

**Worldwide Regionalization: Expressing Gratitude and Commitment to Next Steps**

*Submitted in time for conference deadline in anticipation of passage of legislation for Worldwide Regionalization at General Conference*

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Whereas, we value a global United Methodist connection and wish for each region of the worldwide Church a structure that supports relevant and vibrant ministry, and

Whereas, we value the opportunity to restructure The UMC in ways that decolonize both polity and relationships, and

Whereas, we value the opportunity to restructure The UMC rooted in equity and respectful of missional context, and

Whereas, we value the example shared by the Apostle Paul, who established churches in diverse regions with shared beliefs alongside local and regional differences in structure, worship, and style best suited to particular contexts; and

Whereas, we are grateful to the many leaders around the globe who collaborated to provide a path to worldwide regionalization, and

Whereas, a shift to worldwide regionalization requires amending our UM Book of Discipline by both the General Conference and members of every annual conference in the denomination with a high level of support, and

Whereas, we are grateful to the delegates to General Conference held in 2024 for their tireless leadership and for taking the first required step in the overall decision-making process,

Therefore, be it resolved that the West Virginia Annual Conference receives with joy the adoption of Worldwide Regionalization by the General Conference, and accepts the responsibility of taking the important next steps necessary to *complete* the decision-making process.

Be it further resolved that the West Virginia Annual Conference commits to providing and participating in a variety of educational opportunities throughout the conference over the next year, ensuring that we are fully informed and prepared to engage in the final step of a ratification vote at Annual Conference in 2025.