

1 **Resolution Supporting Central Conference Leadership and the Christmas Covenant**

2 **Whereas** the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church  
3 engage in mission together in 136 countries;

4 **Whereas** the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences is of  
5 sacred worth, and is vital to the ministry and work of the global United Methodist Church;

6 **Whereas** the existing structure of The United Methodist Church prohibits each region from effectively  
7 ministering within their own local context;

8 **Whereas** we recognize that the existing structure has historically served as a detriment to the ministry and  
9 work of the church;

10 **Whereas** the existing structure diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and for that reason  
11 is no longer feasible within the global United Methodist Church,

12 **Whereas** the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and conversation of the Central Conferences to  
13 Regional Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant, help to establish structural parity  
14 throughout the global church; and

15 **Whereas** the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant from the  
16 Philippines, will align and establish the governance necessary to allow the church to  
17 accommodate ministry across various contexts, and more effectively make disciples of Jesus  
18 Christ for the transformation of the world; now, therefore, be it

19 **Resolved**, that the Desert Southwest Conference: of The United Methodist Church:

- 20 1. Support the Christmas Covenant legislation in full, including the creation of a U.S. Regional  
21 Conference;
- 22 2. Recognize and support the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance  
23 of the Christmas Covenant legislation;
- 24 3. Conference Secretary shall send copies of this resolution to all delegates to General Conference  
25 from the Desert Southwest Conference, and urge them to support the Christmas Covenant and to  
26 make such legislation a priority for the Desert Southwest delegation at the next duly called  
27 General Conference; and
- 28 4. Conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to the Commission on the General  
29 Conference and urge them to take such action as is necessary for the full consideration of  
30 legislation related to the Christmas Covenant from the Philippines by a Committee of the Whole  
31 at the next duly called General Conference.

32 **Names(s) of Petitioners:**

33 Rev. Michael Patzloff, Chair of the Welcoming, Affirming, Reconciling Ministries

34 Rev. Stephen Govett, University UMC

35 Rev. Jim Wiltbank, St. Francis of the Foothills UMC

36 Pastor Gina Pollard, City Square UMF

37 Pastor Bob Klein, Trinity UMC, Yuma

38 Billie Fidlin, Director Justice and Outreach