

1 **Document: 640.01**
2 **Name: Special Sundays with Offerings for 2019**
3 **Author: Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
4 **CCFA Comment:**

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6 **ACTION:**
7 The Northern Illinois Conference recommends the following Special Sundays with
8 offerings for 2019:
9

10 Special Sundays

11	General Church Offering 2019	
12	Human Relations Day	January 20, 2019
13	UMCOR Sunday	March 31, 2019
14	Native American Ministries Sunday	May 5, 2019
15	Peace with Justice Sunday	June 16, 2019
16	World Communion Sunday	October 6, 2019
17	United Methodist Student Day	November 24, 2019
18		
19	Conference Offerings 2019	
20	Scouting Ministries	Any Sunday in February or March*
21	Golden Cross	April 28, 2019
22	Volunteers in Mission	Any Sunday in July or August
23	Christian Education	September 1, 2019
24	Accessibility Sunday	November 3, 2019
25	HIV/AIDS Awareness	December 1, 2019
26	United Voices for Children	Every 5th Sunday
27		(April, July, September, December)
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30 * This fund supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and
31 Amachi programs.
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34 **Document: 650.01**
35 **Name: Equitable Compensation - Minimum Salary**
36 **Author(s): CCFA Committee on Equitable Compensation**
37 **CCFA Comment:**

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39 **ACTION:** The Committee on Equitable Compensation for the Northern Illinois Conference
40 offers the following two-part motion:
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42 A) That the minimum salary schedule* for full-time clergy for the NIC for FY 2018 to be as
43 follows:
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YEAR OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT & recommended minimum salary at the beginning of an appointment -typically in July							
Passed in...	2013 (\$32,800)	2014 (\$33,300)	2015 (\$33,800)	2016 (\$34,000)	2017 (\$34,200)	2018 (\$34,450)	2019 \$34,800
2013 for FY 2014	\$33,620						
2014 for FY 2015	\$34,461	\$34,133					
2015 for FY 2016	\$34,806	\$34,474	\$34,138				
2016 for FY 2017	\$35,154	\$34,819	\$34,479	\$34,340			
For FY 2018	\$35,505*	\$35,167*	\$34,824*	\$34,684*	\$34,542*	\$34,450*	
<i>Anticipated proposed in 2018 for FY 2019</i>	\$35,860	\$35,519	\$35,172	\$35,031	\$34,887	\$34,795	\$34,800

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This schedule continues a very modest compensation proposal of about a 1% increase. The reason for this takes several things into consideration: a) for FY 2018, the health insurance premium increased to \$18,000 from \$16,500 previously; b) the total minimum compensation package which includes the base pay, accountable reimbursement, pension, and health insurance is at least \$60,000 (this does not include housing costs); c) the NIC has lost on the average, 5 full-time appointment positions every year for the last few years which indicates that the minimum full-time compensation package is difficult to maintain for many of our churches.

B) The Committee recommends that local churches provide in their general budget a minimum of \$5,000 for an accountable reimbursement fund for the pastor. This covers costs related to travel, continuing education, and other expenses incurred in the course of providing pastoral ministry. Information on accountable reimbursement policies can be found at:
https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/ordained%20ministry/AccountableReimbursementPoliciesQ_and_A.pdf

*These are the recommended minimum salary amounts being proposed. The \$34,800 amount under 2019 is the recommended salary at time of initial appointment in 2019. The other asterisked numbers are minimum recommended salaries for the 2019 fiscal year for appointments which began in previous years.

1 **Document Number: 680.01**
 2 **Name: Benefit Programs**
 3 **Author(s): Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**
 4 **CCFA Comment:**

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 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.

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 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, 2019.

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 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.

Category	<i>Discipline 2016</i>
Elder in full connection (including those from another Methodist denomination and those from another conference) appointed to full-time or 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
Ordained Elder appointed to extension ministries within the connectional structure to a unit of the conference other than a General Agency	344.1, & 346.1

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 22 2. Elders appointed to disability status will be covered under the conference plan until
 23 they are eligible for Medicare or for Social Security disability at the cost of the Conference
 24 Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The Conference Board of Pensions will cover the
 25 full cost of those Elders appointed to disability status and covered by Medicare and
 26 Supplemental Social Security disability coverage.

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 30 **B. Release from Mandatory Coverage**

31 Based on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the ability for individuals to gain
 32 coverage on the public exchange, churches can elect to opt out of the Wespath/NIC mandated
 33 health programs (HealthFlex).

1
2 To elect this option the Churches agree to the following:

- 3 1. Agree to pay the monthly HealthCare premium established by the Conference Board of
4 Pensions.
- 5 2. Each quarter the Churches will receive a rebate of one month's premium of the
6 HealthCare premium.
- 7 3. The maximum amount the Conference Board of Pensions will provide in cash is \$900
8 per month to support clergy to engage a health carrier on the exchange plus and to pay
9 for additional personal taxes. The amount provided by the Conference is considered as
10 cash compensation only.
- 11 4. If Churches fail to make premium payments the Conference holds the right to
12 discontinue the cash support provided to the Pastors.

13 The objective of allowing Churches to opt out of HealthFlex is to provide a means to help
14 Churches lower the cost of medical insurance and be able to maintain the full services of United
15 Methodist clergy.

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17 The Conference Board of Pensions can also release a clergy person from mandatory
18 participation in HealthFlex at its discretion when:

- 19 a. The clergy person is eligible for health coverage through TRICARE, or Champus.
- 20 b. The clergy is enrolled in coverage from a former employer or as a dependent on a spouse's
21 employer-provided coverage. The Conference will treat the participant as if they were
22 enrolled in the pilot program and bill the church as explained in Section B.

23 24 **C. Local Church and Extension Ministry Coverage Options**

25 1. A local church or extension ministry may elect health insurance in the conference plan
26 available to participants in the following categories:

27 Category	<i>Discipline</i> 2016	Billed for Active's Premium
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 clergy 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 of the Annual Conference granted Sabbatical Leave for up to one year.	352	Board of Ordained Ministry
Clergy member of the Annual Conference granted Medical leave.	357	Board of Pensions

Deacon in full connection appointed to ¾ or 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 or ¾ time basis to an NIC congregation or to the conference.	326.1	Salary Paying Unit
75% of the 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 2. In accord with Illinois law, state recognized civil union partners of lay employees are
3 eligible for coverage in a manner similar to spouses.
4 3. The option to offer coverage is made by the salary paying unit. The choice to accept the
5 coverage shall be made by the participant. The salary paying unit may elect to offer health
6 insurance to one or all categories of persons listed above in Section C. 1. The salary paying unit
7 must make health insurance available to and will be billed for all persons within any specific
8 category employed with the agency or local church.
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
75% of the Lay Employees of the Annual Conference (and Districts) who normally work 30 hours per week or more	Salary Paying Unit and/or participant
Surviving spouse or dependent children enrolled in the health plan at time of a participant's death	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

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13 **D. Retirement Health Administration -**

- 14 1. Clergy persons eligible for and enrolled in the health plan or participating in the pilot
15 program, or waived under their spouses plan at Mandatory Retirement (Discipline
16 paragraph 357.1), Early Retirement (Discipline paragraph 357.2b), Full Retirement
17 (Discipline Paragraph 357.2c), or Involuntary Retirement (Discipline paragraph 357.3)
18 are eligible for health benefits in retirement through the conference plan. No clergy
19 member retiring under the "20 year rule" (Discipline paragraph 357.2a) is eligible for
20 retiree health coverage.
21 2. A clergy spouse (or surviving spouse after death of an active member) enrolled in the
22 health plan 5 consecutive years before retirement or enrolled when first eligible for
23 coverage (and prior to participant's retirement) is eligible for coverage after retirement.
24 The family status of the participant cannot change during retirement, except in cases of
25 adoption, childbirth or death. Participants electing to not participate in retirement health
26 plan at time of retirement may not elect to enroll at a later time.
27 3. Upon retirement the annual conference shall establish a Health Reimbursement Account
28 (HRA) for the household in the retiree's name. Participants and their spouses who meet
29 the retiree eligibility rules under BOD 357.2 may use the funds in the HRA to pay for

1 medical expenses including premiums, co-pays, deductibles, dental services, medical
2 services, coinsurance, etc. Like a savings account, the funds do not need to be expended
3 by the end of the calendar year and balances roll forward when unused.

- 4 4. Annually, the annual conference will provide a benefit equal to \$100 per year of
5 ministerial service. This benefit also extends to the Pastor's spouse for the duration of
6 their lifetime.
- 7 5. This benefit is limited to maximum of 40 years of service is applied to this calculation.
- 8 6. Ministerial service years are determined by the Conference Board of Pensions and
9 Health Benefits. Only years served in the Northern Illinois Conference are considered in
10 the HRA calculation.
- 11 7. The Conference at the discretion of their Board of Pension has the right to change or
12 modify the retiree benefit and or contributions at any time.
- 13 8. Full Time Lay Conference employees of the annual conference with 5 continuous years
14 of coverage before retirement will have a contribution equal to \$100 per year of service
15 to the annual conference deposited in their HRA annually. Eligibility for the HRA is
16 contingent on a participant's enrollment in Medicare B and engagement with Via
17 Benefits (formally One Exchange).
- 18 9. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits engages Via Benefits to aid clergy
19 retirees aged 65 and above in selection of suitable Medicare supplement coverage and to
20 act as a patient advocate when necessary. To receive the HRA benefit eligible
21 participants must enroll through the Via Benefits program and enrolled in Medicare B.
22 Clergy who retire prior to 65 and meet the eligibility rules to retire under BOD 357.2 will
23 have the HRA equivalent deducted from the cost of their medical coverage until they
24 reach Medicare eligibility, enroll in Medicare B and enroll in Supplemental programs
25 through Via Benefits.

26 **E. Active Health Administration**

- 27 1. Monthly premiums are billed to each charge or salary-paying unit at rates established by
28 the Conference Board of Pensions. Premiums are due the first of each month. Accounts
29 90 days in arrears are subject to termination as explained in the arrearage policy
30 approved by the Board and the NIC Cabinet. This policy describes the efforts that will
31 be made by the Conference office and the Cabinet to work with Churches that are more
32 than 90 days in arrears. If all efforts to receive payment or develop a payment plan have
33 been exhausted then termination of coverage may be the final option. Notification of
34 accounts in arrears will be provided to the District Superintendent, the pastor, the local
35 church PPRC chair, and the local church treasurer prior to termination.

36 Active participants seeking to enroll in the Flexible Spending Account Benefit provided by
37 the plan must enroll in November of the year preceding the year of the agreement. Inquiries
38 on billings and enrollment should be directed to the Conference Benefits Administrator,
39 LaMeise Turner, at (312) 346-9766, ext. 720.

40 Problem resolution and inquiries regarding coverage should be directed to the HealthFlex
41 Team at Wespah 1-800-851-2201.
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44 **II. Pension Programs**

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

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

24 **B. Clergy Retirement Security Program Billing Schedule.** Local Churches shall be billed by the
25 Annual Conference at the following rates (“plan compensation” means compensation as
26 defined by the pension plan documents and includes both cash salary plus consideration for
27 housing):

- 28 1. **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).** The Comprehensive Protection Plan is the
29 primary death and disability benefit for enrolled clergy. The billing rate for CPP will be
30 3% of plan compensation, up to 200% of Denominational Average Compensation.
31 Appointments with compensation less than full time and those that were considered
32 under special arrangements will be covered and billed based on rates established by
33 UMLifeOptions.
- 34 2. **CRSP - Defined Contribution**
 - 35 a. The CRSP pension program includes a defined contribution component. Each
36 clergy member will have 2% of plan compensation deposited in an individual
37 account at the Wespath. All contributions into the account are invested and the
38 enrolled clergy member receives the appreciated value of the account upon
39 retirement.
 - 40 b. 3% of the plan compensation shall be required from each charge for the defined
41 contribution component of the CRSP.
 - 42 c. Clergy persons are encouraged to contribute 1% of their plan compensation into
43 their UMPIP account as a salary deduction. The annual conference will match the
44 first 1% of UMPIP contributions paid into the participants CRSP-DC account.
- 45 3. **CRSP - Defined Benefit program.** With the defined benefit component each enrolled
46 clergy member will receive a monthly cash benefit from the plan upon retirement. The
47 amount of the benefit is determined by the number of full-time-equivalent years in the

1 program and the denominational average compensation at the time of retirement
2 multiplied by 1.0%. Annual contributions made by the conference will be invested by
3 Wespath so that the NIC obligation can be met. 10% of plan compensation is billed to
4 each appointment for the defined benefit component of CRSP. A portion of defined
5 benefit funding accrues to a reserve fund for funding future variation in market results
6 and other benefits to retirees and future retirees.

7 **C. Billing Methods.** The Annual Conference will invoice local churches monthly 16% (3% + 3%
8 + 10%) of clergy plan compensation required for support of the CRSP and CPP programs.
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10 **D.Pre-82 Defined Benefit Past Service Rate for 2019**

11 1. The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the annual pension rate for
12 service prior to 1982, effective January 1, 2019, be \$605 per service year, an increase of 0% from
13 2018. Surviving spouses shall be supported at the rate of 85% of participant pension benefit
14 amounts. Special grants will be provided as identified in Section F.
15

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

23 *An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received by a retired clergy, or 100% of the disability*
24 *payments received by a disabled clergy, is designated as rental/housing allowance respectively for each*
25 *retired or disabled ordained or local pastor of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of*
26 *the Northern Illinois Conference at the time of retirement or disability.*
27

28 **F. Special Grants**

- 29 1 For the 2015 Northern Illinois Conference Session the Board of Pensions approved
30 grants for participants meeting the following eligibility criteria:
- 31 a. Members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference who retired from an
32 appointment in the conference;
 - 33 b. Who have at least 15 years of service prior to 1982 compensated at the Past
34 Service Rate (excludes those at the DBSM rate); and,
 - 35 c. Who have less than 10 years of service to Northern Illinois Conference
36 appointments served while enrolled in the MPP program.
- 37 2. For those eligible participants the Board of Pensions approved a benefit equal to a 2%
38 annual increase to the established Past Service Rate of \$605 to commence as of 1/1/2016.
39 For 1/1/2019 the amount provided to eligible participants will be \$642 times their pre-
40 82 years of service.
- 41 3. The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends the special grant previously given
42 to Vernon L. Bell be continued for his widow, Enid. Mr. Bell died March 17, 1995. He
43 served 11 years as a full member of the Northern Illinois Conference from June 13, 1954,
44 to August 15, 1965. He took voluntary Leave of Absence from 1965 and Honorable
45 Location in 1966. The service rate at the time of his voluntary location was \$77. Thus, we
46 recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2018, to June 30 2019, a grant be paid to

1 Mrs. Bell of \$847, actuarially reduced in the same manner as if this grant was paid under
2 the Methodist Ministers Reserve Pension Fund for payments commencing after early
3 retirement date and prior to normal retirement date. Payments shall be paid monthly.

- 4 4. The Conference Board of Pensions also recommends that a special grant be made to
5 James W. French for his 3.5 years of service with this Annual Conference from June 1,
6 1978 through December 31, 1981. We recommend for the year commencing July 1, 2018
7 to June 30, 2019, a grant of \$140.95 monthly be paid based on the present pension rate,
8 but actuarially reduced since payments are starting prior to full retirement age.

9 **III. Group Life Insurance**

10 The Conference Board of Pensions enrolls in the UMLifeOptions program. Every eligible retired
11 clergy person will be enrolled in the plan with a benefit of \$5,000 at no cost to the participant.
12 Active clergy persons have \$10,000 in coverage at the NIC expense when an application is filed
13 during the open enrollment period. Coverage beyond this amount is at the cost of the
14 participant and will be billed directly from UMLifeOptions.

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18 **Document: 700.01**

19 **Name: Advance our Care for the Earth**

20 **Author: Task Force on Eco-Sustainability, Rev. Nancy Rethford and Mr. Dick Alton co-chairs**

21 **CCFA Comment:**

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23 **ACTION:**

24 The Northern Illinois Conference affirms that God created humans to care for the earth and that
25 to advance our work in environmental justice the Annual Conference will take the following
26 actions:

27 Encourage each congregation in the Northern Illinois Conference to form a Green Team
28 to plan and monitor creation care improvements within their congregation as outlined in a
29 certification created by the Eco-Sustainability Task Force, noting seven areas of concern (energy,
30 resource management, transportation, food, toxic chemicals, water, and community outreach);
31 and

32 Encourage each congregation in the Northern Illinois Conference to conduct an energy
33 audit of their buildings from organizations such as Faith in Place and Elevate Energy to identify
34 sources of energy waste and potential saving of energy-related improvements and to make the
35 needed energy upgrades by adding a question to the Local Church Trustee Report regarding
36 such audits; and

37 Encourage all congregations in the Northern Illinois Conference to become Styrofoam
38 free and assist their communities in reducing Styrofoam use and recycling when and where
39 available.

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41 **RATIONALE:**

42 Our scriptures clearly claim that God, not humanity, is the owner of creation (Lev. 25:23; Psalm
43 24:1); and that God created humans to care for creation on God's behalf (Genesis 2:15); and
44 Our tradition states in the Social Principles of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist
45 Church 2016 that human developments are driving "misuse and overconsumption of natural
46 and nonrenewable resources" and that "this continued course of action jeopardizes the natural

1 heritage that God has entrusted to all generations;” *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist*
2 *Church* “The Natural World” (§160), the Social Principles; and
3 Science explains that climate change is unequivocal happening and primary human-induced
4 (Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report 2014 Summary for Policy Makers found at
5 http://ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf); and that
6 Styrofoam (polystyrene) is a product which will never biodegrade, breaks down to small pieces
7 that animals eat, and currently makes up 30% of the landfills; and
8 It is the experience of the Eco-Sustainability Task Force after four years of surveys and
9 conversations that our congregations are asking for guidance in caring for creation and
10 networking to sustain local actions.

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13 **Document: 700.02**

14 **Name: A Call To End Gun Violence**

15 **Author(s): Chicago Urban Strategy (Urban Network), Rockford Urban Ministries, Black**
16 **Methodist for Church Renewal, Rev. Robert E. Biekman, Stanley Campbell, Rev.**
17 **Andrea Davidson, Rev. Lindsey Long Joyce, Rev. Rodney Walker**

18 **CCFA Comment: CCFA recommends that funding for these actions would come through**
19 **existing Urban Strategy Funds, GBCS grants, and the Core Areas budgeting process.**

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21 **ACTION:**

22 The Northern Illinois Conference will establish the elimination of gun violence as a
23 priority. In establishing the elimination of handgun violence as a priority, the Northern
24 Illinois Conference (NIC) will work in collaboration with organizations like the Illinois
25 Council Against Handgun Violence, Heeding God’s Call, Community Renewal Society
26 and Live Free Chicago. This collaborative work will include:

27 **Equipping & Educating Congregations and Communities by:**

- 28 • Making a visible witness to the sin of gun violence and the hope of healing our
29 communities
- 30 • Equipping local churches to include gun violence prevention in sermons, Bible
31 studies, prayers and conversations.
- 32 • Remembering victims by sponsoring events like “A Concert Across America to End
33 Gun Violence”¹ or host a Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath.”²
- 34 • Convening a conference-wide and district-wide “teach-ins” to include faith
35 communities, law enforcement, mental health and public health professionals from
36 areas where gun violence has had a significant impact to develop action plans and
37 identify ways that the NIC can effectively respond to the growing tragedy.
- 38 • Educating congregations and communities on the public health crisis of gun
39 violence, gun violence prevention, gun safety, using the United Methodist General
40 Board of Church and Society’s *“Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities: Reflections on Gun*
41 *Violence from Micah 4:1-4”* and the United Methodist Resolutions on Gun Violence.

¹ <http://concertacrossamerica.org>

² <http://www.decembersabbath.org>

1 **Advocating for Greater Regulation by:**

- 2 • Developing advocacy groups in local churches and districts that will work toward
3 impacting public policy around gun violence, with particular emphasis on
4 handguns, handgun ammunition, assault weapons, automatic weapon conversion
5 kits and guns that cannot be detected by traditionally used metal-detection devices.

- 6 • Advocating for local, statewide and federal legislation that will regulate the
7 manufacture, sale and registration of guns. This legislation should include
8 provisions for:
 - 9 ○ Universal background checks
 - 10 ○ Ensuring guns are sold through state licensed dealers
 - 11 ○ Prohibiting all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun
12 for a fixed time period
 - 13 ○ Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence
14 from purchasing a gun
 - 15 ○ Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to
16 themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun
 - 17 ○ Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness
 - 18 ○ Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession
 - 19 ○ Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire
20 multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled
 - 21 ○ Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime
22 guns and promote public safety.
 - 23 ○ Calling on federal and state governments to provide significant assistance to
24 victims of gun violence.
 - 25 ○ Calling on state legislature to address the lack of economic opportunity
26 fueling gun violence, and to avoid just focusing on legislation that increases
27 sentences for gun possession without also addressing economic development
28 (jobs) and penalties for those who illegally sell guns. Thusly, call our
29 representatives to avoid further disproportionately imprisoning persons from
30 racial minority communities without working to remediate the underlying
31 causes.
 - 32 ○ Encouraging congregations to partner with local law-enforcement agencies
33 and community-based organizations to identify gun retailers that engage in
34 retail practices designed to circumvent laws on gun sales and ownership and
35 to organize campaigns to encourage gun retailers to gain full legal
36 compliance with appropriate standards and laws.

37 **Developing Programs to:**

- 38 ○ Create or support safe places for children and youth when out of school, such
39 as "Safe Havens," Camps, After School/Out of School time programs.
- 40 ○ Create restorative justice peace hubs in communities most impacted by gun
41 violence.
- 42 ○ Offer services including but not limited to: job training, resume workshops,
43 job fairs, social workers, job developers, entrepreneurship funding, and

1 budgeting workshops, to address the need for economic opportunity in
2 communities impacted by gun violence.

3 **RATIONALE:**

4 The 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed a resolution based
5 on Matthew 5:9 and Micah 4:1-4, stating the following:

6 *“In days to come, / the mountain of the LORD’s house / shall be established as the*
7 *highest of the mountains, / and shall be raised up above the hills. / Peoples shall*
8 *stream to it, / and many nations shall come and say: / ‘Come, let us go up to the*
9 *mountain of the LORD, / to the house of the God of Jacob; / that he may teach us his*
10 *ways / and that we may walk in his paths.’ / For out of Zion shall go forth*
11 *instruction, / and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. / He shall judge between*
12 *many peoples, / and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; / they shall*
13 *beat their swords into plowshares, / and their spears into pruning hooks; / nation*
14 *shall not lift up sword against nation, / neither shall they learn war anymore; / but*
15 *they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, / and no one*
16 *shall make them afraid; / for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken”* ^{NRSV}

17 Micah’s prophetic dream points to a time when all peoples will journey to God’s
18 presence so God “may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths” (4:2).
19 Micah describes God as the final judge and the nations will travel to God’s presence out
20 of their desire to live in peace without violence and bloodshed.

21 Therefore, “we call upon United Methodists to address gun violence in their local
22 context”.³

23 We, as United Methodists in the Northern Illinois Conference affirm this call and seek to
24 clarify the ways we are called to live out this resolution within our conference.

25 Each year in America, on average over 100,000 people are shot in murders, assaults,
26 suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, or by police intervention.⁴ Of that
27 number, 30,000 people (including children) die each year from gun violence.⁵

28 On June 21, 2016, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle alongside Cook County
29 Hospital executives and other elected officials endorsed a statement made by the
30 American Medical Association classifying gun violence as a, “public health crisis.”

31 In Chicago alone, in 2017 over 700 people lost their lives to gun violence.⁶ This statistic
32 only increases when we look at our conference as a whole, beyond city and county limits.
33 One fact remains for every single church and every single United Methodist in the
34 Northern Illinois Conference; we are living in an epidemic of violence, and remain silent
35 about it when considering its social/economic costs and the lives of Christ’s beloved
36 people are at risk.

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³ See full text here: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence>

⁴ www.bradycampaign.org

⁵ <https://www.ama-assn.org/ama-calls-gun-violence-public-health-crisis>

⁶ <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-two-shot-to-death-in-uptown-marks-first-homicide-of-2017-20170101-story.html>

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Document: 702.01
Name: Availability of NIC Audit Report
Author: Curtis Verschoor, Barrington UMC
CCFA Comment:

ACTION:

Change Standing Rules, Section V, A. 3. As shown below:

1. The Annual Conference finances shall be recorded in keeping with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as determined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) for non-profit religious organizations. An independent audit shall be conducted annually and printed in the current Conference Journal with a notice of substantial variations from FASB standards, if any. A letter of response to the auditor’s noncompliance findings will be prepared by the CCFA and published in the Conference Journal. Every effort should be made to have the most recent Audit Report, and CCFA response, available prior to the following regularly scheduled session of the Annual Conference.

RATIONALE:

Having the financial statements, proposed budget, and the most recent audit available will give the members of the Annual Conference a complete picture of the total financial health of the Conference as they make decisions on the budget for the next Fiscal Year and beyond.

Document: 702.02
Name: Incorporation of the ACST and DST into the Standing Rules of the Annual Conference
Author: Jack Ryder with grateful assistance from Arlene Christopherson, Liz Gracie, and Chris Winkler
CCFA Comment:

ACTION:

**STANDING RULES OF THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

(a) **SECTION III CONFERENCE AGENCIES**

Delete:

~~Conference Program Council. (¶ 608)~~

~~Purpose. To be in ministry with the Director of Connectional Ministries in carrying out the priorities of focusing and guiding the mission and ministry of The United Methodist~~

1 Church within the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, as outlined, but not exclusively,
2 in ¶ 608.

3 Membership:

4 ~~(1) With voice and vote: A Chairperson *, Secretary *, the Conference Lay Leader,
5 Ministry Team Chairs *, Six (6) at large members * (one from each district), the
6 Conference Ecumenical Officer, Conference Mission Secretary. (* to be nominated by
7 the Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference.)~~

8 ~~(2) With voice only, to act as resources when appropriate: Program Directors,
9 Communications Consultant, a representative from the Conference Council on
10 Finance and Administration, the conference treasurer/director of administrative
11 services, a cabinet representative, and the Bishop.~~

12 a. — **Ministry Teams:** There shall be ministry teams that will each have a chair and
13 secretary to guide and focus their mission, and relate to the Program Council. These
14 teams will primarily provide encouragement, coordination, and support for the
15 ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness and be advocates in districts and
16 congregations for the transformation of the world, ensure the alignment of the total
17 resources of the annual conference to its mission. Ministry teams may call on any other
18 resources that they deem necessary in carrying out their mission. The Council may from
19 time to time add to, eliminate from, or re-organize the Ministry Teams to meet the
20 missional needs of the Annual Conference and include General Conference Initiatives.

21 ~~(1) **Nurture Ministry team** — will focus on Christian formation, education, small group
22 ministries, worship, stewardship, evangelism, membership care, age-level ministries,
23 family ministries, and laity ministries. The members of this team, in addition to the
24 chair and secretary, are the chairs of: Board of Laity, Conference Council on Youth
25 Ministry, Conference Council on Children’s Ministry, Conference Council on Older
26 Adult Ministry, Outdoor and Retreat Ministries, the conference UMW and UMM
27 presidents, and the Leadership Development Committee.~~

28 ~~(2) **The Outreach Ministry Team** — will assist in developing and growing mature
29 disciples who express their discipleship in geographical, cultural, religious, racial
30 and interfaith world communities. The members of this team, in addition to the chair
31 and secretary, are the chairs of: Board of Church and Society, Board of Global
32 Ministries, Board of Higher Education, Commission on Christian Unity and
33 Interreligious Concerns.~~

34 ~~(3) **The Witness/Advocacy Ministry Team** — will offer and develop resources intended
35 to promote, assist, maintain and enhance our connection within the Annual
36 Conference to tell and live the whole gospel. This team will also coordinate and
37 monitor our efforts to reflect the ideal of Christian community as we seek to live out
38 the full social implications of the gospel. The members of this team, in addition to
39 the chair and secretary, are the chairs of, Committee on Communications, and the
40 Plan For Hispanic Ministry.~~

41 This team will also coordinate and monitor our efforts to reflect the ideal of Christian
42 community as we seek to live out the full social implications of the gospel. The
43 members of this team, in addition to the chair and secretary, are the chairs of: Anti-
44 Gambling Task Force, Black Methodist for Church Renewal, Children and Poverty,
45 Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women,
46 Fellowship of Asian Americans, La Junta Hispano Americana, Conference
47 Committee on Native American Ministries.

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4 Add:

5 (Following Red Door Fund #10 under Conference Agencies page 181 in the 2017 NIC Journal add)
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7 **11. Shepherding Teams (“NIC”) (§ 608)**

8 **I. Overview.**

9 The organizational structure shall be centered on an Annual Conference
10 Shepherding Team (“ACST”). There shall be a separate District Shepherding Team
11 (DST) in each of the districts. One member of each DST (6 members in total) shall also
12 serve as a member of the ACST as outlined below. The ACST shall be an adaptive
13 learning organization whose primary purposes shall be to coordinate and communicate
14 the ministry of the NIC for the sake of making disciples for Jesus Christ. The primary
15 purposes of each DST shall be to coordinate the equipping of local churches so that they
16 might be faithful, Christ-centered communities of worship, prayer, witness and change,
17 and to enhance the connection between local churches, the districts and the NIC.
18

19 **II. Annual Conference Shepherding Team (“ACST”)**

20 **a. Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the ACST shall include,

- 21 i. Leading as a learning organization in addressing the technical and
22 adaptive, challenges and opportunities presented to the NIC.
23 ii. Providing coordination of the ministry, mission and vision of the NIC.
24 iii. Discerning a 5-year vision plan; presenting it for approval by NIC;
25 communicating it throughout the NIC, monitoring and adapting it on an
26 annual basis.
27 iv. Focusing NIC resources to equip local churches and ministry settings to
28 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
29 v. Facilitating communication and healthy relationships between districts,
30 NIC leadership, staff, committees and ministries.
31 vi. Advocating, monitoring and celebrating diversity at every level of
32 leadership throughout the NIC.
33 vii. Stewarding financial and leadership resources for maximum missional
34 impact. The role of the ACST in the budgeting process shall be to
35 augment the existing process in which the budget is prepared by the
36 Conference Council on Finance and Administration (“CCFA”) and
37 approved by the NIC. The ACST shall consult with CCFA in the
38 allocation of resources according to the missional priorities of the NIC.
39 viii. Resolving leadership and function questions that do not require approval
40 by the NIC between annual conference sessions.
41 ix. Guiding the NIC in the event of a significant shift in the denomination or
42 jurisdictional realignment of conferences.
43 x. Adapting the organizational structure further to align with the missional
44 priorities of the NIC.
45 xi. Developing clear and concise qualitative and quantitative metrics to
46 evaluate the effectiveness of ACST structure and work.
47 xii. Reporting annually to NIC on fulfillment of the above responsibilities.

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2 b. **Core Areas of focus.** The ACST shall prayerfully focus on the following Core
3 Areas of priority identified in the Landscape process:

4 i. Congregational Life

- 5 1. Creating and revitalizing congregational cultures that are deep in
6 faith and engaged for evangelism.
7 2. Developing new churches and faith communities.
8 3. Assessing and reconfiguring local churches.

9 ii. Clergy Life

- 10 1. Fostering clergy health and morale.
11 2. Fostering an environment that identifies and supports persons
12 with a clear sense of call and commitment to set apart ministry.
13 3. Fostering on-going faith formation.
14 4. Ensuring development and accountability of clergy.

15 iii. Missional Life

- 16 1. Equipping, supporting and connecting local churches for missions
17 of mercy (direct service) in their local communities, across the NIC
18 and beyond.
19 2. Equipping, supporting and connecting local churches for justice
20 (systemic change) work in their local communities, across the state
21 and beyond.
22 3. Advocating diversity, inclusiveness and cultural competency.

23 iv. Connectional Resources

- 24 1. Managing and allocating conference resources toward NIC vision
25 and strategy.
26 2. Evaluating, assessing and communicating the apportionment
27 formula on an on-going basis.
28 3. Developing systems of administration for use by local churches.

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30 c. **Membership.**

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32 i. **Members.** The ACST shall have the following members:

- 33 • Voice and Vote (20 Members)
34 ○ Co-Chair - Lay
35 ○ Co-Chair - Clergy
36 ○ Conference Lay Leader
37 ○ Board of Trustees, Chair or Designate
38 ○ Council on Finance and Administration, Chair or
39 Designate
40 ○ Committee on Nominations, Chair or Designate
41 ○ Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair or Designate
42 ○ Annual Conference Committee, Chair or Designate
43 ○ Church Development and Revitalization, Designate
44 ○ Age Level Ministries, Designate
45 ○ Justice and Mercy Ministries, Designate
46 ○ 3 Ethnic Caucus Designates
47 ○ Aurora DST, Chair (Clergy through 2020)

- Chicago Northwest DST, Chair (Lay through 2020)
- Chicago Southern DST, Chair (Clergy through 2020)
- DeKalb DST, Chair (Lay through 2020)
- Elgin DST, Chair (Lay through 2020)
- Rockford DST, Chair (Clergy through 2020)
- Voice Only; No Vote (3 Members)
 - Bishop
 - Director of Connectional Ministries
 - Communications Staff Member

ii. **Selection of Members.** Members of the ACST shall be selected, as follows:

1. Co-Chairs shall be appointed by the Bishop.
2. Conference Lay Leader shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.
3. Chairs of Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conference Committee shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process. In the event that a member of a committee, council or board is to be designated as the member of the ACST in place of the chair, such committee, council or board shall adopt its own process for designation.
4. Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall each be chosen separately, according to the following process:
 - a. The chairs of the Constituent Groups of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall gather in separate meetings, each convened by the Director of Connectional Ministries for the purpose of nominating 3 candidates for each Designate position.

The initial Constituent Groups for purposes of nominating candidates to be the first Designates to the ACST shall be:

1. Church Development and Revitalization (7 Constituent Groups)
 - Committee of Accessibility Ministries
 - Congregational Development and Redevelopment (Code Red)
 - Evangelism Work Area
 - National Plans (Hispanic, Korean, Asian Language, Pacific Islander - all related to GBGM)
 - Strengthening the Black Church in the 21st Century (SBC21)

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- Spiritual Formation Work Area
- Worship Work Area

2. Age Level Ministries (8 Constituent Groups)

- Children’s Ministries
- Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (CBHECM)
- Education Work Area
- Older Adult Ministries
- Outdoor and Retreat Ministries (ORM)
- Safe Sanctuaries
- Young Adult Ministries
- Youth Ministries

3. Justice and Mercy Ministries (8 Constituent Groups)

- Board of Church and Society
- Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations (CCUIR)
- Commission on Religion and Race (CORR)
- Commission on Status and Role of Women (CSROW)
- Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns
- Native American Ministries
- Restorative and Transformative Justice
- Conference Board of Global Ministries (CBGM), including:
 - Conference Mission Secretary
 - District Mission Secretaries
 - District United Methodist Women (UMW) Representatives
 - Disaster Coordinator
 - Hunger Coordinator
 - Refugee Coordinator
 - Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Coordinator
 - Urban Ministries
 - Rural (Keagy) Ministries
 - United Methodist Women Representative
 - United Methodist Men Representative

b. The Committee on Nominations shall select each Designate from among the 3 nominees with the primary objective of ensuring diversity on the ACST.

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5. Designates of the Ethnic Caucuses shall be chosen by the Ethnic Caucuses pursuant to their own process for designation.
 6. Chairs of the DSTs shall be chosen as outlined in Paragraph III..b.ii., below.

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iii. **Qualifications and Commitment of Members.**

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1. Co-Chairs and Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall serve on the ACST exclusively; they shall not serve in other positions in the NIC or an Ethnic Caucus.
2. Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall have demonstrated a genuine interest and concern in most, if not all, of the Constituent Groups being represented and commitment to keeping up with their work and concerns.
3. Members of the ACST shall have demonstrated a genuine interest and commitment to stewardship of the mission, priorities and vision of the NIC.
4. Members of the ACST shall be expected to attend meetings themselves to ensure the cohesion and continuity of the team. As shared experience contributes to shared visioning and leadership, there is no substitute for attendance.

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iv. **Terms.**

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1. To ensure both continuity as well as constant renewal of the ACST, Voting Members shall be limited to a single term of four (4) years unless membership derives from a position in the NIC having different term requirements.
2. Co-Chairs of the ACST shall serve 2 years as Vice Chair followed by 2 years as Chair. The first Chair shall commence on his/her term or about November 2017, serve as Chair for 2 years and rotate off the ACST on June 30, 2020. The first Vice Chair shall commence his/her term on or about November 2017, become Chair on July 1, 2020, and rotate off on June 30, 2022. A new Vice Chair will commence his/her term every 2 years as the previous Vice Chair rotates to the Chair position.
3. To ensure continuity, Members shall serve four year terms commencing either
 - a. July 1, 2020, and on July 1 of each year of a General Conference. The initial term of those in such positions shall not be a full four years; it shall commence on or about November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2020, or

1 b. July 1, 2022, and on July 1 of each year which is two
2 years after the year of a General Conference. The first
3 term of those in such positions shall commence on or
4 about November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2022.

- 5 4. The Conference Lay Leader and the Chairs or Designates of the
6 Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration,
7 Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and
8 Annual Conference Committee shall serve terms pursuant to
9 Paragraph II.c.iv.3.a., above.
10 5. Designates of Ethnic Caucuses shall serve terms pursuant to
11 Paragraph II.c.iv.3.a., above.
12 6. Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age
13 Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall serve
14 terms pursuant to Paragraph II.c.iv.3.b., above.
15 7. Co-Chairs of the DSTs who serve on the ACST pursuant to
16 Paragraph III.b.iv.2., below, shall serve terms pursuant to
17 Paragraph II.c.iv.3.b., above.
18

19 **d. Meetings.** The ACST shall meet at least four (4) times per year. Each
20 meeting shall have a focus such as analysis and review of the budget,
21 preparation for Annual Conference, leadership development and learning,
22 and acquiring input for more effective ministry. The schedule and topics of
23 meetings shall be determined by the ACST.
24

25 i. **District Shepherding Teams (“DST”)**

- 26
27 a. **Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of each DST shall include,
28 i. Leading as a learning organization in addressing the technical and
29 adaptive, challenges and opportunities presented to the District.
30 ii. Coordinating the equipping of local churches and enhancing the
31 connection between local churches.
32 1. Ascertaining information, such as,
33 a. Celebrations and best practices,
34 b. Challenges and shared needs,
35 c. Opportunities for shared ministries.
36 2. Providing or directing local churches to training opportunities
37 suited to the particular district.
38 iii. Communicating local needs, challenges and celebrations to ACST for
39 coordinated resourcing and sharing.
40 iv. Communicating vision and ministry priorities of NIC to the district and
41 local churches and coordinating implementation as best lived out in the
42 district.
43

44 b. **Membership.**

- 45
46 i. **Members.** Each DST shall have the following members:
47 • Voice and Vote (11+ Members)

- Co-Chair - District Lay Leader
- Co-Chair - Clergy
- District Lay Leader(s) (in districts with multiple lay leaders, all shall be members of the DST; one at a time shall serve as Co-Chair)
- Board on Church Location and Building, Chair or Designate
- District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Chair or Designate
- New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team), Chair or Designate
- 3 Lay Members At Large
- 3 Clergy Members At Large
- Voice Only; No Vote (1 Member)
 - District Superintendent

ii. **Selection of Members.** Members of each DST shall be selected, as follows:

1. District Lay Leader(s) shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.
2. Chairs of Board on Church Location and Building, Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team) shall be chosen per Disciplinary requirements. In the event that a member of a committee, board or team is to be designated as the member of the ACST in place of the chair, such committee, board or team shall adopt its own process for designation.
3. Clergy Co-Chair shall be selected by the District Lay Leader(s) and District Superintendent.
4. At Large Lay and Clergy Members shall be selected by the District Lay Leader(s) and District Superintendent.
 - a. They may represent the particular ministry priorities of each district, e.g., they may include cluster leaders, Lay Servant Academy directors, representatives from mission agencies in the district, etc.
 - b. They may be selected from among recommendations solicited at annual church conferences or other district entities.

iii. **Qualifications and Commitment of Members.** Members of the DST shall be expected to attend meetings themselves to ensure the cohesion and continuity of the team. As shared experience contributes to shared visioning and leadership, there is no substitute for attendance.

