

# ***Annual Conference Action on Recommendations***

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## Item 01

### **Recommendation Concerning Net Total Paid**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **Be it resolved:**

- that the "net total paid" (LCntps) for all churches in the California-Nevada Annual Conference and the Annual Conference's "net total paid" (ACntp) be made available to all future sessions of the California-Nevada Annual Conference and be reported in the Conference Journal and Yearbook.

## Item 02

### **Recommendation for Local Church Apportionment Study**

*Referred to the Council on Finance  
and Administration for study(Consent Calendar)*

#### **Be it resolved:**

- that the Council on Finance and Administration of the California-Nevada Annual Conference pursue a study of a method for determining Local Church Apportionments that includes consideration of many factors including, but not limited to, the following:
  - o A formula for determining "net total paid" (LCntp) that:
    - removes the minimum salary for one pastor for any church who has paid 100% of the Local Church Apportionment in the year for which "net total paid" (LCntp) is calculated in the proportion to the amount of a full time appointment.
    - includes all other staff, operating and program expenses (lines 64-72 of "Table II") less the amount of parsonage rental income (line 96) up to the amount of pastor's housing allowance(s) (line 66).
    - includes "Non-United Methodist benevolences" (line 51) unless the local church provides information about and opportunity to contribute to the Six Churchwide Special Sundays of the United Methodist Church (§264, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2004*)
- that the results of the study and new proposal be presented at the 2008 California-Nevada Annual Conference session for adoption at the 2009 Annual Conference Session with implementation in 2010.
- that if there are significant changes in the amount of a church's Local Church Apportionment based on a new method, that the changes will be phased in over a period of two years.

**Local Church Apportionments**

*Substitute Motion Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

**Substitute Motion**

Division VI. Finance -- F. Local Church Apportionments  
Delete VI.F entirely and replace with the following:

1. As members of Christ's universal church, we have professed our loyalty to the United Methodist Church and have promised to do all in our power to strengthen its ministries. The ministries of the United Methodist Church extend beyond our local churches to endeavors throughout the world. We fund these endeavors through our apportionment giving.
2. In the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a church's or fellowship's apportionment amount is a percentage of the annual budget approved by the Annual Conference in the preceding year. This percentage is determined annually using information from each church's "Local Church Report, Table II."
3. Each March, the Conference Treasurer shall total the following lines from the "Table II" for each church and fellowship from the previous calendar year:  
All staff, operating and program expenses (lines 64 through 72)  
From this total, the Conference Treasurer will subtract any parsonage rental income (line 96) up to the amount of pastor's housing allowance(s) (line 66).
4. The resulting amount is the local church's "net total paid" for the year (LCntp). This amount is considered a measure of that church's or fellowship's financial strength relative to all other churches/fellowships in the Annual Conference. The Conference Treasurer shall then add together all of the "net total paid" amounts (LCntps) to get the Annual Conference's "net total paid" (ACntp).
5. In recognition that more of the financial strength of the smallest churches is needed to cover the fixed costs of operations, only 80% of the net total paid of the smallest churches will be included in this apportionment allocation. These smaller churches are defined as those with a net total paid less than the conference average compensation (CAC) for clergy.
6. The "net total paid" for each local church and fellowship (LCntp) shall be divided by the "net total paid" for the Annual Conference (ACntp). The resulting decimal figure shall be multiplied by the total budget adopted by the Annual Conference Session in order to determine each church's and each fellowship's share of the adopted budget.

7. For purposes of the above calculation, The Council on Finance and Administration shall have the discretion to determine the "net total paid" (LCntp) for any church or fellowship not turning in its "Table II" report by February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Council can increase the "net total paid" (LCntp) up to 25% over the prior year's amount for these churches.
8. For purposes of the above calculation, The Council on Finance and Administration in consultation with the District Superintendent shall have the discretion to decrease the "net total paid" (LCntp) of a newly organized church or fellowship in the first five years of its operation.
9. The Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend a budget to the Annual Conference that includes a total percentage change no greater than the percentage change in the Annual Conference's net total paid (ACntp).
10. The Annual Conference may adopt by majority vote a budget that is the same or less in total than the budget recommended by the Council on Finance and Administration. The Annual Conference may adopt by a two-thirds vote a budget that exceeds the budget recommended by the Council on Finance and Administration.

## Item 04

### **Location of the 2009 Annual Conference Session**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### **Let it be resolved:**

The 2009 Annual Conference Session shall be held in Sacramento and the Commission on the Annual Conference Session is instructed to study the feasibility of holding Annual Conference Session biennially instead of annually as a means of reducing conference expenses, and to bring a report back to the 2008 Annual Conference Session.

## Item 05

### RECOMMENDATION CONFERENCE & DISTRICT ADVANCE SPECIALS *Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

The Board of Missions is recommending to the 2007 Annual Conference Session the following Conference & District Advance Specials to be in effect from: June 2007-June 2008.

#### 2008 CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b><u>TYPE</u></b>	<b><u>GOAL</u></b>
Bay View	Wesley Foundation @ UC Berkeley	C	25,000
Nevada-Sierra	Camp Kelly	C	20,000
Delta	Side by Side Spiritual Companions	C	20,000
Bay View	Solidarity for victims of Extra-Judicial killing In the Philippines	C	\$10,000
Bay View	Flood Recovery Project-St. Paul's Vacaville	C	\$65,000

#### 2008 DISTRICT ADVANCE SPECIALS

Golden Gate	San Quentin Families Project	D	4,000
Nevada-Sierra	Nevada-Sierra District 2% Fund	D	10,000
Nevada-Sierra	Ten (\$10) for Mission	D	30,000
San Jose 5,000	San Jose Family Shelter	D	
Golden Gate	Round Valley UMC, Covelo	D	10,000
Shasta	Shasta Camps	D	25,000
Shasta	Shasta Missions	D	50,000

The following Advance Specials previously approved and in effect for the 2007-2009 calendar years are:

#### 2007-2009 CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

Conf	West Angola Partnership	C	200,000
Conf	Volunteers In Mission Projects	C	50,000
Conf	CLayM Program	C	20,000
Bay View	Fred Finch Chaplaincy & Therapeutic Programs	C	200,000
Bay View	Wesley Youth Homes	C	20,000
Conf	Sierra Service Project	C	10,000

## Item 06

### **Camping and Retreat Ministries Vision Fund**

*Adopted as amended on the Consent Calendar*

Delete **Section T. Campground Property Funds** under **Division VI**.

**Finance** and substitute the following:

#### **T. Camping and Retreat Ministries Vision Fund**

1. The Camping and Retreat Ministries Vision Fund shall consist of two parts: 1) the fund corpus, and 2) the fund earnings. The fund corpus is defined as money in the fund as of December 31, 2006. The fund earnings are defined as any money earned from the fund corpus after December 31, 2006. The fund shall be invested as directed by the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries and the Council on Finance and Administration. The fund corpus shall be spent only in cases of extraordinary maintenance at a conference camp property by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries.

2. Fund Earnings. Remembering that many of the gifts received for campground facilities out of the concerns for ministries with children and youth, earnings from the Camping and Retreat Ministries Vision Fund shall be used for programs and/or maintenance and improvement of camp facilities as determined by the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries.

**Communications Commission Standing Rules Recommendation**

*Adopted as amended on the Consent Calendar (2/3 Vote Required)*

**Proposed Standing Rule for the Communications Commission**

The Communications Commission consists of up to 20 members, with 10 to be nominated by the Nominations Committee and 10 to be nominated by the Commission; that leadership of the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and Secretary, to be nominated by the nominations committee in consultation with the commission; that members shall serve four-year terms, renewable at the recommendation of the Commission, and that a quorum consists of the members present at a properly convened meeting of the commission.

**Conference Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries**  
**Standing Rules Change**

*Adopted in plenary as amended*

**Change in Standing Rules Division V.G.4**

**4. Camping and Retreat Ministries,**

**Conference Board of**

a. Responsibilities:

(1) Oversight of operations, capital development and funding of our Conference Camp and Retreat Centers.

(2) Development of year round programming in the area of camping and retreat ministries for all age levels.

(3) Promotion of camp and retreats opportunities primarily through our Conference Camp and Retreat Centers.

(4) Undertake the responsibilities as outlined in the 2004 Discipline Para. 629.1(b&d) and 629.2 (e).

b. Membership:

(1) There shall be between ten (10) and fifteen (15) voting members nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations. They shall be arranged into three classes, expiring at two year intervals. In consultation with the Conference Committee on Nominations, the Board may add up to 3 additional voting members who may be helpful to its work.

(2) Ex officio members without vote include the Conference Coordinator of Youth and Camping Ministries.

(3) Officers: chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary to be elected annually from among members of the Board.

c. The chairperson may appoint additional committees as needed to fulfill the board's responsibilities. The leader of any such committee shall be selected by the board from among the board membership.

## Item 09

### **Incorporate the Conference Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **Resolved:**

**That the Annual Conference incorporate the Conference Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries and that the titles to our camp and retreat centers at Camp Kelly, Lodestar, and Monte Toyon be held by this new corporation.**

## Item 10

### **Standing Rule Amendment submitted by the Conference Committee on Children and Poverty.**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended (2/3 Vote Required)*

The administration of the bequest will be done as a part of the normal work of the Committee on Children and Poverty.

#### **Resolution**

Be it resolved to amend the Standing Rules on the Conference Committee on Children and Poverty as follows:

#### **Children and Poverty, Conference Committee on**

Building on a vision expressed in the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty, the Conference Committee on Children and Poverty will encourage and challenge congregations to be in ministry with children and the poor. *In addition to other funds, the Committee shall administer the Estelle D. Wyman Memorial Children's Fund for ministries with children and for the pursuit of justice, safety and health for all children.* Membership will consist of nine members in three triennial classes, brought by the Conference Nominating Committee. In addition, the committee itself may add up to six additional members who may be helpful in our work. Officers will consist of a chair, vice-chair, financial secretary, and recording secretary.

## Item 11

### **Standing Rules Amendments: Div. V**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar (2/3 Vote Required)*

The Committee on Legislation is attempting to update sections of the Standing Rules, which are obsolete or do not reflect current practice. These items are not editorial in nature and require vote of the ACS.

#### **Recommend the following changes to Division V of the Standing Rules.**

Division V. Conference Leadership and Agencies

A. Guidelines

12. Representation on agencies:

a. We intend that our Annual Conference structure fully reflect our commitment to becoming an inclusive church. As one step toward this goal, our Conference shall continue affirmative action in selecting leadership as stated in Para. 609.5, 2004 Discipline. In the nomination and election of the membership on councils, boards and agencies of the Annual Conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergy women, youth, young adults, older adults, persons with handicapping conditions, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general church agencies. It is recommended that the membership of such agencies include one third clergy, one-third lay women and one third lay men except for the Board of Ordained Ministry. There shall be concern for geographic (with consideration for Nevada) and large-small church balance in establishing agency membership.

b. Unless otherwise stated by the Discipline, there shall be no less than five percent youth and five percent young adults in the membership of each agency. Youth and young adults may serve on Conference boards and agencies as representatives of that age level only until June 30 following their 18th or 30th birthday respectively.

13. Comprehensive strategies or similar plans adopted by the Annual Conference are to be considered by each agency as additional responsibilities assigned to the agency of the Annual Conference.

H. District Agencies and Leadership (*The letter designation in the 2006 Standing Rules used to be "G" but it changed in the 2007 Standing Rules.*)

1. District Councils on Ministries

Each District shall have a Council on Ministries or equivalent which addresses the charge in ¶1659 2004 Discipline.

## 2. District Lay Leader

The position of District Lay Leader shall have a quadrennial term of office and shall be elected by the District Council on Ministries or equivalent. Elections shall be in the year preceding the beginning of the quadrennium. To provide continuity in leadership, the District Council on Ministries or equivalent may choose to designate a District lay leader Elect to serve until assuming the duties at the following Annual Conference Session. During the interim, she/he shall serve in cooperation with the District Lay Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the position. District Councils on Ministries or District equivalent may also elect Associate District Lay Leader(s).

## 3. District extension societies

Such societies shall report annually to the Board of Missions. ¶657.4 2004 Discipline

### I. The Conference Staff

#### 4. Employment of staff:

a. Each agency employing staff, full-time or part-time, shall use the following principles to guide its personnel practices:

- i. Have an active personnel committee.
- ii. Have a current written statement of personnel policies.
- iii. Review the proposed cost and sources of funding of any anticipated position.
- iv. For each employed position, there shall be an adequate written job description and statement of goals.
- v. Develop a specific, regular system of review and evaluation of employees.
- vi. Conform to Conference affirmative action guidelines.

b. More detailed guidelines for developing staff positions are included in the report of the Transitional Task Force (1980 Journal, p.160). They shall also be available on request from Conference offices.

c. Each agency employing staff, full-time or part-time, shall report a summary of its personnel procedures and policies to the Annual Conference each year.

d. Agencies employing staff shall be responsible for developing an adequate funding package to support the position.

## Item 12

**Standing Rules Amendments: Div III**  
*Voted on the Consent Calendar to refer to  
Committee on Legislation (2/3 Vote Required)*

**Recommend the following changes to Division III of the Standing Rules.**

Conference Officers (Non-disciplinary)

To delete entire Section A. Personnel Secretary and all items 1, 2 & 3  
This section shall be replaced by a statement on our current record keeping practice.

## Item 14

**Withdrawal of 2006 Recommendations**  
*Voted by the plenary to "Lay On The Table"*

## Item 15

### **PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE:**

#### **Authority of Deacons**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **Resolution:**

We believe that the ordination of Deacons should include authority to offer all the means of grace, including the sacraments, in the Deacon's appointed setting, even as we recognize the Deacon's responsibilities within the local church regarding collegial ministry with the pastor in charge.

To this end, the California-Nevada Annual Conference recommends that the Ordination of the Deacon be to *Word, Sacrament* and *Service*.

## Item 16

**Petition to General Conference**  
**Annual Audit of Local Church Financial Records**  
*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

**Proposed Amendment to paragraph 259.4c Book of Discipline**

The committee shall make provision for an annual internal audit or financial review, of the records of the financial officers of the local church and all of its organizations and shall provide a printed report of such an internal audit or financial review to the church conference. (Audits required by other institutions will need to be provided by persons certified in accordance with the laws of the state or nation under which each local church is legally established.)

## Item 17

### **RECOMMENDATION REGARDING OPEN MEMBERSHIP FOR GLBT PERSONS IN ALL CHURCHES**

*Adopted in Plenary as amended*

#### **RESOLUTION:**

No one may be denied membership in any church of the California-Nevada Conference based upon that person's being a gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered person whether or not they are practicing.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that before the due date of October 26, 2007, that the CANV Conference petition the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to add the following sentence to paragraph 214 of the *Book of Discipline* after the third sentence ending "in the connection (§14).": No one may be denied membership based upon that person's being a gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered person whether or not they are practicing.

## Item 18

### **Petition to General Conference - add to Book of Resolutions:** **Prayer & Support for Those Caught up in War**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

**Resolution:** Be it resolved that The California-Nevada Conference petition the 2008 General Conference to adopt the following for inclusion in our Book of Resolutions.

*WHEREAS* The United Methodist Church teaches that: "We believe that war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ" (paragraph 165-C, *Discipline*) and

*WHEREAS* The United Methodist Church also teaches that: "We honor the witness of pacifists who will not allow us to become complacent about war and violence. We also respect those who support the use of force, but only in extreme situations and only when the need is clear beyond reasonable doubt, and through appropriate international organizations." (paragraph 164-I, *Discipline*) and

*WHEREAS*, The United Methodist Church has expressed its concern about the war in Iraq by stating: "by attacking Iraq without the approval and participation of the United Nations, the United States has squandered its positive reputation as a responsible member of the global community ... " (page 850 of the 2004 Book of Resolutions.) and

*Therefore be it resolved* that The United Methodist Church affirms its commitment to uphold in prayer all military personnel, their families, and all the people of Iraq, even as we pray and work for a speedy and just resolution of the war in Iraq; and

*Be it further resolved* that we express our respect and prayers for all who choose to serve in the military and for those who, for reason of conscience, seek to separate from the military, and for those who refuse to serve in the war in Iraq while retaining their place in the military; and

*Be it further resolved* that we call upon the government of the United States and its partners in the Iraq war to provide full support and services for as long as needed for returning veterans, especially for those wounded in body, mind, and spirit by their experiences in the war. Such support should include medical treatment, appropriate counseling, training for employment, and a generous pension for those who are not able to provide a living for themselves and their families; and

*Be it further resolved* that we call upon the United States and its partners in the war in Iraq, in cooperation with the other willing nations, to provide the resources for rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq, especially the medical system, so that the citizens of Iraq who were injured or damaged in the war will receive the full support and services needed to resume their lives; and

*Finally be it resolved* that the Secretary of the General Conference send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Vice-President, to the Secretary of State, to the Secretary of Defense, to the leadership of both houses of Congress and to United States ambassador to the United Nations.

## Item 19

### A Call for an End to the U. S. War and Occupation in Iraq

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### **Background:**

As followers of Jesus Christ, who named peacemakers as children of God, we confess our lack of attention whenever we have been negligent and hesitant to boldly witness for peace.

As citizens and residents of the United States of America we grieve for the failure of national leadership that led us into an unnecessary war and occupation in Iraq.

Among the untrue claims that led to a decision to attack Iraq are: That Iraq had weapons of mass destruction; that Iraq was purchasing uranium from Niger; that there were direct ties between Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, and the terror network, Al Qaeda; and that the leadership of Iraq was partly responsible for the September 11, 2001 attack on the USA.

As a result of the U. S. invasion, war, and occupation of Iraq thousands of lives have been lost, many thousands more have been wounded and maimed physically, countless persons have been damaged emotionally and mentally, billions of U. S. tax dollars have been spent, and vast damage has been done to the infrastructure that supported the lives of the people of Iraq.

#### **Resolution:**

We call upon both the executive branch and the legislative branch of the government of the United States of America to act immediately to bring an end to the war and occupation in Iraq. Specifically we call for:

The withdrawal of all US troops and all coalition forces from Iraq,  
The closure of US military bases in Iraq,

Support for an Iraqi-led peace process, including a peace conference to shape a post-occupation transition and an international peacekeeping presence if mandated by this peace process,

The return of Iraqi control over its oil resources and the political and economic life of the nation,

Reparations and reconstruction to address the destruction caused by the war,

The acceptance into the United States of Iraqis displaced by the war,  
A "peace dividend" for job creation, health care, education, housing, and other vital needs, for persons in the United States, including Iraqis displaced by war,

Increased support for US veterans of the Iraq war, and

No so-called "preemptive" war against Iran or any other nation.

The Secretary of the Annual Conference is instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the following: The President and Vice-President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, to the Secretary of Defense, to the majority and minority leaders in both houses of Congress, and to all members of the Senate and House of Representatives elected from within the geographic area of our Annual Conference.

Finally we, as followers of Jesus, commit to continue to learn about peace, to continue to pray for peace, to practice peace making in our lives, and to continue to boldly witness for peace and justice.

## Item 20

### **RECOMMENDATION REGARDING "A CALL FOR PEACEMAKING"**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

God's earth is aching for peace. Domestic strife, civil conflict, ethnic and racial clashes, religious schism and interfaith rivalry, terrorist attacks, wars between nations, and threatened use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons – all of these prevent us from achieving God's shalom. In response we who are disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be peacemakers for the transformation of the world.

The biblical foundation for peacemaking is the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt.5:9), "Don't react violently against the one who is evil" (Mt 5:39, *Scholars Version*), "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt 5:44), and pray to forgive those who trespass against us (Mt. 6:12, 14-15). Paul echoed Jesus' teaching when he instructed Christians in Rome, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:14-21). He told the church in Corinth that through Christ we have a "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

For the United Methodist Church peacemaking is an essential task for achieving success in other initiatives. Working with the poor to eliminate poverty, caring for children, and conducting global health initiatives can be most successful in stable and just societies free from armed conflict. To have sufficient resources for these tasks requires global peace and disarmament in order to redirect vast amounts of public funds now spent on armed forces and weaponry. Moreover, a strong concern for peace and justice is a necessary feature of vital congregations.

The petition requested for endorsement to the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church was drafted by "Methodists United for Peace with Justice" and it has been requested to be endorsed by all annual conferences. It shall read as follows:

*"The 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon:*

- United Methodist children, youth, and adults as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ to become peacemakers wherever they are -- at home, school, work, in the local community and the wider world -- and to show the love, compassion, and concern for justice that Jesus taught and lived.*
- Local congregations as an expression of Wesleyan social holiness to teach and practice peacemaking, to study underlying causes of conflict among social groups and nations, to seek positive remedies and become instruments of peace.*
- Annual conferences to undergird congregations through training, encouragement, and active support for peacemaking activities and to be voices for peace, justice, and reconciliation within the conference area and beyond.*
- Bishops to encompass peacemaking in teaching what it means to live the United Methodist way, engage in conflict resolution where appropriate, and offer a prophetic voice for peace and justice.*

*Further, the 2008 General Conference calls upon boards and agencies to incorporate peacemaking into their regular programs and budgets, including but not limited to the following:*

- The General Board of Discipleship to develop, publish, and distribute Christian education material on the biblical basis of peace and justice and ways in which children, youth, and adults can be peacemakers and seekers of justice and to publish devotional material for peacemakers.*
- The General Board of Church and Society to serve as public policy advocate for actions that promote peace and oppose war, to provide resources on peacemaking to annual conferences and local congregations, and to facilitate training for nonviolence that applies Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.*
- The General Board of Global Ministries, its Women's Division, and United Methodist Women to continue and augment peacemaking activities in their ministries in the United States and around the globe.*
- The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to work with United Methodist seminaries and Africa University for encouragement of research, teaching, and publications on the theology of peace and methods of peacemaking and peace building with justice.*
- United Methodist seminaries to teach the theology of peace to students, clergy and laity and provide training for peacemaking.*
- JUSTPEACE: Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation to promote a culture of just peace in the church and in the world and to provide training for peacemaking practitioners within annual conferences and local congregations.*
- The General Commissions on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Religion and Race, the Status and Role of Women, and United Methodist Men to illuminate causes of injustice and intergroup tension, engage in advocacy for peace and justice, provide training for conflict resolution, and become instruments of peace.*
- The Connectional Table to facilitate cooperation among United Methodist boards, agencies, conferences, and congregations on peacemaking endeavors.*

*Further, the 2008 General Conference requests the following reports for submission to the 2012 General Conference:*

- By the Council of Bishops to summarize peacemaking activities of bishops and annual conferences during the 2009-2012 quadrennial and offer recommendations for further peacemaking activities during the 2013-2016 quadrennial.*
- By the Connectional Table, with staff assistance from the General Board of Church and Society, to describe the substance and results of peacemaking activities of general boards and agencies during the 2008-2012 quadrennial and to present recommendations for further peacemaking activities during the 2013-2016 quadrennial."*

## **RESOLUTION:**

That the 2007 California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church endorse the preceding petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church and that the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary submit this petition in its entirety and in the required format to the Petitions Secretary of the United Methodist General Conference, before the due date of October 26, 2007.

## Item 21

### THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN: DIPLOMACY, NOT WAR

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **Background**

Considering, that the United States of America (USA) and the Islamic Republic of Iran have suffered a very conflictive and destructive relationship for at least the last century; and further considering,

- That the USA under President Bush described Iran as a member of the "Axis of Evil" in January 2002;
- That the Bush Administration has urged the Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran due to Iran's "supposed" military nuclear program;
- That the Bush Administration has repeatedly refused to engage in bilateral discussions/diplomatic talks with Iran without preconditions in order to resolve disputes between the two countries;
- That the Bush regime has enunciated the "Pre-Emptive Strike Doctrine" to justify first-strike military activities against errant countries which "threaten" USA security and has recently sent an additional naval strike carrier force into the Persian Gulf;
- That the Bush regime has openly accused Iran of supplying arms/weaponry to Al-Qaida "terrorists" and other insurgent groups in Iraq, to Hezbollah in Lebanon, and to Hamas in Palestine, threatening USA-ally Israel;
- That the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that "We affirm the right and duty of people of all nations to determine their own destiny" and "We urge the major political powers to use their nonviolent power to maximize the political, social, and economic self-determination of other nations rather than to further their own special interests" (Paragraph 165b) and, "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ", that "We therefore reject war as a usual instrument of national foreign policy...", and that "We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them; that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities...that the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons be condemned..." (Paragraph 165c);
- That Jim Winkler, General Secretary of General Board of Church and Society, arguing against the current administration's assertion of Iraq's possession of nuclear weapons and the looming invasion of Iraq, has stated that "A pre-emptive war represents a major and dangerous change in US foreign policy. It also sets a terrible precedent for other nations.";

That the "Words, Not War, With Iran" project has stated that "As violence continues to rage in Iraq, and now in Lebanon and Gaza, a new confrontation is looming with neighboring Iran. Talk has increased of possible military attack against Iran to halt its nuclear program and support for Hezbollah. We agree Iran should not support terrorism or obtain nuclear weapons, we come together as religious leaders to urge that the U. S. engage in direct negotiations with Iran as an alternative to military action in resolving the crisis...", and that "to attack Iran militarily would confuse noble ends (preventing Iran from supporting terrorism and developing nuclear weapons) with dangerous and irresponsible means." (9/26/06);

### **Resolution**

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2007 California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church announces its support for H. J. Res. 14, introduced by Representative Walter B. Jones in January 2007, a resolution entitled "Concerning the Use of Military Force by the United States Against Iran" which provides, in part, that no provision of law enacted before the date of the enactment of this joint resolution shall be construed to authorize the use of U.S. military force against Iran and absent a national emergency created by an attack or imminent attack by Iran upon the United States, its territories or possessions or its Armed Forces, the President shall consult with the U.S. Congress, and receive specific authorization pursuant to law from Congress, prior to initiating military force against Iran; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Nevada Annual Conference urges President Bush and the U.S. Congress to immediately and publicly announce its decision to open bilateral negotiations with Iran in an acceptable third country on any and all issues that divide the two countries and without any preconditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the U.S. Secretary of State, and to the U.S. Senators from California and Nevada, and to each Congressional Representative within the bounds of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

## Item 22

### War & Peace with Iran, North Korea and the World

*Item 22 was split into item 22A and item 22B*

#### **Background:**

Consistent with the *Social Principles*, paragraphs 165 B and C of **The Book of Discipline**, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church has clearly stated in Resolution 338, *The United Methodist Church and Peace* (adopted 1984, amended and readopted in 2000) the meaning of peace and strategies to achieve it. This Resolution calls for abolishing all nuclear weapons and cannot justify seeking a nuclear deterrence as a means of achieving peace. It calls on all governments to renounce the use of chemical or biological weapons. Peace making and peace keeping are of the highest priorities. Resolution 339, *Rejection of Unilateral First-Strike Actions and Strategies* (adopted 2004) states:

*The United Methodist Church strongly protests all unilateral first-strike actions and strategies on the part of any government or military force and calls on the President and Congress of the United States to cease and desist from such actions without ratification by, and collaboration with, the United Nations.*

The Constitution of the United States of America outlines specific responsibilities for Congress and the President in declaring war [and, one would think, peace].

### Item 22A

*Adopted in plenary as amended*

#### **Resolution:**

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church call upon the President, Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense and the California and Nevada members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to immediately work with all deliberate speed towards peaceful resolution of issues with Iran, North Korea, countries and peoples of the Middle East, and the rest of the World, and to reject any first-strike actions by the U.S. armed forces anywhere. Any U.S. action must only follow full disclosure during open debate in both Houses of Congress with formal, recorded votes before any deliberate military action is taken (except for immediate self defense).

The California-Nevada Annual Conference requests the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church to pursue these peace-making strategies, with particular focus on Iran and North Korea.

**Item 22B**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference call upon the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to readopt Resolution 338 and Resolution 339, and to adopt the following additional resolution:

Be it further resolved that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church call upon the President, Vice-President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and members of the US Senate and House of Representatives to immediately work with all deliberate speed towards peaceful resolution of issues with Iran, North Korea, countries and peoples of the Middle East, and the rest of the World, and to reject any first-strike actions by the US armed forces anywhere. Any US action must only follow full disclosure during open debate in both Houses of Congress with formal, recorded votes before any deliberate military action is taken (except for immediate self defense). The General Conference requests the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church to pursue these peace-making strategies, with particular focus on Iran and North Korea."

### **RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION AND MILITARY SERVICE**

*Adopted by the Plenary*

#### **RESOLUTION:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be proactive in ministries to those who struggle with “the agonizing tension created by the demand for military service by national governments” (Social Principles, 164.V.I), including young people, their families, and active service personnel;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since “it is the responsibility of the church at all levels to inform its members of the fact that conscientious objection, as well as conscientious participation, is a valid option for Christians” (Resolution 338,V.2), we call on local congregations and the California-Nevada Annual Conference to regularly publish the church’s statements on these issues through newsletters and bulletins;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since the current national system of draft registration leaves young men vulnerable to possible conscription, and since many young men and women join the military for lack of other opportunities, creating in effect a “poverty draft,” and since “we urge all young adults to seek the counsel of the Church as they reach a conscientious decision concerning the nature of their responsibility as citizens” (Social Principles 164.V.I), congregations are called to make such counsel available and to reach out to young people who may be struggling with such decisions both within and beyond the local church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since “pastors are called upon to be available for counseling with all young adults who face conscription, including those who conscientiously refuse to cooperate with a system of conscription” (Social Principles 164.V.I), all pastors in the California-Nevada Annual Conference are called on to equip themselves for this task and to inform their congregations on a regular basis that they are available for such counsel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since “the church’s task is to record which of its members are opposed to participation in military service on grounds of conscience and to assist them in securing proper counsel” (Resolution 338,V.2), local churches and the California-Nevada Annual Conference Board of Church and Society will create a system for registering those who are conscientious objectors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since “we support and extend the ministry of the church to those persons who conscientiously oppose all war, or any particular war...” (Social Principles 164.V.I), we urge congregations to extend their offers of counsel and support to active service personnel, including those who decide while serving in a particular war that they are opposed to military service for reasons of conscience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since “we also support and extend the Church’s ministry to those persons who conscientiously choose to serve in the armed forces...” (Social Principles, 164.V.I), we urge congregations to affirm, support, and develop active ministries to members of the armed services, veterans, and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Nevada Board of Church and Society will identify or create educational materials and resources to assist in such ministries and make them available to pastors and congregations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent on to the 2008 General Conference as a petition in the correct format as a General Conference Resolution.

## Item 24

### **Prisoner Observance**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### **Be it resolved:**

Starting on the first Sunday in August, UMC members are invited to remember prisoners around the world. We pray that those who are imprisoned unjustly will be released as soon as possible. We pray for fair and just treatment of all prisoners. We also pray for and affirm Kairos and other prison outreach ministries.

During that week in August we are invited to follow some prison rules. We are to eat only three meals each day with no snacks, food or drinks, other than water, between meals. We are to have no alcohol, tobacco or even chewing gum. We are to exercise at least one-half hour each day.

### **RECOMMENDATION REGARDING UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Healthcare premiums continue to rise: they have increased 87% since 2000, with the average employee contributing 143% more to his/her company-sponsored health insurance. Healthcare costs have outpaced increases in wages by a ratio of 4:1 since 2000. Thus, the number of Californians without health insurance (about 6.5 million) continues to grow. We need a universal health insurance system that covers all residents of California, promotes quality care, preserves choice of one's physician(s), and costs less.

In response to these issues, the California-Nevada Annual Conference passed a resolution (#23) in 2004 via the Consent Calendar, supporting SB 921, a universal healthcare bill. After the bill failed to pass in the Assembly, Senator Kuehl reintroduced this legislation, slightly revised, in 2005. Endorsement for this bill was again passed by the Annual Conference in 2005 on the Consent Calendar. The bill passed both the Senate and the Assembly but was vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2006

Sen. Kuehl again introduced the bill in February 2007; it is still numbered SB 840 and is essentially the same bill as that passed in 2005-06. SB 840, the California Universal Healthcare Act (CUHA), would provide fiscally sound, affordable healthcare to all Californians, provide every Californian the right to choose his or her own physician, and control health cost inflation.

This plan described in SB 840 does five things:

1. **It covers everyone.** Eligibility is based on residency, instead of on employment or income. No California resident will ever again lose his or her health insurance because of unaffordable insurance premiums, or because he or she changes or loses a job, or goes to or graduates from college, or has a pre-existing medical condition.
2. **It's affordable.** SB 840 requires no new spending. The system will be paid for by federal, state and county monies already being spent on healthcare and by affordable insurance premiums that replace all premiums, deductibles, out-of-pocket payments and co-pays now paid by employers and consumers. SB 840 saves businesses, families, and government billions of dollars off healthcare premiums.
3. **It guarantees our money goes to care not to administration.** Our current system wastes 30% of every healthcare dollar on complicated benefits schemes, enrollment procedures, and access limitations. SB 840 mandates that the system spend 95% of our healthcare dollars on actual care. This diverts \$20 billion away from administrative overhead and into actual care.

4. **It provides real choice.** Under SB 840, all consumers have complete freedom to choose their healthcare providers. There are no restrictive HMO networks. Delivery of care remains as it is: a competitive mix of public and private providers
5. **It improves quality.** SB 840 expands system-wide the use of medical standards that rely on the best available medical science, and places an emphasis on preventative and primary care to improve California's overall health in a way that also saves billions.

**RESOLUTION:**

That the California-Nevada Annual Conference endorse the California Universal Healthcare Act, SB 840, and that our Conference Secretary acknowledge our action by sending a letter of endorsement to Senator Sheila Kuehl and to Andrew McGuire, Executive Director of Health Care for all Californians, to Governor Schwarzenegger and all California legislators within the boundaries of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

**GCCUIC Support of the**  
**National Council of Churches (NCC)**  
*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

**Background:**

**Resolution 91 (Continue Membership in the National Council of Churches**, pp. 263-264, **The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2004**, adopted 1992, amended and adopted 2000, 2004) reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Constitution of The United Methodist Church states that the dividedness in the church of Jesus Christ "is a hindrance to its mission in the world" and has committed us to ecumenical involvement; and,

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church and its predecessor churches have been charter members of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; and,

WHEREAS, The NCCCUSA is a "community through which the churches are seeking to make visible their unity given in Christ"; and, WHEREAS, the NCCCUSA is "an instrument of the churches' ecumenical witness to live responsibly in mutual accountability and service"; and,

WHEREAS, the NCCCUSA provides a unique opportunity for denominational representatives to share divergent traditions in matters of faith and practice; and,

WHEREAS, the NCCCUSA provides a channel for denominational cooperation in Christian education, mission and justice issues, communications, interfaith matters, evangelism, and relationships with local ecumenical expressions; and,

WHEREAS, United Methodist delegates from each of the jurisdictions have offered distinguished leadership to the NCCCUSA, and successive General Conferences have supported the continuing membership in the NCCCUSA since its founding in 1950; and,

WHEREAS, we rejoiced in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the NCCCUSA in 2000,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church reaffirm its membership in and support of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., in accordance with the 2004 Book of Discipline, ¶12404.2.a.

The NCC, composed of member communions that include 45 million people, is the largest, oldest, and most representative ecumenical agency in the United States. The

United Methodist Church's strong support of the NCC reinforces the UMC's role as a part of the ecumenical movement. The NCC's five program commissions ensure that the NCC's founding goal of furthering Christian unity is advanced through a wide variety of approaches.

The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (GCCUIC) has primary responsibility for the administration of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, which supports the works of the NCC. The General Commission, in cooperation with the General Council on Finance and Administration and the The Council of Bishops, monitors the financial status of all agencies that receive support from ICF dollars. The GCCUIC understands its role to be that of a steward for funds that are provided for the work of ecumenical organizations. *The Book of Discipline* ¶ 814.5 provides guidelines for the disbursement of funds to ecumenical organizations and outlines the consequences in the event that an organization fails to fulfill the funding provisions set by the GCCUIC.

**Resolution:**

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church reaffirm its support of full participation by The United Methodist Church in the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church petition the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church before the deadline to also affirm the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concern's stewardship of the 'Interdenominational Cooperation Fund,' and oppose the arbitrary capping of or restricting the amount of funds that the GCCUIC may award to the NCC.

### **RESOLUTION REGARDING OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES COUNCIL**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### **RESOLUTION**

Be it therefore resolved that the 2007 session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church create Older Adult Ministries Council within the operating structure of the Conference Board of Discipleship.

#### **Membership**

The majority of the membership of the Older Adult Ministries Council shall be older adults; it will also include persons (regardless of age) who, because of their specialized interests, education, training, and experience, have developed a passion for ministry with older adults. Those serving on the Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries shall be members of The United Methodist Church, or members of a shared ecumenical ministry with a pastor under appointment by a United Methodist Bishop.

The Council shall include both laypersons and clergy; at least one-half of the membership shall be laypersons. There shall be one member from each district, selected jointly by the District Superintendent and the District Lay Leader. There shall also be members at-large, nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference; to achieve racial, ethnic, and gender inclusiveness; and to assure participation by persons with specialized interests, education, training, and experiences. The Conference Lay Leader (or designee), and the Conference Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries (if any) shall serve ex-officio, with vote. Members should represent the diversity of older adults in the general population, including retired persons, working persons, persons with handicapping conditions, persons with chronic illnesses, single persons, widowed persons, married persons, persons resident in a variety of institutions providing for assisted living, and persons with a wide variety of family situations. The Council shall elect its own officers.

The Council is to fulfill the following responsibilities:

Initiate and support ministries, plans, activities, and projects that are of particular interest to older adults, including but not limited to retired persons, working persons, persons with handicapping conditions, persons with chronic illnesses, single persons, widowed persons, married persons, persons resident in a variety of institutions providing for assisted living and levels of care and persons with a wide variety of family situations and levels of care.

Advocate on behalf of older adults

Support and facilitate, where appropriate, the formation of older adult caucuses

Identify the needs, concerns, and potential contributions of older adults in the annual conference and its districts

Cooperate with the boards and agencies of the annual conference in receiving and making recommendations to provide for the needs of older adults in The United Methodist Church

Recommend to the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations qualified older adults for membership on boards and agencies

Participate with the Annual Conference Board of Discipleship or equivalent structure, in the nomination of the Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries, for election by the Annual Conference

Educate and keep before the annual conference and its districts the life-long process of aging with emphases on the quality of life, intergenerational understandings, and faith development

Serve as a focal point for supplying information and guidance on older adult ministries within the annual conference and its districts

Support the development of resources that will under gird older adult ministries within the annual conference and its districts

The following have endorsed this resolution: Los Altos United Methodist Church, First Church Santa Rosa, Shasta District Committee on Ministry, Senior New Ways, California Nevada Annual Conference Board of Discipleship, San Jose District Committee on Ministry, Yuba City UMC, Eureka First UMC, Sutter UMC, San Francisco Temple UMC, Korean UMC of Santa Clara Valley.

## Item 28

### **Substance Abuse Prevention Program**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### RESOLUTION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Be it Resolved: That the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church supports efforts to both address and help prevent substance use and abuse by encouraging every local church in the following ways:

**ADVOCACY:** To maintain collegiality and dialogue with law enforcement and substance abuse programs:

Raise awareness regarding issues of substance abuse and the effects it has upon families and communities, especially our youth, young adults and senior citizens.

Make church property available to community forums to facilitate communication, to minimize hurtful stereotypes and provide accurate information. Create and develop programs, especially for youth and young adults that include personal witness from those recovering from substance addiction. Invite the media, press, television and internet resources to bear upon the issue in a manner that encourages and empowers cooperation in resolving these issues to heal hearts, souls and minds and nurture recovery.

**HEALING:** To encourage and educate each local church in their capacity to become a place of healing:

Establish an intentional ministry of healing and wholeness to those afflicted and affected by substance abuse such as "Faith Partners", a program designed by the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute that has been adopted by the General Board of Mission for use in United Methodist congregations.

Recognize and empower healing by encouraging personal testimony during a Sunday worship service designed to honor successful recovery.

Be it also resolved: That this resolution is forwarded to the 2008 General Conference.

## Item 29

### **ADULT EQUALITY – PART A** *Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### **Background:**

The California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church assembled in 2006 passed Items 41 – 48 to remove references of discrimination between men and women as found within **The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2004** to be submitted to the next General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2008. Similar petitions were adopted by previous California-Nevada Annual Conferences. The issue of gender neutrality is becoming increasingly accepted, not only within the membership of the Annual Conference, but also by the general public within this Annual Conference. Attempts to pass gender-neutral legislation for the issuing of civil marriage licenses within California is getting closer to becoming law each time such legislation is submitted to the Governor. It is acknowledged that the issuing of gender-neutral civil marriage licenses does not require the United Methodist Church or any spiritual or religious entity to recognize such resulting marriages with their body politic.

Current civil law and the United Methodist Church adopted directives preclude people of the same gender from marrying, either civilly or with a church's blessing. This practice has created a double standard of morality for adults. If civil and church laws viewed adults as being equal in the sight of God, then issues of different standards of moral practice would be eliminated and the entire population of civil society and church members and non-members would be advised to follow one uniform set of moral standards applicable to both those within and without the commitments of wedlock.

Therefore, to put substance into this year's Annual Conference theme, **Celebrating Our Diversity and Unity in Christ**, the following resolution is submitted:

#### **Resolution:**

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church support the issuing of gender-neutral civil marriage licenses by governmental agencies located within the Annual Conference boundaries;

Be it further resolved that the Conference Secretary forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of California and the Governor of the State of Nevada and to state legislators of each house in each state who represent members of this Annual Conference for their guidance and consideration.

### ADULT EQUALITY – PART B

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### Background

The California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church assembled in 2006 passed Items 41 – 48 to remove references of discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual (as well as transgender) people as found within **The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2004** to be submitted to the next General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2008. Similar petitions were adopted by previous California-Nevada Annual Conferences. The issue of one's gender preference or orientation is essentially accepted within many parts of The United Methodist Church as a non-issue when membership within The United Methodist Church is concerned.

The California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church ought to go on record to support gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults (gays) of legal age to serve within the armed services of their respective countries if otherwise qualified.

There are 24 countries, according to the *Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN)* ([www.sldn.org](http://www.sldn.org)), which allow openly gay, lesbian or bisexual adults to serve on active duty in their respective military services: Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium\*, Canada\*, the Czech Republic\*, Denmark\*, Estonia\*, Finland, France\*, Ireland, Israel, Italy\*, Lithuania\*, Luxembourg\*, the Netherlands\*, New Zealand, Norway\*, Slovenia\*, South Africa, Spain\*, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom\*. Those 13 with asterisks (\*) are also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which, as an organization, also does not discriminate based on sexual orientation in its own hiring practices (<http://www.nato.int/structur/recruit/info.htm>).

National security agencies do not discriminate against gays. The CIA, DIA, FBI and NSA do not discriminate based on sexual orientation. In a post-September 11 world, these organizations' contributions to the security of our country are paramount. Except for the military, the federal government does not discriminate in employment based on sexual orientation.

Pentagon and government studies support gays in the military. Published government studies support gays serving in the military. An exhaustive 1993 Rand Report concluded that the U.S. military could lift the gay ban without detriment to readiness. The PERSEREC Reports (1988, 1989) concluded that (1) there was no empirical evidence to support the gay ban, and (2) there was no empirical data to suggest that gays differed from heterosexuals on any performance measure. In 1993, General Barry Goldwater said that "You don't have to be straight, to shoot straight" when he spoke in support of lifting the ban on gays serving in the military. General Wesley Clark, former Navy Secretary and Senator John Chaffee, Assistant Secretaries of Defense Edward Dorn and Lawrence Korb, all support gays serving in the United States military.

Many had hoped that President Clinton would issue an executive order allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military in the same way that President Harry S. Truman desegregated the military in 1948. This did not happen. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies produce second-class members of the military and continue to provide opportunities for blackmail. It should be a non-issue.

Gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults are not second-class citizens. Every person created by God faces his or her own challenges in daily life to overcome and live a life closer to God's, should that person decide to do so. There should be one playing field where all people are of sacred worth. Promiscuity should be reduced in all parts of our worldwide community. Think one Gospel for all.

Therefore, to put substance into this year's Annual Conference theme, **Celebrating Our Diversity and Unity in Christ**, the following resolution is submitted:

**Resolution:**

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church support the repealing of all Federal and State laws which restrict and/or prohibit otherwise qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered adults from serving in any branch of the military (including Coast Guard) or state National Guard.

Be it further resolved that the Conference Secretary forward a copy of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Homeland Security, the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, all members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House Armed Services committees, and all U.S. Senators and Representatives representing the States of California and Nevada (within the California-Nevada Annual Conference boundaries).

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church petition the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to support the repeal of all Federal and State laws which restrict and/or prohibit otherwise qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered adults from serving in any branch of the United States armed forces (including Coast Guard) or state National Guard and the armed forces of any other country or territorial entity which still officially restricts gays, lesbians, bisexual or transgendered adults from serving in any of that country's or entity's armed forces.

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING/HOUSING MINISTRY:**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

**RESOLUTION:**

That the California-Nevada Annual Conference recommends that the Annual Conference, and Districts, especially those Districts where the housing crisis is acute, encourage its congregations to initiate HOUSING MINISTRIES in which pastors and members will become (1) educated in the issues of affordable housing, (2) advocate for housing policies that support and sustain affordable housing for all, and (3) prayerfully discern the use of their properties in meeting the housing needs of the communities.

In implementing a HOUSING MINISTRY congregations are encouraged to be most sensitive to the community needs of all people, and work to achieve maximum participation of the community in the ministry. Tenants needs for adequate, reasonably priced, stable, safe, accessible and energy-efficient housing must be recognized. HOUSING MINISTRY goals or mission must include enabling those least, last and lost, to be empowered and in control of their lives, futures and destinies.

Such HOUSING MINISTRIES should include, but not be limited to

1. Annual Conference Trustees, District Committees on Church Extensions, Boards of Trustees, consider giving priority to affordable housing in the utilization and disposition of any church properties.
2. Dedicate a special day or Sunday of the year as a Day of Prayer, or Affordable House Day or Shelter for the Homeless Day.
3. Encourage City, County and State representatives to establish and implement a Housing Trust fund to provide financial resources for the building of affordable housing.

**Study the 2000 Resolution of the General Conference on "HOUSING IN THE U.S.A." as a guide for development of the HOUSING MINISTRY.**

## Item 32

**Standing Rule Amendment for Div. 1.F.3.a**  
*Adopted on the Consent Calendar (2/3 vote required)*

Be it resolved, the following language is to replace the current Division I. F. 3. a.:

- a. Recommendations, resolutions and petitions may be brought before the session by councils, boards, commissions, committees or agencies of the Annual Conference; by a local church, through action of its administrative board, charge conference, or church conference; or by individual lay member of local churches or by clergy members within the Annual Conference directly to the Conference Secretary. Items submitted by agencies and local churches shall include the number of members of that body, the number present, the number voting for, against and abstaining and the date that the action was taken.

## Item 33

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS RE: VARIOUS CHANGES TO DIVISION IX OF THE STANDING RULES**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar (2/3 vote required)*

The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that Division IX of the Conference Standing Rules be revised and updated as indicated in the pages following, to reflect the onset of the new Clergy Retirement Security Program ('CRSP'). CRSP was adopted by the 2004 General Conference, and became effective for appointed clergy as of 1-1-07. Division IX of the Standing Rules describes the pension and benefit programs of the Annual Conference:

Division IX. Pensions and Benefit Programs

(Paragraph A to remain unchanged) – see page 262 of the 2006 Conference Journal)

"B. Current Service Pension Funding; The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CRSP/ CPP):

1. Between January 1, 1982 and December 31, 2006, pension funding for the current service of eligible pastors was made under a defined contribution program, known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP).
2. The Annual Conference participated in MPP/ CPP in accordance with the Discipline and the MPP/ CPP Plan Documents, as adopted and amended by the General Conference.
3. Beginning in 2007, the Annual Conference shall participate fully in the Clergy Retirement Security Program, as adopted and amended from time to time by the General Conference.

Contribution Method: The church contributions for CRSP and CPP shall be made through regular apportionment payments to the Conference Treasurer. The Conference Treasurer shall remit CRSP and CPP contributions to the plan monthly on behalf of Conference participants.

4. Eligibility for Conference CRSP and CPP Payments: All appointed pastors are eligible for UMC Pension Plan enrollment, subject to the rules of the applicable Plan Documents. The following pastors are eligible to have their CRSP and CPP contributions paid by the Annual Conference:

- a. Any person in one of the following categories who is under Episcopal appointment to serve as pastor of a local church within the bounds of the Annual Conference, provided that they are receiving clergy compensation for their appointed services:

- (1) Conference clergy members including Deacons,
- (2). Local pastors, and
- (3) Eligible clergy of other denominations

b. Conference clergy members appointed as District Superintendents, Conference Council on Ministries staff, or as Conference Treasurers.

5. Elective Deferrals to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP), equal to not less than three percent of the participant's contribution base, are strongly recommended for all participants.

6. Each year, the Conference Board of Pensions shall recommend an amount to the Council on Finance & Administration for payment of current service pension costs (CRSP and-CPP), and request that it be placed in the Conference budget.

7. A church other than a United Methodist Church included in an ecumenical parish served by a United Methodist pastor shall arrange with the General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church for the direct billing of the applicable pension and/or protection plan contributions required of that parish. A United Methodist Church included in an ecumenical parish shall pay apportionments as required by the Conference Treasurer or CFA.

#### C. Parity between Pension Plans

Striving to Maintain parity between the benefits of the various clergy Pension programs shall be the policy of this Annual Conference (Par 1506., 2004 Book of Discipline)."

Paragraphs D through F to remain unchanged – see pages 264 through 267, 2006 Journal).

## Item 34

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS RE: ADDITION TO DIVISION II OF THE STANDING RULES**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar (2/3 vote required)*

The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that Division II of the Conference Standing Rules, describing the printing of the Conference Journal, be revised by adding the following new paragraph, as Division II, Paragraph A.4. The current Paragraph 4 and the paragraphs following shall be renumbered accordingly:

(New Division II, Paragraph A.4.):

"The Conference Journal shall be published in two formats, in printed form and on computer files distributed on CD. The entire Journal shall be published each year in CD format. In addition, the printed portion of the Journal which is bound and distributed to members shall include, in addition to other materials, the Business Questions of the Annual Conference, the adopted recommendations of the Conference Board of Pensions, and the following financial reports:

1. The Conference apportionment budget as approved for the coming year, with accompanying notes, and with a comparison to the apportionment budget approved for the preceding fiscal year;
2. The Financial Reports of the Council on Finance, the Board of Pensions, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Missions, the Board of Discipleship, the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, and the United Methodist Foundation."

## Item 35

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS RE: 2008 RETIRED CLERGY RENTAL/HOUSING EXCLUSION**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

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:

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 2008 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

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

ACCOMPANYING NOTES:

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

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

Further information about the UMC program of Socially Responsible Investing can be found by visiting the GBOPHB website: [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org)

## Item 36

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS

#### RE: 2008 'PAST-SERVICE' (PRE-1982 SERVICE) PENSION RATE

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

The Board of Pensions recommends that the Minimum Past Service Pension Rate paid for Pre-1982 service during the year 2008 be set at \$811 per year of service. This represents a 2% increase over the 2007 rate of \$795 per year of service.

## Item 37

### In Support of the United Nations

Submitted by: Task Force on Israel and Palestine

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar*

#### Resolution:

**Be it resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church call upon the 2008 General Conference to readopt Resolution 326 *In Support of the United Nations*, pp. 814/6, **The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2004** which reads as follows (only one footnote is amended into Resolution 326 with an asterisk on the last page):

#### **326. In Support of the United Nations**

##### *Preamble*

The world needs a new vision, a vision of peace rooted in justice, a vision of a world bound together in intentional community dedicated to the well-being of all people and all creation. The United Nations, however limited, represents the best efforts made so far by governments and peoples of the world toward such a vision.

The Christian faith and community are rooted in theological understanding that is global by its very nature. The foundation for the church's involvement in the quest for world peace and justice can be found in the following biblically based beliefs: (1) the transcending sovereignty and love of God for all creation and the expression of that love in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, whose mission was to reveal understanding about that divine presence, to proclaim a message of salvation, and to bring justice and peace; (2) the unity of creation and the equality of all races and peoples; (3) the dignity and worth of each person as a child of God; and (4) the church, the body of believers, whose global mission of witness, peacemaking, and reconciliation testifies to God's action in history.

The world is the responsibility of each of our communities where the securing of justice for one individual, one community, one nation contributes to the securing of justice and peace for all. To work for justice and peace for all is to affirm God's promise of the fullness of life: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24:1); "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b).

The United Methodist Church, therefore, reaffirms its support for the United Nations and calls upon all governments to fully support the United Nations in the fulfillment of its charter and in its highest calling to work for peace and justice for all the world's people. Furthermore, The United Methodist Church affirms the following principles as *Pillars of Peace for the 21st Century*:

1. *Political Accountability.* Peace rooted in justice requires increased political collaboration and accountability within the United Nations system, and among regional

bodies, governments, local authorities, peoples' organizations, and global economic structures to seek the common good and equality for all.

2. *Economic Accountability.* Peace rooted in justice requires increased moral, ethical, and legal accountability at all levels from governments, financial institutions, multilateral organizations, transnational corporations, and all other economic actors to seek a just, participatory, and sustainable economic order for the welfare and well-being of all people and all creation.

3. *Legal Accountability.* Peace rooted in justice requires a comprehensive international legal system, capable of change as conditions require, in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, to protect rights, to hold accountable those who disturb peace and violate international law, and to provide fair and effective review and enforcement mechanisms.

4. *Liberation and Empowerment.* Peace rooted in justice requires the participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups who are seeking to promote justice and peace in those mechanisms capable of redressing the causes and consequences of injustice and oppression.

5. *Peace and Conflict Resolution.* Peace rooted in justice requires the nurturing of a culture of peace in homes, communities, religious institutions, nations, and across the world; the use of non-violent means of resolving conflict; appropriate systems of common security; and the end of the unrestrained production, sale and use of weapons worldwide.

6. *Human Dignity and Rights.* Peace rooted in justice requires respect for the inherent dignity of all persons and the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of the International Bill of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and inalienable rights.

7. *Preservation of the Environment.* Peace rooted in justice requires a commitment to long-term sustainability of the means of life, and profound reorientation of economic systems and individual lifestyles to support ecological justice for human communities in harmony with the whole of creation.

#### *Policy Base*

1. NCCC\* Policy Statement: "The United Nations and the World Community," adopted May 4, 1977.
2. NCCC Policy Statement: "The National Council of Churches Views Its Task in Christian Life and Work," adopted May 16, 1951.
3. NCCC Policy Statement: "Statement on the International Situation," adopted January 17, 1951.
4. Federal Council of Churches Statement: "Six Pillars of Peace," 1943.

\* National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (website: <http://nccusa.org/>)

**ADOPTED 1992  
REVISED AND READOPTED 2000**

See Social Principles, ¶ 165A, B, C, and D.

## Item 38

### Peace in Israel and Palestine

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

Resolution 323, pp. 811/2, **The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2004** reads:

#### **323. United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict**

WHEREAS, negotiations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority still have not achieved a just and lasting peace for the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Security Council has passed numerous resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, that outline a framework for a just and lasting peace; and

WHEREAS, the UMC recognizes and affirms the role of the United Nations in the resolution of this conflict and has already affirmed that the “principles embodied in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 provide an agreed upon formula to achieve security and peace for all states in the area” (see “The Current Arab-Israeli Crisis”),

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church calls upon the United States, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to accept the authority of Security Council resolutions and abide by Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as all other relevant Security Council resolutions, that provide a framework for bringing this conflict to a just and permanent end.

ADOPTED 2000

See Social Principles, ¶ 165A, B, C, and D.

Resolutions adopted and printed in **The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church** expire after eight years.

#### **Resolution:**

**Be it resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church call upon the 2008 General Conference to readopt Resolution 323. *United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict*, pp. 811/2, **The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2004** as amended to read herewith:

## Peace in Palestine and Israel

WHEREAS Isaiah prophesizes (Isaiah 2:4 (NIV)) that in the last days (see also Micah 4:3):

*He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.*

WHEREAS **The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church** expounds in *Part IV, SOCIAL PRINCIPLES, ¶ 165 (VI. THE WORLD COMMUNITY)*, that *We commit ourselves as a Church to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another... The Church must regard nations as accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens and others living within their borders... We affirm the right and duty of people of all nations to determine their own destiny. We urge the major political powers to use their nonviolent power to maximize the political, social, and economic self-determination of other nations rather than to further their own special interests... We affirm our historic concern for the world as our parish and seek for all persons and peoples full and equal membership in a truly world community.*

WHEREAS, negotiations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority still have not achieved a just and lasting peace for the Palestinian and Israeli people; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Security Council has passed numerous resolutions, including their Resolutions 242, 338 and 1397, that outline a framework for a just and lasting peace; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church recognizes and affirms the role of the United Nations as an appropriate entity (see **Resolution 326, In Support of the United Nations**, pp. 814/6, **The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 2004**) among other governments, organizations, and people,

WHEREAS, *A Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* was presented by U.S. President George W. Bush in a speech of June 24, 2002, and welcomed by the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United Nations in their July 16 and September 17, 2002 Quartet Ministerial statements (see <http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/f3059c4183c2cc2b85256d33006f5b4b/6129b9c832fe59ab85256d43004d87fa!OpenDocument>).

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly established in 1975, pursuant to its Resolution 3376, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Committee promotes international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people and heightened international awareness of the question of Palestine. In addition to international meetings, publications and informational activities,

each year the Committee calls for the observance of the *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People* (29 November).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United Methodist Church calls upon the government of the United States of America and the government of each country wherein The United Methodist Church is established to accept the authority of and abide by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 1397 and all other relevant Security Council resolutions that provide a framework for bringing this conflict to a just and permanent end.

**[End of proposed General Conference Resolution.]**

**Be it further resolved,** that the Conference Secretary of the California-Nevada Annual Conference send a copy of this conference resolution to President Bush, the U.S. Secretary of State, each member of Congress representing the geographic area of our Annual Conference, and to the General Secretaries of the General Board of Global Missions, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

**Be it further resolved,** that within the California-Nevada Annual Conference a special offering be made on the last Sunday in October to support people displaced by the Israeli-Palestine Conflict. Funds are to be designated to be sent to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) for projects and ministries in Israel and Palestine focusing on those identified on the GBGM website <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/advance/advance-projects/index.cfm>. Under Advance Search Option, enter **Israel** in the country box for projects in Israel and enter **Palestine** in that box for projects in Palestine.

## Item 40

### Toward a Just and Compassionate Immigration Reform

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Spring 2007 witnessed an increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in many cities in the California-Nevada Annual Conference, particularly among Latino communities, resulting in the detention of hundreds of undocumented workers and the separation of these persons from their children, who in many cases were young children. Currently, the U.S. Senate is debating immigration reform legislation that will call for a dramatic increase in militarization at the border – including the continued building of a wall at the U.S./Mexico border – and continued raids in the interior U.S. and at worksites nationwide. The proposed legislation under consideration does not bring relief to immigrant communities but, rather, terrorizes and separates hardworking families that contribute greatly to the fabric of American society. Several sources report (including the 2005 Current Population Survey and Pew Hispanic Center) that there are an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. Reports say that Mexicans make up 56 percent of undocumented immigrants. An additional 22 percent come from other Latin American countries, mainly in Central America but also including Cuba and Haiti. About 13 percent are from Asia, and Europe and Canada combine for 6 percent.

As Christians and United Methodists, we find the inhumane treatment of immigrant peoples and their children to be deplorable and inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ. We embrace our biblical mandate to “love the stranger” (Deut. 10:19) and “not to oppress an alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (Ex. 23:9). Furthermore, we find this witness clearly articulated in the 2004 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, especially # 266, which states, “With grace and concern, the church must address the legal, economic, social, and human rights conditions of people who are legal or undocumented immigrants, and it must oppose the introduction of legislation by Congress or any state that would cause human suffering and a denial of such individual's rights as interpreted through our biblical understanding of God's grace to all peoples, but especially to the sojourner.”

#### **RESOLUTION:**

This document affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all of God's people. As the body of Christ and as United Methodists we recognize the urgency to strive for humane, just, compassionate, and comprehensive immigration reform. *Be it therefore resolved that we:*

Appreciate and affirm the dignity and work of immigrant peoples and understand these peoples to be citizens of the world and children of God.

Assert that immigrant peoples and their children have a right to education, medical, legal, and social services and assistance, a voice in the decisions that affect their lives, and full access to the justice of our society. Call for immigration reform that reunites families, ensures the civil and labor rights of immigrants, increases options to legal permanent residency and citizenship for undocumented families, workers and communities, allowing immigrants who want to live and work an opportunity to contribute to our society and provide for their families.

Call for an immediate stop to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids that terrorize our communities and a critical examination of ICE's detention and removal plans, including "End Game" and ICE's current raids action called "Operation Return to Sender" to deport 12 million undocumented immigrants, including families, children and workers.

Shall not be silent in the face of unjust treatment of immigrant peoples nor participate in any activities that demean, oppress, persecute, or criminalize immigrant peoples and their children and families that live in the United States.

Shall support ordained clergy, probationary members, licensed local pastors, faith workers, laity, immigrant advocates, and community allies who work with immigrant people.

Shall support local churches and their appointed clergy that God calls to provide sanctuary to undocumented immigrants and their families.

*Be it further resolved that:*

We shall take the following steps within our annual conference in the next 12-18 months:

Form a **Special Immigration Taskforce** that will address the long- and short-term needs of immigrants living in our communities. This special taskforce shall develop an action plan that encourages local congregations and individuals to testify to the gospel of Jesus Christ with immigrant communities in service and in word. The Special Immigration Taskforce shall report back to the Annual Conference in 2008 with a study plan for the AC, workshops for each District, the Cabinet and AC officials, as well as for congregations.

Coordinate with the General Board of Church & Society and other community-based organizations in Northern California Convocation **on Just Immigration** to educate AND broaden the understanding of our congregations on the challenges of immigration

Educate congregations on the **New Sanctuary Movement**, and how they can participate in this program to protect immigrant families from being divided through detentions and/or deportations.

Sponsor a ***Trip to the US/Mexico Border*** for ministry and examination of the militarization of the border and its affect on the human dignity and rights of migrants and border communities.

*Finally be it resolved* that the Conference Secretary by June 30, 2007 send a letter articulating our stance for just, compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform, including a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of California and the Governor of the State of Nevada and to state legislators of each house in each state who represent members of this Annual Conference and to the U.S. senators of California and Nevada, to the U.S. Representatives from California and Nevada who represent members of this Annual Conference, to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, to the President of the United States, George W. Bush and to Vice-President Richard Cheney for their guidance and consideration.

## Item 41

### OPPOSITION TO GBOD LDS RESOLUTION

*Referred by the Plenary to the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns*

#### **Resolution:**

**Be it resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church oppose the adoption of the General Board of Discipleship-proposed resolution entitled *Receive guidelines for ministering to Mormons who seek to become UM* (whether it be the 2000 version or a 2008 revision) and oppose accepting as official United Methodist Church policy the GBOD document entitled *Sacramental Faithfulness: Guidelines for Receiving People from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon)* along with its *Study Guide* at the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, as well as in any Western Jurisdictional discussions of the same.

Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference call upon the General Conference provide guidance and direction to the General Board of Discipleship, in co-ordination with the General Commission of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, to develop an updated version of *Sacramental Faithfulness*, or begin a new publication, which focuses on United Methodist doctrine and Scripture to specifically address accepting people from other Christian faith traditions into The United Methodist Church.

## Item 42

### **Continued Solidarity to the Victims and Surviving Families of Extra-judicial Killings and Human Right Violations in the Philippines**

*Adopted on the Consent Calendar as amended*

*"The war on terrorism has inevitable spillover effects on human rights all over the world, especially in countries suspected (of) being used as havens of terrorists. These shortcuts have scarred the landscape of [human] rights in the Philippines."*

*Reynato Puno, Supreme Court Chief Justice of the Philippines.*

To date, there are close to 900 clergy and laity that have suffered from the extra-judicial killings perpetrated by the military according to the testimonies of victims and families and human rights groups like *KARAPATAN (The Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights)*.

The escalation of militarization has affected schools including seminaries. Union Theological Seminary students have been abducted by the military. United Church of Christ in the Philippines and United Methodist Church pastors have been harassed, abducted and tortured because of the government and the military - s total war against insurgency and terrorism.

The harassment, abduction and disappearances of clergy and laity advocates continue despite the pressure applied on the Macapagal -Arroyo government to STOP these violations to the dignity of people. Victims and families of these human rights violations are crying out for -justice and the church has not been silent.

The California-Nevada Annual Conference adopted a resolution in its last session in June 2006 on the issues of disappearances, human rights violations and extrajudicial killings. A Fact-Finding Team (FFT) was created out of the mandate of the annual conference and was sent to the Philippines for a Pastoral and Solidarity Visit on February 15-23), 2007.

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1 (From the speech given at the commencement exercises in March 2007 of the University of the East, Manila, Philippines) The team consisting of 17 clergy and laity headed by Bishop Beverly J. Shamana worked closely with our partner agency, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP).

During the visit the FFT also came out with a Statement urging the Philippine government to take out the names of mainline Protestant denominations and members of the National Council of Churches who have been branded as enemies of the state in the government or military publications, "Know Thy Enemies."

The California-Nevada Annual Conference is committed to continue its Pastoral and Solidarity work on behalf of the victims and families of human rights violations. An Advance Special has been approved for ongoing support of families of victims of these human rights violations in the Philippines.

The Task Force under the Filipino American Ministry is in the process of firming up its relationship with the Board of Missions to continue its solidarity on advocacy of peace and Justice and the fight to STOP the extrajudicial killings.

## **RESOLUTION**

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference send another Solidarity and Pastoral Team in February of 2008 to continue its strong support for the advocacy of Justice and peace with the strong involvement of Youth and Young Adults of our annual conference.

Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference strongly encourage all local churches to continue its advocacy work and ask its state and congressional representatives to give pressure to the government of Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo to STOP all of the extrajudicial killings and human rights violations – i.e., killings, abductions, disappearances, or assassinations done by the military and para-military outside of the legal process.

Be it further resolved that the month of October in 2007 be observed as a month of prayer, study and actions on behalf of children and victims of the continuing atrocities in the Philippines.

Be it further resolved that the Conference Secretary inform President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that we are deeply concerned with the killings and constant abuse of human rights of Christian leaders in the Philippines.

## Item 43

### RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE NOMINATION OF JAMES HOLSINGER FOR UNITED STATES SURGEON GENERAL

*Adopted by the Plenary as amended*

#### BACKGROUND:

On May 15, President George Bush formally submitted the name of Dr. James Holsinger, the former head of the Good News Caucus and current President of the Judicial Council, for consideration to fill the post of Surgeon General of the United States. If confirmed by Congress, Holsinger would serve as "America's first physician," providing health education to millions and helping to translate current scientific research into understandable lay terms.

Over the years, Dr. Holsinger has demonstrated a strong bias to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and has repeatedly expressed opposition to the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into the church as well as the larger society. He has also regularly misused science to justify this position.

- In 2006, in a decision sharply criticized by the Council of Bishops and which violates both the letter and spirit of the church constitution, Holsinger led the United Methodist Judicial Council in a ruling that empowers pastors to deny membership to openly gay people.
- Disregarding the vast consensus of medical experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Counseling Association, and the American Psychological Association, who have condemned the practice as "Inherently harmful to individuals," Dr. Holsinger has regularly recommended reparative or change therapy for gays and lesbians.
- In 1991, while serving on the United Methodist Study Committee on Homosexuality, Holsinger attempted to use the rising infection rates of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases to prove that homosexuality was an aberrant behavior - ignoring that the rates of STD infection among heterosexual women and young people had also sharply increased.

While we affirm Dr. Holsinger's right to practice and advocate for the religious beliefs of his own choosing, his long history of opposition to full equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and his regular misuse of medical science makes him ill-suited for the post of the United States Surgeon General.

## **RESOLUTION:**

BE IT RESOLVED that California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church express its continued commitment to protecting the civil rights of all persons: affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened." (2004 Book of Discipline, Social Principles 1162)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church send letters to the White House, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the entire U.S. Congressional delegation from the states of California and Nevada expressing its opposition to the nomination of Dr. James Holsinger to the post of U.S. Surgeon General.

## **PETITION**

### **OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY**

#### **Background:**

Acknowledging, that the United States has intervened in the internal affairs of the Latin American/Caribbean countries numerous times by military, political, economic, and other means since the 1840s; that the U.S. has frequently interfered in the domestic affairs of the Latin America and Caribbean countries in ways other than by military means in order to pressure the governments of these countries to support U. S. interests and foreign policies, and that these ways include, in part, economic/trade embargoes, attempted assassinations, severing diplomatic relations, Central Intelligence Agency attempts at covert destabilization of governments, supporting insurgent groups against established governments, publishing in-country propaganda against "unacceptable" governments, and giving monetary and other types of support to pro-U.S. opposition political parties and organizations in electoral campaigns against "unacceptable" presidential candidates and political parties;

that, in 1983, the U.S. Congress, at the request of the Reagan Administration, established the National Endowment of Democracy (NED), and its core institutes...The International Republican Institute (Republican Party), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (Democratic Party), the American Center for Labor Solidarity (AFL-CIO), and the Center for International Private Enterprise (USA Chamber of Commerce)....which has as its stated purpose "to support the development of democracy and pluralism throughout the world through private, nongovernmental efforts" and "is guided by the belief that freedom is a universal human aspiration that can be realized through the development of democratic institutions, procedures, and values";

that the NED, and particularly the International Republican Institute, has been used by the U.S. State Department and U.S. foreign policy as a means to subvert elected governments and popular movements, to manipulate elections, to fund coup d'états, and to support harsh dictatorships for decades in the Latin American and Caribbean countries;

that few people in the U. S. are even aware of the existence of NED and its activities and do not know that more than 95% (97% in 2005) of its operating budget of well over \$80,000,000 comes from U. S. taxpayers, with the remainder coming largely from major conservative foundations and oil corporations, although NED describes its self as a "private, non-profit" entity;

that the CATO Institute, a conservative "think-tank," has observed in 1993 that "NED, which has a history of corruption and financial mismanagement, is superfluous at best and often destructive. Through the Endowment, the American taxpayer has paid for special-interest groups to harass the duly elected governments of friendly countries, interfere in foreign elections, and foster corruption of democratic movements;" and

that Congressman Ron Paul (R-Texas) believes that NED, by meddling in the elections and internal politics of Latin American and Caribbean countries, does more harm than good to the U.S. and creates resentment and ill-will toward the U.S. among those very groups attempting political and economic reforms in their own countries, and has introduced legislation to end U.S. governmental support for and relations with NED; and

that the United Methodist Church has called for "Support for Self-Determination and Non-Intervention" for all nations (2004 Book of Resolutions, #297); that the *Social Principles* of the United Methodist Church state that "We affirm the right and duty of people of all nations to determine their own destiny" and "We urge the major political powers to use their nonviolent power to maximize the political, social, and economic self-determination of other nations rather than to further their own special interests" (Paragraph 165b).

Therefore, we the undersigned clergy and lay delegates to the 2007 California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church strongly urge that those U.S. Senators from California and Nevada, and each Congressional Representative within the bounds of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, give their support to Congressman Ron Paul's and any other efforts to discontinue public funding for NED and its subsidiary core organizations and, by law, to prohibit any U.S. governmental agency from secretly or publicly transferring U.S. taxpayer funds to NED and its core organizations; and, strongly support Congressional legislation which disestablishes NED as a U.S. government-related entity and which clearly disavows any U.S. governmental relationship with NED or its activities.