Resolution to Study the Establishment of a "Legacy Fund" for the purposes of funding church growth and vitality initiatives.

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SUMMARY

This resolution calls the Board of Directors of the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC to establish a task force to create a plan for the establishment and use of a "Legacy Fund".

BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL GROUNDING

With this resolution, we in the MMS Conference of the UCC (MMSCUCC) call ourselves to the work of "building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12): in spirit, in numbers, and in vitality of ministry. We believe that the same creative Spirit (Genesis 1) who formed this amazing world and brought together the churches and people who formed the MMSCUCC is still among us generating new and creative ways to be the church for the future. As the prophet Isaiah proclaims, Our God is continually doing "new things" (Isaiah 43:19) among us. Jesus warned that we must "put fresh wine in new wineskins" (Mark 2:22), therefore NOW is the time to

commit our resources to new and fresh ways of being the church.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS churches are closing and church attendance is declining and resources for church development and growth are not always available.

WHEREAS the MMSCUCC has funds that are designated for church vitality as well as funds designated for purposes no longer aligned with the Conference's stated goals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the MMSCUCC establish a task force to listen, research, and propose to the 2027 Conference Annual Gathering a plan for the establishment and use of a "Legacy Fund" for the purposes of:

- Church planting.
- Church growth initiatives.
- Church revitalization projects.

And any other such activities determined in their research that will lead to the growth and vitality of the body of Christ in the MMSCUCC.

FUNDING: Be it further resolved that the MMSCUCC consider consolidating the following 10 funds:

- Church Vitality
- Holy Ghost Church Renewal
- Holy Ghost UCC Gift - Principal

- PR General Reserve Fund - Principal
- Pauls KC Reserve Fund - Principal
- PR Springfield Reserve Fund - Principal
- Friedens Chapel Closure Gift
- Immanuel Congregational Closure Gift
- Church of the Open Door Closure
- St Peters Closure Gift

– money left to the MMSCUCC when churches closed – to be used as seed money for the “Legacy Fund.”

Be it further resolved that churches on a pathway to closure be encouraged to designate their buildings and/or remaining financial assets to this fund.