

1 Total Number of Pages: 5
2 Suggested Title: Apology for Illegal Overthrow of Hawaiian Kingdom
3 General Church Budget Implications: None
4 Resolution: New
5 Action Desired: Create new resolution
6 Global Implication: No
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8 WHEREAS, in the 2012 General Conference Resolution 3324, The United Methodist Church
9 acknowledged that Christianity’s spread across the world has often “damaged the culture, life ways,
10 and spirituality of indigenous persons,” and, called on every conference and local congregation to
11 “develop and nurture relationships with indigenous persons”; and

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13 WHEREAS, the 1992 California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
14 passed Resolution No. 16, which resolved that the Conference “recognize the inherent right of
15 native Hawaiian people to self-determined governance, and that it pledge support, advocacy and
16 solidarity for Hawaiian self-governance”; and

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18 WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton officially apologized in 1993 for the participation of the United
19 States in the January 17, 1893 illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and Queen Lili‘uokalani;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA’s General Assembly in 1994
23 passed the resolution titled “Stolen Nation,” which recognized that the overthrow of Hawai‘i was
24 illegal and urged its 64 member denominations to work for justice and reconciliation; and

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26 WHEREAS, the General Synod of the United Churches of Christ in 1993 officially apologized for
27 the church’s participation in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and Queen
28 Lili‘uokalani and affirmed the inherent right of native Hawaiians to self-governance, and pledged
29 its support and solidarity in the name of Christ; and

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31 WHEREAS, on January 17, 1893 American businessmen and leaders orchestrated the illegal
32 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and Queen Lili‘uokalani; and

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34 WHEREAS, in spite of five treaties signed by the U.S. Government with the Hawaiian Kingdom,
35 and the fact that sixteen other nations maintained official diplomatic ties with Honolulu, resident
36 businessmen – some of whom were descended from the original missionaries – calling themselves
37 “the Committee of Safety” seized power by illegally occupying the government building, with the
38 assistance of 162 U.S. Marines and Navy sailors; and

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40 WHEREAS, according to newspaper articles and church archival documents, the Rev. Dr.
41 Harcourt W. Peck supported the illegal overthrow and served as sharpshooter and acting adjutant
42 for Colonel J. H. Fisher, commander of the forces who dethroned Queen Lili‘uokalani; and

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44 WHEREAS, when Rev. Dr. Peck returned to Hawai‘i a year later to serve as pastor of First
45 Methodist Episcopal Church, he rejoined the sharpshooter company and served as chaplain of the
46 new forcibly established Republic of Hawai‘i; and

47 WHEREAS, Rev. Peck's armed participation against the legal and internationally recognized
48 indigenous government of Hawai'i, as well as his continued solidarity with those who orchestrated
49 the overthrow, solidified First Methodist Episcopal Church's establishment in Honolulu; and

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51 WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has not acknowledged or addressed its historic
52 participation and complicities with injustices related to the Hawaiian people; and

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54 WHEREAS, the offenses were against the entire Hawaiian Kingdom, its subjects and other
55 residents, not indigenous Hawaiians alone; and

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57 WHEREAS, the illegal overthrow and systematic oppression of Native Hawaiians in 1893 has
58 continued to affect them to this day as Native Hawaiians:

- 59 • Have lower average education, higher unemployment, and lower incomes than the
60 non-Hawaiian population (Maris Mikelsons, the Urban Institute and Karl Eschbach,
61 University of Houston [1993], "Housing Problems and Needs of Native Hawaiians");
- 62 • Make up 35% of homeless persons in Hawai'i (Yamane, D. P., Oeser, S. G., & Omori, J.
63 [2010]. Health Disparities in the Native Hawaiian Homeless. Hawaii Medical Journal, 69[6
64 Suppl 3], 35–41. Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery [2015], "Improving Media
65 Representation of Hawaii's Houseless");
- 66 • Are less likely to be enrolled in college compared with Hawai'i's other major ethnic groups,
67 (Kamehameha Schools [2014], "Ka Huaka'I: Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment");

- 68 • Have higher rates of heart attack, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and asthma than
69 the state average (Office of Hawaiian Affairs [2011] “Native Hawaiian Health Fact
70 Sheet.”);
- 71 • Have twice the proportion of teenage mothers, the lowest rate of prenatal care, and highest
72 rate of infant mortality among major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i (Kamehameha Schools
73 [2014], “Ka Huaka`I: Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment”);
- 74 • Make up 24% of the general population in Hawai‘i, but 27% of all arrests, 39% of the
75 incarcerated population, and 41% of parole revocations (Office of Hawaiian Affairs [2010],
76 “The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System”);
- 77 • Are more likely to get a prison sentence, receive longer prison sentences, make up the
78 highest percentage of people incarcerated in out-of-state facilities, and has the largest
79 proportion of its population of women in prison, compared to other ethnic groups (Office
80 of Hawaiian Affairs [2010], “The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal
81 Justice System”);
- 82 • Have a higher rate of dissatisfaction with life, are more likely to be depressed, and are more
83 likely to commit suicide compared with non-Hawaiians; (Kamehameha Schools [2014],
84 “Ka Huaka`I: Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment”);

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86 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church acknowledge the history of
87 racism and imposed colonial rule that has impacted Native Hawaiians from the time of the
88 overthrow to the present.

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90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United Methodist 2020 General Conference issue a
91 formal public apology to Native Hawaiians for the church's complicity in the illegal overthrow of
92 the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1893.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Annual Conference Bishop appoint a
94 task force to engage Native Hawaiians in a time of listening in order to prepare for a meaningful
95 apology and to nurture authentic community.

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97 Date: August 1, 2019