

1                   **PETITION TO THE WESTERN JURSDICTIONAL CONFERENCE 2012**

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3                   *Submitted by Laura Jaquith Bartlett, OR-ID Conference Secretary*

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5                   **Title: The Sense of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church,**  
6                   **Paragraph 304.3**

7                   Sponsors:     Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists  
8                                   Oregon-Idaho MFSA  
9                                   Jeanne Knepper (OR-ID clergy member)

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11                   The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference wishes to submit to the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference  
12                   the following resolution:

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14                   The Sense of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, Paragraph 304.3

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16                   Whereas the Constitution of The United Methodist Church reserves to the clergy members of  
17                   each Annual Conference the exclusive right to vote "on all matters relating to the character and  
18                   conference relations of its clergy members," [The Constitution, ¶33, 2008 Book of Discipline, p.  
19                   31];

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21                   And whereas The United Methodist Church reserves to the clergy members of each Jurisdiction  
22                   the exclusive right to sit on a trial court if a bishop from that jurisdiction is charged and tried for  
23                   a violation of a disciplinary provision [¶2712, 2008 Book of Discipline, p. 773];

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25                   And whereas The Book of Discipline establishes among the laws of the Church that "... self-  
26                   avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or  
27                   appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church" [2008 Book of Discipline, ¶ 304.3, p. 206];

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29                   And whereas the Western Jurisdiction has adopted resolutions and statements that are  
30                   specifically welcoming of people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;

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32                   Be it hereby resolved that the sense of the Western Jurisdiction is that if any bishop of the  
33                   Western Jurisdiction be charged with ordaining or appointing a self-avowed practicing  
34                   homosexual, and after due Disciplinary process is tried and convicted of such an offense, that  
35                   an appropriate penalty to assign would be the suspension of said convicted bishop from the  
36                   exercise of episcopal office [2008 Book of Discipline, ¶2712.6, p. 774] for a period of 24  
37                   consecutive hours.