

## Resolutions Approved by the Annual conference

As printed in the pre-conference workbook and agenda. See the Daily Proceedings section of this journal for any amendments and vote results.

### 1. Core Doctrines and Beliefs

**Financial implications:** None

**Rationale:** A concern for many congregations who wish to remain United Methodist is whether the denomination will adhere to its Biblical and traditional theologies/values. One specific issue at stake is whether the denomination will honor its longstanding belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible.

**WHEREAS,** Traditional and mainly rural congregations/clergy have been disproportionately impacted by the amount of disaffiliation and discussions over the issues that are plaguing our denomination. Some of the greatest concerns for congregants and clergy in traditional churches who wish to remain in the UMC are whether the tenants of our faith such as those stated in the Articles of Religion will be maintained and professed by those in authority and leadership roles.

**WHEREAS** The United Methodist Church since its inception has been dedicated to the Lordship in Jesus Christ, the theological understanding of salvation by grace through faith in Christ, and holding God’s Holy Word, the Bible as the Inspired Word of God. The Book of Discipline teaches “We hold in common with all Christians a faith in mystery of salvation in and through Jesus Christ.” (¶102)

**WHEREAS,** many opinions and beliefs are circulating in the greater church community that the future United Methodist Church will denounce its long-held viewpoints that align with Biblical and traditional theological lenses. Also, during discussions around disaffiliation among many United Methodist congregations, often conversations included the concerns over if the future United Methodist Church denomination

would commit to its doctrine around salvation and the Lordship of Christ.

**WHEREAS** some opponents against the United Methodist Church have maintained the understanding that future denominational leaders and pastors will deny sound doctrinal and scriptural beliefs that have been shared by the Church universal for thousands of years. Those who remain in The United Methodist Church can seize the moment and declare to all that The United Methodist Church will adhere to its long-held Biblical and traditional theological beliefs.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Great Plains Conference recognizes the gift in connectionalism that includes all congregations of every size and every diversity. We acknowledge the need for traditional and rural United Methodist congregations as well as recognize the fruitful ministries they bring to the Great Plains Annual Conference.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Great Plains Conference takes a firm stance against any teachings that dispute the claims in the “Articles of Religion” of The United Methodist Church and denounces any Great Plains Annual Conference ministry which teaches anything contrary to the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and is the only way to salvation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Great Plains Conference stands firm in its beliefs as well as reaffirms the positions stated in the Articles of Religion, and maintains that its leaders both current and future adhere to its teachings.

**To Implemented by:** Conference Secretary of the Annual Conference

Submitted March 15, 2024, by Ord First United Methodist Church Administrative Council, Sargent United Methodist Church Council, and Loup City United Methodist Church Council

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## 2. Great Plains Naming Review

**Financial Implications:** None

**Rationale:** This resolution calls for a thoughtful examination of the names associated with affiliated entities within the Great Plains Annual Conference, promoting a deeper understanding of our shared history and values while acknowledging the potential need for change.

**WHEREAS,** the names of affiliated entities hold rich stories and history that shape our collective identity; and

**WHEREAS,** exploring these names provides an opportunity for education, dialogue, and a greater appreciation of our diverse heritage; and

**WHEREAS,** some names may not appropriately reflect our current values and aspirations, necessitating revision;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that this resolution initiates a naming review process, inviting all affiliated entities within the Great Plains Annual Conference to review their names, explore their origins, and reflect on how these names relate to current values and aspirations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that entities engage their communities in open dialogue about their findings, fostering transparency, collective learning, and a deeper sense of connection to our shared history.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that each entity's governing body shall have the prerogative to decide how to proceed following their naming review, emphasizing thoughtful, inclusive, and community-oriented decision-making, including the potential for name revisions when deemed appropriate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a summary of findings and any actions taken may be submitted to the Great Plains Annual Conference's Commission on Archives and History, facilitating the preservation and sharing of our rich heritage while documenting the evolution of our communities.

To be Implemented by: The governing bodies of affiliated entities within the Great Plains Annual Conference.

Submitted March 15, 2024 by Rev. Andrew Conard, Clergy

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## Discontinuances of Churches

### 3. Barnes UMC

**Rev. Karen Rice Ratzlaff, Hutchinson-Salina Districts Superintendent**

**WHEREAS**, Barnes United Methodist Church, located in Barnes, Kansas, in the Salina District of the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, was founded in 1884 and has had a long and faithful history of service to Jesus Christ and ministry to its community; and

**WHEREAS**, the church conference of Barnes United Methodist Church voted on November 19, 2023, to discontinue the church; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Karen Rice Ratzlaff, the District Superintendent of the Hutchinson-Salina District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

**WHEREAS**, the consent of the Salina District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop David Wilson 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 Barnes United Methodist Church in Washington County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of December 31, 2024, with appreciation for its years

of faithfulness and service.

- 2. That the membership of Barnes United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Washington United Methodist Church in Washington, Kansas.
- 3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Barnes 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 Barnes United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

#### 4. Lawrence Central UMC

**Rev. Micki McCorkle, Five Rivers District Superintendent**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Central United Methodist Church, commonly known as Central United Methodist Church, located in Lawrence, Kansas in the Five Rivers District of the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, was founded in 1854 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

**WHEREAS**, the church conference of Lawrence Central United Methodist Church voted on January 28, 2024, to discontinue the church; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Micki McCorkle, 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 David Wilson 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 Lawrence Central United Methodist Church in Douglas County, Kansas is hereby declared discontinued as of June 23, 2024, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of Lawrence Central United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Lawrence First United Methodist Church in Lawrence, Kansas.
3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Lawrence Central 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 Lawrence Central United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

## 5: Spring Hill UMC

**Rev. Dr. Tom Brady, Kansas City District Superintendent**

**WHEREAS**, Spring Hill United Methodist Church, located in Johnson County, Kansas, in the Kansas City District of the Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, was founded in 1858 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

**WHEREAS**, the church conference of Spring Hill United Methodist Church voted on Feb. 31, 2024, to discontinue the church; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Dr. Tom Brady, the District Superintendent of the Kansas City District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

**WHEREAS**, the consent of the Kansas City District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop David Wilson 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 Spring Hill United Methodist Church in Johnson County, Kansas is hereby declared discontinued as of May 19, 2024, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of Spring Hill United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to Resurrection, a United Methodist Church, based in Leawood, KS.
3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Spring Hill 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 Spring Hill United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

## 6. Valley UMC

**Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede, Missouri Rivers District Superintendent**

**WHEREAS**, Valley United Methodist Church, located in Valley, Nebraska, in the Missouri River District of the Great Plains Annual Conference has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri River District Committee on Building and Location voted on April 29, 2024 to discontinue the church as a United Methodist congregation; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede, the District Superintendent of the Missouri River District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

**WHEREAS**, the consent of the Cabinet, and Bishop David Wilson has been granted; and

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

**WHEREAS**, all relevant properties have already been transferred to Valley United Faith Community Church;

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

1. That the Valley United Methodist Church in Douglas County Nebraska is hereby declared discontinued as of April 29, 2024, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the official records and papers of Valley United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safe-keeping with the Commission on Archives and History.
3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Valley 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 Valley United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

## **Audit Report**

The Great Plains audit report will be published on the conference website as soon as it is available. It can be found at [www.greatplainsumc.org/auditreport](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/auditreport).