

1 **PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS—ADD NEW SECTION TO SOCIAL PRINCIPLES**

2 *Petition submitted by St. Mark’s UMC Church and Society Committee: Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald,*
3 *Mark Hrabe, Mary Lou Kiracofe, Charles Wise, Marlyce Wright*

4 *Recommended by Conference Board of Church and Society*

5 **Whereas** United Methodists share a common heritage with all Christians and recognize our fellow
6 Christians across the world are carrying out Jesus’ Great Commission “to go make disciples of all
7 nations” even at great risk to themselves;

8 **Whereas** persecution of Christians exists and should be denounced;

9 **Whereas** the United Methodist Social Principles are the official position of the church on social issues;
10 and

11 **Whereas** the Social Principles do not contain a stance on persecuted Christians; now, therefore, be it

12 **Resolved,** that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC) petition the General Conference to:

- 13 1. amend the 2016 *Book of Discipline* Social Principles to add new sub-paragraph Christian
14 Persecution after ¶165. Because we share a common heritage with all Christians we also share a
15 special obligation to denounce the persecution of our fellow Christians. Apostolic witness to
16 Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is also our witness. We recognize our fellow Christians are
17 carrying out Jesus’ Great Commission, “to go make disciples of all nations,” even at great risk to
18 themselves. The Church must provide support and encouragement to our fellow Christians and
19 condemn nations for the unjust treatment of members of all religious groups within their borders.
- 20 2. submit this change as a petition from the DSC to the 2020 General Conference

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