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3 **STANDING RULE AMENDMENT – RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION**
4

5 Submitted by the Retired Clergy Association

6 Seven board officers and three staff were present. Vote: 7-0-0.

7 February 13, 2008

8 Contact Person: Chuck Myer, Exec. Officer, 10028 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova CA
9 95670

10 Fiscal impact: None
11

12 **Be it resolved:** The Standing rules are to be amended by adding to the list of
13 officers in Division IV (Conference Membership and Clergy Relations) Section A. 2.
14 f. (Page 247 of the 2007 Journal):
15

16 President, Retired Clergy Association

17 Executive Officer, Retired Clergy Association
18

19 Explanatory section:

20 If a clergy spouse is RCA president, this will allow him/her to vote with voice in
21 plenary and sections. If the Executive Officer is lay, this will allow him/her the same
22 privilege.

**CHANGES TO DIVISION IX OF THE STANDING RULES
Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions**

Date Adopted: April 2, 2008 Number on Board 15 ; Number Present: 11
Number Voting YES: 11; Number Voting NO: 0: Number Abstaining: 0

- 1 The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that Division IX of the Conference Standing Rules be revised and updated as indicated in the text following, to reflect a change in health care eligibility for full-time lay employees of the Annual Conference, at the time of their retirement. The rationale for the change is to equalize the eligibility provisions for retired Conference Lay Employees with the eligibility provisions that presently exist for non-ordained (but recognized) Retired Local Pastors. These requirements have provided that an enrollee be at least age 62, be receiving an employer-paid pension from the Annual Conference, and that they have served for not less than five consecutive years immediately preceding their retirement.
- 2 Proposed deletions are shown as wording with ~~striketrough~~ lines, and proposed new wording is shown in **underlined boldface type**:

Division IX. Pensions and Benefit Programs

(NOTE: The following text presently appears on pages 279-280 of the 2007 Conference Journal):

E. Medical Benefits Programs

1. Health Care Program for Eligible Retirees, Dependents and Survivors:

a. Eligibility: The following persons shall be eligible for enrollment in the Retiree Health Care Program of the Conference

... 3(b). Those recognized by Conference action as Retired Local Pastors, provided that they are receiving a pension from the Church, and provided that they served under episcopal appointment for not less than five consecutive years immediately preceding their recognition as a Retired Local pastor.....

... 3(d). ~~All full-time employees of the Annual Conference who:~~

- ~~Are 62 years of age or older,~~
- ~~Have remained employed by this Conference until the time of their retirement and are receiving a pension from the United Methodist Church, and~~
- Who have been employed by this Annual Conference for a period of not less than five consecutive years at the time of their retirement.

Those recognized by Conference employing agencies as Retired Lay Employees, provided that they are receiving an employer-paid pension from the Church, and provided that they were employed full-time for not less than five consecutive years immediately preceding their recognition as a Retired Lay Employee.

**2009 RETIRED CLERGY RENTAL/HOUSING EXCLUSION
Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions**

Date Adopted: __April 2, 2008_____
Number on Board _15_; Number Present: _11____
Number Voting YES: _11_; Number Voting NO: _0_: Number Abstaining: _0_.

Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the California-Nevada Annual Conference

The California-Nevada Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for retired or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

BACKGROUND:

1. The religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");
2. The practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;
3. Pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and
4. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2009 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

1 THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance
2 applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds
3 authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and
4 from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits
5 accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*,
6 that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that a
7 retired or disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church,
8 annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of
9 the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other
10 employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the
11 ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions
12 to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or
13 disabled Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross
14 compensation.

15
16 ACCOMPANYING NOTES:

- 17
18 A. The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's
19 gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under
20 Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the
21 least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the
22 Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as
23 this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount
24 actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such
25 year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and
26 appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.
27
28 B. For decades, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church and the
29 Investment Guidelines of the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits
30 (GBOPHB) have required significant screening for socially responsible
31 investing, related to the pension and benefit plans for UMC clergy and lay
32 workers. By action of the Directors of the GBOPHB in November 2003, many
33 retirement annuities for both clergy and lay workers are being 'outsourced' to
34 secular, commercial annuity companies, beginning 1-1-04. For these
35 retirement annuities, the historic denominational screening for socially
36 responsible investing is being changed and compromised.

37
38 In light of this change, the California-Nevada Annual Conference Board of
39 Pensions urges all Conference Claimants with 'outsourced' UMC retirement
40 annuities to continue pursuing investment inquiries, shareholder resolutions, and
41 other advocacy related to socially responsible investing, with whichever
42 commercial firm you elect to place your UMC retirement annuity contract.

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44 Further information about the UMC program of Socially Responsible Investing can
45 be found by visiting the GBOPHB website: www.gbophb.org

ITEM 04

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**2009 'PAST-SERVICE' (PRE-1982 SERVICE) PENSION RATE
Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions**

Date Adopted: April 2, 2008
Number on Board 15; Number Present: 11
Number Voting YES: 11; Number Voting NO: 0; Number Abstaining: 0.

The Board of Pensions recommends that the Minimum Past Service Pension Rate paid for Pre-1982 service during the year 2009 be set at \$828 per year of service. This represents a 2% increase over the 2008 rate of \$811 per year of service.

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ITEM 05

**2008 'PAST-SERVICE' (PRE-1982 SERVICE) FUNDING PLAN
Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions**

Date Adopted: April 2, 2008
Number on Board 15; Number Present: 11
Number Voting YES: 11; Number Voting NO: 0; Number Abstaining: 0.

Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2004 Book of Discipline requires each Annual Conference to adopt a formal funding plan for retiring their Pre-1982 clergy pension obligations, within a time frame that ends on or before December 31, 2021. The California-Nevada Annual Conference has developed and followed such a Pre-1982 funding plan each year for over 30 years. However, the recommendation which follows is the first such plan to be formalized and adopted by the Annual Conference, for inclusion in the Conference Journal:

**CALIFORNIA NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FUNDING PLAN FOR**

**SUPPLEMENT ONE OF THE CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM
(CRSP)**

As of January 1, 2008

The 2008 Past Service Pension Rate (PSR) for the California Nevada Annual Conference is \$811 per year of service. Paragraph 1506.7 of the 2004 Book of Discipline recommends that "such rate be not less than 1 percent of the average compensation of the conference, as computed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits..." The 2008 rate of \$811 is equal to 1.45% of the 2008 California Nevada 'Conference Average Compensation' (CAC) of \$55,908.

Annual increases in our CAC have averaged about 3.5% over the past 10 years, and we expect future increases to be similar over time. Prior to the onset of the new CRSP funding model, we would have anticipated PSR increases to average 3.5% to 5% per year or more, as they have in the past, and as market returns and Conference funding sources would permit. However, based on the CRSP funding requirement that the entire cost of any rate increase beyond 2% now be paid in full immediately (and not amortized), we now expect the California Nevada PSR to be increased by only 2% per year.

1 The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in the Supplement One of the
2 CRSP-DB actuarial valuation has determined that the portion of the pre-1982 plan
3 liability attributable to the California Nevada Annual Conference as of 1/1/2006 for
4 2008 is \$52,071,315, with a 2.0% annual PSR increase assumption. This figure is
5 based on the 2008 PSR of \$811. Plan funds currently held with the General Board
6 of Pension and Health Benefits have a value of \$45,967,524 as of January 1, 2006
7 for 2008.

8 The difference between the total plan liability and current plan funding is
9 \$6,103,791. This represents the unfunded plan liability and will be provided through
10 non-plan funds that are held in various investment accounts. The Conference
11 intends for contributions to be made within the remaining amortization period,
12 ending December 31, 2021. The annual contribution, if paid in equal installments
13 over that period, is currently estimated to be not more than \$590,762, based on
14 2.0% PSR increases.

15 Our conference funds the Pre-1982 plan benefits through several funding
16 sources. Both the interest earnings and principal of non-plan funds may be
17 available for Pre-1982 benefit funding needs. Below is a description of the
18 primary non-plan asset which is available to pay the present value of future
19 contributions:
20

- 21 • The Annual Conference maintains a Deposit Account with the General Board of
22 Pension and Health Benefits that has a value of \$19,983,461 as of January 1,
23 2008. Both the interest and principal from this account are available to meet
24 future contribution requirements for Pre-1982 plan benefits. Pre-1982 Plan
25 benefits are identified as the primary claim upon the funds in this Deposit
26 Account.
- 27 • To the extent that it would be prudent and reasonable beyond the needs of the
28 Pre-1982 Plan funding, this Deposit Account may also be used to assist the
29 Conference with retiree health care funding, and with administrative costs
30 related to the operations of the Conference Board of Pensions.
- 31 • Although not presently needed or utilized, our Conference retains the ability to
32 seek annual apportionments from the local churches and other fund-raising
33 efforts as necessary to obtain additional sources for pre-82 pension funding.
34 The Conference would expect to use such funding methods however, only as
35 needed after the Conference Deposit Account, Endowment Board funding and
36 other related resources have been depleted. The Endowment Board gift to the
37 Conference is presently \$1.4 Million annually.

