

## VII. Resolutions and Petitions

### 1. Petition to the Kentucky Annual Conference for actions and support of the Conference's Commission on Religion and Race

#### **Background:**

The Kentucky Annual Conference has the responsibility to provide for the function and maintenance of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race. Unfortunately, the Commission has been dysfunctional over the past two or more years; thereby, limiting the role and responsibility of the Kentucky Conference in the development and promotion of programs and policies of racial inclusiveness.

Whereas, the Commission on Religion and Race has not provided resources and training to enable the work of the local church ministry area of religion and race as specified in ¶252.2b.

Whereas, the Commission has been ineffective in working with the Annual Conference boards and agencies in developing programs and policies of racial inclusiveness.

Whereas, the Commission has not consulted with local churches that are seeking to establish multiracial fellowships.

Whereas, the Conference Commission on Religion and Race has not provided programs of sensitization and education at every level of the Conference on the nature and meaning of racism - attitudinal, behavioral and institutional.

Whereas, the Commission is responsible for examining ethnic representation on all of the Conference boards and agencies, commissions and committees, as well as governing boards of related institutions.

Whereas, the Commission should evaluate the priorities of the annual conference in light of the needs in the area of race relations, developing recommendations to present to the appropriate agencies and report directly to the Annual Conference.

Be it resolved that, the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church will do the following and address each of the specific items listed above:

1. Carefully select a chairperson for the Conference Commission on Religion and Race who has experience and expertise in ethnic-minority relations within a period of three (3) calendar months.
  2. Organize the Conference Commission on Religion and Race and its membership according to the guidelines in the Discipline of the United Methodist Church within six months.
  3. Authorize the Commission to meet and organize with all deliberate speed to plan and to begin the process of carrying out the functions and procedures of the Commission as spelled out in The Book of Discipline, 2008.
  4. Direct the Commission to prepare a report for the 2012 Kentucky Annual Conference specifying actions and duties that have been fulfilled.
  5. Send a copy of this resolution to the General Commission on Religion and Race, the Local Caucus of the Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) and the Ethnic Local Church Concerns (local committee) to covenant with those groups.
  6. Lastly, that Bishop Davis and the Kentucky Conference give their full and unqualified support and commitment to the successful reorganization and functioning of the Commission on Religion and Race.
- Submitted by Alvin M. Seals, Member of the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Action: Resolution was approved.**

## **2. Resolution on Disability Awareness Annual Conference Theme**

### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, scripture teaches us the importance Jesus placed on ministering to and with people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, at least one in five persons worldwide has a disability, and the number is rapidly increasing due to aging, war and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Book of Resolutions, No. 3304, states, in part that church leaders are to “Lead the local churches in attitudinal change studies, to the end that the people called United Methodist are sensitized to the gifts, needs, and interests of people with disabilities, including their families;” and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has promoted itself as a Church of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors;” and

WHEREAS, Local Churches and Districts look to their Conference for guidance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that each Conference shall designate that at least one Annual Conference session during the 2013-2016 quadrennium will have a theme centered on Disability Awareness to set an example for each District and Local Church. Resources and guidance are available from the Committee on Disability Ministries (currently the United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries – see separate petition for name change) and UMCOR Health/Health and Welfare Ministries.

*Submitted by Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health, and Lynn Swedberg, Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries*

**Action: Resolution was defeated.**

## **3. Petition to Establish the Committee on Disability Ministries**

### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: 2008 Discipline ¶ 1327

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

1327.3 (5) is amended by adding a new sentence:

(5) To provide programs for annual conferences, districts, and local churches that encourage awareness of the gifts and needs of persons with disabilities and to promote the leadership and employment throughout the connectional system of persons with disabilities. UMCOR Health (formerly Health and Welfare Ministries) shall establish, maintain, and provide financial and personnel support for a United Methodist Committee on Disability Ministries to provide advocacy, education and empowerment to lead the United Methodist Church in creating a culture where people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership and ministry.

Current funding from the General Board of Global Ministries for the expanded work of the newly

established permanent committee will be supplemented by additional funding from a proposed change in Disability Awareness Sunday from an Approved Sunday for Annual Conference Observance to a Churchwide Special Sunday With Offerings (see separate petition).

Rationale: Health and Welfare Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries has sponsored and financed the United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries (formerly The United Methodist National Task Force on Developmental Disabilities) since 1994. The proposed legislation establishes the “Task Force” as a permanent committee with appropriate financial resources and a broadened focus on all disabilities.

*Submitted by Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health, and Lynn Swedberg, Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries*

**Action: Resolution was defeated.**

#### **4. Petition on Disability Awareness Sunday as Special Sunday with Offering**

##### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: 2008 Discipline ¶¶ 263, 265, 823 (related)

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

265.4 of the 2008 Discipline is deleted.

¶ 265.4. Disability Awareness Sunday--Disability Awareness Sunday shall be observed annually on a date to be determined by the annual conference. Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and the funds used by the annual conference to promote the creation of architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches. The observance of Disability Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries.

The opening sentence of ¶ 263 is amended:

¶ 263. Seven Six churchwide special Sundays with offerings shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church.

263.7 is added:

263.7. Disability Awareness Sunday – Historically Disability Awareness Sunday has been observed annually on a date determined by each annual conference. Congregations are to observe Disability Awareness Sunday on the Sunday after Labor Day or on another date appropriate to the local church. Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. The observance of Disability Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries.

a. The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the receipts for disability-related ministries which develop and promote the creation of architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches and agencies within the annual conference, to be administered by the annual conference

Disability Concerns Committee (see ¶ 653) or an equivalent structure.

b. The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the receipts to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the General Board of Global Ministries or the designated administering agency for disability-related ministries. 823 is amended (as related to General Church Budget Implications):

Add:

¶ 823.7 Disability Awareness Sunday – Historically Disability Awareness Sunday has been observed annually on a date determined by each annual conference. Congregations are to observe Disability Awareness Sunday on the Sunday after Labor Day or on another date appropriate to the local church. Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. The observance of Disability Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries.

a. The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the receipts for disability-related ministries which develop and promote the creation of architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches and agencies within the annual conference, to be administered by the annual conference Disability Concerns Committee (see ¶ 653) or an equivalent structure.

b. The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the receipts to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the General Board of Global Ministries or the designated administering agency for disability-related ministries.

Amend: ¶ 823.7 to ¶ 823.8

Amend: ¶ 823.8 to ¶ 823.9

Rationale: Disability Awareness Sunday was established as an Approved Sunday for Annual Conference Observance in 1996 (¶ 265.4). The transitioning of Disability Awareness Sunday to a churchwide special Sunday with offering will enable the Church to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities and to provide more adequate funding of existing and newly emerging ministries. The Church presently recognizes and promotes six (6) churchwide special Sundays with Offerings (¶ 263) – Human Relations Day, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday – and has named specialized ministries as recipients of funds received through these offerings.

The disability rights movement has grown considerably since its early days as WWII veterans returned home with physical and psychological disabilities, to the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by the United States in 1990, to today's inclusion of people with a variety of disabilities in societal roles which had earlier been denied them. Despite the "Call to Inclusiveness" in The Ministry of All Christians (¶139) and the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities" in our Social Principles (¶ 162.I) the Church struggles with providing inclusive and accessible programming, camping and retreat centers, seminary training, church facilities, and other ministries.

*Submitted by Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health, and Lynn Swedberg, Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries*

**Action: Resolution was defeated.**

## 5. Petition on Changes Regarding “Incapacity Leave”

### PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: 2008 Discipline ¶¶ 357, 652 (related)

The 2012 General Conference directs the following:

57 of the 2008 Discipline is amended as follows:

¶ 357. Incapacity Medical Leave Resulting From Due to Medical Health Matters and Disabling Conditions which Prevent Performance of Ministerial Duties

1. When clergy who are members of an annual conference (¶ 369) are unable to perform their ministerial work duties because of incapacity due to health matters medical and disabling conditions, upon recommendations of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, and by a majority vote of the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the annual conference who are present and voting, they may be granted annual incapacity medical leave without losing their relationship to the annual conference; provided, however, that such leave may be granted or renewed upon reasonable and appropriate investigation of the case by the joint committee on incapacity clergy medical leave of the annual conference, or the party responsible for managing the incapacity of clergy medical leaves in accordance with the annual conference’s policies, which will report its findings to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions. This relationship may be initiated by the clergy member or cabinet with or without the consent of the clergy member through the Board of Ordained Ministry. When incapacity medical leave is given without the clergy member’s consent, reasonable accommodation shall be offered whenever possible. When a clergy member is granted incapacity medical leave by the annual conference, if the medical evidence has not yet met the standards for the receipt of benefits as set forth in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, section 5.04, the conference board of pensions may authorize payment of the benefits in the amount that would otherwise be payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The payments shall be made by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as a charge to the annual conference granting the incapacity medical leave. If payments from the Comprehensive Protection Plan are subsequently approved, the annual conference will be reimbursed for benefits already paid, not to exceed the amount otherwise payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. Each incapacity medical leave granted by the annual conference shall be recorded in the conference minutes.

2. When clergy who are members of an annual conference are unable to perform their ministerial work duties between sessions of the annual conference on account of medical matters and disabling conditions, with the approval of a majority of the district superintendents, after consultation with the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the executive committee of the conference board of pensions, an incapacity a medical leave may be granted by the bishop for the remainder of the conference year; provided, however, that such leave may be granted upon reasonable and appropriate investigation of the case including accommodation provisions by the joint committee on incapacity clergy medical leave of the annual conference, or the party responsible for managing the incapacity of clergy medical leaves in accordance with the annual conference’s policies, which will report its findings to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions. When a clergy member is granted incapacity medical leave by the bishop, if the medical evidence has not yet met the standards for receipt of benefits as set forth in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, section 5.04, the conference board of pensions may authorize payment of the benefits in the amount that would otherwise be payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The payments shall be made by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as a charge to the annual conference granting the incapacity medical leave. If payments from the Comprehensive Protection Plan are subsequently approved, the annual conference will be reimbursed for

benefits already paid, not to exceed the amount otherwise payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

3. When clergy members on incapacity medical leave provide medical evidence that they have recovered sufficiently to resume ministerial work duties, or are able to return through reasonable accommodation, with the approval of a majority of the district superintendents, after consultation with the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the executive committee of the conference board of pensions, they may receive an appointment from a bishop between sessions of the annual conference, thereby terminating the incapacity medical leave. Such appointment shall be reported immediately by the cabinet to the conference board of pensions and to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Such termination of leave, together with the effective date, shall also be recorded in the minutes of the annual conference at its next regular session.

4. A person under consideration for incapacity medical leave shall have the right to appear before the joint committee on incapacity clergy medical leave or to designate someone to meet with the committee on his or her behalf. In the event of unresolved issues, a person will be ensured of fair process per the guidelines for administrative hearings in ¶362.2

5. Any person eligible to receive an appointment from a bishop and able to perform ministerial duties may not be placed on involuntary medical leave solely because of a medical condition. All reasonable accommodations should be made to enable qualified clergy with disabilities to serve in ministry settings compatible with their gifts and graces. (See 2008 Book of Resolutions, No. 3002)

652 of the 2008 Discipline is amended as follows:

¶ 652. Each annual conference shall establish a procedure by which it will manage incapacity of clergy medical leaves. The annual conference may establish a joint committee on incapacity clergy medical leave. If the annual conference establishes such a committee, it should be composed of at least two representatives each from the Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, who may be elected by those boards at the beginning of each quadrennium and at other times when vacancies occur, and a district superintendent appointed from time to time by the bishop to represent the cabinet. The joint committee shall be encouraged to include in its composition a person with a disability, preferably someone under appointment. Unless and until other members are elected, the chairperson and registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the chairperson and secretary of the conference board of pensions, or others designated by them, shall be authorized to represent their respective boards. The committee shall organize at the beginning of each quadrennium by the election of a chairperson and a secretary. If the annual conference does not establish a joint committee, the annual conference's established policy and process for managing incapacity of clergy medical leave nonetheless should involve the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pensions and representation from the cabinet.

The duties of the annual conference, with respect to incapacity clergy medical leave, or the joint committee on incapacity clergy medical leave, or its equivalent, shall be:

- a) To study the problems of incapacity issues related to of clergy medical leave in the annual conference.
- b) To provide for a continuing personal ministry to any disabled clergy on medical leave of the conference and to aid them in maintaining fellowship with the members of the conference.
- c) To provide advice and support to and, where appropriate advocacy for, clergy on incapacity medical leave in (i) applying for and securing disability benefits from the Comprehensive Protection Plan and government programs, (ii) exploring possible sources of interim financial assistance before disability benefits can be obtained, and (iii) establishing rehabilitation and return-to-service programs, and (iv) assessing the need for and providing reasonable accommodations.

- d) To make recommendations to the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pensions, and the cabinet on matters related to incapacity clergy medical leave, including steps for its the prevention of the need for medical leave; incapacity the process of granting medical leave, benefits, grants or other assistance, and programs of rehabilitation.
- e) To cooperate with and give assistance to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in its administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the Comprehensive Protection Plan and other benefit plans for clergy on incapacity medical leave, and to the extent applicable assist with the disability benefits and other benefits provided under those plans.

All references to “joint committee on incapacity” in the Discipline are changed to “joint committee on clergy medical leave.”

Rationale for change of language: The term “incapacity” when describing a clergy person who is in need of a health-related leave denotes a lack of ability and/or eligibility, yet the need of a clergy person to take such a leave from an appointment for medical reasons does not mean one is inherently or permanently incapable of serving the church. The United Methodist Church has a vital interest in recognizing and nurturing all persons who have been ordained and commissioned for ministry, and cannot afford to waste the gifts and graces of any person eligible to receive an appointment by a bishop. Eligibility should not be determined solely by the presence of a disability.

Rationale for change of process: Often clergy in the process or on “incapacity” leave feel abandoned by their conference and have difficulty fitting into an appropriate status in the Church. There is a need for an expanded due process providing opportunity for those persons to be heard. An important theological basis for ministry is that “ordained persons exercise their ministry in covenant with all Christians ... [and] also live in covenant of mutual care and accountability with all those who share their ordination, especially in The United Methodist Church, with the ordained who are members of the same annual conference and part of the same Order.” (§ 303.3).

*Submitted by Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary, UMCOR Health, and Lynn Swedberg, Chair, United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries*

**Action: Resolution was defeated.**

## **6. Petition to Modify Certified Lay Minister Process**

### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Amend ¶ 272

¶ 272. Certified Lay Minister.

In order to enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches, expand team ministry in churches and in deference to an expression of gifts and evidence of God’s grace associated with the lay ministry of early Methodism, the certified lay minister is to be recognized and utilized.

1. The certified lay minister shall preach the Word, provide a care ministry to the congregation, assist in program leadership, and be a witness in the community for the growth, missional and connectional thrust of The United Methodist Church as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person.
2. A certified lay speaker or a person with equivalent training as defined by his/her district or conference may be certified as a lay minister by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Board of Laity or its

equivalent after he/she has:

- a) Been recommended by the pastor of the local church where he/she holds membership and by vote of the Church Council or Charge Conference.
- b) Completed courses relevant to his/her assignment including preaching and exegesis, the care of the congregation, and other courses as recommended by the General Board of Discipleship and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in consultation with leaders in the annual conference, and other appropriate Agencies and organizations.
- c) Demonstrated appreciation of the history, polity, doctrine, worship and liturgy of The United Methodist Church through service in his/her local church.
- d) Been recommended by the District Superintendent after completion of appropriate screening.
- e) Made application in writing to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Board of Laity or its equivalent.
- f) Appeared before the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Board of Laity or its equivalent for review and approval.

3. The certified lay minister is to apply in writing for recertification bi-annually to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Board of Laity or its equivalent upon:

- a) Ministry Review by Church Council or Charge Conference from the congregation of which he/she is a member.
- b) Satisfactory completion of an approved Continuing Education event, and
- c) Recommendation of the District Superintendent.

4. The certified lay minister under assignment is to appear bi-annually before the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Board of Laity or its equivalent for recertification after:

- a) Ministry Review by Church Council or Charge Conference where assigned,
- b) Satisfactory completion of an approved Continuing Education event, and
- c) Recommendation of the District Superintendent.

#### 5. Transfer of Certification by Certified Lay Ministers

A certified lay minister who moves may transfer certification to the new district upon receipt of a letter from the previous district's Committee on Ordained Ministry Board of Laity or its equivalent confirming current certification.

6. The certified lay minister is a lay person and as such is not eligible for support by equitable compensation funds or pension which are provided for clergy members. The local congregation is encouraged to provide appropriate compensation.

Rationale: This change will allow continued affirmation of lay ministry while not confusing the certified lay minister with local pastor. As a lay ministry, supervision should come under something other than a group which is charged with the credentialing process for clergy status.

*Submitted by Kentucky Conference Board of Ordained Ministry*

**Action: Resolution was approved.**

## **7. Petition to Change Percent of MEF Retained by Annual Conferences**

### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Amend ¶ 816

¶ 816. The Ministerial Education Fund—The council shall recommend to the General Conference the sum that the Church shall undertake for the Ministerial Education Fund and the method by which it

shall be apportioned to the annual conferences, in accordance with the provisions adopted by the 1968 General Conference in establishing the Ministerial Education Fund. The purpose of the fund is to enable the Church to unify and expand its program of financial support for the recruitment and education of ordained and diaconal ministers and to equip the annual conferences to meet increased demands in this area.<sup>23</sup> The maximum amount possible from this fund shall go directly for programs and services in theological education, the enlistment and continuing education of ordained and diaconal ministers, and courses of study. When these funds are used to finance continuing education events sponsored by the Board of Ordained Ministry of an annual conference, such events may be open to laity for their attendance and participation at the option of the Board of Ordained Ministry of each annual conference.

1. Of the total money raised in each annual conference for the Ministerial Education Fund, 25 40 percent shall be retained by the annual conference that raised it, to be used in its program of ministerial education as approved by the annual conference and administered through its Board of Ordained Ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry will confer concerning use of the Ministerial Education Fund. Administrative costs of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be a claim on the conference's operating budget. No annual conference that participated in a 1 percent plan or other conference program of ministerial student scholarships and loan grants prior to the establishment of this fund shall receive less for this purpose than it received in the last year of the quadrennium preceding the establishment of the fund, provided the giving from that conference for ministerial education does not fall below the level achieved in the quadrennium preceding the establishment of the fund.

- a) "Service Loans" from the conference portion of the Ministerial Education Fund may be considered repaid if the recipients served five years in the connection in appointments approved by their bishop.
- b) In case the recipients of these loans do not satisfy the terms of the "Service Loans" by service in the "connection," they would make arrangements to repay the loans with the conferences from which they received their loans.

2. Of the total money raised in each annual conference for the Ministerial Education Fund, 75 60 percent shall be remitted by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the council for distribution to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for support of ministerial education and shall be administered by that board. It shall be distributed as follows:

- a) At least 75 percent of the amount received by the divisions shall be distributed to the theological schools of The United Methodist Church on a formula established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry after consultation with the theological schools. All money allocated to the theological schools shall be used for current operations, not for physical expansion. Ministerial Education funds allocated to United Methodist theological schools for current operations shall only be used for:
  - United Methodist student scholarships
  - Faculty and staff salaries and benefits for those who prepare United Methodist students (implementing the curriculum required in ¶ 324.4) for ordained ministry or service as local pastors through the Course of Study program.

All United Methodist theological schools receiving Ministerial Education Fund allocations shall submit annual reports to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry detailing how the Ministerial Education Fund allocations were spent.

- b) The remaining portion of the amount received shall be used for supplemental distributions to the theological schools and for board use in its program of ministerial enlistment and development. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry will recommend to the general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry appropriate funding for divisional programs of ministerial enlistment and development.

- c) Beginning in the 2009-2012 quadrennium, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall facilitate the creation of United Methodist Ministerial Education Funds in the central conferences,

including the development and provision of funds for this new initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to improve and strengthen the existing indigenous structures for theological education in order to create a sustainable system of education for central conference clergy.

3. Annual conferences shall regard this fund as a priority to be met before any additional benevolences, grants, or funds are allocated to a theological school or school of religion.

4. The General Commission on Communication shall promote the Ministerial Education Fund.

Rationale: While the recent changes in the made by GBHEM in the distribution of the funds relating to the accountability of MEF monies are to be applauded, this change will allow the annual conferences raising the funds to actually have more ability to fund seminary education in accessible ways. In many ACs the majority of students do not have access to a school who receives a bulk of the MEF funding. Hence they are penalized for being unable to relocate geographically as these finances are not available as scholarships and/or service loans. This change would allow more equitable funding to areas who depend upon University Senate approved schools for the bulk of their seminary students.

*Submitted by Kentucky Conference Board of Ordained Ministry*

**Action: Resolution was approved.**

## **8. Petition Regarding University Senate Appeals**

### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

We propose a new Book of Discipline par. 1417.3, with the current pars. 3 and 4 becoming pars. 4 and 5.

1417.3 The university senate's review of a school, college, university, or graduate theological seminary for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry in determining candidate educational eligibility for admission into full connection shall include consultation with the board of ordained ministry and the bishop of the conference within whose bounds the institution is located. The board of ordained ministry and the bishop shall be kept advised of the progress of such review and be given ample time to comment upon it prior to a decision being made. If an institution is denied approval, or delisted as an approved institution, that institution, the board of ordained ministry, and the bishop shall have the right, severally or in cooperation, to appeal the university senate's decision to an appropriate group chosen by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry. This appeal shall be in addition to any appeal process promulgated by the university senate, and no person hearing the appeal shall be a member of the university senate. Institutional approval or delisting decisions of the university senate shall be subject to approval by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Rationale:

While having great appreciation for the hard work done by the University Senate the current Disciplinary standards place sole responsibility for the review of approved institutions at their discretion. While ¶ 1416.5 includes assessment of Church relationships as a part of the assessment review it does not specifically mention that the University Senate must be in conversation with the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, or any other entity of the conference in which the institution is located to assess the impact their decision will make upon that particular annual conference or surrounding annual conferences. This addition ensures those who will be affected most directly/immediately at least have input and do not learn about the decision after the fact. It also provides for an appeal process that currently does not exist which allows an annual conference, the institution, et al an opportunity to a

hearing of the appeal to a body other than the one which initially made the decision/recommendation.

*Submitted by Kentucky Conference Board of Ordained Ministry*

**Action: Resolution was approved.**

## **9. Petition to Modify Composition of University Senate**

### **PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

#### **¶ 1414. Organization and Membership**

1. The University Senate is an elected body of professionals in higher education created by the General Conference to determine which schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church.<sup>30</sup>

2. The senate shall be composed of twenty-five voting members who, at the time of election, are actively engaged in the work of education through employment in an educational institution and are fitted by training and experience for the technical work of evaluating educational institutions or are members of an annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry, which is charged with credentialing clergy for service. Election is for the quadrennium, except in cases where conflict of interest arises as a result of change in employment. Nine Seven of these members shall be elected quadrennially by the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church—seven of whom they shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions or holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships, serving on or staffing an Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; four six by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry—two three of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related higher educational institutions, or the other two holding other a positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships, and three serving on or staffing an Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; four by the General Conference—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions at the time of their election or the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships and two serving on or staffing Annual Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry; four two by the senate itself, without limitation other than the general provisions of this paragraph; and four six shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops—two three of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other two or holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships, and three serving on or staffing Annual Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry. Each of the five electing bodies shall elect at least one woman.

Members elected by the General Conference shall be nominated and elected by the following procedure: Twelve persons shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops, six of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other six or holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships, the other six serving on or staffing Annual Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry. At the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor but at no other time. From these nominations, the General Conference shall elect without discussion, by ballot and by plurality vote, the four persons to serve on the senate, two from each of the two categories of nominees. Should a vacancy occur in the members elected by General Conference in the interim prior to the next General Conference, the Council of Bishops shall appoint a replacement taken from the remaining nominees.

The election process shall be repeated at each succeeding General Conference. Care should be taken that women, racial and ethnic persons, and representatives from the United Methodist-related Black colleges and graduate theological seminaries shall be members of the senate. If a member (other than the four elected by the General Conference) retires from educational work or no longer serves on or staffs an Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, or for any other cause a vacancy occurs during the quadrennium, it shall be filled by the agency by which the retiring member was elected at its next meeting. The general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the associate general secretaries of the Divisions of Higher Education and Ordained Ministry of that board shall serve as ex officio members of the senate, with voice but without vote. There shall be one staff representative on the senate from the General Board of Global Ministries, with voice but without vote, named by the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries.

3. The associate general secretary of the Division of Higher Education shall be the executive secretary of the senate. The general secretary of the board shall convene it for organization at the beginning of each quadrennium. The senate shall elect its own officers, including a president, a vice president, and a recording secretary, and it may appoint such committees and commissions and delegate to them such powers as are incident to its work. Thereafter, it shall meet semiannually at such time and place as it may determine. Special meetings may be called on the written request of five members or at the discretion of the president and the executive secretary.

4. After consultation with the officers of the senate, the Division of Higher Education shall provide in its annual budget for the expense of the senate as it may deem sufficient, except that expenses incurred by the senate on behalf of any other board of the Church shall be borne by that board.

Rationale: Since the institutions reviewed and approved by the University Senate have direct impact upon Annual Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry and those appearing before them for credentialing, Boards of Ordained Ministry should have a voice in the determination of the institutions approved to educate those who will serve.

*Submitted by Kentucky Conference Board of Ordained Ministry*

**Action: Resolution was approved.**

## **10. Resolution To Drop the I-Word**

**WHEREAS** Holy Scripture reminds us of the inherent worth and value of all people, and

**WHEREAS** the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church “deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race,” and

**WHEREAS** we honor the diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds reflected in the body of Christ, and

**WHEREAS** we understand that immigrant rights are often framed within a hateful and hostile discourse in media, government and the church, and

**WHEREAS** we are aware that certain racially derogatory language used in media, political discourse and other institutional settings has historically fostered harmful actions including racial profiling practices, hate crimes and violence, and

**WHEREAS** the use of the term “illegal” (the i-word) when referring to people dehumanizes and divides communities, contributing to punitive and discriminatory actions aimed primarily at immigrants and communities of color, and

**WHEREAS** the racially derogatory i-word endangers basic human rights including the presumption of innocence and the right to due process.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that as the Justice Team of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, we:

- Ask United Methodists to commit in both written and verbal communication that no child of God is “illegal.”
- Strongly encourage local churches, annual conferences, general agencies, campus ministry units, and any other place where the United Methodist Church has a witness to expand awareness within the church and communities the negative racial impacts of calling people “illegal.”
- Continue to affirm the human rights of all persons regardless of their nationality or legal status.
- Call on United Methodists to strongly denounce xenophobic and racist language used to describe human beings.

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that we endorse the Drop the I-Word Campaign and join with communities across the Church and the country in asking media organizations and journalists to stop using the i-word in their description of human beings.

*Submitted by the Justice Team of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church*

**Action: Resolution was not approved.**

## **RESOLUTION ON MERGER**

### **Covenant of Merger Between Gateway Community United Methodist Church and Epworth United Methodist Church**

WHEREAS, the Gateway Community United Methodist Church (former Beechmont and Oakdale congregations) in Louisville, Kentucky has for many years had significant life-giving and life-changing ministry to her community;

WHEREAS, the Epworth United Methodist Church feels that this merger will help both churches more effectively fulfill their ministry and looks forward to receiving Gateway’s members with loving open arms;

WHEREAS, these two congregations realize that together they can combine their resources to better address the needs of the community;

WHEREAS, at duly constituted church conferences, Epworth United Methodist Church voted on May 15, 2011, to merge with Gateway Community United Methodist Church; and, Gateway Community United Methodist Church voted to merge with Epworth United Methodist Church on May 25, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent of the Louisville District approves the merger,

BE IT RESOLVED by the congregations of Gateway Community United Methodist Church and the Epworth United Methodist Church, as determined by a vote of the church conference of each charge approving the plan of merger, THAT these two congregations shall merge to form one single congregation of The United Methodist Church, in accordance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2008) and under the terms set forth herein:

The name of the new congregation shall be Epworth United Methodist Church.

The Gateway Community United Methodist Church building will be transferred to the United Methodist Church-Louisville District Trustees, Inc. and when sold up to \$230,000.00 of the sale proceeds will be given to Epworth United Methodist Church for building improvements.

All assets of Gateway Community United Methodist Church, both real and personal property, remaining as of July 1, 2011 will be transferred to Epworth United Methodist Church.

The members of both churches will become members of the Epworth United Methodist Church. If members choose to join another church, membership will be lodged with the Louisville District until July 31, 2011. On August 1, 2011, letters of transfer will be provided from Epworth United Methodist Church.

Be it therefore resolved that the Kentucky Annual Conference, meeting in Covington, Kentucky on June 11, 2011 does affirm the merger of Gateway Community United Methodist Church and Epworth United Methodist Church.

[Signed]

Lindsey Davis, Resident Bishop  
Eugene C. Pillow, Ashland  
Michael T. Powers, Bowling Green  
Todd B. Love, Columbia  
Farley Stuart, III, Corbin  
Kevin Burney, Covington  
Michael L. Gibbons, Elizabethtown

Kenneth W. Cummings, Frankfort  
Mark Girard, Lexington  
Rebecca S. Curry, Louisville  
Jay F. Smith, Madisonville  
Dale A. Carden, Owensboro  
Charles H. Douglas, Prestonsburg

## **RESOLUTIONS ON ABANDONMENT**

### **1. Snively UMC in the Prestonsburg District**

Whereas, the Snively United Methodist Church of Pike County in the Prestonsburg District was apparently discontinued in 1986 with the direction that the property be deeded to the Salem United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, no record of the discontinuance resolution for Snively United Methodist Church can be located in the journals of the Kentucky Annual Conference; and,

