

2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS

RS – 101 – OFFERINGS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2005

(Submitted by Bonnie Marden and Jim McPhee for the Worship Planning Team and Episcopal Office)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

WHEREAS , our holy Conferencing traditionally includes several Offerings and in Gatherings 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 Opening Celebration support the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund
- the Offering during the Celebration of Ministry Service support the work of Congregational Development, and
- the Offering at the Ordination Service be designated for Tsunami Relief.

Furthermore, the youth led Snack Booth will support 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 – 102 – OBSERVANCE OF WORLD AIDS DAY

(submitted by AIDS Task Force)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

WHEREAS , new infections of HIV have continued at the same rate of about 40,000 per year in the United States, and

Whereas, HIV/AIDS is claiming the lives of thousands of persons each month in sub-Saharan Africa, and

WHEREAS , the stigma related to HIV disease and AIDS continues to cause many affected and infected persons to live in isolation and fear; and

WHEREAS , the “The Conspiracy of Silence” surrounding HIV/AIDS has been documented in books such as that authored by Donald Messer (Professor of Practical Theology, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO); and

WHEREAS , churches in the U.S. and around the world are called to reach

out in love to all persons suffering with disease and persecution, therefore be it resolved that:

Local churches in the New England Annual Conference of the UMC be encouraged to initiate and participate in observances of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2005, and that resources to assist with this observance be provided through the Conference Communication Office.

**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 Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The New England Conference adopts the following resolutions relating to Rental/Housing Allowance for Retired or Disabled ministers of The New England Conference.

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and

WHEREAS, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and

WHEREAS, pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the New England Annual Conference and its predecessor Annual Conferences is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of the Conference;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a. An amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received during the year 2006 be and is hereby designated as rental/housing allowance for each retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church, who is or was a member of the New England Annual Conference, or its predecessor conferences, at the time of his/her retirement;
- b. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or

placed on disability leave by the New England Annual Conference, or its predecessor conferences, and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of The New England Conference and in other appropriate records maintained by the conference.

- c. The pension or disability payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference or institution of The United Methodist Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired minister's pension.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance which may be excluded from a minister's gross income is limited to the lesser of (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the minister's employer or other appropriate body, (2) the amount actually expended by the minister to provide his/her housing, or (3) the legally determined fair rental value of the parsonage or other housing provided. As specified in Rev. Rul. 71-2980, 1971-2 C. B. 92, "the only amount that will qualify for exclusion under Section 107 (2) of the Code as "rental allowance" is an amount equal to the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities."

RS – 104 – PAST SERVICE FUNDING RATE

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

That the Past Service Funding Rate for 2006 be set at \$495 per year of service and 85% as the survivor rate.

RS – 105 – SPECIAL GRANTS

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

That the following Special Grants be continued for 2006 on the same basis as 2005:

- a. Gladys Rosengrant be given a special grant equivalent to the amount based on her share of the annuity multiplied by the years of service by

- her husband.
- b. 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.
 - c. Lillian Wallace be given a special grant based on 3% of the Denominational Average Compensation.

RS – 106 – AFFIRMATION OF PREACHERS’ AID SOCIETY

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

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 – 107 – PENSION, HEALTH AND WELFARE PLANS

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(As amended, was adopted Friday Morning, June 10, 2005)

Be it resolved that the annual conference adopt the same provisions of the current (2005) pension, health and welfare plans (Ministerial Pension Plan, Comprehensive Pension Plan, Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund, Basic Protection Plan, and HealthFlex) of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for the year 2006, with the continuing understanding that two pastors on one participant’s plan will only pay one pastor’s premium co pay.

RS – 108 – ELECTION OF PENSION OFFICER

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits recommends the election of Charles Carnahan as its Executive Director and Treasurer.

RS – 109 – REQUESTS TO EXCEED ALLOCATED BUDGETS

(submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The conference treasurer will hold all requests by a division, commission, board, agency, or council for payment of 2005 bills that would in fact exceed the approved Mission Share Spending dollar amount as unpaid bills. Such unpaid

bills are to be presented by the responsible agency to the annual conference for action; except that in situations deemed by the CF&A (Ministerial Support or Administration) or by the Resource Team (Program committees) to be both urgent and unusually meritorious the CF&A or the Resource Team shall have the authority to take the funds from the 2006 current account of such agency. In special cases, the CF&A or the Resource Team respectively may, by two-thirds vote, transfer from (CF&A) contingency or (Resource Team) program reserve funds into the account of such agency, an amount to cover the unpaid bills.

RS – 110 – APPORTIONMENT FORMULA

(submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The 2006 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 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.
- The amount reported, on the 2003 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.
- The amount reported on the 2002 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.

An apportionment factor shall be calculated for the federated and union churches of the Conference in a like manner using the United Methodist proportion of their Statistical Table reports (based on percentage of UM membership). 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 – HEALTH INSURANCE BILLING RATE CALCULATION

(submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The 2006 Health Insurance “blended” rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2006 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 temporary 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 – 112 – BUDGET BUILDING DATES–2007 BUDGET

(submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The following budget building preparation and dates are for the 2007 budget, subject to any change mutually agreed upon by the CFA and the Resource Team. All 2007 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 4, 2006.
- b. The CF&A and Resource Team agree to a Resource Team 2006 budget total by March 4, 2006.
- c. Boards, agencies, committees presenting budgets to Resource Team do so by April 1, 2006.
- d. All 2007 budget requests must be submitted to the Treasurer by Noon, April 15, 2006.
- e. The CF&A approves final 2007 budget for recommendation to Annual Conference by May 1, 2006.
- f. The CF&A distributes the proposed 2007 budget through the Pre-Conference packet distributed to all Annual Conference members, via the Conference web site, e-mail, and regular mail beginning May 18, 2006.

RS – 113 – CONFERENCE UNIT INSURANCE PLAN

(submitted by Insurance Committee)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

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 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 with Acadia as the carrier.
4. The renewal date will be August 1, 2005.
5. The insurance billing for this tenth year of the plan (August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2006) 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, 2005.
 - c. Churches that pay the total annual amount by Oct. 1, 2005 may deduct 2% from the billing.
 - d. Churches that use the installment plan shall pay 20% of the annual billing on September 1, 2005 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:
 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, 2006. 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 in the offices of the District Superintendents.

- 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 – 114 – 2006 MINIMUM CASH SALARY

(submitted by Equitable Compensation Commission)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005, as amended)

The Commission on Equitable Compensation hereby submits this resolution to set the minimum cash salary at \$31,400 for CY2006.

Based on this, the following rates have been set:

<i>Full time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor</i>	\$31,400
Full Time Local Pastor	\$28,260
<i>Additional for Years of Service as of Jan 1, 2006</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 \$31,400, 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	\$6,280	\$5,652
Strategic Salary Grant	\$7,850	\$7,065

**RS – 115 – ADVANCE SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR
2005–2008 NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(submitted by the Resourcing Team)
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

Nicaragua Planning Committee \$85,000 Ms. Sandra K. Melius
410 Conant Rd.
Weston, MA 02493
781-891-1199

The mission of the Nicaragua Planning Committee is to maintain the covenant between the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and La Asociacion de las Iglesias de Cristo, an indigenous Protestant church in Nicaragua. The NPC holds monthly meetings in order to manage the business of the Nicaragua Covenant. We also hold annual joint planning sessions alternating between Managua, Nicaragua and Weston, MA in order to discuss the programs and plan the budget for the upcoming year.

Through the Nicaragua Covenant, funded primarily by UMC churches and individuals throughout New England, we are able to support programs of health, education, and self-sufficiency in the poorest communities of Iglesia de Cristo. Approximately 30 sister church relationships are in place, and approximately ten delegations per year are traveling to Nicaragua in order to develop relationships and see the programs in action. Our Nicaragua Representative, Miguel Lezama, translates correspondence between the North and South along with serving to lead delegations. Jairo Lezama who also serves as a representative to the Nicaragua Covenant visits New England in the spring and the fall in order to be present at Annual Conference and to itinerate throughout the conference promoting the Nicaragua Covenant.

United Methodist Economic Ministry \$10,000 Ms. Kay D. Webb
RR1, Box 726
Strong, ME 04983
207-678-2611

In response to God's call in Christ to clothe the naked, feed the hungry and care for the homeless, the UMEM seeks to provide material, educational and spiritual support in this region of severe economic challenge. The purpose of the UMEM is to be the realized compassionate presence of Christ, who not only clothes, feeds, and houses, but educates and challenges unjust inequities of distribution in the effort to encourage the fullest potential of all people in God's eyes. Its purpose shall be realized through the management of regional thrift shops, emergency

food closets, housing, and educational programs, which will offer opportunities for personal and economic betterment. In keeping with Christ's unconditional love, all services will show no bias to race, sex, color, creed or orientation.

United Methodist Elder Care \$70,000.

Ms. Kathleen Brady

40 Irving Avenue

East Providence, RI 02914

401-438-4456 x 36

The mission statement of the UMEC states: "We are a community where older persons live in comfort, dignity, and with purpose." UMEC is an affordable continuing care community serving 208 low to low-moderate income seniors. UMEC offers independent living subsidized apartments; affordable assisted living apartments, full service dining, nursing home care, long-term care, and rehabilitative services. They welcome residents of all religious, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. The community actively supports productive and joyful aging.

Methodist Conference Home, Inc. \$50,000

Lee Karker

46 Summer Street

Rockland, ME 04841

207-596-6477

Methodist Conference Home, Inc. (MCH) offers 104 units of safe and affordable housing and other appropriate services (including meals, housekeeping, personal care and transportation) to enhance quality of life and extend the independence of older adults and people with disabilities. The Meals on Wheels program operated by MCH serves Knox County while transportation services are provided in Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties and the towns of Brunswick and Harpswell.

Rolling Ridge Conference Center \$50,000

Bonnie Marden

660 Great Pond Rd

North Andover, MA 01845

978-682-8815

Fax: 978-681-1162

thestaff@rollingridge.org

www.rollingridge.org

Rolling Ridge offers sacred space away from the hectic pace, rampant materialism and mixed messages of modern culture where people can center themselves spiritually, emotionally, and physically. It is our hope that at Rolling Ridge, through our hospitality and programs, people may encounter what it means to be

a Christian disciple and a United Methodist in the midst of our current culture. Nestled in the suburban community of North Andover, Massachusetts, Rolling Ridge has served the Conference for fifty-six years with retreats, meeting space and a wide variety of programs. Rolling Ridge stands out in the region as a symbol of United Methodism. The beautiful grounds and turn-of-the-century mansion provide a setting for people of all ages to worship, learn, grow, and play together. God calls the church to care about people and their needs by providing a variety of settings, programs and unique places for programs, retreats and conferences in which children, youth, adults and families can experience Christian community in diverse ways. We believe this will renew, enable, affirm and equip persons to become effective disciples now and in the future. Advance Special status will allow us to grow our scholarship fund so that no person will be denied access to our programs and facilities, and provide resources to develop experiences and programs that will serve the people of New England. Each year, Rolling Ridge serves thousands of people through programs, hosted events and picnics. In 2004, scholarships to adults, youth and families totaled more than \$1,200 dollars with need exceeding available resources. Newly expanded programs and activities offer additional opportunities for spiritual life formation and educational needs of United Methodists in New England.

Project F.A.C.E. (Faith in Action for Community Education) \$4,000

Donna Costa

P.O. Box 432

North Easton, MA 02356

508-577-8940

Project F.A.C.E. assists faith communities in addressing common family, community and global health issues, such as HIV and STD's, teen pregnancy, substance addiction, parenting, child abuse, domestic violence, and sexuality education. Located in southeastern Massachusetts, Project F.A.C.E. is an interfaith effort committed to identifying, recognizing and incorporating the values and customs specific to the many cultures found within New England.

Seacost Interfaith Hospitality Network \$12,000

Diane Stradling

295 Atlantic Avenue

North Hampton, NH 03862

603-379-8446

Fax: 603- 379-8447

sihnhnh@ttlc.net

SIHN utilizes faith based organizations and professional staff to assist homeless families to return to secure housing. SIHN, a network of 11 congregations, which includes Exeter UMC, Hampton UMC and First UMC in Portsmouth, provides intensive case management, access to community services, shelter, food and hospitality to homeless families with children under and age of 18 with the goal of assisting them in returning to secure housing. SIHN is affiliated with Family Promise, a national organization, and is the first such network to be established in New Hampshire.

Worcester Evening Free Medical Service Prog. \$2,000

Rev. C. Barry Wood

64 Salisbury Street,
Worcester, MA 01609
508-752-2376

The medical program is now completing eleven years of serving the greater Worcester area in central Massachusetts. Our program provides medical services to those without health insurance or prescription coverage. Under this one umbrella, we now use Wesley UMC for our eye care and hearing programs. All other medical needs are met at Epworth UMC. We have had over 24,000 patient visits in eleven years. There is a great need for this type of outreach program serving our less fortunate brothers and sisters. For information about these programs call Rev. C. Barry Wood.

SPIRAL Arts, Inc. \$8,000

Rev. Priscilla Dreyman

156 High Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-775-1474
community@spiralarts.org
www.spiralarts.org

SPIRAL Arts offers opportunities to people of all ages and life experiences who are seeking hope, purpose, and meaning to create art and build community in a supportive, spiritually-centered caring community. An art ministry in Portland, Maine, SPIRAL Arts invites people to create art within a safe, inclusive, spiritually centered, caring community. Art classes, workshops, and retreats welcome adults and children from all walks of life to express their unique voices through the visual arts, music, culinary arts, and dance. Through creating in community, families and individuals explore their creativity, deepen their spiritual lives, build

meaningful community, develop lifelong artistic skills, feel empowered and of value, and make new friends. SPIRAL Arts seeks to build community among people of great diversity, and through this process, to combat racism, classism, consumerism, materialism, sexism, and violence.

SPIRAL Arts offers neighborhood based classes, especially reaching out to people who are marginalized, isolated, facing the challenge of poverty, special needs, illness, or of being a newcomer to Portland or to the United States. In addition, SPIRAL Arts provides classes and workshops to children and youth living in public housing and other low income neighborhoods, to people living with AIDS, to elders in nursing homes and in public housing, to children and youth in after school programs, to adult with special needs or with mental illness, and more. Special SPIRAL Arts public art projects include a 50-foot long mural created by homeless adults, three clay tile murals for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital created by pediatric patients, their families, hospital staff, and former patients, quilt wall hangings created by patients and staff at Riverview Psychiatric Institute, memorial tiles created by members of Immanuel Baptist Church remembering a beloved church sexton, and the Mosaics of Hope Project in the Parkside neighborhood of Portland soon to culminate in a 350 Square foot mosaic mural on the exterior of the new Parkside Neighborhood Center.

SPIRAL Arts leads special arts retreats for faith communities, clergy groups, and youth programs. It organizes Art Sundays, in which art created in a theme-based art workshop by the congregation is integrated into a creative, inspiring, intergenerational worship service.

SPIRAL Arts serves 300 adults, youth and children in its classes each year. It serves 2000 or more people each year in its other programs. It has been featured in several national magazines – Faith at Work, New World Outlook, and YES – A Magazine for Positive Futures. It is supported by gifts and donations, grants and contracts, and fundraising events. It urgently needs your help!

First Radio Parish of America \$6,000

Rev. Peter Panagore

One Congress Square

Portland, ME 04101

With a mission to share the Good News of God's love from a Christian perspective, First Radio Parish reaches 76,000 people daily on television and offers weekly worship on 6 radio stations. 2,600 messages monthly are shared via Internet, offering encouragement and inspiration to grow in relationship with God through non-sectarian, religious devotionals using appropriate media.

Rural Community Action Ministry \$20,000. Mr. Gilbert A. Ward

81 Church Hill Road
Leeds, ME 04263
207-524-5095 (fax) 524-2202
rcam98@ctel.net

The RCAM reaches out to people of rural Maine who are in need and assists them to help themselves. The purpose of RCAM is to work with people to meet their needs for safe and adequate shelter, clothing, food and basic well-being in a manner that maintains or improves their self worth and dignity. This non-profit organization is dedicated to helping meet the needs of vulnerable people in 13 rural towns in Androscoggin, Kennebec, and Oxford counties. RCAM develops and administers projects and programs in collaboration with churches, organizations, public and private agencies and individuals that impact the lives of people living in these isolated rural areas of Maine.

A housing program builds low cost homes and provides housing rehabilitation for low-income and elderly families living in sub-standard or unhealthy/unsafe conditions. These conditions may place the poor in danger of becoming homeless. Funds for these projects come through no interest or low interest loan programs made available through the Maine State Housing Authority and the RCAM Revolving Loan Fund.

RCAM operates a 2 unit Emergency Shelter for families for up to a 45 day stay with information, referral, and support offered so that 100% of the residents leave the shelter for more permanent rental housing. RCAM's is the only rural family shelter in the state of Maine. A significant homelessness prevention effort also assists people living on the edge to overcome temporary obstacles that threaten their ability to stay in their own home.

RCAM maintains a Transitional Unit for longer term housing for families in transition. In addition it carries out an Outreach program helping area residents gain access to available services and resources. The Rural Youth Services provides self-awareness education and in-school programs to pregnant and parenting teens and teens at risk, direct and prevention services, counseling, pregnancy testing, parenting and nutrition education. The issues of hunger are addressed with 15 food banks staffed by volunteers, a gardening program helping people learn to plant, maintain and harvest their own gardens to prevent hunger, with tilling, seeds and fertilizer provided by RCAM. RCAM provides referral to all necessary resources within the state of Maine including health and legal services along with transportation to needed service.

Mechuwana Conference Camp \$40,000

Norman R Thombs

PO Box 277

Winthrop ME 04364

(207) 377- 2924, 377-4388

mechuwana@jwi.com

It is the purpose of Camp Mechuwana to complement the local church ministry by providing a unique Christian setting for persons of all ages for personal growth and experiences, which enhance one's relationship to God, neighbors, and the natural world.

"Embracing the Future" Mechuwana needs this \$40,000 for a new Chapel to serve groups spiritual and programmatic needs year round. We will be breaking ground in the Spring of 2005.

Wanakee United Methodist Center \$20,000 **Rev. Phil Polhemus**

75 Upper New Hampton Rd.

Meredith, NH 03253-9516

(603) 279-7950

It is the mission of the Wanakee United Methodist Center to love, accept, challenge, and provide opportunities for growth to all God's people within our "Beautiful Spiritual Place in the Hills". It is our intent to help individuals interact with one another, build relationships, grow in their Christian faith through experiences within a Christian community, and to send them forth into the world to celebrate and share God's love.

Programs offered at Wanakee are all non-competitive, with an emphasis on group building and the development of leadership skills. It is hoped that when guests depart from Wanakee, they will do so with a stronger commitment to discipleship and with improved Christian leadership skills.

Wanakee has been offering summer camp programs for the past forty years, and it is our plan for the future to become a year round facility by building a four-season retreat center. Advance Special status will help us to make that dream a reality.

Aldersgate Conference Camp any and all 2nd mile giving **Jeffrey C. Thomas**

1043 Snake Hill Road

N. Scituate, RI 02857

(401) 568-4350, 568- 1840

aldersgate@juno.com

www.campaldersgate.com

Camp Aldersgate was established in 1945. This Camp and Retreat Center serves Children, Youth, Youth Adults and Adults in a sanctuary setting apart from worldly pressures. As an extension of the local church we are called by God to care about people and their needs by providing a variety of settings, programs, and unique places set aside for camps, retreats, and conferences. Aldersgate serves year round. We host thousands each year. This agency of the Annual conference serves local churches by hosting workshops, meetings, camping program, etc. Out of this ministry grows pastors, lay leaders, church members, and strong witnesses for Christ.

Camp Aldersgate requests second mile giving. All gifts, no matter how large or small will be sincerely appreciated and invested in the lives of our “world parish”.

Mathewson Street UMC Feeding Ministries \$10,000

Rev. Jonathan Almond
134 Mathewson St
Providence, RI 02903
401-331-8900

The Feeding Ministries include a Monday – Friday daytime (9:45–11:15am) Food Pantry providing a weeks groceries/visit to families/individuals (12,000 families/individuals in 2004); and a Friday night supper every week of the year (18,000 meals in 2004). 55% of our recipients are women and children. 60% of our Friday meal guests are homeless.

Protestant Hospital Ministry \$2,000

Rev. David Williams
P.O. Box 3673
Portland, ME 04104

In response to Jesus’ ministry among the least, the last, and the lost, and his concern for the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – the mission of the ecumenical Protestant Hospital Ministry is to undergird the ministry of the Protestant Hospital Ministry Chaplains, both staff and volunteer, who work with the Pastoral Services Department at the Maine Medical Center. These chaplains share the Good News of Jesus primarily with those who come to the medical center from some geographical distance, or who live locally and have an unmet need for pastoral care. The Good News centers on the hope, healing, and strength, which come from God.

Partners in Development \$3,064

Ms. Gale Hull
PO Box 9
Ipswich, MA 01938

What can you do with \$3,064? Something really wonderful! Through Partners in Development you can give one family a whole new life and change the course of

generations to come. Partners in Development work in Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, with the poorest of the poor. Our goal is to provide whole life change. We work with families who live in one room, leaky tin, shacks, eat 1 meal a day (or sometimes less) and have a monthly family income of less than \$40 US (way below the UN poverty line).

For the investment of \$3,064:

One child from the family will go to school (\$264 a year),

You will provide a small business loan increasing their income by \$20–\$50 US dollars a month (\$120),

You will provide medical and dental care for the whole family (\$180 a year),

You will move them from a tin shack in the slums to a two room concrete house with a porch, clean water and their own outhouse in a country setting. (\$2,500).

The family's life will be changed forever. The repayment from the small business loan and the no interest mortgage recycles back into the program so other families will benefit. Partners in Development is happy to report that we have sent over 300 children to school, started over 500 small businesses, started a subsidized medical insurance program and have built 25 houses. Our program truly changes the lives of those we work with and continues to expand and touch the lives of many others.

First UMC – Harvest Table Ministries \$10,000

Rev. Dr. Roger A. Davis
Fenn Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-499-0866

The Harvest Table community meal on Tuesdays feeds 80–120 people every week (4,888 individual meals served in 2004). The Director of Outreach has provided transportation and assisted guests with court proceedings for domestic violence, child custody, Department of Social Services proceedings, and landlord-tenant disputes. She supervises community service work by juvenile probationers and guests receiving food stamps. She has assisted with housing searches and helped coordinate volunteers to assist with moving. Additionally, she spends hours providing a listening ear for many, many guests.

The Navigators U.S. Community Ministries \$40,000

Rev. Thomas E. Mable
PO Box 6000
Colorado Springs, CO
80934-6000
local-1325 Coral Sea Dr
Rockville, MD 20861
301-838-9796

The calling of the Navigator is “to advance the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations through generations of lifetime laborers living and discipling among the lost.” While we are living in a secular, post-Christian, post-modern society, there are many who are spiritually hungry and thirsty. They may not be inclined to seek the traditional church to satisfy this hunger and thirst, but are inclined to seek others, individually or in small group who provide a safe place to ask the difficult questions of life and discover for them selves the God whom they are seeking. It is as we meet one-on-one, and in small groups coaching, mentoring and walking alongside others that we are able to see the gospel advance as God is at work around us and we join in that work.

MAPA (Mission A Pataiso Ahora!) \$6,000

Ms. JoAnn Carlotto

First United Methodist Church
47 Peters Street
North Andover, MA 01845
978-372-4374

MAPA (Mission A Pataiso Ahora!) (Mission to Paraiso NOW!) is a mission of mutual ministry formed by United Methodists and a church located in Paraiso, a small impoverished town in the southern province of Barahona, Dominican Republic. MAPA provides the teachers’ salaries and educational supplies for the tuition free church-run school. Mission teams bring school materials, clothing, money to do maintenance and repairs of the grounds and building, and a spirit ready to join others in building a relationship based on mutuality, justice, and Christ’s teachings.

Hattie B. Cooper Community Center \$30,000

Deb Ansourlian

1891 Washington St
Roxbury, MA 02118
617-445-1813

The Hattie B. Cooper Community Center is committed to providing children and youth with the strongest development foundation to inspire a lifelong excitement for learning and the skills to become caring and responsible citizens.

**Dental Program of the Covenant Relationship \$7,000
between the New England Annual Conference
and the Association of Iglesias de Cristo de
Nicaragua**

Sandra K. Melius

410 Conant Rd
Weston, MA 02493
781-891-1199

The dental ministry founded in 1991 by Dr. Belinda Forbes, GBGM missionary to Nicaragua, has as its vision to better the dental health of child and adult populations through dental education and dental health services. The funds raised

through this Advance Special cover the costs of oral hygiene programs and teacher training in dental health themes in Iglesia de Cristo schools, an annual health training workshop, the honorarium for the program director, Dr. Lissette Cortés, and subsidized health care in three dental clinics for patients referred from Iglesia de Cristo congregations and their respective communities.

Safe Havens \$10,000

Anne Marie Hunter

31 St. James Ave.

Boston, MA 02116

617-227-6992

safehavens@earthlink.net

Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of faith communities to engage in a coordinated effort to end domestic violence. Working as a bridge between diverse religious communities and social service providers, Safe Havens creates systemic change by providing education, resources, advocacy, and technical support to improve access to services for all persons affected by domestic violence, to promote responsible action, to foster leadership development, to encourage community collaboration and to generate public policy. Safe Havens' approach to domestic intervention and prevention work prioritizes safety for victims and accountability for batterers. Because domestic violence cuts across all boundaries of religion, age, race, ethnicity, class, gender, and geography, Safe Havens is committed to working with diverse communities.

NITCA \$5,000

Kathy Kern

18 Cottage Lane

Niantic, CT 06357

860-691-8378

Feeding program for children in dining area built by capital funds. Pre-school education program – facility built by capital funds. Medical clinic for families – facility built by capital funds. Small farm plots for families. Proposed education facility on 10 acres of land provided by govt.

RS – 201 – AMENDMENT TO CONFERENCE RULE VI B

(submitted by Rules Committee)

(This amendment was NOT ADOPTED)

The Conference Rules Committee recommends the following amendment to the Rules: (~~Strike through~~ words indicate deletions to the current rule. Underlined words indicate additions to current rule.)

B. Debate

1. A member may not address the Conference until recognized by the President. A member may speak but once on a pending matter until all have spoken who desire, and shall not speak more than ~~three (3)~~ two (2) minutes without the consent of the Conference. It shall not be in order to “move the previous question” until opportunity for ~~four~~ two speeches on each side of the question has been provided.
2. Chairs of Conference agencies or their representatives shall be entitled to ~~three (3)~~ two (2) minutes to close debates on reports presented. This right shall not be forfeited by a motion to “move the previous question” or to “lay on the table.”
3. In the discussion of a controversial matter, the President shall, so far as possible, recognize speakers alternately to present both sides of the question.

RS – 202 – AMENDMENT TO CONFERENCE RULE III A 2

(submitted by Rules Committee)

(Adopted Thursday Morning, June 9, 2005)

The Conference Rules Committee recommends the following amendment to the Rules: (~~Strike through~~ words indicate deletions to the current rule. Underlined words indicate additions to current rule.)

Laiity. Lay membership and their method of election shall be in accordance with the current issue of the Discipline and our Policies and Procedures. ~~The following shall be members of the Annual Conference by virtue of these provisions:~~

- a. ~~Diaconal Ministers (consecrated, not ordained),~~
- b. ~~One (1) lay member elected by each charge for each pastor appointed by the Bishop to that charge,~~
- e. ~~The Conference President of United Methodist Men,~~
- d. ~~The Conference President of United Methodist Women,~~
- e. ~~The Conference Lay Leader,~~
- f. ~~District Lay Leaders,~~
- g. ~~The President of the Conference young adult organization,~~
- h. ~~The President of the Conference youth organization,~~
- i. ~~Two persons under 25 years of age from each District (elected in a manner specified by the Annual Conference),~~
- j. ~~One (1) lay representative from each emerging congregation, and~~
- k. ~~Lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference and members of~~

~~General and Jurisdictional Boards and agencies.~~

~~1. Deaconesses appointed within the bounds of this annual conference and members of a local church within this annual conference.~~

**RS – 203 – LIMITED CONTINUATION OF TASK FORCE ON
DISABILITIES**

(submitted by Task Force on Disabilities)
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

Given our limited resources, it is recommended that members of the Task Force on Disabilities continue their work informally on an as needed basis to respond to needs as they arise.

**RS – 204 – RESOLUTION ON DIVESTING FROM COMPANIES THAT
ARE SUPPORTING IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY THE ISRAELI
OCCUPATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

(submitted by Washington Park UMC and Mathewson St UMC, Providence, RI, Barrington, RI
UMC and RIUMA)

(As amended, was adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

WHEREAS we believe in the absolute equality of all God's children, and reject all efforts to dominate or to subjugate others based on religion, race or ethnicity, and

WHEREAS we embrace the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses, which forbid stealing, coveting the land of one's neighbor, and taking human life, and

WHEREAS we honor Micah's call in the Old Testament to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God, and we follow Christ's call to love our neighbors as ourselves, and

WHEREAS we reject all violence and acts of provocation that lead to violence, believe in the right of all peoples to security, and believe that security for one people can never be achieved by denying security to others, and

WHEREAS we are called to support members of Christ's church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land due to Israel's confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation, and

WHEREAS the Fourth Geneva Convention forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into territory it occupies, and there are currently more than 400,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied Palestinian territories, with thousands of new settler housing units being planned and constructed, and

WHEREAS Palestinian land is still being confiscated for these settlements and for construction of the separation wall deep inside the Palestinian territories, and

WHEREAS the settlements and Israel's wall on Palestinian land violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, and numerous United Nations Resolutions, and whereas settlement expansion violates the Declaration of Principles signed by the parties in Washington in 1993, and the requirements of the Roadmap signed in 2003, and

WHEREAS a number of American and Israeli Jewish peace groups, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and other religious leaders have called for selective divestment from Israel as a means of ending settlement expansion and ending the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, and

WHEREAS the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2004 passed Resolution 312 entitled "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land" which called for an end to the occupation of Palestinian land by Israel, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or the destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards, and lives, and

WHEREAS we are committed to ensuring that our denomination's money is used in a manner consistent with our beliefs, with international law, and with Christ's teaching, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a committee be created to examine and submit to United Methodist churches and investment managers in the New England Conference within six months a list of companies that support in a significant way the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and to maintain the list and constantly re-evaluate the relationship of companies to the occupation. Such committee should have two representatives from each state in the New England Conference, appointed by the Church and Society Committee in consultation with the appropriate district superintendents in each state, and should meet monthly until an initial divestment list is developed, and quarterly thereafter. Before placing a company on the list, the committee should write to that company, explain the committee's concerns, and request a change in the company's relationship to the Israeli occupation. If no change in policy is reported within 60 days as being taken or contemplated, the company's name should be placed on the divestment list along with explanatory details and shared with the New England Conference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Methodist churches and investment managers in the New England Conference are encouraged to examine their

portfolios to see whether current investments include companies on the divestment list described above. Those who find they are holding investments in such companies are urged to consider divesting from them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on the U.S. government, the government of Israel, and the newly elected Palestinian leadership to reject all acts of aggression and violence, to respect the equality and dignity of all the region's people, and to forge solutions based on the principles of international law and human rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm the right of Christians, Jews, and Muslims to freedom of movement in this land that three faiths call holy, and that we affirm the maintenance of Jerusalem as an open city for people of all three faiths in accordance with Resolution 312 of the United Methodist 2004 General Conference Book of Resolutions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our United Methodist funding agencies and our local churches, to support with our prayers, presence and our money, those Israeli, Palestinian and international organizations which bring people together in dialogue, and which work daily for peace and justice for both peoples. A list of such organizations will be presented to the above mentioned committee.

Supporting Statement

Despite renewed talk of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, the hard reality is that Israel's actions on the ground in the region, as well as Palestinian militant attacks on Israelis, place enormous obstacles in the way of progress toward peace.

The urgency of the humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories cannot be overstated. Palestinians face soaring unemployment, malnutrition, restrictions on movement, denial of medical care, denial of access to their agricultural lands, humiliation at checkpoints, and extended lockdowns called curfews. More than 4 million Palestinian refugees live in poverty, while Israelis live in their homes and farm their lands.

Israel continues to take the land of the Palestinian people for ever-expanding settlements, Israeli-only roadways, and the construction of a giant wall and fence that is confiscating a significant portion of the Palestinian land in the West Bank. 83% of the West Bank's water has been taken for Israeli use, leaving Palestinians with desperate water shortages. Israel has destroyed the homes of more than 28,000 Palestinians in four and a half years. Hundreds of thousands of ancient olive trees and vast tracts of agricultural land have also been destroyed.

Israel has built a ring of Jewish settlements around Arab East Jerusalem, impeding access to the West Bank for Jerusalem's Arab residents and ensuring

that Palestinians cannot use East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state, which has been called for by every major peace plan.

In 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled by 14–1 that Israel should halt and dismantle the Wall being constructed illegally in occupied Palestinian territory, and make reparation for the damage arising from its unlawful conduct.

Palestinians continue to alternate between often futile non-violent protest and unacceptable violent attacks on Israelis. Israeli soldiers have repeatedly fired on non-violent protesters, killing and wounding not only Palestinians, but international peace activists – including Americans – who have stood with them. In addition, volunteers with the Christian Peacemaker Teams in the West Bank have been attacked by Israeli settlers while escorting Palestinian children to school. Settlers have been involved in many acts of violence against Palestinians.

Palestinian Christians are being forced to leave the Holy Land. Their land and water has also been taken by Israel. They now comprise less than 2% of the West Bank's population, and there are very real fears that soon there will be no Christian presence in the land of Christ's birth. Those who remain are calling on Christians everywhere to reject the policies that are driving them and their Muslim neighbors from a region their ancestors have inhabited for more than 2000 years. Many recall a time when Christians, Jews, and Muslims lived in harmony together in this land, and believe it can happen again when people of all religions are accepted as equals, with full rights to life, liberty and property.

Our Christian faith calls us to reject violence of any kind, and to reject acts of aggression that provoke violence. As United Methodists, we are committed to work for justice, and to refuse to be complacent in the face of such monumental human suffering. We are also called to support other members of the Body of Christ around the world.

It is not expected that United Methodist divestment activity or that of any other religious denomination will significantly affect Israel's economy or the bottom line of major US companies, but this is not the goal. The goal is to make all United Methodists and other Americans aware of their relationship to companies that benefit from the Israeli occupation and give them an opportunity to withdraw from such relationships, so they are not participants in human rights violations that violate Christian principles and international law. Another, equally important goal is to give hope to Palestinians, including our Christian counterparts in the region, and let them know they are not forgotten.

Christ has called us to be a light to the nations, to replace darkness and despair with hope rooted in love for all God's creation. Refusing to be a part of an illegal occupation that endangers Israelis as well as Palestinians is an effective way to show our light to the world.

RS – 205 – NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

(submitted by Church and Society in coordination with Society of St. Andrew)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

WHEREAS, over thirty-six million Americans struggle with the reality of hunger even though God has blessed the United States of America with more than adequate resources, including an extraordinary abundance of food, to provide for the material needs of all her citizens; and

WHEREAS, the only factor hindering the creation of a hunger-free America is the political and moral conscience to make it so; and

WHEREAS, National Hunger Awareness Day has been established as a platform for faith-based and domestic hunger relief organizations to raise awareness about hunger in America and the work they do to create a hunger free America (information is posted on the web at www.hungerday.org); and

WHEREAS, observance of National Hunger Awareness Day has been set for the first Tuesday in June each year; and

WHEREAS, National Hunger Awareness Day was observed this year with a worship service held in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., attended by over one thousand people representing major religious and anti-hunger organizations and culminated in visits by the participants to congressional representatives and President Bush on behalf of the poor; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that New England Annual Conference of United Methodist Church formally and actively recognize National Hunger Awareness Day as a time to unite and stand in solidarity with and for the poor and those who strive to minister to them; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that all congregations of New England Annual Conference are encouraged to lift up the poor and hungry in prayer, receive an offering for relief of the poor, actively minister to serve the poor locally, contact their state, local and national representatives on behalf of the poor, or in some other appropriate way observe National Hunger Awareness Day during the morning worship service on a convenient Sunday in June each year, and throughout the year continue to stand in solidarity with the poor until hunger is eliminated from our land.

RS – 206 – IMPLEMENTATION OF COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL

(submitted by Course of Study Task Force)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

WHEREAS the Task Force for the Course of Study has completed its work, and has submitted its research to the New England Annual Conference, and

WHEREAS the Task Force for the Course of Study has developed a model for a part-time and full-time Course of Study in consultation with the Board of Higher Education and Ministry within the New England Conference, and

WHEREAS the Task Force for the Course of Study recognizes the proposed model for a part-time and full-time Course of Study will be an extension sight of Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that starting with the part-time model, a trial Course of Study school be held at Rolling Ridge in 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force for the Course of Study be dissolved, and its research be transferred to the Board of Ordained Ministry, for implementation. Such research is to be submitted to the General Board of Higher Education by the Board of Ordained Ministry for approval.

RS – 207 – INCREASE IN PASTOR’S HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM CO PAY

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)

(As amended, was adopted Friday Morning, June 10, 2005)

The Board of Pensions moves that the Participant’s Health Insurance Premium Co-pay be increased in 2006 to \$100 a month with \$50 a month being waived when all covered adult participants take the Health Risk Assessment annually.

RS – 208 – PERMISSION TO RELEASE NAMES OF PASTORS AND LAY PARTICIPANTS IN PENSION PLANS FOR LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE OFFER

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)

(As amended, was adopted Friday Morning, June 10, 2005)

The Board of Pensions moves that the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits be authorized to release the names and addresses of clergy and laity who are in our pension plans to John Hancock Insurance Company so that these listed and their extended families will be eligible to be in CareChoice, a Group Long-term Care Insurance Program. Participation in the plan will be strictly volunteer and self-funded. John Hancock cannot use the list for any other solicitation and can not “sell” the list to others.

**RS – 209 – AMENDMENT TO CONFERENCE POLICY AND
PROCEDURE VII D**

(submitted by Rules Committee)

(Adopted Thursday Morning, June 9, 2005)

The Conference Rules Committee recommends the following amendment to the Rules: (~~Strike through~~ words indicate deletions to the current rule. Underlined words indicate additions to current rule.)

D. Conference Committee on Rules

1. There shall be a Committee on Rules which shall be nominated, after consultation with the Bishop, and elected at the first Annual Conference following General Conference, and shall serve for the quadrennium.
2. Membership of the Committee on Rules shall include:
 - a. one person from each district, half of whom shall be laity and half of whom shall be clergy
 - b. In addition, a chairperson, lay or clergy, appointed by the Bishop
 - c. the Conference Secretary
3. To this Committee shall be referred all proposed changes or additions to the Conference Rules or the Conference Policies and Procedures.
4. All suggested amendments of these Policies and Procedures presented to the Committee on Conference Rules shall be submitted by a conference board, agency, committee or task force or signed by five (5) members of the Conference.
5. All items in Section XI – Attachments, will be reviewed by the Annual Conference every six years. The Conference Rules Committee will draw this to the attention of the annual conference on the fifth anniversary of adoption of each individual appendix. The Rules Committee will make a recommendation on those attachments not reviewed by the assigned body of the Annual Conference.

**RS – 210 – ADDITIONAL ADVANCE SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR
2005–2008 NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(submitted by the Resourcing Team)
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

WEST ANGOLA COVENANT \$30,000

Rev. Ed Grant

519 Washington St
Brighton, MA 02135
617-787-1868 (church)
617-783-0473 (home)
Gracom3@aol.com

Churches in our Conference will be asked to adopt a pastor in the West Angola Conference by paying half or the whole annual salary (average salary – \$1,000.00 a year), as an expression of their commitment to the West Angola Covenant and thereby establish a sister relationship with that church.

RS – 211 – BOM REGISTRAR POSITION

(submitted by the Conference Personnel Committee and the Board of Ordained Ministry)
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

We move that the Board of Ordained Ministry be authorized to add one ½ FTE for the position “Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar”. This position is an exempt and non-benefited employee of the New England Conference. The Registrar will report directly to the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee through the co-chairpersons of the Board.

This ½ FTE position will be carefully examined by both the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Conference Personnel Committee to determine the best way for the work of the Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry to be done. This examination will begin with an initial report to the Personnel Committee in the Spring of 2006 and a final report in the Spring of 2007. This final report will include a report to the 2007 Annual Conference.

**RS – 212 – ADDITION TO CONFERENCE POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES**

(submitted by the Conference Board of Trustees)
(As amended, was adopted Friday Morning, June 10, 2005)

The Conference Board of Trustees moves the addition of the following to the Policies and Procedures of the New England Annual Conference.

Policies Regarding Maintenance and Repairs to Conference-Owned Residences

In order to properly and efficiently manage our conference-owned residences and in an attempt to provide fair and equal treatment for and to our residents, it may become necessary from time to time, to establish policies regarding various aspects of our management. In an endeavor to achieve this end, the following practices are established by the Conference Trustees:

1. In compliance with RS 228A (2004), the Trustees will fund a housing inspection for each residence when a change of occupants occurs. This will be scheduled to occur approximately one month prior to the departure of the residents. This will provide time for minor repairs of those conditions which exceed normal wear and tear occasioned by the resident and will aid in scheduling professional assistance for more extensive repairs.
2. Except for emergencies and unexpected occurrences, no scheduled maintenance will be funded by the Trustees during the periods between occupant changeovers. If there are special circumstances which should be considered, the Trustees will respond to a request from the District Superintendency Committee or the District Parsonage Committee by appointing a sub-committee of the Trustees, consisting of the Residential Property Manager and two (2) other Trustees to investigate/evaluate the request and make recommendations to the full Board of Trustees on corrective actions. (Ex-Officio members of the Trustees are encouraged to serve on these sub-committees if their own residence is not involved in the examination).
3. In general, housekeeping and cosmetic projects will be scheduled at the time when there is a change of occupants or when other maintenance and repairs generate cosmetic projects. This includes interior paint, wallpaper projects, and carpet cleaning.
4. Occupants are strongly encouraged to scrutinize their residences carefully and frequently in order to keep the Trustees informed, through the appropriate oversight committees in accordance with RS 228A (2004), of required maintenance and repair needs. The Residential Property Manager will assess and recommend actions to be taken for each request, and will request the formation of a sub-committee (See 2, above) when appropriate.

These policies may be modified or expanded as our experience in good management practices increases.

RS – 213 – DISTRICT MISSION SHARE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(submitted by the Conference Mission Share Review Committee)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

Whereas the 2004 Annual Conference adopted RS-227 establishing a Conference Mission Share Review Committee (CMSRC) whose purpose is to:

- * “Work... with each local church to discover and address the root causes of individual local churches not paying their Mission Share.”
- * Meet with “any church that has not paid mission shares in full for the previous two years... to evaluate the root cause of the non-fulfillment of the connectional covenant of paying Missions shares in full and help to bring each church to a goal of 100%.”
- * “Cherish and love each church it is evaluating and shall offer guidance and counsel for assisting the individual churches in recognizing their connection to the greater Church, and offering whatever conference resources may be available for assisting the local churches that are delinquent in payment.”
- * “...that in strategic places of ministry the CMSRC be authorized to recommend to CCFA the lowering of the mission shares of individual churches where situations justify a reduction according to guidelines established by the CMSRC. (Paragraph 613, Book of Discipline)”

Whereas the CMSRC has set up interviews with 32 churches of various sizes and mission share participation to gather information about mission shares and covenant connection, and

Whereas the number of churches that have not paid 100% of their mission shares for two consecutive years (2003/2004) is approximately 39%;

Therefore be it resolved that each District appoint or nominate a committee to review Mission Share participation and recommend churches to the Conference Mission Shares Review Committee for Mission Share relief that will follow the intent of RS-227;

Furthermore be it resolved that the CMSRC with its current membership and additional leadership;

- ✓ *Establish and refine a process for continuing mission share review and relief;*
- ✓ *Provide training to District Committees;*

- ✓ *Receive reports and recommendations from District Committees;*
- ✓ *Make annual recommendations to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) regarding mission share relief (per RS-227); and*
- ✓ *Prepare a summary report and findings to the 2006 Annual Conference.*

RS – 214 – ABANDONMENT OF SWAN’S ISLAND UMC

(submitted by Marcelle Dotson, Northern Maine District Superintendent)

(Adopted Thursday Afternoon, June 9, 2005)

WHEREAS the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church located in Hancock County, Maine has had a long and proud history; and

WHEREAS pursuant to paragraph 2548.2, the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church no longer served the purpose for which it was organized and incorporated; and

WHEREAS the church members voted to discontinue the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church to engage in a process to become a Lazarus church; and

WHEREAS the church had been referred to the Conference Committee on Congregational Development for guidance and support in carrying out the Lazarus model; and

WHEREAS it was determined that the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church was not an appropriate candidate for engaging in a Lazarus effort; and

WHEREAS the church members voted to withdraw from the United Methodist Church in order to transfer their membership to the Free Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the active members of the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church transferred their membership to the Free Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent had recommended that the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church be discontinued in, and has received consent from the presiding bishop, the majority of the Cabinet, and the District Board of Church Location and Building;

Be it therefore resolved that the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church be declared abandoned, effective July 1, 2005, and that all assets be equally divided between the three United Methodist Churches in that region (Stonington UMC, Ellsworth UMC and Faith UMC) that are in the process of planning new evangelism initiatives; and

Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Swan’s Island United Methodist Church remain intact in order to provide for the maintenance and care of the facility until such time as disposition of the property is determined.

**RS – 215 – COKESBURY PENSION MONEY TO
CENTRAL CONFERENCES**

(submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions & Health Benefits)
(Adopted Friday Morning, June 10, 2005)

The Conference Board of Pensions moves that the check received from Cokesbury this year be donated to the Central Conference Pension Initiative to bring long-term pension support to the clergy and lay workers of the central conferences.

**RS – 216 – GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENT
*Proposed Payout Percentages 2005***

(submitted by the Council on Finance and Administration)
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

In an effort to clarify actions taken during the November, 2004 called Special Session of Annual Conference, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration recommends that the General Church apportionments (Mission Shared to local churches) be paid at the percentage equal to its respective percentage of the fund in which it is contained. This means that for every dollar received from local churches' Mission Share payments within a specific fund, the General Church apportionment(s) associated with that fund will receive their respective percentage, without respect to the 2005 established spending limit.

Fund 1 – World Service	42.3%
Fund 2 – Black College Fund	100%
Fund 2 – Africa University	100%
Fund 3 – Episcopal fund	3.8%
Fund 3 – Ministerial Education	5.5%
Fund 4 – Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	2.0%
Fund 4 – General Administration Fund	5.9%

**RS – 217 – GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENT
*Proposed Payout Percentages 2006***

(submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration recommends that the General Church apportionments (Mission Shared to local churches) be paid at the percentage equal to its respective percentage of the fund in which it is contained. This means that for every dollar received from local churches' Mission Share pay-

ments within a specific fund, the General Church apportionment(s) associated with that fund will receive their respective percentage, without respect to the 2006 established spending limit.

Fund 1 – World Service	46.7%
Fund 2 – Black College Fund	100%
Fund 2 – Africa University	100%
Fund 3 – Episcopal fund	3.5%
Fund 3 – Ministerial Education	4.7%
Fund 4 – Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	2.3%
Fund 4 – General Administration Fund	7.0%

**RS – 218 – A CLARIFICATION OF THE MEANING
OF “CONDUCTED”**

(submitted by Scott Campbell)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

The 2004 Discipline of the United Methodist Church specifies that ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches (par. 341.5). The New England Annual Conference understands “conducted” to mean that our pastors shall not preside as the chief officiants in such ceremonies. We do not interpret this paragraph to prohibit the participation of our ministers in such ceremonies, especially when there is a clear pastoral relationship with the couple involved.

**RS – 219 – DISCONTINUANCE OF ST. PAUL’S UMC
LOWELL, MA**

(submitted by Ronald Wilson, Central Massachusetts District Superintendent)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

WHEREAS St. Paul’s United Methodist Church located in the city of Lowell, Massachusetts (Middlesex County) was founded in 1839 and has had a long and proud history of justice ministries, compassion and mercy serving the people of Lowell; and

WHEREAS the Charge Conference of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church voted on November 28, 2004 to discontinue the Church; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended the discontinuance of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and transfer of membership to the church of preference by individual members; and

WHEREAS the Superintendent has recommended that property be sold by the

Conference Board of Trustees and some of the proceeds be used for ministry in the Lowell area; 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 Building and Location and all Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

Therefore, be it resolved, that St. Paul's United Methodist Church be discontinued effective December 31, 2004, and that the property be transferred to the Conference Board of Trustees.

RS – 220 – DISCONTINUANCE CHRIST UMC – HINGHAM, MA

(submitted by Aida Fernandez, Metro Boston Hope District Superintendent)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

*WHEREAS, the members of Christ UMC in Hingham voted to discontinue; and
WHEREAS, there is no building or property to transfer to the trustees; and
WHEREAS, all funds have been transferred to the trustees; and
WHEREAS, Bishop Weaver and the Cabinet consent to the discontinuance;*

Therefore be it resolved that the Annual Conference declare Christ UMC in Hingham, MA discontinued and that all funds will be used for the development of urban ministries in the Metro Boston Hope District.

RS – 221 – LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

(submitted by Leadership Committee)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

See page B-153 for full report

RS – 222 – RESOLUTION OF THANKS

(submitted by Peter Hey and S. Graham DeCoster)

(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 11, 2005)

WHEREAS, hands of every shape and size, hands of every color, hands from around the world have participated in the molding, scripting and producing of the 2005 session of the New England Conference; and

WHEREAS, hands weaving, hands playing music, hands coordinated with eyes have filmed this session, hands have manipulated equipment allowing the body to see the activities on the stage, and

WHEREAS, hands have kept time, applauded and praised God together in this place;

Therefore let us heartily thank those whose hands and hearts minds and spirits have together provided a time of celebration and reflection of prayerful dis-

cernment and difficult decision making. Thanks be to God for all who have volunteered that our Conference may run smoothly.

RS – 301 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – I

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The proposed amendment specifies that a fair and open process shall be utilized for the election of General Conference delegates.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 812 Yes, 72 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division II, Section II, ¶12.2, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division II, Section II, ¶13.2, *Article I*) amend by substitution as follows:

Delete ¶12.2, which reads, “Delegates shall be elected by the annual conferences except that delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other’s highest legislative conferences.” In its place, substitute, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other’s legislative conferences.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶12.2 (¶13.2) would read:

Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other’s legislative conferences.

RS – 302 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – II

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The proposed amendment adds home missionaries to the classifications over which General Conference has authority to define and fix powers and duties.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 876 Yes, 20 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶15.2, *Article IV*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶16.2, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “and” before “deaconesses” and add “and home missionaries” at end of sentence.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶15.2 (¶16.2) would read:

To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries.

RS – 303 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – III

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The phrase, proposed to be deleted, applied to annual conference in existence prior to 1981. It is now obsolete and may be appropriately discontinued.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 873 Yes, 31 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶25.4, *Article V*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶27.4, *Article V*) amend by deletion, as follows:

Delete “and provided further that this provision shall not apply to annual conferences of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church during the first three quadrenniums after union.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶25.4 (¶27.4) would read:

To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences; *provided* that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference.

RS – 304 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IV

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The proposed amendment would guarantee that the person responsible for promoting work of the Mission agency of The United

Methodist Church is a member of the Annual Conference. Approximately 30% of Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries are laity. Presently, unless elected by their home church or included under the Conference's equalization rule, this person is not a member of the Annual Conference.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 851 Yes, 60 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add "Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay)," after "district lay leaders" in the first sentence.

AND

RS – 305 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – V

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The proposed amendment adds home missionaries under episcopal appointment to the membership of the annual conference.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 864 Yes, 34 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add "and home missionaries" after "the active deaconesses" in the first sentence.

AND

RS – 306 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – VI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The proposed constitutional amendment is needed to support the addition of the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries to the list of lay members of the annual conference in ¶602.4, as passed by General Conference in 2000.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 832 Yes, 51 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries” after “district lay leaders” in the first sentence.

AND

RS – 307 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – VII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(This amendment was NOT ADOPTED)

(Rationale: The proposed amendment provides a definition of clergy members of the annual conference.)

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 877 Yes, 19 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

Add “and lay” between “clergy” and “members” in first sentence.

Delete “as defined by the General Conference, together with” after “clergy and lay members” in first sentence.

Place a period after “clergy and lay members” in first sentence. Insert the following immediately after the first sentence: “The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶30 (¶32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men,

the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

RS – 308 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – VIII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 10, 2005)

(Rationale: The proposed amendment would make possible adoption of enabling legislation at the same General Conference as the amendment is voted. Such adoption would be contingent upon required ratification by the various annual conferences. Presently, enabling legislation cannot be introduced until at least the General Conference following adoption, and subsequent ratification, of a constitutional amendment.)

On May 7, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 806 Yes, 32 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶57, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶59, *Article I*) amend by addition.

Add a new second paragraph as follows, "In the event that the General Conference adopts an amendment to the Constitution, the General Conference

may immediately adopt enabling legislation for such amendment which shall be contingent on ratification of the amendment by the required two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, and effective once the Council of Bishops, operating as a canvasser of votes, announces that the amendment has been passed. In the same manner, an annual conference may approve legislation in anticipation of such a change in the Discipline and/or Constitution that would likewise become effective upon the effective date of said Disciplinary Change or Constitutional Amendment.