

United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference, Inc.  
Restatement of Purpose in Articles of Incorporation  
Action during Foundation's Annual Business Meeting on June 7

Background:

The Foundation's Board of Directors regularly reviews the Foundation's fiduciary responsibilities and updates policies and procedures to provide transparency and to protect the long-term interests of the Foundation's beneficiaries, clients, and donors. In recent years, part of the review involved deep consideration of the Foundation's stated purpose in the bylaws and the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation, which date to October 1949 when the Foundation was named, "Methodist Foundation of Rock River Conference." The Foundation's stated purpose has remained essentially unchanged since 1949, with minor updates, for example, in 1968 to clarify nomenclature related to the merger that created The United Methodist Church.

Action:

In April 2023, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved restating the Foundation's purpose in the bylaws (language below). The Foundation's Board of Directors submits to the delegates of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ratification of the Board's decision to amend the stated purpose in the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation as follows:

This corporation is formed for religious, educational, and charitable purposes, including for such purposes, to aid and give financial assistance and to provide investment management and administrative services, to make distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future deferral tax code; to provide a legally constituted body to solicit, receive, administer and manage trust funds, devises, and gifts of property of every kind and nature made to or for the use and benefit of any church, university, college, hospital, home, orphanage, missionary society or any other religious, educational or charitable organizations, with primary emphasis being in organizations directly or historically related to Methodist traditions, either in Illinois, or in any other place in the world; to do things necessary, suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes hereinbefore enumerated; but this Foundation shall not engage in activities that are not either religious, charitable or educational in purpose, nor shall it engage in any activities consisting of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. No part of the net earnings of the Foundation shall inure to the benefit of any member or other individual.

Rationale:

The Foundation has served diverse clients for decades, namely through ecumenical relations. For example, the Foundation's second largest individual organizational client is Church World Service in Elkhart, IN, and New York City. The Foundation is CWS's exclusive provider of endowment investment management and planned giving services. The Foundation has a growing number of donor-advised fund clients who designate giving to multiple charitable organizations that align with Methodist values. Collectively, local church investments represent approximately

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45% of the assets under the management of the Foundation. By restating the Foundation's purpose, the Foundation recognizes what the Foundation has become through a more succinct statement and opens opportunities to be even more donor-and-church-centric since donors and local churches have diverse interests and connections in their communities and beyond in the nation and in the world.

For reference, the Foundation's current purpose is as follows:

To aid and give financial assistance and to provide investment management and administrative services to churches and to religious, charitable and educational philanthropies and religious, charitable and educational institutions of, related to, or affiliated with the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church or The United Methodist Church, including the Benevolent Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church; to aid in the support and maintenance of worship and religious services in Methodist churches which are members of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; for the advancement and furtherance of interests and activities of The United Methodist Church which are under the supervision of or are related to Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, including the Benevolent Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church; to do things necessary, suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes hereinbefore enumerated; but this Foundation shall not engage in activities that are not either religious, charitable or educational in purpose, nor shall it engage in any activities consisting of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. No part of the net earnings of the Foundation shall inure to the benefit of any member or other individual. The term "Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church" shall be taken to mean and include that Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church designated as the "Northern Illinois Conference" and having supervision over the affairs of The United Methodist Church in the territory as the same shall from time to time be bounded and described in The Discipline of The United Methodist Church. In case said Annual Conference shall at any time or times be renamed, the term shall be taken to mean and include said Annual Conference as renamed, and in case the Area constituting the specific territory of said Annual Conference shall at any time or times be redistricted, the term shall be taken to mean and include that Annual Conference which comprises the major portion of the membership of The United Methodist Church within the area of the present "Northern Illinois Conference."

Questions? Please contact:

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