

## Annual Conference Actions and Resolutions

*Mary Frances Gunn, section editor*

### Conference Actions

*Recorded below is the text of each petition as passed by the 2006 Annual Conference, along with the titles of petitions that were defeated or referred. For the text of Standing Resolutions, see the next section, beginning on page 197.*

#### **H-5 Revise Rule 1.021**

Sponsor: Connectional Ministries Table

Responsible Parties: The parties named in the rule: The director of connectional ministries and the conference leadership team. The conference secretary is responsible for implementing the lay member equalization formula.

Adopted.

Revise Conference Rule 1.021 to read:

”Elected lay chairpersons of conference ministry teams shall be lay members (if not already).

Prior to establishing the conference lay member equalization formula, the director of connectional ministries shall submit to the conference leadership team for review and approval a list of conference ministry teams to which this rule shall apply. Ministry teams having co-chairpersons shall determine in advance which is to serve as the voting member of the annual conference. The other may be seated with a voice but without a vote.”

#### **H-7 Petition to the 2008 General Conference: To Prohibit Discrimination in Receiving Members into United Methodist Congregations**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

Responsible Party: The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Secretary to send the petition to the 2008 General Conference at the appropriate time.

Adopted.

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

WHEREAS, in its Decision 1032 the United Methodist Judicial Council supported one UMC pastor’s refusal of membership to a person seeking membership because of the “aspiring member’s sexual orientation and practice”, and overruled decisions by the district superintendent, bishop, and the Annual Conference clergy session requiring that the pastor welcome this individual into membership; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you”, Galatians 3:28 says “There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”, and John 13:35 says “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”,

Now, THEREFORE, THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PETITIONS THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE TO AMEND PARAGRAPH 214 IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE BY INSERTING THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE AFTER THE WORDS “IN ANY LOCAL CHURCH IN THE CONNECTION”: “NO PERSON SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR REASONS RELATED TO HIS OR HER SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.”

**H-9 Local church Health/Wellness agreement**

Sponsor: Jamie Kienzle

Responsible Parties: Local churches in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

Adopted.

Suggest that churches and pastors use a Health/Wellness agreement as a prototype agreement for maintaining pastoral health and church support and accountability for maintaining pastoral health. (See addendum)

H-9 Addendum:

**Health/Wellness Agreement**

*Agreement between Church and (Pastor)*

The intention of this agreement is to emphasize actions that augment good physical and mental health and promote overall wellness. Practical adjustments may be necessary for emergencies and unusual situations.

1. I agree to set and advertise a weekly day off and to utilize that day off for personal rest and fulfillment.
2. I agree to pre-schedule, whenever possible, vacation time and take my allotted 30 days throughout the conference year.
3. I agree to set a pattern of office days and hours where I can be regularly contacted.
4. I agree to establish and utilize personal support groups, as much as possible.
5. I agree to schedule “personal time” or “family time” on a regular basis.
6. I agree to schedule continuing education such as lectures, Pastor’s school, personal readings, and similar items to fulfill the continuing education requirement listed in the Book of Discipline and the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference rules.
7. I agree to establish (as much as possible) a regiment which includes adequate sleep, regular exercise (depending on any physical limitations), physical wellness exams, and adequate diet. Any special needs such as allergies, etc. should be related to the S-PRC so that adjustments can be made, if necessary.
8. Since prevention is important for future health and wellness, I agree to have an annual physical exam and utilize the Health-Flex support system.
9. I agree to let others help or take over Sunday services, if I have a temporary illness or injury such as the flu or a similar temporary severe respiratory condition. I agree that there is not a need to “tough it out” in those cases.

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10. I will encourage others to save non critical items for scheduled business hours, unless I initiate the contact. I will encourage notification for emergencies such as serious illnesses, hospital occupancy, and church family deaths on the phone recording device or by personal contact.

11. I agree to try membership in a community organization or group to give the church a presence in local community affairs (as my time permits).

12. I will notify the S-PRC or other committee chairpersons, ahead of time, for scheduled meetings, training events, church camp involvement, or other conference activities requiring me to be away from the local church. This is so those persons can explain why the pastor is away and the purpose of the activity.

13. I agree to use practical judgment in balancing attendance at church events and church committee meetings and personal time.

*The church and its representatives—the (S)PRC, the Administrative council, and the Lay Leader:*

1. We agree to encourage and support the pastor in scheduling vacation time, attending training, arranging time for continuing education, and allowing for personal time.

2. We will be supportive for the required time needed for study, research, and preparation for the weekly Sunday service.

3. We will be supportive when the pastor attends District or Annual Conference events.

4. We will encourage others to avoid becoming too “pastor-centered” in church events and church committee meetings.

5. We will be supportive and encouraging to the pastor for maintaining a healthy regiment to promote reduction of stress and burn-out and to maintain or improve health and wellness.

6. We will encourage the pastor to utilize study leave or similar leave about every six years or so to take a break from continuous pastoral service.

7. We will assist in communicating the pastor’s needs and the pastor’s schedules to the entire congregation in our conversations and through written communications.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Pastor)

\_\_\_\_\_ (S)PRC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair Administrative Council)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Lay Leader)

### **H-11 Health Insurance for Pastors over 65**

Sponsor: David Goodrich

Tabled.

### **H-13 Peace In Iraq (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Wesley Taylor

Responsible Parties: The Bishop, District Superintendents, Conference Boards and staff, local church pastors, and educational teams in our local churches.

Adopted as amended.

### **H-15 Endorse SMART Security (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action and Kathy Campbell-Barton, Peace with Justice Coordinator

Responsible Parties: The Conference Witness team working with Peace with Justice Program. The Peace with Justice Coordinator will provide the conference leadership with

a copy of the endorsement document to sign, and keep members of the annual conference updated on progress of the SMART Security Platform and legislation regarding SMART Security and House Congressional Resolution 158 introduced by Congress by California representative Lynn Woolsey.  
Adopted.

**H-17 Recognition of Bishop's Leadership (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action  
Responsible Parties: Members of the Annual Conference  
Adopted.

**H-19 Proceeds from Properties of Abandoned or Discontinued Local Churches**

Sponsor: Ministry Cabinet  
Responsible Parties: Conference Trustees, Committee on Church Development and Redevelopment  
Adopted as amended.

Adopt a conference rule that would go into effect January 1, 2008 - When properties are sold by the Conference Trustees from the discontinuation or abandonment of a congregation, the proceeds are to be divided equally, with 50% going to the Annual Conference Church Development/Redevelopment Fund and 50% to the District Church Extension Society, to be disbursed in compliance with the Discipline and as part of an overall strategy of church development and redevelopment in the conference.

**H-21 Reform the office of the District Superintendent**

Sponsor: Eric Brown  
Responsible Party: The Conference Leadership Team  
Adopted as amended.

Direct the CLT (Conference Leadership Team) to review the structure and the effectiveness of the office of the District Superintendent and present recommendations to the 2007 Annual Conference.

**H-23 Health Insurance Options**

Sponsor: Eric Brown  
Responsible Party: The Board of Pensions  
Adopted as amended.

Directs the Board of Pensions to explore and report to the 2007 Annual Conference the savings and benefits of covering only the pastor of the local church with health insurance and charging pastors for additional family coverage, should pastors desire such coverage and include a way to help pastors cover this additional cost.

**H-25 Conference Merger**

Sponsor: Eric Brown  
Defeated.

**H-27 Revise Conference Rule 2.034**

Sponsor: Jaime Hurst, chair, Sessions Committee  
Referred to Sessions Committee.

**H-29 Petition to the 2008 General Conference to amend Para. 161G in Social Principles**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling United Methodists  
Responsible Party: The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Secretary  
Adopted as amended.

Petition the 2008 General Conference to amend Para. 161G of the Social Principles with these changes:

Add the words, WE BELIEVE, in the first sentence of the second paragraph so that the entire sentence would read: “Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, WE BELIEVE sexual relations are only clearly affirmed in the marriage bond.”

Add another sentence at the end of the third paragraph that would read: WE ENCOURAGE CIVIL AUTHORITIES TO ENACT LAWS THAT WILL ENSURE FULL CIVIL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS FOR PERSONS IN CIVIL UNIONS AND MARRIAGES WITHOUT REGARD TO THE GENDER OF THE PARTNERS.”

In the fifth paragraph amend it as follows: “ ...All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with self, and with others. THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DOES NOT CONDONE THE PRACTICE OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND CONSIDERS THIS PRACTICE INCOMPATIBLE WITH CHRISTIAN TEACHING. While Christians of good faith differ on what Christian teaching reveals regarding homosexuality, we affirm that God’s grace is available to all.....”

**H-33 Reform of Payday Loan Industry**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

Responsible Parties: Individual members and/or local churches.

Adopted as amended.

We urge individual members and local churches to become involved in reform of the payday loan business in Oregon and Idaho.

Payday loans are loans made in advance of a paycheck with fees of about \$20 per \$100 borrowed. Typical loan terms are 14 days. This results in annual interest rates of up to 521%. Because the circumstances that cause people to borrow at this high rate are financial emergencies, lenders are prone to the temptation of gouging their customers. Payday lending is modern day usury where the misfortunes of others are exploited for the private gain of others. They are contributing to poverty, including increased pressure on food banks. This is an important issue of justice, and it directly relates to the efforts our churches are making to feed the hungry.

Currently there are few regulations of this industry in either Oregon or Idaho. There is no limit on interest rates in either state.

There has been no action in the Idaho Legislature beyond a requirement that the businesses be licensed by the state.

A bill passed in 2006 by a special session of the Oregon Legislature to regulate payday loans does not go into effect until after the next regular session in 2007. This bill would limit the interest rates on such loans. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon supported this legislation.

Local churches are urged to learn more about the issue. Members in Idaho are encouraged to work for payday loan reform. Members in Oregon are urged to be vigilant in seeing that the action already taken is neither rescinded nor watered down.

**H-35 Pregnancy and Family Planning, Continue Support of Right of Choice (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team, and Methodist Federation for Social Action

Responsible Parties: The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference and The Conference Witness team.

Adopted.

**H-37 Amend Conference Rule 12.062**

Sponsor: Charles Lehrman

Responsible Party: Rules Committee to change rule.

Adopted as amended.

Amend Conference Rule 12.062 as follows:

If after five years following the sale of a parsonage and the investment of the proceeds, a congregation still wishes to pay a housing allowance in lieu of providing a parsonage, upon consultation with the District Superintendent 100% of the interest earned may be used for providing a housing allowance. If after eight (8) years the congregation still wants to continue paying a housing allowance instead of providing a parsonage, the congregation may, upon consultation with the District Superintendent and the decision of a duly called Charge Conference, use all or any part of the corpus of the investment for any capital improvement or construction of any building owned by the congregation.

**H-39 2006 Annual Conference Resolution on United Methodist Global AIDS Fund**

Sponsor: Reconciling Task Force, Portland First UMC

Responsible Party: The Conference Witness Team

Adopted as edited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has historically adopted resolutions about combating HIV/AIDS, but without demonstrating a financial commitment to combating HIV/AIDS, and

WHEREAS, as United Methodist Bishop Felton May has declared, "Churches cannot conquer AIDS alone, but it will not happen without us":

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BE IT RESOLVED, that The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference establish a minimum quadrennium Advance Special goal of raising an average of \$1.00 per member by special projects, offerings or whatever method each local church deems best during the remainder of this quadrennium, beginning in 2006. (During this period, the pledge amounts to 25 cents per member, per year.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages each local church to observe a Global AIDS Awareness Sunday each year for the remainder of this quadrennium, that the Conference Witness Team be authorized to: a) provide educational and promotional materials for this observance; and b) determine the distribution of the 25 percent of the funds designated for conference use.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference would establish for the remainder of this quadrennium an Advance Special goal for special projects, offerings and education toward global and local awareness of AIDS/HIV issues.

### **H-41 Pre-Emptive Nuclear Strikes--Opposition To (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team, and Methodist Federation for Social Action

Responsible Parties: The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference and The Conference Witness team working with Peace with Justice Program. The Peace with Justice Coordinator will keep updated on legislative issues regarding nuclear weapon issues, especially new nuclear weapons designed and developed as weapons of mass destruction for consideration to use to wage war. The Peace with Justice Coordinator will forward or issue action alerts informing the PWJ network when appropriate.

Adopted.

### **H-43 United Nations Support (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team, and Methodist Federation for Social Action

Responsible Parties: The Conference Witness team working with Peace with Justice Program will provide information about United Nation's programs offered by the General Church boards and agencies, and provide resources to local churches about United Nations Sunday that is celebrated each October.

Adopted.



**H-45 Continuation of Conference Advance Special Status**

Sponsor: Conference Outreach Ministry Team

Responsible Parties: The individual projects listed. The Outreach Team has developed a process for the review of the projects which the Outreach Team will implement.

Adopted.

Authorize continuation of Conference Advance Special status during 2006-2007 for the following projects relating to OR-ID churches and affiliated organizations. These projects have each been approved in previous years and are being reviewed and verified by the Outreach Team.

**Conference Advance Special Status Projects:**

**Children of Promise - Woodlawn UMC, Portland, OR**

**Common Cup Family Shelter - Sunnyside UMC, Portland, OR**

**David's Harp - Multnomah County, OR**

**Habitat for Humanity projects – Oregon and southern Idaho**

**Klamath Basin Cooperative Ministries/Klamath Basin Council on Children and Youth - Chiloquin, OR**

**Gem Youth Services - Emmett, ID**

**OR/ID Hispanic Ministries - Salem, OR; Twin Falls, ID; Wilder, ID; Woodburn, OR**

**Our House - Portland, OR**

**Rebuilding Together - Washington County, OR (formerly Christmas in April)**

**Portland Seafarer's Mission - Portland, OR**

**Strength for the Journey, Camp or Endowment Fund – Camp & Retreat Ministries**

**United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) – OR-ID Annual Conference**

**United Methodist Retirement Center - Salem, OR**

**H-47 Family Leave Optional CPP Participation**

Sponsor: Karen Crooch

Referred to the Annual Conference Board of Pensions and Council on Finance & Administration, to report back at 2007 Annual Conference.

**H-49 Close School of Americas (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team, and Methodist Federation for Social Action

Responsible Parties: The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference and The Conference Witness team working with the Peace with Justice Coordinator by tracking and alerting the peace advocacy network on the status of H. R. 1217 -The House Resolution introduced March 10, 2006 to suspend the authority for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (the successor institution to the United States Army School of the Americas) in the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

Adopted.

**H-51 Support for Rural Ministry in Gilchrist**

Sponsor: Joe Spinelli

Defeated.

**H-53 Endorsement of Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger and Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (Standing Resolution)**

Sponsor: Task Force for the Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger

Responsible Party: the Task Force for The Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger

Adopted.

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### **H-55 Campus Ministry**

Sponsor: Kellen Christensen

Responsible Parties: The Conference Treasurer and CFA

Adopted.

Designate Campus Ministries to be paid at 100% of the approved 2007 budget.

### **H-57 Health Insurance Apportionment**

Sponsor: Jim Fellers

Referred to Council on Finance & Administration for consideration and reporting back to the 2007 Annual Conference.

### **H-59 Health Insurance for Campus Ministers**

Sponsor: Jim Fellers

Responsible Parties: Board of Pensions and the Office of the Treasurer

Adopted.

Premiums for campus ministers eligible to participate in the annual conference health insurance program shall be included in the conference health insurance pool and billed at the same rate as churches.

### **H-61 Revise Conference Rules Related to the Conference Structure**

Sponsor: The Conference Leadership Team and Ministry Cabinet

Responsible Parties: The Rules Committee, who will revise the rules, and the parties named in the rules.

Adopted as amended.

## **I. REVISE CONFERENCE RULE 6.001-**

The annual conference shall be organized to fulfill its expressed purpose of “making disciples of Jesus Christ by equipping its local ministry-settings for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local setting; all to the glory of God” ( 602). The annual conference structure shall provide for the connectional relationship of the local church, district, and conference with the general agencies.

## **II. CREATE A NEW RULE FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

New Rule: (rule 6.005)

**6.005** The annual conference structure shall be based on an interactive ministries model comprised of three primary empowerment systems – 1) Connectional Ministries, 2) Servant Leadership, and 3) Finance and Administration. Within each empowerment system are affiliated teams that plan, coordinate, and apply the ministries of their empowerment system to the disciple-making mission of the annual conference.

### **1. The Connectional Ministries Empowerment System**

A. Connectional ministries teams steward the program ministries of the connection.

B. Teams affiliated with the connectional ministries empowerment system include:

1) The nurture ministry team, which corresponds to the board of discipleship (§ 629) and has responsibility for conference ministries related to Christian education, worship, and stewardship.

2) The outreach ministry team, which corresponds to the board of global ministries (§ 632) and has responsibility for conference ministries related to health and welfare, urban and rural ministries, local and global missions, United Methodist volunteers in mission, missionary itineration, and disaster response.

- 3) The witness ministry team, which corresponds to the board of church and society (§ 628) and the board of discipleship (§ 629) and has responsibility for conference ministries related to church and society, peace with justice, evangelism, and spiritual formation.
- 4) The council of racial and ethnic leadership (§ 631), which coordinates the work of the Native American Ministries Council (§ 653) as well as other established ethnic ministries councils, and has responsibility for strengthening ethnic local churches and developing ethnic ministries in and through Anglo ministry-settings.
- 5) Age-level ministry teams, including conference ministry teams focused on children ministries, youth ministries (§ 648), young adult ministries (§ 649), adult ministries and older adult ministries (§ 650).
- 6) The campus ministries and higher education team (§ 633).
- 7) The commission on Christian unity and interreligious concerns (§ 641).
- 8) The commission on religion and race (§ 642).
- 9) The commission on the status and role of women (§ 643).
- 10) The board of lay ministry (§ 630)
- 11) United Methodist Women (§ 646)
- 12) United Methodist Men (§ 647)

C. There shall be a connectional ministries table (CMT), which corresponds to the conference council on ministries and which develops and coordinates the work of the connectional ministries teams.

- 1) Members of the connectional ministries table include:
  - a. the chairperson of the CMT
  - b. the nurture ministry team leader
  - c. the outreach ministry team leader
  - d. the witness ministry team leader
  - e. the conference secretary of global ministries
  - f. the campus ministries and higher education team leader
  - g. a youth or young adult from their age-level ministry team
  - h. the council of racial and ethnic leadership leader
  - i. the commission on religion and race chairperson
  - j. the executive director of camp and retreat ministries
  - k. the conference lay leader
  - l. the conference treasurer
  - m. the director of connectional ministries
  - n. a district superintendent
  - o. an additional youth or young adult representative

## **2. The Servant Leadership Empowerment System**

A. Servant leadership teams steward the annual conference's responsibilities for the recruitment, credentialing, equipping of and advocacy for lay and clergy leadership.

B. Teams affiliated with the servant leadership empowerment system include:

- 1) The board of ordained ministry (§ 634)
- 2) The committee on episcopacy (§ 636)
- 3) The commission on equitable compensation (§ 624)

- 4) The committee on investigation (§ 2703)
- 5) The diaconal committee on investigation (§ 2703.3)
- 6) The joint committee on incapacity (§ 651)
- 7) The administrative review committee (§ 635)
- 8) The ministry cabinet

**3. The Finance and Administration Empowerment System**

A. Teams related to this empowerment system steward the fiscal and administrative ministries of the annual conference.

B. Teams affiliated with the finance and administrative empowerment system include:

- 1) the council on finance and administration (§ 610)
- 2) the rules committee (Rule 6.010)
- 3) the Episcopal residence committee (§ 637)
- 4) the conference board of pensions (§ 638)
- 5) the conference board of trustees (§ 639)
- 6) the archives and history committee (§ 640)
- 7) the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist foundation (§ 612.16)
- 8) United Methodist ministers' retirement fund

**H-63 Revise Conference Rules Related to the Conference Leadership Team**

Sponsor: The Conference Leadership Team and Ministry Cabinet

Responsible Parties: The Rules Committee who shall revise the rules, and the parties named in the rules.

Adopted.

Current Rule:

9.000 There shall be a Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

Proposed Revision:

9.000 There shall be a conference leadership team (CLT) to focus and guide the mission and ministries of the United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

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Current Rule:

9.010 1. The mission of the Oregon-Idaho Annual CLT shall be to work with local congregations in fulfilling our shared mission of making disciples and providing Christian service and witness within the world.

2. The essential focus of the CLT is to:

- a. oversee the mission and vision of the Annual Conference and formulate priorities for ministry to be presented to the Annual Conference for consideration.
- b. partner through conference and district structures with local churches to develop congregational leaders.
- c. coordinate through conference and district structures our shared ministries and witness as local churches of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

3. Receive program recommendations from the local churches, the District and Annual Conference agencies and the Jurisdictional and General Program Councils; evaluate these recommendations; and formulate a CLT ministry plan to be presented to the Annual Conference for consideration.

4. The CLT will provide for implementation and administration of the program adopted by the conference.

- a. Provide program resources and assistance in mission planning and implementation for local

churches.

- b. Provide staff personnel for implementing and administering the Conference mission.
  - c. Provide channels of communication between Annual Conference agencies and local churches.
  - d. Provide leadership in research and planning for the Conference and cooperate with other research and planning agencies.
  - e. Provide a means for cooperating in ecumenical projects and events which have been approved by the Conference.
  - f. Oversee the work of all Conference Boards and Agencies.
5. Study and coordinate the budget askings of the Conference Program agencies and make recommendations regarding the same to the Council on Finance and Administration.
6. Receive input from local churches concerning their needs, interpret the Conference's Future Ministry Plan to the local churches, and make a report to the Annual Conference concerning future programming directions of CLT.

Proposed Revision:

9.010 The purpose of the conference leadership team is to support and encourage the mission of our ministry setting through the discernment and articulation of the conference vision and the stewardship of the mission, ministries and resources of the annual conference. The essential functions of the CLT are:

- 1. To provide a forum for the understanding and implementation of the mission, vision and ministries of the United Methodist Church in Oregon and Southern Idaho.
- 2. To hold the agencies of the annual conference (701) accountable to the conference vision which pursues the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ by equipping local ministry-settings for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local level.
- 3. To enable the flow of information and communication among the local churches, conference leadership, staff and agencies of the annual conference.
- 4. Consistent with the actions of the annual conference, to coordinate the program life of the church with the mandates of the gospel, the mission of the church, and the needs of the global community by listening to the expression of needs, addressing emerging issues, and determining the most effective, cooperative, and efficient way to provide optimum stewardship of ministries, personnel, and resources.
- 5. To review and evaluate the missional effectiveness of conference agencies and connectional structures of the conference as they collectively seek to aid districts, mission clusters and local churches in their fulfillment of the mission of the United Methodist Church.
- 6. To provide leadership in planning and research, assisting all levels of the conference to evaluate needs and plan strategies to carry out the mission of the church.
- 7. To collaborate with the Council on Finance and Administration in the preparation of budgets for the apportioned funds and to make recommendation regarding all other funding considerations to come before the annual conference.
- 8. To give a report each year at the annual conference session. The report shall include:
  - A. an accounting of its fulfillment of the Church's mission and the conference vision through the conference empowerment systems and ministry teams, and
  - B. missional priorities in the upcoming year, presented for consideration and endorsement

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 Current Rule:

9.015 The Membership of the CLT shall be as described in the Structure Plan (Rules 4.060 and 6.001).

Proposed Revision:

9.015 The bishop shall be the chairperson of the conference leadership team. The membership of the conference leadership team shall consist of "seats" reserved for conference officers, representatives of specified conference agencies, and at large members. They include:

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### 1. Two seats for annual conference officers

- 1) the conference lay leader
- 2) the chairperson of the Connectional Ministries Table

2. Four seats for specified conference agencies. At any duly called meeting of the leadership team, each agency shall attempt to guarantee that a representative is present.

#### 1) the council on finance and administration chairperson (or designee)

- 2) the board of ordained ministry chairperson (or designee)
- 3) the dean of the appointive cabinet (or designee)
- 4) the camp and retreat ministries team chairperson (or designee)

### 3. Seven seats for at large members selected on a basis that insures diversity and balance

- 1) three clergy at large members
- 2) three lay at large members
- 3) one ethnic at large member

4. Seats for ex-officio members without vote, including conference staff and the chairperson or designee of the commission on religion and race

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#### Current Rule:

9.021 There shall be Ministry Teams directly responsible to the CLT, each performing services for the Annual Conference as follows:

- 1) Communications Committee
- 2) Nominating Committee
- 3) Personnel Committee

#### Proposed Revision:

9.021 There shall be ministry teams directly responsible to the conference leadership team and performing services to the annual conference. They include:

1. The conference communications committee
2. The conference nominating committee
3. The camp and retreat ministries team
4. Other ministry teams as established by the conference leadership team

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#### Proposed New Rule:

9.025 The conference leadership team may create new and/or re-affiliate existing conference ministry teams, ad interim. However, the CLT shall present revisions to the conference structure to the following annual conference session for ratification.

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#### Remove Rule 9.040:

9.040 The CLT shall set salaries and other allowances for the Conference Resource/Program Staff upon recommendation by the CLT+ Personnel Committee.

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#### Current Rule:

9.041 The Director of Connectional Ministries shall have authority to make program leadership assignments for the program Executive Staff subject to the approval of the CLT/CCOM. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the supervision of Program Executive Staff and shall submit an annual evaluation of the work to the Personnel Committee.

Proposed Revision:

9.041 The director of connectional ministries shall have the responsibility to make leadership assignments for the connectional ministries executive staff, subject to consultation with the conference leadership team.

**H-65 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, General Board of Discipleship**

Sponsor: Commission of the Status and Role of Women

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
 WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
 WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and  
 WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference direct the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to work with the General Board of Discipleship and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women to develop a comprehensive training program for use at all levels of the church's structure on laity sexual abuse and harassment of clergy.

**H-67 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, Clergy Session of Annual Conference – add par. 605.8**

Sponsor: Beth Cooper

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
 WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
 WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and  
 WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:  
 Add a new 605.8 .

(For the Clergy Session of Annual Conference)

8. The clergy session of every annual conference shall adopt a comprehensive policy for handling sexual and gender harassment of clergy when lay persons are the perpetrators. This policy shall guide the local church in how to handle the report, how to care for the accuser and the accused, the victim and the perpetrator, the findings and settlement. It shall make provision for support of the pastor and for care of church members.

**H-69 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, Division of Ordained Ministry, new Par. 1421.4**

Sponsor: Beth Cooper

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
 WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
 WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and

WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church:

In 1421, add a new section 4 and renumber subsequent items.

(The Division of Ordained Ministry)

4. Shall develop for the annual conferences of The United Methodist Church a model sexual harassment policy. It shall provide a brief code of ethics, to be posted in every place that identifies itself as United Methodist (or United Methodist related), containing a policy that does not tolerate sexual harassment by anyone, and provide a contact for information about where and how to file a complaint. The policy shall set guidelines for handling situations where sexual harassment has occurred. It will include provisions for dealing with lay as well as clergy perpetrators.

**H-71 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, the Board of Ordained Min. , add par. 634.2.0**

Sponsor: Beth Cooper

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and

WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and

WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and

WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and

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WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add a new 634.2.0 and renumber subsequent items.

(Duties of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Annual Conference)

To interpret to clergy and all churches in the annual conference connection the annual conference policy on sexual and gender harassment by lay persons. To inspire local churches to refuse to tolerate inappropriate comments and behavior. To encourage them to develop healthy and constructive ways to interact and deal with criticism, conflict and abuse.

### **H-73 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, Care of Church Members; add par. 228.2.b.5**

Sponsor: Beth Cooper

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and  
WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Amend the Discipline 228.2 b), add new section 5 and renumber subsequent sections.

(The Local Church, Care of Members)

(5). If a member or group of members engages in sexual abuse or gender harassment of a pastor, church member, or anyone in the community, the church shall invoke the revision of § 1 for the care of members. The perpetrator(s) shall be cared for using additional policies developed by the Annual Conference for handling sexual harassment.

**H-77 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, Implementing Procedures**

Sponsor: Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
 WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
 WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and  
 WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,  
 WHEREAS clergywomen may find it difficult to report instances of sexual and gender harassment/abuse when the person or persons to whom they should report, by virtue of office, may also be the perpetrators of the offense or be known to have engaged in sexual or gender harassment with others, and  
 WHEREAS those in authority are not always good at maintaining confidentiality, keeping good boundaries, being supportive of clergywomen, or administering difficult situations like sexual and gender harassment complaints, and  
 WHEREAS it is common practice (as documented in numerous instances) to blame clergywomen for the harassment and abuse they receive, to move them to new appointments, or to tell them to fix the problems themselves, and  
 WHEREAS clergywomen need freedom to choose the people to whom they report instances of sexual and gender harassment in order to find people whom they can trust, who will believe and support them in telling a truth that the Church does not want to hear, and who will serve as their advocates, and  
 WHEREAS reporting sexual and gender harassment/abuse needs to be optional, in the hands of the person who has been abused and

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WHEREAS tracking of incidences of sexual/gender harassment/abuse is proof of the Church's authentic care, concern and commitment to change,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add to 221 a new section 4 and renumber subsequent sections.

(The Local Church, Accountability, Implementing Procedures)

Every time an incident of sexual or gender harassment of clergy is reported formally in writing to the church lay leader, chair of the Pastor-Staff Relations Committee, chair of the Administrative Board, District Superintendent, District Committee on Ministry, Order of Elders, Order of Deacons or Board of Ordained Ministry, and reported to the local church, the local church shall implement procedures described in the Annual Conference's policy on sexual and gender harassment of clergy by lay persons. for handling sexual harassment.

### **H-79 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, Care of Church Members; new par. 629.2f**

Sponsor: Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and

WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and

WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and

WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add a new 629.2.f).

(The Conference Board of Laity)

To interpret to clergy, laity, and all United Methodist related institutions in the annual conference connection the annual conference policy on sexual and gender harassment.

To inspire local churches to refuse to tolerate inappropriate comments and behavior, to encourage them to develop healthy and constructive ways to interact and deal with criticism, conflict and abuse.

**H-81 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, Care of Church Members; new par. 341.6**

Sponsor: Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted as edited..

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and

WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and

WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and

WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add a new 341.6).

(The Ministry of the Ordained, Unauthorized Conduct)

341.6 Clergy are encouraged to prepare a confidential written report of any sexual harassment or abuse that violates the annual conference policy on sexual harassment by laity. This report may be filed as directed by the conference policy. A confidential report shall be filed with the Division of Ordained Ministry.

**H-83 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, General Commission on United Methodist Men; add to par. 2302.2.e**

Sponsor: Commission on the Status and Role of Women

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Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference  
Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and  
WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add to 2302.2.e) the sentence in bold type:

(General Commission on United Methodist Men)

e) assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles and responsibilities in their family setting, workplace, and society. And cultivate leadership among men for a policy of no tolerance of sexual harassment in family, church and society.

### **H-85 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women; add new par. 2103.11**

Sponsor: Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is

reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
 WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and  
 WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add a new 2103.11.

(Commission on the Status and Role of Women)

The commission shall work with the General Board of Discipleship to provide training on sexual harassment prevention and policies throughout the connection when laity are the perpetrators.

**H-87 Petition General Conference: Sexual Harassment/Abuse of Clergy, General Board of Discipleship; add new par. 1117.10**

Sponsor: Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Responsible Party: The Witness Team of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference who will send the petition to General Conference

Adopted.

Adopt and send the following petition to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church asking the General Conference to adopt this resolution:

WHEREAS in two U.S. nationwide studies of United Methodist clergywomen respondents from reporting Annual Conferences indicated that about half had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate treatment on account of their gender, and  
 WHEREAS these studies report that incidents repeat and that in most cases when harassment is reported, nothing is done by church authorities, and  
 WHEREAS the whole church suffers when clergy women are harassed (the local church has a clergy leader who spends time dealing with perpetrators of abuse, handling and recovering from the abuse, productivity suffers, the church's vision, image, and mission suffer, and other women may recognize that this congregation, location or group is not safe for them), and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church currently has policies for handling clergy harassment and sexual abuse that assume that the clergy is the perpetrator and that threaten offending clergy with punishment up to and including loss of clergy standing, and  
 WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has no adequate sexual harassment policies to deal with perpetrators of abuse who are lay persons (laity trials are not effective for punishing lay people), and

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WHEREAS the most effective proven method for dealing with sexual and gender harassment is for the organization to speak out loudly and clearly in opposition to this abuse, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church can create a climate throughout the connection that stops sexual harassment where it begins-in attitudes and inappropriate comments, and  
WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has the obligation to communicate that it is never acceptable to harass anyone sexually,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2008 General Conference:

Add a new 1117.10.

(General Board of Discipleship)

The board shall work with the Commission on the Status and Role of Women to provide training on sexual harassment prevention and policies throughout the connection when laity are the perpetrators.

### **H-89 Addition to Conference Rule #2.011**

Sponsor: Conference Sessions Committee

Responsible Parties: The Rules Committee to revise the rules and The Conference Treasurer when reimbursing travel expenses for Annual Conference.

Adopted.

Revise Conference Rule #2.011 by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the current rule:

The Conference shall assist with travel expenses to and from the seat of the Conference, exempting the first 200 miles, on an equitable basis for all members of the Conference. (For members appointed outside the boundary of the Conference, the maximum reimbursement shall be \$600.00).

### **H-91 Revise Conference Rules Related to Moving**

Sponsor: Council on Finance and Administration

Responsible Parties: The Rules Committee to revise the rules, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the Conference Treasurer.

Adopted as edited.

Replace the existing Conference Rule #5.300 and all its sub-sections with the following new rule

Conference Rule 5.300

#### **MOVING POLICY**

1. Moving Expenses: Expenses for moving clergy and their families and lay professional staff of the Annual Conference shall be administered under the following policies. These policies apply to the amount of reimbursement that will be paid by the Conference and the maximum amount required of the local congregation.

a. The moving fund shall assist in paying the moving expenses for household goods, office furniture, and equipment of itinerant clergy appointed to a pastoral charge, a conference staff position, or as district superintendent. Clergy included in this provision shall include full members, probationary members, associate members, local pastors, seminary students appointed to a local charge, a retiring clergy person to his/her retirement residence, and those under disability leave. If a clergy person receives payment for a retirement move and later is appointed to serve a local charge, additional retirement moves will not be paid.

b. This policy shall also cover the following personnel:

1.) Lay persons hired as professional staff of the Conference.

2.) The moving expenses for the first move for divorced spouses from the parsonage shall be paid by the Conference within the provisions of this policy. The District Superintendent shall notify the Conference Treasurer when this provision becomes applicable.

3.) Surviving spouses and/or dependents of clergy who die while under appointment to local charge, conference staff position, or a district superintendent may have their moving expenses paid by the Conference within the provisions of this policy. The District Superintendent in consultation with the Conference Treasurer shall determine the total amount paid.

c. Clergy leaving an appointment in Oregon-Idaho for leave of absence, honorable location, or transfer to another conference or denomination will not be eligible for moving expense payments.

d. Clergy members of the Conference returning from special appointment, sabbatical leave, leave of absence, or school appointment beyond the M. Div. degree and retired clergy members of other conferences or denominations moving into or out of the Conference for any reason are not eligible to receive reimbursement from the Fund.

e. Clergy moving to Oregon Idaho from outside the boundary of the Conference are eligible to participate in the reimbursement fund as indicated in section 2.

2. Expense Payment Parameters: The following parameters shall apply to the payment of moving expenses:

a. The total allowed weight for reimbursement shall be 12,000 pounds. Clergy couples shall be allowed 15,000 pounds.

b. The total allowance for packing materials shall be \$400. Clergy couples shall be allowed \$500. No conference reimbursement is authorized for actual packing or unpacking.

c. One extra stop charge at the points of origin and destination will be allowed for each move. Clergy couples shall be given an additional stop allowance of up to \$500 provided the move is to a multiple point charge.

d. The cost of appliance hook-ups shall be the responsibility of the person being moved.

e. The Conference shall not pay for "extra carry" charges, storage or delays, unless approved before the move.

f. Charges for vehicles, motorcycles, canoes, firewood, lumber, potters clay, kilns, and other oversize or overweight items shall be the responsibility of the person being moved.

g. The cost of motel, meals, and mileage during the actual days of the move are not reimbursed by the Conference.

3. Reimbursements:

a. The receiving church or charge is responsible for payment of the entire moving bill unless the move is made through a Conference approved moving company. The Conference Treasurer shall reimburse the church or charge 50% of the moving charges within the parameters described herein and upon receipt of the following: 1) an invoice; 2) weight tickets; and 3) a bill of lading signed by the person being moved or an authorized family member.

b. If the move is made through a Conference approved moving company, the Conference Treasurer will pay the entire moving bill and will send a bill to the local church for the amount due under this policy. The local church shall pay this bill within 30 days of its receipt.

c. The maximum amount the Fund will reimburse to any one church or charge for any one move will be equal to 10% of the current year's Conference Minimum Cash Salary as established in the report of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

d. The maximum amount the local church will be required to pay will be equal to 13% of the current year's Conference Minimum Cash Salary as established in the report of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

e. Any amount over the sum of 3c & 3d will be the responsibility of the individual. If the move is made under the provision of 3b, any amount due shall be paid to the Conference Treasurer within 30 days of the completion of the move.

f. The Fund shall reimburse each retiring clergy member, lay member of the professional staff, disabled member, or surviving spouse up to 12.5% of the Conference Minimum Cash Salary to help with his or her moving expenses provided the move is made within 24 months following

retirement or change of status.

g. The maximum amount the Fund will reimburse to a divorced spouse shall be 10% of the Conference Minimum Cash Salary.

h. At the end of the previous fiscal year, any unexpended funds will be retained in the Moving Fund Reserve.

4. Self-Moves: Self-moves may be made by the individual. In addition to items in section 2, reimbursement shall include the charges for truck & trailer, fuel for the trucks used in the move and insurance. The contents of all property in a self-move shall be insured for the full replacement value up to a maximum of \$50,000 with a \$500 deductible. If the goods being moved have a value higher than the maximum, the clergy may buy additional insurance at his/her own expense. In order for the local church to receive reimbursement under this policy, proof of insurance on household goods must be provided along with the rental agreement, fuel slips, and receipts for packing materials.

5. Exceptions: Exceptions to any of the above may be approved or denied by the Conference Treasurer after consultation with the District Superintendent, if appropriate. Appeals of any decision by the Conference Treasurer may be directed to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA). CFA shall have the final authority to interpret the moving policy and make decisions regarding its implementation.

6. Procedures: The Conference Treasurer shall establish and administer all procedures for implementing the moving policy contained herein.

### **H-93 Letter of Support and Appreciation**

Sponsor: Karen Crooch & Marilyn Belcher

Responsible Party: The Secretary of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

Adopted.

Write a letter of support and appreciation to Bishop Charlene Payne Kammerer for her bold and faithful action to live out the inclusive vision of the gospel of Christ and The United Methodist Church.

Upon learning that a clergy member in her Episcopal area had denied membership to an ongoing participant in a local church based on his sexual orientation as a gay man, Bishop Kammerer, with the support of the Board of Ordained Ministry took disciplinary action in accordance with The Book of Discipline. The pastor was placed on leave from his appointment.

The action was appealed to the Judicial Council which overturned the Bishop's decision. An outcry was heard from across the connection which included a unanimous letter from the Council of Bishops denouncing the Judicial Council action. After considerable counsel and prayerful consideration Bishop Kammerer petitioned the Judicial Council for reconsideration of its action.

At its recent meeting in April, 2006 the Judicial Council refused reconsideration, an action met with deep disappointment by United Methodists across the connection who yearn for our Church to live out the inclusive gospel of Christ.

Yet, we know that Bishop Kammerer's courageous stand is one more step in moving The United Methodist Church toward God's inclusive vision. We of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference applaud her courage and go on record as standing in solidarity with this inclusive vision.

## Standing Resolutions

*We commend these issues to local churches for continued and further study and action. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference recognizes that sincere and dedicated Christians can differ on matters of proper Christian ethics and actions. These resolutions are the expression of the belief of the majority of those gathered in the Annual Conference Session. They are commended to the membership for their prayerful study and individual consideration.*

### **CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW FOREIGN POLICY (2004)**

The United Methodist Social Principles (§165C) "... insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between and among them; that the militarization of society must be challenged; that the manufacture, sale and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled; and that the production, possession or use of nuclear weapons be condemned."

Further, our Social Principles (§165D) "...endorse the United Nations and its related bodies and the International Court of Justice as the best instruments now in existence to achieve a world of justice and law."

These statements, deriving from the Bible's clear depiction of Jesus as an advocate for non-violence and reconciliation, provide the basis for the General Board of Church and Society's endorsement of the Campaign for a New Foreign Policy, sponsored by Peace Action.

This three-part platform acknowledges that the United States of America needs a foreign policy centered on the Christian values of justice, peace and cooperation. Policies based on the following principles will help to increase global stability without creating further anti-American sentiment around the world:

#### **Support Human Rights and Democracy**

Democracy and human rights are ideals that the American people hold dear. Our country leads the world in providing arms sales and military training to governments who abuse human rights. When we sell weapons worldwide, those arms may end up being used against our own troops.

#### **Reduce the Threat from Weapons of Mass Destruction**

We face no greater threat than nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons are only effective as a means of terror - that can be aimed at us as well as others. The only way to be safe from this threat is to destroy the stockpiles and secure those facilities that make nuclear materials.

In its FY2005 budget the current administration has requested \$27.6 million for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP) or bunker-buster (a nuclear weapon designed for use against underground bunkers), \$9 million for Advanced Nuclear Weapons Concepts (new ways to develop nuclear weapons such as mini-nukes), and \$18 million for nuclear test site readiness.

Spending billions on a missile defense system while building new nuclear weapons will only speed the pace of nuclear proliferation.

#### **Cooperate with the World Community**

The Declaration of Independence urges "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind." We seek a foreign policy reflecting that core value. Our government has abandoned or blocked international agreements on arms control, human rights, the environment, and the International Criminal Court.

The US needs to address the larger needs of the world community with policies that minimize the potential for hate and anger. The US has the strength and ability to better the working and living conditions of humankind, and to increase our own security in the process, if we lead through

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cooperation.

Therefore be it resolved that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference support the General Board of Church and Society on the Campaign for a New Foreign Policy, sponsored by Peace Action.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT** (1980, 1982, Revised 1986, 1989, 1990, 1993, Revised 1996, 1999, 2002, Revised 2005)

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, continuing its witness since 1980 and in harmony with the historic position of our United Methodist Church, reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty, and urges all members of the Conference to actively oppose capital punishment in the states of Oregon and Idaho.

Our position is based on our understanding of justice in the teachings of Jesus, and is supported by studies indicating that the death penalty is not a deterrent to murder, and that the penalty is imposed almost entirely on those unable to pay for an adequate defense.

We regard the deliberate taking of life as profoundly incompatible with the Gospel's core teachings of love, mercy and forgiveness. As United Methodists, who have long preached and practiced a social gospel, we are deeply troubled by the fact that the death penalty is imposed disproportionately often on the poor and on members of minority groups.

We also believe the unacceptably high error rates in death penalty cases demonstrate that the state is making God-like decisions without God-like powers. Our faith persuades us that there is that of God in every one, that each of us is better than the worst thing we have ever done, and that repentance and rehabilitation is always possible.

We encourage action for alternatives to the death penalty; such as those proposed in Oregon by "Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty," PO Box 361, Portland, OR 97207-0361 ([www.oadp.org](http://www.oadp.org)). In Idaho, information can be obtained from [www.deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org).

**CLOSE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (Revised 2003, Renewal 2006)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team, and OR-ID Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Justice

Continue to support the endeavor to close the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly School of the Americas) located on the U. S. Army Base at Fort Benning, Georgia. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to bring this matter to the attention of their membership with appropriate action, especially expressing their will to the President and Members of Congress. This resolution is consistent with the Social Principles, which clearly opposes the kinds of actions taken by graduates of the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC).

**COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS (1982, 1986, 1989, 1992, Revised 1995, 1998, 2001, Revised 2004)**

As Christians we believe in the redemptive potential of all people. Therefore, we urge members of the churches within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to join with others of like mind in helping the correction systems of Oregon and Idaho in the use of community-based restitution, work programs, and other alternatives aimed at rehabilitation of those who have been convicted of crimes. We further encourage members, when necessary, to actively seek to change regulations which impede or restrict development and placement of such facilities or programs.

Remembering the words of Jesus, "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36) we encourage

pastors and lay persons in our congregations to visit and/or minister to persons in correctional institutions, and where possible, upon their release from prison, to assist them in their re-entry into local communities, by helping them secure jobs and housing, and inviting them into the fellowship of the church. We also urge congregations to identify and support families of these who have or have had members incarcerated in correctional institutions.

We commend the work of organizations such as the Center for Dispute Resolution of the Willamette University College of Law and the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program/Community Mediation Service. We encourage our churches to seek out ways to actively support and/or establish these services in their communities.

**COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (1993, Revised 1994, Revised 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2004)**

The current Administration is asking for 30 million dollars to be appropriated to refurbish the Nevada Test site to resume testing newly developed nuclear weapons. We affirm the prophetic position of our bishops in their statement in Defense of Creation: “We say a clear and unconditional NO to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons. We conclude that nuclear deterrence is a position that cannot receive the church’s blessing.”

Be it resolved that the Oregon Idaho Annual Conference call upon its United Methodists to advocate to continue to call for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by contacting members of the U.S. Senate urging them to commit to supporting passage of the CTBT.

**CONSUMER RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE (1996, Revised 1999, 2002, Revised 2005)**

Whereas, the health care system in our country and in our states is undergoing massive changes which include the shift from non-profit to for-profit health insurance plans and hospitals and increasing competition among all plans, both for-profit and non-profit health plans and hospitals regardless of tax status; and whereas many of those changes involve the shifting of thousands of consumers into managed-care plans, and whereas many of these managed care for-profit health insurance plans and hospital plans have built-in incentives that discourage providers from providing their patients with access to more costly health services despite the fact that those services may be the most effective; and whereas self-pay patients, those without insurance coverage, pay the highest price for their hospital bills, and whereas medical debt is the primary reason for bankruptcy and people without insurance are the fastest growing portion of those filing bankruptcy as a result of medical debt:

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Annual Conference work at state and national levels in coalition with organizations such as Families USA, Universal Health Care Action Network, and the Oregon Health Action Campaign in efforts toward establishing, implementing, and ensuring enforcement of basic protection guidelines for: a) self-pay and under-insured patients at risk of losing homes, retirement and education assets to unaffordable charges billed by hospitals and providers; and b) consumer access and quality in all managed-care plans, and efforts toward establishing necessary basic protections for consumers.

**CUBA EMBARGO (1995, Revised 1998, 2001, Revised 2004)**

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is linked in Christ with the Methodist Church of Cuba and we celebrate and recognize their continued growth and vitality, and

WHEREAS, many VIM and Elderhostel groups travel to Cuba for mission outreach and have difficulty in obtaining the proper documentation, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. embargo brings continued difficulties in maintaining our partnership with the

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Methodist Church of Cuba, and

WHEREAS, the embargo has brought suffering and a shortage of medical and school supplies that create a hardship on our brothers and sisters in Cuba, and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the United Nations has overwhelmingly approved every year since 1992 a resolution calling for the end of the financial, economic and commercial embargo imposed by the U.S. against Cuba, and

WHEREAS, the Council of Churches of Cuba, the Cuban Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops, leaders of CIEMAL (Council of Evangelistic Methodist Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean Conference of Churches), Pope John Paul II and several religious bodies such as the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church (USA), and American Baptist Churches have stated or passed resolutions in favor of lifting the embargo, and

WHEREAS, Cuba is the Mission Study for 2004-2005 and members of our annual conference will be able to study the issues around the embargo and gain a better understanding of Cuba,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference urge the President and Congress of the United States to lift the Cuban embargo and seek to resume better diplomatic relations with Cuba, and that the individual members of the Annual Conference make their voices heard to their Congressional delegation and national leadership.

### **ENDORSE SMART SECURITY (2006)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action, OR-ID Chapter and Kathy Campbell-Barton, Peace with Justice Coordinator

As the Body of Christ, we are called to stand with all humankind in the search for justice. Christians are called, then, to embrace the security that God has given and to pursue the security that God intends for creation. We are called to treat others fairly and justly and to care about the safety of other people's children.

We are called to feed the hungry, find shelter for the homeless, create jobs for the unemployed, and work for the day when poverty ends. We are called to turn our swords into plowshares, to love our enemies, to take those actions with other nations that will prevent future acts of terrorism, to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction that threaten to undo God's creation, and to invest in productive lives rather than violent deaths. When our pursuit of security is motivated by fear instead of faith, or assumes power we do not have, or exchanges freedom for control, we call on God to move our hearts until the barriers which divide us crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease so that we might all live together in justice and peace. The SMART Security platform (Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism) initiated by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), calls for a non-violent and multi-lateral approach to the threat of terrorism and arms proliferation using principles of peace and justice. The three main points of the platform are:

- (1) to prevent acts of terrorism and future wars by working cooperatively with other nations, strengthening international institutions and supporting the rule of law;
- (2) to reject the development of new nuclear weapons and stop the spread of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction; and
- (3) to change budget priorities to reflect real security needs.

The United Methodist Church has long been committed to the objectives enunciated in the SMART Security Platform, as illustrated in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2005-2008 and affirmed in *The World Community*, 165 (pages 34-36)

God's world is one world. The unity now being thrust upon us by technological revolution has far

outrun our moral and spiritual capacity to achieve a stable world.

- A. Nations and Cultures
- B. National Power and Responsibility
- C. War and Peace
- D. Justice and Law

Therefore, we urge the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Conference to endorse the Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism (SMART) Security platform. Further, we urge the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Conference to call upon our elected leaders to support it as our nation's policy for the future, and advocate for local churches consider its endorsement.

### **ENDORSEMENT OF OREGON FAITH ROUNDTABLE AGAINST HUNGER AND IDAHO INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE AGAINST HUNGER (2006)**

Sponsor: Task Force for The Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger

Officially endorse the work of the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger (OFRAH) and the Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (IIRAH). By this action, these organizations will be entitled to list the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference as a supporting body. OFRAH and IIRAH are organizations dedicated to raising awareness of the magnitude of hunger and food insecurity in their respective states, working to identify and eliminate the root causes of hunger through dialogue and advocacy, and supporting and encouraging participation in direct service to those who are hungry.

### **GLOBAL WARMING (2005)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action, OR-ID Chapter

We are stewards of God's creation. Our way of living, principally our use of energy, creates emissions that warm the planet and threaten all life. Therefore, we resolve to take positive action to curb our emissions.

1. **Let our congregations be better stewards of the earth's resources by conserving energy.** Guidance is available for all of us in Oregon and Idaho through Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon ("EMO") (see "Environmental Ministries" at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org)) and the Energy Stewardship Pledge," or EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light, and through the National Council of Churches of Christ ([www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org) or [www.nccecojustice.org](http://www.nccecojustice.org)).
2. **Enlighten our members on ways we all can make a difference** through such simple things as the 1-2-3 Program, described on EMO's website. People are encouraged to lower thermostats 1 degree, drive 2 miles per hour less when at highway speeds, and replace 3 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
3. **Study the Energy Charter** drafted by Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, and ask your church to officially endorse it. (See "Environmental Ministries" at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org))
4. **Work your citizen-wonders on your representatives at all levels of government.** Once again EMO can help through an e-mail tree. Sign on and be notified when a key bill is under discussion. Within minutes and a few keystrokes your opinion can weigh in. It matters!
5. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will communicate our stand on global warming to the governors of Oregon and Idaho and the president of the United States.
6. As individuals we will encourage institutions and private industries to reduce emissions.

### **GUN VIOLENCE (2001, 2004)**

Make visible public witness to the sin of gun violence and the hope of community healing through

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actions recommended in the United Methodist 2000 *Book of Resolutions* (pages 587-589, 235.10).

### **HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGNS (1989, Revised 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, Revised 2005)**

We endorse the Oregon Health Action Campaign and similar efforts in Idaho. By authority of this action, the organizations will be entitled to list our Annual Conference as a supporting body. The Oregon Health Action Campaign and the Idaho Citizens Network are grass roots organizations dedicated to mobilizing multi-organizational and individual efforts for the development of health policy that ensures access to comprehensive, quality, affordable health care for all Oregonians and Idahoans.

As of June 2005 there are 609,000 Oregonians and 219,000 Idahoans with no health care plan. In addition, it is estimated that as many as 60% of the nation's and region's uninsured children are eligible for but not enrolled in existing publicly supported health programs; in keeping with the policy of our denomination concerning health care issues, the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church: Right to Health Care* clearly states: "Healthcare is basic human right." We urge the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to continue to endorse the Oregon Health Action Campaign and the Idaho Citizens Network.

We also challenge our communities of faith to seek their role in making "Health Care For All" a reality by participating in such activities as the observance of a Health Care Sabbath, the distribution of information about publicly supported health programs for children and families, and the opportunities for congregational advocacy."

### **MILITARY SPENDING (1980, 1981, 1982, Revised 1986, Revised 1990, Revised 1993, 1996, 1999, Revised 2000, Revised 2004)**

Whereas, the United States continues increased unchecked military spending with a budget that proposes a 7 percent increase for military spending and a 10 percent increase for the Department of Homeland Security and a possible \$50 billion in additional funding for the continuing occupation of Iraq, while making incessantly drastic cuts in health care, social services, education, environmental programs, and other vital services;

Therefore we urge the Annual Conference to urgently call for cuts in military spending in accordance with The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (§69c: War and Peace). We commend the peace-keeping and humanitarian roles carried out by the United States military through the United Nations.

### **PEACE IN IRAQ (2006)**

Sponsor: Wesley Taylor

Over the next year, we urge that the churches in our conference will study the Social Principles study "Cause of War", and study the ways of Biblical peacemaking and just peacemaking. Churches and persons will spend time in prayer and meditation, to discover ways to be peacemakers and to discover ways to help bring peace and reconciliation to the nation of Iraq. We would also urge our churches to seek ways to advocate for peace in Iraq with our national leaders, and to help our nation bring our troops home at the earliest time possible.

### **PEACE WITH IRAQ (2005)**

Sponsor: Chuck Cooper and Wes Taylor

Since the time of John and Charles Wesley, Methodism has affirmed the terrible destructiveness and suffering of war. John Wesley called it the foulest curse on humankind.

Today our hearts weep for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan and for all who are in harm's way.

We urge all United Methodists of Oregon-Idaho to pray for peace in Iraq & Afghanistan. We encourage every congregation in our conference to study the causes of war and discover the many positive actions of just peacemaking. We invite all United Methodists to join us in writing letters encouraging leaders of the United States to seek peaceful alternatives to military action.

**PRE-EMPTIVE NUCLEAR STRIKES -- OPPOSITION TO (2003, revised 2006)**

*Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace . . .Psalms 85*

WHEREAS, we as United Methodists of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference understand that God created the universe and everything in it and that our world is an astonishingly beautiful, rich, complex, tiny piece of that creation, teeming with life and beloved in God's sight, and

WHEREAS, since the nuclear age began in 1945, this glorious world has been faced with a fundamentally new kind of threat from nuclear weapons and because entertaining the use of nuclear weapons is an affront to God, and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Posture Review submitted to the United States Congress by the U.S. Department of Defense on January 8, 2002, calls for an abrupt end of fifty years of progressive policy geared towards nuclear disarmament and poises the world on a new, more threatening arms race; and

WHEREAS, this Nuclear Posture Review calls for a "New Triad" which proposes preemptive military strikes, targeting non-nuclear states with nuclear weapons, moving forward with missile defense technologies, developing new, "usable" nuclear warheads and the likely resumption of United States nuclear explosions in Nevada, and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has continually reaffirmed its unequivocal stand against the use of nuclear weapons and has affirmed the Council of Bishops statement (in their document IN DEFENSE OF CREATION The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace "We say a clear and unconditional NO to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons. We conclude that nuclear deterrence is a position that cannot receive the church's blessing."

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church in the 2004 Book of Resolutions affirms its stand against "first strike policy" in the following resolution: We call upon all nations that possess nuclear weapons to renounce these vile instruments of mass destruction and to move expeditiously to dismantle all nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles. As a first step, we support all movement to ban the "first strike" policy from all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) doctrine."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 2006 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church affirm and commit ourselves to actively support the efforts of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church as well as the denomination's general boards and agencies and other organizations and individuals within both religious and secular communities who are speaking in opposition to the use of preemptive nuclear strikes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on all political leaders throughout the world to work with the international community, especially the United Nations, to end the prospect of the use of preemptive nuclear strikes for any reason by any nation state in the world.

**PREGNANCY AND FAMILY PLANNING, CONTINUE SUPPORT OF RIGHT OF CHOICE (1988, 1991, 1994, Revised 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2003, Renewal 2006)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team and OR-ID Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action

Continue its long-standing support with the General Board of Church and Society and the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries of the UMC, as well as the more than 30 organizations representing many of the mainline denominations and faith groups in the United States, in taking the position in favor of a woman's right of choice regarding pregnancy and family planning, including the right to terminate pregnancy as guaranteed by the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*, 1973. It is important that the UMC maintain its position of openness and respect for the moral agency of women, as reflected in our Social Principles: "In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures."

**REJECTION OF WAR AS FOREIGN POLICY (2005)**

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action, OR-ID Chapter

*Whereas* the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (§165c) declare, "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as an instrument of foreign policy, to be employed only as a last resort in the prevention of such evils as genocide, brutal suppression of human rights and unprovoked international aggression. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises among them,...."

*Therefore, be it resolved* that the 2005 Session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church affirms its commitment to §165c of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, declaring the policy of using the military might of the United States as an instrument of foreign policy to be incompatible with the Social Principles, calling on the current administration to cease and to desist from this policy, to exercise restraint in its disputes with other nations and "to seek to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises...."

*Be it further resolved* that we call upon the laity and clergy of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to be actively involved in efforts for peace through the local church and in the connectional life of the United Methodist Church, by being in touch with their Representatives and Senators, through public venues such as newspapers, periodicals and the venues offered by the internet, by praying daily for peace in our world, and through other opportunities as they arise.

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION (1994, 1997, 1987, 1988, 1991, Revised 1994, 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2004)**

Whereas the United Methodist Church "affirms all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God" (§162, 2000 *Book of Discipline*); whereas the United Methodist Church insists, "that all persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human rights assured" (§161G, p. 101, 2000 *Book of Discipline*); Therefore, we urge United Methodists in Oregon and Idaho to support legislation that prevents discrimination and denial of basic civil rights based on a person's sexual orientation; and, to stand against any political or physical acts that deny human rights and civil rights, and the sacred worth of all persons.

**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT (2001, Revised 2004)**

Be it resolved that all boards, agencies and institutions of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference such as foundations, church extension societies, scholarship programs, etc., when investing funds shall do so in a socially responsible manner as described in the 2004 *Book of Resolutions* and that individual United Methodists be encouraged to do likewise.

**STAR WARS (1993, Revised 1994, Revised 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2004)**

Whereas, the Star Wars National Missile Defense System (NMD) is being supported by our current administration with some \$53 billion programmed for missile defense over the next five years, with much more to follow; and is being promoted for deployment by the President; and recalling the

clear expression of concern by our bishops about the development and deployment of a space-based defense system in their pastoral letter and foundation document, *In Defense of Creation*:

Be it resolved that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and its members:

Contact members of the U.S. Congress urging them to:

1. Enact legislation, which would prohibit continued funds for development, testing, production, and deployment of any space based weapons, and for the testing of Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program weapons, whether based on land, sea, air or space.
2. Postpone operational deployment of the expensive and untested deployment of a ground-based strategic midcourse ballistic missile defense (GMD) system and transfer the associated funding to accelerated programs to secure the multitude of facilities containing nuclear weapons and materials and to protect our ports and borders against terrorists who may attempt to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into the United States

**STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO ALL (1999, 2002, revised 2005)**

Sponsor: Jeanne G. Knepper

*For in one spirit we are all baptized into one body...and we were all made to drink of one Spirit...  
If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;  
if one member is honored all rejoice together with it. (I Corinthians 12:13, 26)*

We, the members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church affirm that all are welcome in our faith communities. This means that we commit ourselves to welcoming persons of all sexual orientations and gender identity into the life of the United Methodist Church. It also means that we commit ourselves to building bridges of understanding and trust between persons who have been divided on this issue.

We acknowledge with humility that we have been unable to arrive at a common mind on the compatibility of homosexual practice with Christian faith. Some consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. Others believe it is acceptable when practiced in a context of human covenantal faithfulness. We seek further understanding through continued prayer, study, and pastoral experience. In doing so, we continue to affirm that God's grace is freely given to all and that the members of Christ's body are called to be in ministry for and with one another and to the world. Alone, we are not equal to this task, but we are not alone. We ask God to lead us as we enter into the work of trust, hospitality and welcome.

**UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT (1993, Revised 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2003, 2006)**

Sponsor: Kathy Campbell-Barton, Conference Witness Team, OR-ID Chapter Methodist Federation for Social Justice

In concert with the statements of the General Church (see Paragraph 165D, 2004 Book of Discipline) we the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference believe that our Christian faith compels us to work for justice and peace throughout our global community, recognizing the inherent dignity of all God's people. We support the unprecedented cooperation of the vast majority of the countries of the world to solve international problems of health, education, and the welfare of people through the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Therefore, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations as an instrument of peace in the building and maintaining of a just and stable world. We affirm our support for our United Methodist presence in programs of the United Nations (including UNICEF). We support the active participation of United Methodists in the NGO (Non Governmental Organizations) network uniquely afforded through the United Methodist

Office for the United Nations, located across the street from the United Nations. We urge the U.S. government to become current in paying its dues. We encourage local churches to observe United Nations Sunday in our local churches and to become more involved in the programs of the United Nations such as the United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs.

**UNITY RESOLUTION (2005)**

Sponsor: Leo Naapi

“Resolution on Church Unity”

As United Methodists in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, we agree to remain in covenant with one another, even in the midst of disagreement, and reaffirm our commitment to work together for our common mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world. In light of the words found in Ephesians 4:3, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace,” and in the light of the action of the General Conference referring the resolution on Unity to the Council of Bishops to prepare a study for the denomination, we encourage each ministry setting within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to use the upcoming study.



photo by Harvey Thomas