

# LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 8

### GLOBAL MINISTRIES

*Renewal and Reform Coalition (RRC)*  
*Priority petitions in bold italics*

#### **MISSIONARY STANDARDS**

***Pet 60032***      ***Page 851***      ***Missionary Standards***      ***Support***

This petition sets essentially the same standards for all future GBGM missionaries that are currently in place for clergy. Many missionaries are clergy and already bound by these standards. Lay missionaries ought to embody the same high standards of conduct. It is important that our missionaries be a living example of Christian conduct, embodying the message they proclaim.

#### **PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

***Pet 60222***      ***Page 891***      ***Aid to the Persecuted Christian Church Worldwide***      ***Support***

This new resolution would provide practical ways for the worldwide church to address the persecution of our brothers and sisters in Africa and the Middle East. It is important that we stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians, since we have a special relationship with them through the Body of Christ. This resolution provides ways for us to learn about their plight, as well as concrete ways for us to help.

Pet 60313      Page 863      The Church's Response to Ethnic and Religious Conflict      No Position

This petition revises and readopts Resolution 3124, which encourages peace-making in the midst of religious conflict and persecution. We are also concerned that some of the organizations that the GBGM is asked to partner with are on-sided anti-Israel organizations. We leave this petition up to the discretion of the committee.

#### **AFRICA DEVELOPMENT**

These three petitions all propose greater emphasis on providing development assistance to the continent of Africa. As the continent most in need of development and with perhaps the greatest potential, it is appropriate to focus attention on Africa's development. The petitions revise, update, and readopt three current resolutions.

Pet 60319      Page 879      Africa Growth and Development      Support

Pet 60476      Page 881      Democratic Republic of the Congo: Hope for a Radiant Future      Support

Pet 60414      Page 882      Liberia      Support

#### **HIV/AIDS**

Pet 60931      Page 866      United Methodist Global AIDS Fund      Support

In response to the progress that has been made in treating and preventing HIV/AIDS, this petition revises and renews the resolution supporting continued involvement in this battle. It is important for the church to stand with those who are fighting this disease and provide encouragement and support to victims and health care workers alike.

**ISIS**

Pet 60910      Page 893      Condemnation of Terrorist Acts of ISIS      Support  
 This petition condemns the terrorist actions of ISIS and encourages the church to engage in Spirit-led ministry to areas that are being freed from ISIS control.

**ISRAEL**

Pet 60198      Page 856      End Coalition Support      Support  
 Pet 60599      Page 857      Withdraw UMC from Coalition      Support

These two petitions seek to end United Methodist participation in the coalition "U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation." This coalition takes a one-sided approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, favoring the divestment from and isolation of Israel, without expressing any concern for anti-Israeli violence and terrorism. Blaming or seeking to punish only one side will not advance the cause of peace. A more balanced approach is needed. We encourage delegates to visit this group's own website - [www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/) - and see for themselves how this group advocates an agenda of singling out the world's lone Jewish state for sweeping Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). Even some very liberal American political leaders have strongly opposed the BDS movement.

Pet 60205      Page 890      A Pathway for Peace in Palestine and Israel      Support  
 This is an excellent resolution that portrays a much more balanced and nuanced approach to building the conditions for peace in the Middle East. It applies the principles of restorative justice and positive peace-making to this intractable conflict.

Pet 60868      Page 892      Task Force on Israel/Palestine      No Position  
 This petition calls upon the Board of Church and Society and Board of Global Ministries to create a task force to study the situation in Israel and Palestine, recommending actions that can be taken to respond to requests for aid from Palestinian Christians. We are concerned that the resolution does not mention the need to also respond to requests for aid from our Jewish friends and Christians in Israel. We hope that the task force would take a balanced approach in understanding the dynamics involved in the conflict, tailoring their recommendations accordingly.

**ASIAN-AMERICAN PLAN**

Pet 60330      Page 856      Asian American Language Ministry Plan      Support  
 This petition asks for approval and adoption of the Asian American Language Ministry Plan. This is an important outreach to a fast-growing segment of the population of the U.S.

**HISPANIC PLAN**

Pet 60332      Page 856      National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry      Support  
 This petition asks for approval and adoption of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. This plan is currently being carried out in at least 49 annual conferences in the U.S. Hispanics are the largest non-European ethnic group in the U.S.

**KOREAN PLAN**

Pet 60331      Page 856      Korean Ministry Plan      Support  
 This petition asks for approval and adoption of the Korean Ministry Plan. This plan has been an integral part of the revitalization efforts of the U.S. part of United Methodism. It upholds a disproportionately active segment of the church's membership with unique needs in reaching out to immigrant and subsequent generations.

**PACIFIC ISLANDER PLAN**

Pet 60333      Page 857      Pacific Islander Ministry Plan      Support

This petition asks for approval and adoption of the Pacific Islander Ministry Plan, aiming to resource, strengthen, and advocate for the growth and development of Pacific Island churches and ministries within the U.S.

**IMMIGRATION**

Pet 60317      Page 869      Global Migration and the Quest for Justice      No Position

This petition revises and readopts Resolution 6028 on global migration. It lays out the circumstances surrounding this crucial problem in today's world, along with the principles for providing ministry and advocacy around this vulnerable population. There may be some points of disagreement with the principles enunciated by this resolution, but it also names many of the issues that need to be confronted in learning to deal with the migration crisis besetting parts of the globe.

*Further information on these and other issues facing the 2016 General Conference may be found on the RRC website: [www.methodistcrossroads.org](http://www.methodistcrossroads.org)*