

1 **Document: 650.03**

2 **Name: Discontinuance of Franklin Grove UMC**

3 **Author(s): District Superintendent Brian Gilbert, Prairie South District, UMC**

4 **CCFA Action:**

5
6 **ACTION:**

7
8 WHEREAS the Franklin Grove UMC located in the City of Franklin Grove, Illinois at the
9 commonly known address 223 Middle Street Franklin Grove, IL 61031, in Lee County Village of
10 Bureau County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ and served its community and the
11 world for having closed on July 1, 2024 and

12
13 WHEREAS the Franklin Grove UMC faithfully served the community in the Village of
14 Franklin Grove, IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

15
16 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
17 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Prairie South District Superintendent has recommended with the approval of
18 the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective July 1, 2024. The Prairie South
19 District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the District Superintendent's
20 recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop and the majority of the District
21 Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church have
22 consented to the District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

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

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to Franklin
34 Grove UMC in Franklin Grove, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the pastor of the
35 transferee church otherwise; and

36
37 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual Conference
38 of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the said Conference
39 any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall recommend to effectuate the above.

40
41 **RATIONALE:**

42 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ, Franklin Grove
43 UMC has come to a place of transition and closure as membership and attendance have declined. The
44 congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past ministry but to no longer remain in service as
45 Franklin Grove UMC. The closure has been recommended by the Board on Church Location and
46 Buildings and the District Superintendent.

Document Number: 680.02

Name: Minimum Salaries for Full-Time Elders

Author(s): The Equitable Compensation Committee. Beth Swanick, Lisa Kruse-Safford, Leanne Keate, Mori Oo, Melwyn Alagodi, Jarice Shaw, Veronica Davenport, Scott Hoffman, Wendy Hardin-Hermann.

CCFA Action:

ACTION:

- 1) Minimum cash salaries for full-time Elders appointed in the NIC will be as follows, showing an increase of 7.0% for the next fiscal year:

Status	2023 actual	2024 actual	2025 actual	2026 recommended	2027 projected
Elder	(\$37,450)	(\$40,763)	(\$43,616)	(\$46,669)	(\$49,936)
LLP	(\$37,450)	(\$40,763)	(\$41,782)	(42,868)	

- 2) Local churches are to provide a minimum of \$2,500* for accountable reimbursements for their appointed Elder(s). This covers the costs of providing travel, continuing education, and other expenses incurred in the course of providing pastoral ministry. Information about accountable reimbursements can be found at: [Accountable Reimbursement Policy Q&A](#)
**Ideally the church maintains \$5,500 but, in an effort to maintain full-time, some churches may need to reduce the reimbursement to \$2,500. Anything lower will not allow the pastor to engage in fruitful ministry.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Equitable Compensation Task Force (ECTF) recommended a minimum salary for fulltime Elders to be approximately \$50,000 by 2026 for FY 2027, achieved by 7.0% increases during the years (2025, 2026, and 2027). The Equitable Compensation Committee is following these recommendations and recommending a minimum for fulltime Elders \$46,669 in FY 2026 and projecting \$49,936 in FY 2027.
- The United Methodist Book of Discipline does not require Annual Conferences to establish a minimum salary for LLPs. However, to responsibly recognize changes in buying power, the Equitable Compensation Committee recommends that the minimum salary for Licensed Local Pastors at least mirror the Cost-of-Living Index (2.6%) as defined by governmental agencies FY2026 (\$42,868).

RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY:

- The current Equitable Compensation Committee is following the rationale below of the Equitable Compensation Task Force (ECTF) formed in 2023.

- The ECTF submitted surveys to all US Annual Conferences and received 18 replies. The NIC is currently second to last in minimum salary (by a sliver margin of \$165) among the 18 annual conferences responding to the survey. Had the 2023 Annual Conference not approved the 8.7% increase, bringing the current minimum to \$40,763, NIC would be at the bottom. Current minimums across annual conferences range from \$40,598 to \$50,923.
- The Equitable Compensation Committee (ECC) is also aware and recognizes that increasing the minimum salary may be a financial burden that some churches cannot bear. As we move forward, fewer single-charge full-time appointments will most likely be the new normal. The ECC is committed to continuing to monitor the trends and work with the Cabinet and churches on ways to equitably compensate clergy.
- The ECTF determined that their recommendation would be focused on base compensation only, having found it impossible to identify/consider values of parsonages, housing allowances, or health insurance benefits due to the wide disparities between conferences and the extreme difficulties in assigning dollar values.
- This survey showed that a lower minimum salary for LLPs is consistent with the other annual conferences responding to the survey.
- The UMBoD ¶342 speaks only to “*Elders in full connection*” who assume “*the obligations of the itinerant ministry*” and who bear the burden of extensive student loans from the required master’s degree. Further, “*the Church shall provide, and the ordained minister is entitled to receive, not less than the equitable compensation established by the annual conference for clergy members.*”
- The UMBoD states in ¶625.2(a) that the Equitable Compensation Commission be responsible for “*recommending conference standards*” for pastoral salaries, and (b) “*administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation.*”