

1 **RESOLUTION NO: 12-7**
2 **SUBJECT:** Affirm the Western Jurisdiction *We Will Not Be Silent* Statement of 2004
3 **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**
4 **ESTIMATED STAFF TIME:**
5 **SUBMITTED BY:** Cynthia Abrams, Piula Ala'lima, Richard Bentley, Paige Eaves, Patricia
6 Farris, JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Nestor Gerente, Carolyn Ingram, Henry Jefferson, Norma
7 Kehrberg, J. Daniel Lewis, Mele Maka, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Martha Morales, Cathryn
8 Oltman, Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Mark Stephenson, Susan Stouffer, Molly Vetter, Krystle
9 Wheeler, Frank Wulf, Howie Yeager

10
11 **WHEREAS** the 2000 United Methodist Western Jurisdictional Conference adopted a statement
12 titled *We Will Not Be Silent* ⁽¹⁾ in response to the exclusionary actions toward Lesbian, Gay,
13 Bisexual and Transgender persons taken by the 2000 General Conference of The United
14 Methodist Church, and

15
16 **WHEREAS** the 2004 Western Jurisdictional Conference augmented the 2000 *We Will Not Be*
17 *Silent* statement with a call for specific commitments and action at the Jurisdictional, Annual
18 Conference, local church, campus and community levels, ⁽¹⁾

19
20 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the California-Pacific Conference within the Western
21 Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church adopt the following as an authoritative statement of
22 its own core values and commitments and as a way forward to create a more inclusive Church:

23
24 **WE WILL NOT BE SILENT!**
25 **WE WILL BUILD A TABLE, MAKE A HOME, AND CLAIM A VISION**

26
27 We, as the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church, invite the United
28 Methodist community within our region to work joyously and boldly together to build a fully
29 inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people. We intend to see our church
30 grow, both at the 'center' of its ministry and the 'edges' of society. To this end, we, as a
31 Conference, reaffirm our commitment to evangelism which includes sharing the embracing
32 love of Jesus with the millions of persons who live within our boundaries and growing the
33 church.

34
35 **Our Plan of Action:**

- 36
37 **1. We will not be silent concerning poverty.** We will invite every United
38 Methodist, and every United Methodist Church in our Conference to join us in
39 developing personal action plans to provide hospitality to the poor within the
40 communities served by our churches and to plan a shared ministry with them in this
41 area.
42
43 **2. We will not be silent concerning racism.** We will call upon all United
44 Methodists and United Methodist churches in our Conference to join us in developing
45 personal action plans for building hospitality and gracious welcome across the

46 divisions of race, language, and culture. We will seek a dramatic increase in the
47 number of cross racial/cultural appointments. We will invite all in our churches to
48 develop personal plans for building racial justice locally and globally.
49

50 **3. We will not be silent concerning full participation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,**
51 **and Transgender persons at all levels in our church and society.** We will call
52 upon United Methodists to join us in making deliberate plans for hospitality to
53 include LGBT persons in the leadership of our Church. We will invite local churches
54 to make clear their willingness to support and celebrate a pastor who is ‘out’
55 concerning her or his sexual identity. We will seek to remove all discrimination
56 within our church and society against persons based upon sexual and gender identity.
57

58 **4. We will not be silent concerning discrimination against people with different**
59 **mental and physical abilities.** We will urge church bodies to be sensitive to people
60 with different mental and physical challenges. We will work to support accessibility
61 plans for every ministry facility, including campus ministries, churches, and church
62 agencies. We will support efforts to expand communication tools at all levels within
63 the Conference in order to relate more fully with people who have physical, learning,
64 hearing, and visual challenges.
65

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist
67 Church:
68

69 1. Directs its elected and appointed leadership to disseminate this resolution for
70 study and use by all churches, ministries and other official United Methodist bodies
71 within the Conference;
72

73 2. Directs its official boards and agencies to study this resolution, to develop and
74 implement practical action plans for incorporating the commitments expressed in this
75 resolution into the work of ministry for which they have been given responsibility, and to
76 include within their annual reports to the Conference an assessment of the progress that
77 they have made toward the realization of those commitments;
78

79 3. Urges its Bishop and Appointive Cabinet to take the concerns and commitments
80 of this resolution into account in the process of making missional appointments to local
81 churches and ministries;
82

83 4. Directs the Dean of the Appointive Cabinet to report in writing and verbally to
84 each session of the Conference about the progress or lack of progress that has been made
85 at all levels of the Conference’s life and ministry toward the realization of the
86 commitments outlined in this statement.
87

88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the California Pacific Conference petitions the 2012
89 session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference to adopt a similar action plan as an updated and
90 authoritative commitment for the 2013-16 quadrennium.

91

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93 ¹ The full texts of the Western Jurisdiction's 2000 and 2004 *We Will Not Be Silent* statements are contained on pages 86-87 of
94 the *Journal of the Seventeenth Session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, 2004*, which
95 may be found at:

96 http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/fileadmin/Documents/SECTION_3_WJC_UMC_JOURNAL_2004_BODY_INDEX..pdf

Resolution for Discontinuance of
Fillmore 1st UMC

Whereas, in 1873, a ministry began in the Santa Clara Valley, initially in the area then known as Scenega, between the Sespe Ranch and San Francisco Ranch area, which was part of various two point charges including Scenega, Sespe, Santa Paula, Piru, and Bardsdale, and led to the founding of Fillmore 1st UMC;

Whereas the 1910 Journal noted the 1st appointment specific to Fillmore;

Whereas the 1913 Journal notes a dedication of a new building for Fillmore on January 19, and 115 people on the roll;

Whereas in 1961 a new building was built, and the Journal lists 204 people as members;

Whereas that membership level has dropped year by year since then;

Whereas, they have not been able to afford a full-time pastor since 1991, having a part-time appointed local pastor for 14 years, and then Pulpit Supply for the last 6 years;

Whereas in 2008, conversation began about the assumption that closing the church would probably be necessary in less than 5 years unless things turned around;

Whereas the key leaders, as elected at the 2012 Charge Conference numbered 9 people;

Whereas throughout 2011-2012, the Santa Barbara District Superintendent met 5 times with church leaders to discuss the problems caused by dwindling membership, and guided them in a process to assess its potential for future ministry;

Whereas the church is no longer able to serve the purpose for which it was organized and incorporated;

Whereas by the request of these church leaders, the Santa Barbara District Union began to finance some capital improvements on church property in March 2012 in anticipation of managing the property after the 2012 Annual Conference;

Whereas a meeting was held to finalize these arrangements with remaining church members on June 10, 2012, and attended by members of the Santa Barbara District Union, Planning and Strategy Committee and Church Building and Location Committee;

Whereas the District Superintendent, and the District Planning and Strategy Committee, recommends discontinuance of Fillmore 1st UMC pursuant to Par 2548 of the 2008 Book of Discipline;

Whereas the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop, and a majority of the District Superintendents;

Whereas the District Superintendent has obtained the opinion of legal counsel as to the existence of any reversion, possibilities of reverter, right of reacquisition or similar restrictions pursuant to paragraph 2548.1 of the 2008 Discipline;

Therefore be it resolved, that Fillmore 1st UMC be discontinued as of December 31, 2012, with the members transferred to local UM churches of their choice, and all financial, personal and real property assets transferred to the Santa Barbara District or its successor. The Santa Barbara District Union will manage all the assets including real properties until such time as the properties are sold, no sooner than 2013. Once the property is sold, distribution of assets will be, in accordance with Resolution 40, as follows:

First, any debts incurred on this property, either in the form of liens or conditional donations on said real properties will be paid in full. Any fees, taxes and commissions incurred in connection with the sale of said real property will be paid in full upon the sale of said real property; and the District Union will be repaid for all costs related to their property management for the church and parsonage buildings including all repairs, and capital improvements; and
Second, the District Union will make sure that an allocation of \$20,000 will have been appropriately spent as a memorial to Fay James, in the area of education;

Third, 10% of the net proceeds then remaining from the sale of such real property assets shall be conferred to the California-Pacific Annual Conference Board of Congregational Development for the development of new congregations and the revitalization of existing congregations; and

Fourth, 15% of the net proceeds then remaining from the sale of such real property assets shall be conferred to the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation for the "Board of Congregational Development Endowment Fund"; and
Fifth, 25% will go to the Annual Conference, to pay back Congregational Loan for monies borrowed from the conference; if such monies have already been paid back, that money can go to the Annual Conference for the Conference Trustees to use for annual conference capital expenditures; and

Sixth, 25% will go to a regional ministry within 30 miles of the property at Fillmore, for capital expenses or a new church start, or for a new site for ministry, as approved by the Santa Barbara District Planning and Strategy and District Union; and

Seventh, the final 25% will go to the Santa Barbara District Union, or its successor body, for purposes as needed in the district and voted on by the District Union.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Cathleen A. Coots, District Superintendent of the Santa Barbara District

Resolution for Discontinuance of
St Mark's UMC – Anaheim, California

Whereas, in 1960, a ministry began in the City of Anaheim for the purpose of propagating the gospel and engaging the nearby communities with worship and Christian Education opportunities,

Whereas, in the 52 year history of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, it has seen many individuals and families commit themselves to follow Christ and to acts of justice, mercy and compassion in the world;

Whereas, the congregation has welcomed 14 Pastors and 1 Associate Pastor, in its history, it all began with Reverend Robert Bjorklund as the first appointed pastor; Rev. Josephine Liava'a has the distinction of serving as the only Associate Pastor appointed to St Mark's;

Whereas in 2007, and subsequent years, the District Superintendent and the District Board of Congregational Development began serious conversations with the congregation about its ability to continue as a viable ministry;

Whereas, many attempts were made by District entities and leaders to assist St Mark's with realizing a different future for itself, the decline has continued throughout the years;

Whereas, the pastor and members have sought to live up to its mission as a United Methodist congregation, the internal strife and ongoing distractions within the ministry makes it necessary to envision a different reality of ministry in that area of Anaheim;

Whereas, there are programs to feed the hungry and provide clothing for those in need; the multicultural youth and young adult ministry of a primarily Tongan group and participants from nearby Cypress College, however, the understanding reached by the previous and current District Superintendent and the congregation was clear that all efforts to revitalize the congregation has been exhausted;

Whereas, a deliberate and prayerful Assessment has been conducted by a Task Force organized by the District Superintendent, in consultation with the District Board of Congregational Development, and has determined the ministry of St. Mark's is no longer a vital ministry in its current context and configuration;

Whereas a Church Conference was held to finalize the details of this Resolution on June 10, 2012, and approved by members of the District Board of Congregational Development and Church Building and Location Committee;

Whereas the District Superintendent, and the District Board of Congregational Development, recommends discontinuance of St Mark's UMC pursuant to Par 2548 of the 2008 Book of Discipline;

Whereas the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop, and a majority of the District Superintendents;

Whereas the District Superintendent will obtain the opinion of legal counsel as to the existence of any reversion, possibilities of reverter, right of reacquisition or similar restrictions pursuant to paragraph 2548.1 of the 2008 Discipline;

Therefore be it resolved, that St Mark's UMC be discontinued on or before December 31, 2012, with the members transferred to local UM churches of their choice, and all financial, personal and real property assets transferred to the Santa Ana District Union or its successor. The District Union will manage all the assets including real properties until such time as the properties are sold. Once the property is sold, distribution of assets will be, in accordance with Resolution 40, as follows:

First, any debts incurred on this property, either in the form of liens or conditional donations will be paid in full. Any fees, taxes and commissions incurred in connection with the sale of said real property will be paid in full upon the sale of said real property; and the District Union will be repaid for all costs related to their property management for all property owned/held by St. Mark's, including all repairs, and capital improvements; and

Second, 10% of the net proceeds then remaining from the sale of such real property assets shall be conferred to the California-Pacific Annual Conference Board of Congregational Development for the development of new congregations and the revitalization of existing congregations; and

Third, 15% of the net proceeds then remaining from the sale of such real property assets shall be conferred to the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation for the "Board of Congregational Development Endowment Fund"; and

Fourth, 25% will go to the Annual Conference, to pay back Congregational Loan for monies borrowed from the conference; if such monies have already been repaid, that money will go to the District Union to be held for ministry

development in an urban area of the District, as determined by the District Board of Congregational Development;
and

Fifth, 40% will go to launch new ministry within the area, with priority given to multi-cultural ministry with intentional outreach in the current area of St Mark's UMC, upon development of an approved plan by District Board of Congregational Development and potential ministry leaders for such ministry; if no plan has been developed and approved within 3 years of the sale of the property, the funds will be released of this restriction and may be disbursed as grants to other United Methodist congregations within the area, as determined by the Santa Ana District Union, or its successor body; and

Sixth, the final 10% will go to the Santa Ana District Union, or its successor body, for purposes as needed in the district and voted on by the District Union, with preference given to ministries that are intentionally multi-cultural from its inception; and be it further

Resolved, that any/all gifts and grants made from these funds would be accompanied by a letter stating the source of the funds, ensuring the people served in the future know the sacrifice made by the men and women who knew St Mark's United Methodist Church in Anaheim, California, as their spiritual home.

NOTATION: The June 10, 2012 Church Conference vote on discontinuance was approved by a vote of 37 "Yes" and 6 "No." On the substantive matter of the Resolution for Discontinuance, the congregation voted 40 "Yes" and 3 "No." On the matter of date of discontinuance, the congregation elected December 31, 2012, as their date of discontinuance.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth, District Superintendent of the Santa Ana District

RESOLUTION NO.12-10

SUBJECT: Celebrating 100 years of United Methodist Ministry with Filipinos in the United States

SUBMITTED BY: N. Adiel de Pano, Tom Choi, Vivencio L. Vinluan, Afrie Songco Joye, Alex Vergara, Leandro Marcos, Lisa Gay Santiago, Paddy Padilla, Miguel DeGuzman, Esteban Calma, Johann Osias, Leo Villalobos, Luther Jose, Romeo del Rosario, Tony E. Doles, Manuel Predas, Bob Isip, Neal Platon, David Jamir-Slesarev, Rebecca R. Doles, Nestor Gerente, Ding Lopus, Nelson Castorillo, Ronaldo Terrado, Johnny Teopaco, Emelito Hernandez, Max Dumlao, Bert Mendoza, Richard Bentley, Krista McVey

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT: None

SOURCES OF STAFF TIME: None

WHEREAS, Filipinos recognize with deep gratitude and great thanksgiving the lasting impact the United Methodist Church has had among our people, through the then Board of Missions in New York, and through the Hawaii Mission, with the intentional effort that has been made to care for the social, moral and spiritual well-being of Filipinos in the farms and plantations in Hawaii;

WHEREAS, those particular concerns were shown by the Church's action in providing pastoral ministry to the farm and plantation workers beginning in 1909.

WHEREAS, out of that humble beginnings of the ministry in Hawaii, Filipinos have drawn encouragement and inspiration in United Methodism, where Filipino American membership has now spread all across the United States and its territories.

WHEREAS, Filipino-Americans will celebrate this centennial anniversary in a national gathering of the National Association of Filipino-American United Methodists (NAFAUM) to be hosted by Filipino Americans in the California-Pacific Annual Conference and to be held in the Greater Los Angeles area in July 2013;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 2012 session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, affirm, support and embrace Filipino-Americans in their celebration of their centennial in America, particularly within the United Methodist Church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE 2013 Session of California-Pacific Annual Conference include a celebration of the 100 years of United Methodist Filipino-American movement.

1 **RESOLUTION NO:** 12-11
2 **SUBJECT:** Disposition of Crescent Heights UMC
3 **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**
4 **ESTIMATED STAFF TIME:**
5 **SUPPORTED BY:** Richard Bentley, Louis Chase, Kent Fromer, Nestor Gerente, Tom Griffith,
6 Ed Hansen, C. Michele Johns, Afrie Songco Joye, Mary Larson, Janet McKeithen, Diane
7 Rehfield, Amy Rosenbaum, Jeanne Roe Smith, Susan Stouffer, Mark Sturgess, Frank Wulf,
8 Thomas Ziegert
9

10 **WHEREAS** the 2011 session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference voted to “discontinue
11 Crescent Heights United Methodist Church as a local United Methodist Congregation,” and
12

13 **WHEREAS** the 2011 session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference also voted “[t]hat if
14 the property is sold, in accordance with action taken by the California-Pacific Annual
15 Conference 2007 session (Resolution 40), net proceeds would be distributed as follows: 50%
16 would be managed by UMM-LAD for the purpose of establishing or supporting ministries with
17 underserved populations within the West Hollywood/Hollywood area, 25% directed to the
18 District Board of Congregational Development with preference given to new and existing
19 ministries within the City of West Hollywood, 15% to the California-Pacific Conference Board
20 of Congregational Development, and 10% to the California-Pacific Conference Endowment for
21 new church starts,” and
22

23 **WHEREAS** the Resolution for Discontinuance recognized that “[o]ver the last forty years,
24 during perhaps some of its finest and most desperate hours of ‘being the church,’ CHUMC threw
25 open its doors amidst the human wreckage of cultural excess by providing a ‘room at the inn’ for
26 a wide variety of self-help, 12-step, and health and wellness programs and a ‘manger of mercy’
27 as West Hollywood became a ‘Mecca’ for an increasingly gay and lesbian population who came
28 by the thousands with aspirations of freedom and self realization serving as a center of local
29 community organizing in response to historic discrimination and the tragic emergence of the
30 AIDS pandemic,” and
31

32 **WHEREAS** Crescent Heights UMC has been a Reconciling Congregation for nearly three
33 decades and has, during that time, maintained a consistent, prophetic and fully inclusive United
34 Methodist outreach to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities of West
35 Hollywood, California, and its surrounding neighborhoods,
36

37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2012 session of the California-Pacific Annual
38 Conference strongly urges that the property of the Crescent Heights United Methodist Church
39 not be sold but that it be developed instead for creative and effective ministries that continue
40 Crescent Heights UMC’s historic and prophetic commitment to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and
41 transgender communities of West Hollywood and the surrounding neighborhoods.

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012

Whereas the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church hurt and condemned members of the LGBTQ community and their friends, and painted United Methodists as universally exclusive and judgmental,

Therefore Be It Resolved:

- * We renounce the statement that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, and declare that it is itself incompatible with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- * We affirm the sacred worth of all persons including members of the LGBTQ community;
- * We commit to continuing to build inclusive Christian communities in our churches where LGBTQ lay people and clergy are loved and welcomed as they are;
- * We invite churches and individuals to adopt this statement and join us in living out its principles.

SPONSORED BY:

Jay Sowell, Mark Stephenson, Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, David Stambaugh, Emily Redenbach, Daniel Alexander, Catie Coots, Ken Ellis, Phil Freeman, Connee Freeman, Mele Maka, David Jamir, Paige Eaves, Josie Grant, Andre Aldridge, Mary Crawford, Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Nestor Gerente, Krista McVey, Gary Lynn, Jeanne Roe Smith, Mike Walters