

SENATE BILL 347

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SB 910/13 – SRU

4lr2176

By: **Senator Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Religious Corporations – Laws Governing Assets of United Methodist Church**
3 **– Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing certain requirements for the holding of certain assets
5 owned by a certain Methodist Church; repealing certain provisions of law
6 providing for the effect of the absence of a trust clause in a certain deed or other
7 conveyance executed before a certain date; and generally relating to the assets
8 of the United Methodist Church.

9 BY repealing

10 Article – Corporations and Associations

11 Section 5–326 and 5–327

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Corporations and Associations**

17 **[5–326.**

18 All assets owned by any Methodist Church, including any former Methodist
19 Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
20 the Washington Methodist Conference, or Evangelical United Brethren Church,
21 whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned:

22 (1) Shall be held by the trustees of the church in trust for the United
23 Methodist Church; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Are subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments
2 of the United Methodist Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the
3 general conference of that church.]

4 [5-327.

5 The absence of a trust clause in any deed or other conveyance executed before
6 June 1, 1953, does not relieve or exclude a local church in any way from its Methodist
7 connectional responsibilities or from the provisions of this part and does not absolve a
8 local congregation or board of trustees of its responsibility to the United Methodist
9 Church, if such an intent of the founders or the later congregations and boards of
10 trustees is indicated by:

11 (1) The conveyance of the assets to the trustees of the local church or
12 any of its predecessors;

13 (2) The use of the name, customs, and polity of the United Methodist
14 Church in such a way as to be known to the community as part of this denomination;
15 or

16 (3) The acceptance of the pastorate of ministers appointed by a bishop
17 of the United Methodist Church or employed by the superintendent of the district in
18 which the local church is located.]

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 June 1, 2014.