Whereas, District Superintendent Rev. Charles H. Douglas recommends that the church be declared abandoned and that the annual conference trustees assume control of all real and personal property currently held in trust by the Snively United Methodist Church and that said real property be conveyed by deed to the trustees of the Salem United Methodist Church, pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 2548 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008 Edition ("Discipline") and Standing Rule 21 of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. ("Kentucky Annual Conference"); and,

Whereas, the Appointive Cabinet of the Kentucky Annual Conference concurs with the recommendation to declare the church abandoned and to convey the real property of said Snively United Methodist Church to the Salem United Methodist Church;

Now therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED this 11th day of June 2011 that Snively United Methodist Church of the Prestonsburg District is hereby declared abandoned pursuant to the provisions of ¶¶ 2515 and 2548 (3) of The Discipline. The Kentucky Annual Conference Trustees are hereby authorized to deed the real property of said church to the trustees of the Salem United Methodist Church in the Prestonsburg District.

[Signed]

Lindsey Davis, Resident Bishop  
Eugene C. Pillow, Ashland  
Michael T. Powers, Bowling Green  
Todd B. Love, Columbia  
Farley Stuart, III, Corbin  
Kevin Burney, Covington  
Michael L. Gibbons, Elizabethtown

Kenneth W. Cummings, Frankfort  
Mark Girard, Lexington  
Rebecca S. Curry, Louisville  
Jay F. Smith, Madisonville  
Dale A. Carden, Owensboro  
Charles H. Douglas, Prestonsburg

## **2. Friendship UMC in the Corbin District**

Whereas, the Friendship United Methodist Church of Pulaski County in the Corbin District has declined in membership to the point that worship services are no longer held in said church; and,

Whereas, the church property is no longer used, kept or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship; and,

Whereas, District Superintendent Rev. Farley Stuart III recommends that the church be declared abandoned and that said property be transferred pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 2548 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008 Edition (“Discipline”) and Standing Rule 21 of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. (“Kentucky Annual Conference”) and that the annual conference trustees assume control of all real and personal property currently held in trust by Friendship United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, the appointive cabinet of the Kentucky Annual Conference confers with the recommendation to declare the church abandoned and to transfer the real and personal property of said Friendship United Methodist Church to the annual conference trustees;

Now Therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED this 11th day of June 2011 that Friendship United Methodist Church of the Corbin District is hereby declared abandoned pursuant to the provisions of ¶¶ 2515 and 2548 (3) of The Discipline. The Kentucky Annual Conference trustees are hereby authorized to assume control of all property; real, personal, tangible, and intangible property of said church; and to sell the real property of said church in compliance with the provisions of The Discipline and Standing Rule 21, with the proceeds from the sale of the property to be used at the discretion of the Corbin District Superintendent and the Corbin District Board of Church Location and Building.

Be it further resolved that any remaining members of the Friendship United Methodist Church have the privilege of moving their membership to the church of their choice; with the membership role being deposited with the Corbin District Superintendent.

[Signed]

Lindsey Davis, Resident Bishop  
Eugene C. Pillow, Ashland

Kenneth W. Cummings, Frankfort

Michael T. Powers, Bowling Green  
Todd B. Love, Columbia  
Farley Stuart, III, Corbin  
Kevin Burney, Covington  
Michael L. Gibbons, Elizabethtown

Mark Girard, Lexington  
Rebecca S. Curry, Louisville  
Jay F. Smith, Madisonville  
Dale A. Carden, Owensboro  
Charles H. Douglas, Prestonsburg

## **RESOLUTIONS ON DISCONTINUANCE**

### **1. Bonnieville UMC in the Elizabethtown District**

Whereas, the Bonnieville United Methodist Church of Hart County in the Elizabethtown District has declined in membership; and,

Whereas, the remaining two active members have voted to discontinue Bonnieville United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, District Superintendent Dr. Michael Gibbons and the Elizabethtown District Building and Location Committee recommend that following the discontinuation of Bonnieville UMC all real and personal property currently held in trust by Bonnieville UMC be transferred pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2548 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2008 Edition (“Discipline”) and Standing Rule 21 of The Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. (“Kentucky Annual Conference”); and,

Whereas, the Appointive Cabinet of the Kentucky Annual Conference concurs with the recommendation to discontinue said Bonnieville UMC of the Elizabethtown District;

Now Therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED this 13th day of December 2010 that Bonnieville United Methodist Church of the Elizabethtown District is hereby discontinued effective December 31, 2010 and pursuant to the provisions of ¶¶ 2515 and 2548 (2) of The Discipline. The Kentucky Annual Conference Trustees are hereby authorized to assume control of all property; real, personal, tangible, and intangible property of said church; and to sell the real property of said church in compliance with the provisions of The Discipline and Standing Rule 21, with the proceeds from the sale of all property to be used at the discretion of the Elizabethtown District Superintendent and the Elizabethtown District Committee on Building and Location.

Be it further resolved that the remaining members of the Bonnieville United Methodist Church have the privilege of moving their membership to the church of their choice; with the membership roll being deposited with the Elizabethtown District Superintendent.

