



### **ITEM 36: Restore Freedom and Independence to the People of Tibet**

*Adopted as amended on the Consent Calendar June 17, 2006*

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recognize the independence of the land and people of Tibet, the Dalai Lama as the spiritual leader and political head of State of Tibet, and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in Dharamsala, India as the legitimate government of the people and land of Tibet.

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference support the Dalai Lama's vision of a free and independent Tibet as described in His Holiness's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance lecture within the territorial limits of Tibet prior to the 1949 invasion of Tibet by Chinese military forces, by entering into official discussions with The Office of Tibet, New York, operated by the Central Tibetan Administration headed by the Dalai Lama.

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference support the efforts of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues who is also the Under Secretary for Global Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. The Special Coordinator's central objective is to promote substantive dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama or his representatives with a view to resolving differences, consistent with the overall U.S. goal of promoting the protection of human rights, this office is to advance this goal in Tibet and seek to assist in preserving the distinct religious, cultural and linguistic heritage of Tibetan people.

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference support the Tibetan Policy Act signed into law on September 30, 2002 by President George W. Bush. The purpose of the Tibetan Policy Act is to help the Tibetans preserve their identity as a people in exile and in Tibet.

And be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference call upon its General Conference delegation (in consultation with the conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the conference Board of Church and Society) to submit a resolution to the 2008 General Conference to support the goals of the people of Tibet and their spiritual leaders to restore independence, peace, and freedom to the people and land of Tibet.

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary write to each member of its Representative in the House (the U.S. Senate has already concurred) to support H.R. 4562, known as "The Fourteenth Dalai Lama Congressional Gold Medal Act submitted on December 15, 2005 by a bipartisan team of sponsors including several from our Annual Conference. A letter will also be sent to the Western Jurisdictional, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the Board of Church and Society and other appropriate United Methodist Church organizations urging each of them to take similar actions in support of this legislation.