

1 **4-Resolution for Rotating Venue & Accommodation Stipends for Annual**
2 **Conference**

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.*

5 **Submitted by:** Rev. Dr. Rudy Bropleh, Lead Pastor, Asbury Church in Shepherdstown, W.Va.

6 **Cosponsors:** Pastor Bill Rowley, Chestnut Hill and Shenandoah Memorial Charge; Rev. Jerry
7 Lowans, Washington Square UMC in Hagerstown; Matthew Sichel, Lay Member to Annual
8 Conference, Wesley UMC in Hampstead; Rev. Frankie Revell, LaVale UMC

9 **Whereas:** It is in our best interest to have all representatives of our local churches in attendance
10 at Annual Conference; to advise, consent, and share in the celebrations of past achievements and
11 to plan for future ministry for Jesus Christ; and,

12 **Whereas:** appropriate venues, which can facilitate our gatherings, particularly in Baltimore, are
13 located at extreme distances from our western and southern local churches; and,

14 **Whereas:** these distances can be a burden on those traveling long distances, when our plenary
15 meetings drag into late hours to address necessary agenda items, by requiring these travelers to
16 either put in excessively long hours of commuting or spend more than their budgets allow for
17 accommodations; and,

18 **Whereas,** such burdens often discourage those representatives from experiencing the fullness of
19 Annual Conference, or to forego important deliberations in plenary.

20 **Be it resolved that:** The Conference Sessions Committee will research various options for
21 alleviating this burden on remotely located clergy and laity representatives, including, but not
22 limited to the following:

- 23 1. The availability, and financial ramifications of another venue for the Annual Conference
24 meetings that is more centrally located, geographically, which would be utilized on a
25 rotating yearly basis with the Baltimore location; and
26 2. The cost and administrative requirements to provide free accommodations to the clergy
27 and lay delegates who represent local churches that fall outside of a 1.5-hour travel band
28 and those churches that can demonstrate need.

29 *The Connectional Table voted concurrence on this resolution.*