

Recommendations

PRE-CONFERENCE HANDBOOK



Love Boldly

Serve Joyfully

Lead Courageously



PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 2026

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Line

Petition #1

MINIMUM COMPENSATION

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the minimum compensation schedule for full-time service set by the Annual Conference for the Calendar year 2027 will be \$54,391.

EXPLANATION: In keeping with the custom of the Commission and the Annual Conference, the minimum compensation has been increased by 3.00%. This figure represents the average of the increase in the 2025 Seattle Area CPI (3.1%) and the increase in 2025 Pastor's Plan Compensation (2.9%) across the conference as reported in the statistical reports. This compensation does not include Accountable Reimbursement Plan professional expenses, including travel.

SPONSORED BY
Commission on Equitable Compensation

Line

Petition #2

DISABILITY BENEFITS

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference recommends that the Wespath Benefits and Investments provide Comprehensive Protection Plan Disability Benefits for the Conference year 2026-2027 only if approved for CPP disability benefits by Wespath for *Susan Boegli, Robert Henre, Marc Kennedy, Gloria Kymn, Don Shipley, and Cheryl Wuensch.*

SPONSORED BY
Pacific Northwest Board of Pensions

Line

Petition #3

MOVING ALLOWANCE

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The Moving Allowance will be reimbursed through the local church, which will provide a W-2 to the pastor, as this allowance has been taxable since 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED, the recommended moving allowance schedule for the 2026-2027 appointment year is:

- A. Intra-conference up to \$2,400 (Rule XI, Sec. 2(a)).
- B. Retiring minister up to \$2,400 (Rule XI, Sec. 2(b)).
- C. Surviving spouse up to \$2,400 (Rule XI, Sec 2(b)).
- D. Minister on Disability Leave, up to \$2,400 (Rule XI, Sec. 2(b)).
- E. Seminary students returning for local church appointment will be reimbursed on the basis of receipts for moving expenses, including meals and lodging en route, as approved by the District Superintendent with the following dollar limits, based on the one-way mileage from the seminary to the appointment (Rule XI, Sec. 2(c)):
 - Over 2,500 miles – up to \$5,000
 - 1,501 to 2,500 miles – up to \$4,500
 - 1,001 to 1,500 miles – up to \$4,100
 - 801 to 1,000 miles – up to \$3,400
 - 501 to 800 miles – up to \$2,900
 - 500 miles or less – up to \$2,400
- F. Candidates for ministry or ministerial members (including paragraph 337.1) transferring in shall be reimbursed up to the seminary students' limits (E) with the provision that the Cabinet may authorize expenditures of up to 150% of the seminary student limit (Rule XI, Sec. 2(c)).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Petition #4

PAST SERVICE PENSION RATE

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BE IT RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2027, the Ministerial Pension Rate and the Local Pastors Pension Rate shall be \$1,015 and that Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program be so amended.

EXPLANATION: Supplement One to CRSP is the name of Addendum A to MPP (ministerial pension plan) and CPP (comprehensive protection plan) that was originally adopted by the 1981 session of this Annual Conference (1981 Journal, page 178), and all other provisions of Supplement One/Addendum A continue as previously adopted. This new pension rate represents a 5% increase in the past service rate. The conference board of pensions recognizes the disparity of pension benefits between more recent retirees and those that have been retired for many years and raise above the target of 2% increase when funding surplus is available. If approved, the 2027 past service rate would represent a 24% increase since 2023. In 2026 the past service rate is \$967.

SPONSORED BY
Pacific Northwest Board of Pensions

Petition #5

RETIREMENT ANNUITY RESPONSIBILITY

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Conference accept the applicable annuity responsibility for the following persons retiring at the 2026 session of the Annual Conference as of 3/16/2026.

Name	Disc. ¶	Age	Appt. Years*	Effective Date
James Carter	358.2(c)(d)	65 and 0 month	37	12/1/2025
René Devantier	358.2(c)(d)	62 and 0 month	23	8/1/2026
Mark Johnson	358.2(b)	63 and 10 months	36	7/1/2026
Brook McBride	358.2(c)	65 and 1 month	36.5	7/1/2026
Paula McCutcheon	358.2(c)	66 and 11 months	38	7/1/2026
Daniel Miranda	358.2(b)	62 and 2 months	11	7/1/2026
Sheila Miranda	358.2(c)	66 and 10 months	10	7/1/2026
Susan Ostrom	358.2(c)	67 and 5 months	42	7/1/2026
Sandra Ward	358.2(c)	67 and 8 months	12	7/1/2026
Mark R. Williams	358.2(b)	64 and 8 months	31	7/1/2026

*Number of years under appointment not the full-time equivalent service or service as a part-time local pastor.

SPONSORED BY
Pacific Northwest Board of Pensions

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Petition #6

RETIREMENT GRANTS

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the following persons receive grants in lieu of pension from the Pacific Northwest Conference:

PERSONS RECEIVING GRANTS IN
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2026 - 2027 Pension Grant Schedule

Name (age by end of year)	Service in Conference	Year Eligible	Applicable Pension Rate	Grant \$	Payment Period
Wanda L. Butler (surviving spouse of Ralph Butler 70%) (100)	25.0	1983	188	3,290.04	7/1/26-6/30/27
Marilyn Calkins (surviving spouse of Robert Calkins 70%) (89)	12.0	1991	265.93	1,304.28	7/1/26-6/30/27
Richard L. Gossett (81)	7.0	2009	578.58	1,417.56	7/1/26-6/30/27
Marisol Harper (surviving spouse of Craig Harper 70%) (92)	6.75	1993	287.63	458.76	7/1/26-6/30/27
Donald L. Jeter (92)	11.5	1998	349.95	2,314.08	7/1/26-6/30/27
John C. Shirk (93)	5.0	1998	349.95	437.40	7/1/26-6/30/27
				\$ 9,222.12	

EXPLANATION: these grants (¶1506.11) are made to former clergy of this Conference who are not covered under the vesting provision of the Discipline (¶1506.15.a-c – 2008 Discipline) in lieu of pension. The grants are applicable to clergy who have either taken Honorable Location or Withdrawn from the Conference prior to 1973. Funds for the grants come from the Conference Board of Pensions endowment earnings.

The Conference Board of Pensions “Policy for Grants to Former Members” governs the amount of each grant. The grant is based on years of service in this Conference and the applicable pension rate in effect the year the applicant attained age 65 before July 1. The benefit is reduced for each year of service less than 20 by 5% per year. There will be no additions to this list. There have been nine deaths in the last seven years.

SPONSORED BY
Pacific Northwest Board of Pensions

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Petition #7

ABERDEEN FIRST UMC CLOSURE

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BE IT RESOLVED, in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the 2020/24 Book of Discipline, by vote of the congregation, with consent of the Bishop, a majority of the Superintendents, and the Crest 2 Coast Missional District Board of Church Building and Location, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares the Aberdeen United Methodist Church closed effective June 30, 2026, and further authorizes the Conference Board of Trustees to take possession of the property, real and personal and take all necessary steps to see to its best use, including the potential sale of the property. In keeping with ¶229 and by recommendation of the district superintendent, membership will be transferred to a neighboring United Methodist church as approved by the District Superintendent, unless individuals elect transfer to another church.

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Petition #8

SEATTLE: MAGNOLIA UMC CLOSURE

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BE IT RESOLVED, in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the 2020/24 Book of Discipline, by vote of the congregation, with consent of the Bishop, a majority of the Superintendents, and the SeaTac Missional District Board of Church Building and Location, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares the Magnolia United Methodist Church closed effective June 30, 2026, and further authorizes the Conference Board of Trustees to take possession of the property, real and personal and take all necessary steps to see to its best use, including the potential sale of the property. In keeping with ¶229 and by recommendation of the primary superintendent, membership will be transferred to a neighboring United Methodist church as approved by the primary superintendent, unless individuals elect transfer to another church.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Petition #9

TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE BENEFITS FOR DEACONS, DEACONESSES AND HOME MISSIONERS

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the PNW Annual Conference establish a task force to explore the necessary provisions and standards to allow provisional and ordained deacons as well as deaconesses and home missionaries to participate in the denominational pension and benefit plans and programs of the annual conference, including family health coverage, regardless of their status as an employee of the annual conference or a local church, when health benefit coverage is not provided from another source;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this task force be convened by the conference Board of Pensions and include at least the following additional personnel:

- at least one deacon
- at least one deaconess or home missionaryer
- a member of the cabinet
- the conference Benefits Manager
- a member of the committee on Equitable Compensation

And that this task force consult with the conference Chief Financial Officer, Council on Finance and Administration, Wespath, and others whose expertise may inform the work of this task force;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this task force conduct appropriate research to address the following questions:

- Who are the individuals under appointment who need access to the denominational pension and benefit plans and programs of the annual conference, and what circumstances prevent them from accessing these benefits?
- How can the annual conference address these barriers to access?
- What constraints related to participation by the health insurance carrier (Healthflex) are present?
- Who would pay the employer portion of the health benefit and how would it be funded?
- What would be the cost to the annual conference to provide access?
- Any other considerations necessary to draft a resolution in the following manner:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this task force prepare appropriate legislation to be submitted in time for a vote of the 2027 PNW Annual

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #9 cont.

1 Conference, addressing the above concerns and establishing the necessary
 2 provisions and standards to allow provisional and ordained deacons as well
 3 as deaconesses and home missionaries to participate in the denominational
 4 pension and benefit plans and programs of the annual conference, including
 5 family health coverage, regardless of their status as an employee of the annu-
 6 al conference or a local church, when health benefit coverage is not provided
 7 from another source

8

9 **EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS**

10 The United Methodist Church recognizes and advocates for the right to
 11 health care in its Social Principles: “We affirm health care as a basic human
 12 right and vow to work toward expanded access to all forms of medical treat-
 13 ment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care. . . . we urge
 14 United Methodists to join efforts aimed at creating systems that provide
 15 comprehensive health protections for all.” (*Book of Discipline* 2020/2024, p.
 16 140); and

17

18 “The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all in the
 19 United States, and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health-care
 20 delivery system that includes access for all, quality care, and effective man-
 21 agement of costs” (2020/2024 BOR, p. 529), and “call upon all agencies,
 22 commissions, and annual conferences of The United Methodist Church in
 23 the United States to adopt principles and support policies that are consistent
 24 with this resolution [4201. Health Care for All in the United States]” (*Book*
 25 *of Resolutions* 2020/2024, p. 533); and

26

27 The United Methodist Church “call[s] upon United Methodists around
 28 the world to accept responsibility for modeling health in all its dimensions”
 29 and to do so “we call upon specific entities within our United Methodist
 30 connection to take steps toward health and wholeness” and “encourage an-
 31 nual conferences to: . . . undertake specific actions to promote clergy health,
 32 physical, mental, emotional and spiritual” (*Book of Resolutions* 2020/2024, pp.
 33 538–41); and

34

35 Deacons, deaconesses, and home missionaries are often appointed by the
 36 bishop to extension ministry settings, which may or may not provide health
 37 benefits; and since *The Book of Discipline* 2020/2024 ¶ 331.6c – *Support for*
 38 *Deacons and Provisional Deacons Appointed by a Bishop* states that “Deacons
 39 and provisional deacons shall participate in the denominational pension and
 40 benefit plans and programs of the annual conference subject to the provi-
 41 sions and standards of those programs as established by the annual confer-
 42 ence when health benefit coverage is not provided from another source”; and

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Petition #9 *cont.*

1 since deaconesses and home missionaries also deserve such support, and The
2 *Book of Discipline* 2020/2024 ¶ 1913 states, “Each deaconess or home mis-
3 sioner shall enroll in a pension plan.”
4

5 **References:**

6 *Book of Discipline* 2020/2024, Part V: Social Principles, pp. 105–47
7 *Book of Discipline* 2020/2024, ¶ 331.6c and ¶ 1913.
8 “4201. Health Care for All in the United States” (Book of Resolutions
9 2020/2024, pp. 524–33)
10 “4202. Health and Wholeness” (Book of Resolutions 2020/2024, pp.
11 533–43)
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13 **SPONSORED BY**

14 *Denise McGuinness*, Chair of the Order of Deacons

Line

Petition #10

REIMAGINING APPORTIONMENTS REVISION TO RULE VII.3.B

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Conference revise Rule VII.3.b. and replace with the following:

The Council on Finance and Administration shall determine apportionments in the following way for all purposes:

Churches shall be apportioned according to a two-year average of Income reported on Table 3 Line 52 of the UMC Local Church Reports.

To calculate the amount apportioned for Year X, an average of Line 52 for Year X-3 and Year X-2 will be calculated. The applicable percentage will be applied to the average based on the bracket in which the church falls, as follows:

- Average Income Reported under \$100,000: 7.5% of Average Income Reported
- Average Income Reported from \$100,000.1 to \$250,000: 8% of Average Income Reported
- Average Income Reported from \$250,000.1 to \$700,000: 9% of Average Income Reported
- Average Income Reported over \$700,001: 10% of Average Income Reported

*Only figures reported in Line 52 of Table 3 of the UMC Local Church Reports will be used to calculate apportionments. All other figures in Table 3 [Lines 53 and 54] will not be considered.

RATIONALE

Apportionments exist to sustain our shared ministry as a Conference. They fund clergy support and development, new church starts, global mission, leadership formation, administrative infrastructure, and the connective tissue that makes us more than isolated congregations.

And yet, the local church remains the primary place where disciples are formed, neighbors are served, and communities are transformed. We rightly celebrate the ministry happening in our congregations. We prioritize it. We invest in it. The vitality of the Conference depends on the vitality of the local church.

Our apportionment formula should reflect that reality.

An expense-based system unintentionally ties apportionments to how much a

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #10 cont.

1 church chooses to invest in its own ministry. When congregations expand staffing,
2 launch new initiatives, deepen outreach, or experiment with new forms of worship
3 and community engagement, higher expenses can translate into higher assess-
4 ments. That dynamic can subtly discourage innovation and faithful risk-taking.
5

6 This proposal shifts the focus from spending to capacity. By calculating
7 apportionments based on the self-reported figures of Line 52 of Table 3 of
8 the UMC Local Church Reports (“Total income for annual budget/spend-
9 ing plan”), we ground our shared covenant in what a congregation actually
10 receives rather than how it allocates its expenses. Churches are free to prior-
11 itize mission, growth, and local impact without fearing that increased invest-
12 ment in ministry will automatically increase their connectional obligation.
13

14 At the same time, this model allows us to meet churches where they are.
15 Congregations across the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference vary
16 significantly in context and financial capacity. An income-based structure
17 acknowledges those differences honestly. Smaller churches are not asked to
18 contribute beyond what they are able. Larger churches with greater finan-
19 cial capacity are invited into fuller participation in our shared ministry as a
20 reflection of covenantal responsibility.
21

22 Apportionments are not in competition with local ministry. They are an
23 extension of it. When a church participates in shared ministry, it strengthens
24 the systems that support every congregation: clergy appointment processes,
25 leadership development, new church initiatives, and the broader witness of
26 The United Methodist Church. Our shared ministry amplifies the work
27 happening in each local church.
28

29 This model sustains that shared ministry in tangible ways. When applied
30 across our Conference, it results in a more sustainable and reliable level
31 of funding for the ministries we hold in common. This is not the purpose
32 of the change, but it reveals something important: when responsibility is
33 aligned with capacity, the whole body is strengthened. Our shared ministry
34 becomes not only more equitable, but more sustainable.
35

36 This change affirms two truths at once: we celebrate and prioritize the
37 ministry of the local church, and we recognize that we are stronger when we
38 share responsibility in proportion to what we have received.
39

40 By aligning apportionments with financial capacity, we promote mission,
41 encourage faithful growth, and sustain the shared ministry that binds us
42 together as one Conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #10 cont.

1 IMPACT

2 This rule change calls for the calculation of apportionments based on a
3 two-year average of Line 52 of the UMC Local Church Reports. The
4 limited time given to prepare for this rule change did not allow for more
5 thorough analysis and the calculation of the two-year average for the
6 churches in our Conference. The following offers a possible scenario based
7 on data from 2024 (only).

8
9 Using that data, there are:

- 10 • Sixty-one (61) churches below \$100,000 in Income. Eight (8) churches
11 will be asked to increase the amount they give. Twenty-four (24)
12 churches will experience minimal or no change. Twenty-nine (29)
13 churches will see their apportionments decrease.
- 14 • Sixty-five (65) churches whose Income is between \$100,000.01 and
15 \$250,000. Twenty-three (23) churches will be asked to increase the
16 amount they give. Fourteen (14) churches will experience minimal or
17 no change. Twenty-eight (28) will see their apportionment decrease.
- 18 • Fifty-two (52) churches whose Income is between \$250,000.01 and
19 \$700,000. Thirty (30) churches will be asked to increase the amount
20 they give. Four (4) churches will experience minimal or no change.
21 Eighteen (18) will see their apportionment decrease.
- 22 • Nine (9) churches whose Income is above \$750,000.01. Eight (8)
23 churches will be asked to increase the amount they give. Zero (0)
24 churches will experience minimal or no change. One (1) will see
25 their apportionment decrease.

26
27 If these changes were to have been taken effect based on 2024 figures,
28 the Conference would have received \$233,071 in additional connectional
29 dollars.

30 The Table below summarizes this information.

	<\$100k	\$100.01k-\$250k	\$250.01k-\$700k	\$700.01k+	
Church Tithe Percentage of Income	7.5%	8%	9%	10%	
Total Number of Churches	61	65	52	9	
Numbers whose Apportionment will increase	8	23	30	8	
Number with no or minimal change	24	14	4	0	
Number whose apportionment will decrease	29	28	18	1	
Apportionments change in real dollars	\$ (99,952)	\$ (19,880)	\$ 242,441	\$ 110,463	\$ 233,071
Notes: 1. Ten churches did not report any income in 2024					
2. Numbers are not adjusted due to AGR considerations, which may move some apportionment numbers down.					
3. Four additional churches reported income above \$700k, but analysis showed those would be reduced to the middle tier under AGR.					

40
41 **SPONSORED BY**

42 *Rev. Alissa Amestoy, Rev. Damian Carruthers, Rev. Kellen Corlis, Rev. Joe*
43 *Kim, Rev. Amanda Nicol, Rev. Sandy Ward*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #11

PRIORITIZING DEACONESES AND HOME MISSIONERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Conference prioritizes retired Deaconesses and Home Missioners as lay equalizing members. This would require amending Rule II, Sec. 3 (g) as such: "The remaining additional number of lay members required to equalize the lay and ministerial membership of Annual Conference shall be elected, starting with the retired Deaconesses and Home Missioners with membership within the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Any remaining lay equalization members shall be elected, one per church, starting with the church..."

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Retired deaconesses and home missioners, who are informed, educated, committed laypeople who have dedicated their life to the church, should be added as lay equalization members by virtue of office to our conference rules to help the conference equalize its lay and clergy membership while also strengthening its commitment to lay ministry and outreach outside church walls.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2024) states that "the witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission" (§127).

The Book of Discipline also states that "if the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference (§¶33, 602.4).

Both active and retired clergy are members of the annual conference, and local charges can elect laity only in numbers matching active clergy, thus annual conferences must create a way to ensure as many lay members as there are retired clergy, and deaconesses and home missioners, laypeople who are called by God, consecrated by the church, and commissioned by bishops to be in a lifetime relationship with The United Methodist Church in full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service, provide crucial perspectives on how conference decisions affect ministry beyond local church settings.

Active deaconesses and home missioners are granted annual conference

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Petition #11 cont.

1 membership by the *Book of Discipline* (§133), but retired deaconesses and
 2 home missionaries are not, and
 3
 4 Deaconesses and home missionaries are one of three orders in the church, the
 5 other two orders being deacon and elder, who are granted voting member-
 6 ship into retirement.
 7
 8 Clergy and lay leadership working together strengthens our witness, and
 9 particularly through the specialized ministries of deaconesses and home
 10 missionaries in settings such as hospitals, schools, and community organiza-
 11 tions and deaconesses and home missionaries serve as vital bridges between
 12 church and society, bringing unique understanding of how our ministry
 13 impacts communities beyond church walls.
 14
 15 Including retired deaconesses and home missionaries as lay voting members
 16 promotes fairness and parity, strengthens lay representation, advances con-
 17 ference equalization goals, and affirms the Church's commitment to minis-
 18 tries of love, justice, and service beyond the walls of the local congregation.

SPONSORED BY

Ronda Cordill

22
 23 _____
 24 United Women in Faith, "Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner," [https://uwfaith.org/
 25 what-we-do/deaconess-and-home-missioner](https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/deaconess-and-home-missioner).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Petition #12
CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS**

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BE IT RESOLVED, the following agencies and projects which are initiated, developed and/or supported within the Pacific Northwest Conference be designated as Conference Advance Specials and be given support through the second-mile giving by churches of the PNW AC 2025-2025 Conference Advance Special Applications.

1. Atlantic Street Center #301
2. Tacoma Community House #302
3. Alaska Conference Support #335
4. Central Washington Justice for our Neighbors #339
5. PNW Conference Camping & Retreat Ministries:
 - Camp Indianola #341
 - Twinlow Camp #343
 - Lazy F Camp #344
 - Ocean Park #345
6. PNW Disaster Relief/Early Response #352
7. Mary Johnston Hospital
8. Church Council of Greater Seattle

RATIONALE FOR NEW ADVANCE SPECIALS

Mary Johnston Hospital

The Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church is entering into a meaningful partnership with Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo, Manila, an institution long rooted in faith-based, community-centered care. Located in one of the poorest communities in Manila, Mary Johnston Hospital serves as a vital lifeline as the only hospital readily accessible to its surrounding neighborhoods. This relationship began with Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth's visit to the hospital in Manila, followed by the 2024 visit of Dr. Glenn B. Paraso to the PNW Conference, two important moments that deepened the connection and opened the door for shared ministry.

As United Methodists connected across Regional Conferences, we step into this partnership through a ministry of accompaniment, walking alongside one another in mutual learning, shared mission, and trust. Together, we seek to support holistic care that meets both physical and spiritual needs.

Local churches, members, and friends of the Conference are invited to be part of this growing partnership. A Conference Advance Fund has been established to support this shared ministry, offering a tangible way to

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Petition #12 cont.

1 contribute, participate, and join in God’s work of healing and hope across
 2 communities and across borders. To learn more about Mary Johnston Hos-
 3 pital’s ministries, initiatives and legacies they are inviting us into, please visit
 4 their website: <https://maryjohnstonhospital.org>.
 5

The Church Council of Greater Seattle

7 The Church Council of Greater Seattle has acted as a direct service incuba-
 8 tor, ecumenical convener, and faith-based advocacy and community orga-
 9 nizing hub since 1919. Today, the Church Council builds collective power
 10 through faith-rooted community organizing for transformational change
 11 toward liberation and justice. We believe our role is to accompany, facilitate,
 12 and convene faith communities, bridging the gap between historically white
 13 or majority-white faith communities and communities impacted by systemic
 14 oppression. We believe the only way this mission can be realized is by
 15 following the leadership of, and being accountable to, the communities most
 16 impacted by systems of oppression.
 17

SPONSORED BY

18 Marilyn Reid
 19 Conference Board of Global Ministries
 20

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #13

SOLIDARITY WITH WAR-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church condemns all acts of violence, military aggression, and violations of national sovereignty. And in that spirit, joins the Filipino people in the call for an end to the continued deployment of US troops and weapons from Joint Base Lewis McChord to the Philippines for war games like Balikatan and Salakknib as well as the newly established rotational force. Therefore, commits to engage our congregations and regional committees in local and national ecumenical advocacy days to demand that the US immediately suspend military aid to the Philippines.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We pledge to continue effort to educate our members on the existing conditions of the Filipino people, share the impacts of US military presence in the Philippines through viewings of the recent documentary, *"PALAYAIN! The Filipino People's Fight for Peace,"* defend and advocate for people of faith who are repressed for their human rights work in the Philippines, monitor the ongoing human rights crisis and its impacts as much as possible with our Methodist siblings, and advocate for a just and lasting peace as requested by the Filipino people themselves.

