

**WESTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE
PRE-CONFERENCE HANDBOOK ADDENDUM #1
TWENTIETH SESSION
JULY 13-16, 2016**



CROSSING THRESHOLDS

**Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**

Report of the Congregational Development Group
On the Western Jurisdiction New Faith Community Development Plan

2016 Western Jurisdiction Conference of the United Methodist Church

July 13-17, 2016

Scottsdale, Arizona

Introduction:

Our effort of developing new and vital faith communities seeks to live out the mission of the Western Jurisdiction, which is "A home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation: the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is multicultural and inclusive, engaged in the life of its communities, with confident, effective lay and clergy leadership who, in diverse ministry settings, form disciples who live out the Good News of Jesus as global citizens."

In the Western Jurisdiction Conference, we are encouraged by the recently increased interest in new faith community development and congregational vitality. From 2012-2015, we launched **75** new faith communities, which seems like our collective efforts are making good progress toward our goal of **305** new faith community starts by 2024.

As Wesleyan people, we view our call to ministry as something that is all about seeing lives and communities transformed by the love of God. Our effort is geared towards helping church folks to move beyond theory to action, and the followers of Christ are effective witnesses when they are rooted in relationships committed to both personal piety and social holiness.

We are excited about the fact that many more people are finding hope with God, more disciples standing with people in the margins, and more followers of Christ advocating for peace and justice in our communities and around the world. This is the sort of mission and ministry that we as people called United Methodists are to be about.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Congregational Developers' Group

Rev. Dr. Bener Baysa Agtarap, Ph. D.

WJ Congregational Development Group, Convener

Western Jurisdiction Summary for State of UMC Church Planting

Prepared by Rev. Curtis Brown, Path 1 Staff, in collaboration with WJ Congregational Developers

The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church is the largest geographic region within the United States, including all of the mountain states, all of the west coasts states, all of Alaska, and all of Hawaii. It also has the least densely populated regions and some of the most densely populated regions, some of the most culturally conservative regions and some of the most culturally progressive regions, and some of the least ethnically diverse regions and some of the most ethnically diverse regions. This regional diversity requires creative and innovative ministry strategies that arise from the mission field. By carefully listening to and interacting with its mission context, the United Methodist Church is active in planting vital, creative, and growing new congregations, new churches, and new faith communities.

In 2012 the Western Jurisdiction adopted a plan for Starting New Churches. This plan set goals for each Annual Conference to start a variety of new churches and faith communities from 2012 to 2024. Overall the Western Jurisdiction plans to start 305 new churches and faith communities during that time. The first quadrennium has seen excellent progress, with resources identified, teams developed, planting prioritized, and 75 new starts by end of 2015. With increased attention, funding, and experience, the Western Jurisdiction is on track to meet its 2020 benchmark of 190 starts. Every Western Jurisdiction Annual Conference has dedicated staff, specific budgets, and leadership teams working toward this goal.

Bright Spots in New Church and Faith Community Planting:

- **Western Jurisdiction United Methodists are starting new churches across the jurisdiction.**

Each of the eight Annual Conferences in the Western Jurisdiction has an active initiative to start new churches and new faith communities, including funding, leadership teams, and staffing. Each made good progress in establishing systems over the last quadrennium, even Yellowstone which didn't have a plant during this period, and all are prepared for increased planting in order to reach their 2024 goals.

	2012-2015 plants	2012-2024 goals
California-Nevada	16	62
California-Pacific	13	62
Desert Southwest	14	49
Alaska	1	2
Pacific Northwest	12	48
Oregon-Idaho	10	36
Rocky Mountain	9	40
Yellowstone	0	6
Total Western Jurisdiction	75	305

- **Western Jurisdiction United Methodist are actively experimenting and evolving creative expressions of church as they adapt to changing religious climate of their mission field.**

Older institutional and programmatic expressions of church are increasingly ineffective in reaching spiritually questing people in the secularizing regions of the United States. Western Jurisdiction United Methodists are creatively trying new ways to form spiritual community that are more meaningful to people unfamiliar with established church habits and culture. Some innovative plants include:

- Denver Uptown – multiethnic, young adult, urban congregation in Denver CO
- Hilltop UMC Satellite – second campus of vital congregation in Salt Lake City UT
- The Land – agriculture and sustainability-based spirituality center near Aurora CO
- New Harvest – bilingual, multicultural, Hispanic congregation in Toppenish WA
- North Hills UMC – Hispanic immigrant and advocacy-centered church in North Hills CA
- Valley & Mountain – urban, multicultural community nesting second site in Seattle WA
- The Loft @ Westwood UMC – young adult new faith community in Los Angeles CA
- Embrace – new pan-Asian, multiethnic congregation in East Bay, San Francisco CA
- City Square – young adult, urban faith community in center of Phoenix AZ
- SpiritSpace PDX – house church network in Portland OR
- Amity Campus – second site restart from Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise ID
- Churchtogether.today – online new start in northern California
- God’s New Generation – bilingual multisite Hispanic congregation in Pacso WA

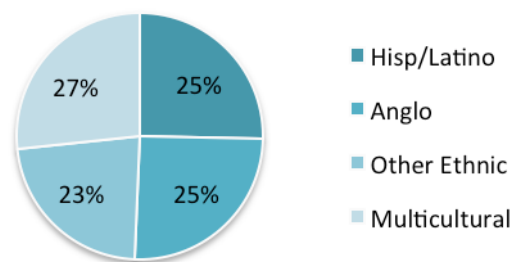
- **Western Jurisdiction United Methodists lead the United States UMC in per-person church planting efficiency and commitment.**

In the Western Jurisdiction, it only takes about 5,300 United Methodist members or 2,700 United Methodists in worship to start a new church (based on 2014 membership and average worship attendance, compared to number of 2013-15 new plants). This is by far and away the greatest per-participant commitment to church planting in the U.S. United Methodist Church.

	2014 members per plant	2014 attendees per plant
North Central Jurisdiction	12,657	5,866
Northeastern Jurisdiction	13,455	4,883
South Central Jurisdiction	20,090	7,116
Southeastern Jurisdiction	15,286	5,912
Western Jurisdiction	5,294	2,738
Total Jurisdictional UMC	14,057	5,543

- **Western Jurisdiction United Methodists are starting multiethnic new churches.**

With an ethnically and culturally diverse mission field, the Western Jurisdiction has a priority on starting ethnic and multicultural churches, especial Hispanic and/or Latino faith communities. In the past four years, efforts have been almost evenly divided between new starts that are Hispanic/Latino (25%), Anglo (25%), other Ethnic (23%), and Multicultural (27%).



high
new

Challenges in New Church and Faith Community Planting:

- **The “default model” of a suburban, program-sized, single point charge for a United Methodist local church is increasingly financially unsustainable.**

As the costs for property, facility, and staffing continue to increase at a rate substantially higher than the rate of inflation or increases in average giving, newer faith communities cannot sustainably fund this model of church. More and more new effective faith communities are utilizing lay planters, bivocational planters, multiple campuses, social entrepreneurship, and collaborative financial support

streams. This requires creative rethinking about how faith communities are formed and a culture change within planters and established church leaders, especially as they evaluate standards of success for new churches and faith communities.

- **Increasing cultural diversity is requiring greater cross-cultural competency to reach new and established ethnic communities.**

As the people who live in the Western U.S. continue to grow more diverse, leaders at all levels of the church must become more skilled and able to communicate and relate across cultures. This is critical for leaders of the new ministries and for those who supervise them.

- **Growth takes longer, and it's slower than in previous generations or other regions.**

Too often, today's new plants are being compared to remembered successes from previous generations or celebrated exceptional new churches in other regions of the U.S. Lifeway's 2015 Research on USA Church Planting looked at United Methodist and evangelical planting to establish a more realistic view of our current reality:

	Western U.S.	All U.S.	U.S. UMC
Year 1 Average Worship Attend.	43	51	53
Year 2 Average Worship Attend.	62	74	83
Year 3 Average Worship Attend.	80	95	113
Year 4 Average Worship Attend.	112	124	140

- **We need more able and empowered lay and clergy leaders to meet planting needs.**

Lay and clergy leaders are the greatest need to increase new church and new faith community planting in the Western Jurisdiction. The region has tremendous mission need, excellent planting opportunities, permission-giving leaders, excellent conference strategies, solid funding plans, but needs hundreds of excellent lay and clergy leaders. Given the relatively smaller number of United Methodists currently in the Western Jurisdiction, some of these leaders will necessarily need to be recruited from other regions of the U.S. and global church.

Recommendations for New Church and Faith Community Planting in Western Jurisdiction:

- New training methods that introduce and explore new faith community planting for all clergy, including those currently serving, in order to develop culture of planting throughout church.

- As older, generational churches age and discontinue, prioritize resources of strategic facilities and invested assets into starting new churches and faith communities that can continue to impact regions, communities, and neighborhoods.
- Conferences can grant less up-front funding to allow longer times for experimentation and exploration of contextually relevant planting methods. This will mean fewer full-time planters on day one, increased deployment of bi-vocational and volunteer planters, and longer time before launching worship or attractional ministries.
- Increased training for District Superintendents, conference staff, and leaders on cross-cultural communication and planting across cultures, including development of culturally appropriate assessment of planters and evaluative benchmarks.
- Increased support for congregations planting churches, multi-site, multi-venue, and satellite campuses, with deployment systems that embrace laity as leaders under supervision of Pastor in Charge in partnership with Superintendent and Bishop.
- Increased training for congregations that sponsor or plant new cross-cultural faith communities, especially attention given before a planter is appointed or assigned for those working on planting new Hispanic/Latino faith communities.
- Increased networks and opportunities for spiritual development, prayer, and encouragement of planters and their household, including conference and jurisdictional prayer intercessors, retreats, and spiritual direction.
- Continued focus on creating a multiethnic future for United Methodist Church through planting new multiethnic churches, congregations, fellowships, and faith communities.
- Active and collaborative Conference systems for recruitment, training, and deployment of top-quality lay and clergy planting leaders throughout the Western Jurisdiction.

Conference New Church Starts

Name	Location	Planter	Year	Ethnicity	Type	Status	Health ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ ⊕
Alaska							
Ascent Alaska	Anchorage AK	Nora Ortiz4Fredrick	2013	Multicultural	Non4traditional	Ongoing	
California Nevada							
Acts Community	San Jose CA	Shinya Gotto & Frances Cho	2012	Hispanic/Latino & Multi4Ethnic	Missional Outreach	Ongoing	
Cambodian Bayside Fellowship	Alameda CA	Chanta Yos	2013	Cambodian	Restart	Chartered	
Heavenly Grace	Millbrae CA	TBD	2013	Chinese4Mandarin	Restart	Under Review	
New Creation S.E.E.D.	Campbell CA	Justin Ryu	2013	Hispanic/Latino	Missional Outreach	Ongoing	
Ju Hyang Han Church	Mountain View CA	Hyun4Sup. Jung	2014	Korean4American	Parent Church	Ongoing	
Trinity UMC	Mountain View CA	Michael Love	2014	Multi4Ethnic	Restart	Ongoing	
River Valley Christian Fellowship	West Sacramento CA	Peter Katigbak	2014	Filipino4American & Multi4Ethnic	House Church	Ongoing	
Expresion Fresca	Fresno CA	Auralila Ochoa & Oscar Ochoa	2014	Hispanic/Latino	Planting Circuit	Ongoing	
The Gathering @ Moutain House	Mountain House, CA	Kimberly & Jaime Montenegro	2015	Anglo/Multi4ethnic	House Church	Ongoing	
Elko Nevada Multi4site	Elko, NV	Oliver Mangubat	2015	Anglo/Multi4ethnic	Restart/Multisite	Ongoing	
Cambodian Faith Community	Santa Clara, CA	Vathanak Heang	2015	Cambodian	Parent Church	Ongoing	
The Followers of Christ	Concord, CA	Emil Sazon	2015	Filipino4American & Multi4Ethnic	Peer Chuch	Ongoing	
Embrace	East Bay, SFO, CA	Samuel Yun	2015	Korean/Multi4Ethnic	Connectional Parachute	Ongoing	
First Taulanga4U Tongan UMC	Sacramento, CA	Kataii Tapa	2015	Tongan	Mission Congregation	Chartered	
Reno First Tongan UMC	Reno, NV	Opeti Aonga	2015	Tongan	Mission Congregation	Chartered	
Online Church	Online	Kelley O'Connor	2015	Anglo/Multi4ethnic	Fresh Expression	Ongoing	
California Pacific							
Garden Grove Hispanic	Garden Grove CA	Carrie Cesar	2012	Hispanic/Latino	Church within Church	Discontinued	
Desert Hot Springs	Desert Hot Springs CA	Liliana Castaneda4Mejia	2013	Hispanic/Latino	Church within Church	Ongoing	
Thousand Oaks Hispanic	Thousand Oaks CA	Pablo Rovere	2013	Hispanic/Latino	Church within Church	Ongoing	
Normal Heights	Normal Heights, CA	Brent Ross	2013	Multi4Ethnic	Legacy	Ongoing	
Exodus	San Diego, CA	Bill Jenkins	2013	Multi4Ethnic	Restart	Chartered	
Aanheim Tongan	Anaheim, CA	Josephine Liava'a	2013	Tongan	Church within Church	Ongoing	
Dream Church	Irvine, CA	Hong Yun (Brandon) Won	2013	Korean	Church within a church	ongoing	
University	Isla Vista, CA	Frank Schaefer	2013	Generational	Restart	Ongoing	
The Loft	Westwood CA	Chris Spearman	2013	Generational & Multi4Ethnic	Church within Church	Ongoing	
Hollywood First at Toluca Lake	Toluca Lake CA	Kathey Cooper Ledesma	2014	Anglo & Multi4Ethnic	Multi4site	Ongoing	
Victorville and Hisperia Hispanice	Victorville, CA	Daniel Canales	2014	Hispanic/Latino	Church within Church	Ongoing	
Paso Robles	Paso Robles, CA	Ivelisse Castellano	2014	Multi4Ethnic	Restart	Ongoing	
North Hills	North Hills, CA	Fred Morris	2014	Hispanic/Latino	Restart	Ongoing	

Desert Southwest

City Square UMF	Phoenix AZ	Brian Kemp4Schlemmer	2012	Multicultural	Non4traditional	Ongoing
CrossRoads UMC	Phoenix AZ	Arnoldo Vazquez	2012	Hispanic/Latino	Ethnic Fellowship	Discontinued
Justa Center	Phoenix AZ	Scott Ritchey	2012	Multicultural	Non4traditional	Ongoing
Maranatha UMF	Phoenix AZ	Surafel Gebretsadik	2012	Ethiopian	Ethnic	Ongoing
Trinity UMC	Las Vegas NV	Manuel & Patricia Astete	2012	Hispanic/Latino	Ethnic Fellowship	Ongoing
Bridge Cooperative Ministry	Phoenix AZ	Brian Green	2013	Anglo	Non4traditional	Ongoing
Journey UMF	Maricopa AZ	Jen Lower	2013	Anglo	Restart	Ongoing
Santa Clara UMF	Tucson AZ	Agustin Jimenez	2013	Multicultural	Legacy	Ongoing
Arcadia	Phoenix AZ	Brian Kemp4Schlemmer	2014	Multicultural	2nd Campus	Ongoing
Grace Fil4Am Ministry	Las Vegas NV	Edward Granadosin	2014	Filipino	Church within Church	Ongoing
Nuevo Pacto UMF	Phoenix AZ	Jaime Vazquez	2014	Hispanic/Latino	Legacy	Ongoing
Hope UMF	Buckeye AZ	Court Fischer	2014	Multicultural	Parachute Drop	Discontinued
Journey UMC	Las Vegas NV	Ann Thomas	2014	Multicultural	Vital Merger	Ongoing
Umom	Phoenix AZ	Kelly Bender	2014	Multicultural	Non4traditional	Ongoing

Oregon Idaho

Zacc's House	Portland OR	Beth Estock	2013	Anglo	House Church Network	Ongoing
Sellwood New Faith Community	Portland OR	Eilidh & Jeff Lowery	2013	Anglo	House Church / service pr	Ongoing
Crossbridge@	Portland OR	Christy Dirren	2013	Anglo & Multi4Ethnic	House Church / events	defunded
Washington County Hispanic	Hillsboro OR	Jorge Rodriguez Vasquez	2013	Hispanic/Latino	Parachute Drop	Ongoing
Salem International Community	Salem, OR	Dan Pitney	2014	Multi4ethnic	Church within a Church	Ongoing
Bethlehem House of Bread	Metzger, OR	Jeremy Hadju4Paulen	2014	Multi4ethnic	Multi4site Exmpansion	Ongoing
Boise 1st Amity Campus	Amity, ID	Duane Anders	2014	Anglo	Multi4site Expansion	Ongoing
Medford Samoan	Medford, OR	Tau Moli	2015	Ethnic 4 Samoan	Daughter Church	Ongoing
Gallery Chapel	Portland, OR	Mary Williams	2015	Multi4ethnic	Surprise Birth	discontinued
Salem Hispanic	Salem, OR	Jorge Rodriguez	2016	Ethnic Hispanic	Church within a cooperati	Ongoing

Pacific Northwest

Evergreen UMC	Lacey WA	Meredith Manning Brown	2012	Multicultural	Satellite Congregation	Ongoing
El Amor de Christo	Wenatchee WA	Susan Griggs	2012	Hispanic/Latino	Ethnic Fellowship	Discontinued
Tacoma New Faith Community	Tacoma WA	Emily McNeil	2012	Anglo	Satellite Congregation	Discontinued
Olympia Young Adult	Olympia WA	Ruth Marston	2012	Anglo & Generational	Church within Church	Discontinued
Seattle Vietnamese Fellowship	Seattle WA	Toan Nguyen	2013	Vietnamese	Ethnic Fellowship	Discontinued
Friedenskirche	Seattle WA	Lorellen & Uwe Nausner	2013	German Speaking Multicultural	Ethnic	Ongoing
The Oak Tree	Spokane WA	Deb Conklin	2013	Anglo	Non4traditional	Ongoing
The Well	Seattle WA	Katie Ladd	2014	Multicultural	Non4traditional	Ongoing
Beguine Again Online	Kirkland WA	Terri Stewart	2014	Multicultural	Online	Ongoing
Mt. Vernon Hispanic	Mt. Vernon WA	Zulma Tifre	2014	Hispanic/Latino	Ethnic Fellowship	Ongoing
New Harvest UMC	Toppenish WA	Sarahi & Eli Martinez	2014	Hispanic/Latino	Ethnic	Ongoing
God's New Generation West	Pasco, WA	Alex & Sally Perez	2015	Hispanic/Latino	Ethnic/Satellite Campus	Ongoing

Rocky Mountain

Alameda Heights	Denver CO	Guillermo Reyes	2012	Hispanic/Latino	Church within Church	Ongoing
Smokey Hill Hispanic	Centennial CO	Lucia Correa	2012	Hispanic/Latino	Church within Church	Ongoing
Native Grace Intertribal Fellowship	Cortez CO	Norman Mark	2013	Native American	Church within Church	Ongoing
ICON	Erie CO	Ben Wentworth	2014	Anglo	Parchute Drop	Ongoing
The Edge	Colorado Springs CO	Tiffany Keith	2014	Multicultural	Satellite	Ongoing
In the World	Denver CO	Elizabeth Jackson	2014	Anglo & Multicultural	Non-traditional & Online	Discontinued
Open Space	Littleton CO	Mary Beth Taylor	2015	Anglo	Mother/Daughter	Ongoing
Tapestry	Parker CO	Pat Bell	2015	Anglo	Mother/Daughter	Ongoing
The Land	Aurora CO	Stephanie Price	2015	Multicultural	Mother/Daughter	Ongoing

Yellowstone

not yet

**2016 Western Jurisdictional Conference
Additional Resolutions**

Subject: A Call For Common Sense Gun Safety
Presenter: Mark Stephenson, California-Pacific Annual Conference
Petitioners: Mark Stephenson and 8 others
Names of Other Petitioners: Cedrick Bridgeforth, Rosie Rios, Frank Wulf, Karen Oliveto, Donna Pritchard, Patricia Farris, Sandy Olewine, Richard Bentley
Estimated Fiscal Impact: None

WHEREAS, in an average year, over 108,000 people in America are victims of gun violence, of which over 32,000 individuals die as a result;

WHEREAS, the devastating toll of mass shootings have recently impacted numerous cities including Orlando, FL, San Bernardino, CA and Charleston, SC;

