

HOUSE BILL 840

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HB 1021/13 – ECM

4lr2651
CF SB 347

By: **Delegate Braveboy**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Religious Corporations – Laws Governing Assets of United Methodist Church – Repeal

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

BY repealing

Article – Corporations and Associations

Section 5–326 and 5–327

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2007 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Corporations and Associations

[5–326.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

[5-327.

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

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

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

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

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