

1 **Document: 700.14**
2 **Name: Discontinuance of LITTLE WHITE CHURCH**
3 **Author: Rev. Brittany Isaac, District Superintendent, Lake North District,**
4 **UMC**
5 **CCFA Action:**
6 **Legislative Section:**

7
8 **ACTION:**

9 WHEREAS the LITTLE WHITE CHURCH, located in the Village of Melrose
10 Park, Proviso Township Township of Cook County, Illinois was formed in 2005
11 and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its community and the world for
12 18 years; and

13
14 WHEREAS the LITTLE WHITE CHURCH faithfully served the community in
15 the Village of Melrose Park and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

16
17 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline*
18 *of The United Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake North District Superintendent has
19 recommended with the approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be
20 discontinued effective July 1, 2023. The Lake North District Committee on
21 Building and Location has voted to concur with the District Superintendent's
22 recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop and the
23 majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual
24 Conference of The United Methodist Church have consented to the District
25 Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

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

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
39 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
40 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
41 known as 1417 N. 37th Avenue, Melrose Park Illinois 60160,

1 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
2 United Methodist Church, and
3 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:
4 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
5 referred to above
6 pending sale or other disposition; or
7 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
8 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
9

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be
12 transferred to the Franklin Park First United Methodist Church, unless any such
13 members shall inform the pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and
14

15 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois
16 Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed
17 to execute on behalf of the said Conference any and all such additional
18 documents as legal counsel shall recommend to effectuate the above.
19

20 RATIONALE:

21 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus
22 Christ, LITTLE WHITE CHURCH has come to a place of transition and closure
23 as membership and attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed
24 its desire to celebrate its past ministry but to no longer remain in service as
25 LITTLE WHITE CHURCH. The closure has been recommended by the Lake
26 North District Strategy Team, the Lake North District Board on Church Location
27 and Buildings and the District Superintendent.

1 **Document: 702.01**

2 **NAME: Amend the Standing Rules to Create The Joint Board of Pensions, Health Benefits,**
3 **and Equitable Compensation**

4 **Author(s): Beth Swanick (and those listed below)**

5 **CCFA Action:**

6 **Legislative Section:**

7

8 SUBMITTED BY: Conference Board of Pension and Benefits (Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Rev.
9 Brittany Isaac, Rev. Caleb Hong, Lois Long, Rev. Deborah Dangerfield, Rev. Harry Nicol,
10 Kristina Gaughan, Lisa Schilling, Rev. Christina Vosteen, Beth Swanick, Kristina Fisher, Dan
11 VanHaften), and the Equitable Compensation Task Force as created by 2023 Annual Conference
12 Action (Judith Gazaway, Rev. Brittany Isaac, Rev. Dennis Langdon, Rev. Noemi Meza, Karen
13 Newby, Betsy Smith, Rev. Matthew Smith, Beth Swanick, Fe Williams, Rev. Illhan You)

14

15 **ACTION:**

16 **The Equitable Compensation Task Force, partnering with the Conference Board of Pensions**
17 **and Benefits, recommends amending the Standing Rules to add Equitable Compensation**
18 **responsibilities (§625) to the Board of Pensions (§ 639), as the Joint Board of Pensions,**
19 **Health Benefits, and Equitable Compensation.**

20 Membership: 10 persons: an equal number of lay and clergy, one-third laywomen, one-third
21 laymen and one-third clergy, with at least 5 persons representing churches of less than 200
22 members, and one DS recommended by the Cabinet. Each will serve for 8 years, one-half
23 elected each quadrennium. Officers: Elected by the Joint Board members at the start of each
24 program year as needed.

25 **RATIONALE:**

26 The Joint Board of Pensions, Benefits, and Equitable Compensation is responsible for overseeing
27 the pension, and group health/disability insurance plans (administered through the Conference
28 Finance Office) for the Northern Illinois Conference's clergy members and lay employees, and
29 for recommending conference standards for base clergy compensation, as follows:

30 1: *"Shall have charge of the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief,*
31 *assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the*
32 *institutions, organizations, and agencies within that annual conference of The United Methodist*
33 *Church."* ¶ 639.1.

34 2: *"Support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a)*
35 *recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base*
36 *compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to*
37 *district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage*
38 *policy to be adopted by the annual conference."* ¶ 625.2

39

40 The Joint Board allows one group to examine the total rewards of pastoral compensation,
41 including pension, benefits, and base compensation. This aligns with the structure of the
42 Wisconsin Annual Conference, to facilitate ease of shared Conference Benefits Officer.

1 **Document: 702.02**
2 **Name: Amend Standing Rule Section II B. 3. b.**
3 **Author(s): General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation of the Northern Illinois**
4 **Conference**
5 **CCFA Action:**
6 **Legislation Section Assignment:**

7 **Action:**

8 Amend Standing Rule Section II Annual, General, and Jurisdictional Conference Elections, B.
9 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 3. Reserve delegates, b. as follows:

10
11 Northern Illinois Conference shall bear the expenses for ~~two~~ clergy and ~~two~~ lay reserve
12 delegates for the sessions of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences respectively, **that**
13 ~~unless the expenses are~~ **not** paid by General or Jurisdictional Conference.

14
15 **Rationale:**

16 The delegation works as one team leading up to General Conference: meeting consistently,
17 reading and processing legislation, and brainstorming strategies. We all know General
18 Conference means sitting in session for long hours, staying focused and maintaining a presence
19 of mind for the fast pace at which the conference runs. Having all reserves at General Conference
20 will help in coalition building especially in legislative sections where we do not have NIC
21 delegates, and will open the possibility for all reserves to be seated at General Conference and to
22 gain experience as future General Conference delegates. This further strengthens the NIC
23 delegation, as a whole and helps the seated delegates to pay attention to self-care. sharp, as non
24 voting delegates can take on extra needed tasks and shoulder the burden of coalition building
25 and staying up to date on conversations and legislative amendments.

26
27

1 Document: 702.03

2 Name: Amend Standing Rule Section III Conference Agencies

3 Author(s): Northern Illinois Conference Committee on Nominations

4 Legislation Section Assignment:

5 **Action:**

6 Amend Standing Rule Section III, B. Nominations Procedure as follows:

7
8 3. Except as otherwise directed by The Discipline, when a vacancy occurs in any Conference
9 group:

10 a. Notification of a vacancy will be made to the Conference Committee on Nominations.

11 b. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall fill the vacancies within 60 days of
12 notification.

13 c. The Committee shall consider the office vacant after an attempt to notify by ~~first class~~
14 ~~mail~~ email said member of pending action has been made by the Committee and the
15 member has been given ~~10~~ 15 days to ~~appear before the Committee or to respond by letter~~
16 email to explain his/her/their inactivity.

17 4. Within 60 days after the Annual Conference session, current lists of names, email ~~and~~
18 addresses, and phone numbers of all members of the conference bodies shall be provided to all
19 their chairpersons or conveners by the Conference Secretary.

20
21 Amend Standing Rule Section III, C. Disciplinary Bodies as follows:

22
23 1. Council on Finance and Administration (§ 611-618)

24 Purpose: § 612.1 ~~To develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated~~
25 ~~plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the~~
26 ~~annual conference.~~

27 Membership: § 612.2 and Twenty-one (21) persons with a recommended balance of 7
28 clergy, 7 laymen and 7 laywomen, elected quadrennially.

29 Officers: § 612.3

30
31 3. Board of Pensions (§ 639).

32 Purpose: § 639.1.

33 Membership: § 639.2 and ~~Twenty members~~, at least two members from each district,
34 serving 8-year terms, one-half elected each quadrennium.

35 Officers: § 639.3.

36
37 4. Board of Trustees (§ 640 and 2512)

38 Purpose: § 2512 ~~±~~ 3-8. In addition, The Trustees shall be the custodian of any burial lots
39 belonging to the Conference.

40 Membership: § 2512.1 and ~~Twelve persons. The recommended membership is one third~~
41 ~~clergy, one third laymen, and one third laywomen elected in classes of three to serve four-~~
42 ~~year terms. E~~ each district shall have at least one representative. Within four weeks of the
43 close of each Annual Conference, the ~~District Superintendent~~ Cabinet Representative
44 assigned to the Board shall convene a meeting to elect officers.

45 Officers: § 2512.2.

1 Amend Standing Rule Section III, D. Conference Agencies as follows:

2
3 2. Committee on Nominations

4 Membership: A District Superintendent chosen by the Cabinet; Director of Connectional
5 Ministries; Conference Lay Leader; a representative from each of the following: United
6 ~~Methodist Women in Faith~~, United Methodist Men, Retired Clergy Association, Fellowship
7 of Asian-Americans, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and ~~La Junta~~ Hispanic/Latinx
8 Ministry Team. An additional sixteen (16) members to be nominated by the Committee on
9 Nominations with a minimum of two from each district, and with care being given to honor
10 diversity relative to gender, ethnicity, and clergy-lay representation, will be organized in the
11 following terms ~~and classes~~:

12 Term: Four-year terms, limited to two full terms.

13 ~~Classes: Four classes with four members each.~~

14 Officers: Chair is nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the Annual
15 Conference for the Quadrennium. The committee shall elect such other officers as it deems
16 necessary from its membership.

17 When a district desires a District Committee on Nominations, it shall be established by its
18 District Council or District Conference.

19
20 3. Annual Conference Committee

21 Purpose: To make arrangements for the regular Annual, Special or Adjourned Sessions of the
22 Conference, to plan and arrange the Agenda of the Annual Conference Session in
23 consultation with the Bishop, to budget the expense, arrange the place of holding the
24 Conference, to provide for child care and to enlist such additional persons necessary for the
25 carrying out of the Conference Sessions and to be available to assist the bishop in organizing
26 and facilitating worship at the Annual Conference Sessions.

27 Membership: Twenty-four persons to serve terms of four years. It is recommended that 1/3
28 shall be clergy, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 laywomen. Ex Officio Members: The Bishop, District
29 Superintendents, Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, Conference
30 Secretary; Chairs or their representatives of the Boards of Church and Society, Discipleship
31 and Global Ministries, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships,
32 ~~Committee on Ushers~~, Credentials Committee and Council on Finance and Administration;
33 Presidents of UMM and ~~UMW-UW~~ UMW-UW Faith; and the host pastors for the coming session of the
34 Annual Conference.

35 Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary nominated by the Committee on Nominations and
36 elected by the Conference for the quadrennium. The Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair of Daily
37 Procedure.

38
39 4. Credentials Committee

40 Purpose: Monitor provisions of the equalization formula and be responsible for matters
41 pertaining to certification and seating of Conference members.

42 Membership: ~~Six persons~~, one person for ~~from~~ each district and the Conference Registrar.

43
44 5. ~~United Methodist of Northern Illinois Conference, Inc.~~ Midwest Methodist Foundation

45 Annual meeting: The Bishop chairs and convenes the members of the Conference as
46 members of the corporation to receive reports and proposals, to elect the Board of Directors
47 for the current class and to vacancies in other classes. At the close of the corporation's

1 business, the bishop, by the vote of the Conference, adjourns the corporation meeting and
2 resumes the Conference business.

3 Foundation Sunday: The third Sunday of May each year or another Sunday in May or June
4 that may be selected in the local church, not to take an offering but for the purpose of
5 increasing the awareness of church membership of the Christian stewardship opportunities
6 for one's family and church with a will, trust or life income plan.

7 Officers of the board: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all members of the
8 board; Assistant Treasurer is Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services.

9
10 8. Committee to Implement the Hispanic Plan

11 Membership: Nineteen, including two Hispanic clergy, two Hispanic laity, nine non-
12 Hispanic persons, one representative from ~~La Junta~~ Hispanic/Latinx Ministry Team, one
13 representative from Congregational Development and Redevelopment, Board of Global
14 Ministries and one representative each from the Board of Church and Society, and Higher
15 Education and Campus Ministry, plus a Cabinet representative.

16 Officers: Chair, vice chair and secretary, elected by the committee.

17
18 11. Shepherding Teams, II Annual Conference Shepherding Team, c Membership, ii Selection of
19 Members, 4 Designates, a

20 1. Vital Congregations Ministries (5 4 Constituent Groups)

- 21 • Committee of Accessibility Ministries
- 22 • Congregational Development and Redevelopment (Code Red)
- 23 • ~~Spiritual Formation Work Area~~
- 24 • Keagy Town & Rural Ministry
- 25 • Latinx/Hispanic Ministry Team

26
27
28 **Rationale:**

29 Update the Standing Rules to identify direction from the Book of Discipline of the United
30 Methodist Church, highlight where the Standing Rules are additive, and align with Northern
31 Illinois Conference practice. Additionally, there are a several editorial changes to update group
32 names and eliminate the duplication of Spiritual Formation. The full text of the Standing Rules
33 may be found beginning on page 255 of the 2023 Journal. An electronic copy of the 2023 Journal
34 may be found on the Northern Illinois Conference website under Communications, Journal.