reflection on the Word of God
25 and to rectify their interpretations" and avoid "any use of the Bible to legitimize or support
26 political options and positions that are based upon injustice."²

27 For decades, the United Methodist Church has opposed Israel's treatment of the Palestinian
28 people, including: "the continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East
29 Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of
30 Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a
31 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its
32 surroundings."³

33 Christian Zionism is having a significant and dangerous impact on U.S. policy regarding Israel,
34 by obstructing efforts to achieve a just peace and promoting U.S. acceptance of unjust treatment
35 of Palestinians, and the Israeli government is increasingly reliant on Christians in the United
36 States who adhere to this theology for political support.⁴

37

38

39 1. www.christianzionism.org

- 1 2. The Kairos Palestine Document - Paragraphs 2.3.3 and 2.4
- 2 https://www.kairosresponse.org/kairos_palestine_document.html
- 3 3. Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land, UMC Book of Resolutions 2016, #6111
- 4 [https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/opposition-to-](https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/opposition-to-israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land-6111)
- 5 [israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land-6111](https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/opposition-to-israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land-6111)
- 6 4. Christian Zionism and the Formation of Foreign Policy
- 7 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24915906>

1 **Document: 700.11**
2 **Name: Support of the Christmas Covenant legislation**
3 **Author: NIC General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**
4 **CCFA Comment:**

5
6 **ACTION:**

7 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church recognizes,
8 supports, and celebrates the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation of the
9 Christmas Covenant (please see www.christmascovenant.com) and endorses its legislative
10 language, including the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference along with the Central
11 Conferences as Regional Conferences.

12
13
14 **RATIONALE:**

15 The Christmas Covenant legislation was written primarily by United Methodists from Africa,
16 Europe and the Philippines. In February, 2020, it was passed by the Philippines Annual
17 Conference - Cavite and submitted to the next General Conference. The Connectional Table
18 (CT) affirms the Christmas Covenant as an “expression of the CT’s commitment to institutional
19 equity and to dismantling historic, systemic colonialism.” (CT press release, Nov. 3, 2020) It
20 calls on The United Methodist Church to structure itself into Regions, with local autonomy, to
21 address issues particular to their own unique contexts, at the same time, continuing its structure
22 as a global connection. This allows us to address common global issues and give cross-regional
23 help to each region so that we may be more effective in dealing with the unique challenges that
24 we face in our own regions of the world.

25
26

1 **Document: 700.12**

2 **Name: Resolution - Elections for General Conference**

3 **Authors: Hwa-Young Chong, Brian Gilbert**

4

5 **Action:**

6 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference will hold elections at the 2023 Annual Conference for
7 delegates to the next General Conference held in 2024.

8

9 **Rationale:**

10 The process of the NIC is to elect delegates for a 4-year term, and the NIC standing rules
11 (section 2.B.1-2) state that elections are to be held no earlier than two years prior to the next
12 General/Jurisdictional Conference.

1 **Document: 700.13**

2 **Name: Resolution for Korea's Peace**

3 **Author(s): Hwa-Young Chong**

4

5 **Action:**

- 6 1. The Northern Illinois Annual Conference pray for Korea's peace as part of worship,
- 7 Bible Study, or special presentation during the 184th annual conference in 2023 on the
- 8 occasion of the 70th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War.
- 9 2. The Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference appoint a committee to work on this
- 10 prayer time during the 2023 annual conference and on educational and spiritual
- 11 formation resources for the congregations and individuals to use.
- 12 3. The Northern Illinois Conference encourage all local churches to consider taking a
- 13 moment in worship to pray for peace in Korea, preferably around the 70th anniversary of
- 14 the armistice of the Korean War.

15

16 **Rationale:**

17

18 Christians affirm Christ is our peace, as widely witnessed in the New Testament including the
 19 following passage: "For he [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one
 20 and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14).

21

22 The year 2023 marks the 70th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War in 1953. The
 23 political and military tensions have continued since then, threatening peace on the Korean
 24 peninsula as well as threatening global peace.

25

26 The Korean War, which started on June 25, 1950 and lasted for three years, was an international
 27 war fought on the Korean peninsula, involving military forces from China, the Soviet Union,
 28 the United States, and United Nations (UN) Forces. An estimated 3 million civilians and
 29 combatants lost their lives in the war, with countless others injured in body and spirit. The
 30 descendants of those killed, survivors, veterans, the injured, and war refugees and orphans now
 31 live all over the world, bearing the pain of the war.

32

33 The armistice treaty of the Korean War on July 27, 1953 served as a military ceasefire and
 34 resulted in the division of Korea into two: North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
 35 and South Korea (Republic of Korea). North and South Koreans share one language, common
 36 history, and cultural heritage. Since the national division in 1953, civilian communication or
 37 visits have not been allowed. During these years, husband and wives were separated. Parents
 38 and children were pulled apart. People in both North and South Korea have lived under the
 39 threat of war, political demonization of each other, and the pain of family separation.

40

41 The United States forces still are stationed in South Korea. The peace of Korea is not only a
 42 concern of the Korean people. It involves U.S. army (militarily); surrounding nations (geo-
 43 politically); and many other nations in this increasingly globalized world community. An
 44 escalation of tension in Korea can affect global peace. At the same time, a more peaceful
 45 situation in Korea can expand a sense of wellbeing for others.

46

- 1 Praying for peace is an important part of Christian discipleship. Specific prayer requests for
2 Korea's peace may include the following:
- 3 • Praying for replacing the armistice treaty with a peace treaty
 - 4 • Praying for peace and reconciliation for Korea's separated families and their
5 descendants
 - 6 • Praying for the descendants of those who were killed in the Korean War, those who
7 were injured in the Korean War and still live with the wounds from the war, and all who
8 were affected by the Korean War
 - 9 • Praying for transforming the demilitarized zone into a peace park
 - 10 • Praying for the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas
 - 11 • Praying for the world community to work for greater peace in the world; and

12

13 Christ calls us to be peacemakers. Our prayers for peace will connect us with all who yearn for
14 peace in Korea and in the world.

15

16

17 **Submitted by:**

18 Hwa-Young Chong, Clergy, Community UMC, Naperville

19

20 Eunbae Doh, Clergy, Channahon UMC, Channahon; President, NIC Korean-American Clergy
21 Association

22

23 Sang Hun Han, Clergy, Good Samaritan UMC, Addison; Executive Director, NIC Korean-
24 American Clergy Association

25

26 Hyewon Sophia Hyon, Clergy, First (Temple) UMC, Chicago; Treasurer, NIC Korean-American
27 Clergy Association

28

29 Hogun Kim, Clergy, South Suburban Korean UMC, Flossmoor; Secretary, NIC Korean-
30 American Clergy Association

1 **Document: 700.14**

2 **Name: Separation Resolution for Local Church -- Clear, Transparent, Fair, and Collaborative:**
 3 **Guidelines for Congregations Considering Leaving the Northern Illinois Annual Conference**
 4 **Author(s): Scott Field**

5
 6 **RESOLVED:**

7 That the 2022 Session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference (NIC), out of respect for
 8 one another, a desire to do no harm, and a commitment to allow congregations and their
 9 members grace and space freely to consider their options for the future, encourages all
 10 officials and entities of the Annual Conference to be governed by the following principles,
 11 policies and processes when engaging congregations considering withdrawal from the
 12 NIC to join "one of the other denominations represented in the Pan-Methodist
 13 Commission or ... another evangelical denomination" (*Book of Discipline*, paragraph
 14 2548.2), or to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church "for reasons of conscience
 15 regarding a change in the requirements and provision of *The Book of Discipline* related to
 16 the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing
 17 homosexual persons as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the
 18 actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow"
 19 (Paragraph 2553).

- 20 1. Congregations considering their relationship with the NIC shall undertake a
 21 deliberate and intentional process of informed, prayerful discernment.
- 22 2. Congregations joining one of the denominations represented in the Pan-Methodist
 23 Commission or another evangelical church may, at their sole discretion, choose to
 24 withdraw for purposes of transfer under the provisions of Paragraph 2548.2.
- 25 3. Congregations disaffiliating to an independent status shall be required to use the
 26 provisions of Paragraph 2553. All churches, regardless of their theological position,
 27 should be permitted to disaffiliate pursuant to Paragraph 2553 so long as they meet
 28 the requirements of Paragraph 2553.
- 29 4. Any required support for unfunded pension liability shall be based on Wespath
 30 calculations of the aggregate unfunded liability of the Annual Conference. The
 31 formula for the proportion of the aggregate liability allocated to particular
 32 congregations shall be determined by the appropriate group within the NIC.
 33 Actuarial reports, financial statements, audit reports, and calculations supporting
 34 both the aggregate amount of unfunded pension liability as determined by Wespath
 35 as well as the NIC formula for apportioning the aggregate amount of unfunded
 36 pension liability to local churches shall be provided to all churches.
- 37
- 38 5. Northern Illinois Annual Conference officials and entities are encouraged to abide by
 39 the following guidelines in administering Paragraph 2548.2:

