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| |  | | --- | | **Letter Three Template Text**    I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1182, which seeks to repeal the trust clause that ensures the assets of local Methodist churches are held in trust for The United Methodist Church. As a member of [Local Church Name], I have seen firsthand the profound positive impact that the trust clause has had on our congregation and the broader ministry we serve. [Share some of those examples here.]  For our local church, the trust clause is not just a legal formality; it is an essential part of our identity and mission. It has allowed us to focus on what matters most — serving our community and advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ — without having to worry about the division of our property or assets, should challenges arise. The trust clause assures that our church’s resources are committed to the shared work of The United Methodist Church, creating a sense of security and unity within our congregation.  Beyond the practical benefits of security, the trust clause has allowed us to participate in the broader mission of The United Methodist Church, knowing that our resources are contributing to a greater good. Whether it is providing aid during times of natural disaster, supporting global ministries, or working toward social justice causes, our local church has always been able to rely on the larger structure of the Church. The trust clause has helped us to be more than just a local congregation; it has allowed us to be part of a global movement, working together with our Methodist brothers and sisters around the world.  If House Bill 1182 passes, local churches like ours could be at risk of losing this sense of security and connection. The trust clause ensures that we are not isolated, but rather, part of something much larger than ourselves. Without it, the unity of the Church and our ability to act as one body with shared resources and goals would be significantly weakened.  As someone who has witnessed the tangible benefits of the trust clause in our local ministry, I urge you to consider the real and immediate impact that the repeal of this provision could have on churches like ours. For us, it is not just about policy; it is about maintaining a stable foundation from which we can continue to serve our neighbors, support those in need, and carry out the work God has called us to do.  I respectfully ask that you oppose HB 1182 and stand in support of local churches like ours that benefit from the trust and unity the current provision provides.  Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your service to our community. I appreciate your consideration and your leadership. | |