

1 **LEGISLATIVE**

2 **ITEM #16 SUPPORTING CENTRAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP**  
3 **AND THE CHRISTMAS COVENANT**  
4

5 **FROM:** Ms. Jessica Vittorio, Lay Member, First United Methodist Church Dallas  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the 7 Central Conferences and 5 U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage  
8 in mission together in 136 countries; and  
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10 **WHEREAS**, the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences is  
11 of sacred worth, and is vital to the ministry and work of the global United Methodist Church; and  
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13 **WHEREAS**, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church prohibits each region from effectively  
14 ministering within their own local context; and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, we recognize that the existing structure has historically served as a detriment to the ministry  
17 and work of the church; and  
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19 **WHEREAS**, the existing structure diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and for that  
20 reason is no longer feasible within the global United Methodist Church; and  
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22 **WHEREAS**, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and conversion of the Central Conferences to  
23 Regional Conferences, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant, help to establish structural parity throughout  
24 the global church; and  
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26 **WHEREAS**, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in the Christmas Covenant from the  
27 Philippines, will align and establish the governance necessary to allow the church to accommodate ministry  
28 across various contexts, and more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the  
29 world;  
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31 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** we, the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist  
32 Church, support the Christmas Covenant legislation in full, including the creation of a U.S. Regional  
33 Conference; and  
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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** we, the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church,  
36 recognize and support the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the  
37 Christmas Covenant legislation; and  
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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to all  
40 delegates to General Conference from the North Texas Conference, and urge them to support the Christmas  
41 Covenant and to make such legislation a priority for the North Texas delegation at General Conference in  
42 August of 2021; and  
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44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to the  
45 Commission on the General Conference, and urge them to take such action as is necessary for the full  
46 consideration of legislation related to the Christmas Covenant from the Philippines by a Committee of the  
47 Whole, and the General Conference in August of 2021.  
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