

IX. PETITIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The petitions to the 2019 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 153.

- PETITION 1** Subject: **2020 Conference Funds and Financial Policies; and 2020 Budget**
Submitted by: Glenn Kinken, President, on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration
Text: See Section VIII.A, pages 236 and 240
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- 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 273
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- 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 276
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 3** Subject: **Advance Specials for 2019-2020**
Submitted by: Brian Mateer, Chairperson, on behalf of the Mission Engagement Team
Text: See Section VIII.B.5, page 246
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 4** Subject: **Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development**
Submitted by: Joel A. Gilland, President, and Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.AA, page 285
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 5** Subject: **Boards of Directors for Western NC Conference Camps**
Submitted by: Carroll Harris, WNCC Camp and Retreat Ministry Coordinator
Text: See Section VIII.B.6, page 247
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 6** Subject: **Trustees of Brevard College**
Submitted by: Board of Trustees, Brevard College
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 259
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 7** Subject: **Trustees of High Point University**
Submitted by: Board of Trustees, High Point University
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 259
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 8** Subject: **Campus Ministry Boards**
Submitted by: Council on Campus Ministries; and each individual board
Text: See Section VIII.D, page 260
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 9, Part a** Subject: **Board of Directors of Aldersgate Life Plan Services, Inc.**
Submitted by: Suzanne Pugh, President and CEO, on behalf of the Board of Directors
Text: See Section VIII.F.1, page 263
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 9, Part b** 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 263
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 9, Part c** 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 263
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019

- 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 264
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 11** Subject: **UM Trustees of Crossnore School & Children’s Home**
Submitted by: Holly Solomon, Director of Communications
Text: See Section VIII.F.4, page 266
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 12** Subject: **Board of Directors of Givens Communities**
Submitted by: Kenneth M. Partin, President and Chief Executive Officer
Text: See Section VIII.F.5, Page 267
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 13** Subject: **Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc.**
Submitted by: Marilyn Garner, President & CEO
Text: See Section VIII.F.7, page 269
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 14** Subject: **Board of Directors of Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center**
Submitted by: Gary L. Kling, Executive Director
Text: See Section VIII.F.3, page 265
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 15** 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 283
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 16** 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 284
Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019
- PETITION 17** Subject: **Gender Discrimination in Appointments**
Submitted by: Rev. Andrea McCumber, Groce UMC (Asheville), Blue Ridge District; and
Rev. Jeffery McCumber Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley Rev. Gerald Davis
Rev. Darryl Dayson Rev. Lynda Ferguson Rev. Shelly Webb
Rev. Jessica Dayson Rev. Carrilea Hall Rev. Lory Beth Huffman
Rev. Parker Haynes Rev. Lauren Hill Beth Alexander, Salem UMC
Rev. Stephanie Foretich-McKey Rev. Nikki Raye Rice Laura Jones, Groce UMC
Rev. Chandler Ragland Rev. Shannon LeMaster-Smith Gail Sherman, Groce UMC
Rev. Kathy Randall Bryant Rev. Joshua Britton Jane Williams, Groce UMC
- Text:**
Whereas, we believe that all of humanity is created in God’s image and likeness. “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27 NRSV); and,
Whereas, we believe that God calls women into leadership like Deborah and Esther (Judges 4 and 5; Esther). We acknowledge that women were part of Christ’s ministry including Mary, Joanna, and Susanna (Luke 8:2-3). We affirm the many female leaders in the early church including Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae (Romans 16:1-2); and,
Whereas, we know that God calls women to ordained ministry; and,
Whereas, ¶ 162F of the *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* states: “We affirm women and men to be equal in every aspect of their common life. [...And we] affirm the right of women to equal treatment in employment, responsibility, promotion, and compensation.” (*The 2016 Book of Discipline*); and,
Whereas, *The Book of Discipline* ¶ 425.1 states that “Open itinerancy means appointments are made without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, color, disability, marital status, or age, except for the provisions of mandatory retirement.” and,
Whereas, there are still local churches and Staff Parish Relations Committees that refuse to consider female clergy for appointments; and,
Whereas, we know that gender discrimination thrives in our silence; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church recommends our bishop and Cabinet to:
1. respond to requests concerning the non-consideration of female clergy by affirming our position of open itinerancy.
 2. educate Staff Parish Relations Committees on why discrimination is harmful to the mission of the church.
 3. communicate our position of non-discrimination with Staff Parish Relations Committees through the consultation process.
- Conference Action:** Adopted Petition June 22, 2019

