

Total Number of Pages: 3  
Suggested Title: AUMC Petition for Change of Status  
Paragraphs: Non-Disciplinary  
General Church Budget Implications: None  
Global Implications: No

WHEREAS ¶587 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* says, in relevant part, the following:

“A petition to the General Conference for change in status from a missionary conference shall set forth details of the history and status of the conference and shall be accompanied by a report and recommendation of the General Board of Global Ministries,” and

WHEREAS The Alaska United Methodist Conference (AUMC) is a missionary conference of the UMC, one of three such conferences within the jurisdictions which was created by the General Conference under its authority in ¶587. The Judicial Council acknowledged the creation of the AUMC as a missionary conference in Judicial Council Decision (JCD) 448 when it said, “The 1972 General Conference constituted the former Alaska Mission and Oklahoma Indian Mission as Missionary Conferences (DCA 583, 888),” and

WHEREAS The AUMC was originally named the Alaska Missionary Conference (AMC), but the conference name was changed to the Alaska United Methodist Conference by action of the Western Jurisdictional Conference of 2012, and

WHEREAS further details of the history of the AUMC are presented in the book *Have Gospel Tent Will Travel* by Bea Shepard and Claudia Kelsey, long serving United Methodists of Alaska, now deceased, and

WHEREAS Thomas Kemper, the General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), said in his 2016 address to the AUMC that missionary conference status was always intended by the Church to be an interim status, not permanent, and

WHEREAS GBGM has been gradually decreasing its financial support of the AUMC over several years with an announced intent of reducing it to zero for 2021, and

Whereas the AUMC as a small entity of 27 churches and three unchartered fellowships does not qualify for conversion to an annual conference, and

WHEREAS the AUMC continues to be a vital United Methodist and mainline presence in the communities it serves, and

WHEREAS the AUMC will continue to rely on United Methodist resources in personnel and funding to maintain the United Methodist presence and witness in the far north, and

WHEREAS The duly elected representatives of the United Methodists of Alaska have determined by vote in a special session of the AUMC that it is in the best interests of themselves, the Western Jurisdiction, and The United Methodist Church that they will be better served by Alaska's becoming a mission district of another annual conference in the Western Jurisdiction, as provided in ¶513, and

WHEREAS The General Board of Global Ministries has reviewed and approved this proposed action,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Conference of 2020 discontinues the missionary conference status of the AUMC which discontinuance will be effective at the close of the 2020 Western Jurisdictional Conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BY ITS ACTION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE recognizes the authority and responsibility of the Western Jurisdiction to determine the number, names and boundaries of the annual conferences in the jurisdiction as provided in ¶¶27.4 and 40 and that the Western Jurisdiction may accommodate this action of the General Conference at the

jurisdictional conference in July 2020 so as to establish boundaries that include Alaska within another annual conference of the jurisdiction.

Date: XXyy19

Signature of Petitioner

Identification of Petitioner

Name

Affiliation

Street

City ST Zip

Phone:

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