- 1 a. Any allocation, exchange of property, or comity agreement shall include the
2 following requirements. No additional sums, "exit fees", or penalties shall be
3 required.
- 4 i. The local church retains all its assets and liabilities.
- 5 ii. The local church shall repay previously documented loans from the
6 Annual Conference.
- 7 iii. The local church shall either remain under Wespath and carry its
8 unfunded pension liability forward with it or owe the Northern
9 Illinois Conference for the local church's proportional share of the
10 unfunded liability. The liability shall include unfunded obligations
11 related to The United Methodist Church's pre-1982 pension plan, the
12 Ministerial Pension Plan, and/or the Clergy Retirement Security
13 Program. Actuarial reports and financial statements from Wespath
14 documenting any unfunded liability shall be provided to departing
15 churches. This liability may be satisfied by direct payment to the NIC
16 before the effective date of withdrawal, by partial payments over time
17 until the liability is fulfilled, or a promissory note approved by the
18 conference chancellor or another attorney retained by the Conference
19 in the sum of the withdrawal liability.
- 20 iv. The local church shall be current in its apportionment payments to the
21 NIC for the current year.
- 22 v. No additional sums will be required to obtain release of all the
23 congregation's property and assets from the trust clause.
- 24 b. The local church shall make the decision about its future relationship with
25 the NIC at a church conference duly called according to the provisions of *The*
26 *Book of Discipline*. The Church Council (or its equivalent) shall determine
27 whether a simple majority or a two-thirds super majority shall be required
28 for approval of a motion to separate from the NIC. If the motion is to
29 disaffiliate to an independent status, a two-third majority will be required per
30 paragraph 2553 of the *Book of Discipline*.
- 31 c. The district superintendent shall approve the request of the Church Council
32 (or its equivalent) for a church conference and shall preside or choose another
33 elder to preside at a church conference to take place no later than sixty days
34 after the request is made.
- 35 6. Matters pertaining to the role of the currently appointed or assigned pastoral
36 leadership, as well as any other church staff, will be addressed in the withdrawal
37 agreement. Further, professing members of the withdrawing church who desire to
38 continue in a United Methodist congregation shall have the option of transferring

- 1 membership to another United Methodist congregation congruent with paragraphs
2 229 and paragraph 2549.2 of the *Book of Discipline*.
- 3 7. A written agreement detailing the requirements of departure and, in the case of
4 withdrawal to align with another eligible denomination, the reception of the
5 congregation into its new denomination, is to be signed by the NIC, the local
6 congregation, and, if applicable, the receiving denomination after review by the NIC
7 chancellor or attorney retained by the NIC for this purpose.
- 8 8. All agreements for separation are undertaken with the consent of the presiding
9 bishop and shall be presented to the Annual Conference at a regular or specially
10 called session for final approval. Any congregations seeking disaffiliation under
11 paragraph 2553 must complete the process by December 31, 2023, per the
12 requirements of that section of the *Book of Discipline*. The process for withdrawal to
13 align with another eligible denomination under paragraph 2548.2 will have no time
14 limit imposed or implied.

15 **Rationale:**

16 *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* contains two options for
17 congregations choosing to separate from the United Methodist Church: 1) Paragraph
18 2548.2 relating to release of the trust clause for a local congregation to join a church
19 “represented in the Pan-Methodist Commission or another evangelical denomination;”
20 or 2) Paragraph 2553 which grants the limited right, until December 31, 2023, for United
21 Methodist congregations to disaffiliate for reasons of conscience over the practice of
22 ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals; and

23 *The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation* and its legislation submitted to
24 the now postponed 2020 General Conference offers a proposal to restructure the United
25 Methodist Church by separation as a means to resolve our differences, allowing each
26 part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the
27 dignity, equality, integrity, and respect for every person; and

28 *The Covenant to Build BeLoved Community*, adopted by the North Central Jurisdictional
29 Conference (November 2021) and affirmed by the NIC General and Jurisdictional
30 Conference delegation states,

31 *We encourage conferences and local churches to strive for reconciliation and*
32 *understanding. However, some congregations and clergy may feel called to a different*
33 *future in the faith. We respect our siblings who depart and desire to do no harm as we*
34 *anticipate cooperative ecumenical efforts in the future. We grieve each separation. NCJ*
35 *annual conferences should use existing disciplinary and conference provisions to*
36 *accommodate local congregations and clergy seeking disaffiliation.*
37 ([https://www.ncjumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NCJ-Covenant-to-](https://www.ncjumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NCJ-Covenant-to-Build-BeLoved-Community-1.pdf)
38 [Build-BeLoved-Community-1.pdf](https://www.ncjumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NCJ-Covenant-to-Build-BeLoved-Community-1.pdf))

39 The prolonged delay of General Conference, and uncertainty whether the *Protocol* will
40 be enacted, as well as limited information about requirements in the Northern Illinois

1 Annual Conference for congregations desiring to disaffiliate or withdraw for purpose of
2 transfer contributes to anxiety, loss of trust, and distraction in our local churches.

3 Clear guidance by Annual Conference action regarding the separation process and
4 expected requirements will reduce anxiety, allow for open, peaceable, and informed
5 consideration by local churches, their pastors, and NIC leaders, and empower local
6 churches to make better decisions about their futures if and when they choose to do so.

7

8 Submitted by:

9 Rev. Scott N. Field

10 NIC Clergy (Retired)

1 **Document: 700.15**

2 **Name: Supporting the Rights of Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers to Justice Equity**
3 **and Right to Counsel**

4 **Author(s): Northern Illinois Church and Society, Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC RMN, Alka Lyall,**
5 **Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators; and NIC Methodist Federation for Social**
6 **Action, Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs.**

7
8 **Action:**

- 9
- 10 1. Calls upon its clergy, lay leaders, and members to educate themselves about the
11 plight of immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees attempting to enter this country
12 and particularly here in the Northern Illinois conference.
 - 13 2. Urges its clergy, lay leaders, and members to consider ways to support Justice for Our
14 Neighbors and other advocacy and support groups such as Interfaith Immigration
15 Coalition, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and CLASP, whose
16 missions are to offer free high-quality legal services to low-income immigrants,
17 asylum seekers, and refugees; to engage in education and advocacy efforts; and, to
18 provide hospitality and needed childcare, and other related necessary services to aid
19 them in feeling welcomed and supported.
 - 20 3. 4. Urges its clergy, lay leaders, and church members, on their own behalf to contact
21 (write, call, or meet) their State Representatives and Senators to urge them to co-
22 sponsor HB 0025 and SB 3144 respectively, the Immigration Right to Counsel Act.
 - 23 5. Directs the Conference Secretary [or other appropriate Conference rep] to write our
24 State legislators to vote for and support the Immigrant Right to Counsel Act, and
25 advocate for better state laws to promote the health, welfare and security of
26 immigrants.
 - 27 6. Urges its clergy, lay leaders, and members to continue to call upon our U.S.
28 representatives, to continue to pursue more and better decisions to care for the health,
29 welfare, and security of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, such as the recent
30 decision to terminate the federal law, Title 42, which was misused to block migrants
31 from seeking asylum at our southern borders and elsewhere in the U.S.

32
33 **Rationale:**

34
35 United Methodists, at the conference and General Conference level, have consistently passed
36 resolutions and endorsed measures to protect the rights of immigrants, refugees, and asylum
37 seekers..[1]

38
39 We are grateful that, Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON), was created initiated by the General
40 Board of Global Ministries in 1999 to help serve thousands of immigrants across the United
41 States. . The JFON network effectively provides services to our community here within the
42 Northern Ill. Conference, and also is a strong forum for advocacy on behalf of immigrant
43 rights. See, nijfon.org. We appreciate the work of JFON and other organizations to advocate on
44 the state level for passage of a state law providing immigrants rights to counsel.
45 On the Federal level, we note with joy that the Interfaith Immigration Coalition has released a
46 statement in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announced plans
47 to terminate Title 42 by May 23. The public health order, first invoked by the Trump

1 administration and continued by the Biden administration, has been misused for over two years
2 to block migrants from seeking asylum at the U.S. southern border under the guise of protecting
3 public health. Title 42 has resulted in approximately 1.7 million expulsions of asylum seekers
4 back to harm, which has disproportionately impacted Black migrants. Over 10,000 documented
5 incidents of kidnapping, torture, rape, and other violent attacks against vulnerable migrants have
6 been reported since the start of the Biden administration due to Title 42. This is indeed a great
7 step in support of the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, and we also know that more is
8 required of faith communities to support the advocacy and humanitarian work of JFON,
9 Interfaith Immigration Coalition, [should we include CLASP?] and comparable organizations

10
11 We are called to these actions because as Jesus said “I was a stranger and you welcomed
12 me.” Matthew 25:35B; and “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that
13 some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2; “When an alien resides with
14 you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.” Leviticus 19:33.

15
16 ^[4] We call upon all UM churches to welcome newly arriving migrants, to treat them as one of
17 our native born, see in them the presence of the incarnated Jesus, show hospitality to the
18 migrants in our midst, oppose unfair and inhumane immigration policies, such as those that
19 support family separation. See, 2016 Book of Resolutions, #3281 (Welcoming the Migrant to the
20 US); 2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles par. 162.

21

1 **Document: 700.16**

2 **Name: Supporting the Right to Free Speech and to Engage in Nonviolent Actions including**
3 **Boycotts**

4 **Authors: Northern Illinois Church and Society, Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC RMN, Alka Lyall, Luis**
5 **F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators; and NIC Methodist Federation for Social Action,**
6 **Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs.**

7
8 **Action:**

- 10 1. Calls upon its clergy and laity to support the right to engage in nonviolent resistance
11 including the use of boycotts and divestments.
- 12 2. Urges its clergy and laity to educate themselves about the damage anti-BDS laws have
13 done to free speech rights and other nonviolent actions.
- 14 3. Urges its clergy and laity ,to consider the dangers posed by an Illinois statute that
15 penalizes companies for engaging in actions critical of Israel, even when those actions
16 are taken out of concern for human rights.
- 17 4. Urges its clergy and laity, on their own behalf to contact (write, call, or meet) their State
18 Representatives and Senators to urge them to review Illinois 'anti-BDS law and
19 proposed U.S. legislation and consider whether these efforts to protect the State of Israel
20 justify the chilling of and actual infringement on free speech, and chilling the efforts of
21 companies to comply with international law and human rights.

22
23 **Rationale:**

24
25 In 2005, after years of occupation and oppression, Palestinian civil society issued an urgent cry
26 to the international community to use boycott divestment and sanctions (“BDS”) actions until
27 Israel: 1) provides equal rights to Palestinian/Israeli citizens inside Israel, 2) recognizes the right
28 of return for Palestinian refugees, and 3) ends the occupation of Palestine.

29
30 In recent years, this Palestinian-led movement has garnered international support from
31 churches – including the United Methodist and Presbyterian churches - universities and other
32 institutions as it seeks to apply economic pressure on Israel over its treatment of Palestinians.

33
34 United Methodists, at both Annual and General conference levels, have consistently passed
35 resolutions and endorsed measures to protect the rights of Palestinians. The NIC was the first
36 US conference to pass a divestment resolution in 2006.

37
38 On May 3, 2012, the UMC passed the resolution "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in
39 Palestinian Land," calling for a boycott of all products produced in Israel's illegal settlements on
40 Palestinian land. The GC also asked "*all companies* that profit from and/or support settlements
41 through their business activities to examine these and stop any business that contributes to
42 serious violations of international law, promotes systemic discrimination or otherwise supports
43 ongoing military occupation."

44
45 The UMC Resolution foreshadowed the 2014 U.N. Human Rights Council's resolution urging
46 businesses to avoid supporting the establishment and maintenance of Israeli settlements in the
47 occupied Palestinian Territories.

1 Since then, at both State (including Illinois) and Federal levels, there have been massive
2 efforts aimed at suppressing criticism of Israel through the use of boycott or divestment
3 initiatives (see, <https://palestinelegal.org/righttoboycott>). These efforts are disturbing given
4 that over 30 years ago, the Supreme Court held that boycotts are a form of free speech
5 protected by the First Amendment (*NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware*), such laws have been
6 declared unconstitutional by Federal courts (see [https://www.aclu.org/letter/aclu-letter-](https://www.aclu.org/letter/aclu-letter-opposing-revised-version-israel-anti-boycott-act)
7 [opposing-revised-version-israel-anti-boycott-act](https://www.aclu.org/letter/aclu-letter-opposing-revised-version-israel-anti-boycott-act)).
8 Laws that seek to punish companies for engaging acts perceived as critical of the State, or to
9 cease profiting from or supporting the illegal settlements, go too far. Efforts to silence,
10 infringe, or simply to chill First Amendment free speech rights, including bills that target the
11 use of boycotts or divestment for social justice issues, regardless of whether to support the
12 rights of Palestinians to life with dignity, freedom of movement, and basic human rights, or
13 for other social justice issues, are inappropriate and must not be condoned.

14
15 Illinois 'anti-BDS statute permits a seven-member board to determine that a company is
16 "boycotting" Israel and/or "any territory controlled by Israel," and place that company on the
17 prohibited investment list. In just the past few years, this Board has invoked the statute
18 threaten Air BnB, Ben and Jerry's, Air Canada.