

2011 CONFERENCE ACTIONS**RS- 101 - MINIMUM CASH SALARY**

(Submitted by the Commission on Equitable Compensation)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

In making decisions regarding the part of the compensation package for which the Commission is responsible, with faith, prayer and the most up-to-date economic information available, the Commission on Equitable Compensation proposes that the following rates be set for the year 2012:

Full Time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	\$36,881
Full Time Local Pastor	\$33,376
<i>Additional for Years of Service as of Jan 1, 2012</i>	
From 3 to 5 Years under appointment	\$600
From 6 to 10 Years under appointment	\$1,200
From 11 to 15 Years under appointment	\$1,500
Over 15 years under appointment	\$2,000

Based on the recommended minimum of \$36,881 and \$ 33,376 respectively and the approval of the minimum amount by Conference action, the following maximum grant amounts would be permitted:

Category	Full Time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	Full Time Local Pastor
Minimum Salary Grant	\$7376	\$6675
Strategic Salary Grant	\$9220	\$8344

Minimum Cash Salary Grants are awarded for no more than three years, with the amount of the grant size decreasing with each successive year. The expectation is that congregations will engage in a strategic plan to increase revenues and/or decrease expenses to balance their budgets and eliminate the need for this grant. Congregations are also expected to increase their participation in the Mission Share activity of the Annual Conference, with a goal of 100% participation. Grants are scheduled in the following manner:

- Year 1: Award is up to 100% of the maximum grant size
- Year 2: Award is up to 65% of the maximum grant size
- Year 3: Award is up to 35% of the maximum grant size

Strategic Cash Salary Grants are awarded on a four-year decreasing basis. A strategic plan must accompany this application. In succeeding years, a progress report that speaks to the strategic plan submitted in the first year must accompany the application. Following is the schedule for Strategic Grants:

- Year 1: Up to 100% of the maximum grant size
- Year 2: Up to 75% of the maximum grant size
- Year 3: Up to 50% of the maximum grant size
- Year 4: Up to 25% of the maximum grant size

Missional Cash Salary Grants are also available for new congregations and those defined as missions. Please check the conference website for applications and detailed definitions.

Reimbursable Accounts

The Commission on Equitable Compensation in an effort to remain current with prevailing trends across the denomination, and in keeping with IRS regulations, proposes the following minimum amounts for Reimbursable Accounts (Professional Expenses, Continuing Education and Travel)for Full Time Pastors in 2012 for a total in reimbursable of at least \$2,750: (This remains unchanged from 2011)

Professional Expenses \$650 Continuing Education \$600 Travel \$1500

Considering that pastors in different parts of the Conference have different needs, the Commission recommends that these amounts be interchangeable.

COMPENSATION PACKAGE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

It has come to the attention of the Commission that in some instances and for very particular reasons, some pastors and congregations make arrangements for compensation and benefits that are outside of the requirements outlined in this resolution. The Commission appreciates that such arrangements are warranted on occasion, and are in the best interest of the parties involved. However, in order to maintain the integrity of the compensation and benefits system, the Commission recommends that:

- The specifics of such arrangements be spelled out in a Memorandum of Understanding that limits the conditions to one year.
- The MOU be signed by the Pastor, the District Superintendent, and the SPRC Chair.
- The MOU be reviewed and renewed annually.
- Such arrangements have no impact on compensation and benefits packages to be negotiated for future appointments.

RS - 102 – OFFERINGS AT 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Bonnie Marden and Jim McPhee for the Agenda, Worship and Planning Teams)
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

Whereas, in recognition of God's abundant love and grace in our lives, our holy Conferencing includes Offerings and In-Gatherings, and

Whereas, these Offerings and In-Gatherings demonstrate the strength of our commitment to local, national and international mission and ministries, and

Whereas, supporting the Bishop's Discretionary Fund enables our leadership to respond to opportunities as we unite in trust and support our vision to boldly proclaim Christ to the world;

Therefore, let it be resolved that

- 1) an In-Gathering of new Socks during the Opening Worship will be distributed to New England Shelters and African missions, *(Socks can prevent malaria! See www.malariajournal.com - Yeast-produced CO₂ will significantly reduce costs and allow sustainable mass-application of (smelly sock) odor-baited devices for mosquito trapping in remote areas.)*
- 2) the Ordination Service Offering support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund,
- 3) the Friday Evening Offering support the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem, ME, and Hattie B. Cooper Community Center in Roxbury, MA, and
- 4) the Saturday Service Offering support the Imagine No Malaria campaign.

Furthermore, the CCYM challenges each church to bring a check for a minimum of \$25.00 for the Penny/Check Challenge to fund youth ministry and the Youth Service Fund. Awards will be presented to the District with the highest percentage of participating churches and to the District raising the most funds.

Additional In-Gatherings

- UMCOR Health kits collected during Conference in the Chapel parking lot
For instructions, contact Rosemary McNulty RMcNulty@neumc.org
- "Give a Phone . . . Save a Life"
The New England Annual Conference, in partnership with Safe Havens, will be gathering used cell phones to be reprogrammed for emergency use by victims of domestic violence or recycled to support Safe Havens' work to end domestic violence. Collection Box located in Chapel Foyer.
- Nicaragua Covenant will collect fabric and sewing goods at Chester's Place, Lane Student Center

Individuals and congregations are encouraged to respond enthusiastically to invitations to support the Nicaragua Covenant, the West Angola Covenant and the Imagine No Malaria campaign during the Conference and coming year.

RS – 103 - RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED MINISTERS OF THE CONFERENCE

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The New England Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to the rental/housing allowance for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

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 included all such payments from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2012 by each active, 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 an active, a retired, or a 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 active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and the regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson'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 Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishing and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

RS – 104 - PAST SERVICE FUNDING RATE

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

RESOLVED, that the Past Service Funding Rate for 2012 be set at \$570 per year of service and 85% as the survivor's rate.

RS – 105 - RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CREDIT

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

RESOLVED, that all participants in the Conference Health Insurance program in 2012 will be given one year of credit toward the retiree health benefit subsidy in retirement.

RS – 106 - SPECIAL GRANTS

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

RESOLVED, that the following Special Grants be continued for 2012 on the same basis as 2011:

- a) Evelyn Roberts be given a special grant equivalent to the amount based on her share of the 1967 annuity rate multiplied by the years of service by her husband.
- b) Barbara Boyd be given a special grant to cover 30% of her monthly premium for Medicare Companion coverage through United Methodist HealthFlex.

RS – 107- PASTOR’S/PARTICIPANT’S HEALTH INSURANCE CO-PAY PREMIUM

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The 2012 pastor’s/participant’s health insurance co-pay monthly premium will be \$205 per month (\$2,460 annually) and the Benefit Stabilization Fund contribution will be \$45 per month. Pastors/participants are eligible to receive a \$50 per month credit toward their monthly premium if they take the annual Health Quotient assessment by the date designated by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (the General Board). However, spouses of pastors/participants who are on the plan must also take the Health Quotient assessment by the date designated by the General Board in order for the pastor/participant to receive this supplement.

RS – 108 - HEALTH INSURANCE BILLING RATE CALCULATION

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The 2012 Health Insurance “blended” rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2012 premium billed the Conference by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for clergy (and family) under appointment to local churches, staff, and disabled, an appropriate amount to cover unpaid premiums by local churches, and related administrative costs, by the number of “salary paying” units for the aforementioned categories.

A 10% surcharge of the resulting rate will be added in accordance to the Retiree Health Benefit Legislation of 2001. A final adjustment shall be made, if necessary, to have the annual yearly rates divisible by 12. This base “blended” rate may be modified by Annual Conference action to include participant payment of premium.

RS – 109 - PENSION/BENEFIT BILLING RATE CALCULATION

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The 2012 Pension/Benefit rate shall be determined by calculating the total projected 2012 CRSP and CPP premiums billed the Conference by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for active clergy under appointment to local churches, staff, and disabled, an appropriate amount to cover unpaid premiums by local churches, and related administrative costs. Each local church will be billed the proportional cost of their pastor’s pension/benefit costs based on a formula of \$6,750 per full-time appointment (prorated in ¼ time increments) plus 7% of participants plan compensation.

NOTE: (This represents no change in the formula in the pension/benefit billing rate calculation from 2011.)

RS – 110- RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CONTRIBUTION

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The maximum retiree contribution to the Retiree Health Benefit Stabilization Fund for 2012 shall be \$60.00 per month for each participant and participating spouse pro-rated for the percentage of retiree health insurance premium paid by the Annual Conference.

RS – 111 - AFFIRMATION OF PREACHERS’ AID SOCIETY

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS the Preachers’ Aid Society has been in continuous service to United Methodist clergy and their families since 1832; and

WHEREAS the Society’s programs complement the official pension programs of the United Methodist Church immeasurably, through emergency financial assistance, its program of visitation to retired clergy and their families, its development of retiree housing, sponsoring planning seminars, among many other initiatives; and

WHEREAS the Preachers’ Aid Society has contributed \$2.5 million toward helping the Conference meet its desire to provide health insurance coverage to retired clergy and their spouses, and has made a \$1 million challenge commitment to the Together for Tomorrow capital funds campaign for retiree health insurance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Pensions affirms the ministry of the Preachers’ Aid Society and encourages the Annual Conference and its churches to support the mission of that organization.

RS - 112 - UNIT INSURANCE PLAN

(Submitted by the Insurance Committee of the New England Conference Board of Trustees)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The Insurance Committee of the New England Conference Board of Trustees moves that:

The New England Annual Conference continue in a Unit Insurance Plan to provide comprehensive property, liability, crime and worker's compensation insurance coverage for all New England Conference local church owned/operated locations, including church sponsored Day Care programs, and for all Conference owned/operated locations.

Including the following provisions that:

1. All New England Conference churches participate.
 - a. Special coverages to include flood for zones other than B&C and other unique insurance risks will be purchased at additional cost to the local church where such insurance is applicable.
2. Insurance coverage will be as documented in the comprehensive policy, a copy of which is located in the Office of Administrative Services (OAS). Copies of this policy can be obtained by request for a fee to cover printing and mailing costs.
3. The agent of record be Fred C. Church Inc. of Lowell, MA.
4. The renewal date will be August 1, 2011.
5. The insurance billing for this sixteenth year of the plan (August 1, 2011 - July 31, 2012) will be at the actual value based billing assessed to each local church and the Conference, based on building values, square footage and pastoral appointment.
6. Insurance billings for all churches that are on the Unit Insurance Plan as of August 1, 2011 will be handled as follows:
 - a. Churches will be billed through the office of the OAS on an annual basis.
 - b. The first payment will be due September 15, 2011.
 - c. A special discount will be given to churches that pay the total amount or enroll in the Automated Clearinghouse Account by October 15, 2011.
 - d. Churches that use the installment plan shall pay 20% of the annual billing by September 15, 2011 and eight monthly installments of 10% of the amount due on the fifteenth of the month (Oct - May).
 - e. The Conference Treasurer shall use Conference funds, as necessary, to pay the premium until funds come in from local churches.
7. Property claims payments will be issued in the name of the New England Conference and the local church, sent to the New England Conference Office of Administrative Services and will be endorsed and sent to the local church when all insurance premiums are paid to date.
8. The New England Conference Insurance Committee shall be amenable to the Conference Board of Trustees.
 - a. This Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members. The chairperson or co-chairperson of the committee shall be a member of the New England Conference Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall appoint five (5) additional members and the Council on Finance and Administration shall appoint five (5) members. The committee members do not need to be members of either the Board of Trustees or CF&A, with the exception of the chair or co-chair.
 - b. This committee shall:
 1. receive and respond to questions and concerns of local churches regarding the insurance plan.
 2. review loss trends and suggest remedies.
 3. review property appraisals.
 4. review the policy for any needed changes.
 5. provide for risk management materials/workshops for districts and/or clusters as requested.
 6. annually review the premium, determine the method of distributing the premium among local churches and, if necessary, re-bid the contract.
 7. annually report to the New England Annual Conference.
9. A common, comprehensive worker's compensation program be included with a renewal date of January 1, 2012. Insurance will continue to be billed through the OAS office.
10. The following policy on the issuing of "replacement cost" insurance be in effect.
 - a. Any church, at their option, can apply for a waiver of blanket full replacement cost coverage, and substitution with a stated value for Functional Replacement Cost, by making such a request to the Insurance Committee of the Conference Board of Trustees. The District Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location

shall endorse the application prior to consideration by the Insurance Committee. Application forms are available on the conference web site.

