

1 **RESOLUTION # 4**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Presented by Rev. Beth Heller**

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5 **Resolution to Establish a Conference-Level Creation Care/Creation Justice**
6 **Committee**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Christians are called by God to be stewards of His creation and its natural
9 resources (Gen. 2:15); and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 *Book of Discipline* sets forth several Social Principles beginning
12 with The Natural World, which, in particular, states: “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are
13 responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy
14 resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they
15 are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has
16 granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through
17 acts of loving care and respect”¹; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 *Book of Resolutions* calls for environmental actions by several
20 Councils, Boards, and Organizations without a central organizing agency to disseminate
21 the information²; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 *Book of Resolutions* calls on local faith communities to “develop
24 programs to incorporate the concern of ecological justice into their work in evangelism,
25 social concerns, mission activities, stewardship, trustees, and worship”³; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Council of Bishops in their Pastoral Letter, “God’s
28 Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action” (2009) states that God’s creation is in crisis,
29 that they “cannot remain silent while God’s people and God’s planet suffer”, and pledges
30 nine ways they are willing to help, including to measure our “carbon footprint”, determine
31 how to reduce it and implement those changes, and to reduce dramatically our collective
32 exploitation of the planet, peoples, and communities; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, the bioregion of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference is replete with
35 ecological treasures while being subject to such environmental concerns as sea level rise,
36 climate change, agricultural impact, development, habitat loss, and erosion; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, our founder, John Wesley, instructed us to “do all the good [we] can as long
39 as [we] ever can”; therefore

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41 **We therefore ask that our community of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual**
42 **Conference** establish a Conference-Level Creation Care/Creation Justice Committee be
43 with the primary purpose of guiding and encouraging congregations and individuals within

¹ *Book of Discipline*, 2016, ¶160.

² *Book of Resolutions*, 2016, 71-73.

³ *Book of Resolutions*, 2016, 73.

the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference in the areas of sustainability, environmental justice, clean water, renewable energy, environmental advocacy, and the like; and

AND that said Committee will serve as the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference hub for denominational, interfaith, and ecumenical environmental concerns as well as the recipient and distributor of all communications concerning creation care and creation justice; and

AND that said committee will be subject to guidelines put forth by the Conference Committee on Lay and Clergy Leadership.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Beth Heller

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Commissioned UMC Earthkeeper

Person Responsible for Presenting the Resolution: Rev. Beth Heller