



September 5, 2016

Dear Director C. Heidi Grether,

Attached you will find a covenant passed during our Michigan Area United Methodist Annual Conference regarding the Flint Water Crisis. We ask that you read it and that someone from your staff reply by September 15, so that we know that this notification was not in vain.

Included in the covenant are these words,

"Furthermore, we recognize this as a social justice issue for the church and the community. We call on the Governor of the State of Michigan, the EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the State legislature to take the long term action needed to protect and monitor the residents of Flint, both children and adults in the days, months and years ahead, and repair the damage done to this community and our state by:

- Reimbursing Flint residents for any water bills they have paid for the entire period that the water is contaminated and unusable;
- Committing long term funding for health and development programs (such as Flintkids.org) through Flint hospitals, local school systems, churches, universities, and mental health systems for Flint's children and adults who are at risk of lead exposure to mitigate developmental challenges they will face over their lifetime.
- Actively set in motion the needed resources for the replacement of all lead and fouled pipelines in the city of Flint."

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Greg Buchner'.

Rev. Gregory Buchner  
Conference Secretary

(please reply to: [pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com) or Greg Buchner, New Hope Church, 7296 9 Mile, Mecosta, MI 49332)

**SUBJECT:** Flint Water Crisis.

**RESULT:** Concurrence with amendments.

**MOTION:** **As a covenant people, we, the members of the West Michigan Annual Conference pledge to support the ongoing response of the Crossroads District and the work of the district's Emergency Water Crisis Coordinator with our prayers, our presence, and our gifts to see that clean water, water filters, replacement filters, and health and nutrition information are delivered to all of Flint's residents in need.**

**Furthermore, we recognize this as a social justice issue for the church and the community. We call on the Governor of the State of Michigan, the EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the State legislature to take the long term action needed to protect and monitor the residents of Flint, both children and adults in the days, months and years ahead, and repair the damage done to this community and our state by:**

- **Reimbursing Flint residents for any water bills they have paid for the entire period that the water is contaminated and unusable;**
- **Committing long term funding for health and development programs (such as Flintkids.org) through Flint hospitals, local school systems, churches, universities, and mental health systems for Flint's children and adults who are at risk of lead exposure to mitigate developmental challenges they will face over their lifetime.**
- **Actively set in motion the needed resources for the replacement of all lead and fouled pipelines in the city of Flint.**

**We ask that the Conference Secretary send a letter and a copy of this resolution to Governor Rick Snyder, the Directors of the EPA, the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Service, and the members of the Michigan Senate and House.**

**We call upon the Bishop, the West Michigan Annual Conference, its congregations, ministries, and individual members to work for these long-term solutions through study, advocacy and action. We recognize this as a long-term commitment for our conference.**