

ANNUAL SESSION 2007

PETITIONS

Richard A. Vickery, Petition Coordinator

For Your Information

Petitions AC01 – AC21

Petitions related to the Rocky Mountain Conference and will be effective as dates set on each Petition adopted; AC01 – AC19 are from Conference Agencies and AC20 – AC30 are from individuals.

Petitions GC50 – GC79

Petitions related to the Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions and will be referred to the 2008 General Conference if adopted by the Rocky Mountain Conference.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2007
LEGISLATIVE PETITIONS**

PET#	TITLE	COMMITTEE
AC01	Health Insurance Program and Funding	A
AC02	District Superintendent Compensation	D
AC03	Conference wider Mission Formula	D
AC04	Ms. Council on Finance & Administration Policies and Procedures	C
AC05	Ceiling for Wider Mission Formulae Distribution to Local Churches	C
AC06	Minimum and Equitable Compensation	E
AC07	Clergy Pension Plans Funding	B
AC08	Funding for Active Clergy Benefits	B
AC09	Retiree Benefits Programs & Funding	B
AC10	Health as Wholeness in Mission Initiative	A
AC11	Coordinator for Social Justice Ministries	F
AC12	Support For Victim's Assistance Ministry	G
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AC14	Conference Director of Older Adult Ministry	F
AC15	Older Adult Ministry for District Structures	G
AC16	Establishment of Conference Archivist	F
AC17	Access for Persons with Disabilities	H
AC18	Global HIV/AIDS	C
AC21	Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice	E
GC50	Insertion of "The Common Good" Language	A
GC51	Connectional Model for Peacemaking	D
GC52	Global Aids Fund	C
GC53	Prohibiting Discrimination in Receiving Members – Discipline	E
GC54	Prohibiting Discrimination in Receiving Members – Consitution	E
GC55	Native American Tribes & United States Government	H
GC60	Appointment-Making Responsibility	F
GC61	Pastoral Compensation	G
GC62	Charge Conference Powers and Duties	H
GC63	Pastoral Families	A
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GC71	Jurisdictional Membership	G

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 It is requested of the Annual Conference that the recommendations of the Conference Board of
2 Pensions and Health Benefits concerning the health insurance plan and health insurance funding
3 for 2008 be approved.

4 **Section I – Health Insurance Provider and Participation**

5 A. The Conference will provide the HealthFlex health insurance plan in 2008.

6

7 B. The anniversary date will be January 1, 2008.

8

9 C. Eligibility will be established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits,
10 HealthFlex, and the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

11

12 D. This plan is available for all clergy serving full-time in the local church. Clergy must
13 have been in the active plan for five consecutive years immediately prior to their retirement to
14 be eligible for the retired plan. The spouse's eligibility is determined by the participant, however,
15 the spouse of a retiree who did not participate in the plan for five consecutive years prior to
16 reaching Medicare eligible age will not receive the financial benefit as outlined in Section II
17 below.

18

19 E. This plan may also be available to clergy appointed beyond the local church, diaconal
20 ministers, and full time lay employees of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference and local
21 churches, but may require the participation of the employing agency as plan sponsor and subject
22 to eligibility rules as established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and
23 HealthFlex.

24

25 **Section II - Participation and costs**

26 A. Every charge in the conference will be apportioned and then billed monthly for the
27 insurance cost for single coverage for every elder, deacon in full connection, local pastor, or
28 probationary member appointed full time serving that charge. This rate will be a blended rate of
29 all the plans selected by the Board and will include dental coverage. If the clergy elects a more
30 expensive plan, the charge will be billed at the higher rate and the charge and clergy will
31 determine jointly how to fund the extra cost. The payment for single coverage is mandatory for
32 all charges even if the appointed clergy elects not to participate. There is no financial impact
33 upon the conference for this coverage.

34

35 B. If the active clergy serving that charge wish to buy up to a more expensive plan and/or
36 wish coverage for family members, the additional monthly costs will be billed to that
37 charge, to be
38 paid either by the clergy or the charge. There is no financial impact upon the conference for
39 this coverage.

40

41 C. If the participant is eligible for a Medicare HMO but decides to buy up to a Supplement
42 Plan, the participant will pay the full amount minus the conference's Medicare HMO
43 contribution. The health insurance premium for the retired includes dental insurance if such
44 coverage is included in the plan selected by the Conference Board. For those retiring after
45 December 31, 2003, the clergy must have served for a minimum of ten (10) years of service or
46 more to qualify for the conference support.

47

48 D. For those retirees eligible to receive pensions, but not yet of Medicare age, the conference
49 will pay 25% of the cost of the base plan with 20 years of service and 50% of the cost of the
50 base plan with 35 or more years of service. Clergy retiring under the 20-year rule and not
51 receiving pension benefits yet from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall
52 be eligible to remain in the conference health insurance program but shall not receive any
53 conference funding until they are of Medicare age. The spouse's eligibility is determined by
54 the participant, however, the spouse of a retiree who did not participate in the plan for five
55 consecutive years prior to retirement will not receive the financial benefit. The cost to the
56 conference (paragraphs C and D – all retirees' HealthFlex funding support) for the year is
57 estimated to be \$1,350,000.

58

59 E. For the purpose of this petition, "years of service" shall be defined as years since original
60 ordination/commissioning/licensing (if after 1981) or granting of pension credit (if ordained
61 prior to 1982). Years of leave of absence or honorable location shall not be considered as
62 "years of service."

63 F. The conference does not pay any of the cost of lay retirees' health insurance except in the
64 case of employees of the annual conference, in which case they are treated the same as
65 retired clergy, with no benefit for the spouse. The benefit is to be paid by the employing
66 agency.

67

68 G. Health insurance for clergy (and their dependants) appointed to Incapacity Leave and
69 receiving disability benefits from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits will be
70 provided through the selected provider and paid 100% by the conference. If the clergy wants
71 coverage different than the basic coverage in their area, the increased cost (buy up) will be paid
72 by the clergy. The cost to the conference is estimated to be \$180,395.

73

74 **Section III - Administration and clarification**

75 A. The conference, working with HealthFlex, will process enrollments, collect premiums,
76 reconcile funds and help to coordinate the plan.

77

78 B. The payment of the premium (paragraph II. A. above) is mandatory for all full time clergy
79 appointed to serve the local church. If a church does not or cannot pay that amount for six (6)
80 months, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits shall recommend to the bishop
81 and the cabinet that the church not receive a full-time appointment at the next annual conference
82 appointment session.

83 C. The 2008 insurance rates and the retirees' rates will be established in the fall of 2007 by
84 the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits after receipt of new premium rate
85 information from HealthFlex.

86

87 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2008

88

89 **TERMINATION DATE:** December 31, 2008.

90

91 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

92 Yes, and the estimated costs are in the 2008 Annual Conference Budget Proposal.

93

94 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION :**

95 Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

96

97 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

98 Name: Rev. James Harris

99 Address: 2700 S. Downing Street, Denver, CO 80210-5907

100 Phone Number: (303) 756-1549

101 Fax Number: (303) 758-7076

102 E-Mail: rckymtn@hotmail.com

103

104 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

105 (To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

106 Cost \$1,530,395 Period 2008

107 Funds provided by Annual Conference: Annual Conference Apportionments

108

109 (To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

110 Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) _____

111

112 Included in the Proposed 2008 Budget Yes/No. In the amount of _____

113

114 Recommendation by Council concerning funding: _____

115

116 Reason(s) _____

117 _____

118 _____

119 _____

120

121

122

123

124 **RATIONALE:**

125 This petition identifies the health insurance program and costs for this conference, and is

126 basically the same as last year. This year's minor changes include:

127 All dates have been changed as necessary.

128 The dollar amounts have been changed to reflect estimated costs.

129

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT COMPENSATION

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 A. The 2008 compensation for District Superintendents will be set at \$68,398 for salary plus
2 either a parsonage or a \$17,100 housing allowance (this totals \$85,498).
3 B. Any District Superintendent serving more than six years would receive a total years-of –
4 service increment of \$1,000 in the seventh year. For the eighth year, an additional annual
5 years-of-service award of \$250 will be provided.
6 C. A parsonage shall be provided for District Superintendents who wish to live in
7 conference-owned housing, but it shall be allowable for them to live in their own homes.
8 D. A portion of the above base compensation may be designated parsonage and/or housing
9 allowance, as appropriate, for purposes of tax exemption in accordance with Section 107
10 of the Internal Revenue Code. Any such designation shall be submitted to the Office of
11 the Treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Conference, 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd.,
12 Greenwood Village, CO 80111 no later than January 1, 2008. Proper reporting of
13 housing and/or parsonage expenses to IRS is the responsibility of the persons noted
14 above.
15 E. Car expense shall be set at the year 2008 IRS business reimbursement rate for basic
16 automobile use. HealthFlex (medical insurance), CPP (life and disability insurance) and
17 CRSP (Clergy Retirement Security Program) payments shall be made by the Rocky
18 Mountain Conference. In addition, \$1,200 for continuing education from accountable
19 reimbursement funds, shall also be allowed.
20 F. In consultation with the Board of Stewards, Council on Finance and Administration, the
21 Personnel Policies and Practices Committee and the Episcopacy Committee, the
22 Directors of Support Services and Mission and Ministry shall annually establish salaries
23 for all non-disciplinary full-time and part-time conference staff (excluding Camp
24 Managers) in tiered ratios to the salaries established for the District Superintendents; the
25 ratios reflecting the scope of responsibility of each position and providing a range within
26 which to reflect tenure and quality of performance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

TERMINATION DATE: December 31, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Yes, and it is included in the 2008 Proposed Budget

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION:

The Personnel Policies and Practices Committee and the Council on Finance and Administration

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Rev. Betty Jo Bradford

Address: 3131 Osceola Street, Denver, CO 80212-1476

Phone Number: 303 477-5857
Fax Number: 303 477-4274
E-Mail: pastorbettyjo@aol.com

RATIONALE: Not debatable

The goal of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference since 2002 has been to set the base compensation of District Superintendents, which includes salary and housing, at 1.7 times the Conference Average Compensation. The CAC is an amount calculated annually by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Budget constraints, however, in intervening years have prevented reaching that goal. In 2008, the CAC will be \$50,293; 1.7 times that amount is \$85,498. In 2007 the base compensation for District Superintendents came within 1½ percent of the goal, it is now time to meet the goal. The increase amounts to 5.34% over the 2007 compensation.

2003: \$70,791 (less \$14,158 Housing Allowance) Equal to 1.7 times CAC
2004: frozen \$70,791 (less \$14,158 Housing Allowance), 1.7 times CAC=\$74,785
2005: \$73,623 (less \$14,725 Housing Allowance), 1.7 times CAC=\$76,588
2006: \$76,568 (less \$15,314 Housing Allowance), 1.7 times CAC=\$79,793
2007: \$81,162 (less \$16,232 Housing Allowance), 1.7 times CAC=\$82,260
proposed 2008: \$85,498 (less \$17,100 Housing Allowance), Equal to 1.7 times CAC

1 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 2 PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
 3

4 **TITLE: CONFERENCE WIDER MISSIONS**

5
 6 **PREAMBLE**

7 Mission and ministry of the Rocky Mountain Conference and the United Methodist
 8 Church depend entirely on the generous giving by local churches.
 9 As Christians, our giving is an expression of our faith and commitment to God and
 10 repeats the pattern established in these ancient words:

11
 12 *And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most*
 13 *High. He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven*
 14 *and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your*
 15 *hand!” And Abram gave him one tenth of everything. Genesis 14:18-20*

16
 17 *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus*
 18 *put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven*
 19 *for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. Malachi 3:10*

20
 21 *Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness,*
 22 *and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.*
 23 *2 Corinthians 8:7*

24
 25 This petition brings a refreshed way for understanding our giving to the mission and
 26 ministry of the Conference. Local church giving for Wider Missions will be based on
 27 the total church revenue received, rather than the expenses incurred by that church as has
 28 been done in the past.

29
 30 CF&A is proposing “Church Tithe” plus “Second Mile Giving” as the means of local
 31 church support for Wider Missions of the Annual Conference and the General Church.
 32 We are simplifying the process and attempting to build a closer connection between local
 33 churches, the Conference and the General Church.

34
 35 **ACTION TO BE VOTED UPON**

- 36 1. The 2008 Rocky Mountain Conference budget as adopted by the Annual
 37 Conference shall be apportioned to the churches of the Annual Conference in
 38 accordance with ¶614 of The Book of Discipline.
 39 2. The RMC Annual Conference Budget will be apportioned to Conference
 40 churches according to a Church Tithe, 10% of local church Adjusted Gross
 41 Revenue.
 42 3. During this time of transition to a Tithe based process and because the
 43 Conference does not have adequate reserves, each local church will be
 44 apportioned a Second Mile Offering of 1% for Mission and Ministry.
 45

RATIONALE

According to ¶614, 2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration is responsible for recommending to the annual conference for its action and determination.

The current Rocky Mountain Conference apportionment formula that has been in effect for the last three years has proven to be difficult to understand and to administer, and CF&A has determined that a change in the apportionment process is necessary.

CF&A has chosen to propose a process that moves entirely away from an expense-based apportionment based on two-year old data to an understandable, timely and biblically supported local church revenue-based apportionment process. The process is called “Church Tithe.”

Each Local church in the Annual Conference will be asked to commit to a 10% tithe of adjusted gross income. Financial analyses of the formula affirm that a Church Tithe will likely provide sufficient funds to support the Annual Conference budget, with one caution. Our historic experience is that not all churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference pay 100% of the Wider Mission amount apportioned to them.

With this caution in mind, CF&A has added “Second Mile Giving” to compensate for any shortfall in fully supporting the approved budget. Paying the “Second Mile” will in essence be providing support for mission and ministry.

While scripturally supported, the change from expense to revenue for apportionment is easier to understand; it eliminates the need to understand and accurately report church expenses that were used in previous years’ apportionment calculations.

There is also an intended move to a greater sense of connection with this process. Feedback to local churches and districts will be more frequent and more detailed.

Church Tithe

The Church Tithe portion of funding for Rocky Mountain Conference Wider Missions shall be based on local church Adjusted Gross Revenue.

The Church Tithe for a local church is 10% of Adjusted Gross Revenue.

Adjusted Gross Revenue is local church Gross Revenue less those exclusions listed below:

- (1) Stated Capital Campaign Income
- (2) Endowment donations
- (3) Pass-through or designated donations
- (4) Tuition paid for Services
- (5) Direct costs of Fund-raising

Definitions of the items to be excluded are provided in the Definitions section of this petition.

Second Mile Offering

The scriptural foundation of a Church Tithe calls for payment of one tenth of the revenue received and in a world where all churches give at the “one tenth” level the Rocky Mountain Conference Wider Missions budget could be fully funded. In order to assure that all conference expenses and missions are adequately funded during this transition, it is necessary to provide for additional giving beyond the Church Tithe.

How the Process Will Work

Beginning in January, 2008 the local church treasurer or financial secretary will then calculate dollar amount corresponding to 10% of the church adjusted gross revenue for the previous month, as described above, and forward this Church Tithe plus Second Mile Giving to the Treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Conference by the fifteenth day of each month, for the previous month.

The Conference Treasurer will record each church receipt and prepare a District by District report on local church payments, noting those who have paid the full Church Tithe and Second Mile Giving and will advise all District Superintendents of the giving history in the churches in their charge.

Definitions for Purposes of this Petition

Gross Revenue is ALL revenue received by the local church: Offerings, donations, fees, rents, bequests, memorials, pledges, and tithes, whether by cash, credit card, check, stock, transfer of assets are included.

Adjusted Gross Revenue is Gross Revenue less Stated Capital Campaign income, Endowment donations, Pass-through or designated donations, Tuition paid for Services and Direct costs of Fund-raising, and is the basis for calculating Church Tithe.

Net Church Expense is the basis that has been used for calculating local church apportionments through 2006. It is the sum of lines 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72 for each local church and is found in Table II Statistical Report prepared from Annual Reports submitted by all churches in the Annual Conference each year.

Church Tithe is ten percent (10%) of Adjusted Gross Revenue for a local church.

Second Mile Giving is additional giving added to the Church Tithe.

Stated Capital Campaign Income is money received from campaigns that are defined as significant, short-term fund raising efforts for a stated project, such as a building, debt retirement, or special project. Such campaigns usually have a campaign committee and may employ a professional fundraiser. The campaign normally lasts for a short time, usually less than a year, however, the donations to the campaign may span several years. Stated Capital Fund Campaigns should not be confused with

trustee account donations, building maintenance donations or other donations for capital needs.

Endowment Donations are donations by persons that are intended to become a part of an Endowment and are not counted in the base income for the Church Tithe. Such donations may sometimes be in the form of a bequest or memorial or may be a gift from an individual or an estate. However, not all bequests, memorials or estate gifts are considered Endowments. An Endowment is a gift, which can never to be spent. It is designed to produce earnings. The gift will have instructions on the use of the earnings and whether any part of the earnings are to be added to the principal or distributed. The original principal gift is not to be part of the Church Tithe calculation, however, the distributed earnings, when used, should be counted in the Church Tithe calculation.

Pass-through or designated donations are funds received for transfer to projects or events outside the local church. From time to time churches will act as a collection agent for special events, such as disaster relief, community homeless shelters, soup kitchens or mission trips. The church will collect the funds for the participants and then forward the funds to vendors to pay for these events. Also, from time to time a church will receive donations from individuals that are designated for use by charitable ministries or causes outside of the church, such as Africa University, Youth for Christ, or Red Bird Missionary Conference. Such donations are not under the control of, or use by, the local church and are not to be included in the basis for the Church Tithe.

Tuition paid for Services is any payment made to the church for any services provided at the church such as pre-school, child care, elder care, or other similar services. Normally such services are budgeted separately, usually by a non-profit organization affiliated with the church.

Direct Costs for Fund raising are those costs that must be paid to raise funds for the church. Typical examples include the discounted purchase and resale at face value of gift cards or the cost of food and supplies for a fund-raising dinner. Direct costs are deducted from gross funds received as a result of the fund raising activity and only the net proceeds should be used in calculating the Church Tithe.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

TERMINATION DATE: December 31, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Funding for Rocky Mountain Conference budget for 2008

ORIGINATOR OR THE PETITION:
Council of Finance & Administration

PERSON TO PRESENT THE PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name	Rev. Les Ludlam
Address	8920 Greenspointe Lane, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
Phone Number	303 451 5141
e-Mail	<u>lludlam@wyoming.com</u>

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: MISCELLANEOUS COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **Travel**

2 Travel allowance to Annual Conference will be paid to those lay members and clergy members
3 noted in this section. Payment in the amount of 15¢ per mile, excluding the first 175 miles, with
4 an additional 5¢ per mile for each additional conference member riding along, will be paid from
5 an equalization travel pool, to be funded by an amount added to the registration fee of all Annual
6 Conference members. Travel will be paid only to those who have paid a registration fee, and
7 attend the full conference session, except in the case of emergency. The following are
8 reimbursable members of the Annual Conference:

9 1. Elders, deacons, full time local pastors, part-time local pastors and student pastors serving
10 churches in the conference under appointment by the Annual Conference, deacons, part-time
11 local pastors and student pastors serving churches in the conference.

12 2. Retired or disabled clergy, military chaplains, and other full clergy members of the conference
13 serving extension ministries who are within the bound of conference. Others shall be reimbursed
14 for not more than a total of 500 miles.

15 3. Lay members or alternate lay members representing local churches and districts (only one
16 person per local church unless the local church is entitled to more than one lay member). For the
17 year 2007, travel expenses to all called meetings of the district/sub district, conference boards,
18 agencies, committees or commissions will be paid to lay and clergy members who are not paid
19 for such travel expense from other funds. The rate shall be 15¢ per mile, excluding the first 50
20 miles. For those traveling 200 miles or more, air coach fare is allowable. An additional 5¢ per
21 mile shall be paid a driver for each additional participant riding to the meeting, thus encouraging
22 car-pooling. Meals and housing will be paid as appropriate.

23

24 **Budget Proposals**

25 The Council on Finance and Administration shall present a proposed unified budget total stating
26 projected income and expenses for the ensuing year for adoption by the Annual Conference. For
27 purposes of information, the past year's expenses, and the present year's budget, may be
28 displayed for various budget categories, including those for conference boards, committees and
29 agencies, with the understanding that specific line items may be re-distributed with the total
30 budget, following the approval of the budget.

31 All new propositions presented for action at the Conference session shall include the amount
32 needed to fund said program or operation.

33

34 **Conference Leadership Compensation**

35 The base compensation for the conference staff positions of Conference Treasurer/Director of
36 Support Services and Director of Mission and Ministry (or its equivalent), which includes salary,
37 housing, and utilities allowance will be set at the same amount as that for the District

38 Superintendents PLUS an incremental adjustment of \$250 per full year of service in the position,
39 with a maximum adjustment of \$3,500 (equivalent to 14 years of service).

40

41 **Financial Administration**

42 All payments by local churches to the conference (with designation to the specific cause) shall be
43 made by check or money order to the Rocky Mountain Conference UMC, and sent to the Office
44 of the Conference Treasurer, 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd. Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

45 Churches shall, to the maximum degree possible, send their total apportionment (Wider
46 Missions) and supporting worksheet for each month to the conference by the 15th of the
47 following month to ensure cash flow. It shall be the policy of the conference to have the
48 conference treasurer send the General Church apportionments (Wider Mission) on a monthly
49 basis within the guidelines of the budget recommendation.

50 The conference treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church is
51 hereby authorized to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary in conducting the
52 business of the Conference, with the approval of the Council on Finance and Administration. The
53 conference treasurer shall make an annual report in the Conference Journal of the amount of
54 funds contributed during the year to each Conference Advance Special Project and Conference
55 Approved Project.

56 All organizational units of the conference shall adhere to their budgets. Any expenditures over
57 the budget will not be paid by the conference treasurer unless first approved by the Council on
58 Finance and Administration. The Council on Finance and Administration is authorized and is
59 responsible to see that actual expenditures stay within limits defined by the Council on Finance
60 and Administration, annual conference and actual amounts received. Between annual conference
61 sessions, the Council on Finance and Administration has authority to take actions it feels are
62 appropriate in response to any unexpected events which impact the annual conference
63 financially.

64 Balances from undesignated funds, including fund balances and reserves, cash management
65 funds and income funds may be disbursed only on the authorization of the Council on Finance
66 and Administration. It is understood that the Executive Committee of the Council on Finance and
67 Administration is empowered to act in case of an emergency.

68 It shall be the policy of the Conference to designate part of the salary, house and utilities
69 allowance of Conference clergy staff persons as parsonage allowance for purposes of tax
70 exemption under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. The portion of the total
71 compensation must be specifically designated in advance of the new year (January 2008) by each
72 person involved, to the conference treasurer using appropriate forms provided by the treasurer.

73

74 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2008

75

76 **TERMINATION DATE:** December 31, 2008

77

78

79 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

80 Yes, and these items are already included in the 2008 Budget Request.

81

82 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION**

83 Council on Finance and Administration

84

85 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

86 Name: Dr. Rob Gordon, Ph. D.

87 Address: 1844 Stonegate Drive, Estes Park, CO 80517

88 Phone Number: (970) 577-0134

89 Fax Number: (970) 577-0136

90 E-Mail: rgordon418@aol.com

91

92 **RATIONALE: Not debatable**

93 The purpose of this petition is to clarify and establish various administrative rules such as:

94

95 Mileage reimbursement for travel to and from the Annual Conference session.

96 Mileage reimbursement for travel t and from various conference committee meetings.

97 Compensation for the Treasurer and Director of Mission and Ministry.

98 Guidelines to CF&A for presenting and administering the budget.

99 Guidelines to local churches for sending in Wider Mission apportionment payments.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: CEILING TO APPORTIONMENT FOR LOCAL CHURCH

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 No church will be assessed an apportionment amount that is more than 11% of its prior year's
2 operating budget.

3
4
5
6

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? NO
If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Metropolitan District of the Rocky Mountain Conference

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Rev. Paul J. Kottke
Address: 2180 S. University Blvd
Denver CO 80210
Phone Number: 303-722-5736
Fax Number: 303-722-2533
E-Mail: pkottke@universityparkumc.org

FINANCIAL IMPACT: No direct costs. Will cause a re-aligned of various apportionment assessments.

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

As an illustration, UPUMC is a church that throughout its history has been a strong advocate for the connectional system and took pride in paying 100% of the apportionments assessed to us. The current apportionment formula has made the Rocky Mtn Conference an adversary to our ministry and mission. It has had the unintended consequence of shifting an excessively high burden to mid-size congregations with older buildings. We believe that other churches within our Conference have had similar experiences.

APPORTIONMENTS FOR UPARK UMC

Year	Operating Budget	Apportionments
2000	\$406,415	\$35,693
2006	\$542,297	\$60,097 11 % of budget
2007	\$564,668	\$66,000 11.7% of budget
Increase	\$158,253 38.9 %	\$30,307 85%

From the Yr. 2000, our operating budget has been strategically increased by 38.9%. At the same time, apportionments assessed to UPUMC have increased by 85%.

For the sake of the connectional system and to be supportive of our sister churches for whom a 10% tithe would be a burden, we are willing to go the extra mile and commit up to 11%. We can not, however, support a system that would assign to us an assessment of 12% and higher.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

Cost _____ Period _____

Funds provided by Annual Conference: _____

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2007

Included in the Proposed 2008 Budget _____ Yes/No. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding: CF&A neither endorses nor opposes this petition.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: MINIMUM AND EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference defines the following compensation terms:

Minimum Base Compensation is the specific amount of cash salary, housing, benefits and reimbursable expense amounts set by annual petition for all clergy (Elders, Deacons and Local Pastors) who are in good standing and appointed to full-time service according to the provisions of the current Book of Discipline.

Effective January 1, 2008, this will be:

Cash salary of \$29,673, which is 59% of the 2008 Conference Average Compensation (CAC) of \$50,293. This is the same percentage of the CAC as in 2007. For clergy who are in good standing and appointed to less than full-time service in the local church, the minimum base compensation shall be adjusted in one-quarter increments.

Housing is provided either by a parsonage or a cash housing allowance that allows the clergy to obtain housing in their community that meets conference parsonage standards. In 2008, depending upon the location, the allowance should be an annual amount between \$10,000 and \$16,000.

Benefits are established by other annual conference petitions and by the current Book of Discipline and include health insurance, CRSP pension funding, and CPP death and disability funding.

Reimbursable expenses are those expenditures made by the clergy in the fulfillment of their responsibilities that are allowed, by IRS regulations, to be reimbursed as business expenses. These include travel (including to Annual Conference), continuing education, books and periodicals, and meeting expenses. These amounts should be agreed upon by the local church and the clergy. For full-time appointments, it is recommended that this amount be set at an annual minimum of \$2,500.

In addition, we define **Equitable Compensation** as the Minimum Base Compensation plus a consideration of the following factors:

- Experience and years of service
- Cost of living in the community
- Years of education
- Work load
- Attainment of goals agreed upon by clergy and SPPR
- Each clergy's housing equity goals

40 **Redistribution within the compensation package** – Because it affects both the Conference and
41 the Denominational Average Compensation, as well as the pastor’s pension funding, no more
42 than 20% of the pastor’s cash salary can be moved from taxable salary to tax-exempt
43 reimbursable expenses. Student local pastors as defined in Para. 318.3 of the 2004 Book of
44 Discipline under appointment are to receive base compensation, prorated for less than full time
45 work as agreed between the local church, the student pastor, and the district superintendent.
46 Professional expenses of the student or the actual costs incurred while working at the church are
47 recommended to be reimbursed by voucher. For travel expenses student pastors are to be
48 reimbursed by voucher at the 2008 IRS Business Rate.

49
50 **Vacation** – Pastors should be provided with four (4) weeks vacation every year. Churches are
51 encouraged to discuss vacations with their pastor(s), particularly during the first year of re-
52 appointment.

53
54 **Study Leave / Sabbatical**
55 1. Full time pastors, to continue their education, should be allowed study leave of at least one
56 week each year and at least one month each quadrennium (§351.2, 2004 *Book of Discipline*).
57 Such study leave shall not be considered vacation.
58
59 2. Full-time pastors (after 6 [six] years in the same appointment) be allowed up to 6 [six] months
60 formation and spiritual growth leave. (2004 *Book of Discipline* §351.3)

61
62 **Sick Leave**
63 Each local church policy for clergy sick leave is at the discretion of the local church in
64 consultation with the District Superintendent.

65
66 **Family Leave**
67 Pastors should be allowed up to a maximum of eight weeks of paid family leave. Such leave
68 shall comply with the guidelines established in paragraph 355 of the 2004 Book of Discipline.
69
70 Each annual budget shall include an amount that is to be used for the purpose of pulpit and
71 pastoral supply during family leave situations. During family leave, the local church is
72 responsible for continuing all clergy compensation, and the conference is responsible for the
73 pulpit/pastoral supply costs. The cabinet shall direct the use of these funds and normally, such
74 assistance will provide only partial funding of the total costs that may be involved. For 2008, the
75 budgeted amount shall be \$5,000.

76
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

TERMINATION DATE: December 31, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? YES

Cost: \$30,000 Period: one year, January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008
Funds provided by the Rocky Mountain Conference 2008 Budget

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION

Name: Commission on Equitable Compensation

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Michael Bergman

Address: Montclair UMC

1195 Newport St.

Denver, CO 80220

Phone Number: 303-333-7352

Fax Number: 303-320-3093

E-Mail: montclairunited@aol.com

RATIONALE: Paragraph 624 of the 2004 Book of Discipline requires that the Annual Conference have a body, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, charged with the responsibility of developing and administering a program of equitable compensation for the clergy. This petition, AC06, is the instrument through which the Commission on Equitable Compensation carries out its responsibility. This petition is presented annually.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

Cost \$30,000 Period 2008

Funds provided by Annual Conference: Annual Conference Apportionments

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2007

Included in the Proposed 2008 Budget Yes/No. In the amount of \$30,000

Recommendation by Council concerning funding: CF&A endorses this petition, funds are provided by Annual Conference Apportionments

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: CLERGY PENSION PLANS FUNDING CONCEPT

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 Pre-1982 Pension Funding Plan

2 It is requested of the Annual Conference that the attached Funding Plan of the Rocky Mountain
3 Conference For Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan be affirmed and adopted.

4

5

6 Funding Plan of the Rocky Mountain Conference
7 For Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan

8 As of January 1, 2006 for 2008

9 The Past Service Rate (PSR) for the Rocky Mountain Conference is established annually by
10 action of the Annual Conference. For the year 2007, our Annual Conference set this PSR amount
11 at \$456.00.

12 Paragraph 1506.7 of 2004 The Book of Discipline mandates that this rate cannot be less than
13 0.8% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). For 2008, our CAC is \$50,293. \$456.00
14 is 0.9066% of that amount – so we are in compliance with that mandate.

15 That same paragraph recommends that the rate be not less than 1% of the CAC. At 0.9066%, we
16 are short of that recommended goal.

17 We project, over a long time, earnings on our present assets to average 7.0%. We had been
18 paying to fund that retiree benefit obligation every year from 1982 until 2001. In 2001, the
19 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) reported to us that our conference
20 moved from an underfunded situation to a very slight overfunded situation. In other words,
21 following acceptable guidelines for investment growth and future payout requirements, we had
22 enough money set aside to meet our future needs. This GBOPHB actuarial report is updated
23 annually, and our current obligations, using the current Past Service Rate shown above
24 (\$456.00), are now **\$28,433,742** as of January 1, 2006 for 2008.

25 The cornerstone of our conference Past Service Rate philosophy is to maintain a fully funded
26 position. In other words, we will not attempt to raise that rate in any manner that re-establishes
27 an unfunded liability. Along with that core concept, we will also try to match or exceed the cost
28 of living, and move toward the Disciplinary recommendation of 1% of the CAC.

29 All of the assets dedicated to this pre-82 obligation are on deposit with the GBOPHB. Because
30 our investment earning projections are identical to the General Board of Pension and Health
31 Benefits assumptions, and since they also manage the funds, we feel confident that the
32 investment growth of our assets will be sufficient to meet our PSR goals as stated above.
33 Because the basis of our PSR philosophy is to avoid an unfunded position, we do not believe a
34 long discussion of the GBOPHB investment philosophy, history and guidelines is relevant to the
35 purposes of this document. We do, however, have two other funding sources available if there
36 are any difficulties or shortfalls in the investments we already have on hand.

37 We have established a separate fund within the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
38 The fund's purpose is to provide for the benefits of retired clergy. The current focus of that goal
39 is to begin funding the future health insurance costs for our retirees, but the fund itself could be
40 used – if required - to meet any new unfunded obligation in the pre-1982 plan. The value of that
41 fund, as of January 1, 2006 was **\$806,915**.

42 Our conference has funded this plan by apportioning an amount every year from 1982 through
43 2001. This second alternative would be to put any unmet shortfall into the budget again and
44 apportion the obligation to our local churches.

45 Our funding plan, as of January 1, 2006 for 2008, is summarized as follows:

46 Present Value of Benefits as defined by GBOPHB: **\$28,433,742**

47

48 Funds in the plan: **\$37,651,178**

49

50

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

TERMINATION DATE: December 31, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition) None

Cost _____ Period _____ (Not to exceed one year.)

Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency _____

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2006

Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget _____ **Yes/No**. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding: AC07 Funded by local churches with backup from the Reserve fund held in GBOPHP, there is no budget impact so long as the reserve fund remains strong. CF&A endorses this petition

_____ Reason(s) _____

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION:

Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Cathye Wehr

Address: P. O. Box 704, Kemmerer, WY 93101-0704

Phone Number: (307) 877-3245

Fax Number:

E-Mail: bappastor@copper.net

RATIONALE: Not debatable

The petition is required by the Book of Discipline and is essentially the same as last year, but with updated numbers and dates. It explains how we will be funding our retirement obligations for those clergy and surviving spouses with service prior to 1982.

We are still in a very positive position (the plan is fully funded) and there is reserve on hand to help offset any future investment declines that might occur.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

Cost _____ Period _____

Funds provided by Annual Conference: _____ Annual Conference Apportionments

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2007

Included in the Proposed 2008 Budget _____ Yes/No. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding: Funded by local churches with backup from the Resereve Fund held nby the General Board of Pensions & Health Benefits.

There is no budget impact so long as the Reserve Fund remains strong. CF&A endorses this petition.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: FUNDING OF ACTIVE CLERGY BENEFITS

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 It is requested of the annual conference that the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), the
2 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) and the optional, Basic Protection Plan (BPP), costs for
3 active clergy and clergy retiring after Dec. 31, 1995 be paid for at the local level, and the
4 optional, Basic Protection Plan (BPP), costs for retired clergy retired prior to Jan. 1, 1996 be
5 shared by the retired clergy and the conference.

6

7 **Section I – Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP)**

8 A. Current service funding of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan has been calculated by the
9 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and will be billed to the Pension office of the
10 Rocky Mountain Conference. The Pension office will direct bill these costs to each local church
11 as follows:

12 1. Each church/charge will be billed 12.4% of actual compensation (using salary and housing as
13 the contribution base) of each clergy for every pastor appointed to that church/charge.

14 2. Each church/charge will be billed a clergy equalization amount of \$20 per month (\$240
15 annually) for every full-time pastor appointed to that church/charge. Likewise, each
16 church/charge will be billed a clergy equalization amount of \$15-\$10-\$5 per month (\$180-\$120-
17 \$60 annually) for every three-quarter, half and one-quarter time pastor appointed to that
18 church/charge.

19 3. These contributions will be made to the Conference Pension office by the salary-paying unit of
20 each clergy.

21 B. Eligibility and participation are established and defined by the General Board of Pension and
22 Health Benefits.

23 C. The CRSP billing will be handled through the Conference Pension office.

24

25 **Section II - Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**

26 A. Current service funding of the Comprehensive Protection Plan will be calculated:

27 1. Using salary and housing as the contribution base, with 200% of the Denominational
28 Average Compensation (DAC) being the maximum base amount, and

29 2. Using a contribution rate of 3.0%, and

30 3. Contributions will be made to the Conference Pension office by the salary-paying unit (i.e.
31 the local church, the conference, or other employer in cases of special appointment /
32 employment).

33 B. Eligibility and participation are established and defined by the General Board of Pension and
34 Health Benefits.

35 C. The CPP billing will be handled through the conference.

36

37 **Section III - Basic Protection Plan (BPP)**

38 A. The Basic Protection Plan is available as an optional benefit to active clergy, eligible retired
39 clergy and lay employees of the conference (those employees working for the conference office).
40 The Basic Protection Plan includes:

- 41 1. Additional death benefits for active and retired clergy, and
- 42 2. Death benefits for lay employees of the Conference, and
- 43 3. Disability coverage for lay employees, and
- 44 4. Eligibility and participation are already established and defined by the General Board of
45 Pension and Health Benefits.

46 B. Current service funding of the Basic Protection Plan will be funded by:

- 47 1. Active clergy will pay 100% of the premium cost for all benefits, and
- 48 2. Retired clergy (retired prior to January 1, 1996) would pay 60% of their death benefit costs
49 and the conference would pay 40%, and
- 50 3. Retired clergy (retiring after December 31, 1995) would pay 100% of their death benefit
51 costs.

52 C. The total cost to the conference for the 40% support identified in III. B. 2. (above) is
53 estimated to be about \$7,500, depending upon the level of participation.

54 D. Local church lay employees may also enroll in the Basic Protection Plan as an optional
55 benefit to be provided by their local church (as the employer). The employer must enroll directly
56 with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and all costs will be paid by the
57 employee and/or the employer with no costs supported by the Conference Board of Pensions and
58 Health Benefits.

59 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2008

60

61 **TERMINATION DATE:** December 31, 2008

62

63 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

64 (To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

65 Yes, and the direct billing costs are identified above, and included in the 2008 Budget
66 request.

67 (To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

68 Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2006

69 Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget Yes/No. In the amount of _____

70 Recommendation by Council concerning funding: Since the billing costs are included in
71 the AC budget, there will be no additional financial impact unless there is significant non-
72 payment by local churches. CF&A endorses this petition

73

74 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION**

75 Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

76

77 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

78 Name: Rev. David B. Lillie

79 Address: 2544 E. Park Ave., Laramie, CO 82070
80 Phone Number: (307) 742-5075
81 Fax Number: (307) 755-5104
82 E-Mail: dave_lillie@bresnan.net
83

84 **RATIONALE:**

85 The bulk of this petition is unchanged from last year. The amount of the clergy equalization
86 factor (Section I, A, 2) has been reduced. Also the amount in Section III, C has been increased
87 to reflect the gradual increases in average compensation over the years.
88

89 The clergy equalization amount is an attempt to match increased costs for the CRSP program,
90 begun on Jan. 1, 2007, with the increased benefits available to some clergy at the time of their
91 retirement. Changes which took effect when CRSP was adopted meant that there is no upper
92 limit on the amount of a clergy's compensation which is subject to the 12.4% pension billing
93 [prior to CRSP the amount subject to the percentage was capped at the denominational average
94 compensation (DAC) figure], and also that clergy will retire with an annuity based on a
95 percentage of the denominational average compensation. This means that those clergy who are
96 serving churches/charges which pay more than the DAC are now receiving pension contributions
97 equal to their entire cash salary, rather than having those contributions capped at the DAC level.
98 In addition, those clergy who spend much of their career serving small churches with relatively
99 smaller cash salary figures, will have their retirement benefits calculated based upon the DAC.
100 This will result in small/rural church pastors receiving a larger retirement benefit. The clergy
101 equalization amount was adopted to distribute a fair share of the increased cost for CRSP to these
102 small/rural churches.
103
104
105
106

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: RETIREE BENEFIT PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 It is requested of the Annual Conference that pre-1982 past service funding be provided for
2 retired clergy as well as those requiring special grants.

3

4 **Section I - Past Service Funding (for service before January 1, 1982)**

5 A. The rate for 2008 will be **\$470.00** per service year

6 B. The same rate will be set for local pastors

7 C. The rate for a surviving spouse will be 70% of the member's rate as required by the CRSP
8 pension plan.

9 D. The cost to the conference budget for 2008 for these rates is \$0.0

10

11 **Section II - Rental/Housing Allowance**

12 WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church, of which this
13 conference is a part, has in the past and continues to function through ministers of the Gospel
14 who were or are duly ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers of the church; and

15 WHEREAS, the practice of The United Methodist Church was and is to provide active
16 clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of the gross compensation;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, pensions paid to active, retired and disabled clergypersons are considered as
19 deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired and disabled clergypersons in consideration
20 of previous active service; and

21 WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Rocky Mountain Annual
22 Conference as the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for
23 clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such
24 deferred compensation;

25 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

26 That an amount up to 100% (See NOTE at end of this section) of the pension or disability
27 payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist
28 Church which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health
29 Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2008 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson
30 who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a
31 rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

32 That the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be
33 any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the
34 *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity

35 company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity,
36 or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to
37 this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergy person of this Conference
38 rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church,
39 other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any
40 other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the
41 Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under,
42 such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergy person's pension or
43 disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

44 *NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income*
45 *in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section*
46 *107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing*
47 *allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church*
48 *(such as this Conference in the foregoing resolution) for such year; (2) the amount actually*
49 *expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value*
50 *of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of*
51 *utilities in such year.*

52

53 **Section III**

54 For 2008, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits will provide the following
55 grants:

56 Widow's benefits to Patricia Vick

57 Benefits to Oscar P. Abers, 3 times adopted rate.

58 Anticipated cost to conference - \$4,000

59

60 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2008

61

62 **TERMINATION DATE:** December 31, 2008

63

64 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

65 (To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

66 Yes (a total of \$4,000) and it is already included in the 2008 Budget Request.

67 Cost _____ Period _____ (Not to exceed one year.)

68 Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency _____

69 (To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

70 Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2006

71 Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget _____ **Yes/No**. In the amount of _____

72 Recommendation by Council concerning funding: The Council On Finance &

73 Administration endorses this Petition.

74 Reason(s) _____

75

76 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION :**

77 Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

78

79 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

80 Name: Elaine Johnen
81 Address: 231 Fairfax Street, Colorado Springs, CO80911
82 Phone Number: (719) 390-5103
83 Fax Number:
84 E-Mail: ejohnsen@adelphia.net
85
86
87

88 **RATIONALE:**

89 This petition does three things --

90 It sets the Past Service Rate for the pension funding that goes to any clergy and surviving
91 spouses for service provided to this conference prior to 1982. The dollar amount in line 5 is a
92 3.07% increase over the amount voted on for 2007. Because the funding raised during the
93 1980's and 1990's has been well invested, all of the costs for this pension benefit are fully
94 funded and there is no cost to the conference.
95

96 Retired and disabled clergy are entitled by IRS regulation to receive their pension as a non-taxed
97 housing allowance. This wording is provided by our General Board of Pension and Health
98 Benefits and is the same as last year. It allows commissioned clergy to receive this benefit, and
99 it also allows active clergy who are close to retirement to withdraw some of their pension
100 (UMPIP) funds for the purchase of a retirement home and declare those funds to fall within the
101 IRS guidelines.

102 Over the years, our Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits has provided special
103 grants in response to special requests and needs. This third section simply authorizes the
104 continuation of those grants. The grants in this section have not changed for a number of years,
105 so this is just a continuation of already existing grants.
106
107
108
109
110

36 Administration endorses this Petition.
37 Reason(s)

38
39 **ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION:**

40 Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

41
42 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

43 Name: Rev. Kay Marsh

44 Address: 3585 W. 76th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80030-4854

45
46 Phone Number: 303 429-1569

47 Fax Number: 303 428-8262

48 E-Mail: RevKayPalmerMarsh@privatei.com

49
50 **RATIONALE: not debatable**

51 Each one of us is accountable for stewarding our own health. All that we are is a gift of God.
52 God gives gifts in a responsible fashion, but with the expectation that each must respond and we
53 have an opportunity to participate in God's saving grace. God loves us enough to give us a role
54 to play in our own health. This petition's goal is to help each HealthFlex participant and others as
55 we seek to achieve our best personal health, so that we can enjoy life and fulfill the role God
56 intends for us.

57
58 The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits was tasked in the 2006 petition with
59 studying the issue of extending this benefit to less than full time clergy and lay employees. The
60 Board reports that it is the intention of this program to encourage HealthFlex participants to get a
61 physical, to take the Health Risk Assessment, and to get their blood work done. The long-term
62 effect in doing this would be to have healthier ministers and lay participants and having the
63 premiums be reduced. Therefore, the whole AC would benefit. The current program appears to
64 be working.

65
66 We have 3 years of experience with the program and encourage full time and part time clergy to
67 participate.

68
69

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference shall establish a full-time, paid position of Coordinator
- 2 of Social Justice Ministries effective January 1, 2008. This person may be lay or clergy.
- 3 The Annual Conference budget support shall not exceed \$35,000 annually. Other possible
- 4 sources of funding include, but are not limited to, Advance Specials, United Methodist Women,
- 5 and funds raised by the Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice.
- 6

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? Yes
If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Linda Gertenbach
Address: 12083 W. 27th Drive
Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone Number: 303-462-3522
Fax Number:
E-Mail: gertenbach@comcast.net

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

Cost \$35,000 Period January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 (Not to exceed one year.)

Funds provided by Annual
Conference/Agency \$35,000

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2006

Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget Yes/No. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding The Council on Finance & Administration does not endorse nor provide additional funds for this Petition.

_____ Reason(s) CF&A sees value in the proposed position and the UM Book of discipline allows for submittal of Petitions relevant to the Annual Conference business. However, approval of this petition would go counter to the established process for development of the Annual Conference budget and may not be consistent with the budget priorities established by the Board of Stewards. Approval of this petition would require approval of an amendment to the Annual Conference Budget or reduction of another area supported by the Approved Budget.

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

Over the last two or three years, it has become apparent that many local church congregations are becoming more active in social justice ministries. The C& S Network's work of encouraging and supporting congregations and the Annual Conference has increased significantly as we respond to requests for classes, workshops, resources, requests for coordination with various UM groups and committees and requests for representation on task forces with other groups working in the social justice arena. Within the last two years several churches have organized Peace with Justice Committees within their congregations apart from Missions/Outreach. There is a resurgence of interest in learning about The Social Principles as The United Methodist Church attempts to enter the public dialogue. In 2006 the Rocky Mountain Conference Peace with Justice Sunday had a 75% increase over the 2005 offering. In response to the growing need for supporting social justice ministries in local churches, the Church and Society Network is in the process of establishing a Social Justice Resource Center in connection with a United Methodist church in downtown Denver to serve churches throughout the Conference.

Several years ago there was a full-time Peace with Justice Educator assigned to the Rocky Mountain Conference paid for by the general church. A 10-10 missionary served the Conference as Co-Chair of the Church and Society Network for two years again paid for by that program. Currently all the work of the Network is being carried out by the Committee of volunteers, a part-time (10 hours a week) unsalaried appointed deacon, a part-time (10 hours a week) paid student administrative assistant and an advance field ed student from the Justice and Peace Studies program at Iliff. It is time for the Rocky Mountain Conference to commit some funds for this growing and significant ministry, which helps churches and the Conference carry out the Conference vision of transformation of society through ministries of outreach and social justice.

This full-time person would be able to travel to churches around the Conference at their request, offering workshops, educating for peace with justice. This person would network with other UM and secular groups working on social justice issues. This person would start an advocacy ministry on behalf of the Conference with the Colorado legislature and help resource Utah and Wyoming on developing their advocacy ministries. This person would be able to function more fully as the liaison between the General Board of Church and Society and the Annual Conference and help focus the Annual Conference's prophetic voice.

Base salary for this position will be \$30,000-35,000 with a benefits package of \$15,000-20,000. Conference support of \$35,000 is requested and the Church and Society Network will raise the remaining funds.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: SUPPORT FOR VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE MINISTRY TO PEOPLE IN OUR
LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES HARMED BY CRIME**

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church supports and encourages each
2 local congregation to educate, equip, and empower ministries that provide restorative justice
3 ministries of victim's assistance to those in congregations and communities, harmed by crime.
4

5 TOGETHER, with God's help, each local congregation is encouraged to take these action steps:
6

7 1) EDUCATE your congregation about restorative justice principles that include victim's
8 rights, and victim's assistance ministry opportunities.
9

10 2) EQUIP your congregation through study and reflection on restorative justice ministry
11 opportunities of victim's assistance to people harmed by crime, to include secondary
12 victims.
13

14 3) EMPOWER your congregation to be a local "mission station" for creative and supportive
15 victim's assistance ministries to promote restorative justice and aid in healing to make
16 things as right or as whole, as possible.
17

18 Effective Date: July 1, 2007

19 Termination Date: July 1, 2008
20

Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? No.

If YES, fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Reverend Bob Coulson, MPA, MA, MDiv

-Restorative Justice Ministries Facilitator; The Rocky Mountain Conference of
the United Methodist Church, Church and Society, Network Advocating for
Peace with Justice Committee

-Extension Ministry; Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of
Child Welfare, Permanency Unit, Adolescent Services Administration

Address: 9300 East Center Ave, Unit 8B, Denver, Colorado 80247

Phone Number: 719-332-4335

Fax Number: N/A

E-Mail: rcjfacilitator@yahoo.com

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

This petition encourages and supports each local congregation and clergy to educate, equip, and empower a restorative justice ministry of victim's assistance for people harmed by crime, to include secondary victims. Each day we hear of crime close to home to include horrific crimes in areas we once considered relatively safe like a shopping mall (Salt Lake City, Utah, killings and hospitalizations) or a high school (Bailey, Colorado, killing, sexual assault of high school girls, and hospitalizations). We also witness people in our congregations who were harmed long ago who have never received assistance, still suffer almost silently, while still trying to make sense of what happened to them. Many are trying to answer tough questions like...Where was God whom I thought was to supposed to protect me? Why did Jesus not protect me when I prayed hard or over and over again for help? Who can I turn to or where are God's people when these bad things happen?

All of us try to make sense of a crime and feel similar fears, sadness, and helplessness like those directly impacted, sometimes to the point we also may become secondary victims of crime. As people of faith we readily see and acknowledge crime's negative impacts on people (including secondary victims) and know firsthand that it can be very debilitating and is an affront to God's vision for a peaceful and just world. So what can we do in addition to praying for all involved to demonstrate God's love and our church's compassion for those who are suffering? In addition to praying, what can we do to be prepared to live out our faith as ambassadors of Christ and empower others to if and when crime happens in our own backyard? Actually, a lot!

A Victim's Assistance Ministry provides an opportunity for each community United Methodist church (No matter the size or fiscal resources) and people of faith to be facilitators of restoration, reconciliation, and peace with justice.

This petition offers a blueprint for building and actualizing the infrastructure that is needed for creating a restorative justice ministry for victim's assistance in your local congregations and in the communities you serve. It replaces retributive justice with restorative justice-victim's assistance and helps us live out our faith by putting the teachings of Jesus and the "Good

Samaritan” into practice for people harmed by crime in our local congregations and communities. It helps us publicly demonstrate our concern, care, and compassion for a just and compassionate world for all people and it helps laity and clergy to better assist with pastoral care and to be visible, effective community leaders during a crisis, caused by crime.

This petition provides local congregations, laity and clergy the tools and supports needed for actualizing some of our shared theological understandings and common goals as indicated in:

- The vision of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church is to “manifest the love and reign of God...and to transform the society through social outreach and justice ministries.”
- The Book of Discipline (of The United Methodist Church), 2004, Paragraph 164, The Political Community, Criminal and Restorative Justice, states; “Through God’s transforming power, restorative justice seeks to repair damage, right the wrong, and bring healing to all involved, in the victim, the offender, the families, and the community.”
- The Book of Resolutions (of The United Methodist Church), 2004, Resolution 260, “In answering the question, ‘Who is my neighbor?’” by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37 NRSV), Jesus formulated a new question, to whom are we a neighbor? In this parable the neighbor was the victim of crime.

Therefore, we call upon members of The United Methodist Church (The Rocky Mountain Conference) to minister with victims and be advocates for them. A resources sheet is attached to help you respond to your need to help and assist and victim’s needs for help and spiritual support.

For the next specific steps you can take refer to the “**Victim’s Assistance Ministries Resource Sheet**”: Provided by your Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church, Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR THE *ONE* CAMPAIGN

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 Whereas: The United Methodist Book of Discipline states in paragraph 163.IV.THE
2 ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, E. “In spite of general affluence in the industrialized nations, the
3 majority of persons in the world live in poverty. In order to provide basic needs such as food,
4 clothing, shelter, education, health care and other necessities, ways must be found to share more
5 equitable the resources of the world.”
6

7 Whereas: The ONE Campaign to Make Poverty History is an effort by Americans to rally
8 Americans –one by one—to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty by calling
9 for an additional 1% of the federal budget to be committed to poverty-focused development
10 assistance.
11

12 The Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church supports the ONE Campaign
13 through these actions:

- 14 • Member churches will educate congregations about the ONE Campaign using materials
15 supplied by the Church and Society Network and independent sources;
- 16 • Members will be encouraged to visit the website www.one.org and sign the ONE
17 declaration to make poverty history;
- 18 • Copies of this petition will be sent to President George W. Bush, the members of
19 Colorado’s, Wyoming’s and Utah’s congressional delegation and the ONE Campaign.
20

Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? No
If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Clara Lou Humphrey
Address: 9390 W. 1st. Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80226
Phone Number: 303-232-1242
Fax Number:
E-Mail: clh232@comcast.net

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

In 2000, 189 countries, including the United States, agreed to a set of eight specific goals—the Millennium Development Goals—to substantially reduce hunger, poverty and disease in our world. In order to meet our promises to the world’s poorest people, the United States Congress needs to provide an increase of \$5 billion in poverty-focused development assistance every year for the next 5 years. Right now we are not on track to meet this goal. Currently the United States contributes less than one half of 1 percent of the federal budget for poverty-focused development assistance. Poverty-focused development assistance includes such programs as Child Survival, Development Assistance, African Development Foundation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Millennium Challenge Account and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The ONE Campaign, part of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, presses the United States to fulfill the commitments it made to the Millennium Development Goals. An additional ONE percent of the federal budget would help prevent 25 million children from becoming AIDS orphans, help get 115 million children into primary school and provide clean, safe water to almost 1.5 billion people. ONE also calls for debt cancellation, trade reform and anti-corruption measures in a comprehensive package to help Africa and the poorest nations beat AIDS and extreme poverty.

The ONE Campaign is an effort to unite people in the United States, ONE by ONE, to fight the emergencies of extreme poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS in the developing world. Through raising awareness, education and action, ONE mobilizes citizens to make hungry and poor people a priority in the policies of the United States government.

Let us, as The Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church, join with the other sponsoring organizations, Bread for the World, Oxfam, World Vision, the state of Colorado, the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church USA, The Episcopal Church, American Baptist Churches USA, American Jewish World Service, Church World Service and many others in support of the ONE Campaign.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON: Establishment and funding of a full-time position for Older Adult Ministry

1 The Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministry is requesting the
2 establishment and funding for a full time position within the Conference. This position
3 will provide leadership, training, support and address other issues as identified by the
4 Conference and the Conference Older Adult Committee as deemed necessary. This
5 position would commence on January 1, 2008; unless funding becomes available for an
6 earlier hiring date. The Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministry and Conference
7 leaders will establish a salary schedule; benefit package, and job description that will
8 include desired and measurable job goals. This position will be a permanent position
9 unless terminated at a later date by Annual Conference action

10

11 The Director of Older Adult Ministry will be responsible for the implementation of
12 programs dealing with, but not limited to:

13 Local Church Older Adult Ministry development

14 Conference Older Adult Ministry enhancement

15 Cabinet level representation

16 Implementation of District Older Adult Committee

17 Special event planning

18 General Board of Discipleship contact

19 Grant writing for Older Adult Ministry

20 Plan and implement symposiums dealing with, but not limited to:

21 Senior abuse

22 Financial considerations for Older Adults

23 Medical insurance considerations

24 Estate planning

25 Senior Fraud

26 Quality of life issues

27 Identify and join with community groups that advocate Older Adult issues

28 Nutritional and fitness concerns

28 Service and mission opportunities for Older Adults

29

30

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? YES

If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministry

Name: Herb Bowman, Jean Dove, Joe Fisher, Rev. James George, Connie Goodell, Ruth Major, Rev. Debra Lawrence, Rev. Marilyn McGraw, Rev. Beverly Webb, Craig Schuler, Kent Replogle

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Kent Replogle

**Address: 10550 Bryant Way
Westminster, CO 80234**

Phone Number: 303-439-8267

Fax Number: 303-452-0574 (NUMC)

E-Mail: sethamy11@comcast.net

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

Cost \$80,000- 106,500 Period Annual (Not to exceed one year.)

(The cost variance is directly attributable to costs undetermined until a candidate for this position is hired)

Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency fully funded by Conference

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2006

Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget Yes/No. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding The Council on Finance & Administration does not endorse nor provide additional funds for this Petition.

_____ Reason(s) CF&A sees value in the proposed position and the UM Book of discipline allows for submittal of Petitions relevant to the Annual Conference business.

However, approval of this petition would go counter to the established process for development of the Annual Conference budget and may not be consistent with the budget priorities established by the Board of Stewards. Approval of this petition would require approval of an amendment to the Annual Conference Budget of reduction of another area supported by the Approved Budget.

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

In 1900, the life expectancy for a person in the United States was 47 years of age. Today, that figure is closer to 79 and we are remaining active and vibrant in our later years. By the year 2010, those 60 years of age or older will outnumber the youth of this country for the first time. The need for ministry to older adults grows as the "Baby Boomers" reach the age of 65 and most will retire. With the increase in older adults, the need for services to the older adults will rise dramatically. The church will also begin to feel the change in our aging members, as so many of the churches in our conference have already felt. We will soon find churches filled with nothing but older adults. This does not mean that the churches affected are dead or dying, but rather, it is ripe for ministry to the older adults to happen in that setting. The implementation of this position for older adults will help the conference to begin to prepare for the inevitable.

As church leaders concerned with the futures of our members, we must remember that God evidently has a purpose for the longer lives we are experiencing. We no longer can afford to ignore this massive population that attends church, financially supports the church, and soon, if not already, will be looking to the church for guidance and assistance. It is the mission of all of our churches to reach out to the aged, nurture them, relate with them and equip these persons to better deal with the reality of a longer gift of life.

This position will serve the largest group of members of this conference – those over the age of 55. The level of activities will be enhanced and enable older adults to remain active in the local church and also at the conference and national level of the church. Presently, we have conference support for the youth and young adults but have stopped short of representation and leadership for the older adults. With the implementation of this position, we will become a leader in the United Methodist Church when it comes to older adults. The graying of the church is real and is not being addressed at the conference level. The position of Director of Older Adult Ministry will take the first steps to reverse this trend.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Representatives of the Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministry met and with the Input of Jack Ford, established the following proposed budgetary figures:

Estimated salary: \$40,000 – 60,000, depending on qualifications

Benefit package: \$15,000 – 22,500, based on salary

Office Budget: \$24,000

TOTAL IMPACT: \$79,000 - \$106,500

The Older Adult Committee is prepared to launch a fund raising campaign to help Subsidize this position, through the use of any or all of the following:

- Special offering at the local church level, with approval, for Older Adult Sunday
- Special gifts from a pledge drive of older adults in the conference
- Grants and special designated gifts to Older Adult Ministry
- Memorials
- Pooling of resources from other conference resources
- Direct gifts to Older Adult Ministry by local churches
- Gifts to Older Adult Ministry by businesses and individuals

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: OLDER ADULT MINISTRY AT THE DISTRICT LEVELS

1. ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

2. The Conference Council on Adult Ministries is authorized to begin to develop Older
3. Adult Ministries through and in cooperation with the District/Sub-District Structures of
4. the Rocky Mountain Conference. The development of such ministries will be in
5. cooperation with District Superintendents, District Lay Leaders and other District
6. Leaders.
- 7.
8. The purpose for Older Adult Ministries at the District Level shall be to advocate for
9. older adult concerns and issues and shall support ministries by, with and for older adults.
- 10.
11. Specifically the Older Adult Ministries at the District Level shall:
12. Assist local churches in the identification of the needs, concerns, and potential
13. contributions of older adults;
14. Sponsor training opportunities that will assist local churches in planning a comprehensive
15. ministry by, with, and for older adults;
16. Develop and distribute resources that will under gird local church older adult ministries;
17. Advocate the development and implementation of policies that will make the local church
18. "older adult" friendly. This would include policies making church buildings and
19. grounds architecturally accessible and safe for older adults;
20. Encourage cooperative older adult programs among local churches, other faith groups
21. and community agencies;
22. Establish other responsibilities as determined by the Rocky Mountain Conference Older
23. Adult Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? NO

If YES, fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Will there be any staffing impact to the Conference? NO

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION

**Name: THE OLDER ADULT COUNCIL OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN
CONFERENCE.**

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Herb Bowman

Address: 7033 S. Cherry St.

Centennial, CO 80122

Phone Number: 303.793.0871

Fax Number:

E-Mail: skinnyherb@juno.com

RATIONALE:

Our society is “graying”. This is even truer of our church population. A recent study by the General Council on Ministries found that approximately 62% of the membership in the United Methodist Church is fifty years of age or older. A number of the churches in our conference have an even higher percent of those over fifty. Our local churches and districts are facing the challenges of providing an intentional ministry by, with, and for these ever-increasing numbers of older adults. The formation of older adult ministry at the district level will bring intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults one level closer to the local church.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE ARCHIVIST

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church hire a part-time archivist to
2 work on preserving, cataloging the records of the Conference and local churches, as well as to
3 respond to research requests from individuals and local churches. The RMC Archivist would
4 work under the supervision of the RMC Commission on Archives and History and The
5 Historical Society of The United Methodist Church.

6
7 **RATIONAL:**

8 P640 of the 2004 Discipline states “in each annual conference there shall be a conference
9 commission on archives and history. It shall be the duty of the commission to collect and
10 preserve the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies, data
11 relating to the origin and history of the conference and its antecedents, to encourage and assist
12 the local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their
13 heritage; to provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of all abandoned or
14 discontinued churches ... to maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository and to see that
15 all items that obviously will have value for future history are properly preserved ... to establish
16 retention and disposition schedules for annual conference and local church records under
17 standards or guidelines developed by the General Commission on Archives and History ...

18
19 It is clear that by the Discipline the RMC is charged with providing for the preservation of
20 annual conference and local church records. The RMC Archivist would work in conjunction
21 with the Iliff School of Theology where the RMC Archives are stored. The RMC Archivist
22 would manage the materials, be accountable for the correct preservation of materials, and
23 confidentiality would be understood to be an important part of the job.

24
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? Yes
If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

**Name: The Rocky Mountain Commission on Archives and History and The
Historical Society**

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative
committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be
complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Marlene Barner
Address: 7405 Lookout Road
Longmont, CO 80503

Phone Number: 303-530-0241
Fax Number:
E-Mail: mbarner@niwotumc.org

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(To be completed in by Originator of Petition)

Cost \$10,000 Period 2008 (Not to exceed one year.)
Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency _____

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) March 26, 2006

Included in the Proposed 2007 Budget Yes/**No**. In the amount of _____

Recommendation by Council concerning funding: The Council On Finance & Administration does not endorse nor provide additional funds for this Petition.

Reason(s): CF&A sees value in the proposed position and the UM Book of discipline allows for submittal of Petitions relevant to the Annual Conference business. However, approval of this petition would go counter to the established process for development of the Annual Conference budget and may not be consistent with the budget priorities established by the Board of Stewards. Approval of this petition would require approval of an amendment to the Annual Conference Budget of reduction of another area supported by the Approved Budget.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

TITLE: ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 We of the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church affirm the diversity of
2 abilities present among us, and commit ourselves to holding annual conference meetings in
3 accessible settings that accommodate persons with disabilities. We commit to learning how our
4 meetings, our churches, and our annual conference session can be accessible to all who seek to
5 participate in the life of the church. To facilitate this vision, a member of the Disability
6 Connections Committee should serve on or be consulted by the annual session planning
7 committee. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act will serve as the guide for one
8 way to reach this vision, and as a minimum standard for accessibility.
9

Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? no
If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Disability Connections Committee, Nancy O'Loughlin, Chair

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Diana J. Huerta
Address: 1877 S. Sherman, Denver, CO 80210
Phone Number: 303-698-2449
Fax Number:
E-Mail: dhuerta@qwest.net

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

We as United Methodists desire to be a fully inclusive church, affirming of the diversity and value of all of God's people. This is seen in the Book of Discipline (Social Principles ¶162G) and in resolutions that have been adopted by the General Conferences. It can be seen in the Rocky Mountain Conference structure and in petitions adopted by the Rocky Mountain Conference.

We have a Board for a Racially Diverse and Inclusive Church. We have plans for ministry with Hispanic and Native American Indian persons. We affirmed the Western Jurisdiction "We Will Not Be Silent" statement of 2000 "to be in ministry with all God's children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings." (AC35 2002) These all address our desire to be fully inclusive.

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church in 2004 urged congregations "to

implement and enforce the provisions of the ADA and all disability-related programs."
(Resolution 46. "United Methodist Implementation of Americans with Disabilities Act", page 176, 2004 Book of Resolutions)

The Western Jurisdiction Conference in 2004 invited "the United Methodist community of the Western Jurisdiction, joyously and boldly to work together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people."

The purpose of this petition is to raise awareness of the diversity of abilities that are a part of our community naturally, to raise awareness of the need to learn about what each person needs to actively participate in that community, and to commit ourselves to learning how to be community more fully, including those whose experience includes a disability and to including them.

The purpose of this petition is to raise awareness of the diversity of the gifts and abilities of persons with disabilities in our community, to learn what each person needs in order to fully participate in that community and assist in resolving those needs, and to commit ourselves to being a more fully inclusive church by including All of God's children.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: LIGHTEN THE BURDEN: GLOBAL HIV/AIDS

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 The 2007 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference affirms the church's critical role to lighten the
2 burden of the Global HIV and AIDS crisis by:
3
4 1) Reaching the goal of raising \$100,000 set for this 2005-2008 quadrennium for the Rocky
5 Mountain United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. Each local church is encouraged to raise an
6 average of at least \$1.00 per member to support the United Methodist Global Aids Fund
7 (Advance #982345) by special projects, offerings, or whatever other way each local church
8 deems.
9
10 2) Continuing to encourage each local church to observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday
11 each year and receive an offering.
12
13 3) Instructing the Conference Global AIDS Committee to provide educational and
14 promotional materials for this observance
15
16 4) Asking the Planning Committee for the 2008 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference to
17 allocate at least one hour of plenary or program time to help raise awareness of how
18 United Methodists can be involved in the mission of combating global HIV and AIDS.
19
20 5) Encouraging every pastor to preach about the global HIV and AIDS crisis, and to pray for
21 all persons infected and affected.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION:

Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Global AIDS, Rocky Mountain Conference
Committee on Church and Society, Youngsook C. Kang, Donald E. Messer, Bonnie J. Messer,
Sally Geis, John Blinn, Randy Jessen, Pamela Everhart, Stephen Mitchell, Melanie Rosa, Ladelle
Dilli, William Dean, U Kwan Win, Betty Brown, Thomas Cross, Bradley Laurvick, Bill Graf,
Matthias Krier, Charles Schuster, Miriam H. Slejko, Keith Thompson, Catherine Kelsey, Paula
Murphy, Bill Selby, Joretta Marshall, Gil Caldwell, Rhonda Dern, Marla Petrini, Steve Burentt,
Janet Forbes & St. Lukes UMC, Richard Evans, Carolyn Waters, Connie Takimini

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Youngsook C. Kang and Donald E. Messer
Address: 6110 So. Greenwood Plaza Blvd
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
Phone Number: 303-733-3736
Fax Number: 303-733-1730
E-Mail: youngsook@RMCUMC.com

RATIONALE:

1 **Whereas** we are called to bring the good news to the poor, to heal the sick, and to care about the
2 marginalized and the stigmatized.

3

4 **Whereas** those with HIV and AIDS are the marginalized in many societies.

5

6 **Whereas** the burden of fighting global HIV and AIDS is heavy, but in Jesus Christ it will be
7 lightened (*Matthew 11:28-30*), and whereas, together we as United Methodists are called to help
8 lighten the burden of combating global HIV and AIDS.

9

10 **Whereas** over 40 million persons globally are living with HIV and AIDS, and 9,000 people die
11 from AIDS every day, and the AIDS pandemic causes five million persons to be infected and
12 three million lives are taken each year

13

14 **Whereas** it is critical to remind us that this is the last year of the 2005-2008 quadrennium
15 during which United Methodists set the goal of raising \$8 million through Advance Specials
16 for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF).

17

18 **Whereas** three-fourth of the funds raised within our Annual Conference are sent to the UMCOR
19 for distribution and one-fourth of funds raised for this Fund remain within the Conference to be
20 distributed as our Conference Global AIDS Committee deems fit (either locally, regionally,
21 and/or internationally),

22

23 **Whereas** Dr. Don Messer says, "Certainly \$8 million will not solve the global AIDS crisis. But
24 it will make a difference to the people it touches. And it will transform United Methodists
25 spiritually as we once again become a "mission movement" intent on bringing health, hope, and
26 help to the 'least of these' in God's family. Christian churches are called to break the conspiracy
27 of silence."

28

29 **Whereas** The Lord would say to us, "I was sick with AIDS and you did not visit me.... Truly, I
30 tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you
31 did not do it to me."

32

33 **Whereas** we now have the opportunity to respond to God's call to care for the sick and the
34 marginalized by responding to this unified funding strategy of the United Methodist Church
35 (UMGAF) and by being compassionate partners in creating an AIDS-free world through
36 providing programs of education, prevention, care, and treatment.

37

38

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

TITLE: RECONSIDERING OUR UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF THE RELIGIOUS
COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the
2 **United Methodist Church calls on members of the United Methodist church to prayerfully**
3 **reflect on whether agencies of our church should continue their membership in the**
4 **Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.**

5
6 **RATIONALE:**

7
8 **WHEREAS** the members of the United Methodist Church, like the rest of American society,
9 have a wide range of views on the difficult matter of abortion;

10 **WHEREAS** the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society and the Women's
11 Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries participate as member
12 organizations of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC);

13 **WHEREAS** RCRC goes significantly beyond what many self-described "pro-choice" people
14 believe, opposing parental notification requirements for abortion surgery performed on minor
15 girls, advocating taxpayer funding of medically unnecessary abortions, and opposing legislation
16 to ban partial-birth abortions;

17 **WHEREAS** paragraph 161J of our denomination's Social Principles declares, "We oppose the
18 use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call for the
19 end of this practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical
20 procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life";

21 **WHEREAS** other "mainline" denominations with similar positions on abortion to that of the
22 United Methodist Church have either never associated with RCRC (e.g., the Evangelical
23 Lutheran Church in America and the Disciples of Christ), or have severed past ties with RCRC
24 (American Baptist Churches USA and the Northern Province of the Moravian Church);

25 **WHEREAS** in a 2005 sermon delivered in Washington, DC, Bishop Timothy Whitaker of the
26 Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church lamented how during the 2004 General
27 Conference, time was not allotted for "much of a debate" about our denomination's participation
28 in RCRC;

29 **WHEREAS** the 2005 and 2006 sessions of at least four other annual conferences of the United
30 Methodist Church (Memphis, Louisiana, North Georgia, and South Indiana) have adopted
31 similar resolutions;

32

Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? No.

If YES , fill in appropriate information on back of sheet.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Paula R. Clapp

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Paula R. Clapp

Address: 1319 Alpine Street

Longmont, CO. 80501

Phone Number: 303-485-0939

Fax Number:

E-Mail: pclapp@msn.com

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: INSERTION OF "THE COMMON GOOD" LANGUAGE

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 Amend Paragraph 163.IV of The Book of Discipline

2

3 PP 163.IV THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

4 We claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God no less than other facets of the
5 created order. Therefore, we recognize the responsibility of governments to develop and
6 implement sound fiscal and monetary policies that provide for the economic life of individuals
7 and corporate entities and that ensure full employment and adequate incomes with a minimum of
8 inflation. We believe private and public economic enterprises are responsible for the social costs
9 of doing business, such as employment and environmental pollution, and that they should be
10 held accountable for these costs. We support measures that would reduce the concentration of
11 wealth in the hands of a few **AND THAT WOULD REDUCE THE GROWING INCOME**
12 **INEQUALITY WHICH UNDERMINES THE GENERAL WELFARE AND THE**
13 **COMMON GOOD.** We further support efforts to revise tax structures and to eliminate
14 governmental support programs that now benefit the wealthy at the expense of other persons.

15

16

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1,
2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

TERMINATION DATE: Permanent

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: LeMerle Milsom

Address: 4570 E. Yale, Apt. 201

Denver, CO 80222

Phone Number: 303-756-3648

Fax Number:

E-Mail: milsomhart@hotmail.com

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

Scripture calls us to honor the two great commandments: Love God and love neighbor. As United Methodists we understand humans to be relational beings flourishing in loving and nurturing communities of creation, family, and society. We also understand that each person carries the “imago dei”—the image of God and that honoring that image is part of our human covenant with one another and God. Communities provide the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their shared humanity. At its best, the human adventure is the realization of our common humanity. “The common good” is an expression of the call to promote and insure for all, the general economic, social, cultural and political conditions of humankind which allow each person to grow in healthy and whole ways. The preamble of the United States Constitution uses the language of “general Welfare” to express this desire. The phrase “the common good” has become part of our modern social discourse but is not explicitly found in the Social Principles of The Book of Discipline. By including that phrase in The Book of Discipline, we as United Methodists recognize certain imperatives of justice implicit in “the common good”: full participation of every citizen in shaping a democratic public order in which freedom, equality, and the human rights of all are protected; sustainable and healthy economies in which all persons can share; high quality education for all students; comprehensive health care that is accessible and affordable to all people; guarantee of human rights around the world.

From the United States Constitution: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

GENERAL CONFERENCE
BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS 2008
PAGE # _____
PARAGRAPH # _____
SUB NUMBERS _____
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

**PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

TITLE: CONNECTIONAL MODEL FOR PEACEMAKING

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The 2007 Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church endorses the following:
2

3 **I. THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
4 **CALLS UPON:**

5
6 **A) UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS AS DEVOTED**
7 **DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST TO BECOME PEACEMAKERS WHEREVER THEY**
8 **ARE -- AT HOME, SCHOOL, WORK, IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE**
9 **WIDER WORLD -- AND TO SHOW THE LOVE, COMPASSION, AND CONCERN**
10 **FOR JUSTICE THAT JESUS TAUGHT AND LIVED.**

11
12 **B) LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AS AN EXPRESSION OF WESLEYAN SOCIAL**
13 **HOLINESS TO TEACH AND PRACTICE PEACEMAKING, TO STUDY**
14 **UNDERLYING CAUSES OF CONFLICT AMONG SOCIAL GROUPS AND NATIONS,**
15 **TO SEEK POSITIVE REMEDIES AND BECOME INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE.**

16
17 **C) ANNUAL CONFERENCES TO UNDERGIRD CONGREGATIONS THROUGH**
18 **TRAINING, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR PEACEMAKING**
19 **ACTIVITIES AND TO BE VOICES FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION**
20 **WITHIN THE CONFERENCE AREA AND BEYOND.**

21
22 **D) BISHOPS TO ENCOMPASS PEACEMAKING IN TEACHING WHAT IT MEANS**
23 **TO LIVE THE UNITED METHODIST WAY, ENGAGE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION**
24 **WHERE APPROPRIATE, AND OFFER A PROPHETIC VOICE FOR PEACE AND**
25 **JUSTICE.**

26
27

28 **II. THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE CALLS UPON BOARDS AND AGENCIES**
29 **TO INCORPORATE PEACEMAKING INTO THEIR REGULAR PROGRAMS AND**
30 **BUDGETS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

31
32 **A) THE GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP TO DEVELOP, PUBLISH, AND**
33 **DISTRIBUTE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MATERIAL ON THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF**
34 **PEACE AND JUSTICE AND WAYS IN WHICH CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS**
35 **CAN BE PEACEMAKERS AND SEEKERS OF JUSTICE AND TO PUBLISH**
36 **DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR PEACEMAKERS.**

37
38 **B) THE GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY TO SERVE AS PUBLIC**
39 **POLICY ADVOCATE FOR ACTIONS THAT PROMOTE PEACE AND OPPOSE WAR,**
40 **TO PROVIDE RESOURCES ON PEACEMAKING TO ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND**
41 **LOCAL CONGREGATIONS, AND TO FACILITATE TRAINING FOR**
42 **NONVIOLENCE THAT APPLIES JESUS' TEACHING IN THE SERMON ON THE**
43 **MOUNT.**

44
45 **C) THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES, ITS WOMEN'S DIVISION,**
46 **AND UNITED METHODIST WOMEN TO CONTINUE AND AUGMENT**
47 **PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES IN THEIR MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES**
48 **AND AROUND THE GLOBE.**

49
50 **D) THE GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY TO WORK**
51 **WITH UNITED METHODIST SEMINARIES AND AFRICA UNIVERSITY FOR**
52 **ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND PUBLICATIONS ON THE**
53 **THEOLOGY OF PEACE AND METHODS OF PEACEMAKING AND PEACE**
54 **BUILDING WITH JUSTICE.**

55
56 **E) UNITED METHODIST SEMINARIES TO TEACH THE THEOLOGY OF PEACE**
57 **TO STUDENTS, CLERGY AND LAITY AND PROVIDE TRAINING FOR**
58 **PEACEMAKING.**

59
60 **F) JUSTPEACE: CENTER FOR MEDIATION AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION**
61 **TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF JUST PEACE IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE**
62 **WORLD AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR PEACEMAKING PRACTITIONERS**
63 **WITHIN ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND LOCAL CONGREGATIONS.**

64
65 **G) THE GENERAL COMMISSIONS ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS**
66 **CONCERNS, RELIGION AND RACE, THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN, AND**
67 **UNITED METHODIST MEN TO ILLUMINATE CAUSES OF INJUSTICE AND**
68 **INTERGROUP TENSION, ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE,**
69 **PROVIDE TRAINING FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION, AND BECOME**
70 **INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE.**

71

72 **H) THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE TO FACILITATE COOPERATION AMONG**
73 **UNITED METHODIST BOARDS, AGENCIES, CONFERENCES, AND**
74 **CONGREGATIONS ON PEACEMAKING ENDEAVORS.**
75
76

77 **III. THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING REPORTS**
78 **FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE:**
79

80 **A) BY THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS TO SUMMARIZE PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES**
81 **OF BISHOPS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES DURING THE 2009-2012**
82 **QUADRENNIUM AND OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER**
83 **PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2013-2016 QUADRENNIUM.**
84

85 **B) BY THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE, WITH STAFF ASSISTANCE FROM THE**
86 **GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY, TO DESCRIBE THE SUBSTANCE**
87 **AND RESULTS OF PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL BOARDS AND**
88 **AGENCIES DURING THE 2008-2012 QUADRENNIUM AND TO PRESENT**
89 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES DURING**
90 **THE 2013-2016 QUADRENNIUM.**
91

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

TERMINATION DATE: General Conference 2012

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Church and Society Network Advocating for Peace with Justice

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Scott Schiesswohl

Address: 6539 Jungfrau Way
Evergreen, CO 80439

Phone Number: 303-674-4086

Fax Number:

E-Mail: pastor@evergreenumc.org

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

A Call for Peacemaking

God's earth is aching for peace. Domestic strife, civil conflict, ethnic and racial clashes, religious schism and interfaith rivalry, terrorist attacks, wars between nations, and threatened use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons - all of these prevent us from achieving God's

shalom. In response we who are disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be peacemakers for the transformation of the world.

The biblical foundation for peacemaking is the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt.5:9), "Don't react violently against the one who is evil" (Mt 5:39, Scholars Version), "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt 5:44), and pray to forgive those who trespass against us (Mt. 6:12, 14-15). Paul echoed Jesus' teaching when he instructed Christians in Rome, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:14-21). He told the church in Corinth that through Christ we have a "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

For The United Methodist Church peacemaking is an essential task for achieving success in other initiatives. Working with the poor to eliminate poverty, caring for children, and conducting global health initiatives can be most successful in stable and just societies free from armed conflict. To have sufficient resources for these tasks requires global peace and disarmament in order to redirect vast amounts of public funds now spent on armed forces and weaponry. Moreover, a strong concern for peace and justice is a necessary feature of vital congregations.

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL AIDS FUND

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 Re-Committing to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund

2 The 2008 General Conference re-commits itself to raising funds for the United Methodist Global
3 AIDS Fund (UMGAF). During the 2009-12 quadrennium, United Methodists will raise \$4 million
4 through apportionments and match this with an additional \$4 million through Advance gifts.

5 The 2008 General Conference re-affirms that of the total money raised in each annual conference
6 for UMGAF, 25 percent shall be retained by the annual conference that raised it, to be used in programs
7 combating HIV/AIDS in their region and in other global connectional projects. Each annual conference
8 shall designate an appropriate agency for the promotion and distribution of these funds.

9 Of the total money raised in each annual conference for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund,
10 75 percent shall be remitted by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance
11 and Administration with appropriate distribution for use by the United Methodist Global AIDS
12 Committee (with representatives from the Council of Bishops, General Board of Global Ministries, ,
13 General Board of Church and Society, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns,
14 Youth and Young Adults Ministries, and three persons not serving with any of these agencies).

15
16 **Affirming Responsibilities of the Committee**

17 The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee will continue to be responsible for the
18 promotion, use, supervision, and distribution of these funds. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund
19 will continue to:

- 20 1. Assist local congregations and conferences in identifying and creating global partnerships for
21 mutual HIV/AIDS ministry.
- 22 2. Provide support for projects sponsored by local congregations or organizations related to the
23 United Methodist Church, partner autonomous Methodist churches and the ecumenical church.
- 24 3. Encourage partnerships between congregations and conferences in the United States and
25 Methodist congregations and ecumenical organizations globally that are engaged in the struggle
26 against HIV/AIDS.
- 27 4. Advocate for social justice, particularly related to increasing governmental and non-governmental
28 funding and issues regarding the role of pharmaceutical companies.
- 29 5. Develop appropriate promotional materials and funding guidelines.
- 30

EFFECTIVE DATE: General Conference, 2008.

TERMINATION DATE:

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Global AIDS, Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Church and Society, Donald E. Messer, Bonnie J. Messer, Youngsook C. Kang, Sally Geis, John Blinn, Randy Jessen, Pamela Everhart, Stephen Mitchell, Melanie Rosa, Ladelle Dilli, William Dean, U Kwan Win, Betty Brown, Thomas Cross, Bradley Laurvick, Bill Graf, Matthias Krier, Charles Schuster, Miriam H. Slejko, Keith Thompson, Catherine Kelsey, Paula Murphy, Bill Selby, Joretta Marshall, Gil Caldwell, Rhonda Dern, Marla Petrini, Steve Burnett, Janet Forbes & St. Lukes UMC, Richard Evans, Carolyn Waters

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

Name: Donald E. Messer and Youngsook C. Kang
Address: 7185 S. Niagara Circle
Centennial, CO 80112-1570
Phone Number: 303-770-5809
Fax Number:
E-Mail: dmesser@iliff.edu

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

1 For more than twenty-five years the global HIV and AIDS pandemic has traveled like a tsunami
2 across the earth, leaving in its wake over 26 million dead and over 40 million persons infected. Unlike
3 any other disease, it is a truly global crisis, as it impacts every nation and society.
4

5 A preventable disease, the world is losing the battle to curb infections, as each year an estimated
6 four to five million new persons are infected. Young people aged 15 to 24 are especially threatened by
7 lack of prevention education; at least 15 millions of children have become orphans. Urgently needed are
8 systematic programs of education for clergy and lay leaders around the world so they might effectively
9 address this crisis in church and society.
10

11 **Matching Words With Deeds**

12 Previous sessions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church have spoken with
13 prophetic and pastoral compassion to the global issue of HIV/AIDS. Our resolutions, however, have not
14 been matched by a resolve to commit significant financial and denominational resources in the struggle
15 for education, prevention, treatment and care in the worldwide struggle against HIV and AIDS. We need
16 to match our words with deeds.
17

18 In 2004 the General Conference established the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, but failed
19 to provide any apportionment funds to support programs that would promote education, prevention, care
20 and treatment. Even as the denomination petitioned the United Nations and other government agencies to
21 share generously their resources, United Methodists deemed the world's worst health crisis in 700 years
22 simply a matter of "second mile" or Advance giving. The goal of raising \$8 million over the four-year
23 period of 2005-2008 (equal to just 25 cents per member per year) through Advance giving was not

24 realized because of the low priority Overall, the United Methodist response has been minimal,
25 particularly in comparison to our resources and other commitments.
26

27 Despite the low level of funding during the past quadrennium, remarkable HIV and AIDS
28 programs have been supported, including outreach to many countries in Africa and Asia, as well as the
29 United States. Funds have been distributed in Mozambique, India, Sierra Leone, Kenya, South Africa,
30 Nigeria, Russia, and many other countries. Programs funded have included those stopping the
31 transmission of the virus from mother to child, testing and prevention programs among truck drivers,
32 supporting rural health care workers, caring for orphans, and providing help to an AIDS Pediatric Center.
33 Financial assistance was provided for a special edition of the *Upper Room* designed especially for persons
34 living with HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
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PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

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

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of
2 the United Methodist Church will petition the 2008 General Conference to amend paragraph 214
3 of the Discipline to insert the following sentence after the words “in any local church in the
4 connection” (Par. 4): **NO PERSON SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE UNITED**
5 **METHODIST CHURCH FOR REASONS RELATED TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL**
6 **ORIGIN, ECONOMIC CONDITION, GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL**
7 **ORIENTATION, OR GENDER EXPRESSION.**

8
9 **RATIONAL:**

10
11 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has historically welcomed into membership “all
12 persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition” per Article
13 IV of the Constitution; and

14
15 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Discipline ¶102 of our Doctrinal History states the following:
16 “Beyond the essentials of vital religion, United Methodists respect the diversity of opinions held
17 by conscientious persons of faith. Wesley followed the time-tested approach: ‘In essentials,
18 unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.’ ... The crucial matter in religion is
19 steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the
20 Holy Spirit”; and

21
22 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Social Principles in the Discipline paragraph 161(g) states,
23 “Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All
24 persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as
25 well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships
26 with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality
27 and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is
28 available to all. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn their lesbian and gay
29 members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons”; and
30

PETITION GC53
PAGE 2 OF 2

31 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Church has implemented the advertising strategy “Open Hearts,
32 Open Minds, Open Doors” which includes a “Diversity Expression” that “by communicating the
33 myriad beliefs and cultural diversity of the church, this expression invites anyone to attend,
34 wherever they are on the journey toward finding a spiritual home” (United Methodist
35 Communication’s Website: <http://www.ignitingministry.org/advertising/diversity.aspx>); and
36

37 **Whereas**, John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to
38 all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed
39 you”; Romans 14:13-14 says “Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but
40 resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.”; Luke 8:1-3
41 describes the numerous female followers of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says “For in the one
42 Spirit we were all baptized into one body”; Galatians 3:28 says “There is no longer Jew or
43 Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”; and John 13:35 says
44 “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;” and
45

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1,
2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Trinity United Methodist Church Council, Denver, CO

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative
committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be
complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Josh Davies

Address: 1401 Wewatta Street #214, Denver, CO 80202

Phone Number: 303.596.2425

E-Mail: daviesjt@gmail.com

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

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

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **Amend** Article IV, as follows: “The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal,
2 which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of
3 sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, economic condition,
4 **GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER**
5 **EXPRESSION**, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs,
6 receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking the
7 vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the
8 connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the
9 Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church
10 because of race, color, national origin, economic condition, **GENDER, MARITAL STATUS,**
11 **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER EXPRESSION.”**
12

13 **RATIONAL:**
14

15 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has historically welcomed into membership “all
16 persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition” per Article
17 IV of the Constitution; and
18

19 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Discipline ¶102 of our Doctrinal History states the following:
20 “Beyond the essentials of vital religion, United Methodists respect the diversity of opinions held
21 by conscientious persons of faith. Wesley followed the time-tested approach: ‘In essentials,
22 unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.’ ... The crucial matter in religion is
23 steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the
24 Holy Spirit”; and
25

26 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Social Principles in the Disciple paragraph 161(g) states,
27 “Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All
28 persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as
29 well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships
30 with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality

PETITION GC54

PAGE 2 OF 2

31 and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is
32 available to all. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn their lesbian and gay
33 members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons"; and
34

35 **Whereas**, the United Methodist Church has implemented the advertising strategy "Open Hearts,
36 Open Minds, Open Doors" which includes a "Diversity Expression" that "by communicating the
37 myriad beliefs and cultural diversity of the church, this expression invites anyone to attend,
38 wherever they are on the journey toward finding a spiritual home" (United Methodist
39 Communication's Website: <http://www.ignitingministry.org/advertising/diversity.aspx>); and
40

41 **Whereas**, John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to
42 all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed
43 you"; Romans 14:13-14 says "Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but
44 resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another."; Luke 8:1-3
45 describes the numerous female followers of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says "For in the one
46 Spirit we were all baptized into one body"; Galatians 3:28 says "There is no longer Jew or
47 Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus"; and John 13:35 says
48 "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;" and

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1,
2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Trinity United Methodist Church Council, Denver, CO

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative
committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be
complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Josh Davies

Address: 1401 Wewatta Street #214, Denver, CO 80202

Phone Number: 303.596.2425

E-Mail: daviesjt@gmail.com

GENERAL CONFERENCE
BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS 2004
CATEGORY # V The Political
Community: Political
Responsibility
PARAGRAPH # _____
SUB NUMBERS _____
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

**TITLE: Government Failure to Fulfill Terms of Treaties with Native American Tribes in
the United States of America**

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 Whereas; The United States government has failed to honor its obligations in treaties adopted by
2 Congress with Indian tribes; and
3
4 Whereas; Treaty agreements are solemn promises and must be honored; and
5
6 Whereas; The United Methodist Chjrch has long been a champion of American Indian rights;
7
8 THEREFORE; Be it resolved, that the United Methodist Church calls on the United States
9 government to review treaty obligations and determine a course of action to be taken to honor
10 the promises made to our Native American Indian People.
11

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1,
2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Native American Committee

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative
committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be
complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Marty Sorensen

Address: 710 Xenon Street, Golden, CO 80401-4667

**Phone Number: 303/883-8794
Fax Number: 303/379-7259
E-Mail: lindmart1@hotmail.com**

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

During our country's history most of the treaties executed between the Native American Indian Tribes and the United States government have consistently been broken or never fulfilled. The treaties were created and approved by the government and the tribal leaders in exchange for lands, minerals or other valuable items. Before the ink was dry, an immigrant population moving west under the mantle of Manifest Destiny rendered the treaties impotent. The result was the Indian population was pushed aside as well as the treaties.

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: Petition to add number 3 to Section VIII. Appointment-Making Responsibility—
paragraph 430.3 of *The 2004 Book of Discipline*

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 **THERE SHALL BE FULL DISCLOSURE REGARDING THE CHURCH'S HISTORY**
2 **OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS TO THE PROSPECTIVE PASTOR AND THE**
3 **CHURCH REGARDING THE PASTOR'S PASTORAL RECORD TO FACILITATE A**
4 **GOOD CHURCH/PASTOR AND FAMILY MATCH. APPOINTMENT CHANGES**
5 **IMPACT NOT ONLY THE CLERGY BUT ALSO THEIR FAMILIES. THE PASTOR**
6 **AND OTHER APPOINTED PERSON SHALL BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO**
7 **HAVE A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN THE NEW APPOINTMENT.**
8

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1,
2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Dr. Aaron D. Black, Sr.

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note.) The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative
committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be
complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Dr. Aaron D. Black, Sr.

Address: 21208 E. 50th Ave.

Denver, CO 80249

Phone Number: 303-371-9791

Fax Number: 303-371-9193

E-Mail: ablacksr@msn.com

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

The rationale here is to ensure that the pastor and/or other appointed person (s) will have sufficient information about the church, i.e., demographics, community climate, financial situation, theological perspective, etc. In cross-racial appointments it is critical to know the racial climate in both the church and community. This will ensure that both clergy and congregation have information for discernment and informed decision-making.

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: To change and add language to paragraph 623 of *The 2004 Book of Discipline*

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **Payment Obligation**—Each church or charge has an obligation to pay the full compensation, as
2 approved by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or
3 charge will be unable to so provide the compensation approved by the charge conference, the
4 church or charge shall immediately notify, **IN WRITING, THE PASTOR, DISTRICT**
5 **SUPERINTENDENT AND CONGREGATION INDICATING ALL AVENUES**
6 **EXPLORED TO MEET THE SALARY and may request INCLUDING REQUESTING**
7 consideration for a short-term emergency subsidy grant from the Equitable Compensation Fund.
8 **IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO MODIFY A PASTOR'S COMPENSATION, IT**
9 **SHALL OCCUR AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE APPOINTMENT YEAR.**

10

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Spencer Williams

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Spencer Williams

Address: 1088 White Hawk Ranch Dr.

Boulder, CO 80303

Phone Number: 303-499-7909

Fax Number:

E-Mail:

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

The rationale for this petition is to minimize the level of financial impact a salary reduction will have on the pastor and family and to ensure that churches or charges meet their payment obligation for the entire conference year. When a church finds itself in a crisis, dialogue should begin at all levels to ensure the church and the clergy family's financial security. Because clergy are considered "self-employed", not "employees" of the local church or the United Methodist Church, there are certain rights and privileges that are not available to them as with someone that is considered an "employee. A formal process should be developed and activated to ensure that all means to maintain the compensation level are explored when the possibility of a salary reduction seems eminent. There are not many "employers" that include a "spouse and children" as part of an offer of employment but the United Methodist Church does and therefore the entire family must be taken into account when adverse compensation decisions are being considered.

The *Book of Discipline* is written as a guide for the United Methodist Church and Christians. Without clergy (shepherds) in our polity, where would the church be? Clergy are Shepherds that lead their flock and are not protected by secular employment laws. They enter into this covenant with God and the Church, and the flock should honor that covenant as it abides by the Social Principles and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

TITLE: Petition to change Charge Conference Powers and Duties – paragraph 247.13 of *The 2004 Book of Discipline*

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 The charge conference in consultation with the district superintendent **AND THE PASTOR IN**
- 2 **CHARGE** set the compensation of the pastor and others appointed by the bishop.
- 3 **CONSULTATION SHALL NOT BE NOTIFICATION, BUT SHALL BE A VERBAL**
- 4 **EXCHANGE OF WORDS IN FACVE-TO-FACE MEETINGS INVOLVING ALLN**
- 5 **PARTIES PRIOR TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE ACTION.**

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Judge Raymond Jones

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note.) The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Judge Raymond Jones

Address: 780 Steele

Denver, CO 80206

Phone Number: 303-321-3878

Fax Number:

E-Mail: raymondjones@holtllc.com

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

The rationale for this change is to ensure that pastors and other appointive staff are consulted about compensation before decisions are made. Consultation should be face-to-face exchange of words not by electronic or written mail. These meetings should be followed up with documentation and become part of the minutes of the staff/parish relations committee. Decisions that may adversely affect a clergy's compensation, ie. reduction in adequate amount of time to have input from the members. The district superintendent should facilitate any dialogue about adverse compensation adjustments and make sure that all means to protect the compensation level have been exhausted before this extreme action is finalized and voted at charge conference. The charge conference is not the time for "surprises" or "tense" moments because of the lack of essential information.

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: Petition to add language to paragraph 432.2(e) of *The 2004 Book of Discipline*

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 Family Situation: A PASTOR'S FAMILY IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE
2 APPOINTIVE PROCESS. A PROFILE OF THE SPOUSE AND/OR FAMILY'S GIFTS,
3 EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE, PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND
4 EXPECTATIONS SHALL BE DEVELOPED AND SHARED WITH THE PASTOR-
5 PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE OR STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
6 AND WITH THE CONGREGATION DURING THE APPOINTIVE PROCESS.
7 ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY WITH SPECIAL
8 NEEDS, e.g, A PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED CHILD/SPOUSE OR OTHER UNIQUE
9 HEALTH OR SPOUSAL NEEDS SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATION IN
10 ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVE MATCH OF PASTOR, FAMILY AND
11 CHARGE. THIS PROFILE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED, ANALYZED ANNUALLY
12 AND IN EACH INSTANCE SHALL BE SHARED WITH THE PASTOR-PARISH
13 RELATIONS COMMITTEE OR STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND
14 CONGREGATION.
15

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Janet E. Black

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Janet E. Black

Address: 21208 E. 50th Ave.

**Denver, CO 80249
Phone Number: 303-371-9791
Fax Number: 303-371-9193
E-Mail: jnunnblack@msn.com**

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

Item (e), family situation is the only section with no language of explanation. Because the clergy's family is an integral part of the appointive process this section should contain specifics about the family. This petition offers language in point out the importance of family in the appointive process and to point out the need to be attentive to special family needs when making appointments. Just as congregations are unique in their composition so are clergy families. Today's clergy families are faced with the need to have two incomes just as congregants and decisions must be jointly made regarding clergy "moves" that will make sound decisions about a potential family move-information regarding the church, that is presented to the clergy by the district superintendent. Where there are children, empathy and sensitivity to the unique needs of the family. In cases of cross-racial appointments, and particularly if a church is not receptive to such an appointment, the cultural and sensitivity training as well as ongoing dialogue about racial concerns. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church shall serve as the basis for these discussions. A "protective shield or circle" should embrace this family to ensure that needed supports are place.

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: To change the language in paragraph 433.3 of *The 2004 Book of Discipline*

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 When a change in appointment has been determined, the district superintendent should meet
2 together or separately **FIRST WITH THE PASTOR, FOLLOWED BY A MEETING WITH**
3 **THE COMMITTEE OR PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS OR COMMITTEE ON**
4 **STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS WHERE THE PASTOR IS SERVING, EITHER WITH**
5 **THE PASTOR OR ALONE IF THE PASTOR CHOOSES NOT TO ATTEND**, for the
6 purpose of sharing the basis for the change and process used in making he new appointment.
7

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise stated, the action of petitions will be effective July 1, 2007. General Conference Petitions will be effective if adopted by General Conference, 2008.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: Milton Garlin

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Milton Garlin

Address: 9920 King Ct.

Westminster, CO 80030

Phone Number: 303-469-4466

Fax Number:

E-Mail: m_garlin@yahoo.com

RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)

The rationale for this change is to ensure that the pastor is the first to know of a proposed change in appointment in an official meeting with the district superintendent. At this time, critical information can be shared as to reasons for the change and the consultation process is initiated. The next step will be a meeting with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the pastor. However, the pastor can opt not to attend but must be made aware of the agenda and the discussion that takes place at the meeting. Consultation in this order will help protect confidentiality and minimize fear and anxiety within the congregation.

GENERAL CONFERENCE
BOOK OF DISCIPLE 2004
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PARAGRAPH # Consitution IV.
SUB NUMBERS P23 *Article 1*

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

**TITLE: PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE DELEGATES**

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 ¶ 23. *Article I.*
2 The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual
3 conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by
4 the General Conference, **PROVIDED THAT NO JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**
5 **SHALL HAVE FEWER THAN 100 DELEGATES.** The missionary conferences shall be
6 considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.
7
8

9 **RATIONALE**

10
11 Since bishops are elected at jurisdictional conferences, it is important to ensure some minimum
12 basis of support for election.
13
14
15

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: WESTERN JURISDICTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Kunle Taiwo
Address: 2313 S. Jamaica St.
Aurora, CO. 80014

Phone Number: 303-745-2938
Fax Number: 303-745-2983
E-Mail: ktarch@att.net

GENERAL CONFERENCE
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PAGE # 320 _____
PARAGRAPH # 513 _____
SUB NUMBERS _____

PETITION TO THE 2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE

**TITLE: PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE DELEGATES**

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

¶ 513. *Membership*

The membership of each jurisdictional conference shall consist of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences as provided in the Discipline. Consideration shall be given to electing an inclusive delegation (¶¶ 124, 138). The number of delegates to which an annual conference is entitled shall be twice the number of its General Conference delegates, **EXCEPT WHEN THE APPLICATION OF THAT FORMULA RESULTS IN A TOTAL NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO A JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LESS THAN 100. TN THAT EVENT, THE SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE SHALL ADJUST THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO A JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE SAME PROPORTION AMONG THE ANNUAL AND MISSIONARY CONFERENCES OF THE JURISDICTION TO ACHIEVE A TOTAL OF 100, ENSURING THAT NO ANNUAL OR MISSIONARY CONFERENCE SHALL BE REPRESENTED BY FEWER THAN FOUR DELEGATES.**

RATIONALE

Since bishops are elected at jurisdictional conferences, it is important to ensure some minimum basis of support for election.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church or organization)

Name: WESTERN JURISDICTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

Name: Kunle Taiwo

**Address: 2313 S. Jamaica St.
Aurora, CO. 80014**

Phone Number: 303-745-2938

Fax Number: 303-745-2983

E-Mail: ktarch@att.n

