

## **2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS**

### **RS – 101 – OFFERINGS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006**

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

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

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

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

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that

- the Offering during the Opening Celebration support Retiree's Health Care benefits
- the Offering during the Friday Evening activities support UMCOR's Emergency Relief efforts, and
- the Offering at the Ordination Service be designated for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

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

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

### **RS – 102 - RESOLUTION ON UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL AIDS FUND**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

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 appro-

priate 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 2007 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 on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

That the Past Service Funding Rate for 2007 be set at \$512 per year of service and 85% as the survivor's rate.

## **RS – 105 – SPECIAL GRANTS**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

That the following Special Grants be continued for 2007 on the same basis as 2006:

- 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 on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

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)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2007 all clergy appointed full-time or part-time to a New England Annual Conference charge or position on the conference staff will participate in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). The plan provides a core benefit at retirement with two components. The first component, the Defined Benefit portion, provides a monthly payment, payable for life, calculated by multiplying 1.25% times the annual Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at the time of retirement times the years of credited service after January 1, 2007 divided by 12. The second component, the Defined Contribution portion, provides for cash distribution at retirement from an account balance held in each clergyperson's name. This account balance is based on an annual contribution equal to 3% of the clergy person's actual compensation (including housing); and

WHEREAS, eligible clergy will also participate in a death and disability program that is known as the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). The plan provides a death benefit for eligible active and retired clergy, surviving spouses under certain circumstances, and a disability benefit for active clergy who meet the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) definition of disability. The plan also includes a death benefit for spouses of active and retired clergy and for minor dependent children of active or retired clergy. Specifics of both plans are detailed in the plan documents available from the Conference Benefits Coordinator or the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits; and

WHEREAS, eligible participants will also participate in the conference sponsored insurance program provided through HealthFlex plan at the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the provisions of the current plan will remain the same, except where changed by the plan provider; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) utilize a combination of resources to fund the pension, health and welfare liabilities of current, disabled, surviving spouses and retired clergy including: direct billing of CRSP and CPP on an actual cost basis, health insurance blended-rate billing, Mission Shares, pension endowment funds, and Pre-82 benefit surplus fund; and that the CBOP work with the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to develop a comprehensive funding plan for the pension, health and welfare plans sponsored by the Annual Conference..

**RS – 108 – ELECTION OF PENSION OFFICER**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

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

**RS – 109 – RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CONTINUATION**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions)

(Adopted Friday Morning, June 9, 2006)

1. That the existing Health benefit program for retired clergy of the New England Annual Conference remain in place as currently being administered.
2. That the maximum retiree contribution to the Retiree Health Benefit Stabilization Fund for 2007 be \$49.50 per month for each participant and participating spouse pro-rated for the percentage of retiree health insurance premium paid by the Annual Conference.
3. That all funds which would have been paid to the General Board of Pensions and Health benefits for retiree health care programs for fiscal year 2007 but are credited back to the Conference under related General Conference actions of 2004 be applied to retiree health care benefits and/or benefit reserves at the discretion of the Conference Board of Pensions.
4. That the accrual of credit toward the retiree health care benefit be suspended for calendar year 2007, pending a further review of the plan.

**RS – 110 – APPORTIONMENT FORMULA**

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

The 2007 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 2005 Statistical Tables, Lines 64 – 72 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- The amount reported, on the 2004 Statistical Tables, Lines 63 – 71 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- 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.

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 on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

The 2007 Health Insurance “blended” rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2007 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 – 112 - MISSION SHARE REVIEW FUNCTION RESPONSIBILITY**

(Submitted by Conference Mission Share Review Committee (CMSRC))

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

WHEREAS Resolution 227: “Covenantal Accountability In Mission Shares” approved at the 2004 Annual Conference resolved that “a Conference Mission Share Review Committee (CMSRC) be formed and authorized to work within each District of the New England Conference for the purpose of working with each local church to discover and address the root causes of individual local churches not paying their Mission Share.”;

and WHEREAS the CMSRC has conducted a representative sample Mission Share review throughout each District of the Conference and has created a “New England Conference Mission Share Review Manual” outlining the ongoing process of carrying out Mission Share review;

and WHEREAS District Mission Share Review Committees (DMSRC) have been established and trained by CMSRC in order to carry out the Mission Share review process within each District at the local church level;

and WHEREAS the ongoing function of the CMSRC is to review DMSRC recommendations for relief and to “recommend to CCFA the lowering of mission shares of individual churches where situations justify a reduction according to guidelines established by the CMSRC. (Paragraph 613, Book of Discipline)”.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ongoing CMSRC functions and the intent of Resolution 227 become a subcommittee function of CCFA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above subcommittee function of CCFA shall involve representation of the DMSRCs in order to provide a consistent and continuing approach to Mission Share Review across the Conference.

### **RS – 113 – CONFERENCE UNIT INSURANCE PLAN**

(Submitted by Insurance Committee)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

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.
4. The renewal date will be August 1, 2006.
5. The insurance billing for this eleventh year of the plan (August 1, 2006 – July 31, 2007) 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, 2006.
  - c. Churches that pay the total annual amount by Oct. 1, 2006 may deduct 2% from the billing.
  - d. Churches that use the installment plan shall pay 20% of the annual billing on September 1, 2006 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, 2007. Insurance will continue to be billed through the OAS office.
10. The following policy on the issuing of "replacement cost" insurance be in effect.



- a. Any church, at their option, can apply for a waiver of blanket full replacement cost coverage, and substitution with a stated value for functional replacement cost, by making such a request to the Insurance Committee of the Conference Board of Trustees. The District\ Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location shall endorse the application prior to application and consideration by the Insurance Committee. Application forms are available on the conference web site.
- b. The Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location shall evaluate the request for less than full replacement cost coverage and establishment of a stated value, on the amount of resources necessary to invest in rebuilding, consistent with the ministry and mission possibilities and goals of the local church cluster and district.
- c. Future changes of stated values established under this policy shall be handled in the same fashion as original applications.
- d. A rider will be added to the existing Conference policy listing the specific properties as being carried at a stated value, not full replacement coverage. The stated value also shall be listed. There is no co-insurance due to the lack of full replacement coverage. Any partial loss will be paid in full.
- e. Waivers of blanket full replacement will be effective only on the annual renewal date of the insurance plan, August 1st. Completed applications must be received by the Chairperson of the Insurance Committee by July 1st.

**RS - 114 - 2007 MINIMUM CASH SALARY**

(Submitted by Equitable Compensation Commission)

(Adopted Friday Morning, June 9, 2006)

The Commission on Equitable Compensation hereby submits this resolution to set the minimum cash salary at \$32,650 for CY2007.

Based on this, the following rates have been set:

Full time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	\$32,650
Full Time Local Pastor	\$29,400
<i>Additional for Years of Service as of Jan 1, 2007</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 \$32,650, 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	\$6,530	\$5,880
Strategic Salary Grant	\$8,163	\$7,350

**RS – 115 – ADVANCE SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR 2006 – 2008  
NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by the Resourcing Team)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

**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**      **Larry Peacock**  
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.

**Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network** **\$12,000**

**Diane Stradling**

295 Atlantic Avenue  
North Hampton, NH 03862  
603-379-8446  
Fax: 603- 379-8447  
sihnnh@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 organ-

ization 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.

<b><u>Mechuwana Conference Camp</u></b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>Norman R Thombs</b>
		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 the \$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 and 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. Mabie**

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**

**Richard Harding, Board Chairman**

Kathy Kern, Secretary  
18 Cottage Lane  
Niantic, CT 06357  
860-691-8378

Fundacion NITCA is a community based organization located in El Basrrio Los Laureles Sur, Managua, Nicaragua. It was founded in 1999 by Rosa Capella Hodgson in order to improve the condition of barrio children who work in the streets to support their families. In 1999 70% of the population of the barrio was unemployed and 65% illiterate. Since that time the project has developed a pre-school, a community Health Clinic, family gardens, housing, employment and youth projects. A community dining room has been built and serves hundreds from the community weekly.

Friends of NITCA is a non-profit organization that raises funds and dispenses them to the projects at NITCA,

**RS – 201 – CONFERENCE LINE OF CREDIT**

(Submitted by the CF&A)

(Adopted on the Consent Calendar on Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

The seasonal nature of Annual Conference income mirrors that of its local churches. At the same time, Conference expenses are relatively stable. On average the Annual Conference requires \$1.850 million per month in revenue to meet its financial obligations. Especially during the summer months, this can create a situation where sufficient funds may not be available to meet the minimum required expenditures for such items as health and property insurance, equitable compensation payments, and other basic operating expenses of the Conference.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in an effort to be prudent stewards of Conference resources and insure the on-going operation of Conference ministries and program, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration will establish a line of credit, up to \$1million, that may be used on a temporary basis to provide funds sufficient to meet Conference related expenses. The Council on Finance and Administration will work with the Treasurer to establish the line of credit. The line of credit can be accessed with the approval of the Bishop and the Council on Finance and Administration Executive Committee.

