

J. ACTIONS

This section contains the perfected versions of legislation approved by the 2024 Pacific Northwest Conference when it gathered for its annual session. Original versions of the legislation, and the rationale which accompanied them, can be found in the Pre-Conference Handbook (PCH). At the time of printing, the PCH was available to download at: <https://www.pnwumc.org/ac2024/downloads>.

CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS (PCH PETITION #1)

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 2024-2025 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

MINIMUM COMPENSATION (PCH PETITION #2)

RESOLVED, that the minimum compensation schedule for full-time service set by the Annual Conference for the Calendar year 2025 will be \$51,046.

PAST SERVICE PENSION RATE (PCH PETITION #4)

RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2025, the Ministerial Pension Rate and the Local Pastors Pension Rate shall be \$879 and that Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program be so amended.

MOVING ALLOWANCE (PCH PETITION #3)

RESOLVED, the recommended moving allowance schedule for 2025 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)).

RETIREMENT ANNUITY RESPONSIBILITY (PCH PETITION #5)

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Conference accept the applicable annuity responsibility for the following persons retiring at the 2024 session of the Annual Conference as of 3/16/2024:

Name	Disc. ¶	Age	Appt. Years	Effective Date
Kay Barckley	357.1	72 and 2 months	22.5	7/1/2024
Dan Breznau	357.2(c)(d)	65 and 7 months	22.5	7/1/2024
William "Bo" Bryan Jr.	357.2(c)	65 and 11 months	24.25	1/1/2024
Debra Conklin	357.2(c)(d)	70 and 11 months	26.5	1/1/2024
Karen Dammann	357.2(c)	67 and 5 months	20.15	7/1/2024
Abigail Henre	357.2(c)(d)	65 and 0 months	32.25	10/1/2023
Robert Hicks	357.2(c)	66 and 2 months	21.25	7/1/2024
Sheila Marie	357.2(c)	69 and 9 months	10.75	7/1/2024
David Nieda	357.2(b)(d)	60 and 0 moths	32.5	7/1/2024
David Parker	357.2(b)	62 and 5 months	34.0	7/1/2024
Thomas Telfer	357.2 (c)(d)	65 and 0 months	37.5	8/3/2024
Pam Van Der Does	357.2 (c)(d)	66 and 0 months	39.25	10/1/2023
Angela Wolle	357.2(a)	61 and 8 months	25.0	7/1/2024

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RETIREMENT GRANTS (PCH PETITION #6)

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
2024 - 2025 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%) (99)	25.0	1983	188	3,290.04	7/1/24-6/30/25
Marilyn Calkins (surviving spouse of Robert Calkins 70%) (88)	12.0	1991	265.93	1,304.28	7/12/24-6/30/25
James E. Fox (85)	5.0	2004	487.00	608.76	7/1/24-6/30/25
Richard L. Gossett (80)	7.0	2009	578.58	1,417.56	7/1/24-6/30/25
Marisol Harper (surviving spouse of Craig Harper 70%) (91)	6.75	1993	287.63	458.76	7/1/24-6/30/25
Donald L. Jeter (91)	11.5	1998	349.95	2,314.08	7/1/24-6/30/25
Dewey Knowles (94)	6.5	1996	323.55	683.52	7/1/24-6/30/25
John C. Shirk (92)	5.0	1998	349.95	437.40	7/1/24-6/30/25
				\$ 10,514.40	

DISABILITY BENEFITS (PCH PETITION #7)

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference recommends that the Wespath Benefits and Investments provide Comprehensive Protection Plan Disability Benefits for the Conference year 2024-2025 only if approved for CPP disability benefits by Wespath for *Bradley Beeman, Robert Henre, Marc Kennedy, Gloria Kymn and Paula McCutcheon, Cheryl Wuensch.*

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LAPWAI UMC CLOSURE (PCH PETITION #8)

RESOLVED, in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, by vote of the congregation, with consent of the Bishop, a majority of the Superintendents, and the Inland Missional District Board of Church Location and Building, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares the Lapwai United Methodist Church closed effective June 30, 2024, 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.

NEZPERCE UMC CLOSURE (PCH PETITION #9)

RESOLVED, in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, by vote of the congregation, with consent of the Bishop, a majority of the Superintendents, and the Inland Missional District Board of Church Location and Building, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares the Nezperce United Methodist Church closed effective June 30, 2024, 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.

