

Resolution to Support the Rebuilding of Altadena UMC

“No pillar of the African American community has been more central to its history, identity, and social justice vision than the black church.” – Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

WHEREAS, in January 2025, a devastating series of fires exacerbated by severe dry conditions and fierce Santa Ana winds, including the catastrophic Eaton fire north of Pasadena, engulfed and destroyed the Altadena United Methodist Church on January 8th;

WHEREAS, Altadena United Methodist Church, historically integral to the spiritual and social vitality of its community, urgently needs tangible acts of solidarity, financial support, and commitment to rebuild and continue its critical mission;

WHEREAS, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc. (BMCR) recognizes the profound significance and enduring legacy of the Black Church in addressing societal injustices, fostering community resilience, and nurturing spiritual growth within the African American community;

WHEREAS, ongoing societal issues—including persistent discrimination, systemic inequities, declining attendance in Black congregations, and contemporary crises such as violence, homelessness, and unemployment—highlight an immediate and profound need for innovative strategies and proactive measures to revitalize Black Methodist congregations;

WHEREAS, the 2004 General Conference affirmed the necessity for reparative actions, acknowledging The United Methodist Church’s historical complicity in the transatlantic slave trade and its devastating impacts on generations of African Americans, reinforcing the imperative to support initiatives that rectify historical injustices and contribute to healing and community restoration;

WHEREAS, the biblical numerology of the number 8 symbolizes new beginnings, resurrection, regeneration, and the establishment of a new order beyond completeness, signifying spiritual renewal and transformative potential;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2024 Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference joins Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc. (BMCR) in encouraging local churches, Annual Conferences, United Methodist Foundations, and other entities within The United Methodist Church to actively participate in and financially support the rebuilding and revitalization efforts of Altadena United Methodist Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this initiative exemplifies an act of self-determination, community solidarity, and prophetic witness, and all congregations and entities across The United Methodist Church are earnestly encouraged to support this critical effort as a tangible expression of justice, hope, and renewal;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the 2024 Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference supports the BMCR request that the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) would develop a denominational Advance Special be encouraged for this initiative, ensuring additional funding mechanisms and sustained financial support for similar disasters impacting the Black Church community, underscoring the collective responsibility of The United Methodist Church to restore and fortify vital community pillars for present and future generations.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenese Scales, Centenary UMC/Metro District
SEJ Chair- Mrs. Pamela Shoffner and Board
TWKBMCR Chair. Mrs. Glenese Scales and Executive Committee