PETITION 18

Submitted by:

Subject: **Child Advocacy Coalition**

WNCC Mission Engagement Team

WNCC Justice and Reconciliation Team

Congregations for Children (C4C) Team (Camille Roddy, Susan Pennock, Randy Harry, Sandi Lee, Kris Mares, Rob Parsons, Linda Dills)

Child Advocacy Task Team (Camille Roddy, Janet Leeland, Jay Bissett, Wade Hampton, Susan Johnson, Susan Pennock, Rob Parsons, Caroline Wood)

Text:

Whereas, children are among the most precious and fragile members of our society. As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we are led to gather and care for children. As we follow in the footsteps of John Wesley, they take us into the poorest and most disadvantaged areas to educate, equip, and advocate for children and families; and,

Whereas, we call on the Western North Carolina Conference UMC to continue this legacy through response and advocacy for all children in North Carolina. In forming the WNCC UMC Child Advocacy Coalition, we will educate, resource, and equip the conference in response and advocacy for the challenges facing the children and families of this state. This is our Scriptural, historical, and moral responsibility and our connexional system, comprised of 1100 churches, is well-positioned to answer the call; and,

Whereas, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016)* calls United Methodists to be advocates for all children as in The Social Principles ¶ 162C: **"Rights of Children**—Once considered the property of their parents, children are now acknowledged to be full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations. Moreover, children have the rights to adequate education, food, shelter, clothing, health care, and emotional well-being as do adults, and these rights we affirm as theirs regardless of actions or inactions of their parents or guardians. In particular, children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse." and,

Whereas, there is currently no formally existing coalition or entity within the WNCC UMC with a committed emphasis on the broad spectrum of challenges faced by the children of this state, which include but are not limited to the following:

1. **Advocating and response for quality public education as a basic human right.** Every child deserves an education that challenges and develops the gifts and talents with which they were created so they might become contributing members of society; equal access to quality education is crucial to further understanding, acceptance, and cooperation between people of all races, socioeconomic levels, national origin, abilities, and gender.
2. **Advocating and response for the development of quality childcare/daycare programs.** Research reveals that the care infants receive has significant long-term effects on cognitive development. High-quality care and early learning for young children affects how they will learn later in life. Child care is a significant financial challenge for families and affordable services are limited.
3. **Advocating for quality afterschool care.** According to the North Carolina After School Alliance there are 234,908 children being served in afterschool programs in North Carolina, with 523,140 children awaiting enrollment in an afterschool program. The number of children left unsupervised after school is estimated to be 295,984.
4. **Advocating for universal, early, and quality preschool education for all children.** Children entering kindergarten have widely varying knowledge levels, making it difficult to provide appropriate instruction for all children in the early grades; quality preschool education significantly improves a child's academic performance and chance for overall social and economic success.
5. **Advocating and response for disconnected teenagers and young adults ages of 16-24.** When children grow up in an unstable environment, with few positive role models it often paves the way for a difficult transition to adulthood. One in nine young people in the United States between the ages of 16-24 are neither working nor attending school. Others suffer from poor health conditions that hinder their ability to develop physically or socially. They are more at risk for early pregnancy and violence, physical and mental health conditions, illegal drug and heavy alcohol use, poverty and homelessness, and increased incarceration rates.
6. **Advocating and response for appropriate support of children in foster care.** According to Crossnore School and Children's Home more than 11,000 children in North Carolina are in foster care. The Children's Home Society of North Carolina says the number has been steadily rising since 2012 and is at its highest rate in the last 10 years; about 600 children age out of the system without being adopted by a permanent family.
7. **Advocating and response for children with disabilities.** Every child with a disability has a right to a free appropriate public education. Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Act in 1975 (IDEA) which guarantees a free appropriate education to each child and promised federal funding for 40 percent of this cost. However, funding levels to the states have never reached this target and help for students has persistently fallen short at federal, state, and local levels.
8. **Advocating and response for enhancing and building family resources.** Children thrive in environments where connections to assets both outside and inside the family structures are strengthened as building blocks for age appropriate growth and development.
9. **Advocating and response for post high school educational opportunities for all.** Affordable post-high school education and career readiness should equip young adults to fully participate in the well-being of our communities; and,

Whereas, the Mission Engagement Team provides oversight and funding for Congregations for Children (C4C); C4C is well positioned and prepared to develop and provide oversight of the WNCC UMC Child Advocacy Coalition through the C4C Conference Team and support through the Mission Engagement Team. C4C is changing the lives of children and families impacted by poverty through collaboration with public schools. C4C is comprised of four areas of focus: Poverty and Advocacy, K-3 Literacy, Basic Needs, and Family Engagement; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference Mission Engagement Team establish a Child Advocacy Coalition, with oversight from Congregations for Children, to promote equity, opportunities, and well-being for all children in Western North Carolina and to educate, resource, and equip the church in response and advocacy for the many challenges faced by the children of Western North Carolina.

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019

PETITION 19 Subject: **Election of Clergy Delegates to General Conference**

Submitted by: Jonathan Gaylord, Yadkinville UMC, Yadkin Valley District; and Rennie Salata, Acton UMC, Blue Ridge District

Text:

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Conference is a large conference, with over 1000 Clergy in Full Connection eligible to be elected as 1 of 10 Delegates to General Conference 2020; and,

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Conference's current electoral process favors name recognition that is only common among clergy serving on conference and district staff, in cardinal appointments, and/or in executive positions on district and conference boards; and,

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Conference's current electoral process provides no additional information relevant to serving as a delegate to General Conference; and,

Whereas, willingness to serve as a delegate should be considered while electing General Conference delegates; and,

Whereas, an analogous process exists for the election of lay delegates from the Western North Carolina Conference; therefore, be it

Resolved, the Committee on Rules and Organization for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference shall provide a process for the 2023 election of clergy delegates to the 2024 General Conference that allows for clergy to self-nominate; and, be it further

Resolved, that such a process produce individual profiles with demographic and other information relevant to serving as a General Conference delegate to voting members of the annual conference for review at least 4-6 weeks prior to the meeting of the annual conference; and, be it further

Resolved, that such a process not disqualify from nomination or election any clergy in full connection who chose not to self-submit a nomination and profile, but who otherwise meet the requirements of eligibility laid out in *The Book of Discipline*.

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019

PETITION 20 Subject: **The Jurisdictional Conference Plan**

Submitted by: Jeremy Troxler, Spruce Pine UMC, Blue Ridge District

Text:

Whereas, The United Methodist Church is now truly a global body, with a significant percentage of its membership from countries outside the United States; and,

Whereas, the United Methodist central conferences in these global regions are currently granted the constitutional and disciplinary authority to make such changes and adaptations to *The Book of Discipline* as are necessary for more fruitful mission; and,

Whereas, jurisdictional conferences within the United States, although parallel bodies to global central conferences, are not currently granted the same constitutional and disciplinary authority to make such changes and adaptations to *The Book of Discipline* as are necessary for more fruitful mission; and,

Whereas, legislation passed by General Conference, and having been voted upon by delegates from the United States and delegates from outside the United States, will thus be applied differently to each; and,

Whereas, the current United Methodist Constitution and its *Book of Discipline* thus enshrines an unequal double standard for jurisdictional conferences in the United States and central conferences outside the United States, in which one part of the Church can adapt the *Discipline*, and other parts cannot; and,

Whereas, The United Methodist Church is experiencing the greatest growth in the central conferences where regional church bodies are granted the authority to adapt *The Book of Discipline* for the sake of more fruitful mission; and,

