

1 **9-Resolution Pertaining to Attendance at Meetings for General and**
2 **Jurisdictional Conference Delegates**

3 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c, this resolution was reviewed by*
4 *the Conference Secretary and was found consistent with the current Book of Discipline. (See the*
5 *note at the conclusion of this resolution.)*

6 **Submitted by:** Rev. Melissa Rudolph

7 **Conference Affiliation:** 2016/2019 BWC General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation

8 This resolution amends the rules of the session regarding expectations of delegates as adopted by
9 the 2014 Annual Conference.

10 **Whereas:** clergy and laity are elected to represent the Baltimore-Washington Conference the
11 year prior to the quadrennial gatherings of United Methodists for the General and Jurisdictional
12 Conferences and any special sessions of those bodies, according to the process adopted by the
13 2014 Annual Conference under the provisions of the Discipline; and

14 **Whereas:** said election is decided upon by the clergy and lay members of the Annual
15 Conference in order to have a diverse body, representative of the Baltimore Washington
16 Conference; and

17 **Whereas:** members of the delegation meet monthly in preparation for their work on behalf of the
18 annual conference, gathering to build relationships, engage in Holy Conferencing, learn about
19 proposed legislation, and worship and pray together at meetings that are scheduled in advance
20 for the entire year. And, that members of the delegation are in covenant with one another to fully
21 participate in these gatherings; therefore

22 **Be it resolved:** that members of the delegation are expected to be present at all meetings prior to
23 General and Jurisdictional Conference. Excused absences are limited to those conflicts with the
24 calendar that are shared in writing with the Chairs and secretary of the delegation by September
25 when the meetings commence, illness for the delegate or members of their immediate family for
26 whom they are providing care, bereavement for the loss of a family member, and inclement
27 weather. Absences not communicated in a timely fashion or for reasons outside of these will be
28 considered unexcused. Additionally, delegates must attend at least half of the meeting to be
29 counted present. A delegate is allowed two unexcused absences, after which they shall be
30 removed from the delegation. Beginning with the 2020 delegation, the attendance record of the
31 previous delegation will be published prior to elections.

32 *Note: Questions have been raised by the Conference Rules Committee about the constitutionality*
33 *of this resolution and about attendance policies for delegates in general. See Judicial Council*
34 *Decision No. 592 (<http://www.umc.org/decisions/41486>).*

35 *The Connectional Table voted non-concurrence on this resolution.*