

1 **3. RESOLUTIONS**2 **DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY WITH OFFERING**3 *Submitted by Conference DisAbility Ministries Committee*

4 Estimated Fiscal Impact: None

5 Source of Staff Time: Volunteer

6 **Whereas** Christ heard the cries of people with disabilities and, disregarding the objections of others,  
7 stopped to ask what he could do for them and provided what they needed, including restoration to  
8 society; and9 **Whereas** all people are given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit and yet the gifts of people with disabilities  
10 are often overlooked by church members who do not have disabilities; and11 **Whereas** the *2016 Book of Discipline* states that “we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus’  
12 ministry to all persons” and further states that... “Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and  
13 support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the  
14 world...” (§140); and15 **Whereas** the *2016 Book of Discipline* requires every congregation to observe Disability Awareness  
16 Sunday and allows for the Annual Conference to set the date and direct that a special offering be  
17 taken to support accessibility in churches (§265.4); and18 **Whereas** congregations often have unaddressed accessibility and inclusive program needs; and19 **Whereas** the DisAbility Ministries Committee began providing annual accessibility/inclusive program  
20 grants for churches in 2016 out of the small apportioned budget, supplementing with designated funds  
21 which are now greatly depleted; and22 **Whereas** the DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church, a denomination-wide  
23 entity that also provides accessibility/ inclusive program grants each year, no longer receives any  
24 funding from any General Board or Agency for grants or any other aspect of its work; therefore, be it25 **Resolved**, that

- 26 1. every congregation will observe Disability Awareness Sunday annually on the third Sunday of
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- 27 October, or failing that, on another Sunday that suits the congregation’s schedule; and
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- 28 2. a Special Offering will be taken on DisAbility Awareness Sundays to be divided as follows: a
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- 29 tithe of 25 per cent stays at the local Church for their local congregation’s accessibility and
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- 30 inclusive program needs, a tithe of 25 per cent going to the DisAbility Awareness Fund of the
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- 31 Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, with the balance going to the
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- 32 DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church (through Advance # 3021054).

33 *The Conference Secretary has the ability to make editorial changes that do not change the intent of the*  
34 *petition.*