

A Resolution to Direct the Trustees of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference (TWK) On the Disbursement of the Proceeds From the Sale of Closed or Abandoned Church Property

Whereas, financial resources acquired from the sale of closed or abandoned church property should be used to both continue ministry and to develop new ministries consistent with the mission, vision, and values of the TWK; Whereas, Resurrection is not only a future hope, but a present reality expressed through situations where financial resources obtained at the sale of closed or abandoned church property can begin new ministry in the closed or abandoned church's community and/or in a new community;

Whereas, direction to the Trustees on the disbursement of funds acquired after the sale of closed or abandoned church property brings clarity and efficiency;

Whereas, ¶1504.23 of The Book of Discipline directs the payment of the pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations by the closed or abandoned church be made to the annual conference;

Whereas, ¶2549.7 of The Book of Discipline directs the disbursement of proceeds from a property sale located within an urban area of 50,000 or more;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, after the stipulation of ¶1504.23 has been met, the Trustees of the TWK shall disburse the remaining proceeds from the sale of closed or abandoned church property in the following manner:

- 1.) The Trustees shall receive reimbursement for any documented costs accrued in (a) maintaining and protecting the closed or abandoned property from the date the Trustees acquired the property until the property is transferred and (b) for marketing and transferring the property.
- 2.) The balance of any unfunded Connectional Commitment remaining for the year the church was closed or abandoned shall be paid to the Conference Treasurer.
- 3.) If items one and two have been met, and if ¶2549.7 is applicable, then 100 percent of the remaining proceeds shall be given to the TWK New Church Development (NCD) for new church starts, missional faith community development, or grants as stipulated by ¶2549.7 and approved by NCD.
- 4.) If items one and two have been met, and if ¶2549.7 is not applicable, then NCD shall receive 75 percent of the remaining balance to support new church starts, missional faith community development, or grants for emerging ministry as directed and approved by NCD; The Cabinet Reserve Fund shall receive 22 percent of the remaining balance to support ministry needs in the districts as approved by the Cabinet; and finally, The TWK Committee on Archives and History shall receive 3 percent of the remaining balance to support its ministry purposes in the conference.
- 5.) The Board of Trustees shall create from the existing closed church fund a Small Membership Church Improvement Fund of \$1 million dollars for the benefit of churches worshipping 50 or less as determined by Table 1, Line 7 of the church's most recent statistical report. The fund would be used to assist small churches with major building repair issues. An application and approval process for access to such funds by small churches is to be developed by the Administration and the Discover/Send Strategy Teams.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Rob Martin on behalf of the TWK New Church Development Committee.