

## WJ24-01 Supporting Ratification

Subject: Supporting Ratification of the Worldwide Regionalization Constitutional Amendments both within the Western Jurisdictional Conference and in the Central Conferences

Submitters: Jason Takagi, Jeffrey Kuan, Richard Bentley, Kay Barckley, Mark Stephenson, Jessica Rooks, Sandy Olewine, Anthony Tang, Katharine Henry, Michael Hsu, Cathy Wilson, Mary Klaehn, Dione Taylor, Kristin Stoneking, Ken Walden, Gayle Shearman, Frank Wulf, Elizabeth Brick, Joe Kim, Emily Allen

Presenters: Jason Takagi, Richard Bentley, Jeffrey Kuan

Estimated Fiscal Impact: None (works within existing budgets)

WHEREAS, in an historic General Conference session, delegates voted in unprecedented margins to restructure The United Methodist Church into Regional Conferences; and

WHEREAS there would be a Regional Conference in the United States of America, several Regional Conferences across the European continent, one Regional Conference in the Philippines, and several Regional Conferences across the African continent; and

WHEREAS each of these Regional Conferences will share a common Constitution, Social Principles, and Doctrinal Standards; and

WHEREAS these Regional Conferences will live into what The United Methodist Church holds in common in ways that are contextually appropriate for their context and culture; and

WHEREAS, in order for this Worldwide Regionalization structure to go into effect, its constitutional amendments must be ratified by an aggregate two-thirds of all the members voting at every Annual Conference session all around the world according to the provisions set forth in the Constitution of The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the Western Jurisdictional Conference at its 2022 session endorsed a Worldwide Regionalization Plan as a faithful next step that the people called United Methodists can take in our ever-evolving journey to be a worldwide Church; and

WHEREAS the California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Desert Southwest, Mountain Sky, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Annual Conferences through their respective boards and agencies working within their existing budgets, along with churches and individuals within the Western Jurisdiction have a history of working with grassroots leaders in the Central Conference connected with the Christmas Covenant Team by providing funding for their work through the Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM) and Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA); and

WHEREAS the California-Nevada, California-Pacific and Pacific-Northwest Annual Conferences through their respective boards and agencies working within their existing budgets, along with churches and individuals within the Western Jurisdiction annual

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conferences have a history of working to deepen relationships at a grassroots level with Central Conference leaders by helping fund worldwide relationship building work through the Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC); and

WHEREAS a grassroots Central Conference Ratification Team has formed made up of lay and clergy members of The United Methodist Church from across the worldwide connection and with a vast majority of its members in the Central Conferences in Africa and the Philippines, and

WHEREAS this Central Conference Ratification Team is working to provide education at a grassroots level in annual conferences located within their respective Central Conferences on what Worldwide Regionalization means in their contexts with the goal of getting delegates to their annual conferences to vote to ratify the Worldwide Regionalization constitutional amendments; and

WHEREAS working with such grassroots Central Conference leaders is another way to help secure the necessary two-thirds aggregate vote needed to ratify the Worldwide Regionalization Constitutional Amendments,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Western Jurisdictional Conference encourages its boards and agencies working within their existing budgets to promote the ratification of the Worldwide Regionalization constitutional amendments within the annual conferences of the Western Jurisdiction; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Western Jurisdictional Conference encourages each annual conference within its bounds to have its annual conference boards and agencies working within their existing budgets to promote the ratification of the Worldwide Regionalization constitutional amendments within their respective annual conference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Western Jurisdictional Conference seeks to secure the necessary two-thirds worldwide aggregate ratification vote by encouraging boards and agencies of annual conferences and local churches within its bounds working within existing budgets along with individual United Methodists in the Western Jurisdiction to support the efforts of the Central Conference Ratification Team and/or other similar groups to promote the ratification of the Worldwide Regionalization constitutional amendments; such agents as WMJM, MFSA, LYNC and/or other organizations with experience in working with Central Conference groups may be used as a means of providing funding to Central Conference leaders promoting the ratification of the Worldwide Regionalization constitutional amendments.