

VII. Resolutions & Petitions

RESOLUTION ON MISSIONAL CONGREGATION

What local churches have been organized as missional congregations?
Corona de Vida in the Madisonville District

Action: The report on Closings, Mergers, and Charge Lines was adopted.

RESOLUTION ON MERGER

Resolution to Ratify the Merger of South Portsmouth UMC and First UMC, South Shore

Whereas the South Portsmouth United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of South Shore, both churches located in Greenup County of the Ashland District, had been on the same charge for an extended period of time; and whereas, in the Fall of 2005, South Portsmouth UMC had only four active members; and whereas both congregations had voted upon and agreed to merge and form a new congregation, to be known as First United Methodist of South Shore; and, whereas, the assets, liabilities, and membership of the two congregations were combined; and, whereas, the proceeds of the sale of the former South Portsmouth United Methodist Church property became part of the assets of the newly merged congregation; and, whereas, the merger was agreed to ad interim by Bishop James R. King and the members of the appointive cabinet of the Kentucky Annual Conference; and whereas, the resolution of merger was not presented in a timely manner to the 2006 session of the Kentucky Annual Conference;

Be it therefore resolved that the Kentucky Annual Conference, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, June 1-5, 2008 does officially ratify the merger of the former South Portsmouth United Methodist Church and the First United Methodist Church of South Shore.

[Signed]

James R. King, Jr., Resident Bishop

Mark Girard, Ashland District

Mike Powers, Bowling Green District

Darren Brandon, Columbia District

Terry Faris, Corbin District

Terry Reffett, Covington District

Coleman Howlett, Elizabethtown District

Kenneth Cummings, Frankfort District

Paige Williams, Lexington District

Michael Gibbons, Louisville District

Jay Smith, Madisonville District

Dale Carden, Owensboro District

Lowell Ogden, Prestonsburg District

Action: The report on Closings, Mergers, and Charge Lines was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS ON DISCONTINUANCE

1. Resolution for the Discontinuance/Closing of the Liberty UMC in Whitley County

Whereas, the Liberty United Methodist Church located in Whitley County of the Corbin District of the Kentucky Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has dwindled to only one member; and whereas, a special called Charge Conference of the Williamsburg 1st/Pleasant View/Liberty charge voted to “discontinue” the Liberty United Methodist Church; therefore, be it resolved that the Liberty UMC will be discontinued as a United Methodist Church and the building and

property will be sold, and the proceeds from the sale of the building and property will be used in the Corbin District by investing the money into other building projects in the Corbin District, at the discretion of the Corbin District Superintendent and the Corbin District Committee on Building and Location. This action has been approved by Bishop James King and the appointive cabinet of the Kentucky Conference and by the Kentucky Annual Conference in session June 1-5, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky.

[Signed]

James R. King, Jr., Resident Bishop

Mark Girard, Ashland District

Mike Powers, Bowling Green District

Darren Brandon, Columbia District

Terry Faris, Corbin District

Terry Reffett, Covington District

Coleman Howlett, Elizabethtown District

Kenneth Cummings, Frankfort District

Paige Williams, Lexington District

Michael Gibbons, Louisville District

Jay Smith, Madisonville District

Dale Carden, Owensboro District

Lowell Ogden, Prestonsburg District

Action: The report on Closings, Mergers, and Charge Lines was adopted.

2. Resolution for the Discontinuance of St. Luke UMC in Covington, KY

Whereas, the St. Luke United Methodist Church located in Covington, KY in the Covington District has declined in membership; and whereas, the remaining members have voted to discontinue the St. Luke United Methodist Church at a Charge Conference on October 31, 2007, and celebrated their many years of ministry in a service of discontinuance on December 30, 2007; and whereas, Bishop James King and the appointive cabinet of the Kentucky Annual Conference concur with the decision to discontinue; be it resolved that the 2008 session of the Kentucky Annual Conference meeting in Louisville, KY declares that the St. Luke United Methodist Church is discontinued and that the proceeds from the disposition of the property be deposited with the Covington District Church Development Fund by the Kentucky Annual Conference Trustees, and be it further resolved that the members of said church have the privilege of moving their membership to the church of their choice, and the remaining members be transferred to the Covington Trinity United Methodist Church.

[Signed]

James R. King, Jr., Resident Bishop

Mark Girard, Ashland District

Mike Powers, Bowling Green District

Darren Brandon, Columbia District

Terry Faris, Corbin District

Terry Reffett, Covington District

Coleman Howlett, Elizabethtown District

Kenneth Cummings, Frankfort District

Paige Williams, Lexington District

Michael Gibbons, Louisville District

Jay Smith, Madisonville District

Dale Carden, Owensboro District

Lowell Ogden, Prestonsburg District

Action: The report on Closings, Mergers, and Charge Lines was adopted.

CHANGES IN CHARGE LINES

CORBIN DISTRICT

1. Harlan UMC and Baxter UMC are uniting to become the Harlan/Baxter charge.
2. Beech Grove UMC and Centerpost UMC are uniting to become the Beech Grove/Centerpost charge.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

1. Remove Bethel from the Bethel/Coffey's Charge to make the Bethel UMC charge and the Coffey's Charge.
2. Dissolve the Leslie/Dutch Creek Charge. Combine Leslie UMC with Sugar Grove.
3. Remove Redlick from the Redlick/Breeding Charge to make the Redlick Charge.
4. Combine Breeding and Dutch Creek to form the Breeding/Dutch Creek Charge.
5. Combine Union Chapel and Glen's Fork to form the Union Chapel/Glen's Chapel Charge.

ELIZABETHTOWN DISTRICT

1. Combine Bonnieville and Millerstown to form the Bonnieville/Millerstown Charge.
2. Combine Clarkson and Little Clifty to form the Clarkson/Little Clifty charge.
3. Combine Stephensport and Sample to form the Stephensport/Sample charge.
4. Combine Bloomfield and Woodlawn-Beech Fork to form the Bloomfield/Woodlawn-Beech Fork charge.
5. Combine Short Creek and Stone View to form the Short Creek/Stone View charge.

LEXINGTON DISTRICT

1. Combine Cedar Grove and Wisemantown to make the Wisemantown/Cedar Grove Charge in Estill County.

MADISONVILLE DISTRICT

1. Add LaFayette UMC to the Oakland UMC to create the Oakland/LaFayette charge.
2. Remove the Paradise UMC from the Smithland/Paradise charge to make the Paradise UMC charge and the Smithland UMC charge.
3. Remove the New Salem UMC from the Onton/New Salem charge to make the New Salem charge and the Onton charge.

OWENSBORO DISTRICT

1. Remove Dundee from the Fordsville/Dundee charge and Beech Valley from the Easton/Beech Valley charge. Place Fordsville with Easton forming the Fordsville/Easton charge. Place Dundee with Beech Valley forming the Dundee/Beech Valley charge.

Action: The report on Closings, Mergers, and Charge Lines was adopted.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION TO REPLACE THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE

Whereas, the Episcopal Residence of the Kentucky Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. ("Kentucky Annual Conference") is presently located at 3700 Gaston Court, Louisville, KY 40241; and

Whereas, said the present Episcopal Residence is in need of various repairs; and

Whereas, the Episcopal Residence Committee members believe that the Resident Bishop's residence should be in a location that is nearer to the Kentucky Annual Conference Center than currently exists;

It is Hereby Requested that the membership of the Kentucky Annual Conference grant the Episcopal Residence Committee the option to sell the Present Episcopal Residence and replace it with a residence which the Episcopal Residence Committee believes is in better physical condition; is located in a more convenient distance from the Annual Conference Center; and can be purchased at a price that is within a reasonable cost range with reasonable financing arrangements; all to be within the discretion of the Episcopal Residence Committee, which will present such price and financing arrangements to the Trustees of the Annual

Conference for final approval and execution of all necessary documents.

So Resolved this _____ day of May, 2008 by the Episcopal Residence Committee of the Kentucky Annual Conference.

Action: The Conference passed the resolution.

RESOLUTION ON COMPASSION FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS Jesus called his disciples and followers to “strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,” and we, as disciples, are called to embody a new order of love and justice; and

WHEREAS raids on undocumented immigrants in the United States represent governmental failure in addressing complex national and international economic and political dynamics, which close legal avenues and force immigrants into the shadows, where they are subject to exploitation and virtual servitude; and

WHEREAS raids, indefinite detention, and deportation can tear families apart and create anguish, economic hardship and terror that is contrary to the Kingdom that Jesus describes; and

WHEREAS, in a new 2008 General Conference Resolution, The United Methodist Church affirms that “regardless of legal status or nationality, we are all connected through Christ to one another...The solidarity we share through Christ eliminates the boundaries and barriers which exclude and isolate. Therefore, the sojourners we are called to love are our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters; indeed, they are us.” [Welcoming the Migrant to the US]

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kentucky Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon the President of the United States, the Congress, and all relevant departments of the federal government to work for a just, humane comprehensive reform of immigration laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kentucky Annual Conference calls upon its Justice Team to (1) Develop plans for emergency responses to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, which might include providing material aid, legal services, childcare, interpretation, and spiritual support, and taking part in vigils and public witness pointing toward justice and humane treatment of immigrants. (2) Investigate the locations of ICE detention centers with the conference boundaries and consider how to provide ministries, legal support, and other services that will serve the objectives of Christian hospitality and civil and human rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be sent within thirty days of the end of this conference to President Bush; Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and Julie Myers, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for Immigration for Customs Enforcement, as well as all U.S. Representatives and Senators who represent United Methodists within this annual conference.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Kentucky Annual Conference (1) will engage in study of new General Conference resolutions on migration and immigration and other resources that explore the biblical and theological bases for the church’s positions and responses on these pressing issues; (2) participate in connectional education and training on immigration and collaborate as occasion provides with the United Methodist Task Force on Immigration (an interagency and inter-organizational body mandated by the 2008 General Conference).

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kentucky Annual Conference urges all its congregations and their members to pray for the people whose lives are torn apart by ICE raids and detention, and will, as appropriate, support denominational and ecumenical ministries to assist families affected by raids and detention.

Sponsored by The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions (submitted by Refugee/Immigration Ministries and Eliseo Mejia; amended by the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions)

Recommended: The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions recommended concurrence with the amended resolution.

Action: The Conference concurred with the amended resolution.

PETITIONS

PETITION OF APPRECIATION

We, as a group of retired ministers and ministers' spouses of the Kentucky Annual Conference, unanimously approve this statement expressing to the Kentucky Annual Conference the gratitude that we feel for the health care and financial benefits that we regularly receive from the Conference. We are even more grateful for the compassion and good will of the Conference as expressed by the Board of Pensions and Healthcare Benefits. Your financial support and good will continually give us both security and peace of mind. Respectfully submitted, Harold F. Gardner, retired elder.

Action: The Conference accepted the petition.

