

RS – 102 - RESOLUTION ON UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL AIDS FUND

(Submitted by Lester Bennington, Louise Dumas, Willard Robinson, Carol Ann Parsons, Karen Peters for the Aids Task Force)

(Adopted as amended, Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

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 AIDS pandemic causes 5 million persons to be infected and 3 million lives are taken each year, and

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

WHEREAS, the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church established a Global AIDS Fund with a goal of \$ 8 million in Special Askings this quadrennium, and

WHEREAS, one-fourth of funds raised within our Annual Conference for this Fund remain within the Conference to be distributed as our Conference Global AIDS Committee deems fit (either locally, regionally, and/or internationally);

WHEREAS, United Methodist Bishop Felton May says “Churches cannot conquer AIDS alone, but it will not happen without us”:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New England Annual Conference endorses the goal of having each local church raise an average of \$1.00 per member for the quadrennium, beginning in 2007. Local churches may choose to raise the money to support the United Methodist Global Aids Fund (Advance #982345) by special projects, offerings, or whatever other way each local church deems best.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages each local church to observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday in September each year for the remainder of this quadrennium, that a volunteer Conference Global AIDS Committee be authorized to (a) provide educational and promotional materials for this observance, and (b) determine the distribution of the 25% of the funds designated for conference use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Bush demanding that he make good on his promise to fund a World AIDS Fund.