

**Subject:** Global Connection Plan

**Presenter:** Jan Nelson, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

**Organization:** Western Methodist Justice Movement

**Petitioners:** Jan Nelson and 9 others

**Names of Other Petitioners:** Frank Wulf, Greg Bergquist, JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Skip Strickland, Odette Lockward-Stewart, Ken Ellis, Sandy Olewine, Richard Bentley, Austin Adkinson

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** None

**Whereas** the 2012 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference adopted a motion referring a restructuring proposal to a jurisdictional task force which was appointed by the NEJ College of Bishops;

**Whereas** one of the first steps of the NEJ Global Structure Task Force (“the Task Force”) was to develop the following guiding principles to guide its work:

- Be Christ Focused - The denominational structure should reflect the teachings of and empower the mission of Jesus Christ.
- Embody Structural Fairness - The denominational structure should provide for greater global equality in the church around access to services, participation in structures, and shaping the agenda of The United Methodist Church. Any plan should provide for an equitable global resourcing and distribution of apportioned funds.
- Extend Community - Everyone, everywhere must be welcome and safe in The United Methodist Church. Any new structure must honor non-essential differences and defend the essential dignity and worth of all God’s children. **Whereas** the Task Force prepared two draft proposals which were distributed in 2014 to leaders within the NEJ and across The UMC; **Whereas** the Task Force received feedback and prepared a final proposal, which was also distributed in January 2015 to leaders within the NEJ

and across The UMC;

**Whereas** the Task Force submitted the final proposal entitled the Global Connection Plan to the 2016 General Conference legislation coordinator in September 2015;

**Whereas** the 2016 General Conference did not adopt the Global Connection Plan or any other restructuring plan for The United Methodist Church but did pass a report from the Council of Bishops which included the formation of a Special Commission to discern future directions for The United Methodist Church;

**Whereas**, since The United Methodist Church is struggling with how to deal with matters of human sexuality, and many across the denomination are discussing a possible schism in the church, the Western Jurisdiction would like to offer ~~the Global Connection Plan as an option for dealing with these concerns;~~ **these three documents as a combined plan for dealing with these concerns;**

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Secretary of the 2016 Western Jurisdictional Conference forward this resolution and the attached Global Connection Plan (Concept Proposal ~~and constitutional amendments~~), **Resolution on U.S. as a Central Conference, and the Resolution for a Standing Committee on U.S. Matters** to: 1) The Special Commission which will be organized by the Council of Bishops, 2) The Connectional Table, and 3) The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, with the recommendation that these organizations consider the Global Connection Plan as a way forward.

(General Conference 2016 Petitions: 60981 on pg 467 of the 2016 ADCA, 60935 on pg 412 of the 2016 ADCA, 60220 on pg 442 of the ADCA)