THEREFORE, IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED: The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference asks Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth to share a copy of this resolution with the active Bishops of the Philippine Regional Conference and the Philippine Regional Conference Board of Church and Society as a show of our support and solidarity.

EXPLANATION

Resolution 4163 from the United Methodist Church 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions ("Crimes Against Humanity, Genocide, War Crimes") cites the reality of these atrocities, defines each using precedents in international law, and asserts the duty of every nation to protect and, if need be, take action to end them. It calls on United Methodists to become and remain aware of such atrocities as well, and how to prevent them where possible, to be present alongside people experiencing these things, and to seek to be involved in non-violent means both to de-escalate such situations and to ensure that justice is done through proper means such as the International Criminal Court.

The Philippines is the largest recipient of US military assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. The current US administration remains committed to asserting its economic and military control in the Asia-Pacific region, and the Philippines is a strategic partner in ensuring this dominance. This has

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #13 cont.

1 been made clear through the approval of \$336 million USD of aid to the
2 Philippine military, despite massive cuts to US foreign assistance.

3
4 Additionally, the U.S. Naval Institute reported that the platoon-sized Army
5 Rotational Force-Philippines has been operational since July 2025, with
6 a task force from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) already regularly
7 deploying 30- to 60-day rotations to train and integrate with the Armed
8 Forces of the Philippines. These rotations, which included the deployment
9 of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and live-fire
10 exercises in 2025, are part of an escalation in the U.S. military presence
11 throughout the Philippine archipelago – particularly in Luzon and Palawan
12 – that is fueling serious geopolitical tension with China.

13
14 However, the presence of the US military on Philippine soil is a violation
15 of the 1987 Constitution and has serious impacts on the well-being and
16 livelihood of the Filipino people. It exacerbates landlessness, poverty, and
17 inequality because the bases occupy farmland and indigenous peoples’ an-
18 cestral domains and leave toxic waste on these lands. Military exercises also
19 further alienate lands, leave unexploded ordnance in the landscape, displace
20 fisherfolk from their livelihoods, and live fire exercises terrorize and trauma-
21 tize local communities.

22
23 Due to its location, the Philippines has also become caught in the crosshairs
24 of the war of choice in Iran. The islands and surrounding sea have been
25 used for staging and testing grounds for weapons that were later deployed
26 to be used against Iran. Additionally, the US aggression against Iran led
27 to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which over 25 percent of
28 the world’s seaborne oil supply passes, as well as 19% of the world’s liquid
29 natural gas and other key resources such as naphtha, liquified petroleum
30 gas, and critical components of fertilizer. The closure of the Strait has driven
31 up the cost of oil and other goods across Southeast Asia and the world.
32 The Philippines imports 98 percent of its oil from West Asia, with the
33 vast majority transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. About 91% of the
34 Philippines’ liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is sourced from Asian refineries
35 supplied through the Strait, and 20% of its fertilizer is sourced from West
36 Asia. Diesel and petrol prices have more than doubled since the Iran war
37 broke out on February 28, prompting the Philippine government to declare
38 a national energy emergency.

39
40 As Pope Leo XIV stated in response to the continued escalation of war in
41 Iran, “The cross is part of the mission. The imperialist occupation of the
42 world is disrupted from within; the violence that until now has been the law

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #13 cont.

1 is unmasked. The poor, imprisoned, and rejected Messiah descends into the
 2 darkness of death, yet in so doing He brings a new creation to light." Fur-
 3 ther, he stated, "This is truly not acceptable. Here, there are certainly ques-
 4 tions of international law, but even more than this, a question of morality for
 5 the good of people... reject war, especially a war that many people have said
 6 is an unjust war, which is continuing to escalate, and which is not resolving
 7 anything. In fact, we have a worldwide economic crisis, an energy crisis, a
 8 situation in the Middle East of great instability, which is only provoking
 9 more hatred throughout the world."
 10

11 The Filipino people are resisting the US-led war, as they have since the
 12 onset of the Philippine-American War in 1899. Progressive and human
 13 rights organizations in the Philippines are arousing, organizing, and mobi-
 14 lizing their fellow compatriots to demand that the government provide an
 15 adequate response to the oil price hike, through education, the creation of
 16 the No to Oil Price Coalition, protests, and nationwide strikes. From March
 17 19-20 and March 26-27, transportation workers, commuters, and people's
 18 organizations organized nationwide strikes.
 19

20 Women and anti-imperialist organizations have held protest actions in front of
 21 the US embassy in the Philippines. During Holy Week, Migrante Internation-
 22 al (an international alliance of organizations of Filipinos overseas) mobilized
 23 worldwide to call for support for Filipino migrants, especially in West Asia.
 24

25 One 62-year-old driver in Manila told the BBC the situation was getting
 26 increasingly desperate, saying he had no food to support his five children
 27 and had not received any cash aid from the government. Meanwhile, the
 28 Philippine government has decided to prioritize dedicating critical energy
 29 resources to two different military exercises (Salaknib & Balikatan) from
 30 April through June, both with US military participation.
 31

32 In 2024, a delegation of community members from the US on a Peace Mis-
 33 sion visited farming, fisherfolk, and urban poor communities to understand
 34 and document their daily conditions and how they are negatively shaped by
 35 US militarism. As a result of the mission, organizers created the documentary:
 36 "PALAYAIN! The Filipino People's Fight for Peace" to share their experienc-
 37 es with the broader public. This is one of many educational and people-cen-
 38 tered resources that expose the truth of the impacts of foreign intervention
 39 and military occupation on the most oppressed communities in the PH.
 40

41 Additionally, in 2025, over 70 people of faith, members of the clergy, and
 42 human rights activists from 13 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #13 cont.

1 gathered in Rome, Italy for [Pagtatanim: Sowing Seeds of Faith Solidarity](#)
2 [for the Filipino People’s Struggle for Peace.](#)

3
4 Throughout Pagtatanim, attendees heard from survivors and witnesses of
5 human rights violations, war crimes, and environmental destruction in the
6 Philippines. Whether highlighting former President Rodrigo Duterte’s legacy
7 of thousands of extrajudicial killings under his infamous “war on drugs;” cur-
8 rent President Marcos Jr.’s practice of selling out Philippine land, labor, and
9 resources to the highest international bidder; or the harassment, detention,
10 and enforced disappearance of environmental advocates and faith activists; all
11 of them spoke of the culture of “un-peace” that flourishes in the Philippines
12 today with the support of global powers like the US, Canada, and Australia.

13
14 Un-peace, as explained by human rights advocate and member of human
15 rights alliance Karapatan, Charmane Maranan, is repression as law. It is
16 the normalization of violence, the criminalization of resistance and critical
17 thought, and the adoption of policies that obscure the soft invasion of the
18 Philippines by the US behind a smokescreen of talk about “development” and
19 “protection from China.” “It is the language of repression,” stated Maranan.

20
21 *As Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth said in His 2026 Epiphany message, “God*
22 *does not need our sentiment. God needs our obedience. God needs our*
23 *courage. God needs our refusal to cooperate with harm. Because once you*
24 *have encountered Christ, you cannot return unchanged. Once you have*
25 *looked at love in the face, kneeling like the Magi, you cannot go back to a*
26 *world where anyone’s humanity is optional.”*

27
28 Furthermore, as stated in *The Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist
29 Church 2020/2024, “Only the pursuit of a just peace, which includes the
30 search for truth and justice for victims, will bring about forgiveness, rec-
31 onciliation, and healing in many rural villages, towns, cities, nations, and
32 regions of the world that are scarred by conflict and war.”

33
34 Let us walk alongside the Filipino people in their pursuit of a truly just and
35 lasting peace by calling for a withdrawal of US military troops from the Pa-
36 cific Northwest (Joint Base Lewis McChord) and committing to continuing
37 to educate our congregations on the realities of continued foreign military
38 presence and influence in the Philippines.

39
40 **SPONSORED BY**

41 Nica Sy, Clara Duffy, Promotion of Church People's Response Washington

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #14

FEAST OF CREATION CELEBRATION

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BE IT RESOLVED, Churches and Pastors in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference are encouraged to celebrate the new Feast of Creation, beginning on September 1, 2026. This is a new Christian Feast Day that was developed with an Ecumenical process in order that it could be widely adopted and included in liturgies throughout Christian traditions. Celebrations may include a worship service or other celebration on the Feast Day itself, a Feast Day celebration on the first Sunday in September or another Sunday near the actual Feast Day, an educational effort about the Feast Day, and/or a Season of Creation to more fully explore the new lectionary texts for the Feast Day throughout September.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Pacific Northwest Conference supports the addition of the Feast of Creation to the official calendar of The United Methodist Church and authorizes the Commission on Environmental Stewardship from our Conference, in collaboration with similar bodies in other conferences, to submit legislation for consideration at General Conference 2028 advocating for this formal addition to the liturgical calendar.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Orthodox church celebrates Creation Day on September 1 and beginning in 1989, invited all other Christians to join them for a Day of Prayer in honor of Creation and God the Creator. The date coincides with the start of the calendar year in the Orthodox tradition and is symbolic of the words, "In the beginning" that appear at the start of the Creation narrative in Genesis. The World Council of Churches began advocating for a Feast of Creation in 2003. The Consultation on Common Texts is currently planning to add this new feast day to the Revised Common Lectionary and to select texts for Years A, B, and C to be read on the feast day. More on the Feast Day, the process leading up to it, and how it is being implemented in various denominations can be found at <https://www.feastofcreation.com/>.

The Worship Team of the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is planning to release materials by July 1, 2026 for use by United Methodist churches throughout the connection in support of the Feast Day that will offer liturgy, text study, sermon illustrations, musical suggestions, and ideas for engaging small groups of adults and young people. Webinars will be released by both Discipleship Ministries and the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement over the spring and summer to support pastors and congregations observing the new Feast Day. Once prepared, those resources will be available here: <https://umcreationjustice.org/library/>.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #14 cont.

1 Other Feast Days that United Methodists celebrate include Pentecost, Eas-
2 ter, Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday, and All Saints Day. Some
3 fall on specific dates and others on Sundays, whose dates vary slightly from
4 year to year. A Feast Day is not the same as a Special Sunday when United
5 Methodist churches collect a special offering for a United Methodist agency
6 or effort. The last Feast Day to be added to the ecumenical liturgical
7 calendar was Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday in 1925. As with
8 most other Feast Days, with the notable exception of Pentecost, it is expect-
9 ed that the liturgical color for the Feast of Creation will be white.
10

11 **ENDORSED BY**

12 Commission on Environmental Stewardship, PNW

13 Board of Church and Society, PNW

14 United Women in Faith, PNW

RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET							
1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Appor-tioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	APPORTIONMENT INCOME	\$4,495,101.00	\$4,592,343.00	\$4,835,170.00		4,835,170.00	
3	Other income					\$-	Interest on account holdings or reserves
4	EXPENSES						
5	General Church Apportionments						
6	Africa University Fund	\$13,503.00	\$13,316.00	\$12,794.00		\$12,794.00	
7	Black College Fund	\$60,334.00	\$59,498.00	\$57,169.00		\$57,169.00	
8	Episcopal Fund	\$215,544.00	\$212,561.00	\$204,236.00		\$204,236.00	
9	General Administration Fund	\$73,903.00	\$72,881.00	\$70,027.00		\$70,027.00	
10	Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	\$6,259.00	\$6,173.00	\$5,931.00		\$5,931.00	
11	Jurisdictional Administration Fund	\$30,046.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00		\$32,000.00	
12	Ministerial Education Fund	\$151,253.00	\$149,162.00	\$143,320.00		\$143,320.00	
13	World Service	\$437,280.00	\$431,231.00	\$414,341.00		\$414,341.00	
14	TOTAL GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS	\$988,122.00	\$976,822.00	\$939,818.00		\$939,818.00	
15							
16	GNW Episcopal Office						
17	Office Expenses	\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$45,000.00		\$45,000.00	Reserve use for Asst. to Bishop (.25 FTE shared)
18	Bishop's office (shared with OI & Alaska)				\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
19	TOTAL GNW EPISCOPAL OFFICE	\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$75,000.00	