BELLEVUE: KOREAN UMC OF SEATTLE CLOSURE (PCH PETITION #10)

RESOLVED, in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the *2016 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 Location and Building, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares the Bellevue: Korean United Methodist Church of Seattle closed effective June 30, 2024, 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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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FROM THE GROUND UP, A RESOLUTION ON CHURCH LAND USE (PCH PETITION #11)

BE IT RESOLVED that all local churches and other holders of church lands, such as camp and retreat centers, as well as Annual Conference offices and district locations in and within the purview of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church, will:

- Complete a report at charge conference, to be completed by every local congregation, that celebrates environmental stewardship, defined as (1) net zero commitments, (2) creation and environmental justice, and (3) improvements to church land, grounds, and buildings as described in GC 2020 (held in 2024) legislation.
- Set aside at least one week per year where environmental stewardship goals and celebrations, including net zero commitments, justice, and improvements to church land, grounds, and buildings, are included in worship and church communications.
- Share a special edition of the conference newsletter with constituents, a newsletter that will be produced by conference communications, to celebrate environmental stewardship achievements, conference-wide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, when planning new structures, including churches, parsonages, housing developments, cabins, dining facilities, and other new buildings, the above will prioritize net zero design principles and construction from the ground up, and for all engagement with landscaping and land use advocacy to be informed by the guidance approved by General Conference 2024.

CREATING A PNW CONFERENCE COMMISSION FOR CREATION CARE ON ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (PCH PETITION #12)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference (PNW) of The United Methodist Church will create a commission in the annual conference to be called the Commission on Environmental Stewardship. The annual conference will empower the commission to accomplish these tasks:

Toward a missional, sustainable, and faithful church—

- Recognize the church as the presence of God on Earth ‘as it is in heaven,’ both now and for the future—and develop and advance a vision toward a sustainable church, empowering congregations and more to take action consistent with that vision, as well as develop resources for that effort.
- Develop a working document that defines environmental justice priorities for the Pacific Northwest Conference.
- Work in collaboration with conference staff and conference boards to establish accountability structures and benchmarks for the conference’s goal (set at annual

conference in 2023) to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040 across ministries, facilities, operations, and investments, and to leverage the gifts of our connection putting equity and justice at the center as we build a net zero emission economy by 2040. Ensure benchmarks and structures align with Pacific Northwest Conference values, and build partnerships with communities most affected by environmental impacts and climate change.

Toward the funding and achievement of net zero goals–

- Develop a working document to define what work areas will and will not be considered when seeking strategic funding opportunities.
- Participate in the conference budgeting process to ensure that environmental stewardship priorities and funding are robustly included in and integrated into every aspect of the conference budget.
- Collaborate with conference staff and others to identify, apply for, and work to secure new funding sources designated to achieve the Pacific Northwest Conference’s commitments to net-zero emissions by 2040 across conference ministries, facilities, operations and investments, and to commitments by local churches to increase energy efficiency by 50% by 2030, ensuring that funding is provided to, and available for, local congregations and conference entities working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their contexts.
- Support and encourage congregations to divest from emissions-laden investments and practices and toward re-investment in low-carbon, sustainable alternatives–i.e. addressing food waste, single-use refuse disposal, electrification and obtaining energy from clean power sources.

Toward essential environmental and community restoration–

- Pursue just partnerships, opportunities for restorative justice, and community recovery both within the congregation and outside the walls of the church.
- Coordinate and collaborate with the strategic work of appropriate conference staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Commission members shall consist of people who are passionate about anti-racism, climate justice, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that members shall be comprised:

- at least 1 youth
- at least 1 young adults (under age 30)
- at least 1 clergy
- at least 1 laity
- at least 1 laity who is or has served as a trustee and/or a finance committee member of a local church
- at least 2 conference staff persons
- at least 2 people from Eastern Washington
- at least 2 people from within the PNW conference, beyond Washington.

The nomination process for this new commission shall consist of nominees from clergy, laity, boards and agencies, and the bishop’s office, and the commission will receive support

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from staff at the conference office to achieve the conference-wide goals with which they are tasked.

The commission shall consist of at least seven but no more than twelve people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that from this Commission, Standing Committees or Teams shall be formed to address:

- Rudder (Steering, Coordinating)
 - Reaching environmental stewardship benchmarks, including net-zero commitments, climate and environmental justice, and church land, grounds, and building improvements.
- Resource development
 - to include educational, worship, missional and discipleship materials
- Community Outreach, Local Church Engagement, and Missional Listening
 - to build coalition, restoration, and a renewed body of the church.
- Budget engagement
 - to include grant writing and funds development
- Reparations and anti-racism partnerships
 - Recognizing the expertise and leadership of communities impacted by environmental harms and working through a priority anti-racist lens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference understands the work of environmental stewardship to be a Missional Priority as articulated in the Book of Discipline, ¶ 703.9.

Missional Priority—A missional priority is a response to a critical need in God’s world that calls The United Methodist Church to a massive and sustained effort through primary attention and ordering or reordering of program and budget at every level of the Church, as adopted by the General Conference or in accord with ¶ 806.1b(2). This need is evidenced by research or other supporting data, and the required response is beyond the capacity of any single general agency or annual conference. However, the ongoing priority of The United Methodist Church both in program and budget is to proclaim the good news that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

SETTING PASTORAL WORK EXPECTATIONS (PCH PETITION #13)

BE IT RESOLVED that full-time pastoral leadership is expected to average 35-40 hours of work a week: 30-35 of which are scheduled to fulfill routine responsibilities and 5-10 hours of which are reserved for additional unexpected professional demands upon pastors' time (e.g., denominational work, extra worship services, unexpected urgent pastoral care). This expectation is offered to help establish a common healthy standard for work/life balance across the conference's ministries. This common shared expectation applies to any person who offers full-time pastoral leadership to a local church, whether they are an elder, a deacon, a local pastor, or a certified lay minister.

A similarly proportioned work week is expected for part-time appointments, assignments, and positions across the conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that full-time pastoral leaders taking two days away from work each week will be considered the norm of the annual conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that vacation time, established by The Book of Discipline or conference rules, should be taken in full each year. It is expected that part-time clergy should also take vacation time. Clergy and pastor-parish relations committees shall be informed that connectional responsibilities like attending annual conference sessions, serving as pastor at summer camp, or serving with a conference board or agency are not to be considered vacations away from the local church or ministry setting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED pastoral leaders and pastor-parish relations committees shall be educated on the additional opportunities and requirements that clergy must take for continuing education and spiritual growth as established by *The Book of Discipline* (§ 350, 351) or conference rules.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the district superintendent should share and review these expectations with local church pastor-parish relations committees whenever a new appointment is established.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED each local church pastor-parish relations committee shall, with the support of the district superintendent, work to educate themselves and the congregation about the current challenges of pastoral ministry. This will aid the committee in providing supportive care for their pastoral leaders and staff and allow the committee and pastor to hold each other mutually accountable for creating a work environment prioritizing people over productivity.¹

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PNW Board of Ordained Ministry, with the support of the Office of Connectional Ministries, shall assess the state of work/life balance and related health impacts through an anonymous survey of its pastors. This survey

shall be distributed annually for at least five years to understand the potential impact of improved administrative support and resources for pastoral leaders.

¹ *This practice of establishing a healthy work/life balance and taking vacations, continuing education, and spiritual growth opportunities and requirements should be a topic of consultation, at least annually, as it is already a disciplinary responsibility of the committee (§ 258.2).*

NON-SUBSTANTIVE EDITS TO PNWAC RULES (PCH PETITION #14)

This petition was referred back to the PNW Rules Committee when it approved a motion from lay member, Mitzi Casey (Yakima: Wesley UMC):

"I move to refer Petition 14 to the Rules Committee and bring a report to the 2025 conference session. This motion to refer will allow them to take a look at recommended changes, engage stakeholders, and incorporate changes to align with *The Book of Discipline*."

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, ENSURING OUR U.S. TAX DOLLARS ARE NOT FUNDING THE WORSENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS (NEW)

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RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church affirms that every life is sacred. And in that spirit joins the call to support the Philippines Human Rights Act (H.R.1433), which would suspend military aid to the Philippines until the Government Republic of the Philippines has made certain reforms to the military and police forces. We urge our congressional leaders in Washington State and Idaho to support the Philippines Human Rights Act (H.R. 1433). And, in the same spirit, urge our congressional leaders to oppose the Philippines Enhanced Resilience Act (S.4097).

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we pledge to continue efforts to educate our members on the existing conditions of the Filipino people, share the findings, evidence, and verdict of the International Peoples Tribunal 2024, 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 all three active Bishops in the Philippines Central Conference and the Philippines Central Conference General Board of Church and Society as a show of our support and solidarity. As well as the secretary of the annual conference to write a letter to US representatives and senators representing the Greater Northwest Area.