

Testimony For SB0172

Honorable Delegates

Please enter a favorable report for SB0172.

I support

- repealing a requirement that the assets of any Methodist Church be held in trust for the United Methodist Church (UMC) and be subject to the control of the United Methodist Church;
- repealing a certain provision of law providing that the absence of a trust clause in any deed or conveyance executed before a certain date does not exclude certain local churches from certain provisions of law or responsibilities related to the United Methodist Church;
- providing that a local church that disaffiliates from the United Methodist Conference shall retain ownership of its real property, subject to a certain reimbursement requirement;

I believe it is an injustice that UMC conference requires member churches that no longer wish to affiliate with UMC because of doctrinal differences, must pay the conference the market value of the buildings and the land if the congregation wants to continue to use them. If the congregation cannot afford to pay the conference even though the conference did not pay anything towards the construction and maintenance of the buildings, the only other alternatives is to leave and start over, or remain a UMC member.

This bill would remedy this situation, so please enter a favorable report for SB0172.

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