

PETITION TO THE 2025 ALASKA CONFERENCE

TITLE: _____ PETITION # _____

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON: *(Please state the motion in its simplest form, addressing one issue only, exactly what action is required. If you wish to submit additional supporting rationale, it must be typewritten on additional, separate sheets. Copies of up to two pages will be included in the Pre-Conference Handbook. Members will vote only on the action as boxed below.)*

RATIONALE:

TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY: _____
(Name of committee, board, commission, agency)

COSTS: _____ If a cost is involved, what committee/board/agency will be responsible for including this cost in its budget? _____

If this cost impacts the Conference Budget, has approval been received from the Council on Finance and Administration? _____

If not, then from whom? _____

When will it be completed? _____ How will you judge its effectiveness?
(be specific) _____

CONTACT PERSON INITIATING THE PETITION: _____

Contact person's phone #: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

GROUP REFERRING PETITION TO ANNUAL MEETING: _____

Group Leader responsible: _____

Group leader's phone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

SEND TO: alaskaumc@gmail.com

Alaska Conference
1660 Patterson Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

MUST BE RECEIVED BY
May 1, 2025

Title: Petition to Conduct Complaint, Investigation, and Judicial Proceedings through the Pacific Northwest Conference and Create a Task Force

for Long-Term Compliance

Whereas the current structures of the Alaska Conference are insufficient to fully comply with the constitutional and disciplinary requirements outlined in 2701- 2720 and 362-364 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2020/2024)*, and

Whereas the limited number of available clergy and laity in our conference prevents the formation of fully representative and procedurally sound bodies such as the Committee on Investigation, Administrative Review Committee, Conference Relations Committee, Church Counsel, and

Whereas the lack of such structures would result in the dismissal of a administrative or judicial complaint on procedural grounds, thereby failing to provide just resolution, due process, and accountability as required by church law;

Be it therefore resolved that the Alaska Annual Conference conduct *complaint, investigation, and judicial proceedings* through the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Annual Conference, utilizing the PNW conference's resources, trained personnel, and established structures for complaints, supervision, and judicial processes; and

Be it further resolved that going forward, any respondent facing a complaint under 2702 shall be given the option to have their case processed either:

- (a) under the jurisdiction of their home conference if they are serving in Alaska from another conference,
- (b) by referral to the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference for full administration of the complaint process and, if necessary, a trial; and

Be it further resolved that a *Task Force on Complaint and Judicial Process Capacity* be created by the Leadership Team in consultation with the Bishop, Greater Northwest Cabinet, other missionary annual conferences, and the PNW Board of Ordained Ministry, to include representatives from the Alaska Conference, the PNW Conference, and persons with judicial process experience, with the following charge:

1. To assess the current and long-term capacity of the Alaska conference to carry out its disciplinary responsibilities under 2701- 2720 and 362-364 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2020/2024)*.
2. To collaborate with the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area to create a sustainable model for complaint supervision, investigation, and adjudication that meets constitutional requirements including due process, fair process, separation of powers, and rights protection for all parties.
3. To ensure that the Committee on Investigation, Administrative Review Committee, Conference Relations Committee, Church Counsel and other necessary disciplinary bodies can be populated with sufficient and impartial members.

4. To identify and train Alaska-based pastoral leaders and laity to serve in investigative, supervisory, or trial roles in the future.
5. To formalize an agreement or a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pacific Northwest Conference for shared resources and cooperation in handling complaints during the interim period and potentially in perpetuity.
6. To recommend legislation to General Conference 2028 to allow for alternative conference processing and proceedings for missionary conferences.

Rationale: The Alaska Conference currently lacks sufficient personnel and infrastructure to meet the disciplinary and constitutional requirements for processing administrative and judicial complaints, especially under 2702 (Chargeable Offenses) and 363 (Supervisory Response). Without corrective action, the conference risks procedural failures that would result in automatic dismissal of complaints, undermining accountability, justice, and trust in the church's integrity.

This agreement offers a faithful, lawful, and collaborative path forward by leaning on the resources of the Pacific Northwest Conference while also investing in building internal competency for the future. The Task Force ensures due diligence, shared discernment, and alignment with constitutional principles, while providing protection for the rights under 2701 and 2702 of both complainants and respondents to have counsel, to be heard, to have notice of hearings, to be present, to access records, etc. and to ensure proper separation of powers and sufficient representation. Most importantly, it upholds the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church by sharing responsibility across conferences for fair and faithful administration of complaint processes and resolution.