

DEVELOPING CHURCH STATUS CRITERIA

Whereas, It is the desire of The Wesleyan Church to have churches who are reaching people for Christ and making disciples;

Whereas, As a church matures often the primary mission of reaching people for Christ may fade or become less important than serving those already in the church;

Whereas, The church's ability to adjust to changing culture with relevant methods may be more difficult;

Whereas, Declining attendance may be a sign that a church has lost its main focus and changes need to take place in order for the church to get back on mission;

Whereas, The church may be unable to make changes and move forward without outside perspective, leadership, and expertise; and

Whereas, Reclassifying the church to developing status will enable the district to provide stronger investment and involvement as a catalyst in partnering with the church to bring about needed change;

Resolved, That a new subparagraph be added to *Discipline* 518:7 as follows: **2. Established Church 518:7(d)** If it has consistently declined in attendance over the past seven years;

Resolved, That the current 518:7(d) be renumbered to become 518:7(e) on developing status so that 518:7 reads as follows:

(7) An established church may be reclassified by the district conference or the district board of administration as a developing church if such is recommended by the district superintendent and:

(a) If its membership drops to twenty or fewer (cf. 1180:24; 1233:30; 5320); or

(b) If no new converts and/or believers' baptisms have been reported by the church within the previous two years; or

(c) If no intentional investment of financial and human resources into the needs of those outside the church has been demonstrated within the two previous years; or

(d) If it has consistently declined in attendance over the past seven years; or

(e) If it ceases to meet one or more of the other conditions set forth in 518:2-5 (cf.4670).

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT
David Lutz, District Secretary

Committee on Memorials

☒ Recommended ☐ Not Recommended

General Conference

☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted