IX. PETITIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The petitions to the 2018 session are printed here in the form in which they were approved. They are not in every case identical to the form in which they were originally submitted. In the interest of clarity and economy, the texts of petitions which were not adopted or referred by the conference are not printed.

Whenever the text of a petition is printed elsewhere in the journal, as in the case of proposals from the agencies of the conference, the reader will be referred to the appropriate section. Record of action is recorded in the Daily Minutes, Section IV.C., page 147.

PETITION 1
Subject: 2019 Conference Funds and Financial Policies; and Budget
Submitted by: Glenn Kinken, President, on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration
Text: See Section VIII.A, pages 220 and 223
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

PETITION 2, Part a
Subject: Pension Programs and Policies
Submitted by: Michael Watson, President, on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Text: See Section VIII.L, Page 264
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

PETITION 2, Part b
Subject: Health Benefits Program and Policies
Submitted by: Michael Watson, President, on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Text: See Section VIII.L, page 267
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

PETITION 3
Subject: Advance Specials for 2018-2019
Submitted by: Brian Mateer, Chairperson, on behalf of the Mission Engagement Team
Text: See Section VIII.B.5, page 231
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 4
Subject: Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation
Submitted by: Roy J. Helm, Director, and Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.B.5, page 234
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 5
Subject: Board of Directors for Western NC Conference Camps
Submitted by: Carroll Harris, WNCC Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries
Text: See Section VIII.B.6, page 235
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 6
Subject: Brevard College Trustees
Submitted by: Board of Trustees, Brevard College
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 248
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 7
Subject: High Point University Trustees
Submitted by: Board of Trustees, High Point University
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 248
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 8
Subject: Campus Ministry Boards
Submitted by: Council on Campus Ministries; and each individual board
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 249
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 9, Part a
Subject: Board of Directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
Submitted by: Suzanne Pugh, President and CEO, on behalf of the Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.1, page 252
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 9, Part b
Subject: Board of Directors of Aldersgate At Home, Inc.
Submitted by: Suzanne Pugh, President and CEO, on behalf of the Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.1, page 252
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 10
Subject: Board of Directors of Arbor Acres Retirement Community, Inc.
Submitted by: Andrew W. Applegate, President and CEO, and Susan Schwartz, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.2, page 253
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018
PETITION 11  
Subject: UM Trustees of Crossnore School & Children’s Home  
Submitted by: Brett A. Loftis, CEO  
Text: See Section VIII.F.3, page 254  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 12  
Subject: Board of Directors of Givens Communities  
Submitted by: Kenneth M. Partin, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Text: See Section VIII.F.4, Page 255  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 13  
Subject: Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc.  
Submitted by: Marilyn Garner, President & CEO  
Text: See Section VIII.F.5, page 256  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 14  
Subject: Board of Directors of Sanctuary Counseling Group  
Submitted by: Martha Rick, Chairperson, and John V. Arey, Jr., Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Text: See Section VIII.F.8, page 257  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 15  
Subject: Board of Directors of Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center  
Submitted by: Gary L. Klink, Executive Director  
Text: See Section VIII.F.6, page 257  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 16  
Subject: Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines  
Submitted by: Neal Jones, Chairperson, on behalf of the Commission on Equitable Compensation  
Text: See Section VIII.U, page 277  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 17  
Subject: Trustee of Cole Foundation  
Submitted by: James C. Windham, Jr., Chairperson, on behalf of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation  
Text: See Section VIII.X, page 278  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2018

PETITION 18  
Subject: Support of NETworX  
Submitted by: RFD CDC Board of Directors  
Text: See Section VIII.Z, page 280  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

PETITION 19  
Subject: Change in Percentage of Proceeds from Closed Church Properties  
Submitted by: WNCC Connectional Table, WNCC Cabinet, and WNCC Church Vitality Team  
Text:  
Whereas, since 2003, the proceeds after expenses of sold closed church properties have been distributed such that 75 percent remain in the district and 25 percent are allocated to the conference, both for new church development and revitalization efforts; and  
Whereas, the funding of new church starts and new faith communities has become less the responsibility of a particular district and more a collaborative effort between a district and the Conference Church Vitality Team; and  
Whereas, the best location for a new church start or new faith community may or may not be in a district where closed church properties have been sold; and  
Whereas, for the wise and faithful stewardship of closed church proceeds it is important that a conference-wide perspective be utilized; and  
Whereas, the Church Vitality Team, Cabinet, and Connectional Table are recommending this change in the distribution percentage of sold church properties; therefore, be it  
Resolved that the proceeds after expenses for closed church properties sold on or after July 1, 2018 be distributed such that 25 percent remain in the district and 75 percent are allocated to the Conference Church Vitality Team to be used for new churches, new faith communities, new missional initiatives and other revitalization efforts described in ¶ 2549.7 of The 2016 Book of Discipline.  
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

PETITION 20  
Subject: Encouraging Gracious Exit Accommodation  
Submitted by: Christ UMC, Hickory, CV District, and Green Street UMC, Winston-Salem, YV District  
Conference Action: Petition ruled out of order June 23, 2018
PETITION 21  Subject: Just Policy for Local Church Employees
Submitted by: Faith Walk UMC, NP District; First UMC, Charlotte, ME District; Green Street UMC, YV District; Haywood Street Congregation, BR District; Inclusion UMC, ME District; Mars Hill UMC, BR District

Text:
Whereas, ¶ 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: “We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence” (The 2016 Book of Discipline); and

Whereas, ¶ 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church also states: “We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.” (The 2016 Book of Discipline); and

Whereas, ¶ 162J of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.... Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (The 2016 Book of Discipline); and

Whereas, that same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst such basic rights and liberties; and

Whereas, most United Methodist churches – regardless of their stand on The Book of Discipline and LGBTQ persons – frequently state that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are welcome in their local church; and

Whereas, some United Methodist Churches practice a policy that inquires about sexual orientation during the interview process and forbids the employment of called and qualified laity to non-appointed staff positions if they are lesbian or gay; and

Whereas, laity employed by United Methodist Churches have been fired from their non-appointed staff positions based solely on their sexual orientation; and

Whereas, such dismissal is in direct conflict with the aforementioned Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and causes significant harm; and

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Conference wishes for each of our local churches a staff that possesses the gifts and graces for relative and effective ministry, and would not wish for either our churches or the neighbors we serve to be denied the most qualified person due to a practice that prevents employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference is committed to employment practices that are aligned with The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. The Western North Carolina Conference encourages and supports local church policies in which laity called to serve are employed and dismissed based solely on their gifts and graces without regard for sexual orientation or gender identity.

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018

FLOOR PETITION  Subject: Reunite Immigrant Families
Submitted by: Katherine R. Bryant, Provisional Elder, UW District
Text: See Section IV.C, page 157
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 23, 2018