

# HOUSE BILL 840

C1  
HB 1021/13 – ECM

4r2651  
CF SB 347

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By: **Delegate Braveboy**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## 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

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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.