**RS – 202 – CONFERENCE TRANSFORMATION TEAM PROPOSAL**

(Submitted by Members of the Conference Transformation Team)

(Adopted as amended, Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**The Vision for the New England Annual Conference**

Transformed by the Holy Spirit, we will become united in trust as we boldly proclaim Christ to the world.

## The Mission of the New England Annual Conference

Our Mission as the New England Annual Conference is to equip, connect, and support local, regional and global ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to serve all in his name.

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### **A. INTRODUCTION**

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” *Isaiah 43:19*

Like the Israelites in exile, the United Methodist Church in New England is on the cusp of a new beginning. Many of our former practices and systems are no longer working as before, yet what will emerge in their places as we live out ministry in our postmodern world is unclear. What new things is God doing in our midst? Where are the new pathways and rivers God is making in the wild and barren places of our churches and communities? How can we assist this ongoing, creative work of God rather than build roadblocks and dams that impede it?

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2003, the Conference Transformation Team (CTT) has taken on the tasks given to us by the Annual Conference:

1. Develop and recommend a plan to organize structure and staffing for the Annual Conference in line with our Vision, Mission, and Critical Issues;
2. Present this plan to the Annual Conference in 2005;
3. In this process, engage members of the Annual Conference in discernment.

Between Annual Conference 2003 and 2004, the CTT added new members, experienced a major change in conference staffing, and welcomed our new bishop. Interim reports were made to the Annual Conference in print and before the body in June 2004. In the fall of 2004, we organized ten focus groups throughout the conference to listen and share ideas. In November 2004, more than 40 persons from 22 conference agencies met to further this process.

From our listening in these group settings, we distilled three emerging themes about structure and staffing:

#### **Resource local congregations for effective, transformational ministry and leadership**

- Redefine the role of District Superintendents and all other conference staff
- Emphasize Congregational Development (new church starts and redevelopment)
- Resource within small geographical boundaries (districts, states, clusters, etc.)

## **Effective communication and coordination**

- Intentionally coordinate at the conference level at a “Common Connectional Table”
- Connect all congregations, agencies, etc. to the internet
- Use communication technology to connect through teleconferencing, gifts database, etc.

## **Build on our common ground from our strengths**

- Vital, strong congregations resource other congregations through mentoring, being teaching parishes, “successful” story-telling
- Support cooperative, regional, or cluster ministry initiatives
- Leadership training for clergy and laity focused on excellent/best practices; develop systems of accountability

At Annual Conference 2005, the CTT presented ideas about possible structure and staffing for our future, incorporating what we heard in the Fall 2004 focus groups. While we were unable to complete our report by the June 2005 deadline, the Conference Transformation Team was clear that the New England Conference should retain its current eight districts (with any minor boundary adjustments from the Cabinet) at least through this quadrennium. Recent changes precipitated by financial crisis have caused upset in many areas, and we felt strongly that we needed to devote energies toward creatively facilitating the growth of ministry in our current configuration.

At the Annual Conference session, we received additional feedback which focused primarily in the following areas:

### **Affirmations:**

- Focus on youth, with the proposal for regionally-based youth ministry
- Focus on congregational development in a variety of ways
- District strategy table concept
- Resourcing at the district and cluster level

### **Concerns:**

- Provide resources to all size congregations
- Keep conference structure simple
- More emphasis on ministry and less on meetings
- Realign DS portfolios so they're not overburdened

Since August 2005, the CTT has been meeting monthly to complete the tasks entrusted to us in 2003. The results of that work include plans for district ministry teams, conference structure, and staffing which we believe will (1) lead to more effective resourcing for ministry and mission in our local churches and (2) further the conference mission, vision, and critical issues. The scope of our work has not included evaluation or revision of the conference vision, mission, and critical issues, or development of a financial plan for the annual conference.

During the winter of 2006, we presented a draft of our work to persons in 11 focus groups around the conference. The gathered input is summarized below:

**Affirmations:**

- District-based ministry structures which allow for creativity and flexibility
- Possibilities for creativity, partnerships, and communication at the Visioning Table
- Enabling greater participation of lay leadership
- Stronger connection to local churches

**Ongoing Issues to Address**

- Transforming the role of the District Superintendent
- Engaging laity and clergy at all ministry levels
- Creating inclusivity in geography, ethnicity, etc., around the Visioning Table
- Ensuring effective communication
- Transitioning from the current structure to the new one
- Strategies for recruitment of participants and implementation of time-frame

We have sought to address some of these questions and concerns in the revisions made to the document that follows. Some of the answers will continue to emerge and evolve as we live into this new structure. We seek your prayerful consideration of what is offered below.

**B. ORGANIZING AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL**

**LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES**

We encourage the partnering and mutual support of local churches, laity, and pastors.

**DISTRICT STRUCTURE – DISTRICT MINISTRY TEAM**

*The Purpose of the District Ministry Team*

Develop, coordinate and evaluate a multi-year strategic plan for the ministries of the district that will strengthen ministry and mission in the local church.

*Guiding Principles*

- Bring resources closer to the local church; customizing for geographic, ethnic, and cultural realities
- Be dynamic, adaptable, and fluid as a DMT while having a cohesive and coherent purpose grounded in the Vision, Mission, and Critical Issues of the conference
- Provide a supportive, accountable, and creative environment for clergy and laity to assess and address ministry needs within their district
- Explore and encourage innovative, open, and diverse communication methods throughout the district

### ***Recommended Format***

- Meet minimally three times a year
- Chaired by someone chosen for their leadership skills, gifts, and energy, serving a quadrennial term
- District Superintendent and District Lay Leader are active participants
- Twelve to twenty members with half or less representing Ministry Areas and existing groups within the district, and half or more as “at large” members. The whole group reflecting gifts of energy, vision, organizational and motivational skills, etc.
- Concerns for membership reflecting various diversities in our communities
- Concerns for language translation/inclusiveness in our style of meeting

### **Essential District Ministry Areas and Their Functions**

- *Congregational Development* – focus on redeveloping existing congregations and developing new church starts
- *Spiritual Formation* – focus on spiritual development which includes Christian Education as well as coordinating spiritual formation events and training
- *Youth Ministry* – with regional ministry centers(camps and retreat center), focus on developing and enhancing youth ministries at all levels within our conference
- *Stewardship* – resource and support local church stewardship development
- *Lay Academy* – provide on-going, short-term and in-depth training/education for our laity
- *World Parish* – develop and coordinate significant mission opportunities and advocacy strategies for local and global issues

### **Disciplinary-mandated Functions**

(These may be attended to with standing committees or within one of the above District Ministry Areas)

- District Committee on Superintendency
- District Committee on Ministry
- District Leadership Committee
- District Church Location and Building Committee
- District United Methodist Women/District United Methodist Men
- District Mission Share Review Committee
- District Lay Speaking Ministries Committee

### **Changes in the Role of District Superintendent**

The role of the District Superintendent is to:

- Function as a “coach”; a vision-leader



- Work collaboratively with the District Ministry Team
- Spend most of his/her time on leadership issues and less time on management
- Freed from expectations of being a liaison to Annual Conference boards and agencies except where mandated by the Book of Discipline

**Desired outcomes of changed role are:**

- Promote and encourage an attitude of excitement for transforming local churches
- Support and encourage the development of lay and clergy leadership
- Key interpreter of the Vision, Mission and Critical Issues at the district level

**C. ORGANIZING AT THE CONFERENCE LEVEL**

**CONFERENCE STRUCTURE – VISIONING TABLE**

*The Purpose of the Visioning Table*

**To support the local church by sharing resources, leadership and gifts around a common table aligned by our vision, mission, and critical issues**

The Visioning Table is directly accountable to the Annual Conference, and serves as the connecting point of voluntary collaboration for vision, mission, ministry in the conference. The Visioning Table may make proposals to the Annual Conference and its boards and agencies.

**Guiding Principles**

- Recognize the value of bringing together the various ministries of Mission, Administration and Leadership in the Conference and the ministries in the Districts to resource the ministry of the local church which is the central place of ministry.
- Be dynamic, adaptable, and fluid allowing for structure to follow function as ministry evolves to meet the current needs of the local church as heard at the Visioning Table.
- Provide support for the local church by connecting resources among the Districts and across the connection.
- Explore and encourage innovative, open, and diverse communication methods at all levels of the church

***Recommended Format***

- Meet 3–4 times per year at first, eventually meeting 2 times per year in possible retreat setting. Steering Committee to meet between major meetings.
- Chaired by someone chosen for their leadership skills, gifts, and energy.
- Approximately 40 members with about half representing conference board and agencies, and about half as “at large” members who are gifted in visioning, energy, organizational and motivational skills, etc. Quadrennial terms. The Bishop and Conference Lay Leader will be members.

- Concerns for membership reflecting various diversities in our communities
- Concerns for language translation/inclusiveness in our style of meeting

### **Ministry Areas**

The membership of the Visioning Table will be drawn from these categories of ministry:

- *Local Church Ministry* – at large representatives from diverse New England churches, Laity and Clergy
- *Mission Ministries* – Cong. Development, UMW, UMM, Global Ministries, Ethnic Committees and Caucuses, Volunteers in Mission, etc.
- *Administrative Ministries* – Trustees, CFA, Pensions, Personnel etc.
- *Leadership Ministries* – Bishop, Cabinet, Board of Ministry, Board of Laity etc.
- *District Ministry Teams* – Represented by no less than two delegates, with no less than one lay and one clergy elected by their respective districts

The existing boards and agencies of the conference will remain in place for the present time. The functional “circles” of the 1998 conference reorganization will no longer apply. We encourage the natural emergence and clustering of areas of responsibility among the conference and related boards and agencies in support of better alignment in our vision, mission, and ministries together. Two representatives each from the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Cabinet, and the congregational Development Committee shall meet at least twice annually to discuss the identification, recruitment, and support of transformational pastors.

### **D. IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon adoption, the Annual Conference approves the following timeline for implementation:

#### **August – September, 2006**

Orientation and training with District Superintendents and other district leaders concerning the new district structures.

#### **Fall, 2006**

Naming persons and re-naming persons for district teams, committees, etc. District Leadership Committees will offer these names, in consultation with the district superintendents, and with resourcing (as needed) by the Conference Leadership Committee. District Conferences held to approve these teams, committees, etc. and their membership.

#### **Fall, 2006**

Conference Leadership Committee names the members of the new Visioning Table.

**Fall, 2006**

Orientation for all conference boards and agencies on the new Visioning Table format.

**January – February, 2007**

Orientation and training with District Ministry Teams and related groups

First meetings of the District Ministry Teams and related groups

**January – February, 2007**

First meeting of the Visioning Table.

**June, 2007**

- Full lists of district teams, committees, etc. will be considered and approved by the regular session of the New England Annual Conference.
- The Office of the Bishop will be responsible for coordinating the orientation, training, and implementation steps for the approved plan with reports made to the Transformation Team, the Annual Conference and the new Table.
- During the 2006 – 2007 program year, the Conference Transformation Team will meet regularly to review the progress of implementation, to coordinate and sponsor the orientation and training sessions, and to encourage participation in the new structure for mission and ministry.
- Following the 2007 Annual Conference, the Conference Transformation Team will be dissolved with any subsequent conversations about implementation to be the responsibility of the Visioning Table.

**RS – 203 – REGARDING JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECISION 1032**

(Submitted by the Board of Church and Society of the New England Annual Conference)

(Adopted as amended, Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church affirms that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior (cf 2004 DISCIPLINE Para 121, 214) and that his life and ministry exemplified the love of God and the love of neighbor; and

WHEREAS the 2004 DISCIPLINE (Para 214) declares that all (italics added) people may attend worship, participate in programs, receive the sacraments, and become members in any local church within the connection; and

WHEREAS the DISCIPLINE stresses that membership is a lifelong process of formation in which persons mature in the faith by the guidance of the Holy Spirit (for example Para 216.1; 2a, 2b); and

WHEREAS in a November 2, 2005 letter, the Council of Bishops declared that homosexuality is not a barrier to membership in the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the SOCIAL PRINCIPLES of our Church recognize that human sexuality is complex and our human understanding of it is limited (Para 161.G); and

WHEREAS the SOCIAL PRINCIPLES of our Church state unequivocally that both (italics added) homosexual and heterosexual persons are of sacred worth, and that all persons (italics added) (see Para 161.G; Articles of Religion VII and IX) need the ministry and guidance of the Church in their struggle for human fulfillment and spiritual nurture; and

WHEREAS the SOCIAL PRINCIPLES (Para 161.G) “Implore....churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends, but to be in ministry for and with all persons:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The New England Annual Conference is convinced that the Judicial Decision 1032 violates the spirit, polity and doctrine of the United Methodist Church.

FURTHERMORE, we call upon our bishop to clarify the authority and accountability of pastors with respect to the receiving of practicing lesbian, gay, transgender and bi-sexual persons as members of local churches of the New England Annual Conference.

AND FURTHER, we implore local churches of the New England Annual conference NOT to exclude, reject or condemn lesbian, gay, transgender and bi-sexual persons, but to manifest and fulfill the quadrennial theme “OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS” by making neither gender identity nor the practice of human sexuality an obstacle to church membership.

### **RS – 204 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

(Submitted by Wesley K. Blair III, We Chang, Dennis J. Carlone, Peter Hansen, Eugene Lucarelli, John Mueller, John Regier, Gary Richards, Donald Rudalevige, Wee-Li Tan, Rick Whitefleet-Smith, Vicki Woods)

(Adopted as amended, Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

WHEREAS: In 2000–2001, the leaders and members of the districts of the New England Annual Conference, in prayerful conversation with Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, deliberated on what it means “to boldly proclaim Christ to the world, especially as we walk with the poor” and as a result of these conversations and additional annual conference listening opportunities, affordable housing was repeatedly identified as a significant issue in our communities; and,

WHEREAS: Subsequently, Bishop Hassinger in June 2001 wrote to conference committees, agencies and boards requesting that further work be done to address identified areas of shared concern, including affordable housing and the specific need to develop a loan process “to assist persons with housing purchases”; and,

WHEREAS: In response to Bishop Hassinger’s request, staff and board members of United Methodist Urban Services (UMUS) in partnership with staff and board members of the United Methodist Foundation (UMFNE) and Worcester Area United Methodist (WAUM) researched the Nehemiah strategy and determined the development of a zero-interest loan fund to be an appropriate response to the identified issue of affordable housing funding for first time homebuyers; and,

WHEREAS: In July 2003 United Methodists from Brockton and Worcester, together with Bishop Hassinger and the leadership of UMUS and the UMFNE, gathered at a potential Nehemiah building site in Brockton and established the UMFNE-Nehemiah Loan Fund with a \$10,000 check from WAUM representing the first zero interest loan; and,

WHEREAS: In 2004, during Annual Conference, as part of the report of the United Methodist Foundation of New England three New England United Methodist churches became the first Founding Nehemiah Fund Congregations by presenting Bishop Hassinger with financial commitment letters totaling over \$115,000 for the zero-interest Nehemiah Loan Fund; and,

WHEREAS: In August of 2004 the Nehemiah Housing Fund Organizing Committee was established with representatives of UMUS, WAUM, UMFNE, and Founding Congregations in the New England Annual Conference in order to oversee the development and distribution of zero-interest loans to support affordable homeownership initiatives for first-time buyers within our conference boundaries; and,

WHEREAS: In May of 2005, Bishop Peter D. Weaver assisted in leading an orientation session for the Nehemiah Housing initiative and pledged his full support to this effort to address the critical issue of affordable housing within our conference boundaries; and,

WHEREAS: The Bible, in the Old and New Testaments, correlates the term house with identity, security, protection, power, and authority, and because a house is therefore more than a dwelling place and is a space where roots can take hold and where personal history begins and ends, a dwelling place is an inherent part of God's design for the creation in which human beings are an important part; and,

WHEREAS: The critical need for more affordable housing in many of our communities throughout New England is related to other important theological issues such as community diversity, inclusiveness, hospitality and welcome; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of affordable housing in so many of our communities contradicts the spirit of our Social Principles in the Book of Discipline which states, "Christians must judge all programs, including economic and community development, new towns, and urban renewal, by the extent to which they protect and enhance human values, permit personal and political involvement, and make possible neighborhoods open to persons of all races, ages, and income levels"; and,

WHEREAS: Furthermore the Social Principles of the 2004 Book of Discipline states that "We support the basic right of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection," and yet the lack of affordable housing in so many of our communities frustrates the realization of these basic rights; and,

WHEREAS: The 2000 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church states that "the lack of available and affordable housing leads not only to econom-

ic hardship and instability but also to a sense of hopelessness among families and individuals who must live without the security and well-being that comes with a home to call their own”; and,

WHEREAS: God has entrusted the New England Annual Conference (NEAC) of the United Methodist Church with the stewardship of significant financial and property interests which with prophetic imagination and action are able to promote and secure new opportunities for the development and funding of affordable housing for first time homebuyers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NEAC of the United Methodist Church develop and adopt appropriate strategies and policies which will advance and support the construction and financing of affordable housing for first-time homebuyers within the boundaries of the annual conference.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nehemiah Fund Organizing Committee be authorized as a representative body of the Annual Conference which is charged with the responsibility to advance and support the construction and financing of affordable housing for first-time homebuyers within the boundaries of the annual conference.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that congregations of the NEAC collaborate with the Nehemiah Fund Organizing Committee to identify financial and property resources which may advance and support the construction and financing of affordable housing for first time homebuyers within the boundaries of the annual conference.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nehemiah Loan Fund of the United Methodist Foundation of New England be endorsed as a recognized and appropriate financial vehicle whereby congregations and members of the New England Annual Conference may advance and support the financing of affordable housing for first-time homebuyers within the boundaries of the annual conference.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that congregations and members of the New England Annual Conference can make a critical difference in supporting the financing of affordable housing for first-time homebuyers within the boundaries of the annual conference in the following ways:

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nehemiah fund organizing committee seeks the affirmation of the NEAC in the context of referring the identified financial and legal items of the resolution to the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration for legal and financial review.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the work and ministry of Nehemiah Loan Fund be a shared and recognized ministry of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for the purpose of creating new homes for individuals and families who live and work in the neighborhoods where we are called to proclaim Christ boldly to the world, especially as we walk with the poor.

**RS – 205 – BY-LAWS METHODIST CONFERENCE HOME, Inc.  
ROCKLAND, MAINE 04841**

(Submitted by James McPhee)  
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

<u>Article</u>	<u>Title</u>	
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NOTE: This edition of the by-laws contains all amendments through November 7, 2005.

Each page is dated 11/7/05 and pages without this date notation are obsolete.

Dates of specific amendments:

Article IV, Section 7: June Annual Meeting – 5/19/71

Article IV, Section 8: Four regular meetings – 9/23/69

Article V, Section 1b: Personnel Committee – 10/30/78

Article V, Section 1d: Nominating Committee – 10/30/78

Article IV, Section 13: Indemnification – 10/30/78

Article IV, Section 1: Amended by vote of the Maine Annual Conference –  
6/12/81, 6/90 by vote of New England Annual Conference 6/95

Article IV, Section 3: Amended by vote of the Maine Annual Conference –  
6/12/81, 6/84 by New England Annual Conference 6/95

Article X, Deleted by vote of the Board of Directors – 5/1/95, approved by the  
New England Annual Conference 6/95

By action of the Board of Directors, 10/30/78, sex-biased language was eliminated. References to the United Methodist Church and its agencies and officers reflect current usage.

**ARTICLE I.  
NAME AND LOCATION OF CORPORATION**

Section 1. The name of this Corporation is the Methodist Conference Home, Inc. Rockland, Maine. Its principal office is located at Rockland, Maine; Business Office, Rockland, Maine.

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**FIRST:** The purpose for which the Corporation is formed, and the business and the objects to be carried on and promoted by it, charitable and educational, as follows:

- a. To provide for elderly families and elderly persons on a non-profit basis, rental housing, homes, and related facilities, care and services especially designed to meet the physical, social, and psychological needs of the aged and contribute to their health, security, happiness, and usefulness in longer living.
- b. To plan, construct, operate, maintain, and improve rental housing, homes and related facilities, care and services for elderly families and elderly persons.
- c. To acquire by gift or purchase, whether in trust or otherwise, to hold, sell, convey, assign, mortgage, or lease any property, real or personal, necessary or incidental to the provision of rental housings, homes, and related facilities, care and services for elderly families and elderly persons, to solicit funds, subscriptions, grants and bequests for any of the purposes of this corporation.
- d. To borrow money and issue evidence of indebtedness in furtherance of any or all of the objects of its business; and to secure loans by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge or other lien.
- e. To apply for, obtain, and contract with any Federal agency for a direct loan or loans or other financial aid in the form of mortgage insurance or otherwise for the provision of rental housing, homes and related facilities, care and services for elderly families and elderly persons.
- f. To engage in any kind of activity, and enter into, perform and carry out contracts of any kind, necessary or in connection with, or incidental to the accomplishment of any one of the non-profit purpose of the corporation.
- g. To study, to further, and to disseminate facts and information concerning preparation for retirement and retirement activities.

**SECOND:** The Corporation formed hereby is also authorized to enter into a Regulatory Agreement with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out the provision of Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 USCA S, 1701 Q) and any amendments thereto. Upon execution, the Regulatory Agreement shall be binding upon the corporation, its successor and assigns as long as any loan under section 202 of Housing Act of 1959 (12 USCA S1701 Q) as amended, is outstanding and for such further period of time as may be agreed to by the Corporation.

**THIRD:** No Part of the net earnings of this Corporation shall be distributed to, or inure to the benefit of, any member, director, or officer of this Corporation, contributor or private individual. In the event of dissolution, winding up, or other liquidation of the assets of this Corporation, its assets shall be distributed to



non-profit and charitable corporations or institutions as may be designated by the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to be used for purposes similar to those of this Corporation.

### **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. **Eligibility:** The membership in this Corporation shall consist of its Board of Directors. Elected membership in the Corporation is personal and is not transferable.

Section 2. **Resignation or Removal:** Any member may resign by submitting a written resignation at a meeting of the Board of Directors or by mailing to the Corporation at its Business Office and thereupon such resignation shall become effective forthwith without need of any acceptance, unless otherwise specified therein. Except as otherwise required by law, any member may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, for conduct deemed prejudicial to the Corporation, including violation of the Regulatory Agreement between the Government and the Corporation.

### **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. **Number and Qualifications:** The affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of seventeen (17) persons. Except as otherwise required by law, the Directors need not be elected from among the membership of the Corporation and need not be residents of the State of Maine. The Directors shall be broadly representative of the community interest and professional experience. Three (3) Directors shall be ministers of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; six (6) shall be laity of said Conference. Seven (7) Directors shall be elected from the community at large by the Methodist Conference Home, Inc. Board of Directors. The District Superintendent of the Mid-Maine District shall be an ex officio member, with vote.

Section 2. **Governing Powers:** The Board of Directors shall have all the powers and duties necessary or appropriate for the administration of the affairs of this Corporation and may do all such acts and things as are not by law or by the Article of Incorporation or by the By-Laws directed to be exercised and done by the New England Annual Conference.

Section 3. **Election and Term of Office:** Four (4) Directors shall be elected each year for a term of four (4) years and may serve for two (2) consecutive terms. No elected Director who has served a full term of eight (8) years shall be eligible to succeed him/herself in office, but may be re-elected as a Director after a lapse of a year or more from the termination of her/his previous term.

A Director whose term is less than eight (8) years by reason of filling a vacancy on the Board may succeed her/himself for a regular term.

The nine (9) elected Directors of this Corporation shall be elected by the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, in accordance with the requirements of this section (Section 3, Article IV); upon nomination by the Conference Committee on Nominations or upon nomination from the floor of the Conference. The seven (7) at-large Directors shall be elected in the following manner: the Chairperson of the Coastal Trans, Inc. Board of Directors shall serve ex-officio, with vote; the remaining six (6) at-large members shall be elected by the Methodist Conference Home, Inc. Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

Section 4. **Vacancies:** Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason other than the removal of a Director by a vote of the membership or at the request of the Government shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining Directors, even though they may constitute less than a quorum; and each person so elected shall be a Director until a successor is elected by the process described in Article IV, Section 3.

Section 5. **Removal of Directors:** At any annual or special meeting duly called, any one or more of the elected Directors may be removed with cause by a vote of the majority of the Board of Directors, and shall be removed at the request of the Government. A successor Director may then and there be elected to fill the vacancy proposed by the members and shall be given an opportunity to be heard at this meeting.

Section 6. **Compensation:** No compensation shall be paid to Directors for their services or for their services in any other capacity or pursuant to any other contractual arrangement whatsoever. Directors may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

Section 7. **Annual Meetings:** The first annual meeting of the Corporation shall be held February 1, 1965. The annual meeting of the Corporation shall be held during the month of July each year following the close of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. At such annual meeting the officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected for the coming year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 1 and 4 of Article VI.

Section 8. **Regular Meetings:** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such a time and place as shall be determined, from time to time, by a majority of the Directors, but at least four (4) such meetings shall be held during the fiscal year. Notice of regular meetings shall be given to each Director personally, by mail, telephone, or email, at least five (5) days but not more than fourteen (14) days prior to the day named for such meeting. Notices of all meetings shall be mailed to the community Facilities Director at the Regional Office of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, during the period of contractual relationship.

Section 9. **Special Meetings:** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or shall be called by him/her as directed on written request

of at least five (5) Directors, or at the request of the Government. The notice of any special meeting shall state the time and place of such meeting and the purpose thereof, and shall be given personally, by mail, telephone or email at least three (3) days prior to the stated meeting date.

Section 10. **Waiver of Notice:** Before or at any meeting of the Board of Directors, any Director may, in writing, waive notice of such meeting and such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance by a Director at any meeting of the Board shall be a waiver of notice by him/her of the time and place thereof. If all the Directors are present at any meeting of the Board, no notice shall be required and any business may be transacted at such meeting. To the extent permitted by law, any lawful action of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if written consent to such action is signed by all directors and filed with the minutes of the Board.

Section 11. **Quorum:** At all meetings of the Board of Directors, seven (7) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the acts shall be the acts of the Board of Directors, except where a larger number is required by law, Articles of Incorporation, or these By-Laws. If, at any meeting, there is less than a quorum present, the majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time.

At any such adjourned meeting any business which might have been transacted at the meeting, as originally called, may be transacted without further notice.

Section 12. **Order of Business:** The order of business at all meetings of the membership shall be as follows (items inapplicable to the particular meeting may be omitted):

- a. Roll Call
- b. Proof of notice of meeting or Waiver of notice
- c. Reading of the minutes of preceding meeting
- d. Report of Officers
- e. Report of Executive Director
- f. Report of Government representative, if present
- g. Report of committees
- h. Election of inspectors of election
- i. Election of Directors
- j. Unfinished business
- k. New business

Section 13. **Indemnification:**

- a. Any person who is or was a Director, officer or employee of the Corporation, may in accordance with the paragraph (b) below be indemnified by the Corporation against any and all liability and reasonable expenses (including, but not limited to, counsel fees and disbursements

and amounts paid in settlement or in satisfaction of judgements or as fines or penalties) paid or incurred by him/her in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit or proceeding (whether brought by or in the right of the Corporation or otherwise), civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative including any appeal relating thereto, in which he/she may be involved, or threatened to be involved, as a party or otherwise, by reason of his/her being or having been a Director, officer or employee of the Corporation or by reason of any action taken or not taken in course and scope of his/her employment as such officer or employee or in his/her capacity as such Director, provided: (i) in the case of a claim, action, suit or proceeding brought by or in the right of the suit or proceeding brought by or in the right of the Corporation to procure a judgement in its favor, that such person has not been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty for the Corporation; and (ii) in the case of a claim, action, suit or proceeding brought other than by or in the right of the person acted in good faith for a purpose which he/she reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the Corporation. In any criminal action or proceeding, such person shall be deemed not to have met the standard in clause (ii) of the foregoing sentence if he/she had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any claim, action, suit or proceeding, civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by judgement, order, settlement (whether with or without court approval), conviction or on a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere, or its equivalent, shall not of itself create a presumption that a Director, officer or employee did not meet the standards of conducts set forth in this paragraph (a).

- b. Any person referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article IV Section 13 who has been wholly successful on the merits with respect to any claim, action, suit or proceeding of the character described in paragraph (a) shall be entitled to and be granted indemnification as of right, except to the extent he/she has otherwise been indemnified. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, the grant of indemnification under this Article I Section 13 unless awarded by a court, shall be at the discretion of the Board, but may be granted only (i) if a majority of the members of the Board, who are not parties to such a claim, action, suit or proceeding, though less than a quorum, shall have determined that the Director, officer or employee has met the applicable standards of conduct set forth in paragraph (a) or (ii) alternatively, if the Board shall have received the written advice of special independent legal counsel, other than regular counsel of the Corporation, selected by the Board, that, standards of conduct have been met. If several claims, issues, matter or actions are involved, any person mentioned in

paragraph (a) of this Article IV, Section 13, may be indemnified by the Board to the extent that the portion of the liability and expenses described in paragraph (a) which are allocable to the claims, issues, matters or action in respect of such person has met the applicable standards of conduct set forth in paragraph (a). Any rights of indemnification provided in this Article IV, Section 13, shall not include any amount paid to the Corporation pursuant to any settlement of, or any judgement rendered in or resulting from, any claim, action, suit or proceeding brought by or in the right of the Corporation to procure a judgement in its favor. The term “wholly successful” shall mean termination of any action, suit or proceeding against the person in question without any finding of liability or guilt against him/her, or the expiration of a reasonable time after making of any claim, threat of an action, suit or proceeding without the institution of the same, without any payment or promise made to induce a settlement.

- c. Expenses incurred with respect to any claim, action, suit or proceeding of the character described in paragraph (a) of the Article IV, Section 13, may be advanced by the Corporation prior to the final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by or on the Director, officer, or employee to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he/she is entitled to, and is granted, indemnification under this Article IV, Section 13.
- d. The rights of indemnification provided in this Article IV, Section 13, shall be in addition to any other rights to which any such Director, officer or employee may otherwise be entitled by contract or otherwise; and in event of such person’s death, such rights shall extend to his/her heirs, executors and administrators. The foregoing rights shall be available whether or not such person continues to be a Director, officer or employee at the time of incurring or becoming subject to such liability and expenses, and whether or not the claim asserted against him/her is based on matters which antedate the adoption of this Article IV, Section 13.
- e. If any word, clause or provision of this Article IV, Section 13, or any award made here under shall for any reason be determined to be invalid, the provisions hereof shall not otherwise be affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

## ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES OF THE CORPORATION

Section 1. **Standing Committees:** The president of the Board shall appoint annually at the first regular meeting of the Board, following the annual meeting, the following standing committees of which he/she and the Vice-President shall be ex-officio.

- a. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, ESI President, Coastal Trans

President, and SSHP President. The Executive Committee shall act for the Board in the interim of its sessions. The Secretary shall keep a record of its proceedings and report at each subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum.

- b. Personnel Committee: The Personnel Committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Board of Directors, the ex-officio members and the Secretary. The duties of the Personnel Committee shall be to develop and monitor the administration of the Code of Personnel Practices and Policies of the Corporation (or current name of such policies) in keeping with the changing needs of the times; review at least annually the performance of the Executive Director and report the results of said review to the Board including any recommendation concerning changes to their compensation and benefits. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the position of Executive Director, the Committee may be enlarged at the direction of the Board and shall be responsible for obtaining applications and reporting to the Board the candidate whom it recommends.
- c. Public Relations and Development Committee: The Public Relations and Development Committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Board of Directors, the ex-officio members, and two (2) members of the United Methodist Church-at-large. The Public Relations and Development Committee shall in conjunction with the Development Director engage in activities that interpret the work of the Corporation to the community and to the state and increase public understanding of the Corporation. The Committee shall develop a long-range program for the approval of the Board deciding where the emphasis shall lie in a given year. The Committee shall be responsible for encouraging all Board members to participate in improved public relations of the Corporation.
- d. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Board of Directors. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to nominate officers and to fill vacancies on the Board. At the meeting prior to the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit a list of nominees to the Board. Names of nominees to be elected by the New England Annual Conference will be submitted to the Conference Nominating Committee.
- e. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Board of Directors, one of whom will be the Treasurer. The duties of the Finance Committee will include participation in development, oversight and review of the Budget, Financial Reports and Audits, as well as providing a review to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings.

Section 2. **Other Committees:** Such other committees as are necessary from time to time to carry out the work of the Corporation may be created by vote of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee and appointed by the president from the Board of Directors and from the United Methodist Church-at-Large.

Section 3. **Staff Members on Committees:** The president may designate members of the staff of the Corporation in addition to the Executive Director, to meet with committees of the Corporation to act in an advisory and consultative capacity.

## ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section 1. **Designation:** The principal officers of the Corporation shall be the President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by the Board of Directors, from among its members. No two officers, except those of Secretary and Treasurer, may be held by the same person. The Directors may appoint an assistant secretary, an assistant treasurer, and such other officers as in their judgment are necessary.

Section 2. **Election of Officers:** The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting and, unless sooner removed by the Board, the officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year and until their successors are elected and shall qualify. Any vacancies occurring in the offices shall be filled by the Board of Directors, from time to time. The Board of Directors shall appoint such temporary or acting officers as may be necessary during the absence or disability of the regular officers.

Section 3. **Removal:** Upon affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors, any officers may be removed, with cause, and the successor elected at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors or at any special meeting called for such purpose.

Section 4. **President:** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall have the general powers and duties which are usually vested in the office of president of a corporation, including the power to appoint committees from time to time as in his/her discretion he/she may deem appropriate to assist the conduct of the affairs of Corporation.

Section 5. **Vice-President:** There shall be one or more vice-presidents, as the Board of Directors shall from time to time determine. In the absence or disability of the President, any one of the Vice-Presidents, designated by the President, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President. The Vice Presidents shall also perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, of the membership, and of the Executive Committee. He/she

shall have custody of the seal of the Corporation and of such books and records of the Corporation as the Board of Directors may provide. He/she shall perform the duties and functions customarily performed by the secretary of a corporation together with such other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

Section 7. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate funds and securities and shall keep full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation and shall deposit all monies and other effects in the name of and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. He/she shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render an account of all his/her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation whenever called upon to do so. The Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Board, may delegate any of the above functions of depositing and paying out the funds to the Executive Director of the Corporation, or any other employee of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Except as otherwise required by law, these By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors or at any special meeting called for that purpose, providing that written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting. Such amendment shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors present at a duly constituted meeting and shall further require the prior written approval of the Government.

