

**Petition # 2 to the Alaska Annual Conference  
Transition of Licensing and Credentialing through Greater Northwest Episcopal Area Partnerships**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Annual Conference is committed to raising up faithful, effective clergy leadership for the mission of the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, the processes of candidacy, licensing, and ordination in The United Methodist Church are rigorous and complex, requiring consistent guidance, accountability, and support; and

**WHEREAS**, candidates in Alaska—particularly those for whom English is as an Additional Language, those who are bi-vocational, and those who are less familiar with denominational structures—face unique challenges in navigating these processes; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of candidates to engage and progress through the credentialing process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Annual Conference also bears responsibility to ensure that the credentialing process is accessible, supportive, and equitable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Annual Conference has existing collaborative relationships with the SeaTac District of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Columbia District of the Oregon-Idaho Conference within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area; and

**WHEREAS**, these partnerships provide an opportunity to strengthen the support, consistency, and effectiveness of the credentialing process for Alaska candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, the transference of District Committee on Ordained Ministry (hereafter referred to as the DCOM) and Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) responsibilities to these sibling conferences will allow candidates to be better served through established and fully resourced structures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Book of Discipline requires that the DCOM include at least six clergy from the district yet does not prohibit the inclusion of additional members, which allows for Alaska participation and representation in the collaborative conferences the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Oregon-Idaho Conference within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership of the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) of the Alaska Annual Conference shall be modified to adhere to the Book of Discipline to effectively work with those being licensed and commissioned, and

**WHEREAS**, intentional representation on behalf of the Alaska Annual Conference in these processes will ensure that candidates have voice, advocacy, and contextual insight during the credentialing journey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conference Superintendent and the Bishop have exercised their responsibility to nominate individuals to serve in these roles, providing continuity of care and accompaniment for Alaska candidates during a period of transition; and

**WHEREAS**, this transition will occur over a defined period to ensure that current candidates are supported and that the Alaska Annual Conference responsibly transitions off direct responsibility for licensing and credentialing processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) of the Alaska Annual Conference shall be modified to adhere to the Book of Discipline pertaining to the roles of the Committee on Superintendency and the Committee on Episcopacy and Higher Education and Ministries, and

**WHEREAS**, this shift enables the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) of the Alaska Annual Conference to refocus its work on other essential areas of conference life, including the Committee on Superintendency, Committee on Episcopacy, and Higher Education and Campus Ministry, in alignment with the Book of Discipline;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Annual Conference approves the transference of the licensing and credentialing processes from its current structures to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry of the Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho Conferences within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this transition includes the phased movement of Alaska candidates into the DCOM and BOM processes of these sibling conferences to ensure consistent, effective, and well-supported credentialing pathways; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Alaska representatives to DCOMs and BOMs, nominated by the Conference Superintendent and the Bishop, will participate in these bodies to provide advocacy, contextual insight, and direct support for Alaska candidates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Annual Conference will continue to discern appropriate policies regarding the participation, responsibilities, and support (including travel considerations) for Alaska representatives serving in these roles; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the transition will be implemented over the next several years to ensure continuity of care for current candidates and a faithful transfer of responsibility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Professional Ministries Unit will focus its work on strengthening the functions of the Committee on Superintendency (§669), Committee on Episcopacy (§636), and Higher Education and Campus Ministry (§633) as it transitions out of licensing and credentialing.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the language of R.5.1015 in the Alaska Conference Journal be removed in order to facilitate the modification of the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) to adhere to the Book of Discipline, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this new structure and partnership will be monitored, evaluated, and collaboratively adopted in 2028 to ensure that it faithfully serves candidates, the Alaska Annual Conference, and the mission of the Church.