SENATE BILL 910

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 $\mathrm{SB}~759/12-\mathrm{JPR}$

By: Senator Gladden

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2013 Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

Religious Corporations – Laws Governing Assets of United Methodist Church – Repeal

FOR the purpose of repealing certain requirements for the holding of certain assets owned by a certain Methodist Church; repealing certain provisions of law providing for the effect of the absence of a trust clause in a certain deed or other conveyance executed before a certain date; and generally relating to the assets of the United Methodist Church.

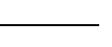
- 9 BY repealing
- 10 Article Corporations and Associations
- 11 Section 5–326 and 5–327
- 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 13 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

- 16 Article Corporations and Associations
- 17 **[**5–326.

18 All assets owned by any Methodist Church, including any former Methodist 19 Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 20 the Washington Methodist Conference, or Evangelical United Brethren Church, 21 whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned:

- (1) Shall be held by the trustees of the church in trust for the UnitedMethodist Church; and
 - EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





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1 (2) Are subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments 2 of the United Methodist Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the 3 general conference of that church.]

4 **[**5–327.

5 The absence of a trust clause in any deed or other conveyance executed before 6 June 1, 1953, does not relieve or exclude a local church in any way from its Methodist 7 connectional responsibilities or from the provisions of this part and does not absolve a 8 local congregation or board of trustees of its responsibility to the United Methodist 9 Church, if such an intent of the founders or the later congregations and boards of 10 trustees is indicated by:

11 (1) The conveyance of the assets to the trustees of the local church or 12 any of its predecessors;

13 (2) The use of the name, customs, and polity of the United Methodist
14 Church in such a way as to be known to the community as part of this denomination;
15 or

16 (3) The acceptance of the pastorate of ministers appointed by a bishop 17 of the United Methodist Church or employed by the superintendent of the district in 18 which the local church is located.]

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect20 June 1, 2013.