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2 Suggested Title: Recognition of the DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist  
3 Church

4 General Church Budget Implications: None

5 Global Implications: Applies Globally

6

7 Whereas, Christ restored numerous persons with disabilities to their God-given place in the  
8 community, and the Apostle Paul described the Church as the Body of Christ and stated that  
9 "...the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary" (1 Corinthians  
10 12:22, CEB) and also that "...nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our  
11 Lord..." (Romans 8:38a, CEB); and

12 Whereas, The United Methodist Church has stated in The Social Principles that "We recognize  
13 and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all persons with mental, physical,  
14 developmental, neurological, and psychological conditions or disabilities as full members of the  
15 family of God. We affirm their rightful place in both the church and society" (§ 162.I) and  
16 further, that "We urge the Church and society to recognize and receive the gifts of persons with  
17 disabilities to enable them to be full participants in the community of faith"(§ 162.I); and

18 Whereas, each of the groups that the church claims an interest in and sets priorities for, and, in  
19 fact, every group into which people can be classified, includes persons with disabilities; and

20 Whereas, there are more than one billion people living with disabilities in the world, according to  
21 United Nations data, and the United Nations has focused on the issue of disability by calling for  
22 institutions to become more accessible; and

23 Whereas, each of the annual conferences have a mandate to have either a committee on disability  
24 concerns or other structure to fulfill eight functions, including participation "in jurisdictional  
25 accessibility associations in the sharing of knowledge and resources" (§653.2.h), and that there is  
26 no other denomination-wide source of knowledge and resources;

27 Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church acknowledges that the DisAbility  
28 Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church is a recognized source of knowledge and  
29 resources with jurisdictional representation, and charges this committee with the following tasks,  
30 to be performed under the auspices of the General Commission on Religion and Race and in  
31 collaboration with other General Boards and Agencies:

32 1. Through advocacy, to work toward the full participation of people with all types of  
33 disabilities, including mental illness, in United Methodist Churches in whatever capacity they are  
34 called to serve.

35 2. Through education, to work to break down barriers, including awareness, architectural,  
36 attitude, and communications barriers and more, that keep people with disabilities from finding a  
37 place to belong in United Methodist churches.

38 3. Through empowerment, following the lead of people with disabilities, to teach others  
39 what barriers need to be removed from our churches and other United Methodist entities, to  
40 determine goals and develop resources, to educate and train church leaders, and to do every part  
41 of the committee's work.

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43 Date August 1, 2019