

DUE April 10. 2013

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2013 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: Acts of Repentance:
“A Journey Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples”**

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 1. In accordance with the resolution passed by the 2012 General Conference contained in petition
2 20510 (the Trail of Repentance and Healing) and a Statement from the Council of Bishops (A
3 Journey Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples), the Rocky Mountain
4 Conference begin a process of healing relationships with indigenous persons and launch study,
5 dialogue, and acts of repentance throughout the quadrennium and beyond.

6
7 2. The Rocky Mountain Conference and every local congregation of the Rocky Mountain
8 Conference is encouraged to implement specific actions to demonstrate a genuine attitude of
9 repentance such as 1) encourage and resource the education and training of indigenous
10 leadership including laity and pastors, by providing culturally sensitive learning environments, 2)
11 wherever the church is holding land and/or property in trust, consider transferring a portion of
12 that land and/or property or its income to indigenous persons' projects, and 3) in conjunction
13 with ¶2547.2, whenever a conference entity is closing a charge or holds excess land, consider
14 transferring any land and property to an indigenous community.

15
16 3. The 2014 Annual Conference Session for the Rocky Mountain Conference in 2014 hold an
17 Act of Repentance Service for the Healing of Relationships with Indigenous Persons in
18 observance of the 150th anniversary of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. Special offerings at the
19 2014 sessions of the Annual Conference shall be taken to help support runners for the November
20 2014 Sand Creek Healing Run.

21
22 4. In accordance with the action of the General Conference in the passing of General Conference
23 Petition 20767 (1864 Sand Creek Massacre), the Rocky Mountain Conference support efforts
24 pertaining to preservation, repatriations, healing, awareness, research, education and reparations
25 with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and
26 the Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming and their official Tribal Representatives for the
27 November 29, 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. Whenever an opportunity to repatriate remains or
28 artifacts relating to the Sand Creek Massacre occurs, the Annual Conferences of the Mountain
29 Sky Area pledge to do so.

30
31 5. The Rocky Mountain Conference Task Force on Acts of Repentance have oversight
32 responsibilities for implementation of this petition.

33
34 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1,
35 2013.

36

1 **TERMINATION DATE:** (Note: No more than four years)

2
3 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION** (individual, church or organization)

4 **Name: Rocky Mountain Conference Task Force on Acts of Repentance**

5
6 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

7 (Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative
8 committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be
9 complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

10
11 **Name: Chuck Schuster, Youngsook Charlene Kang, Dick Vickery, Pat Bruns**

12 **Address: 6110 So. Greenwood Plaza Blvd**

13 **Phone Number: (303) 733-3736**

14 **Fax Number: (303) 733-1730**

15 **E-Mail: cschuste44@hotmail.com, youngsook@rmcumc.com**

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17
18
19 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

20 Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? None

21 If YES , fill in appropriate information below.

22 (To be completed by Originator of Petition)

23 Cost \$10,000 Period Per year _____ (Not to exceed one year.)

24 Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency Acts of Repentance Task Force _____

25 (To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

26 Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) _____

27 Included in the Proposed 2014 Budget Yes Yes/No. In the amount of

28 _____

29 Recommendation by Council concerning funding

30 _____

31 Reason(s) _____

32 _____

33 _____

34 _____

35
36 **RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)**

37 (See three attached documents)

38 The Council of Bishops and the 2012 General Conference have expressed sorrow and
39 guilt over the church’s relationship with indigenous peoples and specifically those tribes affected
40 by the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864. These bodies are now calling on annual conferences and
41 individual churches to engage in “specific, actionable, and accountable” work to help heal
42 broken relationships.
43
44

1 By approving this petition, the Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church that
2 make up the Mountain Sky Area will demonstrate their desire to join the Council of Bishops in
3 “acknowledging our guilt, resolving to cease the harm, pledging ourselves to live differently,
4 reversing the damage that has been done through our participation in violence, maltreatment and
5 neglect of Native and indigenous peoples so that we may bring about healing and restoration to
6 all.”
7

8 The actions of prominent Methodist leaders in the Sand Creek Massacre, and Sand
9 Creek’s location within the bounds of the Mountain Sky Area make our Annual Conference
10 actions particularly necessary and relevant.