b. The Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location shall evaluate the request for less than full replacement cost coverage and establishment of a stated value, on the amount of resources necessary to invest in rebuilding, consistent with the ministry and mission possibilities and goals of the local church, cluster and district.

c. Future changes of stated values established under this policy shall be handled in the same fashion as original applications.

d. A rider will be added to the existing Conference policy listing the specific properties as being carried at a stated value, not full replacement coverage. The stated value also shall be listed. There is no co-insurance due to the lack of full replacement coverage. Any partial loss will be paid in full.

e. Waivers of blanket full replacement will be effective only on the annual renewal date of the insurance plan, August 1st. Completed applications must be received by the Chairperson of the Insurance Committee by July 1st.

11. The Vermont District churches must join the Unit Plan no later than August 1, 2011 as passed by this resolution at Annual Conference in June 2010. Workers Compensation program became effective January 1, 2011.

12. Insurance billings for the Vermont churches that joined the Unit Insurance Plan after August 1, 2010 will be handled as follows:

a. Churches will be billed through the office of the OAS on a short year basis, billed monthly.

b. The first payment will be due on the 15th of the month that the church joins the plan.

c. A special discount will be given to churches that pay the total amount or enroll in the Automated Clearinghouse Account by the 15th of the month following the month that the church joins the plan.

d. The Conference Treasurer shall use Conference funds, as necessary, to pay the premium until funds come in from local churches.

RS- 113 - UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

(Submitted by the UMW)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, 256.5 states "United Methodist Women – In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women"; and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, 256.5 states the purpose of United Methodist Women in Article 3 as "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church"; and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Women in New England Conference contribute significantly to the mission work of the United Methodist Church locally and through the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

a. The churches of the New England Conference shall be encouraged to support and lift up the work of United Methodist Women.

b. The churches of the New England Conference shall be encouraged to celebrate the work of United Methodist Women during a Sunday worship service.

RS- 114 – TO CREATE A COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Sharon Jones and Marie MacDougall)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS the Women's Division and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church work jointly to create yearly mission studies focusing on a country or region of the world, a social issue related to our mission, and spiritual growth, and

WHEREAS for over thirty years the predecessor conferences of the New England Conference have held cooperative Schools of Christian Missions, and

WHEREAS these schools have changed lives and led women, men and children to be more aware of the global nature of our world, training them to engage with respect for and cooperatively with our sisters and brothers in developing countries, and

WHEREAS the New England Conference has not budgeted funding for Schools of Christian Mission for ten years, and

WHEREAS the New England Conference United Methodist Women have invested \$8,000 per year to continue the Schools of Christian Mission during the last five years, and

WHEREAS to be a cooperative school requires participation with time, personnel, and resources, and

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Church and Society has supported the 2011 school with time, personnel, and resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the New England Conference supports a cooperative School of Christian Mission to be held each year to train and certify people to teach this program in all districts and clusters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 2011 School is a cooperative school with the Board of Church and Society and the New England Conference UMW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that other Conference Mission and Program groups be encouraged to join Church and Society in financial support for the SOCM.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local churches encourage men, women and children to attend the SOCM and offer scholarships when needed.

RS – 115 - BUDGET BUILDING DATES - 2013 BUDGET

(Submitted by Council on Finance & Administration)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The following budget building preparation and dates are for the 2013 budget, subject to any change mutually agreed upon by the CFA and the Resource Team. All 2013 budgets, methods of funding and sources and uses of funds for all divisions, commissions, boards, task forces, committees, agencies and councils will be considered at the same time and place called to discuss and vote upon the total conference budget. All boards, divisions, agencies and councils submit requests and complete all applicable questions on authorized budget forms supplied by the CF&A.

- a. CF&A and/or Treasurer distribute forms to Conference Boards, Committees and Agencies for budget building requests by March 5, 2012.
- b. The CF&A and New England Missions team agree to a New England Missions team 2013 budget total by March 15, 2012.
- c. Boards, agencies, committees presenting budgets to the Director of Connectional Ministries do so by March 15, 2012.
- d. All 2013 budget requests must be submitted to the Treasurer by Noon, March 15, 2012.
- e. The CF&A approves final 2013 budget for recommendation to Annual Conference by May 1, 2012.
- f. The CF&A distributes the proposed 2013 budget through the Pre-Conference packet distributed to all Annual Conference members, via the Conference web site, e-mail, and regular mail by May 15, 2012.

RS- 116 - APPORTIONMENT FORMULA

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The 2012 Mission Shares be calculated by multiplying the total amount of the apportioned budget by the APPORTIONMENT FACTOR for each UM church.

The APPORTIONMENT FACTOR shall be calculated by:

Averaging the following three amounts:

- The amount reported on the 2010 Statistical Tables, Lines 51 – 62 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- The amount reported on the 2009 Statistical Tables, Lines 51 – 62 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- The amount reported on the 2008 Statistical Tables, Lines 64 – 72 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.

CFA, at the request of the Cabinet, may make adjustments to individual church mission share amounts based on factors not considered within the aforementioned statistical tables.

RS – 117 – A COVENANT WITH THE HATTIE B. COOPER COMMUNITY CENTER

(Submitted by the UMW)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS, the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center (hereinafter, "Cooper"), located at 1891 Washington Street, in Boston, Massachusetts, is the only United Methodist National Mission Institution in the six-state area of the New England Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, Cooper was begun over 95 years ago by Methodist women in the church which is now Union United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Cooper has successfully served children and families in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston during those years; and

WHEREAS, Cooper provides vital educational services that facilitate growth, development and the creative groundwork for the future success of many underserved children and their families through such programs as Infant-Toddler Program, Preschool Program, After-School Program, Summer Camp Experience, All-Day Summer Care for Children and Youth, and Elderly Services Program; and

WHEREAS, Cooper makes a difference in the lives of children so that they might become positive, contributing members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Cooper has received national recognition for its standard of excellence and its commitment and dedication to high quality early education through accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children; and

WHEREAS, Cooper has been awarded a \$50,000 matching grant by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, and needs to raise \$50,000 to qualify to receive those funds,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference shall enter into a covenant with Cooper to promote support for its programs so that Cooper may continue to be a place for children to play, learn, grow and socialize in a loving environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such promotion shall include encouraging the congregations within the Conference to recognize the missional work of Cooper by specifying one month of the calendar year as "Celebrate Cooper Community Center Month" (April is suggested), during which they might invite a Cooper representative to speak in order to learn more about its services, plan fund-raisers to financially support Cooper's programs, and/or volunteer at Cooper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New England Annual Conference churches shall honor the history and on-going excellent services which Cooper provides by supporting it through their prayers, their gifts, and their service.

RS – 118 – ADVANCE SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR REMAINDER OF THE QUADRENIUM - NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Fay Flanary, Secretary of NEC Global Ministries)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The Balm in Gilead Ministry International,
Inc East Brookfield, MA**\$17,696.62****Abiot Moyo**

The stated goals and mission of the ministry are to help orphans and vulnerable children, in homes where one or both parents have died often due to HIV/AIDS, with food and school tuition. The program also provides home-based care for those with HIV/AIDS; provides financial and moral support for widows; and helps congregations build simple but adequate structures for worship.

Justice for our Neighbors(JFON) Lawrence , MA**\$76,600****We Hyung Chang**

The stated goal and mission of the ministry, sponsored by UMCOR, empowers annual conferences and local regions to help provide legal assistance for immigrants. The program envisions three sites within the annual conference for this ministry. The first site is scheduled to open at Trinity UMC, Springfield, MA in the fall of 2011.

RS – 119 – UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND (UMFNE) – RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE FOR 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY

(Submitted by the UMFNE Board of Directors)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

Whereas, in 1988, Bishop George Bashore and visionary leaders believed a Conference Foundation would strengthen investment management, endowment development, planned giving and financial stewardship by New England United Methodists;

Whereas in 1991, under the leadership of Bishop Herbert Skeete, the Boston Area Foundation Committee comprised of Blaine Taylor, Lisa Jones, John Blackadar, Donald Nelson, Larry Stanchfield, Frank Gulinello Jr., G. Neil Harper, Marie Bent, Shirley Wohr, Sandra Kelley, Desmond Parker and Richard L. Evans, recommended the creation of an Area Foundation to serve all three Annual Conferences in the Boston Episcopal Area;

Whereas all three Annual Conferences supported the creation of the United Methodist Foundation of New England;

Whereas, the Foundation continues to expand, grow and upgrade services and resources benefiting personal and congregational stewardship and investment opportunities,

Whereas, the Foundation's Loan program, Capital Campaign program and Grants & Financial Assistance Ministry all reinvest financial resources in local ministries;

Whereas, the Board of Directors and friends of the Foundation have contributed nearly \$100,000 toward Endowments and Grants during the past three years;

Whereas the Foundation's "Faith & Money" initiative has expanded stewardship ministry and resources for all New England churches and ministries;

Whereas in 2011, the United Methodist Foundation of New England will have served churches, agencies and donors with investment management, endowment development and education, and vehicles for generous individual philanthropy for twenty years;

Be it Resolved that the New England Annual Conference join the United Methodist Foundation of New England in a Celebration of 20 Years of faithful service and continuing growth in ministry.

Note from UMFNE: Adopted February 28, 2011 - Voting For: 17, Against: 0

RS – 120 – AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – PARSONAGE GUIDELINES

(Submitted by the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the request of the Conference Committee on Rules, in re "sunset" policy VII.D.5)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS the New England Annual Conference has maintained Guidelines for the design and features for parsonage dwellings to assure adequate housing for all appointed clergy and to support the system of itinerant appointments, and

WHEREAS under Rules of the New England Annual Conference, such previously adopted Guidelines are scheduled to expire in 2011, and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees and the Equitable Compensation Commission have worked jointly to revise and update the expiring Guidelines, and support their amendment and re-adoption as guidance to both local churches and the Conference in the acquisition and/or renovation of appointed clergy residences, and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees and the Equitable Compensation Commission have endorsed the submittal of Revised Parsonage Guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Annual Conference at its 2011 meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby adopts the following as "Parsonage Guidelines" to be effective until amended or replaced consistent with future Annual Conference action:

Parsonage Guidelines

These proposals for parsonage guidelines in the New England Conference were originally established by the Conference Trustees and have been amended and proposed for extension by The Commission on Equitable Compensation in consultation with the Conference Board of Trustees. They have been written with the following understandings:

- 1) It shall be the purpose of each church/charge to provide a parsonage, which will not only be a comfortable home for the pastor and family, but which will also provide an environment which will be helpful in the conducting of effective ministry.
- 2) Churches and communities vary widely in their norms, resources, and settings. A helpful guideline shall be that the parsonage should reflect the norm or the average of the homes of the parishioners.
- 3) There are certain standards regarding health, safety, etc., which are not negotiable because they are stipulated by law or the Discipline.
- 4) All parties involved will use common sense, reasonableness, and goodwill.