38 This plan shall be evaluated annually and modified appropriately.

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Sale of the Existing Delta District Parsonage

Submitted by the Conference Board of Trustees
Members present: 7. Voting for: 7, against: 0, abstaining: 0 .
Adopted on February 9, 2007

Resolution

The Conference Board of Trustees Recommends that they be granted the authority to sell the existing Delta District parsonage and purchase a replacement parsonage at a time appropriate to meet the needs of the Superintendent of the Delta District.

Supporting Rationale

The Delta District parsonage was built in 1956. It is located in the South Land Park area of Sacramento. It is the position of the Trustees that it would be advantageous to exchange this property for a newer home located nearer to the Delta District office at the Conference Center in West Sacramento. There is no debt on the present residence, and we anticipate being able to realize an amount from its sale to enable funding the purchase of a newer home with little or no additional cost.

At present, the current superintendent is living in his own home, and the parsonage is rented. Our strategy would be to continue to rent it until there is to be a change in Superintendent. At which time, assuming the new superintendent would choose to live in a district parsonage, we would exercise the authority to sell and purchase a new residence.

**Annual Conference Member Reverse Directory
(Adds para 5 to Div I, F, Reports and Recommendations of the
Standing Rules)**

Submitted by Doug Sibley, Martinez UMC (local contact)
Fiscal Impact: Minimal

Background: Currently, there is no “reverse directory” of registered lay members or clergy listed by congregation or agency available for general use during Annual Conference sessions. It would be helpful to be able to find the names of people who represent a particular congregation or agency during each Annual Conference.

Be it Resolved that, a new paragraph 5 shall be added to the 2007 Standing Rules, Division I, The Annual Conference Session, F. Reports and Recommendations:

5. The Conference Secretary shall have a reverse directory maintained for use by those assembled for each Annual Conference. The reverse directory should contain, as a minimum, all lay members and clergy registered for each Annual Conference. The listing will be by congregation within each District, as well as those voting members representing conference boards, commissions, agencies, etc. This directory should be updated as appropriate but at least daily indicating those who actually signed in.

Social Principles at Annual Conference

Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society as voted by e-mail vote from March 31, 2008 through April 1, 2008 by a vote of 9 aye, 0 opposed, 1 abstain; Board membership is 26;
Contact: Margo Tenold
Fiscal Impact: None.

BACKGROUND:

2008 marks the centennial anniversary of the Social Creed of the Methodist Episcopal Church, from which The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church have evolved. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church are "a call to all members of the United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice" and form an important guide and witness to our Wesleyan tradition of social piety as well as personal holiness.

In 2002 the California Nevada Annual Conference followed the lead of our General Conference in calling for a focus on The Social Principles at each Annual Conference Session between 2003 and 2008. This year that legislation expires. Since the study of The Social Principles has helped annual conference delegates learn more about the Social Principles and has enabled them to make The Social Principles more visible in the life of their local churches, we want to be sure we continue to set aside time to study and inform our delegates and our churches about the Social Principles.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will continue to devote a segment of plenary session at each Annual Conference Session for prayerful reflection and studied dialogue on one or two areas of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

**Recommendation Concerning Assignment of
Clergy Pension and Benefit Costs
Submitted by the Los Gatos United Methodist Church Board**

Date of Adoption of Recommendation: March 18, 2008
Number of Members Present: 10 For: 10 Against: 0 Abstaining: 0

Background:

The Los Gatos United Methodist Church has undertaken two painful staff reductions, in 2003 and 2005 respectively, as attempts to reduce internal costs to accommodate payment of apportionments which have, year after year, consistently approached 25% of our total annual budget. Our leadership has met on three separate occasions, in 2004, 2006, and as recently as December 28, 2007, with San Jose District Superintendent Nymphas Edwards to register our grave concern regarding the rising costs of clergy pensions and benefits which we contend leads to a crisis of inadequate financial resources in local churches.

Such a large percentage of financial resources leaving the local church year after year is unsustainable and severely compromises the very ministries most likely to attract families with children and youth, the next generation of our churches. Los Gatos United Methodist Church is surrounded by three churches which have augmented their ability to serve younger populations over the past few years. Such investment by neighboring churches has compelled us to invest in ministries to attract families with children and youth to grow our membership and further our mission to grow followers of Jesus Christ.

A conversation between LGUMC’s leadership and CFA chairperson Debra Brady on January 2, 2008, revealed uncertainty regarding how the costs of clergy pensions and benefits might alternatively be addressed. A subsequent conversation between Senior Pastor Lee Neish and Board of Pensions Executive Director Grady Knowles revealed mutual concern for the relative health of larger conference churches as they are asked to disproportionately bear the costs of clergy pensions and benefits. This burden is beyond what many churches can support considering the current number of clergy members in full connection who anticipate fulltime appointments.

An attempt by CFA to introduce a plan for direct billing of clergy pensions and benefits at the 2006 Annual Conference Session failed to garner a majority of votes. There has been no course of action taken since 2006 to remedy this situation.

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The Church Board of Los Gatos United Methodist Church in session on March 18, 2008 strongly advises:

- Pastor Lee Neish to vote against recommendations for full connection and elders orders of those being put before Executive Session by the Board of Ordained Ministry until matters of assignment of clergy pension and benefit costs are resolved.
- LGUMC’s clergy and lay members of the 2008 Annual Conference Session to vote against the budget recommendations of CFA which place the burden of assignment of clergy pension and benefit costs in the budget to be apportioned to larger churches.

BE IT RESOLVED:

that the 2008 Annual Conference Session:

- Direct the Bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference to appoint a taskforce comprised of members from the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Board of Pensions, the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, and Senior Pastors of Conference Churches to address matters of assignment of clergy pension and benefit costs in a manner so as not to financially compromise the continuation and furtherance of the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ by United Methodist Churches across our annual conference; and
- Direct the Bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, in consultation with the Conference Committee on Personnel and the Conference Council on Ministries, to reduce costs represented in the Conference Office and Administration line item of the Conference Budget as an intermediate measure until a longer term solution to the assignment of clergy pension and benefit costs is enacted.

1
2 **CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY ASSESSMENT**
3

4 **SUBMITTED BY: The Episcopal Office, The Cabinet, The Board of Ordained**
5 **Ministry, The Board of Laity, The Board of Missions, Council on Clergy**
6 **Development, Conference Lay Leader, Director of Connectional Ministries**
7

8 The Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry voted: 13-0-0 on March 13,
9 2008 Contact Persons: Kathi McShane or Linda Wiberg

10 Fiscal Impact:

11 \$2,000 – cost of analysis of clergy assessments by the Lewis Center for Pastoral
12 Leadership

13 \$2,000 – estimated cost of analysis of congregational assessments
14

15 **BACKGROUND:**

16 It has become increasingly apparent that the California-Nevada Annual Conference
17 has suffered declines in membership, revenue and attendance over many years.
18 There is general consensus among both clergy and lay leaders that local churches
19 need a revitalized commitment to the Church's mission of making disciples of Jesus
20 Christ for the transformation of the world.
21

22 The California-Nevada Annual Conference has been moving collaboratively toward
23 mechanisms that will encourage lay and clergy leaders to take seriously the need
24 for revitalization, inspiration and extension of the Gospel message in and beyond
25 existing local churches. At the Annual Conference Session in 2007, further action
26 by the Conference leadership was put in place and promised. In consultation with
27 the Bishop, the Cabinet, and Conference boards, agencies and committees, these
28 actions have already been taken:
29

- 30 a) establishment in 2006 of a *Council on Clergy Development*, whose
31 purpose is responsibility and oversight of the continuing education,
32 spiritual formation and professional development of California-Nevada
33 Annual Conference clergy. The Council is led by representatives of the
34 Board of Ordained Ministry and the Chairs of the Orders, working in
35 consultation with the Cabinet and the Bishop.
36 b) Conference adoption, in 2007, of a new statement of *Transformational*
37 *Clergy Leaders*, which recognizes that our need at this time is for
38 "transformational leaders who will revitalize, inspire and extend Christian
39 life and mission into new communities of faith within and beyond existing
40 churches." This statement is being used in the candidacy process, and
41 has been distributed to SPRC's for pastoral evaluation and goals
42 throughout the Conference.
43 c) The launch, in 2007, of *pilot projects* for clergy, through which more than
44 100 clergy in the Conference are engaged in ongoing groups organized for
45 ongoing formation, mutual support and accountability.
46

47 The sponsors of this recommendation believe that our continuation and expansion
48 of this work of revitalization of churches and leadership is one of the most

1 important matters before the Conference at this time. We also believe that it is
2 imperative that the Conference have accurate and timely *baseline information* on
3 the vitality of congregations and clergy, so that adequate resources can be provided
4 and progress toward increased vitality can be measured.

5
6 **RECOMMENDATION:**

- 7
8 1) That every local church shall complete an assessment of its own vitality by
9 the time of its 2008 Church Conference, using the assessment tools provided
10 in *Vital Signs: A Pathway to Congregational Wholeness*, by Dan R. Dick
11 (Discipleship Resources, 2007). These assessments shall be returned to the
12 District Superintendents and Council on Congregational Development, for
13 analysis and development of resources to assist in revitalizing congregations.
14
15 2) That every clergy member of the Annual Conference shall complete an
16 assessment of his/her own effectiveness, including assessment by other
17 individuals familiar with his/her ministry, by December 15, 2008; using *The*
18 *Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory* that has been developed by the Lewis
19 Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary. Individual
20 assessment information shall be returned to individual clergy and District
21 Superintendents. Aggregate information shall be sent to the Council on
22 Clergy Development, for analysis and development of resources to assist in
23 ongoing clergy development, formation and education.
24
25 3) The Council on Clergy Development and the Council on Congregational
26 Development shall report back to the 2009 Annual Conference Session with
27 their analysis of the results of these assessments.

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ITEM 11

**Resolution Regarding the Corning United Methodist Church
Submitted by the Glenn-Colusa Cluster Pastors and the Tehama United
Methodist Ministries Cooperative Parish Council**

Glenn-Colusa Cluster Pastors met March 19 and 26, 2008, to allow all members to review the document---therefore 6 present and 6 voting for.

Tehama United Methodist Ministries Cooperative Parish Council reviewed document by e-mail and voted by phone March 29 and 30, 2008--of 14 members 13 voted for and 1 abstained

Contact: Janna Adamson, Willows (530) 934-2333

Fiscal Impact: No cost to the Annual Conference at this point

The California-Nevada Annual Conference has the call and obligation to minister in small towns and rural areas where United Methodists have been a longtime presence and to continue to explore innovative ways to supply pastoral leadership, develop vital congregations, and offer significant outreach.

For this reason we lift up the Corning United Methodist Church which has served the community and the surrounding countryside since 1883. In a small town, a strong viable mainline denominational presence with commitment to social justice, to diversity of persons and opinions, and to ecumenical connections is a vital transformational presence in the community. Now the Corning area is growing, and the church has an even more critical role than in the past.

Hoping to strengthen the mainline presence in the area, the Corning UMC has been in dialogue regarding federation with the Corning Presbyterian Church. A joint steering committee has been meeting regularly since August, 2007; and the two congregations have been worshiping together since February, 2008. If federation occurs the Presbyterians would consider being supplied through the United Methodist appointment system because of the consistency it offers. The newly created federated church would be more successful in obtaining and retaining experienced pastoral leadership if it can offer a parsonage as part of a compensation package.

The Corning UMC has a strong model and mentor in the large Federated Church in Orland which is also a United Methodist/Presbyterian USA union. Orland is one of the eleven largest United Methodist Churches in Shasta District, a list which includes another federated church.

Therefore be it resolved:

1) that the United Methodist Church of Corning will retain its status as a local church,

2) that its parsonage will be retained as an asset of the Corning United Methodist Church and will be available if federation occurs with the Corning Presbyterian Church,

3) that the federating bylaws will allow each denomination to retain ownership of their respective properties for the first ten years of the federation, and

4) that a five-year time line and criteria will be developed to encourage a creative and viable ministry and to evaluate the project.

Conference Committee on Hmong Ministry

Submitted by: Hmong Caucus

Number Present When Voting: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstaining: 0

Contact Information: Rev. Paul Joseph T. Khamdy Yang

Date: March 6, 2008

Fiscal Impact: Yes

Background:

Since 1987, seven Hmong ministries have been established in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. In 1987, Wesley Hmong United Methodist Fellowship was formed at Wesley United Methodist Church in Fresno. In 2001, the ministry moved to Sierra Vista United Methodist Church in Fresno. In 2006, it was disbanded and its members joined CHRIST Ministry at Memorial United Methodist Church in Clovis. Also, in 1987, the Merced Hmong United Methodist Fellowship was formed at Merced United Methodist Church and the Marysville Hmong United Methodist Fellowship was formed at First United Methodist Church in Marysville. In 1989, Oroville Hmong United Methodist Fellowship was formed at First United Methodist Church in Oroville. In 1999, the Wesley Hmong United Methodist Fellowship was formed at Wesley United Methodist Church in Sacramento. It was disbanded in 2002. In 2002, Christian Hmong Regeneration In Spiritual Transformation (CHRIST) Ministry was formed at Memorial United Methodist Church in Clovis. In 2003, the Trinity Hmong United Methodist Fellowship was formed at Trinity United Methodist Church in Sacramento. Without the conference’s support, it has been difficult to provide the guidance and clear direction needed for Hmong ministries. Consequently, there are only five active and struggling Hmong United Methodist ministries.

Hmong Ministry, Conference Committee on

A. Responsibilities:

a. The Committee shall have the following purposes and responsibilities:

- i. To assist Hmong United Methodist congregations in spreading the Gospel through evangelism to the Hmong-American communities within the boundaries of the Annual Conference.
- ii. To provide leadership development and ministry resources for Hmong United Methodist churches, fellowships and ministries.
- iii. To help the California-Nevada Annual Conference and sponsoring United Methodist churches of Hmong ministries and fellowships in understanding of the Hmong culture, value and language.
- iv. To serve as a bridge between the California-Nevada Annual Conference and Hmong United Methodist churches, fellowships, and ministries in terms of mission and vision of Hmong United Methodist ministries.
- v. To assist the Annual Conference in the formation of new Hmong United Methodist congregations.

B. Membership:

- 1 a. The Committee shall consist of (1) the pastor of each Hmong United
2 Methodist ministry/fellowship/church; (2) the pastor of the sponsoring
3 United Methodist Church where the Hmong ministry/fellowship is located;
4 (3) the Hmong Caucus Executive Board; (4) the Director of Connectional
5 Ministry without vote; and (5) up to seven members at large, one from
6 each of the seven districts (of which 3/4 shall be Hmong United
7 Methodists) to serve in triennial classes, nominated by the Conference
8 Committee on Nominations with the recommendation provided by the
9 Hmong Caucus.
- 10 b. A chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary shall be nominated from
11 the members by the Committee and elected by the Annual Conference.

**RECOMMENDATION
CONFERENCE & DISTRICT ADVANCE SPECIALS**

The Board of Missions is recommending to the 2008 Annual Conference Session the following Conference & District Advance Specials to be in effect from: June 2008-June 2009.

2009 CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

DISTRICT	NAME	TYPE	GOAL
Bay View #851	Wesley Foundation @ UC Berkeley	C	\$25,000
Nevada-Sierra #804	Camp Kelly	C	\$20,000
Delta #811	Side by Side Spiritual Companions	C	\$20,000
Bay View #824	Solidarity for victims of Extra-Judicial killing In the Philippines	C	\$10,000

2009 DISTRICT ADVANCE SPECIALS

Golden Gate #823	San Quentin Families Project	D	\$3,300
Nevada-Sierra #859	Nevada-Sierra District 2% Fund	D	\$10,000
Nevada-Sierra #822	Ten (\$10) for Mission	D	\$30,000
San Jose #860	San Jose Family Shelter	D	\$10,000
Golden Gate #853	Round Valley UMC, Covelo	D	\$10,000

The following Advance Specials previously approved and in effect for the 2008-2009 calendar -year are:

2008-2009 CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

Conf #814	West Angola Partnership	C	\$40,000
Conf #803	Volunteers In Mission Projects	C	\$10,000
Conf #810	CLayM Program	C	\$2,000
Bay View #807	Wesley Youth Homes	C	\$ 4,000
Conf #808	Sierra Service Project	C	\$10,000

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING "RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE COUNSEL OF BISHOP'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM IRAQ"

Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society as voted upon on March 8, 2008 by a vote of 13 aye, 0 opposed 0 abstain; total Board membership is 26; Contact: Alan Jones Fiscal Impact: None

BACKGROUND:

On November 9, 2007, the United Methodist Council of Bishops issued a call for an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. The resolution below is a verbatim repetition of the call of our bishops.

The Bishops began their statement by saying that "the prophet Micah reminds us that God calls nations to 'beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears to pruning hooks,' and that nations will no longer 'lift up sword against nation, and neither shall they learn war any more.' (Micah 4:3)"

The Bishops stated that peacemaking is a sacred calling of the Lord Jesus Christ; and reminded us that *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2004* (Para. 165.C) states, "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ".

The Bishops reminded us that "the continuing loss of Iraqi civilian lives, especially children, and the increasing death toll among United States and coalition military grieves the heart of God," and also "the premises advanced by the United States government for engaging in this war, namely, the presumption of weapons of mass destruction and alleged connection between Al Qaeda and Iraq have not been verified".

In calling for peace our Bishops reminded our nation that the cycle of violence in which the United States is engaged has created a context for the denigration of human dignity and gross violations of human rights of prisoners of war.

RESOLUTION

Following the leadership of our Council of Bishops, the California-Nevada Annual Conference:

Laments the continued warfare by the United States, coalition forces and the insurgents;

Prays for military personnel and their families who have sacrificed as a result of this war, and for a swift end to the destruction and violence raging in Iraq;

Supports a Congressional Resolution stating that it is the sense of the Congress that it be the policy of the United States to withdraw all US military troops and bases from Iraq;

1 Calls on President Bush to immediately draw up and present to the US
2 Congress and the American people a plan and timeline for the withdrawal of all US
3 armed forces from Iraq;

4 Calls for the United Nations to appoint a Peace Envoy to encourage and
5 cooperate in talks with Iraqi groups opposed to the occupation to explore a political
6 settlement to the conflict; and

7 Calls for the rebuilding of Iraq and other nations in the Middle East through a
8 multinational development plan that honors the participation of the peoples of the
9 region and gives them hope for the future.

10
11 **Be it further resolved** that copies of this resolution be sent to the United States
12 President, Vice President, Secretary of State, the leading presidential candidates
13 from the Republican and Democratic parties, the Secretary General of the United
14 Nations and the California and Nevada members of the U.S. Senate and House of
15 Representatives.

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17 **Be it further resolved** that the Conference Secretary write a letter to the United
18 Methodist Council of Bishops on behalf of the California-Nevada Annual Conference
19 expressing our strong support for the November 9, 2007 resolution and thanking
20 them for their courageous leadership.

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ITEM 15

RECOMMENDATION TO CALL AN END TO THE DEATH PENALTY IN NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society as voted upon on March 8, 2008 by a vote of 13 aye, 0 opposed 0 abstain; total Board membership is 26 ; Contact: Susan Griffin

Fiscal Impact: None

BACKGROUND:

California and Nevada together have executed 24 persons since 1976. As of March 1st 2008, there were 648 persons in California and 84 persons in Nevada on death row. Of these 732 persons, 36% are African American, 19% are Latino. 14 persons are Native American, and, in California, 15 are women.

Since 1976, four people have been exonerated while awaiting capital punishment in the two states. The citizens of both states are clearly reluctant to impose the death penalty for a variety of reasons, although both Governor Schwarzenegger and Governor Gibbons support the use of the death penalty.

As Christians we oppose the use of the death penalty on moral grounds. Jesus explicitly repudiates retaliation (Matthew 5:38-39) and rebukes those who desire the punishment of death (John 8:1-11). Our United Methodist Social Principles tell us that "the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings.... The gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception, and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty and urge its elimination from all criminal codes."

It may also be stated that the death penalty:

- puts innocent lives at risk
- disproportionately impacts certain races and economic groups
- is sometimes the consequence of poor defense counsel
- is expensive
- is not a deterrent to violent crime
- is sometimes imposed arbitrarily
- is viewed as unethical in 135 nations on earth
- has been suspended by moratorium in Illinois, and abolished in New Jersey.

RESOLUTION

Therefore, be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference calls upon Governor Gibbons and Governor Schwarzenegger to declare an immediate moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty and that the death penalty no longer be used as a means of punishment in Nevada and California.

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to both governors and all the elected members of the State Assembly and State Senate within the bounds of the Annual Conference, in both Nevada and California.

Be it further resolved, that the Annual Conference calls upon every congregation to be proactive in calling for the abolition of the death penalty.

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ITEM 16

10 **RECOMMENDATION: CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
11 **TO ADOPT CALIFORNIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT COVENANT**

12 Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society as voted upon on March 8, 2008
13 by a vote of 11 aye, 1 opposed 1 abstain; total Board membership is 26 ; Contact: Margo
14 Tenold
15 Fiscal Impact: None

16 **BACKGROUND:**

17 The scientific community and most world leaders are in agreement that the rate of
18 change in the global climate is unprecedented and due in large part to the
19 increased emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil
20 fuels. The effects of the carbon dioxide already released into the atmosphere will
21 continue to affect the climate for decades to come. There is general agreement
22 that we must reduce our use of fossil fuels and our dependence on them or face
23 dire environmental consequences.

24 Starting with the first chapter of Genesis, the Bible makes it clear that God values
25 and loves all of creation, not just human beings. God has given us the
26 responsibility to "tend the garden" not despoil it. Stewardship of God's creation is a
27 central part of living our faith. Churches can and should lead the way in reducing
28 waste and careful use of resources.

29 **The California Light & Power Covenant**

30 California Interfaith Power & Light seeks to be faithful stewards of Creation by
31 responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation,
32 energy efficiency, and renewable energy. This ministry intends to protect the
33 earth's ecosystems, safeguard public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable
34 energy for all.

35 The **California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church,**
36 West Sacramento, CA pledges to support the goal of California Interfaith Power &
37 Light and to do the following as best as we are able:

38 ✓ Engage in an ongoing process of **education** with our members concerning
39 environmental stewardship, energy production and usage in relation to global
40 warming.

41 ✓ Conduct an **energy audit** of our Conference Headquarters building to identify
42 sources of energy waste potential financial savings of energy related improvements.

43 ✓ Make **energy efficient improvements** to our Conference Headquarters
44 building.

45 ✓ Utilize **renewable energy** by purchasing green power, installing solar panels, or
46 contributing to a wind turbine fund.
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1 ✓ **Analyze, reduce, and offset** our greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of
2 becoming a non-polluting Conference.

3
4 ✓ **Support public policies** that contribute to our goals.

5
6 **RESOLUTION**

7 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The
8 United Methodist Church will strive to become a faithful steward of our California-
9 Nevada region by adopting the above California Interfaith Power and Light’s
10 covenant and following up with faithful stewardship of resources.
11

RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH CONFERENCE GLOBAL AIDS INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

*Submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society as voted by e-mail vote over March 31, 2008 through April 1, 2008 by a vote of 9 aye, 0 opposed, 1 abstain; Board membership is 26; Contact: Willa Sudduth
Fiscal Impact: None*

BACKGROUND:

The 2004 General Conference adopted ¶154, **United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Distribution**, pp. 393-5 **2004 Book of Resolutions**, to establish and manage the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF). Of funds collected for this purpose within the Annual Conference, 75% is to be forwarded to UMGAF and 25% is to be retained for projects within each Annual Conference.

The 2006 California-Nevada Annual Conference adopted Item 19 to establish the above program within our Conference.

The third Resolved clause of Item 19 (2006) reads:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The California-Nevada Annual Conference establish, prior to the next quadrennium, a conference Global AIDS Initiatives Committee, with membership consistent with Resolution #154, to continue the mission and goals specified in Resolution #154, starting operations at the beginning of the next quadrennium.

RESOLUTION:

Therefore, be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church establish a permanent conference Global AIDS Initiatives Committee (GAIC) within the conference Board of Church and Society. The GAIC will perform duties as identified in ¶154 of the 2004 Book of Resolutions, pp. 393-5, United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Distribution. Of the UMGAF funds retained by our Annual Conference, no more than 10% of those funds collected per fiscal year may be used for administering the UMGAF program within the Annual Conference.