Whereas, the jurisdictional conferences in the United States, lacking such power for regional determination, are growing at a slower rate than those conferences which are granted the authority to adapt the *Discipline* to their context; and,

Whereas, the current profound divisions within The United Methodist Church over theology and scriptural interpretation often coincide with regional differences in geographic location both within and outside the United States; and,

Whereas, applying the same disciplinary language to jurisdictional conferences as to central conferences would foster greater equality among different regions of The United Methodist Church, establish a more uniform practice of connectionalism around the world, and lead to a more even application of General Conference legislation; and,

Whereas, applying the same disciplinary language to jurisdictional conferences as to central conferences might allow The United Methodist Church to remain one connection despite our theological and geographic and cultural differences, while also retaining our existing polity structure; and,

Whereas, adding the same disciplinary language for jurisdictional conferences as currently exists for central conferences would allow greater regional discernment or "binding and loosing" (Matthew 18) of *The Book of Discipline*, would invest greater trust and authority in more regional gatherings of living disciples of Christ and in the Holy Spirit rather than in abstract policies and distant legislation, and may thus allow the Church to better make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church petitions the General Conference meeting in the year 2020 to approve the following changes to the United Methodist Constitution and to the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*:

Part I: The Constitution

Division Two – Organization: § IV. Jurisdictional Conferences

¶ 27, *Article V*. The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties **and privileges**, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries...
5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, **including such changes and adaptations of the *General Discipline* as the conditions in their respective areas may require**, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.”

Part II: *General Book of Discipline*

¶ 101. The *General Book of Discipline* reflects our Wesleyan way of serving Christ through doctrine and disciplined Christian life. We are a worldwide denomination united by doctrine, discipline, and mission through our connectional covenant. The *General Book of Discipline* expresses that unity. Each **jurisdictional and** central conference may make changes and adaptations to the *General Book of Discipline* to more fruitfully accomplish our mission in various contexts. However, some portions of the *General Book of Discipline* are not subject to adaptation. The following parts and paragraphs are not subject to change or adaptation except by action of the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters has primary responsibility for proposing to General Conference revisions to this paragraph.

Parts I - V

I. Constitution ¶¶ 1-61

II. *General Book of Discipline* ¶ 101

III. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task ¶¶ 102-105

IV. The Ministry of All Christians ¶¶ 120-143

V. Social Principles Preface, Preamble, and ¶¶ 160-166

The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order, will bring legislation to the 2020 General Conference to change the structure of the *General Book of Discipline* to include a *Part IV, General Organization and Administration* not subject to change or adaptation by central **and jurisdictional** conferences, and a *Part VII, Additional Organization and Administration*, adaptable by central **and jurisdictional** conferences according to ¶ 31.5. The content of Part VI of the *2016 Book of Discipline* will be included in either part VI or Part VII of the *General Book of Discipline*. For the work on Part VI, Chapter 2 (The Ministry of the Ordained) and Chapter 3 (The Superintendency) of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Commission for the Study of Ministry, and for Part VI, Chapter 5 (Administrative Order) of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Connectional Table...”

Part VI: Organization and Administration

Chapter Four – The Conferences: § II. The Jurisdictional Conference

¶ 525. *Powers and Duties of Jurisdictional Conference* -

1. The jurisdictional conference shall have powers and duties as described in the Constitution. It shall also have such other powers and duties as may be conferred by the General Conference. It shall act in all respects in harmony with the policy of The United Methodist Church with respect to elimination of discrimination based upon race.

(Insert new # 2, #3, and #4 to ¶ 525 as follows, which represent the same language used in ¶¶ 543.7, 543.12, and 543.14 to enumerate the powers of central conferences:)

2. A jurisdictional conference shall have power to make such changes and adaptations of *The Book of Discipline* as the special conditions and mission of the Church in the area require, especially concerning the organization and administration of the work on local church, district, and annual conference levels, provided that no action shall be taken that is contrary to the Constitution and the General Rules of The United Methodist Church, and provided that the spirit of connectional relationship is kept between the local and general church. Subject to this restriction, a jurisdictional conference may delegate to an annual conference within its boundaries the power to make one or the other of the changes and adaptations referred to in this paragraph, upon the request of such annual conference.