[Signed]

Lindsey Davis, Resident Bishop  
Eugene C. Pillow, Ashland  
Michael T. Powers, Bowling Green  
Todd B. Love, Columbia  
Farley Stuart, III, Corbin  
Kevin Burney, Covington  
Michael L. Gibbons, Elizabethtown

Kenneth W. Cummings, Frankfort  
Mark Girard, Lexington  
Rebecca S. Curry, Louisville  
Jay F. Smith, Madisonville  
Dale A. Carden, Owensboro  
Charles H. Douglas, Prestonsburg

## 2. Preston Highway UMC in the Louisville District

**Whereas**, the charge conference of the Preston Highway United Methodist Church (“Preston Highway UMC”) of Jefferson County in the Louisville District previously voted to surrender its charter and “restart” pursuant to the “New Church and Congregational Development Restart Process” (“Restart Process”) of The Kentucky Annual Conference; and,

**Whereas**, the Restart Process provides that the Conference Trustees be the “handler for any assets” that Preston Highway UMC transferred into the “Restart Process”; and,

**Whereas**, the Restart Process provided that the church’s vote to restart is a vote to discontinue the charter of the church and a transfer of the church’s assets into trust for the restart project; and,

**Whereas**, the Preston Highway UMC has declined in membership,

**Whereas**, District Superintendent Rev. Rebecca Curry recommends that Preston Highway UMC be discontinued and that the property be transferred pursuant to the provisions of ¶ 2515 and ¶ 2548 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2008 Edition (“Discipline”) and Standing Rule 21 of The Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. (“Kentucky Annual Conference”); and,

**Whereas**, the Appointive Cabinet of The Kentucky Annual Conference concurs with the recommendation to discontinue Preston Highway UMC of the Louisville District;

**Now therefore**, it is herby **RESOLVED** this 11th day of April, 2011:

1. That the Preston Highway UMC of the Louisville District is herby discontinued pursuant to the previous of ¶ 2548 (1) and (2) of the Discipline. The Kentucky Annual Conference Trustees are herby authorized to assume control of all real, personal, tangible, and intangible property of said church; and to sell and otherwise dispose of the property of said church in compliance with all applicable provisions of The Discipline and Standing Rule 21, with the proceeds from the sale of the property to be used at the discretion of the Louisville District Superintendent and the Louisville District Committee on Building and Location.
2. Pursuant to ¶ 2515 of The Discipline, consent is given to the sale of the real property of Preston Highway UMC; and, the Conference Trustees are herby directed to convey the real property of the Preston Highway UMC to Wesley House Community Services, Inc. (“Wesley House”), a Kentucky corporation in good standing and a mission of the General Board of Global Ministries Women’s Division. Conveyance to the Wesley House shall be for a purchase price of no less than \$225,000.00 and contingent upon binding agreements between the Annual Conference Trustees and the Wesley House providing: (a) the remaining members of Preston Highway UMC would continue to be provided space at the church’s property for worship and congregational activities; (b) full payment of the purchase price to be made at closing; and, (c) the Wesley House would include an indication on printed materials and the property that the Wesley House is a mission of The United Methodist Church.
3. Any remaining members of the Preston Highway UMC have the privilege of moving their membership to the church of their choice; with the membership roll being deposited with the Louisville District Superintendent.

[Signed]

Lindsey Davis, Resident Bishop  
Eugene C. Pillow, Ashland

Kenneth W. Cummings, Frankfort

Michael T. Powers, Bowling Green  
Todd B. Love, Columbia  
Farley Stuart, III, Corbin  
Kevin Burney, Covington  
Michael L. Gibbons, Elizabethtown

Mark Girard, Lexington  
Rebecca S. Curry, Louisville  
Jay F. Smith, Madisonville  
Dale A. Carden, Owensboro  
Charles H. Douglas, Prestonsburg

## **CHANGES IN CHARGE LINES**

### **Columbia District**

- Take Red Lick from the Emory Chapel / Red Lick Charge and place with Breeding to form the Breeding / Red Lick Charge. Emory Chapel becomes a station church.
- Dissolve the Pickett's Chapel / Pleasant Ridge Charge. Pickett's Chapel and Pleasant Ridge become station churches.
- Merge Mt. Zion church with Mannsville church leaving the Mannsville / Stoner Creek Charge.

### **Corbin District**

- Dissolve the Ringgold/Cook's Chapel Charge. Ringgold and Cook's Chapel become station churches.

### **Elizabethtown District**

- Take Longview from Longview/ Cecilia Charge and place with Alpha to form the Longview/Alpha Charge. Cecilia becomes a station church.
- Take Pleasant View from Pleasant View/ Howe Valley Charge and place with Ridge Springs to form the Pleasant View/ Ridge Springs Charge. Howe Valley becomes a station church.
- Dissolve the Bonnieville/ Millerstown Charge due to the closing of Bonnieville. Millerstown becomes a station church.

### **Madisonville District**

- Add Parkview to the Mt. Pleasant charge forming the Mt. Pleasant/Parkview charge
- Add Siloam to the Oakland charge forming the Oakland/Siloam charge

### **Prestonsburg District**

- Take Lothair from Red Bird Missionary Conference. Place with Hazard Bowman Memorial forming the Hazard Bowman Memorial/Lothair Charge.