WHEREAS, the victims of gun violence extend beyond the grave of those lost to these tragic shootings;

WHEREAS, millions of guns are sold every year without background checks;

WHEREAS, Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount instructs his followers to be instruments of peace:

*"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also."
"...You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:38-39,43-44);*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Jurisdictional Conference, in response to the destructive impact on communities due to deaths by gun violence, calls for the following steps to be taken by our local, state and federal lawmakers:

1. Require and enforce universal background checks and mandatory waiting periods on all gun sales;
2. Except for the use of military and law enforcement agencies, institute a clear ban on all future sales, transfer, importation and manufacture of assault rifles, high-capacity ammunition magazines and multiple-impact ammunition;
3. Ban the importation and manufacture of full-auto conversion kits that convert automatic weapons;
4. Make gun trafficking a Federal crime, and increase penalties for those who engage in "straw purchases" of firearms for ineligible persons;
5. Prohibit persons from purchasing guns without evidence of gun safety training.
6. Compel the government to complete the criminal background checks and enter all of the felonies that have currently been omitted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Jurisdictional Conference asks local churches to download and conduct the free United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) study on gun violence, *Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities*.

Subject: **Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice through Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions**

Presenter: Sandra Olewine, California-Pacific Conference

Conference Organizations: United Methodists' Holy Land Task of the California-Pacific Conference, the Israel/Palestine Task Force of the California-Nevada Conference, and the Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force

Petitioner: Sandra Olewine and 7 others

Other Petitioners: Donna Pritchard, Jim Nibbelink, JoAnn Fukumoto, Frank Wulf, Sharon Moe, Jan Nelson, and Billie Fidlin

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Minimal; letters to be sent to government leaders.

Whereas boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) are constitutionally protected forms of free speech and protest that have often been used by people of conscience to effect positive social and political change;

Whereas a wave of anti-BDS legislation that has been proposed in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures and public institutions across the United States threatens to penalize the use of these time-honored nonviolent justice-seeking actions;

Whereas United Methodists and other religious communities have long used the nonviolent methods of boycotts, divestment and sanctions to stand in solidarity with oppressed people and to work for justice, and such advocacy measures by the United Methodist Church have proven to be useful tools in helping to bring about a wide range of constructive social change, including the strengthening of labor rights for farm workers in the United States and ending of apartheid in South Africa;

Whereas, in 2005, after studying the success of such efforts, a broad coalition of Palestinian civil society issued a call for a global movement of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to advance the Palestinians' long-denied rights to self-determination, freedom, justice, and equality;

Whereas, in 2009, Palestinian Christians echoed the call for boycott and divestment in their landmark document, *Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth*, an ecumenical confession of faith and urgent call to action signed by thousands of Palestinian Christians and endorsed by the 13 Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem that has often been compared to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, and other Christian manifestos written in times of crisis;

Whereas, in recent years, more than a dozen United Methodist Annual Conferences, including several in the Western Jurisdiction, have called for their own conference and/or the denomination to divest from companies that support and profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land;

Whereas, in 2012, the United Methodist General Conference approved the resolution "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land," (#6111) which calls on "all nations to prohibit...the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land," i.e. calls for an international boycott of the Israeli settlements;

Whereas, in 2016, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church announced that five Israeli banks would be excluded from their investment portfolios, explicitly because of those banks' involvement in settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian territories;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2016 Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes any legislation that seeks to restrict the right to address injustice through boycotts, divestment and sanctions and joins the Rabbinical Council of Jewish Voice for Peace in calling on our elected officials "to resist efforts to stifle the movement toward justice for Palestinians through the current wave of 'anti-BDS' legislation;"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary write a letter to the President of the United States and to the governors, the congressional representatives

and the members of the legislatures of the states within the Western Jurisdiction, informing those elected officials of this resolution of the Western Jurisdictional Conference, said letter to include the approximate number of congregations and church members within the Western Jurisdiction and/or within the respective state of the recipient;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Jurisdictional Conference urges all annual conferences, congregations, and church members to contact their governors, congressional representatives and state legislators to communicate this resolution of the Western Jurisdictional Conference and to advocate against anti-BDS legislation anywhere in the United States.