

## 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS

### RS- 101 - MINIMUM CASH SALARY

(Submitted by the Commission on Equitable Compensation)  
(Adopted as amended, Saturday Morning, June 9, 2007)

The Commission on Equitable Compensation hereby submits this resolution to set the minimum cash salary at \$33,980 for CY2008.

Accordingly, the following rates have been set:

Full time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	\$33,980
Full Time Local Pastor	\$30,582
<i>Additional for Years of Service as of Jan 1, 2008</i>	
From 3 to 5 Years under appointment	\$500
From 6 to 10 Years under appointment	\$1,000
11 years or more under appointment	\$1,200

Based on the recommended minimum of \$33,980 and \$30,582 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	\$6,796	\$6,116
Strategic Salary Grant	\$8,495	\$7,645

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.

### RS – 102 – OFFERINGS AT 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Bonnie Marden and Jim McPhee for the Worship Planning Team and Episcopal Office)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Whereas, our holy Conferencing traditionally includes several Offerings and InGatherings for local, national and international mission and ministries as part of our transformational actions, and;

Whereas, supporting the Bishop's Discretionary Fund enables our leadership to support special needs as we strive to be united in trust while supporting our vision to boldly proclaim Christ to the world;

Therefore, let it be resolved that

- The Offering during the Ordination Service support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, and
- the Offering during the Saturday Evening Program support Central Conference's Pensions
- the Offering at the Sunday Service be designated for Youth ministries.

Furthermore, the youth led Penny Challenge will support the CCYM and the Youth Service Fund, UMCOR kits will be collected during Conference, and a collection of material goods (school, medical, dental, fabric and sewing) near the Chapel during Conference will be received for the Nicaragua Covenant.

Individuals and congregations are encouraged to respond enthusiastically to invitations to support the Nicaragua Covenant and the West Angola Covenant during the conference and coming year.

## **RS – 103 – RESOLUTION RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED MINISTERS OF THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE**

**(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)**

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

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 2008 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 thereunder 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 - HEALTH INSURANCE BILLING RATE CALCULATION**

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

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

The 2008 Health Insurance "blended" rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2008 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 – 105 - PENSION/BENEFIT BILLING RATE CALCULATION**

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

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

The 2008 Pension/Benefit rate shall be determined by calculating the total projected 2008 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 \$6,160 per full-time appointment (prorated in ¼ time increments) plus 7% of participants plan compensation.

### **RS – 106 - PAST SERVICE FUNDING RATE**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Be it resolved that the Past Service Funding Rate for 2008 be set at \$528 per year of service and 85% as the survivor's rate.

### **RS – 107 - SPECIAL GRANTS**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

That the following Special Grants be continued for 2008 on the same basis as 2007:

- 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) Lillian Wallace be given a special grant based on 3% of the Denominational Average Compensation.

### **RS – 108 - AFFIRMATION OF PREACHERS' AID SOCIETY**

(Submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

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. We celebrate Rev. Thomas Gallen as its Executive Director.

### **RS - 109 – CONFERENCE UNIT INSURANCE PLAN**

(Submitted by the Insurance Committee of the New England Conference Board of Trustees)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

The Committee 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 coverage 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 the Fred C. Church Inc. of Lowell, MA.
4. The renewal date will be August 1, 2007.
5. The insurance billing for this twelfth year of the plan (August 1, 2007 - July 31, 2008) 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 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 1, 2007.
  - c. A special discount will be given to churches that pay the total amount or enroll in the Automated Clearinghouse Account by October 15, 2007.
  - d. Churches that use the installment plan shall pay 20% of the annual billing on September 1, 2007 and eight monthly installments of 10% of the amount due on the first 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 billings 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:

- i. Receive and respond to questions and concerns of local churches regarding the insurance plan.
- ii. Review loss trends and suggest remedies.
- iii. Review property appraisals.
- iv. Review the policy for any needed changes
- v. Provide for risk management materials/workshops for districts and/or clusters as requested.
- vi. Annually review the premium, determine the method of distributing the premium among local churches and, if necessary, re-bid the contract.
- vii. 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, 2008. 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 application and 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.

## **RS- 110 - APPORTIONMENT FORMULA**

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

The 2008 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 2006 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.
- The amount reported, on the 2005 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.
- The amount reported on the 2004 Statistical Tables, Lines 63 - 71 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 – 111 - RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CREDIT**

(Submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

All participants in the Conference Health Insurance program in 2006 will be given one year of credit toward the retiree health benefit subsidy in retirement. All participants in the Conference Health Insurance program in 2007 will be given one year of credit toward the retiree health benefit subsidy in retirement.

## **RS – 112- RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CONTRIBUTION**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

The maximum retiree contribution to the Retiree Health Benefit Stabilization Fund for 2008 be \$52.50 per month for each participant and participating spouse pro-rated for the percentage of retiree health insurance premium paid by the Annual Conference.

## **RS – 113 - 2008 PASTOR'S/PARTICIPANT'S HEALTH INSURANCE CO-PAY PREMIUM**

(Submitted by - Council on Finance & Administration and Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 9, 2007)

The 2008 pastor's/participant's health insurance co-pay monthly premium will be \$175 per month (\$2,100 annually). Pastors/participants taking the annual health risk assessment by December 15, 2007 will receive a \$50 per month (\$600 annually) credit toward their premium.

*NOTE: (This increases pastors'/participants' health insurance premium from its current rate of \$100 per month with health risk assessment credit and \$150 per month without health risk assessment to \$125 per month with health risk assessment and \$175 per month without health risk assessment.)*

## **RS – 114 - ON ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER NGO'S & MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS IN NICARAGUA AS PART OF THE NICARAGUA COVENANT**

(Submitted by Kathi Peterson for the Nicaragua Planning Committee)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Whereas: In 1986 the New Hampshire Conference voted to enter into Covenant with Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua;

Whereas: In 1987 the Southern New England Conference voted to enter into Covenant with La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua;

Whereas: On April 15-18, 1987 La Iglesia de Cristo affirmed the Covenant at its General Conference in Nandasmo, Nicaragua;

Whereas: The Maine Conference has participated in the Covenant with La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua since the early 1990's through Sister Church relationships and delegations;

Whereas: During those years over 400 members of the now New England Conference have visited the churches and people of La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua, over 50 members of La Iglesia de Cristo have visited our Conference and led worship at our session in 1994; 25 sister-church relationships have been established, and over 15,000 miles have been walked together in mutual solidarity. as churches of north and south, rich and poor;

Whereas: In June of 2001 the Seventh Session of the New England Annual Conference adopted Resolution 207 – On Establishing a Covenant Relationship with La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua;

Therefore be it resolved in addition to the formal agreement with the La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua, that the Nicaragua Covenant be expanded to include partnerships with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Nicaragua and other ministry partners to include areas of agriculture, health, education, sewing, children's nutrition-feeding, micro-loans and other forms of humanitarian ministries that may be identified by the Nicaragua Planning Committee.

## **RS - 115 - UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL AIDS FUND**

(Submitted by the NEAC Global AIDS Committee)  
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 8, 2007)

WHEREAS, we seek to be disciples of the One who came to bring good news to the poor and who sent his disciples out to witness and to heal, and

WHEREAS, over 40 million persons globally are living with HIV and AIDS, and 9,000 people die from AIDS every day; and

WHEREAS, every month the death toll from AIDS surpasses the total deaths from the terrible Asian tsunami; and

WHEREAS, the HIV pandemic causes 5 million persons to be infected and 3 million lives to be lost each year; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 15 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone; and

WHEREAS, we affirm that the world's leading governments and the United Nations have contributed significant resources aimed at HIV prevention and treatment; and yet, as United Methodist Bishop Felton May has said, "Churches cannot conquer AIDS alone, but it will not happen without us;" and

WHEREAS, To this end, the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church established a Global AIDS Fund with a goal of \$ 8 million in Special Offerings this quadrennium; and that as of January 2007 the United Methodist Global AIDS FUND has received only \$ 372,100., of which about \$1700. has been contributed through the New England Annual Conference; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New England Annual Conference commits to the goal of raising the equivalent of \$1.00 per member through 2008. This money will be forwarded to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, with one-fourth of funds raised remaining within the Conference to be distributed as the NEAC Global AIDS Committee deems fit (either locally, regionally, and/or internationally); and that the New England Annual Conference will encourage local churches to support the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (Advance #982345) by special projects, offerings, or other means;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church strongly encourages each local church to observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday one day each year for the remainder of this quadrennium. The NEAC Global AIDS Committee will provide resources for this and other HIV/AIDS observances with the assistance of conference program and communications staff.

## **RS – 116 - RESOLUTION ON THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES**

(Submitted by We Hyun Chang, Church and Society)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Whereas, 2008 will mark the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the first Social Creed by the Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, this Social Creed became a model for other denominations and the Federal Council of Churches (now National Council of Churches); and

Whereas, in later General Conferences the Social Principles were developed to extend the Social Creed into more areas of concern; and,

Whereas, the 2004 General Conference designated "the 2005-2008 quadrennium as a time to highlight, study, reflect on, and live out the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church"; and

Whereas, many local congregations are unaware of the existence or scope of the Social Principles;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the New England Conference of United Methodist Church calls on congregations to:

- (1) undertake a study of the Social Principles during the 2007 to 2008 conference year; and,
- (2) use the Social Creed in their worship services, and,
- (3) identify within the context and experience of the local church one issue within the scope of the Social Principles that can be addressed through public policy advocacy and/or community action.

## **RS – 117 - ON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

(Submitted by Cindy Edgerly for the UMW)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2004*, 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 2004*, 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 –118 - JOURNAL RECORD OF GIFTS TO PREACHERS' AID SOCIETY**

(Submitted by the Preachers' Aid Society)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Motion for consideration by the 2007 New England Annual Conference:  
That the historical record of financial gifts in support of the work of the Society and its predecessors be published in the 2007 Conference Journal.

## **RS – 119 - RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT AND LEGISLATION**

(Submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

**Introduction:** Through many years of prudent benefit management, including past capital fund drives to control unfunded pension liabilities, careful investment of resources, and thoughtful management of pension programs, the New England Annual Conference and its predecessors have brought us to a financial position of adequate strength to sustain both our retirees' pensions and health care supplement programs in a time when many church groups and secular employers have had to cut back substantially on these.

Historically, our Conference and predecessor Conferences have provided a supplement to the Medicare Plan for our retirees and their spouses. It had been a "pay as you go" plan through the mid to late 1990's, funded primarily from the Mission Share budget, returns from invested funds, and from support from the Preachers' Aid Society.

Then beginning in the late 1990's and through the current period, a number of external and internal factors began to significantly call into question our ability as an Annual Conference to fulfill both our current and future covenant to provide a retiree health benefit. The external factors included rapidly escalating health insurance costs, increased numbers of participant retirements (beginning "baby boomer" retirements), and the precipitous decline in the stock market between 2001 – 2002. The internal factors included the recent Conference financial crisis, the continuing reduction in the number of churches and attendees, and increasing number of retirements.

Beginning to recognize some of the potential impact of some of the changing factors early on, in 1999 the Retiree Health Benefits Task Force of the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) began working to address the problem of rapidly escalating costs for the health insurance coverage which our Conference provides for our retired pastors.

**What is the Retiree Health Care Benefit?** The benefit is the Medicare Supplement available to qualifying retirees and their spouses, which includes prescription drug coverage. The current cost of this benefit per month (total premium cost) is approximately \$333 per month per participant. Clergy who have served under appointment with pension credit (through December 2004) and participated in the Conference Health Insurance Program since 2005 by the New England Conference for the 5 consecutive year prior to retirement and who have a minimum of 10 years of credited service with the New England Conference are eligible for funding based on years of service. Those who have 30 active years receive the full benefit; others are prorated based on years of active service.

**Trends:** At the time of the Conference merger in 1994, the annual plan cost was \$516,024. In 2006, the cost was approximately \$1.6 million. If the plan remains unchanged, actuarial projections indicate that by 2030 the annual plan cost will be in excess of \$5 million. Each year, the additional unfunded liability associated with the current program increases by more than \$850,000. The net present actuarial value of the cost of the current retiree health insurance program is \$45.4 million (which takes into account the value of contributions paid by participants who receive a partial benefit). The present actuarial value of assets to support this liability (including approximately \$4.5 million from the Together for Tomorrow Campaign) is approximately \$35.9 million. The difference between assets and costs is a \$9.5 million gap in resources to support the current program.

In 2001, the Annual Conference adopted recommendations from the Task Force for a "mid-term" solution to funding the benefit, consisting of 8 funding sources. Those recommendations, including exceptionally generous support from the Preachers' Aid Society, have supported the plan up to the present. Because of the rapidly changing health insurance environment and possible changes as a result of General Conference action in 2004, the Retiree Health Benefits Task Force was charged with revisiting its recommendations after 2004.

Recognizing that the current funding plan would not be viable indefinitely, the Task Force resumed its work, and with new more comprehensive data from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, has crafted the attached recommendations, which are approved by the CBOPHB and presented to the Conference for adoption.

The Taskforce reviewed and reaffirmed its commitment to the covenant to provide a retiree health benefit at a level that the Conference will be able to support for the long-term. Within that context the Taskforce established priorities around which its work was done and its recommendations are fashioned. Our priorities are as follows:

1. Attempt to hold harmless, current retirees and spouses/surviving spouses by not changing their benefits into the future.
2. Those closest to retirement would have their benefits changed as little as possible.
3. Information that is as clear as possible would be communicated to those impacted by the changes so that they could to make the necessary decisions toward preparing for retirement that would enable them to take into consideration the changes' impact as fully as possible in their planning processes.

The objective behind the recommendations has been to preserve a health care benefit for our retired and retiring pastors that will be financially sustainable for the long term, given the growing costs of health

care and financial realities in the Conference. The following recommendations will permit adjustments in future years if actual experience deviates from projections. Further, taken as a whole, these recommendations will eliminate the gap between the projected cost of the retiree health benefit program and the resources available to support it. However, the Task Force and the Board of Pensions wish to emphasize the provisions of paragraph 7, that it is the intention of the Board and the Conference to support this benefit to the best of its ability; but it may be significantly altered in the future as a result of both internal and external factors; and the provisions contained in these recommendations are not, and cannot be, a promise or "guarantee" of future benefits. All current and future participants in the plan are encouraged to take steps to provide prudent alternatives for the benefits provided by the plan.

In the light of the above considerations, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits recommends the following legislation to Annual Conference 2007 for adoption:

*Retiree Health Benefits Legislation*

*Annual Conference 2007*

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Beginning with fiscal year 2006, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits will make an annual recommendation to the Conference on the granting of retiree health insurance credit.
2. The Retiree Health Benefit initial maximum allowed funded benefit target effective on January 1, 2012, for the year 2012, for all participants will be set at \$5,000 or the current Medicare supplemental health insurance premium for 2012, whichever is lower. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits will review and make an annual recommendation to the Annual Conference regarding the dollar amount of the maximum allowed benefit.
3. Participants meeting either of the following criteria will see no change in their retiree health benefits from the current plan1:
  - Attainment of age 65 prior to January 1, 2012
  - Retired status prior to January 1, 2012
4. Eligible retired participants will continue to pay their incremental cost of the Retiree Benefit Stabilization payment established through prior conference action (\$49.50 per month as of 2007, increased annually by the percentage increase in the Medicare supplemental premium), in addition to any difference between the Medicare supplemental actual premium and each participant's Retiree Health Benefit maximum.
5. The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits will continue to work with the Preachers' Aid Society, which has provided assistance to the best of its ability to those who have experienced difficulty in meeting their health care financial responsibilities, to request help for those who may experience undue hardship as a result of these changes.
6. Eligible participants will be required to participate in the Retiree Benefit Stabilization Fund, through a mandatory payment of 3% of the Conference Blended Health Insurance rate which will be added to the pastor's health insurance premium co-payment, billed monthly. The CBOPHB will make an annual recommendation to the Conference on the percentage of the contribution.
7. Although the actions of this legislation are designed to continue retiree health benefits as delineated, there is no guarantee of future benefits. Clarification will be provided at every opportunity to communicate to participants, active and retired, that the provisions of this plan may be significantly altered in the future as a result of both internal and external factors. All current and future participants in the plan will be encouraged to take steps to provide prudent alternatives for the plan's coverage.

## **RS - 120 - 2008 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**

(Submitted by Council on Finance & Administration)

(Adopted as amended, Sunday Morning, June 10, 2007)

a). The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a 2008 Mission Share spending limit of \$5,833,271 (actual spending limit) and a 2008 Mission Share apportioned to local churches of \$6,564,624 (includes "connectional mission share" for churches unable to pay 100% of apportioned amounts).

b). The Council on Finance and Administration recommends the 2008 conference budget as presented.

## **RS – 201 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, ENDORSING EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted Friday Morning, June 8, 2007)

Insert "VI. A. 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 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. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but no speeches will be permitted. Nominating biographies shall be no more than 100 words.

Insert "VI. B. 1"

The process shall include a ballot presented to the Annual Conference with the names of candidates and their biographies. 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. 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.

## **RS – 202 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-C-3**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Amendment to Conference Policies & Procedures VII-C-3.

In the first sentence following the words "Board of Ordained Ministries", insert the words, "and Conference Visioning Table".

## **RS – 203 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-N**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert "VII.N"

The following additions to the Conference Policies and Procedures VII are proposed in order to comply with the Book of Discipline 2004 where the Book of Discipline 2004 confers to the annual conference determination for composition and process for conference leadership, boards and agencies.

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 632.3, "There shall be a conference secretary of global ministries...", and

Whereas the Book of Discipline 2004 does not state how that person shall be elected,

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the Bishop, Annual Conference shall elect a secretary of global ministries for a term of four years.

## **RS – 204 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-O**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted Friday Morning, June 8, 2007)

Insert "VII.O"

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 630.6d, "There will be a conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries. This position will be filled in a manner to be determined by the annual conference."

Be it resolved, that the conference director of lay speaking ministries shall be nominated by lay persons of the conference committee on leadership after consultation with the district directors of lay speaking ministries. The conference director of lay speaking ministries shall be elected by annual conference for the quadrennium.

## **RS – 205 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-P**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert "VII.P"

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 641.2 concerning the conference committee on Christian unity and inter-religious concerns, "It is recommended that this commission or committee be composed of two United Methodists from each district...one of whom shall be district coordinator for Christian unity and inter-religious concerns...", and

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 does not state how the second person shall be elected,

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the district committees on leadership, Annual Conference shall elect one United Methodist from each district to serve on the conference committee on Christian unity and inter-religious concerns for a term of four years.

## **RS – 206 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-Q**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert “VII.Q”

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 628.2, “The conference board of church & society or equivalent structure shall be composed of those persons as determined by the annual conference...”,

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the district committees on leadership, Annual Conference shall elect a conference board of church & society for a term of four years.

## **RS – 207 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-R**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert “VII.R”

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 645 concerning conference commission on communications, “...shall include persons with skills in communications nominated for membership in a manner determined by the conference...”

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the Conference Director of Communications, Annual Conference shall elect a minimum of 5 persons to serve on the conference commission on communications for a term of four years.

## **RS – 208 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-S**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert “VII.S”

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 653 concerning conference committee on Native American ministry, “...membership of the committee shall be nominated and elected by established procedure of the respective annual conferences.”,

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership, Annual Conference shall elect a minimum of six persons to serve on the conference committee on Native American ministry for a term of four years.

## **RS – 209 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-T**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert “VII.T”

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 631.3 concerning conference committee on ethnic local church concerns, “The membership of this committee shall be nominated and elected by established procedures of the annual conference.”,

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the ethnic commissions/committees, Annual Conference shall elect one representative from each ethnic commission/committee to serve on the committee on ethnic local church concerns for a term of four years.

## **RS – 210 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-U**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert “VII.U”

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 632.2, “The conference board of global ministries or equivalent structure shall be composed of those persons as determined by the annual conference...”

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the district committees on leadership, Annual Conference shall elect a conference board of global ministries for a term of four years. (The conference board of global ministries is not related to the Board of Global Ministries, Inc. which is currently managed by the Trustees.)

## **RS – 211 - AMENDMENT – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-V**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert "VII.V"

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 642.2 concerning conference commission on religion and race, "the basic membership of the annual conference commission shall be nominated and elected by established procedure of the respective annual conferences.",

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the district committees on leadership, Annual Conference shall elect a conference commission on religion and race for a term of four years.

## **RS – 212 - AMENDMENTS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, VII-W**

(Submitted by the Committee on Rules)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

Insert "VII.W"

Whereas, the Book of Discipline 2004 states in 643.2 concerning the conference commission on the status and role of women, "the basic membership of the annual conference commission shall be nominated and elected by established procedure of the respective annual conferences. ... Among the basic members of the commission shall be representatives from each district."

Be it resolved, that upon nomination by the conference committee on leadership in consultation with the district committees on leadership, Annual Conference shall elect a minimum of one person from each district to serve on the conference commission on status and role of women for a term of four years.

## **RS - 213 – ON THE DISABLED**

(Submitted by Michael McShane, Julia Dodds)

(Adopted as amended, Friday Morning, June 8, 2007)

WHEREAS, at Bishop Weaver reminded us at opening of the 2005 New England Annual Conference that people with disabilities live fruitful lives through God's love,

WHEREAS, the Discipline of the United Methodist Church recognizes that all people have gifts to offer,

WHEREAS, the United Methodist advertising campaign "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" promotes acceptance of individuals with disabilities,

WHEREAS, Jesus performed many healing miracles in the scriptures and he said that he was not here to rewrite the Hebrew Scriptures but to fulfill them,

WHEREAS, the Hebrew Scriptures say that one should help disabled individuals, and

WHEREAS, the scriptures state that God loves and will help these children in Isaiah 35:5-6a.

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the United Methodist Church heard the knock and the door is being answered.

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the churches in the New England Conference shall lovingly help those who are disabled, their family, and/or their caregivers' relief, in two or more ways during each year, which may include but is not limited to:

- A. Having a Disabilities Sunday service,
- B. Providing transportation to and/or recordings of services for the disabled,
- C. Providing the individual with information on how to reach service organizations that may help them in the local community,
- D. Having meetings/gatherings at the disabled person's house, and
- E. Doing outdoor yard work, indoor cleaning, and/or other chores.

Let it be resolved, that the United Methodist Church will look into new ways to reach this community on not only a local level but the District and Conference level as well. This includes but is not limited to:

- A. Awareness of services offered and signage,
- B. Seating that better suits the need of disabled individuals,
- C. Large-print material available at or before pre-conference,
- D. Provide transportation to pre-conference and conference,
- E. Pre-Conference sites have accessibility for the disabled,
- F. Outreach campaigns to help these individuals and those around them, and
- G. Look into ways of making Lay Speaker literature more available to the disabled.

And let it be highly recommended, that the New England 2008 Annual Conference theme will focus on God's love for persons with disability.

Note: Most of these changes the churches can accommodate at minimal or no costs at all. We are not asking the church to take on large expenditures but rather small ones at best and tithing a little of their time to reach out and help members of the local community in a loving way.

## **RS - 214 - AMENDMENT – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, LEADERSHIP ROSTER**

(Submitted by Michael McShane, Julia Dodds)  
(Adopted Friday Morning, June 8, 2007)

To create a new Disabilities Committee with at least half the membership of the committee being disabled individuals to help find new ways to assist disabled people participate in the life of the church at all levels more fully and educate the church on how to help the handicapped. This shall be a standing committee of the NEAC.

## **RS - 215 - ANTI-RACISM**

(Submitted by the Board of Ordained Ministry)  
(Adopted as amended, Friday Afternoon, June 8, 2007)

WHEREAS the threats made against Hailani Chan Williams, our United Methodist Pastor serving in Middleboro, MA, and his family, are racist,

And WHEREAS racism is an affront to God and contradicts Scripture, the wisdom of religious traditions, and all that we hold sacred,

And whereas the Board of Ordained Ministry has made a strong commitment to anti-racism and takes seriously the Gospel call to combat racism; we reject this form of evil as it presents itself,

And WHEREAS, we can't be passive and anti-racist at the same time; if you aren't actively resisting racism, we are part of the problem,

And WHEREAS, racism will surface and interact with other systemic evils within our churches and institutions of the world causing even greater injustice and harm,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Ordained Ministry reaffirms our commitment to anti-racism and calls upon all members of the New England Annual Conference and the greater United Methodist Church to pray, study, and take faithful action because racial injustice demeans human beings.

The above resolution was unanimously accepted by the New England Conference Board of Ordained Ministry at their meeting on February 10, 2007 and we present it to the 2007 New England Annual Conference for its adoption.

## **RS – 216 - LOCAL CHURCH PENSION COSTS**

(Submitted by Linda Campbell-Marshall, Bonnie Marden, and Diane Peak)  
(Adopted as a substitute, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

WHEREAS United Methodism is a connectional denomination, both structurally and theologically;

WHEREAS this connectional identity requires all to contribute to the well-being of the whole, including the vitality of the ministry of other congregations;

WHEREAS the ministry of connectionism means some will bear more responsibility for the sake of the wider mission, and, by these acts of self-giving we translate the story of the Cross into our current context;

WHEREAS United Methodism has historically believed that economic prosperity ought not to be determinative of access to the Gospel or of the integrity of ministry in a particular local setting;

WHEREAS previous experience with direct billing (Health Insurance) has resulted in the inability of some congregations to continue ministry at levels needed by their communities;

WHEREAS, additionally, it is to be expected that churches experiencing increases in pension costs are likely to divert available funding from other Mission Share Funds, further impacting the ability of the Annual Conference to provide essential resources to local congregations;

THEREFORE WE MOVE:

1. THAT this concern be referred to CFA with instructions to review the financial impact of both direct billing programs (Health Insurance and Pensions) on the ability of small churches to maintain ministry commensurate with the needs of their communities and that the results be reported to the 2008 session of the Annual Conference;

2. THAT CFA encourage churches that currently benefit from direct billing to support other congregations negatively impacted by direct billing.

## **RS – 218 - POLICY ON PARSONAGES SHARED BETWEEN LOCAL CHURCH CLERGY AND CONFERENCE STAFF**

(Submitted by NEC Board of Trustees)  
(Adopted as amended, Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 2007)

In cases where local churches provide housing for an appointed pastor which is also occupied by a full time New England Conference staff person, who is eligible to receive housing benefits, the following policy will be followed:

1. The New England Conference will pay one-half of the normal and usual parsonage utilities. The utilities covered shall be: heating fuel; water; sewer; electricity; internet; telephone; cable, trash services, yard work, and snow removal.
2. The New England Conference will pay 0.75% (three quarters of one percent) of the value of the parsonage to assist in proper maintenance of the residence. This contribution shall be for capital improvements and maintenance. The value of the parsonage shall be the same as the conference insured value.
3. All taxes, maintenance, and capital expenses are the responsibility of the local church.
4. The pastor and spouse who reside in the parsonage will be expected to give proper regard to the use of the parsonage. Unusual damage (such as from improperly cared for pets) will be the responsibility of the pastor and spouse.
5. The local church will conduct a yearly inspection of the parsonage. This will be done by a member of the local church Trustees, a member of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and the pastor. A written report on this inspection will be submitted to the District Superintendent of record. Any concerns for needed maintenance of the parsonage or of lack of due care for the parsonage on the part of the pastor and/or family should be clearly noted.

In cases where the conference provides housing for a full time New England Conference staff person which housing is also occupied by a locally appointed pastor, who is eligible to receive housing benefits, the same policies will be followed unless the pastor is less than full time. In such a case, expenses will be pro-rated accordingly.

## **RS – 219 – UNITED METHODIST ECONOMIC MINISTRY (UMEM) IN WESTERN MAINE**

(Submitted by the Mid-Coast Cluster, Mid-Maine District)  
(Adopted Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 2007)

WHEREAS, the UMEM (United Methodist Economic Ministries) at Salem and Solon, Maine has faithfully served the economically marginalized population of rural western Maine since 1969 and

WHEREAS the ministry maintains outreach through food pantries, thrift shops, housing repair, emergency services, (including fire victims, domestic abuse and treatment support), back-to-school resources, a school snack program and Thanksgiving and Christmas ministries, all of which are essential to area populations, particularly as industry continues to retreat from this once prosperous region, and the budgetary situation of the NEAC has made it impossible for recent funding in support of staffing for various programs to be continued.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UMEM be intentionally and regularly promoted as a mission of the NEAC through all its publicity mechanisms including websites, electronic, and printed media and that individuals and churches be encouraged to contribute directly to the work of the ministry and including the supports of the staff which makes that ministry possible.

## **RS – 220 - BUDGET BUILDING DATES - 2009 BUDGET**

(Submitted by - Council on Finance & Administration)  
(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

The following budget building preparation and dates are for the 2009 budget, subject to any change mutually agreed upon by the CFA and the Resource Team. All 2009 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, 2008.
- b. The CF&A and New England Missions team agree to a New England Missions team 2009 budget total by March 5, 2008.
- c. Boards, agencies, committees presenting budgets to the Director of Connectional Ministries do so by April 1, 2008.
- d. All 2009 budget requests must be submitted to the Treasurer by Noon, April 15, 2008.
- e. The CF&A approves final 2009 budget for recommendation to Annual Conference by May 1, 2008.
- f. The CF&A distributes the proposed 2009 budget through the Pre-Conference packet distributed to all Annual Conference members, via the Conference web site, e-mail, and regular mail by May 4, 2008.

## **RS - 221 – TO DISCONTINUE THE UNITED METHODIST SOCIETY OF**

## **THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS**

(Submitted by Ron Wilson, District Superintendent, Central Massachusetts District)  
(Adopted Friday Morning, June 8, 2007)

WHEREAS on March 16, 1927, the Warren Methodist Church, the First Congregational Church of Warren and the Warren Universalist Church located in Worcester County constituted themselves The Federated Church of Warren, and whereas this Church has had a long and proud history; and

WHEREAS on October 8, 2006, the Federated Church of Warren voted to discontinue the Church, and

WHEREAS on October 8, 2006 the two remaining members of the United Methodist Society of the Federated Church of Warren voted to discontinue the Society, and

WHEREAS the district superintendent has determined that the United Methodist Society does not currently own any property or other assets, and

WHEREAS the district superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the United Methodist Society of the Federated Church of Warren and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Methodist Society of the Federated Church of Warren be discontinued effective June 8, 2007, and that should any assets be discovered in future years, such assets shall be transferred to the New England Conference to be used as directed by the Discipline and the New England Annual Conference policies.

## **RS – 222 - ABANDONMENT OF THE DEXTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, DEXTER, MAINE**

(Submitted by Marcelle Dotson, District Superintendent, Northern Maine District)  
(Adopted Friday afternoon, June 8, 2007)

WHEREAS the Dexter United Methodist Church, first constituted in 1849 and located in Penobscot County Maine, has had a long and proud history; and,

WHEREAS the current active church members have stopped attending worship services at the church, and;

WHEREAS the current active church members no longer provide maintenance or upkeep of the building, and;

WHEREAS the current active members of the Dexter United Methodist Church have withdrawn or transferred their membership from the Dexter Church, and;

WHEREAS pursuant to paragraph 2548.3 the Dexter United Methodist Church "is no longer used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship;"

WHEREAS remaining members of the Dexter United Methodist Church have been invited to transfer their membership to another United Methodist Church or a church of their choosing; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended that the Dexter United Methodist Church be declared abandoned and has received consent from the presiding bishop, the majority of the Cabinet, the District Board of Church Location and Building, and the District Committee on Congregational development,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dexter United Methodist Church is abandoned, effective July 1, 2007, and that the disposition of all assets shall be in accordance with The Book of Discipline and New England Annual Conference policies.

## **RS – 223 – TO DISCONTINUE THE MARION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

(Submitted by Gary Shaw, District Superintendent, RISEM District)  
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 8, 2007)

WHEREAS the Marion United Methodist Church located in Plymouth County was founded in 1865 and has a long and proud history of providing a place of worship for the maids, nannies, cooks, groundskeepers, and townsfolk who were not typically welcomed at the more established wealthier congregations in the community; and over the past 142 years the congregation has evolved into a grooming ground for student pastors as well as historically being actively involved and financially supportive of community ministries like, safe-houses, clothing for homeless, AA, Council on Aging groups and a food pantry;

WHEREAS as there has been ongoing conversation and discernment over the last two years with the leadership, church council and charge conference of the Marion United Methodist Church which led to the decision to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS the superintendent has recommend that the property be cared for in accordance with the Book of Discipline and New England Conference guidelines, procedures and policies; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop, a majority of district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marion United Methodist Church be discontinued effective July 1, 2007 and that the property be transferred to the New England Conference Board of

Trustees per The United Methodist Book of Discipline and New England Conference guidelines, procedures and policies.

## **RS – 224 – TO DISCONTINUE THE WESTBROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PORTLAND, ME**

(Submitted by Jan and Mike Davis, Co-DS's, Tri-state District)  
(Adopted Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

WHEREAS the Westbrook United Methodist Church located in Cumberland County was founded in 1799 and has had a long and proud history; and

WHEREAS the charge conference of the Westbrook United Methodist Church voted on March 28, 2007 to discontinue the church, and;

WHEREAS the district superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the Westbrook United Methodist Church and transfer of membership to Clark Memorial United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the superintendent has recommended that the proceeds of the sale of the property be used as directed by the 2004 Book of Discipline and New England Annual Conference policies; and

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westbrook United Methodist Church be discontinued effective June 30, 2007 and that the assets shall be transferred to the New England Annual Conference to be used as directed by the Discipline and New England Annual Conference policies.

## **RS - 225- GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Submitted by the Church and Society Committee)  
(Adopted Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 2007)

"All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it." (Book of Discipline 160)

All creation has been groaning under the devastating effects of global warming. The latest scientific data confirm that the earth's climate is rapidly changing. Global temperatures increased by about 1 degree Fahrenheit over the course of the last century, and will likely rise even more rapidly in coming decades. The cause is a thickening layer of carbon dioxide pollution, mostly from power plants and automobiles that traps heat in the atmosphere. The effect is deadly and comprehensive. Scientists believe that hundreds of millions of lives will be affected by global warming within the next 50 years unless we reduce carbon emissions radically and rapidly. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal." One study maintains that the year 2016 will be a tipping point for global climate change after which no human efforts will be able to make any significant impact on slowing climate change.

The ways we consume and live are putting our next generation at great risk. We must confess that we have not been faithful stewards of God's creation and we must determine to change our ways in order to change the course of global climate change. It is no time for more study or speculation. It is a time for Christians to act and act quickly and boldly.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The New England Conference will educate our congregations about the impact of global warming and promote ways to be responsible stewards in order to minimize its effects;
2. All church facilities and camp structures shall take an energy audit and strive to cut their use of fossil fuel and, therefore, carbon emissions by 25% within the next five years;
3. All church facilities and camp structures shall convert their light bulbs into compact fluorescent light bulbs;
4. All church facilities and camp structures shall practice recycling;
5. We shall encourage car-pooling at all church and conference related meetings and gatherings;
6. We shall use our votes to challenge our elected officials to move quickly and boldly on the issue of reducing carbon emissions;
7. The congregations in the New England Conference shall observe the celebration of God's creation on the Sunday around Earth Day each year to further our education and participation in reducing global warming;
8. The New England Conference shall create a Climate Change Task Force under the direction of the Church and Society Committee and the Board of Trustees of the New England Conference that will implement, resource, and monitor the adoption of this resolution in the life of the New England Conference.
9. Wherever practical, design and construction of new church facilities and camp structures shall integrate ecologically responsible design principles.

## **RS - 226 – REGARDING THE WAR IN IRAQ**

(Submitted by Donald J. Rudalevige)  
(Adopted Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 2007)

Another year has passed and still the United States perpetuates warfare in Iraq. Since the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church met last year, another 500 Americans have died and, to our shame, we do not even know how many Iraqis have been killed, maimed, left bereft.

In sorrow, anger and contrition, this Annual Conference declares again our opposition to this immoral, unjust, evil war.

We weep with the families of whose lives have been taken. We grieve with families and individuals struggling with physical and psychological maiming, the fear and hope of those still engaged in the conflict.

We urge our Churches to have the courage to speak and act for peace.

We call upon the legislators of our Area to speak and to act to end American occupation of Iraq.

We direct the Secretary of the Annual Conference to send copies of this resolution to the Congressional legislators of the New England area, and the President of the United States.

## **RS – 227 - RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

(Submitted by Cheryl Meachen)

(Adopted Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 2007)

WHEREAS we, the people of the New England Conference have been blessed with life, love and fellowship by the grace of the one true God, we lift our heartfelt thanks for the unimaginable abundance of gifts of which we have witnessed only the smallest tip here, these past few days.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we publicly express our gratitude before each other and before God.

We give thanks for those talented and spirit-led persons who planned, choreographed and led these worship and business sessions; [and by the way Bonnie, how does the quarter fit through that hole?].

We give humble thanks for those who will collect the trash from our rooms and do our laundry this evening.

We give joyful thanks for the voices of each person lifted in song and for those who have so beautifully led those songs and added precious harmonies and soaring descants.

We give heartfelt thanks to those who have prepared diverse varieties of food to nourish our bodies to do the important work of these days.

We give thanks for the lives of those who went on to glory this year; for the faithful lives of service of those laity, spouses and clergy. And for those retiring, ordained, commissioned and newly appointed this year by their faithful service.

We give thanks for the protection of the Gordon Police force and local ambulance service as they stood ready to aid, and did aid us on occasion.

We give thanks for the grace of God for forgiving us those moments when we did not act in Christian ways by responding angrily, not inviting strangers into our pew or dining table or expressing subtle and not so subtle prejudices.

We give thanks for those who were recognized for their Christ-like witness in the world, compelling our hearts to break with their personal testimony and more than that, compelling us to act.

We give thanks to those whose administrative gifts kept us in order and provided the framework in which we could bend our creative energies to do the work of our hearts. We thank those who ran learning centers to refresh and inform us between sessions.

We give thanks for inspired preaching from puppets to dance, from rap songs to Joyce Whetstone's enthusiastic affirmation of God's ability to breathe life into the darkest corners of society.

We give thanks for the children and youth whose faith and hope for tomorrow is undaunted by committees and budgets.

We give hearty thanks for the diverse viewpoints for the loving Christians and the Holy Spirit that binds us together even when issues would push us apart.

We thank God for this fruitful Annual Conference session and that it is at last time to go home.

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

(Submitted by James McPhee)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar, Saturday Afternoon, June 9, 2007)

### **PETITION FOR THE INCLUSION OF BERMUDA WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION**

Whereas the General Board of Global Ministries, at its spring meeting in April 2002, formally recognized and welcomed Marsden First as a mission church of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and at its spring meeting in April 2006 recognized Centenary as a mission church of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church;

And whereas the Marsden First and Centenary Churches of Bermuda have been assigned by the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops to be under the appointment authority of the Bishop of the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference;

And whereas the Centenary and Marsden First Churches of Bermuda after five years under the guidance of leaders from the General Board of Global Ministries and the Baltimore-Washington Conference

have fully explored and voted (Marsden First on February 1, 2001 and Centenary on May 6, 2003) to join the United Methodist Church and requested to continue to be a part of the Baltimore-Washington Conference;

And whereas the Baltimore-Washington Conference has been appointing pastors, superintending the congregations and integrated the congregations into the life of the Baltimore-Washington Conference;

And whereas the General Board of Global Ministries and the Baltimore-Washington Conference have recognized the churches as United Methodist congregations;

And whereas ¶39 Article III of the 2004 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church grants that "boundaries of a jurisdictional conference may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences of each of the jurisdictional conferences involved";

Therefore be it resolved that the New England Annual Conference of the Northeastern Jurisdiction consents to the inclusion of Bermuda within the boundaries of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church;

And further be it resolved that the New England Annual Conference agrees to Petition General Conference 2008 to effect the inclusion of Bermuda by amending Section VII. Boundaries ¶ 37 Article I line 3 following the word "Northeastern" to include the word "Bermuda."

James McPhee is Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries.