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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | **Letter One Template Text**  I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1182/Senate Bill 586, which proposes to repeal the requirement that the assets of any Methodist church be held in trust for The United Methodist Church, as well as to remove certain provisions related to the trust clause in deeds or conveyances executed before June 1, 1953.  As a member of The United Methodist Church, I believe this bill undermines the core values of unity, accountability, and connectionalism that are central to our faith tradition. The trust clause has long been a foundational element in ensuring that local churches remain in relationship with the larger United Methodist Church. By ensuring that church assets are held in trust for the denomination, it reinforces the collective mission and ministry we share across the global church.  Repealing the trust clause and removing provisions that support our unity and the Church’s accountability would create a dangerous precedent that could erode the strength of our denomination. This action may lead to fragmentation, as local churches could potentially sever their ties to the larger connectional body, thereby jeopardizing the long-standing mission and unity we have worked hard to maintain. In particular, the repeal would disproportionately affect smaller congregations and churches with fewer resources that rely on the collective strength of the denomination for support and guidance.  I am deeply concerned that this bill would open the door to disunity within our church and place financial resources and assets in the hands of those who may prioritize personal or localized interests over the greater mission of The United Methodist Church. The trust clause has helped protect the integrity of the denomination for decades, and its removal could cause harm to the wider ministry and charitable works The United Methodist Church has carried out globally.  For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against HB1182/SB0586 and to stand in support of maintaining the trust clause and the provisions that keep our church united in purpose and ministry.  Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will consider the long-term implications of this bill and vote to preserve the unity and accountability of The United Methodist Church. | |