The following goals toward which churches/charges with existing parsonages should be working in order that these guidelines might be fully implemented, insofar as possible within the next ten years. These guidelines are operable now for parsonages which are being purchased:

Indoor Living Areas

- 1) Living and dining areas of a size adequate for entertaining.
- 2) A well-equipped kitchen, with appliances functioning as designed and adequate counters and cabinets.
- 3) A family room
- 4) At least three bedrooms
- 5) A room of appropriate size and privacy for the pastor's study, if an adequate study is not available at the church.
- 6) One full bathroom and a half bath
- 7) Adequate closet and dry storage space, including closet space in each bedroom and other storage space distributed throughout the house.
- 8) A laundry area with washer and dryer

Outdoor Areas

Appropriate to the community setting, the following are recommended:

- 1) a two-car garage
- 2) Outdoor living space (such as porch, deck, or patio)
- 3) A safe and adequate area in which children can play

Water intrusion which leads to mold and mildew can create a health hazard as well as cause maintenance expenses. Outdoor grading and landscaping should direct water away from buildings. Foundation drains or other features (including on-slab designs) should be incorporated to reduce the chance of future water problems.

Services

- 1) An adequate supply of hot and cold water, in all rooms using water
- 2) A sewage system that meets local and/or state regulatory requirements
- 3) Weekly rubbish pick-up when available
- 4) Water treatment if needed, including regular periodic testing for radon, bacteria and other contaminants if a private water supply is employed
- 5) Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers are required.
- 6) Radon testing if the structure has a basement or other below grade space
- 7) Outside water faucets and electrical outlets
- 8) Snow removal and lawn service to be determined between the appointed Pastor and the SPRC/local Trustees at time of appointment

Utilities

The following utility services shall be provided at the expense of the church providing the housing:

- 1) Electricity
- 2) Gas and/or oil for fuel, or such other alternative fuels as may be employed (e.g. wood pellets)
- 3) Water and sewage
- 4) Basic cable TV or satellite service
- 5) Basic telephone service
- 6) Internet access – preferably high-speed internet

Furnishings and Equipment

- 1) Floor covering for kitchen, bathrooms, and utility room shall be of durable water resistant material, i.e. ceramic tile, vinyl composition tile or vinyl sheet
- 2) Hardwood or laminate floor surfaces should be encouraged; wall-to-wall carpet should be limited or avoided due to maintenance issues (frequent replacement) and because it can retain allergens which may not be fully removed with standard cleaning
- 3) Window shades, drapes or curtains throughout, if the pastor does not wish to furnish his/her own
- 4) Outdoor tools: mower, hose, snow removal equipment as needed (See Item 8 under Services)
- 5) Where basements are used for laundry and storage of personal property, and are subject to water infiltration during and after heavy rains/snow melt, it is strongly recommended that the trustees install adequate sump pumps with battery power backup.

Energy Conservation Features

- 1) All new parsonages must meet local energy codes for insulation in all exterior walls and spaces.

- 2) Consideration should be given to “energy efficient” windows and doors. New and replacement windows shall have insulated (double-pane) sashes in frames with a thermal-break. Wherever possible, Low-E / Argon gas filled glass shall be used.
- 3) Domestic Hot Water and hydronic heating pipes shall be insulated in basements and crawl spaces;
- 4) New and replacement toilets shall meet the existing requirements, currently 1.6 gal per flush;
- 5) Sinks and shower heads should be fitted with appliances to regulate flows.
- 6) Appliances should be “energy star certified” appliances.
- 7) Consideration should be given to alternate energy sources including solar energy.

Maintenance and Improvements

- 1) It is important to plan ahead for repairs and improvements. These should be a line item in the church budget in the amount of at least 1 1/2 % of the insured value of the parsonage to take care of routine and emergency expenses, as well as creating a capital reserve to ensure funding for structural, mechanical and electrical elements that are or will be in need of replacement. If it is not used in any given year, it is to be held in escrow for when it is needed.
- 2) The electrical service should be inspected, and all wiring, including the installation of circuit breakers, required number of outlets, wall switches, and light fixtures are to meet the National Electrical Code or other mandated local code.
- 3) It is important in the interest of both comfort and stewardship that all windows and doors be weather tight, with either storms or thermopane glass, and that there be screens for all windows. If new windows are being installed, they shall be high-performance type.
- 4) Both the interior and exterior of the parsonage should be kept in such repair as to preserve not only its physical condition, but its aesthetic value, and this includes sensitivity to the historical design of a building when making changes. Painting should be done regularly, in consultation with the parsonage family. Wallpapering should be discouraged in new structures due to maintenance issues, but in cases of historic use or architectural preservation, wallpaper should be maintained/replaced on a regular basis
- 5) It shall be the responsibility of the occupants of the parsonage to provide for the cleanliness of it and the repair of any damage which they or their pets have caused to the interior, exterior, or grounds. An exiting pastor shall also be responsible for removing swing sets, above-ground pools, and other non-permanent additions. If, when pastor is leaving, the cleaning, restoration, and repair of damage have not been done, the pastor will be billed for same. If the pastor does not pay this bill, or contests it, a recording of refusal or negotiations shall become a permanent part of the pastor’s record.

Re: Annual Inspection of the Parsonage and Dealing with Needs

In compliance with the 2008*Discipline* there shall be an annual inspection of the parsonage by the Chairpersons of the Board of Trustees and Committee on Staff-Parish Relations. (Para 258.2G(16) and 2532.4) The purpose of this inspection is to discover needed repairs, improvements, and refurbishing, and to make short-term and long-term plans for accomplishing these, with prompt attention given to safety and health factors. Needs which arise between inspections should be taken care of promptly.

When a new pastor has been appointed, the incoming pastor (and spouse, if applicable) should tour the parsonage with a member of the Committee on Staff-Parish Relations at the convenience of the current parsonage occupants, and agree as to what repairs and redecorating are to be done before the new pastor moves in.

The District Superintendent is responsible, at the time of the Annual Charge Conference, to ensure that the regular annual inspection of the parsonage be properly and responsibly completed in keeping with Paragraph 258.2g (16) of the Book of Discipline 2008.

Safety and Security

- 1) If security is an issue in the community, whatever is needed to make the dwelling secure should be provided, i.e. dead-bolt locks, security systems, outdoor lighting, etc. A key change is suggested at the time of appointment change.
- 2) To make access to the house safe for occupants and guests, the driveway and the steps and sidewalks to all doors need to be of an even surface and kept in good repair.
- 3) All outside steps should have safe and secure railings.

Pets in the Parsonage

While it is recognized that it is the right of the parsonage family to have pets, it is also recognized that the ownership of pets requires the pastor to assume responsibility for them. At minimum these responsibilities include:

- 1) Caring for the pets in a humane and responsible manner.
- 2) Securing permission of the local church for the construction of any needed facility.
- 3) Assuming financial responsibility for the construction, maintenance, and eventual removal (at the time of a move) of any facility, such as a dog house, etc.
- 4) Replacing/repairing any damage done by pets to the carpets, floors, drapes, doors, lawn, etc., as well as cleaning and deodorizing to the approval of the appropriate committee and the incoming pastor.
- 5) Any cleaning, repair, or removal resulting from the ownership of pets that is not done by an outgoing pastor shall be billed to that person.
- 6) Breeding of animals is not considered reasonable use.

A Parsonage Notebook or File

It is recommended that the local church trustees maintain a notebook or file of records and helpful household data, including, but not limited to:

- 1) A record of the date and place of purchase of all appliances and equipment. Manuals and service contracts for these are to be kept together.
- 2) A record of the date and name of contractor and a description of any work done on the parsonage.
- 3) A record of any decorating or refurbishing, to include paint color, type, brand, etc.
- 4) Any special information necessary regarding shrubs, flowers, etc.
- 5) Any and all special licenses, permits and certificates issued by the municipality, county, state or federal government, including certificates of lead paint removal.

Parsonage families residing in the parsonage should turn over to the trustees any information which should appropriately be maintained in such a file, and incoming families should review and have available such records.

Appointment Change:

The responsibilities of the outgoing parsonage family at the time of a move shall include:

1. Removal of all personal property from the parsonage building and grounds
2. Leaving the house clean, particularly appliances, closets, cabinets, bathrooms, and storage areas.
3. Removal or arrangements for removal of all trash and discarded items.
4. Sanitization of house for pet odors and treatment for fleas.
5. Collection of all parsonage keys and transfer of same to the incoming family, being certain that all are clearly labeled.
6. As noted in the Maintenance and Improvements Section of this document, it shall be the responsibility of the occupants of the parsonage to provide for the cleanliness of it and the repair of any damage which they or their pets have caused to the interior, exterior, or grounds. An exiting pastor shall also be responsible for removing swing sets, above-ground pools, and other non-permanent additions. If, when pastor is leaving, the cleaning, restoration, and repair of damage have not been done, the pastor will be billed for same. If the pastor does not pay this bill, or contests it, a recording of refusal or negations shall become a permanent part of the pastor's record.

An incoming pastor should be supplied with a "dwelling condition statement" by the Trustee Board upon moving into the parsonage. Any damage at the time of move-in must be listed on this form and returned to the Trustee Board. At the time of departure, the exiting pastor shall be presented with the "dwelling condition statement" issued when they moved-in which should indicate any damage beyond normal wear and tear with estimates to repair the damages.

The responsibilities of the church/charge at the time of an appointment change shall include:

1. Washing curtains, dry cleaning draperies and window coverings (if provided) or replacing as needed, and washing all windows, inside and out.
2. Cleaning all rugs and carpets (if provided), cleaning laminate, tile and vinyl floors and cleaning (or refinishing as needed) hardwood floors.
3. Ensuring that all appliances, cabinets sinks and countertops have been cleaned and disinfected.

4. Ensuring that all smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers operate as designed and have been inspected and/or serviced annually or as required.
5. Ascertaining that the parsonage is left clean and all personal property of the previous pastor and other items not needed by the incoming pastor have been removed prior to arrival of the incoming parsonage family.

Re: Lead Paint – The Trustees of any local United Methodist Church or Annual Conference are held to the same standards as a “landlord” in all New England states. The local church Trustees are responsible for the lead remediation of the church parsonage and Conference Trustees are responsible for district/conference parsonages and staff housing to fulfill state law. Lead remediation shall be done prior to children living in the parsonage.

Re: Handicapped Accessibility

It is recommended that bi-level or split level homes not be built or purchased for use as a parsonage, unless in the acquisition of such properties consideration is given to adequate facilities being provided which could accommodate pastor or pastor’s family member with handicapping conditions. The ownership of such homes limits the appointability of some pastors and pastors with family members with handicapping conditions. For further guidelines regarding accessibility see Para. 2532.6, 2543.3 (b), 2543.4(d), 2008 *Discipline*

Re: New or Extensively Renovated Parsonages – When purchasing, building, or renovating an existing parsonage at a cost of more than 25% of its replacement value, the District Board of Church Building and Location is to be consulted as stipulated in the *Discipline*.

An improvement resource for churches that are buying, building, or renovating parsonages is the current issue of the booklet: *Parsonage Planning, produced by The Mission Education and Cultivation Program of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church*. The guidelines set forth in this document, when used in consultation with an architect or quality builder, will eliminate many of the commonly encountered difficulties.

RS-121 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – CLERGY COUPLE HOUSING

(Submitted by Equitable Compensation Commission and the Board of Ordained Ministry, pursuant to the request of the Conference Committee on Rules, in re “sunset” policy VII.D.5)
(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

Preamble:

WHEREAS it is the understanding within the New England Annual Conference that providing for a full-time pastor means that the local church to which a pastor is appointed will provide the pastor with:

- compensation of at least minimum salary
- adequate housing (a parsonage or a housing allowance adequate to provide housing in the community)
- health insurance
- a reimbursable account for business expenses
- and will pay 100% of Ministerial Support and other Mission Shares,

And the 1984 General Conference decided that “housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration, but shall be considered as a means provided by the local church, and for the convenience of the local church, to enable its ministry and the itinerant ministry of the annual conference.”, (2000 Book of Discipline paragraph 251.4e; 1984 Book of Discipline paragraph 256.3(f))

And when a married couple are both clergy, and both serve full time, they may be appointed to charges in close enough proximity that it is reasonable for them to share housing this usually means living in the parsonage owned by one of the churches,

And Judicial Council Decision 562 (April 1986) clarified that a clergy couple do not each have a right to their own housing or housing allowance by stating: “An annual conference may not adopt legislation which would permit contravention of the provisions of the 1984 Discipline (Para 256.3(f)) by making it compulsory to provide each member of the clergy with individual housing as a matter of right, whether or not the spouse was also being provided housing.”,

And other Judicial Council Decisions demonstrate that equity and fairness come into play when a clergy couple shares a parsonage,

And ruling on the constitutionality of the 1984 decision, Judicial Decision 547 (October 1984) declared: “The Judicial Council reaffirms the statement in its Decision No. 317 that clergy cannot be denied benefits on the basis of marital status” and further states that in the context of housing, “there is nothing to indicate that ministers may not negotiate for more compensation if they are not going to use the housing.” (Italics added.)

And clergy couple housing was again revisited by the Judicial Council in October 1986 to clarify “adequate” housing, stating in part:

“Those who argue the case for clergy couples to each receive individual housing or housing allowances maintain that 256.3(f) would be discriminatory. We are not convinced by such argument. More convincing to us is the argument that it is housing, and not compensation, that is to be provided under 256.3(f). Therefore, if a clergy couple can be satisfactorily housed in the parsonage provided by one of the appointments, then the annual conference and the local church (s) have made “adequate provision”. Additional housing allowance, unless provided as additional compensation after negotiation, would then be reverse discrimination of the minister who is not married to a clergy spouse.” Decision 588. (Italics added.)

The following considerations are recommended in considering the adoption of a policy that addresses the equity of the situation:

1. The cost of any pastor living in a parsonage is the 15% self-employment tax on the fair rental value of the parsonage, which must come out of salary. If a clergy couple lives in the same parsonage, this tax only applies to one salary.
2. For Social Security purposes housing/a housing allowance is credited as income; meaning that although FICA may be calculated at a higher rate, at retirement Social Security will also be at a higher rate. Thus, the pastor, who has no parsonage or housing allowance value added, will receive a lower social security payment. (In the NE Conference pension is not based on salary but on years served, so pension is not affected.)
3. It is more expensive for a pastor to live in a different community from the church served: e.g. travel is involved and possibly storage costs for un-used furniture.
4. A church may find that there are financial hazards to having a period of time when it does not have to pay for housing and then upon change of appointment, finds itself once more having to include that cost in its budget.
5. A parsonage could be rented if not in use by the clergyperson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference will adopt and abide by the following policy:

1. The Cabinet will continue to make efforts to appoint clergy couples in proximity to each other, making it possible for couples to live together.
2. When a clergy couple appointed to two full time positions in close proximity agree that they would prefer to live in one parsonage, the Bishop and Cabinet will make the churches and the couple aware that it is legal and reasonable, and in the interest of equity for the spouse who is not provided separate housing, to negotiate for additional compensation. When a clergyperson receiving a salary including additional compensation negotiated in lieu of housing receives a new appointment, the previously negotiated additional compensation shall be subtracted from the salary before any new negotiations take place.

RS – 122 – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – CONFERENCE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES, VII-Y.

(Submitted by James McPhee)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

Upon nomination by the conference Committee on Leadership, the Annual Conference shall elect a conference board of higher education for a term of four years.

RS – 123 – DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY

(Submitted by Michael McShane for the Disabilities Committee)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

The Disability Committee moves that the fourth Sunday of October be Disability Awareness Sunday.

RS-201 – AMENDMENTS - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; EPISCOPAL NOMINATIONS

(Submitted by the Conference Committee on Rules)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

VI. ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS

- A. The nomination shall be made in accordance with the current issue of the Book of Discipline, and the following procedures:
1. **Biographies:** Nominating biographies shall be announced by the Conference Secretary. Submission of a biography by May 1 of the year of the Jurisdictional Conference constitutes a nomination. Nominating biographies for inclusion in the Pre-Conference Book will be submitted to the Conference Secretary on or before February 1, following guidelines published by the Secretary. Nominating biographies shall be no more than 200 words.
 2. **Additional nominations** may be made from the floor, but no speeches will be permitted.
- B. The Annual Conference, in the session immediately preceding a regular Jurisdictional Conference, shall set aside time for consideration of nominees for Episcopal election.
1. ~~The process shall include a ballot presented at the Annual Conference with the names of candidates and their biographies.~~ An Australian ballot listing the names of the nominees in alphabetical order will be presented at the Annual Conference. The ballot will include an option for selecting 'none'." ~~Each Annual Conference member will cast a ranked vote for the candidates listed on the ballot. Each member will receive three ballots and vote for up to three candidates, ranking them as follows: The preferred candidate receives a ranked vote of 5, the second preferred receives a ranked vote of 3, the third, receives a ranked vote of 1. The Annual Conference will endorse up to three candidates. Each member shall vote for no more than three candidates listed on the ballot. The Annual Conference will nominate endorse up to three candidates ranked in the order of the highest, second highest and third highest number of votes cast for the three persons. In order to be endorsed by the Annual Conference, each candidate must receive 50% plus 1 of the members present and voting. In order to be endorsed by the Annual Conference, a candidate must meet both requirements as follows: A candidate who receives the highest or second highest or third highest amount of points from the ranked balloting; and receives a vote from 25 percent of the members present and voting.~~
 2. There shall be only one vote. Of the candidates receiving 50% plus 1 of the votes cast, the 3 receiving the greatest number of votes shall be nominated to the Jurisdictional Conference. In the event none of the candidates receive 50% plus 1 of the votes of the members present and voting there will be no nomination made to the Jurisdictional Conference.
 3. This rule does not preclude nominations from the floor.
- C. Lay and Clergy members of the Conference wishing to lift up names for consideration shall, in accordance with a process defined by the Conference Leadership Committee and approved quadrennially by the Conference in the year immediately preceding a regular session of the Jurisdictional Conference, circulate information about such persons before the Annual Conference in which elections are held.

Explanatory Note: Rule VI B. currently provides for a ranked system of voting for up to three nominees for bishop. The Rules Committee has voted to recommend that the current ranked voting system be replaced by a simple Australian ballot, listing all candidates names in alphabetical order. From the votes cast by the conference members present and voting, the three nominees receiving the most votes, second most votes and third most votes will become the Annual Conferences nominees for Episcopal election. However, each person to be nominated must receive one-third of the total votes of the members present and voting. The former 25 percent minimum has been raised to a one-third requirement to establish clear support for the nominees by the Annual Conference. Sec. B. 2. is new. It provides that only one vote be taken in the election and restates the effect of the one third rule. The revision is designed to simplify the current rule and to assure that each vote in this important election is cast after prayerful consideration Sec. B. 3. Nominations from the floor are still permitted by The Roberts Rules of Order. The ballot should provide blank lines for names to be written in by each voting member in the event there are floor nominations.

RS-202 - TO PROMOTE FAIR TRADE IN THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Submitted by Pat McHugh and "Spirit Wind")

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that "we believe private and public economic enterprises are responsible for the social costs of doing business, such as employment and environmental pollution," and

WHEREAS the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that "trade and investment should be based on rules that support the dignity of the human person, a clean environment and our common humanity. Trade agreements must include mechanisms to enforce labor rights and human rights as well as environmental standards", and

WHEREAS the NEAC is in covenant with Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua, and Evangelica Methodista; and

WHEREAS most of the multinational companies investing in Nicaragua are not paying a living wage to workers, and in particular women sewing products for consumption in the United States of America make between 50 cents and a dollar an hour, and the basic basket (income necessary to provide shelter, housing and food for a family of four) for Nicaragua is \$13.00 a day according to Hope through Action, a fair trade crafters co-op; and

WHEREAS 50% of Nicaraguans live below the poverty level, average per capita income is \$326.20 a year, 135th out of 170 countries (NationMaster.com), and the underemployment rate approaches 50% reflecting that many people accept any job no matter the pay; and

WHEREAS we believe this situation is duplicated in the vast majority of developing countries; and

WHEREAS the GBPHB uses the Social Principles in determining their investment policies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the New England Conference Board of Pensions and Health Insurance discuss with the UMC Principles Committee of the GBPHB the necessity of including a guideline related to fair trade in the investment policies of the GBPHB.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT items to be sold or given away at the New England Annual Conference sessions take into consideration fair trade principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the churches of the New England Conference learn more about fair trade as opposed to free trade.

RS- 203 – 2012 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

a). The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a 2012 Mission Share spending limit of \$6,718,973 (actual spending limit) and a 2012 Mission Share apportioned to local churches of \$7,452,615 (includes "connectional mission share" for churches unable to pay 100% of apportioned amounts).

b). The Council on Finance and Administration recommends the 2012 conference budget as presented. (Dated May 13, 2011)

RS-204 – CALL TO CONSCIENCE

(Submitted by Leigh Dry)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

We, as members of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, bring this "Call to Conscience" to the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for your approval as a statement of faith and hope, but also to express clarity of vision at a time of confusion and misguidance in our Church and in our Country. It is particularly appropriate at this session of the Annual Conference as a means of honoring the ministry and witness of Bishop Minerva Carcaño.

"Call to Conscience"**Our God...**

We believe in a loving and merciful God;

A God of hospitality and hope;

A God of inclusion and justice.

We believe that God is made manifest in the life and work of Jesus Christ;

Who taught, healed, forgave, and offered his very life in love for us, and continues to do so today.

We believe in a Spirit who invigorates our drive and desire for justice; one who seeks equality, and urges us toward a just, humane, and peaceful world.

Our Calling...

We believe that the work of the church is to make God known to the world by living the great commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This radical idea grinds against the ways of the world; ways that are innately filled with a distortion of the perfect love offered to us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

As people of faith, we strive to live as God calls us, to seek the kin-dom of God, and to promote a radical justice in our governments, our churches, our communities and our lives. We share this task with an inclusive community of those who seek to be faithful to God. This requires ongoing critique of our institutions and our selves. It also requires us to partner with persons in other traditions who share the same longing for wholeness in the human family that we do.

Our Resources...

Scripture is the primary means by which we discern God's hope for us and God's desire to continue creating with us a sacred fellowship of peace, mercy and grace. Scripture gives us the platform to wrestle with God's activity in human affairs in ways that are beyond our comprehension, and lead to our continual spiritual growth. Discerning God's will through the scriptures, however, requires the best that we have to bring to the task. We must employ our reason, our experience and our traditions. We must read the scriptures through the lens of the all-embracing love of Christ. We must read humbly, ever open to the grace contained therein for ourselves and others, and mindful of our continuing need for correction and growth. When we open ourselves to the Word God speaks, we find new life.

Our Challenges...

We believe this new life is intended not only for us, but for all persons. The church's grievous history of supporting war and excluding others on the basis of race, religion, sexuality, and other conditions is reprehensible and runs counter to the gospel message. Our human condition tempts us to classify, stratify, and quantify all of creation. The result is an ever widening gap between rich and poor, increasing corporate greed, and the idolatry of money. Racism, sexism, and heterosexism are failed attempts by human beings to substitute systems of privilege for partnership with God. Ongoing wars, the posturing of power, torture and terrorism threaten God's good creation with annihilation. Unbridled financial and political gain strips the world of its natural ecological balance and protections.

Our Hope...

As faithful followers of Christ, we are summoned to stand and speak to the world of nonviolent love and acceptance, while supporting economic and political systems that make possible the equitable distribution of God's rich creation to all people.

In communion, dialogue and diversity, we celebrate new ways of just being and living. Humbly we repent of the roles we may play in dividing the faith community. Together we raise our voices for a just and reconciled church and world where God's welcome will be practiced throughout our human community.

RS-205 – REGARDING THE WILBUR C. ZIEGLER PREACHING AWARD

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, Robert Moore, Jonathan Almond, Don Rudalevige, Bill Coleman, Dave Purdy and Bill Trench)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

WHEREAS, The Rev. Wilbur C. Ziegler was noted for his prophetic preaching of the whole Gospel and his love for all of God's people, and

WHEREAS, The Matthewson Street United Methodist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, in recognition of Bill's "compassion and optimism, his ability, courage, and sensitivity" in 1981 established the Wilbur C. Ziegler Award in Preaching in Bill's honor, and

WHEREAS, Bill's ministry was characterized by an unhesitating proclamation of social justice, leading him to preach in ways that "afflicted the comfortable," and

WHEREAS, Bill's early and sustained opposition to the Vietnam War caused more than one-third of the members in one of his appointments to leave that church, and

WHEREAS, Those who did not know Bill may not be aware of the direct link between the Ziegler Award and his passionate, prophetic preaching,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ministry of Bill Ziegler continue to be honored by the New England Annual Conference by reaffirming the original intent of the Ziegler Award, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Church and Society be charged with developing guidelines to choose recipients of the award consistent with Bill Ziegler's legacy, and that the Board present to the Annual Conference of 2012 its

recommendations for such guidelines and an outline for constituting a selection committee for the award that will be cognizant of its link to prophetic preaching.

RS-206 – IN SUPPORT OF THE “DREAM ACT”

(Submitted by the Board of Church and Society)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19, NRSV

A call to love and stand with undocumented immigrants in our midst is a sacred mandate from God who called the people of Israel to love the aliens in their land as themselves. Undocumented immigrants are the very neighbors whom Jesus calls us to love as ourselves. Jesus even identified himself with an immigrant, probably an undocumented one if it applies to our time, when he said, “*When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.*” (Matt 25:35) The United Methodist Church affirms “all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God,” and calls “the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all.” (The Book of Discipline, 162.H) The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church urges our churches to welcome migrants, regardless of their legal status, into our community and the nation and to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. (The 2008 Book of Resolutions 3281 “Welcoming the Migrants to the United States”)

As people of God and United Methodists, we are deeply concerned about the lack of progress in passing comprehensive immigration reform, which has pushed our immigrant brothers and sisters into the deeper shadows of our community. We reject the current “enforcement only” policy as it denies the human dignity of undocumented immigrants and breaks their families and lives apart.

We are especially concerned about the struggles of those young men and women who came to the United States as the children of undocumented immigrants. For them America is their country to love and their home in which to feel safe. They grew up working on their education with high hopes and dreams for their future just like all their friends in their schools, churches, and communities. However, their undocumented status closes every door to their future and their contributions in the only country they have known to live in and love.

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for the children of the undocumented, has been their only hope. The DREAM Act aims to create pathways to citizenship for immigrant children who were brought to this country before age 16, are under 30 years of age, and have lived here for a minimum of five years, and wish to attend college or join the military. The Congressional Budget Office recently released a report evaluating the latest version of the DREAM Act and found it would reduce deficits by \$1.4 billion between 2011 and 2020. The fortune 500 companies and the Department of Defense endorsed the DREAM Act as it is beneficial to both our economy and security. However, Congress failed the dreams of these children last December when the Senate failed to pass the bill by five votes. As people of faith in New England, we are deeply disappointed that three senators from our region: Senator Brown (MA), Senators Collins and Snowe (ME) rejected the dreams of these children with their no votes.

Before they were children of the undocumented, they were the children of God whom God has given to us as gifts to be cherished and dreams to be fulfilled. As people of God, we are called to be and act as loving and responsible parents to these children, as God is a loving and responsible parent to us all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

We, United Methodists of the New England Annual Conference call on Senator Brown, Senator Collins, and Senator Snowe to reconsider their position on the DREAM Act and join us and these children in supporting the dreams and future of the children of the undocumented;

We call on the President and the Congress to pass just and humane comprehensive immigration reform legislation including the DREAM Act this year that provides a pathway toward citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families;

We call United Methodists in New England to be a good neighbor to the children and families of the undocumented in their community;

We further call on the conference secretary to send this resolution to our congressional representatives and the White House.

RS-207 – RETHINKING HEALTHCARE

(Submitted by Dorothy Matson, Sue Brown, Pat MacHugh, The Aroostook Cluster Council, Northern ME District Ministry Team, Conference Board of Church and Society, Equitable Compensation Commission and Conference Board of Pensions)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2011)

WHEREAS, Section V, Right to Health Care (pg. 117) of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church is a call to include the right to health care, based on John 10:10b, *“I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly”*, stating that *‘Stewardship of health is the responsibility of each person to whom health care has been entrusted—public and private’* and that health care is a basic human right, and further states that *“the provision of health care is a responsibility that each person owes others and the government owes to all”*, and

WHEREAS, Section V. of the Mission and Ministry of the Church (pg. 92) states that as the church, both clergy and laity alike who serve Jesus Christ are called to guide the church as Christian disciples in their witness to Jesus Christ in the world through acts of worship, devotion, compassion and justice under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that John Wesley described this as *“watching over one another in love”* and

WHEREAS, Section V. of The Political Community (pg. 123) speaks of Basic Freedoms and Human Rights and states that we hold governments responsible for various human rights and a guarantee of the rights to adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, and health care, and

WHEREAS, these and other similar statements in the 2008 Discipline of the United Methodist Church concerning justice, care for the poor, and basic human rights state our beliefs as United Methodists and the responsibilities that we say we take with them, and whereas Sec. V. of the Social Principles (pg. 117) talks about the failure to carry out such responsibility based on leaders who failed Israel in caring for the weak and quotes Ezekiel 34:4a, *“You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured,”* and as a result all suffer, and whereas we as the United Methodist Church are deeply involved in both the Rethink Church and Change the World campaigns, words from Michael Slaughter who is instrumental in both programs are important to be reminded of, *“If it is not good news to the poor, it is not the gospel”*, and

WHEREAS, one of the hallmarks of the early Methodist movement was the provision of health care for the poor, and

WHEREAS, the burden of health insurance costs has often had a negative impact on the quality of the life of ministry in many of our local churches and the communities they serve, this too becomes a concern of justice for our churches and the ministries in their communities.

BE IT RESOLVED that as we Rethink Church for the 21st Century, that while maintaining our commitment to those ¾ time or greater pastors and employees, we begin in earnest the work of examining new possibilities of providing more affordable health insurance that includes dental coverage, while exploring avenues through which ¾ to full-time pastors, in multi-staff churches (unless at least ¾ of the staff are eligible for health insurance that includes dental coverage), part-time local pastors, employees, and/or laity can enter into opportunities to purchase health insurance that includes dental coverage through the New England Annual Conference, thereby making it a more just and inclusive system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Board of Pensions, in consultation with the Board of Church and Society, Equitable Compensation Commission, and others, be charged with the task of establishing a study committee to call forth persons to report back to the 2012 Annual Conference with recommendations for providing affordable health insurance that includes dental coverage, within the New England Annual Conference that is equitable and just for pastors, employees, churches, and parishioners alike.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board of Church and Society and Equitable Compensation Commission create a statement to be adopted by the New England Annual Conference and issued to our Government Representatives that holds them responsible, as an issue of justice, to provide affordable health insurance that includes dental coverage and health care for all citizens.

RS-208 - REGARDING THE SMYRNA UMC PROCEEDS

(Submitted by Pat McHugh, District Superintendent, Northern Maine District)

(Adopted Thursday Morning, June 9, 2011)

WHEREAS the 2008 Annual Conference of the New England United Methodist Church voted to discontinue the Smyrna United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2008;

WHEREAS the members of the Smyrna United Methodist Church voted at their meeting on March 27, 2008, that if and when the church was sold any monies the conference received would be given to Camp Mechuwana;

WHEREAS the people in the two small towns of Smyrna and Merrill formed a non-profit Historical Society and paid the conference \$15,000.00 for the church building and property;

WHEREAS the money donated for this sale actually came from two long-time members of the church with the understanding that the money would be given to Mechuwana, and the public was told this also;

WHEREAS RS 217, found on Pg. 58 of the 2008 Journal, states: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE Conference Board of Trustees place in escrow all liquid assets of the Smyrna Mills United Methodist Church for the use of any future congregational development initiatives in the area";

WHEREAS the 2008 Conference approved the resolution of closure with the knowledge that it was operating under the old RS 225 guidelines;

WHEREAS these monies were included in the 2010 Conference Resolution establishing the Hebrews 11 Fund;

WHEREAS expenses paid from the proceeds of the sale, including property insurance, closing costs, utility bills, and legal fees, amounted to \$4,773.01;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Conference Board of Trustees pay to Camp Mechuwana \$10,226.99 from the current Hebrews 11 Funds.

RS-209 - TO RENEW RS-213 (MISSION SHARE REVIEW), ACTION OF 2005 AC, FOR ONE YEAR

(Submitted by the Council on Finance and Administration, pursuant to the request of the Conference Committee on Rules, in re "sunset" policy VII.D.5)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

CFA brings a motion to renew RS 213 for one (1) year in order to review and make changes before asking conference to approve a full continuation at the 2012 AC.

RS-210 – ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES AS NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

(Submitted by Fay Flanary)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

1. **CENTRAL VERMONT MISSION** **Contact: David Murphy**

Located on the grounds of the Covenant Hills Christian Camp in Cabot, VT, this project will provide a destination location for VIM and other mission groups to come to central Vermont and work on area housing for persons in need and other projects.

2. **BOSTON SEAMAN'S FRIEND SOCIETY** **Contact: Rev. J. Loring Carpenter, Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan**

Amount: \$15,000

This project offers the hand of friendship to international seafarers in the ports of Boston, Portsmouth, NH, and Portland, ME. Through Shore Chaplains, seafarers are offered shore access to acquire provision for their journeys and other pastoral care and services.

RS-211 - TO DISCONTINUE TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LYNN, MA

(Submitted by Martin McLee, District Superintendent, Metro Boston Hope District)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

WHEREAS The Trinity United Methodist Church located in Lynn, MA has existed for over 140 years with a long and proud history of mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS in their ongoing efforts to be faithful to God and responsible to their obligations they have had a ¼ time pastoral appointment in recent years; but discerned that they were no longer able to continue to meet these obligations; and

WHEREAS the congregation explored all of their options including merger; and

WHEREAS on December 11, 2010 at a specially called Charge Conference the members of the congregation unanimously gave thanks to Almighty God for their long history, celebrated their history and journey, decided to say goodbye to the Trinity United Methodist Church and to begin a new chapter in their faith journey. They voted unanimously to discontinue The Trinity United Methodist Church and to turn the building over to the Trustees of the New England Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS a final worship service of celebration and deconsecrating will be held June 26, 2011

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended the Discontinuation of the Trinity United Methodist Church and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trinity United Methodist Church be declared discontinued effective June 26, 2011

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with the wishes of the congregation, that the membership of the Trinity United Methodist Church be transferred to the Grace United Methodist Church in Lynn, MA unless members request otherwise,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the building belonging to the Trinity United Methodist Church shall become the property of the Trustees of New England Annual Conference and that assets from the building be deployed as directed by the Book of Discipline and the New England Conference policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a local board of trustees will be established to care for paying outstanding commitments as the responsibility for the building are handed over to the New England Conference Board of Trustees. Should any assets be discovered in future years, such assets should be transferred to the New England Conference, to be used as directed by the Discipline and the New England Conference policies.

RS-301 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by the Board of Church and Society)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO AMEND THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY ¶161 F, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully..1 Corinthians 13:12 NRSV

But for right now until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us to that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13, The Message.

We humbly yet honestly recognize that we only know in part when it comes to the issue of human sexuality. Especially, we acknowledge that our understanding of homosexuality is neither complete nor wholistic. Deep yet honest disagreements among our fellow United Methodists on this issue confirms the incompleteness of our understanding and reveals that we are the people who are on the way with the Spirit's help toward that completeness. Human sexuality is not just an issue to be defined, but a mystery that calls for further understanding and deeper discussion to discern God's truth and will that is to be revealed and lived in human relationships.

We regret that the current United Methodist Social Principles' statement on Human Sexuality (paragraph 161. f) does not reflect the partiality and incompleteness of our understanding by defining homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teaching. It does not reflect disagreements among faithful United Methodists on this issue and makes such faithful disagreements not a part of the holy process where the Spirit helps us toward the truth, but the basis for condemnation and division, which has caused deep pain and suffering in those whose lives are categorically denied to be a part of such a mystery of creation. It questions the faith of many who disagree with the statement, undermines the hope for unity and reconciliation in the life of our Church, and narrows the love of God that we are called to share extravagantly.

We believe that the majority report that was adopted by the church and society 2 committee of the 2008 General Conference reflects honestly the incompleteness of our understanding and calls for a prayerful and faithful witness regarding the issue of human sexuality. We regret that this majority statement was not fully discussed and discerned during the general assembly of the 2008 General Conference. Therefore, be it resolved that the New England Conference send the following statement based upon the 2008 General Conference majority report to the 2012 General Conference, replacing the current statement on Human Sexuality (¶ 161.f).

We believe that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We believe persons may be fully human only when that gift is acknowledged and affirmed by themselves, the church, and society. We call all persons to the disciplined, responsible fulfillment of themselves, others, and society in the stewardship of this gift. We also recognize our limited understanding of this complex gift and encourage the medical, theological, and social science disciplines to combine in a determined effort to understand human sexuality more completely. United Methodists, along with other Christians, have struggled to find principles for applying traditional teachings to contemporary understandings of human sexuality.

We recognize that sexuality is part of the larger human mystery, to be received and acknowledged in grateful responsibility. We reject all sexual expressions that damage or destroy the humanity God has given us. We deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sexual relations, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible. We call for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for children thus abused. We believe that the Church family should support all families in providing age-

appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We challenge all members of our community of faith to commitment, integrity and fidelity in their sexual relationships.

We know that all are God's children and of sacred worth; we are saddened that our church is divided regarding homosexual expressions of human sexuality. We acknowledge that faithful, thoughtful people who have grappled with this issue deeply disagree with one another and we believe that most United Methodists seek a faithful witness. We continue to reason and pray together with faith and hope that the Holy Spirit will soon bring reconciliation to our community of faith.

**RS-302 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO REMOVE CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE ON HOMOSEXUALITY, ¶161 F, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶161F as follows:

F) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, ~~heterosexual~~ marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

Rationale:

This condemnatory language is in conflict with the present state of scientific knowledge and societal acceptance. Such language puts United Methodism at odds with the positions of other denominations most closely related to it and with the emerging ecumenical consensus. Most important, this language is manifestly unchristian.

**RS-303 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO UPDATE CIVIL EQUAL RIGHTS, ¶162 J, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶162J as follows:

Equal Rights regardless of Sexual Orientation—Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, civil marriage, civil unions, and other such lawful claims attendant to contractual relationships including that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.

Rationale:

Civil legal language now includes blocks of contractual rights and responsibilities under the categories of civil marriage and civil unions. These blocks, regionally defined by law, simplify access to basic equality in the civil arena and may include over 1,000 rights and responsibilities.

**RS-304 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HOMOSEXUAL CLERGY, ¶304.3, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶304.3 as follows:

~~3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

Rationale:

Homosexual clergy, both single and partnered, have both maintained the highest standards of holy living and served our church in all levels of ordained ministry since our denomination's formation. This paragraph's double standard promotes secrecy and erects a barrier to keeping qualified clergy, both homosexual and heterosexual, serving our church.

**RS-305 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

**PETITION TO AMEND STATEMENT ON THE MORAL STANDARDS OF HOMOSEXUAL CLERGY, FOOTNOTE 3 OF
¶ 311.2(d), 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶311.2 (d) as follows (Found in the fourth paragraph of the footnote on page 212 of the 2008 BOD):

~~The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the Discipline regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.~~

Rationale:

Clergy are required to uphold the highest standards of holy living in the church and in the world. Homosexual clergy are fully capable of fulfilling these standards. The same expectations of Christian conduct apply regardless of sexual orientation. The idea that homosexual persons are inherently immoral is absolutely false.

**RS-306 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE
NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt, and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

**PETITION TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY, FOOTNOTE 3 OF
¶ 311.2(d), 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

Financial Implications: None

Amend Footnote 3 of ¶311.2 (d) as follows (Found in the twelfth paragraph of the footnote, on p. 215 of the 2008 BOD): The General Conference has made it clear in the “Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task” (Part II of the Discipline) that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are our guidelines. “United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine.”

~~In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that “we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”~~ Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman~~. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.” Also, “we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single.”

Rationale:

This section seeks to “elevate the standards” of “moral and social responsibility of ordained ministers,” by directing examination by district and conference committees. Stringent moral qualifications for ordained ministry are essential, but they have no relevance to the sexual orientation of the candidate. Such unchristian discrimination should be eliminated.

RS-307 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

**PETITION TO OFFER THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE TO HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES,
¶ 341.6, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶341.6 as follows:

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

Rationale:

Homosexual families bring blessings to our churches. United Methodist clergy have conducted union services for these families since our denomination’s formation. This double standard impedes pastoral care and fulfillment of the clergy covenant. This discrimination undercuts evangelism to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

RS-308 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

**PETITION TO END DISCRIMINATION AND CONFUSION IN FUNDING,
¶ 613.20, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶613.20 as follows:

~~20. To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of the UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (¶161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church’s official position is fairly and equally represented.~~

Rationale:

Holy conferencing and education are valued processes of United Methodists. This paragraph creates confusion and impairs holy conferencing regarding our relationship with our homosexual brothers and sisters. This deletion frees duly elected, employed, or appointed annual conference boards, agencies, commissions, and councils to resource the church as is their charge.

**RS-309 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

**PETITION TO END DISCRIMINATION AND CONFUSION IN FUNDING,
¶ 806.9, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

Financial Implications: None

Delete ¶806.9 :

~~9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church" not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. It shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.~~

Rationale:

Holy conferencing and education are valued processes of United Methodists. This paragraph creates confusion and impairs holy conferencing regarding our relationship with our homosexual brothers and sisters. This deletion frees duly elected, employed, or appointed annual conference boards, agencies, commissions, and councils to resource the church as is their charge.

**RS-310 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Paula DelBonis-Platt and the persons listed below for RS-302 to RS-310)
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO END DISCRIMINATION IN CLERGY CHARGES, ¶ 2702.1, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Amend ¶2702.1 as follows:

A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶2702.4)* with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality ~~including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage,**~~ (b) ~~practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~

Rationale:

The United Methodist Church repeatedly expresses concern about the recruitment of superior clergy candidates, especially young persons. Probably there is nothing which so impedes the recruitment of young candidates as this section of the *Discipline* and others similarly discriminatory. Bigotry, hypocrisy, and judgmentalism repel rather than attract.

Submitters of RS – 302 to RS – 310, Inclusive:

1. Paula DelBonis-Platt, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
2. Richard Lessard, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
3. Rev. Nadine L. Strout, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
4. Gail R. Page, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH

5. Linda B. Billingham, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
6. Julie K. Runnells, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
7. Katharine G. Lane, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
8. Barb Drotos, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
9. Kelly Smith, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
10. Julia Bertsch, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
11. Rev. James A. Batten, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
12. Barbara M. Batten, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
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15. Nick Darling, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
16. Ruth Engel, Lay Leader, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
17. Sylvia Greene, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
18. Amanda Piette, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
19. Elisabeth Buck, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
20. Cathy Hey, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
21. Rev. Peter Hey, New England Annual Conference
22. Jamie Tackett, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
23. Joan Woodhead, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
24. Cecilia Griffith, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
25. Jill Savage, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
26. Judith Treadwell Attori, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
27. William Broadrick, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
28. Jane Broadrick, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
29. Rosanne L. Roberts, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
30. Susan Morgan, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
31. Charles M. Morgan, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
32. Susan Griffith, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
33. Meredith Dustin, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
34. Misty W. Griffith, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
35. Renée Doucette, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
36. Jenn Parrott, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
37. Gavin Barnard, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
38. Anne Krendl, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
39. Christine Large, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
40. Judy Figueroa, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
41. Ruben Figueroa, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
42. Byron O. Champlin, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
43. Terrance Large, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
44. Martha Eilers, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
45. Susan Champlin, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
46. Sarah Burke-Cohen, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
47. Ethelyn M. LeClair, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
48. Erline A. Reilly, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
49. Alan Topliff, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
50. Heather Turner, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
51. Jeremy Turner, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
52. Peggy Topliff, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
53. Fred Shugrue, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
54. Faren R. Thorson, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
55. Austin Dodge, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
56. Agnes Macey, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
57. Renee Rand, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
58. James Rand, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
59. Sarah Ohl, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
60. Richard Tackett, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
61. Jason Buck, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
62. Caitlyn French, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH

63. Deborah Venator, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
64. James R. Weaver, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
65. Retta P. Weaver, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
66. Edward W. Brand, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
67. Laura Fry, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
68. Marcy Charette, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
69. Joan E. Doucette, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
70. Richard M. Nugent, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
71. Denise M. Archambault, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
72. Helen Fryer, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
73. Mark Bernardo, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
74. Sam Fogel, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
75. Jessa Fogel, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
76. Russell Beldin, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
77. Lib Parker, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
78. Kris Lucas, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
79. Tom Lucas, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
80. Dylan Lucas, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
81. Marissa Lucas, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
82. Dodd Griffith, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
83. Joan M. Ryan, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
84. Josie Proctor, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
85. Sharon Gallager, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
86. Ken Gallager, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
87. William (Bill) Platt, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
88. Loretta Shugrue, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
89. Beth Runnells, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
90. Allene Thurston, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
91. Daniel Haines, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
92. Ellen Hazeltine, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
93. Clifford Roberts, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
94. Susan Newton, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
95. Connie Garland, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
96. Karen H. McMahon, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
97. Richard Proctor, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
98. Linda Newell, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
99. Donna Rowland, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
100. Marcia Wardwell, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
101. Carol C. Harris, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
102. Mary Beth Fairhurst, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
103. Arlene Bradberry, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
104. Shelly Bowne, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
105. Gail Pitts, St. Joseph's, Concord, NH
106. Tricia Lombardo, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
107. Crystal Tobin, Wesley UMC, Concord, NH
108. Amy Alden, Transfiguration, Concord, NH
109. Donna Rey, Transfiguration, Concord, NH
110. Sunni George, New Life Church, Concord, NH
111. Pamela DelBonis Garabedian, Open Table UMC, Providence, RI
112. Mary E. Bassett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
113. Karla G. Smith, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
114. Marie Machacek, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
115. Carol Storrs, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
116. Jim Kay, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
117. John Bennett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
118. Karen Hammer, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
119. Corrina Roman Kreuze, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
120. Robert J. Anders, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA

121. Elizabeth M. Bennett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
122. Gladys Bennett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
123. Kenneth Teal, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
124. Deborah J. Teal, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
125. Donald G. Vonada, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
126. Barbara A. Wheeler, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
127. Jennifer Mikkola, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
128. Margaret L. Mikkola, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
129. Peter S. Bonnan, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
130. Harold Arthur, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
131. George Emmans, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
132. Leonard Werst, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
133. F. Channing Wagg III, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
134. Sara Wagg, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
135. Cinthia Walker, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
136. Donna-Ruth W. Yost, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
137. Nancy Vaccaro, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
138. Charles Mather, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
139. Jane Emmons, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
140. Andrea Bonnar, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
141. Charlene Twente, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
142. Susan Dalton, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
143. Betsy Comstock, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
144. Todd Freyman, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
145. Sylvia Vonada, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
146. Judith A. Kotze, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
147. Derek A. Kotze, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
148. Susan Lee, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
149. Susan Rardin, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
150. Jerry Rardin, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
151. Diana Kendrick, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
152. David Potts, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
153. Diane Anders, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
154. Robert Hammer, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
155. Peggy Papanastassin, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
156. Pamela Follett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
157. Evelyn Johnson Moore, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
158. Rev. Robert A. Moore, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
159. Belinda F. Eichel, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
160. David Follett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
161. Margaret Follett, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
162. Susan Zuckerman, St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA
163. Douglas M. Brooks, Union UMC, Boston, MA
164. Cynthia Horton, Union UMC, Boston, MA
165. Mary Adjetey, Union UMC, Boston, MA
166. June Carter, Union UMC, Boston, MA
167. Ruby Goddard, Union UMC, Boston, MA
168. Ryan Birch, Union UMC, Boston, MA
169. Eleanor Niles, Union UMC, Boston, MA
170. Dustin Rhue, Union UMC, Boston, MA
171. Bettie Walker, Union UMC, Boston, MA
172. Delores Tucker, Union UMC, Boston, MA
173. Clarence Tucker, Union UMC, Boston, MA
174. John F. Drewry, Union UMC, Boston, MA
175. Susie A. Davis, Union UMC, Boston, MA
176. Kevin Whetstone, Union UMC, Boston, MA
177. Kim McLarin, Union UMC, Boston, MA
178. Winnie Lowery, Union UMC, Boston, MA

RESOLUTIONS

179. Immelda Green, Union UMC, Boston, MA
180. David W. Scott, Union UMC, Boston, MA
181. Latiesha M. Dukes, Union UMC, Boston, MA
182. Patricia Dunson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
183. Kaniesha Johnson-Palmer, Union UMC, Boston, MA
184. Irene Gilchrist, Union UMC, Boston, MA
185. Cyrus-Charles Weaver, Union UMC, Boston, MA
186. Diana Watson-Phillips, Union UMC, Boston, MA
187. Irwinton Phillips, Union UMC, Boston, MA
188. Mabel Redding, Union UMC, Boston, MA
189. Margaret D. Cameron, Union UMC, Boston, MA
190. Rebecca Bedard, Union UMC, Boston, MA
191. Dierdra Baugh, Union UMC, Boston, MA
192. Eunice L. Turner, Union UMC, Boston, MA
193. Samantha Robinson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
194. Angela Nelson Whetstone, Union UMC, Boston, MA
195. T. Brooks Shepard, Union UMC, Boston, MA
196. John Jemison, Union UMC, Boston, MA
197. Desiree Patrice, Union UMC, Boston, MA
198. Laurel Bowen-Clarke, Union UMC, Boston, MA
199. Zachary Durant-Emmons, Union UMC, Boston, MA
200. Willis Emmons, Union UMC, Boston, MA
201. Ruth A. Brown, Union UMC, Boston, MA
202. Ruby L. Blake, Union UMC, Boston, MA
203. Talvin Davis, Union UMC, Boston, MA
204. Patricia Pettiford, Union UMC, Boston, MA
205. Gary Bailey, Union UMC, Boston, MA
206. David A. Jackson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
207. Muriel O'Niel, Union UMC, Boston, MA
208. Chyril Shepard, Union UMC, Boston, MA
209. Jeannette Washington, Union UMC, Boston, MA
210. Rhoda Johnson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
211. Stan Smith, Union UMC, Boston, MA
212. Crystal D. Collier, Union UMC, Boston, MA
213. Michelle Carmichael, Union UMC, Boston, MA
214. Steven Gilchrist, Union UMC, Boston, MA
215. Catherine Kornegy, Union UMC, Boston, MA
216. William Ellis, Union UMC, Boston, MA
217. Crystal Gardner, Union UMC, Boston, MA
218. William Alexander, Union UMC, Boston, MA
219. LaTrelle M. Easterling, Union UMC, Boston, MA
220. Chadwick Johnson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
221. Margaret Squires-Johnson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
222. Plamen Karadonev, Union UMC, Boston, MA
223. Bruce Bickerstaff, Union UMC, Boston, MA
224. Staci Davis-Spencer, Union UMC, Boston, MA
225. Cassandra V. Helms, Union UMC, Boston, MA
226. Monique Carr, Union UMC, Boston, MA
227. Hillary Reynolds, Union UMC, Boston, MA
228. Rebecca D. Edmonson, Union UMC, Boston, MA
229. Nancy Wewiorski, Union UMC, Boston, MA
230. Catharine A. Cummings, Union UMC, Boston, MA
231. John Rankin, Union UMC, Boston, MA
232. Violet Mullin, Union UMC, Boston, MA
233. Sybil Gilchrist, Union UMC, Boston, MA
234. Vincent C. Smith, Union UMC, Boston, MA
235. Rumera Rabbini, Union UMC, Boston, MA
236. Michael A. Burris, Union UMC, Boston, MA

- 237. Edie Tepper, Union UMC, Boston, MA
- 238. JoAnn Fryer, York-Ogunquit UMC, York, Maine
- 239. Virg Fryer, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 240. Sharon Parker, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 241. Sharon Cameron, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 242. Shayne Wilcox, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 243. Laura Spratt, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 244. David Coombs, St. James UMC, Greenville NC (soon to join LUMC)
- 245. Dennis Damon Moore, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 246. Julie Coombs, St. James UMC, Greenville, NC (soon to join LUMC)
- 247. Helen Damon-Moore, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 248. Thomas Gilligan, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 249. Jo Collins, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 250. Robert Parker, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 251. Tina Ahern, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 252. Hilde Baert, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 253. Mark Farnham, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 254. Betsey Peale, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 255. Marilyn Dunten, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 256. Judith A. King, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 257. Christine Topolewski, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 258. Jonathan Verge, Lebanon UMC, Lebanon, NH
- 259. Jeanette S. Hutchins, Lebanon, NH

RS-311 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Michael McShane)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO DESIGNATE DISABILITY AWARENESS ANNUAL CONFERENCE THEME, NEW ¶, IN BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

WHEREAS, scripture teaches us the importance Jesus placed on ministering to and with people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, at least one in five persons worldwide has a disability, and the number is rapidly increasing due to aging, war and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Book of Resolutions, No. 3304, states, in part that church leaders are to “Lead the local churches in attitudinal change studies, to the end that the people called United Methodist are sensitized to the gifts, needs, and interests of people with disabilities, including their families;” and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has promoted itself as a Church of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors;” and

WHEREAS, Local Churches and Districts look to their Conference for guidance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each Conference shall designate that at least one Annual Conference session during the 2013-2016 quadrennium will have a theme centered on Disability Awareness to set an example for each District and Local Church. Resources and guidance are available from the Committee on Disability Ministries (currently the United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries – see separate petition for name change) and UMCOR Health/Health and Welfare Ministries.

Supporting Petitioner: Patricia Magyar

Identification of the Petitioner: Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health

Supporting Petitioner: Lynn Swedberg

Identification of the Petitioner: Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries

**RS-312 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Michael McShane)
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO CHANGE "INCAPACITY LEAVE" ¶ 357, 652 (RELATED), 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

¶ **357. ~~Incapacity~~ Medical Leave Resulting From Due to Medical Health Matters and Disabling Conditions which Prevent Performance of Ministerial Duties**

1. When clergy who are members of an annual conference (¶ 369) are unable to perform their ministerial ~~work~~ duties because of ~~incapacity due to health matters~~ medical and disabling conditions, upon recommendations of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, and by a majority vote of the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the annual conference who are present and voting, they may be granted annual ~~incapacity~~ medical leave without losing their relationship to the annual conference; provided, however, that such leave may be granted or renewed upon reasonable and appropriate investigation of the case by the joint committee on ~~incapacity~~ clergy medical leave of the annual conference, or the party responsible for managing ~~the incapacity of clergy~~ medical leaves in accordance with the annual conference's policies, which will report its findings to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions. This relationship may be initiated by the clergy member or cabinet with or without the consent of the clergy member through the Board of Ordained Ministry. When ~~incapacity~~ medical leave is given without the clergy member's consent, reasonable accommodation shall be offered whenever possible. When a clergy member is granted ~~incapacity~~ medical leave by the annual conference, if the medical evidence has not yet met the standards for the receipt of benefits as set forth in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, section 5.04, the conference board of pensions may authorize payment of the benefits in the amount that would otherwise be payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The payments shall be made by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as a charge to the annual conference granting the ~~incapacity~~ medical leave. If payments from the Comprehensive Protection Plan are subsequently approved, the annual conference will be reimbursed for benefits already paid, not to exceed the amount otherwise payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. Each ~~incapacity~~ medical leave granted by the annual conference shall be recorded in the conference minutes.