Section 2. Section 1 and 3 of Article IV, can only be amended by vote of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

## **ARTICLE VIII. CORPORATE SEAL**

The Board of Directors shall provide a suitable corporate seal containing the name of the Corporation, which seal shall be in the charge of the Secretary. If so directed by the Board of Directors, a duplicate seal may be used and kept by the Treasurer or any assistant secretary or treasurer.

## **ARTICLE IX. FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

Section 1. **Fiscal Year:** The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January of every year. The commencement date of the fiscal year herein established shall be subject to change by the Board of Directors, with the prior written approval of the Government.



Section 2. **Books and Accounts:** Books and accounts of the Corporation shall be kept under the direction of the Treasurer of the Corporation in accordance with the requirements of the Loan Agreement and Regulatory Agreement entered into with the Government.

Section 3. **Auditing and Reports:** At the close of each fiscal year, the books and records of the Corporation shall be audited in accordance with the requirements of the Government under the Loan Agreement and Regulatory Agreement. The President of the Corporation shall cause to be prepared annually a full and correct statement of the affairs of the Corporation, including a balance sheet and financial statement of the operations of the preceding fiscal year, which shall be submitted at the annual meeting of the members and filed with the Secretary of the Corporation.

Section 4. **Contributions and Funds:**

- a. Contributions: Contributions to the funds of the Corporation may be submitted to the Executive Director, who shall transmit them to the Treasurer or such person as shall be designated by the Board of Directors for that purpose.
- b. Report of Contributions: The Treasurer of the Corporation or other person designated to receive contributions shall make a bimonthly report of all sums received to the Board of Directors or to a committee to which the authority of the Board is delegated.
- c. Report of Operating Account: It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director, and the Treasurer, to submit to the Board of Directors a full financial report of operations on a bimonthly and annual basis.

Section 5. **Execution of Corporate Documents:** With all the prior authorization of the Board of Directors, all notes and contracts shall be executed on behalf of the Corporation by either the President or Vice-President and attested by the Secretary or Treasurer, and all checks executed on behalf of the Corporation by (1) the President or a Vice-President or the Executive Director, and countersigned (2) by either the Secretary or Treasurer.

Section 6. **Fidelity Bonds:** The Board of Directors shall require that all officers and employees of the Corporation having custody or control of corporate funds furnish adequate fidelity bonds. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the Corporation.

## **RS – 206 – ESTABLISH A “VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION” AWARENESS DAY**

(Submitted by James McPhee)

(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

BACKGROUND: The 1980 General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) officially sanctioned the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission

(UMVIM) and directed the General Board of Global Ministries to "affirm VIM as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement and devise appropriate structure to interpret and implement opportunities for volunteers in the global community" (p1302.14 Discipline).

The 1988 GC suggested that "each annual conference name a VIM coordinator to work cooperatively with GBGM and the Jurisdictional UMVIM offices." The 1996 GC created the Mission Volunteers office within GBGM to "assist in the guidance and placement of volunteers; in short term mission assignments ". (P1312 (5)). The 2000 GC recognized UMVIM as a "one of the most dynamic mission outreach programs of the denomination today" (The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church; 2000 page 165). The Seventeenth Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference passed a similar resolution. This action clearly recognizes the UMVIM program as a growing force in promoting the church in general, Christianity in particular, and personal Christian service; and

WHEREAS, the UMVIM program is truly a grassroots movement in allowing all persons of faith, laity and clergy alike, the opportunity to have a "hands on" experience and personal involvement in mission endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is generally accepted that all persons cannot do everything but, that everyone can do something. The UMVIM program allows persons to offer physical support, prayer support, and/or financial support to the wide variety of programs that are designed to promote the many opportunities to utilize their many varied talents in direct service to the Kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, Scripture requires us all to be active participants in the faith, to wit, "... and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts I: 8b, RSV) and "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works.....So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2: 14, 17 RSV); and

WHEREAS, there are opportunities to serve locally, nationally, or even internationally, and the "hands on" opportunity truly changes a missionaries perspective towards persons or cultures with different economic, ethnic, or political backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the UMVIM program is one essential tool in helping to promote tolerance and understanding throughout all of God's Kingdom, a tool that helps to bring a measure of relief to those in unfortunate circumstances wherever they are, and a tool that can help Christians to fulfill the mandate of Jesus as expressed in Matthew 25: 34-46.

THEREFORE, the Volunteers In Mission Board of Directors for the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church requests that the NEAC recommend to all local churches in the Conference:

1. That a Sunday of the local churches choosing (3rd Sunday in September is recommended) be set aside and declared Volunteers In Mission Awareness Day; and

2. That each local church with assistance of the conference UMVIM leadership, provide for UMVIM displays, information resources, solicit individual or group testimonies and/or develop other ways to celebrate the UMVIM movement in whatever fashion that best suits the local congregation; and
3. That local churches draw upon the available resources of the Conference UMVIM Coordinator to help make the day memorable, one of faith in action.

### **RS – 207A – BISHOP’S FINANCIAL SUMMIT -RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Submitted by the Bishop’s Financial Summit Taskforce; Members: Barbara Cann, Bernard Campbell, Joan Humphrey, Wee-Li Tan, Thom Gallen, Gary Shaw, Charles Carnahan, Jim McPhee, Bud Tracy, Rick Black, Anne Robertson, Erica Robinson-Johnson, Bishop Peter Weaver (Chair)  
(Adopted as amended, Friday Morning, June 9, 2006)

#### **Referrals and task force establishment**

We recommend:

1. that CF&A request financial support from local churches in the same way that local churches request support from their members — through tithes and offerings. We propose that churches be apportioned at a rate of 10% of the prior year’s gross income with the provision that each District be given latitude to adjust the amount when deemed necessary and appropriate by the District Superintendent, the District Mission Share Review Committee, and/or any other District bodies that might be created in this area on the recommendation of the Conference Transformation Team. We recommend that the details of implementation be developed by CF&A in conversation with the Bishop’s Financial Summit and other parties that CF&A would deem appropriate.
2. that the Stewardship Task Force be charged with the development of a network of stewardship consultants to facilitate training, resourcing, mentoring, and dialogue about stewardship in all districts of the Annual Conference.
3. The Annual Conference establish a Mission Share Interpretation/Communication Team to develop materials and resources to be shared with each church and pastor that will tell the stories of the vital missions and ministries supported through our Mission Shares. The Team will be comprised of representatives of the Council on Finance and Administration, Resource Team, Communications, and interested lay/clergy from within the Conference. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration will be responsible for coordinating this work and will bring to the 2007 session of Annual Conference a report its progress.
4. the Retiree Benefit Taskforce of the Conference Board of Pensions explore options to bring future projected costs to a level sustainable by the

resources of the local churches of the Annual Conference given their financial resources including: placing a cap on the conference portion of retiree health care, modifying the qualifications for participants, and providing a broader range of alternatives for future retirees.

### **RS – 207B – BISHOP’S FINANCIAL SUMMIT -RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Submitted by the Bishop’s Financial Summit Taskforce; Members: Barbara Cann, Bernard Campbell, Joan Humphrey, Wee-Li Tan, Thom Gallen, Gary Shaw, Charles Carnahan, Jim McPhee, Bud Tracy, Rick Black, Anne Robertson, Erica Robinson-Johnson, Bishop Peter Weaver (Chair)  
(Adopted as amended, Friday Morning, June 9, 2006)

#### **Action Items**

We recommend:

1. the establishment of a conference taskforce that would conduct a full and comprehensive review of local church properties held in trust with an emphasis on assisting the local church in determining missional intention, utilization, self-sufficiency and role in living out the Vision of the Annual Conference. The Bishop will be responsible for convening this taskforce which may include persons from Conference Trustees, Congregational Development, Resource Team, CFA and local congregations.
2. that a taskforce be established to look specifically at Conference-held properties with an emphasis on missional intention, utilization and role in living out the Vision of the Annual Conference and in reviewing the camps and conference centers to include utilization, self-sufficiency and role in the larger life of the Annual Conference. The taskforce will be convened by the Bishop and should include staff, site committee members, Conference Trustees and other relevant parties.
3. That a task force be established to implement RS 225 (2004). The Bishop will be responsible for appointing this taskforce. The Task Force will give serious consideration to honoring and implementing Resolution 225.

### **RS – 207C –BISHOP’S FINANCIAL SUMMIT -RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Submitted by the Bishop’s Financial Summit Taskforce; Members: Barbara Cann, Bernard Campbell, Joan Humphrey, Wee-Li Tan, Thom Gallen, Gary Shaw, Charles Carnahan, Jim McPhee, Bud Tracy, Rick Black, Anne Robertson, Erica Robinson-Johnson, Bishop Peter Weaver (Chair)  
(Adopted as amended, Friday Morning, June 9, 2006)

#### **Action Items (continued)**

We recommend

4. the 2007 Annual Conference budget will be structured and presented in a different format and the necessary rule changes to implement this change will be presented to the Special Session of Annual Conference to be held in the fall of 2006. The new presentation format for the 2007 Annual

Conference Budget will include 3 funds (instead of the current 4 fund structure):

- **FUND 1, WORLD MISSIONS** – All General Conference apportionments currently dispersed throughout the four funds of the present budget will be consolidated into this single area of the budget;
  - **FUND 2, NEW ENGLAND MISSIONS** – All line items in the current budget structure that relate to the support of mission and ministry throughout the Annual Conference i.e. Regional Ministries, Congregational Development, Urban Ministries, Council on Youth Ministries, Resource Team and Site Directors staffing, will be consolidated into this area of the budget; and
  - **FUND 3, MINISTRY SUPPORT** – All line items in the current budget structure that relate to the functional support of the Annual Conference, i.e. Board of Ordained Ministry, Episcopal Office, Equitable Compensation, District Superintendency, Administration will be consolidated into this single area of the budget. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration, in conjunction with Treasurer, will be responsible for bringing to the Special Session of Annual Conference to be held in the fall of 2006, a 2007 budget that meets this new structure. The Rules Committee, working with the Conference Treasurer, will bring to the fall Special Session all necessary changes to the Conference policies/procedures and rules to implement this new structure.
5. that beginning with the 2008 budget, a fourth fund will be developed, **FUND 4, HOLY SPIRIT INITIATIVES** – Second mile giving for special conference related ministry opportunities for congregations that have meet 100% of other 3 funds askings. The “Visioning Table” of the Conference, in conjunction with the Bishop will recommend to Annual Conference annually the priorities and conference “goal” amount for this fund.

### **RS – 207D – BISHOP’S FINANCIAL SUMMIT – RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Submitted by the Bishop’s Financial Summit Taskforce; Members: Barbara Cann, Bernard Campbell, Joan Humphrey, Wee-Li Tan, Thom Gallen, Gary Shaw, Charles Carnahan, Jim McPhee, Bud Tracy, Rick Black, Anne Robertson, Erica Robinson-Johnson, Bishop Peter Weaver (Chair)  
(Adopted as amended, Friday Morning, June 9, 2006)

#### **Action Items (continued)**

We recommend

6. **Property/Liability Insurance Billing** – Beginning September 1, 2006, all local churches of the Annual Conference will be encouraged to establish an ACH (Automated Clearing House) relationship between the Annual Conference and the local church’s bank, setting up a regular withdrawal for

the purposes of paying the local church's property/liability insurance automatically. Any reduction in administrative overhead and allowance for bad debt will be passed on to each church that establishes such relationship in the form of a discount to the regular premium cost.

7. **Health Insurance Billing** – Beginning January 1, 2007, all local churches of the Annual Conference that participate in the Conference Health Insurance Program will be encouraged to establish an ACH relationship between the Annual Conference and the local church's bank, setting up a regular monthly withdrawal for the purpose of paying the local church's health insurance obligation. The reduction in allowance for bad debt will be passed on to each church that establishes such relationship in the form of a discount to the regular health insurance premium.
8. **Clergy Retirement Security Program/Clergy Protection Plan** – General Conference approved effective January 1, 2007, a new retirement program and changed the disability program for clergy of the church. This new program ascribes to each church their portion of the cost of their pastor's retirement defined benefit and defined contribution liabilities. Beginning January 1, 2007 each local church within the Annual Conference will be billed directly the proportional cost of their pastor's retirement plan and disability program liability.
9. **Clergy Retirement Security Program/Clergy Protection Plan** – Establishment of an ACH account will be encouraged and the reduction in allowance for bad debt and any related administrative savings will be passed on to each church that establishes such relationship. The costs associated with these programs will be removed from the 2007 Annual Conference Mission Share budget, thus reducing the total amount apportioned to each church.

## **RS – 208 MIGRATION/BORDER ENFORCEMENT**

(Submitted by Julie Todd)

(Adopted Friday Evening, June 9, 2006)

WHEREAS the implementation of low-intensity warfare strategies along the U.S.-Mexico border has closed safe migration routes and resulted in the deaths of over 3,000 persons (not counting those undiscovered in remote regions) since 1994, and;

WHEREAS the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border has not and cannot succeed in preventing migration from Latin America, and;

WHEREAS border enforcement and current immigration policy does not address the systemic economic causes and historical realities of migration patterns, and;

WHEREAS the billions of dollars spent on militarizing the border should be directed towards social and physical infrastructure on both sides of the border, and;

WHEREAS the gospel of Jesus Christ calls Christians to denounce the forces of death, transform unjust systems, oppose evil, stand in solidarity with the exploited and oppressed, announce good news to the poor, and welcome the stranger, and;

WHEREAS Scripture, as the primary source of authority for United Methodists, reflects the migrant experience, from the calling of Abraham and Sarah, the exodus, exile, and return of the Hebrew people, to the flight of the holy family and sending of the apostles to the ends of the earth; and prophetically commands love of neighbor and respect for the dignity and humanity of all God's children, regardless of race, nation, ethnicity, class, language, or any dividing border;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that as privileged residents of the first world who benefit from the labor of those who suffer exploitation and deprivation on both sides of the border as a result of discrimination and low wages, we repent of our ignorance and complicity in these unjust systems, our failure to recognize how we benefit from the oppression of others in order to support our extravagant lifestyles, our individual consumerism and corporate greed, as well as the dehumanization and demonization of the migrant in our midst.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves and our churches to study and prayer on local and global issues of migration and humane solutions to situations of economic injustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes any further militarization of the Mexico-U.S. border, including the building of walls and the deployment of troops.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New England Annual Conference supports comprehensive immigration reform, which includes: provisions for safe passage, regularization of legalization of those undocumented migrants who already contribute to the well-being of our economy, support for family reunification, consideration of future migrant flows, and respect for the rights and dignity of all persons who migrate to find work and freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon passage, the New England Annual Conference Secretary shall send this resolution to the federally elected officials within our geographic bounds, and ask them to oppose militarizing the border and to support comprehensive immigration legislation.

## **RS - 209 REGARDING AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR IN IRAQ**

(Submitted by Betty and Dan Allen, Mark Goad, Gary Richards, Don Rudalevige, Phil Susag)

(Adopted Friday Evening, June 10, 2006)

Scripture and the call of Justice demand of Christians a bias towards peace and reconciliation. Our calling as United Methodist Christians demands that we not remain silent regarding the on-going war in Iraq. We proclaim a God who cares for all people.

Clear evidence of absolute need is required before engaging in armed conflict. Such evidence does not exist to support American occupation of Iraq. The conflict has created and spread terrorism, not lessened it. It has compromised our own attitude as to the value of human life.

THEREFORE, The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on all churches to actively participate in peace-making through preaching, prayer, study and participation in local forums and peace actions.

FURTHER, we call on our church members to be in regular contact with their U.S. Representatives and Senators, calling for the orderly withdrawal of troops and personnel from Iraq. We recommend that such contacts begin during the week of June 19 and continue on a monthly basis until such time as withdrawal is achieved.

FURTHER, the Annual Conference directs the Secretary to send this resolution to the US Representatives and Senators from the New England region, President Bush, Secretaries Rumsfeld and Rice.

FURTHER, the New England Conference is called upon to support those troops returning from Iraq with our prayers, love and gratitude for their service to our country.

**RS – 210 – ABANDONMENT OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE NEW LONDON KOREAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF UNCANSVILLE, CONNECTICUT**

(Submitted by Maria Coleman, District Superintendent, Connecticut, Western Massachusetts District)  
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

WHEREAS the congregation of New London Korean United Methodist Church in Uncasville, Connecticut has had a long history of important ministry, and;

WHEREAS the congregation has abandoned the church and no longer maintains worship, and;

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has acknowledged abandonment and the members have dispersed and joined other churches, and;

WHEREAS the district superintendent has recommended the property be sold and the sale proceeds provided to emerging ministries upon the approval of the Committee on Congregational Development, the Bishop and the Cabinet, and;

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

WHEREAS the consent to declare the United Methodist congregation of New London Korean UMC abandoned by the action of the congregation's ceasing to attend worship, joining other churches and denominations and has been granted by the presiding Bishop, a majority of the superintendents and the district board of church location and building and all proper, Disciplinary requirement have been complied with;



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New London Korean United Methodist Church is abandoned as of July 1, 2006 and all its property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, wherever situated, shall be transferred to the Board of Trustees of the New England Conference.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Methodist congregation of New London Korean UMC is abandoned as of July 1, 2006 and that any remaining assets shall be turned over to the said Trustees.

**RS – 211 – DISCONTINUANCE OF UMC RELATIONSHIP WITH  
BRISTOL, NH FEDERATED CHURCH**

(Submitted by John Blackadar, New Hampshire District Superintendent)  
(Adopted Friday Afternoon, June 9, 2006)

WHEREAS the Bristol Federated Church located in Grafton County, New Hampshire was founded in 1950 as a result of the federation of the Bristol Methodist church and the Bristol United Church of Christ and has a long and proud history and;

WHEREAS the annual meeting of the Bristol Federated Church has voted on May 21, 2006 to discontinue its relationship with the United Methodist Church, and;

WHEREAS the district superintendent has recommended discontinuance of the United Methodist relationship with the Bristol Federated Church, and;

WHEREAS the district superintendent has recommended that the United Methodist property, which was conveyed to the Bristol Federated Church at the time of federation, will be returned to the trustees of the New England Annual Conference should the Bristol Federated church ever cease, and;

WHEREAS consent for the discontinuance of this relationship has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Methodist relationship with the Bristol Federated Church be discontinued May 21, 2006.

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

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**Petition to Prohibit Discrimination in Receiving Members into United  
Methodist Congregations**

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has historically welcomed into membership “all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition” per Article IV of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in its Decision 1032 the United Methodist Judicial Council supported one UMC pastor’s refusal of membership to a person seeking membership because of the “aspiring member’s sexual orientation and practice”, and overruled

decisions by the district superintendent, bishop, and the Annual Conference clergy session requiring that the pastor welcome this individual into membership; and

WHEREAS, the UMC Bishops unanimously stated in a November 2, 2005 Council of Bishops Pastoral Letter that “homosexuality is not a barrier [for membership] ... and ... the General Conference has clearly spoken through the denomination’s Constitution on inclusiveness and justice for all as it relates to church membership”; and quoted from paragraph 161g of the Book of Discipline: “... God’s grace is available to all, and we will seek to live together in Christian community. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons”; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Bishops Pastoral Letter (Nov. 2, 2005) further affirmed “our Wesleyan practice that pastors are accountable to the bishop, superintendent, and the clergy on matters of ministry and membership”; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has implemented the advertising strategy “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” which includes a “Diversity Expression” that “by communicating the myriad beliefs and cultural diversity of the church, this expression invites anyone to attend, wherever they are on the journey toward finding a spiritual home” (United Methodist Communication’s Website: <http://www.ignitingministry.org/advertising/diversity.aspx>); and

WHEREAS, John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you”; Mark 10:14 says “But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God”; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says “For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”; Galatians 3:28 says “There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”; and John 13:35 says “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;” and

Now, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church declares that it believes Judicial Council Decision 1032 to be in error.

FURTHER be it resolved that paragraph 214 be amended to insert the following sentence after the words “in any local church in the connection” (Par. 4): No person shall be excluded from the United Methodist Church for reasons related to his or her sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution: “Inclusiveness of the Church - The United Methodist Church ... acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking the vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.”

The rules on accountability are in The Book of Discipline at ¶¶304.1i, 306, 307, 325, 326.3, 332, 343.1, et cetera.

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

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**General Conference Petitions Resolving Certain Issues of Discrimination in  
the United Methodist Church**

WHEREAS, Christians of good faith (including theologians) are not of one mind regarding scripture and the practice of homosexuality; and

WHEREAS, John Wesley in his sermon #39 on 2 Kings 10:15 said: “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences”; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Discipline ¶102 of our Doctrinal History states the following: “Beyond the essentials of vital religion, United Methodists respect the diversity of opinions held by conscientious persons of faith. Wesley followed the time-tested approach: ‘In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.’ ... The crucial matter in religion is steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit”; and

WHEREAS, Romans 14:13–14 says “Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean”; Acts 10:15b says: “What God has made clean, you must not call unclean”; Romans 15:7 says “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you”; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says “For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”; Galatians 3:28 says “There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”; and John 13:35 says “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”; and

WHEREAS, “the annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote... on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution...” (¶33. Article II)

Now, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the New England Annual Conference petition the 2008 General Conference to adopt the following nine petitions: (numbered RS – 303 to RS – 311)

**RS – 303 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**PETITION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE TO ARTICLE IV**

#### ¶4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church

Financial Implications: None

**Amend Article IV**, as follows: The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, economic condition, **gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, sexual orientation, and ability** shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking the vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, economic condition, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, sexual orientation, or ability.

#### RS – 304 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

#### PETITION CONCERNING MARRIAGE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES ¶161C “Marriage”

Financial Implications: None

**Amend ¶161C**, as follows:

**We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman** two adult persons. **We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.**

#### RS – 305 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

#### PETITION CONCERNING HUMAN SEXUALITY SOCIAL PRINCIPLES ¶161G “The Nurturing Community: Human Sexuality”

Financial Implications: None

**Amend ¶161G**, as follows:

We recognize that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We believe persons may be fully human only when that gift is acknowledged and affirmed by them-

selves, the church, and society. We call all persons to the disciplined, responsible fulfillment of themselves, others, and society in the stewardship of this gift. We also recognize our limited understanding of this complex gift and encourage the medical, theological, and social science disciplines to combine in a determined effort to understand human sexuality more completely. We call the Church to take the leadership role in bringing together these disciplines to address this most complex issue. Further, within the context of our understanding of this gift of God, we recognize that God challenges us to find responsible, committed, and loving forms of expression.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, **we believe** sexual relations are only clearly affirmed in the marriage bond. We reject all sexual expressions that damage or destroy the humanity God has given us as birthright, and we affirm only that sexual expression that enhances that same humanity. We believe that sexual relations where one or both partners are exploitative, abusive, or promiscuous are beyond the parameters of acceptable Christian behavior and are ultimately destructive to individuals, families, and the social order.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sex, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible. We call for the establishment of adequate protective services, guidance, and counseling opportunities for children thus abused. We insist that all persons, regardless of age, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured. **We encourage civil authorities to enact laws that will ensure full civil and economic rights for persons in civil unions and marriages without regard to the gender, gender identity or expression of the partners.**

We recognize the continuing need for full, positive, age-appropriate and factual sex education opportunities for children, young people, and adults. The Church offers a unique opportunity to give quality guidance and education in this area.

Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We~~ **While Christians of good faith differ on what Christian teaching reveals regarding homosexuality, we** affirm that God's grace is available to all, and we will seek to live together in Christian community. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.<sup>1</sup>

**RS – 306 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**PETITION FOR A BROADER STATEMENT OF EQUAL RIGHTS**

**Social Principles ¶162H “The Social Community: Equal Rights Regardless of  
Sexual Orientation”**

Financial Implications: None

**Amend ¶162H, as follows:**

Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, **regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.** We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting ~~their~~ rightful claims where ~~they two people~~ have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against ~~gays and lesbians~~ all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. ~~We also commit ourselves to social witness against the coercion and marginalization of former homosexuals.~~

**RS – 307 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**PETITION CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDINATION**

**– Delete “self-avowed practicing homosexual” Exclusion**

**Discipline ¶304 “Qualifications for Ordination”**

Financial Implications: None

**Amend ¶304, item 3, as follows:**

While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. ~~The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals<sup>1</sup> are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.<sup>2</sup>~~

**RS – 308 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**PETITION CONCERNING UNAUTHORIZED CONDUCT FOR CLERGY**

**Discipline ¶332 “Unauthorized Conduct”**

Financial Implications: None

**Amend ¶341, item 6, as follows:**

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

**RS – 309 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**PETITION TO REMOVE FINANCIAL RESTRICTION CLAUSE**

**Discipline ¶806 “General Council on Finance and Administration, Fiscal Responsibilities”**

Financial Implications: None

**Delete ¶806, item 9:**

~~It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.~~

**RS – 310 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

**PETITION TO AMEND CHARGEABLE OFFENSES**

**Discipline ¶2702 “Chargeable Offenses and the Statute of Limitations**

Financial implications: None

**Delete ¶2702.1.(b)**

~~Practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.~~

RS – 311 – PETITION TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Scott Campbell, et al.)  
(Adopted Saturday Morning, June 10, 2006)

PETITION TO AMEND DEFINITION OF FAMILY

**Discipline ¶161 “The Nurturing Community”**

Financial Implications: None

**Amend ¶161, item A), as follows:**

*The Family* — We believe the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity. We affirm the importance of ~~both fathers and mothers~~ **loving parents** for all children. We also understand the family as encompassing a wider range of options than that of the two-generational unit of parents and children (the nuclear family), including the extended family, families with adopted children, single parents, **same gender parents**, stepfamilies, and couples without children. We affirm shared responsibility for parenting ~~by men and women~~ **where there are two parents** and encourage social, economic, and religious efforts to maintain and strengthen relationships within families in order that every member may be assisted toward complete personhood.