

## 2013 CONFERENCE ACTIONS

### RS- 101 - MINIMUM CASH SALARY

(Submitted by the Commission on Equitable Compensation)  
(Adopted after amendments, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

Following are the proposed minimum salaries for the year 2014 which represent a cost of living increase plus partial offset for the increase in payroll taxes due to the expiration of payroll tax cuts (A total of 3.5% with the Cost of Living increase as indicated by the Consumer Price Index for 2012 of 1.7%).

Full-time Elder, Provisional Member, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Member	\$38,760
Full-time Local Pastor	\$35,060
<i>Additional for Years of Service as of Jan 1, 2014</i>	
From 3 to 5 Years under appointment	\$ 600
From 6 to 10 Years under appointment	\$ 1,200
From 11 to 15 Years under appointment	\$ 1,500
Over 15 years under appointment	\$ 2,000

#### Reimbursable Accounts

The Commission on Equitable Compensation in an effort to remain current with prevailing trends across the denomination, and in keeping with IRS regulations, proposes the following minimum amounts for Reimbursable Accounts (Professional Expenses, Continuing Education and Travel) for Full-Time Pastors in 2014 for a total in reimbursable funds of at least \$2,950: (An increase of \$50 over 2013).

Professional Expenses     \$700                      Continuing Education     \$650                      Travel     \$1,600

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

Elders, Provisional Members or Associate Members appointed less than full-time, in accordance with ¶ 338 of the 2012 *Discipline* and appointed to a pastoral charge at  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  time, shall receive at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Conference established Full-Time salary and at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Conference established reimbursable package as established by the Annual Conference and shall have a claim on Equitable Compensation funds. Local Pastors appointed to a pastoral charge  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  time shall receive at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Conference established Full-Time salary and at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Conference established reimbursable package as established by the Annual Conference and shall have a claim on Equitable Compensation funds. Licensed Local Pastors appointed less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  time shall negotiate contracts with the District Superintendent directly, and shall have no claim on Equitable Compensation funds. Retired clergy serving under appointment, regardless of appointive time, shall have no claim on Equitable Compensation funds. The primary responsibility for paying the pastor remains with the local Church/Charge—for this reason, the responsibility to apply for Equitable Compensation assistance lies with the local Church/Charge. If the local Church/Charge encounters difficulties or fails to pay a pastor in a timely manner, the pastor should immediately contact her/his District Superintendent for assistance and, if necessary, begin the process of applying for emergency Equitable Salary assistance.

#### COMPENSATION PACKAGE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS with MOU

In some instances and for very particular reasons, pastors and congregations make arrangements for compensation and benefits that are outside of the requirements outlined in this resolution. The Commission appreciates that such arrangements are warranted on occasion, and are in the best interest of the parties involved “provided that no member in good standing who is appointed to a pastoral charge is denied the minimum base compensation (2012 Discipline ¶ 625.9).” To maintain the integrity of the compensation and benefits system, the Commission recommends:

- The specifics of such arrangements, including explaining how the arrangement provides for at least minimum base compensation as approved by the Annual Conference be spelled out in a Memorandum of Understanding that

limits the conditions to one year. This may be as an addendum to the salary forms signed at Charge Conference, or as a separate letter included in the pastor’s and SPRC’s files.

- The MOU shall be signed by the Pastor, the District Superintendent, and the SPRC Chair.
- The MOU shall be reviewed and renewed annually.
- It is provided in the MOU that such arrangements have no impact on compensation and benefits packages to be negotiated for future appointments.
- In the case where a salary package includes special arrangements regarding salary or reimbursable funds, review of a clearly defined MOU will be required for consideration for any Equitable Compensation funds.

Based on the recommended minimum of \$38,760 and \$35,060 respectively and the approval of the minimum amount by Conference action, the following maximum grant amounts would be permitted in accordance with ¶ 625.9 of the 2012 *Discipline*:

Category	Full-Time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	Full-Time Local Pastor
Minimum Salary Grant	\$ 7,752	\$ 7,012
Strategic Salary Grant	\$ 9,690	\$ 8,765

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 condition of the grant 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.

Each pastor appointed full-time to a pastoral charge must receive base cash compensation equal to the **Minimum** base cash salary schedule that is voted on by the Annual Conference. Each Conference member or Local Pastor who is appointed less than full-time to a pastoral charge is eligible to receive cash compensation at least in proportion to that schedule (2012 *Discipline*, ¶ 342). The **Minimum** compensation amount and guidelines shall be recommended by the Annual Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation and set by the Annual Conference. Clergy appointed to a local charge whose cash salary falls below the **Minimum** levels established by the conference may apply for a grant from the Annual Conference Fund for Equitable Compensation.

A **Minimum** cash salary grant provides temporary support for the pastoral appointment; it fulfills the requirements of ¶ 625 of the 2012 *Discipline*. This grant also recognizes that the goal should be to bring this funding to zero by having each church become self-sufficient over time. While our United Methodist connectionalism requires this support, which is embodied in our Conference’s Mission statement, the Commission strives to have each charge independently support its pastor. ***Churches wishing to apply for a Minimum Salary grant must pay exactly Conference set minimum salary plus any years of appointment addition. However, any pastor whose charge is unable to meet its compensation obligation has a right to an Emergency Minimum Salary Grant based on ¶ 625.9 of the 2012 Discipline. In these cases, the Pastor should immediately contact her/his District Superintendent, who shall immediately contact the Commission on Equitable Compensation. Working with both the local Church and the Commission, the Superintendent will work to assure the Pastor is paid for the remainder of the appointive year. If the Cabinet determines a need for the appointment to continue beyond the appointive year, the District Superintendent shall instruct the Church/Charge to apply for one of the regular categories of supplemental grants, in consultation with the Commission on Equitable Compensation.***

Grants are scheduled as follows:

- 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.

A **Strategic** cash salary grant *provides temporary support for the pastoral appointment during the development and implementation of a **Strategic** parish plan.* This grant focuses on the opportunity for growth and renewal in an existing charge or congregation. If the **Strategic** plan identifies new staff, programs, or building improvements, funding should be sought from other Conference resources for those items. **Strategic** cash salary grants are awarded to enable **Strategic** ministry where *the skills of the pastor and/or the demands of the situation indicate that special ministry skills are needed.* 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 A **Missional** cash salary grant provides support of a pastoral appointment within the New England Conference in a **Missional** setting. This **Missional** setting is characterized *as a new opportunity occurring in a clearly defined geographic area to meet spiritual and life needs.* A new opportunity is defined as an existing congregation or charge providing new spiritual growth and/or social or economic services in a geographic area, usually where there is no other United Methodist presence. This **Missional** ministry is targeted towards a defined population for the purpose of fulfilling the New England Conference vision of proclaiming Christ boldly. In particular situations, we support missional grants for full or part-time congregations whose pastoral leaders are not yet licensed or ordained. *Suitable applicants will be determined by the Cabinet and submitted to the Commission.* It is required that Missional grant applicants also submit applications to the Congregational Development Committee.

## RS - 102 – OFFERINGS AT 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Bonnie Marden and Jim McPhee for the Agenda, Worship and Planning Teams)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

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

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

Whereas, supporting ministry locally and globally embodies our Conference mission statement and enables our United Methodist community to unite in trust and support our vision to boldly proclaim Christ to the world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 New England Annual Conference include:

- 1) An Offering for Scholarships for Clergy formation events after the Episcopal Address,
- 2) an Ordination Service Offering to support the Imagine No Malaria campaign,
- 3) a Commissioning Service Offering to support New England JFON ministries,
- 4) an In-Gathering of blankets, lap robes and prayer shawls during the Saturday Sending Service.

Furthermore, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries challenges each church to bring a check for a minimum of \$25.00 for the Penny/Check Challenge to fund youth ministry and the Youth Service Fund. Awards will be presented!

Additional In-Gatherings

- UMCOR Kits collection during Conference in the UMCOR van located in the Chapel parking lot  
For instructions, contact Rosemary McNulty RMcNulty@neumc.org
- "Give a Phone . . . Save a Life" The New England Annual Conference, in partnership with Safe Havens, will gather used cell phones to be reprogrammed for emergency use by victims of domestic violence or recycled to support Safe Havens' work to end domestic violence. Collection Box located in Chapel Foyer
- Nicaragua Planning Committee will collect fabric and sewing goods at Chester's Place, Lane Student Center and is seeking matching funds for water projects
- Eyeglasses donations for Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti (Haitian Methodist Church) will be collected in the Chapel Foyer. (2,000 donated in 2011, 100 in 2012, 2013 Goal: 2,000)

Individuals and congregations are encouraged to respond enthusiastically to invitations to support the Imagine No Malaria campaign, our ministries in Nicaragua and Africa, including the West Angola Conference, during Conference and the coming year. Thank you!

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

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

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 2014 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 furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.]

**RS – 104 - PAST SERVICE FUNDING RATE**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

RESOLVED, that the Past Service Funding Rate for 2014 be set at \$594 per year of service and 85% as the survivor's rate.

**RS – 105 - RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CREDIT**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

RESOLVED, that all participants in the Conference Health Insurance program in 2014 will be given one year of credit toward the retiree health benefit subsidy in retirement.

**RS – 106 - SPECIAL GRANTS**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
 (Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

RESOLVED, that the following Special Grants be continued for 2014 on the same basis as 2013:

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

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

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
 (Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

The 2014 pastor’s/participant’s health insurance co-pay monthly premium will be \$195 per month (\$2,340 annually) and the Benefit Stabilization Fund contribution be \$45 per month. Pastors/participants are eligible to receive a \$50 per month credit toward their monthly premium if they take the annual Health Quotient assessment by the date designated by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (the General Board). However, spouses of pastors/participants who are on the plan must also take the Health Quotient assessment by the date designated by the General Board in order for the pastor/participant to receive this supplement.

**RS – 108 - HEALTH INSURANCE BILLING RATE CALCULATION**

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
 (Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

The 2014 Health Insurance “blended” rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2014 premium billed the Conference by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for clergy (and family) under appointment to local churches, staff, and disabled, an appropriate amount to cover unpaid premiums by local churches, and related administrative costs, by the number of “salary paying” units for the aforementioned categories. A 10% surcharge of the resulting rate will be added in accordance to the Retiree Health Benefit Legislation of 2001. A final adjustment shall be made, if necessary, to have the annual yearly rates divisible by 12. This base “blended” rate may be modified by Annual Conference action to include participant payment of premium.

**RS – 109 - PENSION/BENEFIT BILLING RATE CALCULATION**

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
 (Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

The 2014 Pension/Benefit rate shall be determined by calculating the total projected 2014 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 with eligible clergy will be billed the proportional cost of their pastor’s pension/benefit costs based on a formula of \$5,350 per full-time appointment (prorated in ¼ time increments) plus 7% of participants plan compensation for those churches whose clergy are eligible for CPP and 3% of participants plan compensation for those churches whose clergy are not eligible for CPP.

**RS – 110- RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CONTRIBUTION**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)  
 (Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

The maximum retiree contribution to the Retiree Health Benefit Stabilization Fund for 2014 shall be \$60.00 per month for each participant and participating spouse pro-rated for the percentage of retiree health insurance premium paid by the Annual Conference.

**RS – 111 - AFFIRMATION OF PREACHERS' AID SOCIETY**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

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

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

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

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

**RS - 112 - UNIT INSURANCE PLAN**

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

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

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

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

Including the following provisions that:

1. All New England Conference churches participate.
  - a. Special coverages to include flood for zones other than B&C and other unique insurance risks will be purchased at additional cost to the local church where such insurance is applicable.
2. Insurance coverage will be as documented in the comprehensive policy, a copy of which is located in the Office of Administrative Services (OAS). Copies of this policy can be obtained by request for a fee to cover printing and mailing costs.
3. The agent of record be Fred C. Church Inc. of Lowell, MA.
4. The renewal date will be August 1, 2013.
5. The insurance billing for this (18th) eighteenth year of the plan (August 1, 2013 - July 31, 2014) will be at the actual value based billing assessed to each local church and the Conference, based on building values, square footage and pastoral appointment.
6. Insurance billings for all churches that are on the Unit Insurance Plan as of August 1, 2013 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 16, 2013.
  - c. A special discount will be given to churches that pay the total amount or enroll in the Automated Clearinghouse Account by October 15, 2013.
  - d. Churches that use the installment plan shall pay 20% of the annual billing by September 16, 2013 and eight monthly installments of 10% of the amount due on the fifteenth of the month (Oct - May).
  - e. The Conference Treasurer shall use Conference funds, as necessary, to pay the premium until funds come in from local churches.
7. Property claims payments will be issued in the name of the New England Conference and the local church, sent to the New England Conference Office of Administrative Services and will be endorsed and sent to the local church when all insurance premiums are paid to date.
8. The New England Conference Insurance Committee shall be amenable to the Conference Board of Trustees.
  - a. This Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members. The chairperson or co-chairperson of the committee shall be a member of the New England Conference Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall appoint five (5) additional members and the Council on Finance and Administration shall appoint five (5) members. The committee members do not need to be members of either the Board of Trustees or CF&A, with the exception of the chair or co-chair.
  - b. This committee shall:

1. receive and respond to questions and concerns of local churches regarding the insurance plan.
2. review loss trends and suggest remedies.
3. review property appraisals.
4. review the policy for any needed changes
5. provide for risk management materials/workshops for districts and/or clusters as requested.
6. annually review the premium, determine the method of distributing the premium among local churches and, if necessary, re-bid the contract.
7. annually report to the New England Annual Conference.

9. A common, comprehensive worker's compensation program be included with a renewal date of January 1, 2014. Insurance will continue to be billed through the OAS office.

10. The following policy on the issuing of "replacement cost" insurance be in effect.

a. Any church, at their option, can apply for a waiver of blanket full replacement cost coverage, and substitution with a stated value for Functional Replacement Cost, by making such a request to the Insurance Committee of the Conference Board of Trustees. The District Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location shall endorse the application prior to consideration by the Insurance Committee. Application forms are available on the conference website.

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 Chair/Co-Chairperson of the Insurance Committee by July 1st.

### **RS- 113 - UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

(Submitted by the UMW)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012, 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 2012, 256.5 states the purpose of United Methodist Women in Article 3 as "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church"; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

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

### **RS- 114 – TO CREATE A COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION KNOWN AS "MISSION u" IN THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Marie MacDougall)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, the National Organization of United Methodist Women of the United Methodist Church work to create annual mission studies focusing on a country or region of the world, a social issue related to our mission, and a spiritual growth study, and

WHEREAS, for over thirty plus years the predecessor conferences of the New England Conference have held cooperative schools of Christian Mission, and

WHEREAS, the 2012 School of Christian Mission was a cooperative school, and

WHEREAS, New England Conference has budgeted \$6,000 in their 2013 the budget for the School of Christian Mission aka Mission u and provided staff to the administrative team, and

WHEREAS, the New England Conference United Methodist Women have budgeted \$8,000 for the 2013 School of Christian Mission aka Mission u and provided leadership for the administrative team, and

WHEREAS, this year's studies, Spiritual Growth: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly; Social Issue: Poverty; and Geographic: The Roma of Europe are pertinent to issues we are dealing with in our communal and political lives.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 2013 school will be a cooperative school with the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and the New England Conference United Methodist Women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT local churches will encourage men, women and children to attend Mission u and that churches offer scholarships to those who request them.

### **RS – 115 - BUDGET BUILDING DATES - 2015 BUDGET**

(Submitted by Council on Finance & Administration)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

The following budget building preparation and dates are for the 2015 budget, subject to any change mutually agreed upon by the CF&A and the New England Missions Team. All 2015 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, 2014.
- b. Boards, agencies, committees presenting budgets to the Director of Connectional Ministries do so by March 15, 2014.
- c. All 2015 budget requests must be submitted to the Treasurer by Noon, March 15, 2014.
- d. The CF&A approves final 2015 budget for recommendation to Annual Conference by May 1, 2014.
- e. The CF&A distributes the proposed 2015 budget through the Pre-Conference packet distributed to all Annual Conference members, via the Conference website by May 15, 2014.

### **RS- 116 - APPORTIONMENT FORMULA**

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

The 2014 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 2012 Statistical Tables, Lines 51 – 62 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- The amount reported on the 2011 Statistical Tables, Lines 51 – 62 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- The amount reported on the 2010 Statistical Tables, Lines 51 – 62 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above. CF&A, at the request of the Cabinet, may make adjustments to individual church mission share amounts based on factors not considered within the aforementioned statistical tables.

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

(Submitted by the UMW)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RS – 118 – AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION OF CLERGY WHO ARE LESS THAN FULL-TIME BUT HALF-TIME OR GREATER TO PARTICIPATE IN CRSP**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, it has been the practice in the past of the New England Annual Conference to enroll all clergy, including those who serve less than full-time, in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) or its predecessor pension programs and;

WHEREAS, legislative changes at the 2012 Quadrennial General Conference no longer will allow clergy who serve less than 50% time to participate in the CRSP program, and those who serve less than full-time but 50% or greater may participate only at the option of the this annual conference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New England Annual Conference authorized the Conference Board of Pensions to enroll Clergy that serve less than full-time but 50% or greater in the CRSP program and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Board of Pensions strongly encourages local churches with Clergy who serve less than 50% to support these clergy pensions with an amount equal to at least ten percent (10%) of these pastors’ salaries through the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

**RS- 119 - APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN**

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

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, John Wesley’s statement “Having, First, gained all you can, and, Secondly saved all you can, Then give all you can” teaches us that fiduciary responsibility can help us further God’s work here on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is now required to have and approve a Comprehensive Benefits Funding Plan from all Annual Conferences for its Pension, Health Insurance, Disability, and Other Benefits liabilities; and

WHEREAS, approval of a sound Comprehensive Funding Plan will aide in providing long-term fiscal soundness for the New England Conference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference approves the 2014 Comprehensive Benefits Funding Plan, as detailed in the supplemental materials distributed.

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

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

a) The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a 2014 Mission Share spending limit of \$7,022,433 (actual spending limit) and a 2014 Mission Share apportioned to local churches of \$7,737,443 (includes "connectional mission share" for churches unable to pay 100% of apportioned amounts).

b) The Council on Finance and Administration recommends the 2014 conference budget as presented.

### **RS – 201 – TO DISCONTINUE THE CONWAY UMC CONWAY, NH**

(Submitted by David Abbott, District Superintendent, NH District)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS the Conway United Methodist Church, located in Carroll County, Conway, New Hampshire has a long and proud history of mission and ministry over these past 206 years; and

WHEREAS in their ongoing efforts to be faithful to God and responsible to their obligations they have had a ¼-time appointment with under 20 in worship in recent years and have prayerfully discerned they are no longer able to continue; and

WHEREAS the congregation explored options through a "possibility study" (¶1213), including merger; and

WHEREAS at a special Church Conference held on June 3, 2012, the members gathered and voted to close the church and declare its properties "abandoned" in accordance with ¶12548 of the Discipline turning the property and all assets under the care of the trustees of the New England Conference effective October 15, 2012; and

WHEREAS the final service of celebration and deconsecration was held on October 14, 2012 with a time of honoring and remembering the saints who had come before, those who were faithfully serving in the present time as well as praying for the future of the people called Methodist in the Mt. Washington Valley area, and

WHEREAS the members of the Conway UMC approved as part of their closing motion to create a financial legacy, after the dissolution of all assets, to be used for new church starts and local church transformation within the Mount Washington Area; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended abandonment of the Conway UMC effective October 14, 2012 and the Discontinuance effective July 1, 2013 and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been followed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NEAC honor the 206 years of ministry in, and through, the Conway UMC, as well as their intent in their closing and with their resources to be a legacy church, offering life to new and transforming congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conway UMC be declared discontinued effective July 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Conway UMC directs (with the affirmation of the District Superintendent, the Director of Congregational Development, The District Board of Building and Location, and the support of the Cabinet) that the NEAC trustees dedicate all real, personal, tangible and intangible property assets (including assets from the sale of any property) minus any outstanding financial obligations be held in trust in the Hebrews 11 Fund earmarked for new church starts and local church transformation within the Mount Washington Area of New Hampshire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through the NEAC office of Congregational Development (working in consultation with the NEAC trustees, the NH District Superintendent, and the NH District Church Building and Location Committee), exploration of the viability of new ministry redevelopment as well as local church transformation in the Mount Washington Valley Area will be determined following Discipline guidelines and conference policies with final approval of a strategic plan to be approved by the presiding Bishop and a majority of the District Superintendents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if no new start or plan for transformation is initiated within five years of the assets becoming liquid, those funds will be available in accordance with the Hebrews 11 resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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, the intent of this resolution, and the New England Conference policies.

**RS – 202 – TO DISCONTINUE GRACE UMC, HOPKINTON, MA**

(Submitted by Rene Perez, District Superintendent, Central Massachusetts District)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS Grace United Methodist Church located in Hopkinton, MA has existed for 10 years as a new congregation, starting in 2003 as a daughter congregation of First United Methodist Church in Westborough and having a remarkable history of commitment to local and world missions; and

WHEREAS on January 16, 2013, at a special church conference and after much prayer, discernment and exploring other possibilities for ministry, the church members voted to discontinue; and

WHEREAS a final worship service of celebration and deconsecrating was held January 27, 2013, thanking God for the wonderful years of mission and ministry

WHEREAS according to ¶ 2549 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, and Grace UMC having properly considered other options for vital ministry, they have made recommendations as to the future use of their properties, furnishings, paraments, and other articles owned by the church; and

WHEREAS most of the current active members of Grace United Methodist Church plan to transfer their membership to various United Methodist Churches in the area; and

WHEREAS the 6.7 +/- acre parcel of vacant land given to Grace “to provide for the future site of a United Methodist Church in Hopkinton, Massachusetts,” is presently deeded to the New England Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent supports Grace United Methodist Church be discontinued and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, the majority of the Cabinet and the District Board of Church Location and Building;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Grace United Methodist Church in Hopkinton, MA be discontinued as of January 31, 2013, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Board of Trustees give the proceeds from the parcel of land to the Hebrews 11 Fund for the use of a New Church Start within the boundaries of the Central Massachusetts District as per the restrictions set on the original deed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if no new start or plan for transformation is initiated within five years of the assets becoming liquid, those funds will be available in accordance with the Hebrews 11 resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED that the historic communion trays, originally owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Hopkinton, be presented at Annual Conference for its archives as a symbol of the legacy of the United Methodist Church in Hopkinton; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 – 203 – TO DISCONTINUE THE EASTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
EASTON, ME**

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

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS the Easton United Methodist Church located in Aroostook County, Easton, ME, has existed for 103 years with a long and proud history of mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS in their ongoing efforts to be faithful to God and responsible to their obligations they have had a ¼ time pastoral appointment for several years in addition to maintaining their building, and have had considerable support from the other churches of the Aroostook Cluster; and

WHEREAS the membership of the Easton United Methodist Church has significantly decreased and in December of 2012 they began to worship with the Mars Hill UMC; and

WHEREAS the congregation has prayerfully explored all of their options for several years, including participating in a “possibility study” (¶213); and

WHEREAS on November 10, 2012, at a regularly called Charge Conference convened as a full Church Conference the remaining members of the congregation unanimously gave thanks to Almighty God for their long history, celebrated their history and journey and decided to say goodbye to the Easton United Methodist Church and to begin a new chapter in their faith journey; and

WHEREAS a final worship service of celebration and de-consecration will be held on June 23, 2013; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Easton United Methodist Church be declared discontinued effective June 30, 2013, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with the wishes of the congregation, the membership of the Easton United Methodist Church will be transferred to the Mars Hill United Methodist Church unless members request otherwise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the building belonging to the Easton United Methodist Church be given to the Town of Easton for consideration of \$1.00 with any and all costs associated with the transfer of ownership to be the responsibility of the Town of Easton, and any other assets and property belonging to the Easton United Methodist Church which are not otherwise designated prior to the date of discontinuance shall become the property of the Trustees of the New England Annual Conference, and that assets shall be deployed as directed by the Book of Discipline and the New England Conference policies; and

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

## **RS – 204 – TO DISCONTINUE THE SURRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SURRY, ME**

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

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS the Surry United Methodist Church, located in Hancock County, Surry, ME, has existed for many years with a long and proud history of mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS in their ongoing efforts to be faithful to God and responsible to their obligations they have had a ¼-time appointment with under 20 in worship in recent years and have prayerfully discerned they are no longer able to continue;

WHEREAS the congregation explored options through a “possibility study” ( ¶213); and

WHEREAS at a special Church Conference held on October 17, 2012, after long and faithful service the members gathered voted unanimously to close the church and declare its properties “abandoned” in accordance with ¶ 2548 of the Discipline, turning the property and all assets under the care of the trustees of the New England Conference effective December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS a final service of celebration and de-consecration was held on December 9, 2012; and

WHEREAS the NME District Superintendent has recommended the Abandonment of the Surry United Methodist Church effective December 31, 2012 and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry United Methodist Church be declared abandoned effective December 31, 2012, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with the wishes of the congregation, the membership of the Surry United Methodist Church will be transferred to the Ellsworth United Methodist Church unless members request otherwise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the building belonging to the Surry United Methodist Church, and any other assets and property belonging to the Surry United Methodist Church which were not otherwise designated prior to the date of abandonment, shall become the property of the Trustees of the New England Annual Conference, and that assets shall be deployed as directed by the Book of Discipline and the New England Conference policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a local Board of Trustees has been established to care for paying outstanding commitments as the responsibility for the building are handed over to the New England Conference Board of Trustees.

Should any assets be discovered in future years, such assets should be transferred to the New England Conference, to be used as directed by the Book of Discipline and the New England Conference policies.

### **RS – 205 – TO DISCONTINUE NORTH GRAFTON UMC, NORTH GRAFTON, MA**

(Submitted by Rene Perez, District Superintendent, Central Massachusetts District)

(Adopted after amendment, Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS North Grafton United Methodist Church located on 10 Overlook Street in North Grafton, MA has been faithfully active since 1847; and

WHEREAS during those 166 years they have served faithfully with joy, dedication, sacrifice, and have reached a point in their ministry where a “new thing” must be birthed in order for the mission of Jesus Christ to continue; and

WHEREAS, after much struggle, dialogue, prayer and consideration, on December 15, 2012 during their Church Conference, they made the decision of discontinuing their church as of June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS according to ¶ 2549 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, and North Grafton UMC having properly considered other options for vital ministry, they have made recommendations as to the future use of their properties, furnishings, paraments, and other articles owned by the church; and

WHEREAS the remaining members of the church, in their desire to be faithful to their calling as Disciples of Jesus Christ in their community, they have decided to use some of their remaining assets to support community and local non-profit ministries; and

WHEREAS, led by the Holy Spirit, and in consultation with the District Committees of Congregational Development and the Conference Director of Congregational Development, they are courageously turning the rest of their liquid, real estate and other miscellaneous assets over for the starting of a new church start in the Grafton, MA area; and

WHEREAS they are recommending that their existing parsonage, located at 82 Potter Hill Road in Grafton, MA be used by the new church start planter; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent supports North Grafton United Methodist Church’s decision to be discontinued and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, the majority of Cabinet and the District Board of Church location and Building;

WHEREAS all requirements of the 2012 Book of Discipline with regard to discontinuance of a United Methodist Church have been fulfilled;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Grafton United Methodist Church in North Grafton, MA be discontinued as of June 30, 2013; and

BE IT RESOLVED that all assets, liquid, real state and otherwise, be turned over to the Conference Board of Trustees, and all proceeds from these assets be used for the start and development of a new church in the Grafton, MA area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT 25% of the proceeds from the sale of 61 Potter Hill Road in Grafton, MA, be divided equally between the North Grafton Lions Club and the MA Adoption Resource Exchange; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 directions of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if no new start or plan for transformation is initiated within five years of the assets becoming liquid, those funds will be available in accordance with the Hebrews 11 resolution.

### **RS – 206 – TO DISCONTINUE IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA EL BUEN PASTOR, LOWELL, MA**

(Submitted by Rene Perez, District Superintendent, Central Massachusetts District)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS La Iglesia Metodista Unida El Buen Pastor, the only Latino Ministry in the CMA district, located in Lowell, MA after serving faithfully in the (Southern) New England Annual Conference since April 17 of 1983 when it was properly organized and chartered; and

WHEREAS throughout their life and ministry they have faced many challenges, including not having a church building of their own but having to move around several times; and

WHEREAS the church has no liquid or solid assets of any kind; and

WHEREAS during the last two years the numbers in the congregation have dwindled significantly, leaving only a handful of members who have courageously sacrificed to hold on as long as possible, including the late Adela Cruz who was a faithful supporter of the church; and

WHEREAS, the remainder members are grateful to the Centralville United Methodist Church and its pastor for the welcoming spirit with which they were received and welcomed as a part of their community; and

WHEREAS according to ¶ 2549.2 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, El Buen Pastor having properly considered other options for vital ministry, they held a special charge conference on May 23, 2013, where they made the decision of discontinuing their ministry as of June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent supports La Iglesia Metodista Unida El Buen Pastor to be discontinued and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, the Cabinet and the District Board of Church Location and Building; and

WHEREAS all of the requirements of the Discipline with regard to the discontinuance of a United Methodist Church have been complied with,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that La Iglesia Metodista Unida El Buen Pastor in Lowell, MA be discontinued as of June 30, 2013, and

BE IT RESOLVED that in light of the growing Hispanic/Latino population within Central Massachusetts and in absence of any Hispanic/Latino ministries in that district, priority in resources be given by the District and Conference Congregational Development Committees and offices in order to start new Hispanic/Latino Ministries within the Central MA district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 – 207 – DIVESTMENTS FROM COMPANIES THAT HAVE REFUSED MANY REQUESTS FROM UNITED METHODISTS TO END THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION**

(Submitted by the Divestment Task Force, the Board of Church and Society, and Open Table of Christ United Methodist Church)

(Adopted after amendment, Saturday Morning, June 15, 2013)

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

WHEREAS, every United Methodist General Conference since 1996 has opposed the Israeli settlements built on occupied land, and the International Court of Justice has declared they are illegal; [2] and

WHEREAS, the 2012 General Conference asked "all companies that profit from and/or support settlements through their business activities to examine these and stop any business that contributes to serious violations of international law, promotes systemic discrimination or otherwise supports [Israel's] ongoing military occupation," [3] and

WHEREAS, although the United Methodist Church has for decades opposed the occupation, the New England Conference still holds stock in some of the companies which sustain that occupation; [4] and

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

WHEREAS, leaders from fifteen churches and religious organizations, including Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, President of the UMC Council of Bishops, have written to the US Congress requesting an end to unconditional U.S. military aid to Israel, because human rights abuses are being committed against Palestinians with this US aid; and

WHEREAS, through these aid programs, Caterpillar knowingly provides the Israeli military with equipment used to demolish Palestinian homes and uproot Palestinian orchards, Motorola Solutions knowingly provides perimeter systems used to guard illegal settlements built on Palestinian land, and Hewlett-Packard knowingly equips checkpoints that limit Palestinians' mobility within their own territory and has direct business relationships with at least two settlements; and

WHEREAS, United Methodists should not profit from these violations of human rights; and

WHEREAS, United Methodist general agencies, the New England Conference Divestment Task Force, [5] other annual conferences, and ecumenical partners have asked Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions (formerly Motorola), to stop their business activities which contribute to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, and have engaged these companies for years on this issue with no substantial effect; [6] and

WHEREAS, the UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies "that directly or indirectly" support the violation of human rights and encourages "shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment;" [7] and

WHEREAS, three United Methodist Annual Conferences – New York, Northern Illinois and West Ohio – have divested their conference-held stock in companies involved with Israel’s occupation, without any accusations of fiduciary impropriety; and

WHEREAS, divestment is consistent with the Church’s call to use non-violent means of securing a just peace for the peoples of Israel and Palestine; and

WHEREAS, all UMC missionaries serving in the Holy Land support divestment of church funds from companies that sustain the occupation; [8] and

WHEREAS, the New England Annual Conference in 2011 endorsed and forwarded a resolution to the General Conference asking that United Methodist general agencies divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions because of their involvement with Israel’s occupation; [9] and

WHEREAS, this resolution was also endorsed by the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, six major United Methodist ethnic caucuses and six other annual conferences;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference shall promptly (in a timely but prudent manner) divest all stocks held directly by the conference itself in Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions, retaining no more than one (1) share in each to facilitate communication, and foregoing further purchases of those stocks until these companies end their involvement in the Israeli occupation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that although this resolution is not intended to apply to pension, trust, or investment funds, or the like, which themselves hold stocks in these three companies (such as, for example, those funds held by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits), nevertheless the conference calls upon all such funds into which conference money has been deposited, to similarly in a timely and prudent manner divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this request is also made of the United Methodist Foundation of New England, the main investment body in the conference, whose bylaws state that it is independent and will administer its funds “in a manner consistent with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference encourages United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims, and other people of conscience who are working for an end to the occupation and true security for all people in Israel and Palestine.

- 1 Kairos Palestine. “A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering” [www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf](http://www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf) December 2009.
- 2 International Court of Justice in The Hague, in its July 9, 2004 advisory opinion. [www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6&case=131&k=5a](http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6&case=131&k=5a)
- 3 Holy Land Task Force, Gen. Conf. Statements, [https://www.umhltf.org/United\\_Methodist\\_Church.html](https://www.umhltf.org/United_Methodist_Church.html)
- 4 Holy Land Task Force. “Companies of Concern” [www.umhltf.org/Companies\\_of\\_Concern.html](http://www.umhltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html)
- 5 The Task Force was established after Resolution 204 was passed by the New England Annual Conference, June 11, 2005. See [www.neumc.org/divest](http://www.neumc.org/divest) under Other Resources and Information.
- 6 UM Kairos Response web site. [www.kairosresponse.org/Corporate\\_Engagement\\_04-11.html](http://www.kairosresponse.org/Corporate_Engagement_04-11.html)
- 7 The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008. “Socially Responsible Investments” Paragraph 716 (Abingdon Press), 492. See Part V, Chapter 5 in [www.nyac.com/pages/detail/1755](http://www.nyac.com/pages/detail/1755)
- 8 As of the 2012 General Conference, the four United Methodist missionaries serving in the Holy Land have stated their support for divesting from companies that help sustain the occupation. They are Rev. Alex Awad, Rev. Kristen Brown, Janet Lahr Lewis, and Tina Whitehead.
- 9 [http://www.neumc.org/console/files/oFiles\\_Library\\_XZXL CZ/ACTIONSApproved11NOLinesJune17\\_HDZHJHQL.pdf](http://www.neumc.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXL CZ/ACTIONSApproved11NOLinesJune17_HDZHJHQL.pdf), page 34, Petition To Align UMC Investments With Resolutions On Israel/Palestine.

## **RS – 208 – BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, UM MEN AND GAY MEN**

(Submitted by Katherine Mitchell and MFSA)

(Adopted after amendment, Saturday Morning, June 15, 2013)

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is a highly lauded organization whose mission is to develop character, citizenship and personal fitness in young men; and,

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has a long history of support for the BSA; today this includes over 235,000 Cub Scouts from over 5,000 packs, over 127,000 Boy Scouts from over 5,000 troops, and over 8,000 Venturers from over 1,000 crews as of the end of 2010 ; and,

WHEREAS, The UMC's support for the BSA is affirmed in ¶ 256.4 in the Book of Discipline where the Boy Scouts are lifted up as a "setting for ministry to children, youth, their leaders and their families;" in ¶ 256.4a which provides for local churches to have a scouting coordinator who relates to the church council and any other youth-serving local church structures; and through the formation in 1986 of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters ; and,

WHEREAS, local churches within the NEAC share this long history of supporting the BSA; and,

WHEREAS, the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) also has a strong history of support for the BSA, demonstrated through their focus on scouting as one of their four primary ministries ; and,

WHEREAS, the BSA had a long-standing policy barring openly gay men and boys from serving as leaders or becoming members of the BSA; and,

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2013, the BSA voted to revise its policy of excluding gay youth from membership while retaining its ban on gay scout leaders; and,

WHEREAS, the BSA's continuing policy barring the participation of openly gay men is a repugnant policy because it promotes prejudice and discrimination, in conflict with The UMC's expressed value for equal rights regardless of sexual orientation and its condemnation of homophobia ; and,

WHEREAS, The UMC itself, notwithstanding its call for equal rights for all regardless of sexual orientation, maintains discriminatory declarations and policies regarding sexual orientation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the New England Annual Conference reaffirms its historic expression of profound disagreement with the policies of The UMC restricting the rights of persons based on sexual orientation and denigrating the relationships of such persons; and,

Be it further resolved, the NEAC calls upon the BSA to go beyond its recent action in permitting participation of gay youth by removing all discrimination based on sexual orientation from its criteria for participation or leadership in BSA; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter expressing this resolution be written by the NEAC conference secretary and sent to the authors of the February 19th letter--Gil Hanke, General Secretary of the GCUMM, and to Bishop Swanson, President of the Board of Directors of the GCUMM--as well as copied to the full board of the GCUMM; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter expressing this resolution, specifically emphasizing the special connection between The UMC and the BSA, the values of the UMC as related to their policy on the participation of gay adult leaders, and an appeal to the BSA to abolish said policy be written by the NEAC conference secretary and sent to:

Wayne Brock, Chief Scout Executive

Boys Scouts of America

P.O. Box 152079

Irving, TX 75015-2079

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these letters be sent no later than July 15th.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/operating\\_orgs/Methodist.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/operating_orgs/Methodist.aspx)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.umcscouting.org/>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gcumm.org/ministries/scouting/>

<sup>1</sup> Social Principles, ¶162(J).

<sup>1</sup> *Book of Resolutions*, #2042

## **RS - 210 - DENTAL INSURANCE**

(Submitted by Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, the Annual Conference believes that good dental health has benefits beyond a healthy mouth that include lowering the risk for infections, heart disease, and complications for those with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the New England Annual Conference has in the past offered a dental insurance plan for eligible clergy and paid staff, but does not currently offer any plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New England Annual Conference authorize its Conference Board of Pensions to implement a Cigna Dental Insurance Plan as offered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church. Eligible participants are those active clergy under appointment and staff, who qualify for Conference Health Insurance Plans. Billing Rates shall be established annually by the Conference Board of Pensions using a "blended" rate formula that shall be direct billed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014 Dental Insurance "blended" rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2014 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 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 – 211 - AFFIRMING THE PROPOSED PROPERTY DISPOSITION AND ACQUISITION OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE’S REGISTERED NGO IN NICARAGUA (“CANI”), THROUGH THE CONFERENCE’S NICARAGUA PLANNING COMMITTEE (“NPC”), AND PURSUANT TO THE CONFERENCE’S NICARAGUA COVENANT**

(Submitted by Nicaragua Planning Committee)

(Adopted Friday Morning, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, in 1986 the New Hampshire Annual Conference voted to enter into a covenant with Asociacion de Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua (“AICN”), an indigenous Protestant church in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 the Southern New England Annual Conference voted to enter into a covenant with AICN; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1987 AICN affirmed the covenant relationships at its General Conference; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Annual Conference has also participated in a covenant with AICN since the early 1990s through sister church relationships and delegations; and

WHEREAS, the New England Annual Conference (“Conference”), successor to the above-named conferences, re-affirmed the covenant relationship with AICN in June, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the New England Annual Conference has for many years appointed the Nicaragua Planning Committee (“NPC”), a committee of the Conference, to plan and organize the Conference’s covenant missions and programs in Nicaragua, and to inform the Conference of the accomplishments and achievements of its work there; and

WHEREAS, in over 27 years of its covenant relationship with AICN, the New England Annual Conference and its predecessors have sustained and supported missions and programs of health, education and self-sufficiency in the poorest communities of Nicaragua, including but not limited to women’s vocational programs; children’s advancement programs through scholarships to high schools, technical schools and universities; and the Amanecer Mobile Health Clinic to promote public health; and

WHEREAS, in order to support these missions and programs, the Conference voted a number of years ago to fund the acquisition of a “protocol house” in Managua, Nicaragua, going by the name of Casa Amanecer. This house was intended for use by NPC and its covenant partners as a central location for its various covenant missions and programs in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, because the Conference had no legal presence at the time in Nicaragua, NPC partnered with another local evangelical church called Centro Inter Eclesial de Estudios Teologicos Sociales (“CIEETS”), which in turn took title to Casa Amanecer, and held it under its own name in an informal arrangement understood to be for the benefit of the New England Annual Conference and NPC; and the same CIEETS has continued to hold legal title to the property from that day forward; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2008, the New England Annual Conference was officially registered as an NGO before the Nicaraguan Ministry of Government under the name of: “Conferencia Anual de Nuevo Ingleterra de la Iglesia Metodista Unida” (“CANI”), and was, under this registry, assigned perpetual number 4112 ; and

WHEREAS, CANI has no separate or distinct Board of Directors or Officers apart from those of the New England Annual Conference itself, nor is it required to do so under Nicaraguan law; and because of that CANI presently serves as the legal presence of the New England Annual Conference in Nicaragua, registered there so that the Conference can arrange for and conduct the business of its covenant missions and programs in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, CIEETS has agreed, in exchange for a payment of \$5,000, to convey title of Casa Amanecer to CANI in 2013, for the ultimate purpose of permitting CANI to sell the said property; and

WHEREAS, also in 2013, CANI located a parcel of land with two buildings located outside of Managua, which property can be described as follows: “Km 20 Masaya Highway Hotel El Raizon; 350mts towards Managua; measuring 1757.14 square meters” (and consisting of a dwelling house measuring 361.3 square meters and another building measuring 139.7 square meters); and which property was determined to be ideal for expanding CANI’s covenant missions and programs through the hosting of faith-based delegations (one building is a house with a capacity of 24, with ample

bathroom and living room facilities for that number and an office and pharmacy; while the other building has storage space), at a much reduced asking price of \$275,000 (“the New Property”); and

WHEREAS, CANI and NPC have identified a funder who is willing to grant to the Conference funds sufficient to ensure the acquisition of the New Property for the purposes of furthering the stated covenant missions and programs; and

WHEREAS, the New Property would be acquired in the name of CANI (that is the New England Annual Conference as a registered Nicaraguan NGO);

NOW THEREFORE, the New England Annual Conference supports and affirms NPC’s proposal for CANI to take, by transfer of title from CIEETS, and in exchange for payment of \$5,000, the property known as Casa Amanecer and until recently held by CIEETS for the benefit of the Conference; and also the proposal for CANI to undertake then to sell Casa Amanecer, and to use the proceeds from such sale to assist in the purchase by CANI of the New Property, to be acquired in the name of CANI; and also to assist CANI in the purchase of such New Property, to receive additional gifts and grants of money from donors to be applied to such purchase; all this for the purpose of continuing to offer and expand the Conference’s covenant missions and programs of healing, education, occupational ministries and health ministries in Nicaragua as set forth in this Resolution;

AND FURTHER, the Conference Board of Trustees (“Conference Trustees”) are directed, pursuant to paragraph 2512.3(b) of the Book of Discipline, to receive and hold in trust, for and on behalf of the Conference, the property known as Casa Amanecer, from such time as its title passes from CIEETS to CANI, for the eventual purpose of selling such property, and until such time as it can be sold as arranged and directed by NPC;

AND FURTHER the Conference Trustees are directed, pursuant to paragraph 2512.3(b) of the Book of Discipline, to receive and hold in trust, for and on behalf of the Conference, all gifts and grants of money from donors given for the purpose of aiding in the purchase of the New Property, along with the proceeds of the sale of Casa Amanecer; and the Conference Trustees are further directed to disburse such money for that purpose, and/or for the purpose of acquiring a new truck for the mobile clinic, at such time as the arrangements for either purchase can be finalized, and all at the direction of NPC;

AND FURTHER the Conference Trustees are directed, pursuant to paragraph 2512.3(b) of the Book of Discipline, to receive and hold in trust, for and on behalf of the Conference, the New Property, for the purpose of supporting the covenant missions and programs as may be from time to time directed and arranged by NPC, which missions and programs were affirmed by the Conference in June 2001 and set forth by this Resolution.

**RS – 212 - AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF FURTHER FUNDING GRANTS FROM THE MARK PAUL TERK CHARITABLE TRUST, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TRUST, AND COMMITTING SUCH CONTINUING FUNDING TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED ONGOING MISSIONS AND PROGRAMS OF THE NICARAGUA PLANNING COMMITTEE**

(Submitted by Nicaragua Planning Committee)

(Adopted Friday Morning, June 14, 2013)

WHEREAS, by prior resolution (RS -211), the New England Annual Conference (“Conference”) has re-affirmed its Nicaragua Covenant and the missions and programs of the Nicaragua Planning Committee (“NPC”), operating through the Conferencia Anual de Nuevo Ingleterra de la Iglesia Metodista Unida (“CANI”), the conference’s legally registered NGO presence in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, as part of that re-affirmation, NPC has asked the Conference to direct the Conference Trustees, pursuant to paragraph 2512.3(b), to receive and to hold in trust properties and certain gifts and grants of money from donors given for the purpose of advancing NPC’s missions and programs in Nicaragua, (which missions and programs are known generally as the Nicaragua Covenant); and

WHEREAS, in addition to the properties and grants of money identified in the prior resolution (RS -211), NPC has been advised by the Mark Paul Terk Charitable Trust (“MPTCT”), the funder of the new property proposed as a replacement for Casa Amanecer, that the trust proposes to grant to NPC and CANI additional sums of money, over a 5-year period, committing at least \$850,000, and possibly more, beginning in 2013; and

WHEREAS, a condition of the 5-year fund grant commitment by MPTCT to NPC and CANI is that MPTCT and CANI, through NPC and the Conference, sign a 5-year financial commitment agreement under which NPC/CANI (and the Conference) agree to continue building upon its 27 year history of missions and programs in Nicaragua ; and

WHEREAS, MPTCT has further expressly identified continuing objectives for the 5-year fund grant it has proposed as follows:

1. In 2013 – purchase a larger and more inviting base facility to prepare the Nicaragua Covenant for growth (referred to and identified in RS -211, as the “New Property”);
2. Continuously – research and evaluate the application of cutting edge medical technologies through the Conference’s Amanecer Mobile Health Clinic (“AMHC”);
3. Continuously – research and evaluate the application of computer technologies to integrate patient records, medical statistics and medication inventory for the AMHC;
4. By year-end 2014 – sell Casa Amanecer for the partial purpose of staffing and equipping a second Clinic vehicle in 2015;
5. In 2013 – develop and staff a nurse practitioner position that will work with the AMHC;
6. By year-end 2015 – expand the program to train community health care workers (“Brigadistas”), and provide them with medications throughout the communities served by the AMHC;
7. By year-end 2015 – build a modest facility in each AMHC community where Brigadistas can keep their medicine cabinet and can serve their community;
8. By year-end 2015 – equip Brigadistas with medical technology to assist in the diagnosis, treatment and in the communication technology necessary for emergency response;
9. Continuously – evaluate alternative clean water and sanitation technologies for AMHC barrios;
10. In 2013 – identify AMHC communities with contaminated water and inadequate sanitation;
11. By year-end 2014 – apply sustainable development practices across Nicaragua Covenant missions;
12. By year-end 2014 – expand other Nicaragua Covenant programs including: women’s self-sufficiency, education and children’s nutrition;
13. By year-end 2016 – consider expanding the Nicaragua Covenant to include orphanage services; and
14. In 2013 – NPC members to commit more time in Nicaragua offering leadership and applying technology.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference authorizes NPC and CANI, through the Conference, to negotiate and enter into a 5-year financial commitment agreement with MPTCT for the express purposes set forth within this resolution;

AND FURTHER, the Conference Trustees are directed, pursuant to paragraph 2512.3(b) of the Book of Discipline, to receive and hold in trust, for and on behalf of the Conference, all gifts and grants of money from MPTCT for the purpose of building upon on NPC’s 27-year history of missions and programs in Nicaragua, known generally as the Nicaragua Covenant, and as expressly set forth in points 1-14 above; and to disburse such funds as directed by NPC in fulfillment of said financial commitment agreement.

**RS- 301 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – I**

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

Rationale: (§ 6) The proposed amendment acknowledges God’s action in conferring the gift of the Church by including praying for unity among the tasks of the Church.

On April 30, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 865 Yes, 50 No (Calendar Item 211, DCA p. 2340). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, § 6, Article VI, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, § 6, Article VI) amend by addition as follows:

After “it will” add “pray.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, § 6 (§ 6) would read:

Ecumenical Relations—As part of the church universal, The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity; and therefore it will pray, seek, and work for unity at all levels of church life: through world relationships with other Methodist churches and united churches related to The Methodist Church or The Evangelical United Brethren Church, through councils of churches, and through plans of union and covenantal relationships with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions.

AND

**RS- 302 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – II**

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

Rationale: (§ 14) The proposed amendment would allow the General Conference to meet at other times during the calendar year on dates better suited for younger delegates and those with parenting responsibilities.

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 731 Yes, 181 No (Calendar Item 205, DCA p. 2430). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, § 14, Article II, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, § 14, Article II) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “shall meet” delete “in the month of April or May” and after “duly authorized committees.” add a new sentence, “The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, § 14 (§ 14) would read:

The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016. A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

AND

**RS- 303 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – III**

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

Rationale: (§ 32) The proposed amendment removes the connotation that leadership training is only about preaching in order to develop skills and enhance the spiritual gifts of the laity.

On May 3, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 618 Yes, 306 No (Calendar Item 54, DCA pp. 2672-73). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, § 32, *Article I*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, § 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “director of Lay” delete “Speaking” and add “Servant”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, § 32 (§ 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, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay 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 Servant 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 should 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.

AND

**RS- 304 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IV**

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2013)

Rationale: (§ 40) The proposed amendment gives the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional and central conferences, bodies that include lay persons.

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 848 Yes, 57 No (Calendar Item 207, DCA p. 2431). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, § 40, *Article IV*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, § 40, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete the first two words, “Changes in” and following “episcopal areas” delete “may be effected” and add “shall be determined” and after “and the central conferences” add “The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, § 40 (§ 40) would read:

The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.