J-22 Recommendations

Petition #15

2026 PNWAC

1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Apportioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	PERSONNEL						
3	GNW Shared Ministry Positions Equity, Congregational Development, Circle of Indigenous Ministry						
4	Salaries Staff (2.5 FTE) interim basis	\$153,300.00	\$149,000.00	\$207,500.00		\$207,500.00	PNW Share of GNW positions; moving CIM position to FT
5	Benefits (i.e. prof. expenses, cont. ed, moving,)	\$36,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$35,000.00		\$35,000.00	
6	Other expenses (i.e. travel, computer replacements)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	
7	Total	\$190,300.00	\$180,000.00	\$257,500.00		\$257,500.00	
8							
9	District Service Center						
10	Salaries Staff (2.5 FTE)	\$104,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$172,000.00	Interest income will supplement apportioned funds
11	Benefits (i.e. prof. expenses, cont. ed, moving,)	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00	
12	Other expenses (i.e. travel, computer replacements)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00	
13	Total	\$140,000.00	\$186,000.00	\$201,200.00	\$12,000.00	\$213,200.00	
14							
15	District Superintendents						
16	Salaries (including Utilities & Housing)	\$627,000.00	\$497,000.00	\$505,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$605,000.00	Housing Endowment covers DS housing
17	Benefits (i.e. prof. expenses, cont. ed, moving,)	\$120,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$135,000.00		\$135,000.00	
18	Other expenses (i.e. new DS expense)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
19	Total	\$750,000.00	\$630,000.00	\$643,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$743,000.00	

2026 PNWAC

Petition #15 CONT.

Recommendations J-23

RECOMMENDATIONS

1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Appor- tioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	Office of Connectional Ministries						
3	Salaries Staff (4.65 FTE)	\$440,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$475,000.00		\$475,000.00	
4	Benefits (i.e. prof. expenses, cont. ed, moving,)	\$183,333.00	\$195,000.00	\$200,000.00		\$200,000.00	
5	Other expenses (i.e. travel, comput- er replacements)	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	
6	Total	\$633,333.00	\$670,000.00	\$690,000.00		\$690,000.00	
7							
8	Ethnic Ministries						
9	Salaries Staff (1.0 FTE)	\$90,200.00	\$93,000.00	\$98,000.00		\$98,000.00	
10	Benefits (i.e. prof. expenses, cont. ed, moving,)	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00	
11	Other expenses (i.e. travel, comput- er replacements)						
12	Total	\$140,200.00	\$143,000.00	\$148,000.00		\$148,000.00	
13							
14	Shared Services						
15	Treasurer's Salary		\$82,000.00	\$85,000.00		\$85,000.00	PNW portion of shared services minus Brd. of Pensions support
16	Other Staffing Salaries (8.5 FTE)		\$205,000.00	\$220,000.00		\$220,000.00	PNW portion of shared services minus Brd. of Pensions support
17	Benefits (i.e. prof. expenses, cont. ed, moving,)		\$120,000.00	\$126,000.00		\$126,000.00	PNW portion of shared services minus Brd. of Pensions support
18	Other expenses (i.e. travel, computer replacements)		\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00		\$40,000.00	
19	Total	\$505,000.00	\$442,000.00	\$471,000.00		\$471,000.00	
	TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$2,358,833.00	\$2,251,000.00	\$2,410,700.00	\$112,000.00	\$2,522,700.00	Shared services transition of Benefits Officers and service costs covered by Brd. of Pensions

J-24 Recommendations

Petition #15 cont.

2026 PNWAC

1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Apportioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	PROPERTY						
3	District Parsonages	\$8,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	
4							
5	TOTAL PROPERTY	\$8,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	
6							
7	OFFICE						
8	Connectional Ministries Office						
9	Office Expenses	\$45,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$52,000.00		\$52,000.00	
10	Equipment, Repair & Maintenance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,000.00		\$22,000.00	
11	Information Technology	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	
12	Total	\$70,000.00	\$75,500.00	\$80,000.00		\$80,000.00	
13							
14	District Service Center						
15	Office Expenses	\$25,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	Use of reserves to augment apportioned funds
16	Equipment, Repair & Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
17	Total	\$27,500.00	\$31,000.00	\$33,000.00		\$33,000.00	
18							
19	Treasurer's Office						
20	Auditing	\$28,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$34,000.00		\$34,000.00	
21	Office Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00	
22	Insurance/Bonding	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	
23	Total	\$40,000.00	\$46,000.00	\$48,000.00		\$48,000.00	
24	TOTAL OFFICE	\$137,500.00	\$152,500.00	\$161,000.00		\$161,000.00	

2026 PNWAC

Petition #15 CONT.

Recommendations J-25

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Appor-tioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	PROGRAM/MINISTRY						
3	Annual Conference Sessions						
4	Conference Session	\$85,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$110,000.00		\$110,000.00	
5	Travel	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	
6	Journal	\$100.00	\$50.00	-		-	Spending down reserves
7	Total	\$87,600.00	\$103,050.00	\$114,000.00		\$114,000.00	
8							
9	Boards & Agencies						
10	Board of Higher Ed & Ministry	\$72,000.00	\$64,740.00	\$65,000.00		\$65,000.00	
11	Board of Ordained Ministry	\$22,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$80,000.00	Endowment earnings and MEF cover additional costs
12	Board of Trustees	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
13	Camping Support (fire & liability insurance)	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00		\$70,000.00	
14	GNW Equity/Cong. Development	\$167,700.00	\$110,500.00	\$110,000.00		\$110,000.00	
15	Council on Finance and Administration	\$50.00	\$50.00	-		-	Shared services transition of Benefits Officers and service costs covered by Brd. of Pensions
16	Global Mission	\$29,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$11,900.00	\$35,000	\$46,900.00	Endowment earnings
17	Total	\$370,750.00	\$305,290.00	\$306,900.00	\$75,000	\$381,900.00	

J-26 Recommendations

Petition #15 cont.

2026 PNWAC

1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Apportioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	Ethnic Ministries						
3	Hispanic Ministry Development	\$40,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	
4	Ethnic Ministry Development	\$35,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	
5	Total	\$75,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	
6							
7	Local Ministry Funds						
8	Cabinet Special Needs Fund	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	Using reserves as needed
9	Clergy & Church Support Funds						
10	Equitable Compensation	\$30,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00		\$35,000.00	Have reserves
11	Mission Aid	\$100,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00		\$90,000.00	Have reserves
12	Moving Expense Assistance	\$40,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00		\$35,000.00	
13	Recruitment of Clergy	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	
14	District Service Center	\$30,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	This is for AC youth and clergy day apart, etc.
15	Leadership Development within Districts	\$50.00	\$50.00	-		-	Reserves available if needed
16	Ministry Opportunity Fund	-	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00	New Fund for emerging micro-grants
16	Total	\$206,050.00	\$293,050.00	\$300,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$320,000.00	

2026 PNWAC

Petition #15 CONT.

Recommendations J-27

RECOMMENDATIONS

1		2025 -Total Apportioned	2026 - Total Apportioned	2027 Apportioned Funding	2027 - Other Funding	2027- Total Spending Plan	Notes
2	Office of Connectional Ministries						
3	Program	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	
4	Total	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	
5							
6	Other Ministries						
7	Faith Action Network	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00		\$13,000.00	
8	Healing Care Fund	-	-	-		-	Emergency funds for local church trauma that are held until needed
9	OCM Scholarships	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00		\$17,000.00	
10	Total	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	
11	TOTAL PROGRAM	\$774,400.00	\$786,300.00	\$800,900.00	\$95,000.00	\$895,900.00	
12							
13	Other						
14	Funds to Cover Unpaid Apportionments	\$399,196.00	\$410,000.00	\$475,752.00		\$475,752.00	Anticipated underpayment by some churches
15	TOTAL OTHER	\$399,196.00	\$410,000.00	\$475,752.00		\$475,752.00	
16							
17	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,701,051.00	\$4,621,712.00	\$4,838,170.00	\$237,000.00	\$5,075,170.00	
18	TOTAL INCOME	\$4,495,101.00	\$4,592,343.00	\$4,835,170.00		\$4,835,170.00	
19	NET	\$(205,950.00)	\$(29,369.00)	\$(3,000)		\$(240,000.00)	Will be covered by underspending, interest, or reserve funds

J-28 Recommendations

Petition #15 CONT

2026 PNWAC

Line

Petition #16

1 **FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER SEATTLE**

2

3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference makes a
4 three-year financial commitment to support the Church Council of Greater
5 Seattle at \$6,500 a year beginning in 2026 from the Program and Ministry
6 expenses of the budget.

7

8 **Background Information**

9 The Church Council of Greater Seattle has acted as a direct service incu-
10 bator, ecumenical convener, and faith-based advocacy and community orga-
11 nizing hub since 1919. Today, the Council builds collective power through
12 faith-rooted community organizing for transformational change toward lib-
13 eration and justice. Throughout this history, United Methodists have been
14 instrumental in the organizing and advocacy that has been led by the Church
15 Council, with most of the executive leaders being United Methodists. The
16 Church Council is at a critical crossroads and is hoping to shift toward a more
17 sustainable financial future.

18

19 Through the Church Council’s work, faith communities are engaged in com-
20 munity organizing work to support migrants arriving in our state, are sup-
21 ported in discerning the use of their land for ministries that matter, and are
22 challenged to engage in civic life by shaping laws and policies to support
23 thriving communities in Seattle and across King County. At a recent stake-
24 holder luncheon, the following was shared about what is at stake for Seattle’s
25 faith presence if the Church Council were to close:

26

- 27 1. We need a strong progressive faith movement to publicly push back
28 against the way Christianity is being weaponized to oppress our com-
29 munities and bolster authoritarianism. Faith communities often get
30 caught up in theory and will struggle to move toward action without
31 the Church Council.
- 32 2. In the context of the Church Council’s Faith Land Initiative, the
33 results of faithful discernment of land take years, so what happens if
34 this resource were to disappear?
- 35 3. There are gaps within our immigration justice organizations, and we
36 haven’t even reached the level of heightened immigration enforce-
37 ment like other states. Without a hub organizing faith communities
38 to support, there would be larger gaps in our efforts to support our
39 migrant neighbors.

40

41 As participants in the Church Council’s work, we know the organization is
42 committed to serving faith communities in the Seattle/King County region,

RECOMMENDATIONS

Line

Petition #16 *cont.*

1 and we see the impacts of that work ripple not only across our districts but
 2 also among faith communities across our state. The Church Council models
 3 the values that the Pacific Northwest Conference seeks to embody, equip-
 4 ping clergy and laity to live into the M.I.L.E. and to do so in connection
 5 with the lived experiences of those impacted by oppression. The organiza-
 6 tion's work to bridge faith and secular communities fosters relationships
 7 centered in solidarity. The Church Council fills a gap within our conference
 8 structure – connecting local United Methodists with people of faith across
 9 faith traditions to ways they can live out our moral commandment to “love
 10 our neighbors” in public life.

11
 12 Our congregations contribute over \$6,500 annually in support of the
 13 Church Council, and we are asking the conference to match this investment
 14 by pledging at least \$6,500.

15
 16 **Submitted by:**

17 *Rev. Yvonne Adguyeng*, Redmond UMC, *Rev. Laura Baumgartner*, Haller
 18 Lake UMC, *Rev. Michele Campton-Stehr*, Sand Point Community UMC,
 19 Rev. Jackie Celin, Seattle First UMC, Scott Biethan, Redmond UMC,
 20 Haller Lake UMC Leadership Board, *Rev. Katie Ladd*, Queen Anne UMC,
 21 Joey Lopez, Queen Anne UMC, *Rev. Ruth Marston-Bihl*, Trinity UMC,
 22 *Rev. Paul Ortiz*, University Gathering UMC & Greenlake UMC, Red-
 23 mond UMC, Sand Point UMC, Rev. Osagyefo Sekou, Valley and Mountain
 24 Fellowship, *Rev. Pat Simpson*, retired, *Rev. Karen Yokota Love*, Seattle: Blaine
 25 UMC

RECOMMENDATIONS