iv. **Terms.**

- 1 1. To ensure reinvigoration of the DST, Members shall be limited
2 to a single term of four (4) years unless membership derives
3 from a position having different term requirements.
- 4 2. To ensure equal representation of laity and clergy on the ACST
5 at any one time, half the districts shall be represented by the Lay
6 Co-Chair and the other half shall be represented by the Clergy
7 Co-Chair.
 - 8 a. On the initial ACST, through June 30, 2022, the DST
9 representatives shall be:
 - 10 i. Aurora DST - Clergy Co-Chair
 - 11 ii. Chicago Northwest DST - Lay Co-Chair
 - 12 iii. Chicago Southern DST - Clergy Co-Chair
 - 13 iv. DeKalb DST - Lay Co-Chair
 - 14 v. Elgin DST - Lay Co-Chair
 - 15 vi. Rockford DST - Clergy Co-Chair
 - 16 b. From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026, the DST
17 representatives shall be:
 - 18 vii. Aurora DST - Lay Co-Chair
 - 19 viii. Chicago NW DST - Clergy Co-Chair
 - 20 ix. Chicago S DST - Lay Co-Chair
 - 21 x. DeKalb DST - Clergy Co-Chair
 - 22 xi. Elgin DST - Clergy Co-Chair
 - 23 xii. Rockford DST - Lay Co-Chair
- 24 4. To ensure continuity, Members shall have four year terms
25 commencing either,
 - 26 a. July 1, 2020, and on July 1 of each year of a General
27 Conference. The initial term of those in such positions shall
28 not be a full four years; it shall commence on or about
29 November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2020, or
 - 30 b. July 1, 2022, and on July 1 of each year which is two years
31 after the year of a General Conference. The first term of
32 those in such positions shall commence on or about
33 November 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2022.
- 34 5. The District Lay Leader(s) and the Chairs of Board on Church
35 Location and Building, Committee on Ordained Ministry and
36 New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly
37 District Strategy Team) shall serve terms pursuant to Paragraph
38 to Paragraph III.b.iv.3.a., above.
- 39 6. The At Large Lay and Clergy Members shall serve terms
40 pursuant to Paragraph III.b.iv.3.b., above.
 - 41
 - 42 c. **Meetings.** Each DST shall meet at least four (4) times per year. The schedule and
43 topics of meetings shall be determined by each DST.
 - 44

45 IV. Diversity of Membership on ACST and DSTs.

46

- 1 a. The Committee on Nominations and Bishop shall make diversity of the ACST a
2 primary consideration in,
3 i. Appointment of Co-Chairs,
4 ii. Selection of NIC Lay Leader(s),
5 iii. Composition of the Board of Trustees, Conference Council on Finance
6 and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained
7 Ministry and Annual Conference Committee, which choose or elect
8 Chairs or Designates to serve on the ACST,
9 iv. Selection of Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age
10 Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries.
- 11 b. Each District Superintendent and District Lay Leader(s) shall make diversity in
12 each DST a primary consideration in,
13 i. Selection of District Lay Leader(s) and Lay Co-Chair,
14 ii. Selection of Clergy Co-Chair,
15 iii. Rotation of DST Co-Chairs onto the ACST,
16 iv. Selection of Chairs of Board on Church Location and Building, District
17 Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and
18 Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team),
19 v. Selection of At Large Lay and Clergy Members.
20

21 **V. Evaluation of Structure.** The organizational structure of ACST and DSTs shall be subject
22 to formal evaluation at Annual Conferences in 2019, 2020 and quadrennially thereafter. This
23 evaluation of structure shall be separate from annual reports on the substantive work of the
24 ACST provided for in Paragraph II.a.xii., above.
25

- 26 b. The evaluation of structure shall consider features of the ACST and DSTs or their
27 objectives, such as,
28 i. Diversity of the ACST and DSTs
29 ii. Quality of Communication by ACST and DSTs
30 iii. Flexibility and Adaptability of ACST and DSTs to particular issues or
31 events
32 iv. Improving Clergy Morale
33 v. Equipping Local Churches
34 vi. Strengthening the Connection
35 vii. Streamlining committees and enhancing effectiveness of leadership
36 structure
37 viiii. Recruitment of new leaders from across the NIC
38
- 39 b. The evaluation of structure shall poll groups such as,
40 i. Local congregations and faith communities
41 ii. NIC committees, councils and boards
42
- 43 c. The evaluation of structure shall be conducted via a mechanism such as,
44 i. Electronic Survey
45 ii. Listening Sessions

46 **VI. Initial Reports to Annual Conference and Rotation of Membership**
47 **a. Annual Conference 2019 and 2020 and quadrennially thereafter**

- Report by ACST to Annual Conference regarding assessment of structure;
- Opportunity for feedback from Annual Conference;
- Possible submission of legislation proposing adaptation of structure. Such adaptive legislation may be proposed at any annual conference.

b. July 2020. Rotation of Membership.

- The first Chair of the ACST shall rotate off the ACST. The first Vice Chair shall become Chair and a new Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Bishop.
- The Conference Lay Leader and Chairs or Designates of Board of Trustees, Council on Finance and Administration, Committee on Nominations, Board of Ordained Ministry and Annual Conference Committee shall change per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.
- Designates of the Ethnic Caucuses shall rotate off the ACST and be replaced by newly selected Designates.
- The District Lay Leader(s) and the Chairs or Designates of Board on Church Location and Building, District Committee on Ordained Ministry and New Church Development and Revitalization Team (formerly District Strategy Team) shall change per Disciplinary requirements in the ordinary course of the nominations process.

c. July 2022. Rotation of Membership.

- The second Chair of the ACST shall rotate off the ACST. The Vice Chair shall become Chair and a new Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Bishop.
- Designates of Church Development and Revitalization, Age Level Ministries, and Justice and Mercy Ministries shall rotate off the ACST and be replaced by Designates newly selected by their respective Constituent Groups
- Co-Chairs representing DSTs on the ACST shall rotate. Those DSTs previously represented by the Lay Co-Chair shall begin to be represented by the Clergy Co-Chair and vice versa.
- At Large Lay and Clergy Members of the DSTs shall rotate off the DST and be replaced by newly selected Members.

RATIONALE:

This legislation simply adds the structure that was voted into action at the 2017 Northern Illinois Annual Conference to our Standing Rules, so that how we are living together is in alignment with our printed structure.