2. When clergy who are members of an annual conference are unable to perform their ministerial ~~work~~ duties between sessions of the annual conference on account of ~~medical matters and disabling~~ conditions, with the approval of a majority of the district superintendents, after consultation with the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the executive committee of the conference board of pensions, ~~an incapacity~~ a medical leave may be granted by the bishop for the remainder of the conference year; provided, however, that such leave may be granted upon reasonable and appropriate investigation of the case including accommodation provisions by the joint committee on ~~incapacity~~ clergy medical leave of the annual conference, or the party responsible for managing ~~the incapacity of clergy~~ medical leaves in accordance with the annual conference's policies, which will report its findings to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions. When a clergy member is granted ~~incapacity~~ medical leave by the bishop, if the medical evidence has not yet met the standards for receipt of benefits as set forth in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, section 5.04, the conference board of pensions may authorize payment of the benefits in the amount that would otherwise be payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The payments shall be made by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as a charge to the annual conference granting the ~~incapacity~~ medical leave. If payments from the Comprehensive Protection Plan are subsequently approved, the annual

conference will be reimbursed for benefits already paid, not to exceed the amount otherwise payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

3. When clergy members on ~~incapacity~~ medical leave provide medical evidence that they have recovered sufficiently to resume ministerial ~~work~~ duties, or are able to return through reasonable accommodation, with the approval of a majority of the district superintendents, after consultation with the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the executive committee of the conference board of pensions, they may receive an appointment from a bishop between sessions of the annual conference, thereby terminating the ~~incapacity~~ medical leave. Such appointment shall be reported immediately by the cabinet to the conference board of pensions and to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Such termination of leave, together with the effective date, shall also be recorded in the minutes of the annual conference at its next regular session.
4. A person under consideration for ~~incapacity~~ medical leave shall have the right to appear before the joint committee on ~~incapacity~~ clergy medical leave or to designate someone to meet with the committee on his or her behalf. In the event of unresolved issues, a person will be ensured of fair process per the guidelines for administrative hearings in ¶1362.2
5. Any person eligible to receive an appointment from a bishop and able to perform ministerial duties may not be placed on involuntary medical leave solely because of a medical condition. All reasonable accommodations should be made to enable qualified clergy with disabilities to serve in ministry settings compatible with their gifts and graces. (See 2008 Book of Resolutions, No. 3002)

➤ ¶ 652 of the 2008 Discipline is amended as follows:

¶ 652. Each annual conference shall establish a procedure by which it will manage ~~incapacity of clergy~~ medical leaves. The annual conference may establish a joint committee on ~~incapacity~~ clergy medical leave. If the annual conference establishes such a committee, it should be composed of at least two representatives each from the Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, who may be elected by those boards at the beginning of each quadrennium and at other times when vacancies occur, and a district superintendent appointed from time to time by the bishop to represent the cabinet. The joint committee shall be encouraged to include in its composition a person with a disability, preferably someone under appointment. Unless and until other members are elected, the chairperson and registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the chairperson and secretary of the conference board of pensions, or others designated by them, shall be authorized to represent **their** respective boards. The committee shall organize at the beginning of each quadrennium by the election of a chairperson and a secretary. If the annual conference does not establish a joint committee, the annual conference's established policy and process for managing ~~incapacity of clergy~~ medical leave nonetheless should involve the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pensions and representation from the cabinet.

The duties of the annual conference, with respect to ~~incapacity~~ clergy medical leave, or the joint committee on ~~incapacity~~ clergy medical leave, or its equivalent, shall be:

- a) To study ~~the problems of incapacity~~ issues related to ~~of~~ clergy medical leave in the annual conference.
- b) To provide for a continuing personal ministry to any ~~disabled~~ clergy on medical leave ~~of the conference~~ and to aid them in maintaining fellowship with the members of the conference.
- c) To provide advice and support to and, where appropriate advocacy for, clergy on ~~incapacity~~ medical leave in (i) applying for and securing disability benefits from the Comprehensive Protection Plan and government programs, (ii) exploring possible sources of interim financial assistance before disability benefits can be obtained, ~~and~~ (iii) establishing rehabilitation and return-to-service programs, and (iv) assessing the need for and providing reasonable accommodations.
- d) To make recommendations to the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pensions, and the cabinet on matters related to ~~incapacity~~ clergy-medical leave, including steps for ~~its~~ the prevention of the need for medical leave; incapacity ~~the process of granting medical~~ leave, benefits, grants or other assistance, and programs of rehabilitation.

e) To cooperate with and give assistance to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in its administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the Comprehensive Protection Plan and other benefit plans for clergy on ~~incapacity~~ medical leave, and to the extent applicable assist with the disability benefits and other benefits provided under those plans.

- All references to “joint committee on incapacity” in the Discipline are changed to “joint committee on clergy medical leave.”

Rationale for change of language: The term “incapacity” when describing a clergy person who is in need of a health-related leave denotes a lack of ability and/or eligibility, yet the need of a clergy person to take such a leave from an appointment for medical reasons does not mean one is inherently or permanently incapable of serving the church. The United Methodist Church has a vital interest in recognizing and nurturing all persons who have been ordained and commissioned for ministry, and cannot afford to waste the gifts and graces of any person eligible to receive an appointment by a bishop. Eligibility should not be determined solely by the presence of a disability.

Rationale for change of process: Often clergy in the process or on “incapacity” leave feel abandoned by their conference and have difficulty fitting into an appropriate status in the Church. There is a need for an expanded due process providing opportunity for those persons to be heard. An important theological basis for ministry is that “ordained persons exercise their ministry in covenant with all Christians ... [and] also live in covenant of mutual care and accountability with all those who share their ordination, especially in The United Methodist Church, with the ordained who are members of the same annual conference and part of the same Order.” (§ 303.3).

Supporting Petitioner: Patricia Magyar

Identification of the Petitioner: Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health

Supporting Petitioner: Lynn Swedberg

Identification of the Petitioner: Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries

**RS-313 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Michael McShane)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES MINISTRIES, ¶ 1327, 2008 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Financial Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

- ¶ 1327.3 (5) is amended by adding a new sentence:

(5) To provide programs for annual conferences, districts, and local churches that encourage awareness of the gifts and needs of persons with disabilities and to promote the leadership and employment throughout the connectional system of persons with disabilities. UMCOR Health (formerly Health and Welfare Ministries) shall establish, maintain, and provide financial and personnel support for a United Methodist Committee on Disability Ministries to provide advocacy, education and empowerment to lead the United Methodist Church in creating a culture where people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership and ministry.

- Current funding from the General Board of Global Ministries for the expanded work of the newly established permanent committee will be supplemented by additional funding from a proposed change in Disability Awareness Sunday from an Approved Sunday for Annual Conference Observance to a Churchwide Special Sunday With Offerings (see separate petition).

Rationale: Health and Welfare Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries has sponsored and financed the United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries (formerly The United Methodist National Task Force on Developmental Disabilities) since 1994. The proposed legislation establishes the “Task Force” as a permanent committee with appropriate financial resources and a broadened focus on all disabilities.

Supporting Petitioner: Patricia Magyar

Identification of the Petitioner: Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health

Supporting Petitioner: Lynn Swedberg

Identification of the Petitioner: Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries

RS-314 - PETITION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by the Divestment Task Force, Board of Church and Society, the New England Methodist Federation for Social Action, and Open Table of Christ UMC)

(Adopted after amendment, Saturday Morning, June 11, 2011)

PETITION TO ALIGN UMC INVESTMENTS WITH RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL/PALESTINE

WHEREAS Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, which is destroying their lives;[1] and

WHEREAS, although the United Methodist Church (UMC) has long opposed the occupation, UMC boards and agencies still hold stock in companies that sustain it;[2] and

WHEREAS the UMC General Conference in 1996 declared that "continuing efforts by the State of Israel to build settlements in the occupied territories violate both international law and the spirit of the Declaration of Principles [the Oslo peace process];"[3] and

WHEREAS the 2004 General Conference approved a resolution opposing "confiscation of Palestinian land, ... the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings;"[4] and

WHEREAS The UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies "that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights" (§716);[5] and

WHEREAS Palestinian human rights are violated by companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation wall, home demolitions and other realities of the occupation; and

WHEREAS researchers with the General Boards of Global Ministries and of Church and Society, several annual conferences, and ecumenical partners have identified a limited number of US and international companies in the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) portfolio that sustain Israel's occupation;[2] and

WHEREAS United Methodists have engaged Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard on this issue for years and have asked them to end their involvement with the occupation; and

WHEREAS The Book of Discipline requires consideration of divestment when companies do not respond to corporate engagement with changed practices (§716);[5] and

WHEREAS, at the October 2010 Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Summit, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits stated that SRI measures it has employed in the past, including screening and divestment, have not violated the board's fiduciary responsibility to beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS divestment is not aimed at Israel itself, but at the occupation of land beyond its internationally recognized borders; as a non-violent moral action, divestment seeks to strengthen the Church's support for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, whose future can only be secured through a just peace; and

WHEREAS many faith groups and organizations around the world have already divested or publicly support divestment;[6] and

WHEREAS all UMC mission personnel who have served in the Holy Land since the 1990s support divestment; and

WHEREAS the Church should lead with prophetic action by publicly and promptly aligning its investments with longstanding church policies opposing the Israeli occupation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, following the teachings of Jesus Christ and supported by people of every faith, the General Conference calls for the United Methodist Church to end its financial involvement in Israel's occupation by divesting from companies that sustain the occupation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Conference of the United Methodist Church:

- instructs the United Methodist General Agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, to divest promptly from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard, which have been engaged repeatedly by United Methodist agencies and annual conferences on this issue, until these companies end their involvement in the Israeli occupation; and

- calls for the United Methodist General Agencies to immediately engage with other companies in their portfolios that have been identified by researchers at the United Methodist agencies and annual conferences as being involved in the

occupation.[2] If these companies do not change their involvement within two years, they should be removed from United Methodist portfolios; and

- requires the GBOPHB to provide updates on its website regarding the process of corporate engagement with and/or divestment from companies that support the Israeli occupation; and
- directs the GBOPHB to provide a report to the 2016 General Conference regarding its progress toward complying with this resolution; and
- calls on UMC boards and agencies, annual conferences, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider corporate involvement in Israel's occupation when making investment decisions; and
- encourages United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights and an end to the occupation.

References:

- 1 Kairos Palestine. "A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love From the Heart of Palestinian Suffering" www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf Web. 1 May 2010.
- 2 Holy Land Task Force. "Companies of Concern" www.umhltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html Web. November 2010.
- 3 General Board of Global Ministries. "Two Resolutions of the United Methodist Church on the Middle East: The Building of Settlements in Occupied Territories." www.gbgm-umc.org/middle_east/Jerusalem.html Web. 1996. As cited in The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2000. "214. Israel-Palestine Conflict – The Building of Settlements in the Occupied Territories." (Abingdon Press), 732.
- 4 United Methodist Church. "Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land" http://archives.umc.org/interior_print.asp?ptid=4&mid=6855 Web 2004. As cited in The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2004. "312. Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land." (Abingdon Press), 789.
- 5 The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008. "Socially Responsible Investments" (Abingdon Press), 492.
- 6 Interfaith Peace Initiative. "Global Actions to End the Israeli Occupation" www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/globalactions.pdf Web July 2010.