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| |  | | --- | | **Letter Two Template Text**  Peace to you and I hope that you’re well. I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1182, which proposes the repeal of the trust clause for local Methodist churches in relation to The United Methodist Church. Specifically, the bill would repeal the requirement that the assets of any Methodist church be held in trust for The United Methodist Church and subject to the control of the church. I believe that this repeal would have negative consequences for both our local churches and the broader global connection that we cherish.  [Add here how the UMC connection has personally benefited the congregation and/or community in which you serve (i.e. grants, building services, general contracting support, equitable compensation, benefits, insurance, etc. and why this trust clause is personally important to you).]  The trust clause has long been a vital safeguard for local Methodist congregations, ensuring that their assets and property remain aligned with the mission and teachings of The United Methodist Church, no matter the challenges or changes that arise over time. This provision has helped to maintain the unity and strength of our denomination, ensuring that our local churches remain a part of something larger than themselves, connected to the broader movement of faith that spans the globe. By maintaining the trust clause, we affirm that no single congregation is isolated or removed from the larger body of believers and that every Methodist church remains committed to the principles and vision of The United Methodist Church as a whole.  Furthermore, the trust clause strengthens our global connection, ensuring that our shared mission and outreach continue to thrive despite geographic, cultural, and doctrinal differences. It enables The United Methodist Church to maintain cohesion and shared resources, allowing us to support international ministries, provide disaster relief, and work toward justice and peace. The unity brought about by the trust clause helps ensure that our churches are not fragmented and that our mission is global, cohesive, and focused on spreading the message of Christ’s love and compassion.  If House Bill 1182 were to pass, it could weaken this vital connection and diminish the ability of our denomination to function as a unified church. Local congregations would have the ability to act independently, without the oversight and accountability that the trust clause offers. This could lead to fragmentation, confusion, and a loss of shared resources, which would ultimately harm the mission of the church and undermine the global work we have undertaken for over a century.  I urge you to carefully consider the long-term impact this bill would have on our denomination’s unity, its mission, and the way our local churches are able to contribute to our collective ministry. The trust clause is a foundational aspect of our shared identity and mission, and repealing it would have far-reaching consequences that could diminish our ability to work together for the greater good.  Thank you for your time and for your service to our community. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns and respectfully request that you oppose HB 1182. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |