

**VI. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE**

Resolution Number 1

**Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of
the West Virginia Annual Conference**

The West Virginia Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; **WHEREAS**, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespath, previously the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, during the year 2021 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and
2. THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Resolution Number 2

Closed Properties, and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same

WHEREAS, it is deemed desirable by this Annual Conference to declare under what circumstances certain properties may be deemed to be closed, placed in the hands of the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference and sold, or otherwise disposed of; and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church sets forth procedures that should be followed with regard to such matters;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. When a local church property is no longer used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship, it shall be considered closed.
2. When a local church is closed and is, therefore, deemed to no longer serve the purpose for which it is organized, with the consent of the Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents of this Conference and the District Board of Church Location and Building, the Annual Conference Trustees shall, upon such procedures as shall be prescribed by them, assume control of the property.
3. If circumstances do not make immediate action necessary, the Conference Board of Trustees may sell, transfer, lease or mortgage such property in accordance with the applicable provisions of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, as revised from time to time.
4. For purposes of this Resolution, the circumstances which make immediate action necessary shall be deemed to include the following: the possibility that the property will decline materially in value prior to the next meeting of the Annual Conference; the need to expend substantial funds for repair, alteration, safety, and health or the Board of Trustees for uses previously authorized by the Annual Conference or the Board; the existence of an exceptional offer of purchase which is not likely to reoccur in the immediate future; and such other unique circumstances which the Board determines, in its discretion, justify the sale of such property as being in the best interest of the Annual Conference and its members.

(This resolution is based on the *2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, ¶12549).