3. A jurisdictional conference shall have authority to adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and provided also, that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded.

4. A jurisdictional conference shall have the power to conform the detailed rules, rites, and ceremonies for the solemnization of marriage to the statute laws of the country or countries within its jurisdiction.

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019

PETITION 21Subject: **Remove Incompatibility Language**

Submitted by:

Green Street UMC (Winston-Salem), Yadkin Valley District

Text:

Whereas, ¶ 161G of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* (2016) which states that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching” never refers to any specific Christian teaching that concludes such incompatibility; and,
Whereas, there is Christian teaching that concludes that the practice of homosexuality is not incompatible; and,
Whereas, since its adoption, the incompatibility statement found in ¶ 161G of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* has been argued by biblical scholars and theologians as inaccurate and in conflict with what many Christian educators teach; and,
Whereas, the wording in ¶ 161G of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* directly contradicts ¶ 162 of *The Book of Discipline* which states: “We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person’s value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened.” and,
Whereas, the incompatibility statement found in ¶ 161G of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* has never fully represented all United Methodists and has been rejected by a growing number of United Methodists every year since its adoption; and,
Whereas, the incompatibility statement found in ¶ 161G of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* has been the source of tremendous harm to countless people within The United Methodist Church and beyond; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference petition the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to remove the sentence found in ¶ 161G of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* that states: “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 22, 2019**PETITION 22**Subject: **Opposition to the Traditional Plan**

Submitted by:

Mary Z. Longstreth, Central UMC (Asheville), Blue Ridge District; and

Pat Poag	Paige Pritchard	Phil Coghill	Connie Kramer
Susan Slye Giles	Joe Pritchard	Janet Lilly	Ruth Hite
Sandy Giles	Lauralyn Rickman	Loy Lilly	Karla Jalocho
Jackie RioThey	Bess Redmond	Cheryl Russell	Patty J. Higgins
Roger Rio	Samuel Brant	Steve Berwager	R. Anthony Ingle
Mike Leatherwood	Gerald McKinney	Gregg Tomlinson	Jeff Hite
Jamie Armstrong	Pattie Graham	Neal Tomlinson	Heath Nettles
Amy Wilson	Christine Colcand	Marjorie Warren	Barbara Coffee
McKenzie Dillingham	Hattie Polk	Robert Loupo	Leo Coffee
Frank Grice	Rick Schilling	John Fitzgerald	Kristine Nyland
Renee Pagano	Suzanne D. Schilling	Lanier Bayliss	Claire Stoeckel
Steve Pagano	Donna Anderson	Charles Reeves	George Shephard
John E. Dodson	Donald Rebach	Dianne Reeves	Sondra Shepherd
Kevin Kepp	Millsaps Dye	Gale Roberson	Dwight Oltman
Brenda Venhuizen	Elaine M. Dye	Maleta Griffin	Shirley Oltman
Aaron Ybarro	Debbie Pittman	Ruth G. Hoyt	John Stoeckel
Pat Dean	June Fischer	Jim L. Hoyt	Jack Ewing
Lyndon Dean	LeGrand Smith	Nancy J. Oates	Cynthia Ewing
Madeline Moseley	Ann Janzen	Pat Koonts	Catherine J. Golson
Catherine Mills	Marjorie Rugger	Mary Millar	George Kennedy
Ed. L. Hillman	Amy Loy	Jane Kirby	Wanda Kennedy
Richard J. VanderVeen	Sherman Dillard	William J. Everett	Laurel Bevill
Betsy Finger	Marvin Cole	Dawn Cannon	Terry Bevill
Diann Harle	Glenda L. Patterson	David F. Sutton	Myrtle Kinyon
Wiley Cooper	Dan Patterson	Gordon Johnson	Bill Kinyon
Emily Cooper	Jerry R. Cook	Laura Willis	Anita Strickhausen
Kari Kopp	Mickey B. Cook	David Willis	Josh Noblitt
C.G. DeGrave	Donna Anderson	Hazel Holmes	Laura Kirby
Jim DeGrave	Jo Ikelheimer	Matt Holmes	Brian Combs
Theresa Leatherwood	Doug Wingeier	Linda McFarland	Barry Miller
Lisa Hartzog	A. Gail Hipkins	Linda Arnold	Libby Flowers
Iva Sue Luttrell	Marcia K. Knight	Boyd M. Holliday	Tom Muncy
Susan Penland	Mary Z. Longstreth	Jean M. Holliday	Jim Barrett
Sally K. Bush	Bill Haggard	Nancy T. Coghill	Kendra Simpson
Nancy A. Thomason	Heather Abernathy	James I. Warren	Sharon LeDuc
Tami Pataro-Keen	Sarah Hunter	Ann Phillips Clark	Diane Rutledge
Susan Downs	Bob Hunter	Lucy A. Butterworth	Kasey Kelly
Barbara Blevins	Wannermaker Hardin	Gabrielle Interdonata	Jay Bissett
Patrick Meitzy	Betsy Hardin	Ree Smith	Steve Noblitt
Sara Tippet	Susan Folds	Monica Storm Cash	Leigh Noblitt
Lewis Poag	Burton Flanagan	Marilou Ogler	Gail Holt
Helen Kramer	Chere Flanagan	Carol Kinsey	Del Schendel

