

2019
RESOLUTIONS
AND
PETITIONS

Here is the text of the proposed resolution:

Whereas the Social Principles in the Book of Discipline proclaim that the United Methodist Church support climates in which communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of all persons and their growth, and commits the church to move beyond symbolic expressions that do not challenge established systems of power and access to resources. The Social Principles also assert the rights of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to education and training of the highest quality, and also calls for the empowerment and full participation of these groups in the life of the Church.

Whereas Section IX. The Annual Conference, in the Book of Discipline defines the purpose of the annual Conference as to make disciples of Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church.

Whereas the annual conference by virtue of its office of Connectional Ministries is responsible to focus and guide the mission and ministry of the Church, among other purposes, by developing and strengthening ethnic ministries, including ethnic local churches.

Whereas part of the responsibilities of the Conference Board of Discipleship in the area of Evangelism is to provide the training of clergy and laypersons in ministries of evangelism.

Whereas part of the responsibilities of the Conference Board of Laity is to provide for the training of lay members of annual Conference and to develop lay servant courses developed by district committees.

Whereas there is a provision in the Discipline for the formation of a Conference Committee on Ethnic Local Churches Concerns which functions are defined in #632.

Therefore the following Resolution is presented to the 2019 Memphis Annual Conference for approval and implementation:

1- Determine the formation and immediate implementation in the Memphis Annual Conference of the Conference Committee on Ethnic Local Churches Concerns. The aforementioned Committee shall be formed by the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, the Chair of the Conference Board of Discipleship, the Conference Lay leader, and by the pastors of the ethnic local churches in the Conference.

2- The Committee shall meet at least twice a year, in the fall and in the spring prior to the annual Conference. The Conference Director of Connectional Ministries shall be the Chair of this committee.

3- The office of Connectional Ministries and the Board of Discipleship, with the input of the Lay leader and the local pastors, shall be responsible for searching throughout the Connection, for

the media and facilitators needed to provide the ethnic churches with material for the formation of lay leaders, tools for evangelism, and Discipleship. The materials and courses shall be presented in the language spoken by the ethnic local church.

4- Funding for these programs shall come from the Memphis Conference budget.

5- The Committee shall present a report to the Annual Conference stating the progress during the past year and defining the goals and projects for the upcoming year.

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"Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Francis of Assisi

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Resolution to Observe Martin Methodist College Month
Submitted to the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences
in Session Respectively June 2-4 and June 12-14, 2019
by the Board of Trustees of Martin Methodist College

Whereas, Martin Methodist College stands in the long Wesleyan tradition of emphasizing education and the joining of knowledge and vital piety;

And Whereas, Martin Methodist College celebrates its 150th Sesquicentennial Year in 2020;

And Whereas, Martin Methodist College is the faith-based and church-related institution of higher education of the Nashville Episcopal Area;

And Whereas, the congregations and people of the Nashville Episcopal Area include networks of relationships with members, alumni, financial and missional partners, and prospective students;

And Whereas, the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences affirm the vision of Martin Methodist College to be the epicenter for education, healthcare, church and community leadership, and workforce development and a national model for church-related higher education in rural America;

Be It Resolved that the churches of the Nashville Episcopal Area observe March 2020 as Martin Methodist College Month by sharing information about the college and its mission, by hosting information sessions, and/or by receiving speakers representing the college on given Sundays and/or at gatherings during the month;

Be It Further Resolved that the churches of the Nashville Episcopal Area annually observe Martin Methodist College Week preferably in the month of March or during a week of the congregation's choice beginning in the year 2021.

And Be It Further Resolved that congregations may receive offerings to support Martin Methodist College student scholarships, forwarded through the respective conference offices of administrative services;

And Be It Further Resolved that Martin Methodist College will provide assistance, materials, and speakers upon request for these observances.

Authorized and Submitted by The Martin Methodist College Board of Trustees

Meeting April 18, 2019

The Honorable Byron Trauger, Trustees Chair

Rev. Dr. Mark LaBranche, President

Secretary of the Annual Conference

Bishop William T McAlilly

RESOLUTION REGARDING METHODIST EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

Whereas, the Memphis Annual Conference recognizes the importance of seminary and course of study education in the ministry formation process;

And Whereas, Methodist Education Funds (MEF) are an important way to support students and minimize educational debt;

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will at least maintain the current levels of MEF support (at non-United Methodist seminaries—eligible for \$7,200 per year not to exceed \$21,600; United Methodist seminaries--eligible for \$8,200 per year not to exceed \$24,600) for seminary and course of study students through December 2020.

Be it further resolved, that the Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will provide MEF support to seminary and course of study students through December 2024.

Submitted by: The Board of Ordained Ministry, Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (adopted, February 12, 2019)

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And Whereas, Methodist Education Funds (MEF) are an important way to support students and minimize educational debt;

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will maintain the current levels of MEF support for seminary and course of study students through December 2020.

Be it further resolved, that the Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will provide MEF support to seminary and course of study students through December 2024.

Submitted by: The Board of Ordained Ministry, Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (adopted, February 12, 2019)