



April 16, 2020

WHEREAS, the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences of The United Methodist Church are scheduled to meet together June 11-13, 2020 at the Washington State Fair Grounds in Puyallup, Washington, and

WHEREAS, attendance at the Annual Conference session requires clergy and lay members to travel from four states, including Alaska, and stay in hotels for several days, and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the governors of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington States have issued stay at home orders, and implemented other restrictions on travel, commerce and public events, and

WHEREAS, Washington State Governor, Jay Inslee, has issued a stay at home order, effective through May 5, 2020, prohibiting all gatherings of people for social, spiritual and recreational purposes within the State, and

WHEREAS, public officials indicate that it is likely that in the interest of public health, restrictions on travel, commerce and public events are likely to be extended beyond May 5, and

WHEREAS, waiting several weeks to cancel the Annual Conference could result in significant costs to the individual members and to the Annual Conferences,

I, Elaine Stanovsky, bishop of the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church, with the support of a majority of the district superintendents of each of the Annual Conference, HEREBY cancel the shared Annual Conferences of the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences, scheduled to be held at the Washington State Fair Grounds in Puyallup, Washington, June 11-13, 2020, with the intention of scheduling separate sessions of the three conferences in September, 2020 to conduct the essential work of the Annual Conference session.

Sincerely,



Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky