

RESOLUTIONS**DISCONTINUANCE OF THE IOLA TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH - Approved**

Rev. David Watson, Five Rivers District Superintendent

WHEREAS, Trinity Methodist Church of Iola, commonly known as Trinity United Methodist Church of Iola or Iola Trinity United Methodist Church, located in Iola, Kansas in the Five Rivers District of the Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, was founded in 1904 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Iola Trinity United Methodist Church voted on October 22, 2015 to discontinue the church effective June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Rev. David Watson, the District Superintendent of the Five Rivers District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Five Rivers District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Scott J. Jones has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Iola Trinity United Methodist Church in Allen County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of June 30, 2016, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of the Iola Trinity United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Iola Wesley United Methodist Church.
3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Iola Trinity United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed

to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Iola Trinity United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE WELLFLEET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Approved

Rev. Kay Alnor, Great West District Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Wellfleet United Methodist Church located in Wellfleet, Nebraska was founded in 1897 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Wellfleet United Methodist Church voted on December 27, 2015 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Kay Alnor, the District Superintendent of the Great West District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Great West District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Scott J. Jones has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Wellfleet United Methodist Church in Lincoln County, Nebraska, is hereby declared discontinued as of December 27, 2015, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Wellfleet United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Garden Prairie United Methodist Church.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Wellfleet United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual

2016 JOURNAL
Resolutions

Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Wellfleet United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

**DISCONTINUANCE OF THE HEPLER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH - Approved**

Rev. Kibum Kim, Parsons District Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Hepler United Methodist Church located in Hepler, Kansas was founded in 1882 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Hepler United Methodist Church voted on November 22, 2015 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kibum Kim, the District Superintendent of the Parsons District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Parsons District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Scott J. Jones has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Hepler United Methodist Church in Crawford County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of December 31, 2015, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of the Hepler United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Walnut United Methodist Church, Walnut, Kansas.

3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Hepler United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Hepler United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE PLEASANT VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Approved

Rev. Delores J. Williamston, Salina District Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Pleasant View United Methodist Church, south of Beloit Ks, located in Mitchell County in the Salina District of the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; initially organized as class meetings in the 1870's south of Beloit Kansas and then in 1884 established the Pleasant View Methodist Church which has continued a long faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community for over 132 years; and

WHEREAS, the Salina District Superintendent and the Pleasant View congregation engaged in prayer, reflection and discernment about their potential and future as a congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Charge Conference of the Pleasant View United Methodist Church voted on April 10, 2016 in favor of discontinuation of the church; and

WHEREAS, the Salina District Superintendent Rev. Delores J. Williamston has recommended that the church be discontinued and the consent of the Salina District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet and Bishop Scott J. Jones presiding Bishop of the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church have been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

2016 JOURNAL
Resolutions

1. That the Pleasant View United Methodist Church south of Beloit Ks in Mitchell County, will conduct its final worship service on Sunday June 26, 2016, and will be declared discontinued as of June 30, 2016, with appreciation of its 132 years of faithfulness and service to Christ and community.
2. That the membership of Pleasant View United Methodist Church be determined by each member prior to discontinuance and any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Beloit First United Methodist Church in Beloit Kansas; and
3. That the title to the property and other assets of Pleasant View United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; and
4. That the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.
5. That the records and papers of the Pleasant View United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

**DISCONTINUANCE OF THE SCRANTON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH - Approved**

Rev. Kay Scarbrough, Topeka District Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Scranton United Methodist Church located in Scranton, Osage County, Kansas, was founded in 1879 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Scranton United Methodist Church voted on April 3, 2016, to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Kay Scarbrough, the District Superintendent of the Topeka District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Topeka District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Scott J. Jones has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; that the Scranton United Methodist Church in Osage County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of September 30, 2016, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

That the membership of the Scranton United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Auburn United Methodist Church.

That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Scranton United Methodist church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

That the official records and papers of the Scranton United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE SOLDIER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Approved

Rev. Kay Scarbrough, Topeka District Superintendent

WHEREAS, the Soldier United Methodist Church located in Jackson County, Kansas, was founded in 1878 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Soldier United Methodist Church voted on April 17, 2016, to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Kay Scarbrough, District Superintendent of the Topeka District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Topeka District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Scott J. Jones has been granted; and

2016 JOURNAL
Resolutions

WHEREAS, all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Soldier United Methodist Church in Jackson County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of August 31, 2016, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of the Soldier United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Buck's Grove United Methodist Church.
3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Soldier United Methodist church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.
4. That the official records and papers of the Soldier United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE SOUTH HAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Approved

Rev. Linda Louderback, Wichita West District Superintendent

WHEREAS, the South Haven United Methodist Church located in Sumner County, Kansas, has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community, having been established on February 13, 1880, as the Methodist Episcopal Church of South Haven, and on October 25, 1972 changed its name to the United Methodist Church of South Haven; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the South Haven United Methodist Church voted on March 7, 2016, to discontinue the church effective May 6, 2016; and

GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE
Resolutions

121

WHEREAS, the last worship service was held on Sunday, May 1st; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Linda Louderback, the District Superintendent of the West Wichita District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the West Wichita District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Scott J. Jones has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the South Haven United Methodist Church in Sumner County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of May 6, 2016, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of the South Haven United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Caldwell United Methodist Church.
3. That title to the real property held by South Haven United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.
4. That the official records and papers of the South Haven United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

**ESTABLISHING A GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE
DISABILITIES AWARENESS SUNDAY AND MINISTRIES
- Approved**

Financial Implications None

RATIONALE: ¶653 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church indicates that there shall be a committee on disability concerns in each Annual Conference whose function includes to be aware of, to advocate for, to be a resource for local churches and to “promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of the church. . .” As a result of the study on *The Church and People With Disabilities* these past two years at The Great Plains Conference Cooperative Mission U, we are aware that many persons are unable to fully participate in the life of the church and that our local churches need help in identifying ways to make our local churches more accessible for clergy and laity.

WHEREAS, ¶162. III. I) of the Social Principles affirms the rights of persons with disabilities in both the church and society, and

WHEREAS, local congregations may need help in identifying the challenges of persons with disabilities and ways in which the local church can meet the needs of those individuals within their congregations, and

WHEREAS, the special emphasis of needs should be placed on both physical and mental health issues including, but not limited to, Alzheimer’s, hearing and vision difficulties, ADHD, autism, and depression faced by church attendees and pastors serving in the Annual Conference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Plains Annual Conference designate an annual Disabilities Awareness Sunday (¶265.4 Of The Book of Discipline), with the date to be established by the Connecting Council at their Fall 2016 meeting. The offering received on that day shall be used to fund the work of the committee on disability concerns. The Committee will function under the supervision of the Mercy and Justice Team to address the challenges of those persons with disabilities who attend or serve churches within the Great Plains Conference with the commitment to:

1. Include equal numbers of persons with physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities, along with clergy and laity, representing both Kansas and Nebraska.

2. Help identify challenges and propose ways in which local churches can meet the needs of persons with disabilities within their clergy and congregations.

3. Assemble data and submit a report to the Mercy and Justice Team that includes suggestions for local congregations.

4. Develop resources to strengthen the training for clergy and laity in ministries with persons with disabilities, including the areas of Sunday School, camps and retreats, and faith development throughout the Great Plains Annual Conference.

Be it further resolved that members of the disability awareness committee be recruited and begin meeting by October 1, 2016.

GREAT PLAINS POVERTY INITIATIVE - Approved

Financial Implications: Yes

RATIONALE: 638,708 people in the boundaries of the Great Plains Conference (GPAC) live at or below 100% of the federal poverty income (\$24,250-family of 4). Relationship-based programs offer hope and stabilizing solutions to these and the 43% of Americans likely to fall below the poverty line within 3 months of a tragedy.

WHEREAS, many GPAC communities are finding success in helping people move from surviving in poverty to thriving by supporting relationship-based Circles NetworX® or Circles-like programs. Additionally, people who are already thriving are beginning to better understand and address the complexities of poverty in their communities. Building on these GPAC churches' success creates more opportunities to partner with millions of people in an incarnational model that collaboratively addresses poverty.

WHEREAS Circles NetworX® and similar relationally-based programs employ Mid-west values of limited bureaucracy, self-determination, and neighbors helping neighbors, they are logical models to build on in the GPAC. Simply put, these models train and facilitate one-on-one relationships that effectively transform complex cultures and policies currently catching and keeping people in situational poverty and spiraling their families into generational poverty.

2016 JOURNAL**Resolutions****Existing Circles Lead Agencies, host sites, and County population:****Counties with programs hosted at/supported by UMCs**

1. Bourbon Co-(14,892) Fort Scott First*
2. Cowley Co-(36,204) Winfield Grace and First, Grandview, Tisdale
3. Franklin County-(25,611) Ottawa First*
4. Harvey Co-(34,741) Newton First and Trinity
5. Kiowa Co-(2,593) Greensburg First, Haviland, and Mullinville (Youth for Christ)
6. Marion Co-(12,219) (Marion Presbyterian Church) With Support from Hillsboro First, Burdick, Eastmore, and Valley UMCs
7. McPherson Co-(29,569) McPherson First
8. Montgomery Co-(34,292) Independence First and Coffeyville First*
9. Neosho County-(16,430) Chanute, Otterbein*
10. Pratt Co-(9,878) Pratt First w/Ministerial Alliance
11. Reno Co-(64,190) Hutchinson Trinity, First, Faith, South Hutch, Nickerson
12. Riley and Pottawatomie Co-(98,084) Manhattan First
13. Saline Co-(55,740) Salina Trinity and Grand Ave
14. Sedgwick Co-(505,4115) Wichita East Heights, Aldersgate, Calvary, University, West Heights, New Covenant, UM-Open Door, and Westside Baptist
15. Shawnee-(178,831) Topeka (First Christian DOC) Topeka First and Crestview

Counties Associated with Project 17 that emphasizes relational models

1. Allen Co- Iola (13,124) Non-Circles program but similar approach.
2. Anderson Co-(7,897)
3. Bourbon Co-(14,892) Fort Scott (UMC) *
4. Chautauqua-Sedan (3,552) Churches talking about how to address poverty together.
5. Cherokee Co Columbus -(20,987)
6. Coffey- Burlington (8,412)
7. Crawford-Pittsburg (39,278)
8. Elk (2,655)
9. Franklin-Ottawa (25,740)*
10. Greenwood- Eureka (6,424)
11. Labette- Parsons (20,916)
12. Linn-LaCyne (9,516)
13. Miami-Paola, Louisburg, Spring Hill, Osawatomie- (32,835)* (Cross Point Church)
14. Montgomery, Independence and Coffeyville-(34,292)*
15. Neosho-Chanute (16,430)*

16. Wilson- Fredonia and Neodesha (9,105)

17. Woodson- Yates Center (3,221)

Communities currently considering supporting a Circles Site

1. Butler Co- Andover, El Dorado First, and Rose Hill UMCs (65,803)
2. Johnson Co Olathe Grace (566,933)
3. Pottawatomie Co- Wamego First
4. Stafford Co (4,359)
5. Sedgwick Co- Derby Woodlawn UMC (505,4115)

*County located in two columns associated with both a UMC Circle program and Project 17

WHEREAS relationship-based programs equip those who are surviving and vulnerable as leaders in their pathways to thriving, relationship-based programs like Circles NetworX® honor the parts of the Body of Christ that our culture consistently dishonors. Furthermore, relationship-based programs equip allies, those who are thriving, to resist fear and overcome stereotypes of “the poor.” Allies work *with* and not *for* “the poor” and become stronger disciples. Support for relationship-based programs provides opportunities for those who wish to engage in a discipleship journey in relationships of mutual transformation.

WHEREAS *Circles NetworX®* programs in Kansas are nationally recognized and award-winning for their state-wide coalition; there is a unique and successful collaboration between Circles USA and Project 17, an economic development project in SE Kansas Counties which also uses relationships similar to the Circles model to help move people out of poverty; and there is a solid foundation for a collaborative conference wide effort to grow more programs that share the relational values of *Circles NetworX®*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Plains Annual Conference dedicate \$60,000 for a reimbursement grant for GPUMC communities who will either

1. Train *Bridges out of Poverty/Getting Ahead* facilitators and host at least one *Getting Ahead* course in their community between September 2016 and June 2017, with amounts determined by and priority given to those communities who demonstrate great need and coordination of existing assets as determined by an open application process to be initiated no later than Sept.1, 2016, and completed no later than October 31, 2016, administered as a reimbursement grant by the Great Plains Mercy and Justice team in partnership with a volunteer or appointed committee to aid the Mercy and Justice team.

OR

2. Initiate a Circles NetworX® program or similar relational anti-poverty program which utilizes allies/mentors to assist people by providing partial funding to supplement the local community's support. Funding will be available one year at a time, up to 3 years, and successive funding requests will receive priority upon submission of a simple re-application process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mercy and Justice Team request permission from the Bishop to solicit volunteers and/or appoint a 1 year committee that utilizes lay or clergy leaders within the Great Plains Conference who have expertise in grant administration, poverty alleviation programs, and reporting systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GP Mercy and Justice team will submit reports on this resolution's effectiveness with their Mercy and Justice report at the 2017 session of the Great Plains Annual Conference and make recommendations for further capacity building efforts for the alleviation of poverty in our communities through programs with emphasis on ending poverty and discipleship formation opportunities through the building of relationships between individuals of mixed socio-economic status.

- i US Census Bureau 2014
- ii 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines
- iii [Huffington Post](#); "Working Poor," Jan 2012

CELEBRATE LAITY - Approved

Financial Implications: None

RATIONALE: The purpose of this resolution is to affirm and encourage celebration of Laity, Lay Servants, and Lay Speakers in the local church.

WHEREAS the Discipline provides for the observance of a Laity Sunday to celebrate the ministry of all lay Christians;

WHEREAS Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that "to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." He also tells us that each person is a part of the body of Christ. Knowing that all gifts and all parts of the body are important to make the Church whole, we encourage all churches to celebrate all laity gifts as parts of the body of Christ on Laity Sunday;

WHEREAS the Great Plains Conference has 375 Lay Servants and Lay Speakers in the 2015 Annual Conference Journal, we would encourage the recognition of their gifts not only on Laity Sunday, but throughout the year with opportunities to participate in and serve mission of the church. These persons are committed to the Scriptures, as well as the doctrine, heritage and organization of the United Methodist Church. Lay servants participate in training at least every three years in order to continually hone their discipleship skills. Many of them serve not only their own local church as well as other churches, but also the District and the Conference on committees and boards.

THEREFORE be it resolved that each local congregation actively participate in the recognition of the Laity, Lay Servants, and Lay Speakers, especially on Laity Sunday, and also with opportunities throughout the year in worship services, group studies, pastoral care, and other activities to enable them to utilize their gifts in service to the Lord.

OPPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY IN NEBRASKA AND KANSAS - Approved

Financial Implications: None

RATIONALE: A resolution urging United Methodist churches and members to be aware of The United Methodist Church's opposition to capital punishment and communicate that to voters in Nebraska and legislators in Kansas.

WHEREAS in May 2015 the Nebraska Legislature adopted LB268 abolishing capital punishment in favor of life in prison without parole, and a referendum will appear on the ballot in Nebraska in November 2016 seeking to reinstate the death penalty; and

WHEREAS the Kansas House of Representatives in 2016 introduced HB2515 which would replace the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole; and

WHEREAS Biblical statements on capital punishment emphasize the need to protect the innocent, be fair with the poor, allow for redemption of the penitent, and not seek revenge; and

WHEREAS non-partisan organizations have documented the many reasons the death penalty is unjust, unfair and ineffective: with more than 150 innocent people exonerated and released from Death Row since 1973; with blacks and Hispanics convicted and sentenced at disproportionately high rates; with no evidence that capital punish-

Resolutions

ment deters crime or enhances public safety; with exorbitant and wasteful costs that could be invested in resources to support victims' families and programs to put public safety first; and

WHEREAS The United Methodist Church Declaration of Social Principle states that "We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore, and transform all human beings.... We oppose the death penalty and urge its elimination from all criminal codes." (§164G)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Plains Conference urges every pastor and congregation to inform members of our long-standing opposition to the death penalty, study and discuss Biblical teachings relating to capital punishment, and become informed about the facts of the current application of the death penalty in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Methodist churches in Kansas urge members to become informed and contact state senators and representatives to support repeal of the death penalty and replace it with life in prison without the possibility of parole, and United Methodist churches in Nebraska urge members to become informed about and oppose the ballot referendum that seeks to reinstate the death penalty.

ALLOWING THE MERGER OF CAMP LAKESIDE INTO GREAT PLAINS UMC CAMPS, INC. - Approved

Financial Implications: None

RATIONALE: This resolution provides a process by which Camp Lakeside may become a member of Great Plains United Methodist Camps, Inc., subject to satisfactory due diligence.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Lakeside Camp of the United Methodist Church, Inc. ("Camp Lakeside"), an affiliated camp of the Great Plains Annual Conference, has requested to join Great Plains UM Camps, Inc., and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Great Plains Camps, Inc. has agreed to pursue merger talks, and

WHEREAS, the boards of both Camp Lakeside and Great Plains Camps, Inc., have approved a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a process for such a merger (below),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Plains Annual Conference approve the merger in principle, effective January 1, 2017, subject to satisfactory due diligence,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such merger shall be subject to the final approval of the board of each of the two corporations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Camp Lakeside will abide by all personnel, operating, and board policies of Great Plains Camps, Inc., upon completion of the merger and will have all rights and privileges of member camps as outlines in the Bylaws of Great Plains UM Camps, Inc.

SEEKING RECONCILIATION - Approved

WHEREAS, Disciples of Jesus Christ are called to love one another and to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength (Matthew 22:37), and

WHEREAS, a unique window of opportunity has been opened by the letter from the Council of Bishops dated May 18, 2016 titled "A Way Forward" through encouragement to "...continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another - including ways to avoid further complaints, trails, and harm while we uphold the Discipline," and

WHEREAS, the *United Methodist Book of Discipline* already permits a second opportunity for "just resolution" prior to trial,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Plains Annual Conference respectfully requests that the Counsel for the Church and the Counsel for the Respondent in the current Rev. Cynthia Meyer case invoke paragraph 2706.5c3 that reads as follows: ...refer the matter to the resident bishop a deemed appropriate for a process seeking a just resolution. The bishop shall institute such a process and may use the assistance of a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s). Such referral will not constitute a dismissal or double jeopardy under paragraph 2701.5... (page 764, 2008 *Book of Discipline**).

*Note: The 2008 Book of Discipline takes precedence in this matter because revised language in 2012 was ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council (Judicial Council Decision 1296).