PETITION 22 SUBSTITUTION: Endorsing the Commitments of UMC Next and Supporting Full Inclusion of All People**Submitted by:**

The Western North Carolina Annual Conference representatives to UMC Next:

Lynette Whitaker, laity, Winston Salem, NC
 Carter Ellis, clergy, Greensboro, NC
 Kasey Kelly, laity, Waynesville, NC
 Darryl Dayson, clergy, Asheville, NC
 Uiyeon Kim, clergy, Charlotte, NC
 Joy Moss, clergy, Asheville, NC

Mary Brown, clergy, Andrews, NC
 Keith Turman, clergy, Waynesville, NC
 Josh Noblitt, clergy, Atlanta, GA.
 Lory Beth Huffman, clergy, Boone, NC
 Ashley Crowder Stanley, clergy, Asheville, NC

Text:

Whereas, more than 600 laity and clergy leaders from every Annual Conference in the United States met May 20-22, 2019 at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas for an event entitled UMC Next. The event's purpose was to explore faithful responses to the Traditional Plan that was adopted by the 2019 special session of General Conference; and

Whereas, John Wesley's first rule for early Methodists was to do no harm and the enactment of the Traditional Plan continues and amplifies harm already done by the church to LGBTQIA+ United Methodists and their families; and

Whereas, in our baptismal vows we promise to "resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

Whereas, there was a clear consensus from those in attendance at the UMC Next event about the four commitments essential to the future of the United Methodist Church; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC) formally aspires to the statement and four commitments of UMC Next:

"We believe these commitments are essential to a hope-filled future for the global Methodist movement as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world:"

1. We long to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in scripture and informed by tradition, experience and reason as we live a life of personal piety and social holiness.
2. We commit to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.
3. We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.
4. We will work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restriction and penalties in *The Book of Discipline* regarding LGBTQ persons. We affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ persons, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry together.

Be it further

Resolved, that we urge local United Methodist congregations of the Western North Carolina Conference to ensure that LGBTQIA+ persons are welcomed and included in the membership and leadership of the local churches, to encourage members of the local congregations to be inclusive of all people and to have an open dialogue about the actions of the 2019 General Conference, the Traditional Plan, and these four commitments.

Conference Action: Substitution Adopted, June 22, 2019

PETITION 23Subject: **Apportionment Obligations****Submitted by:**

Thomas Watson Crawford Jr., Caroleen UMC, Blue Ridge District

Conference Action:

Petition not considered by the body, because of adjournment

