RES 20-03 | RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE: ROSEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUBJECT: Rosewood United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, CA
SUBMITTED BY: Appointive Cabinet

WHEREAS, the Rosewood United Methodist Church (“RUMC”) is the successor congregation to the Melrose Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1906 and,

WHEREAS, the RUMC has been a historic religious presence in the Filipino American community locally and nationally, and

WHEREAS, the RUMC congregation voted to approve the creation of a 501(c)3 corporation to build an affordable Senior Housing Complex adjacent to the church at a Special Charge Conference held on June 13, 2005, and

WHEREAS, the Rosewood Revitalization Group (“RRG”) was subsequently created to manage the aforementioned Senior Housing Complex, known as Rosewood Garden Apartments L.P. (“RGA”) and,

WHEREAS, West District Superintendent Mark M. Nakagawa convened a congregational meeting of RUMC members and leaders on November 19, 2017, to hear complaints regarding the development and management of RGA by RRG, recommending that a plan of action be brought to the annual charge conference to be convened in January, 2018 and,

WHEREAS, RUMC filed a civil action in Los Angeles Superior Court on January 3, 2018, against 15 separate Defendants, four of whom were members, or former members, of RUMC, such civil action was filed at the behest of a Task Force which was established by the RUMC Church Council to research the development and construction of RGA and,

WHEREAS, RUMC disregarded an order by Bishop Grant J. Hagiya to rescind such civil action and enter into discussion and mediation regarding the issues pertaining to the relationship between RUMC, RRG and RGA, in a letter dated March 12, 2018 and,

WHEREAS, RUMC voted to withdraw its membership in the “United Methodist California Pacific Conference” in a congregational meeting held on Sunday, August 26, 2018, such meeting held without the knowledge and charge conference authorization of West District Superintendent Mark M. Nakagawa and,

WHEREAS, RUMC subsequently sold the church parsonage without following proper procedures under The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2016, such property sale evidenced by a Grant Deed dated September 20, 2018 and,

WHEREAS, RUMC received correspondence dated November 9, 2018 from legal counsel representing the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, demanding the turnover of possession of all real and personal property of Rosewood United Methodist Church, pursuant to Paragraph 2549 of The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2016 and,
WHEREAS, at least 50% of the RUMC membership has left and established membership in other United Methodist congregations and,

WHEREAS, the Bishop and Cabinet unanimously voted at its meeting on January 29, 2020 to discontinue the charter of RUMC pursuant to Paragraph 2549 of The United Methodist Book of Discipline,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rosewood United Methodist Church be confirmed by the California-Pacific Conference at its Annual Conference session as having been officially discontinued on June 20, 2020 with all financial, personal and real assets transferred to the California-Pacific Annual Conference and the West District Union of the United Methodist Church for future ministry development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any property is found to exist and be sold, after any and all outstanding financial liabilities and/or obligations are resolved, and including any and all anticipated proceeds from the sale of property(ies) and any and all gifts, legacies, endowments, annuities and other benefits previously assigned to the local charge; these will be distributed according to the Book of Discipline and the rules of the California-Pacific Annual Conference.