

Annual Conference Actions and Resolutions

Mary Frances Gunn, section editor

Conference Actions

Recorded below is the text of each petition as passed by the 2007 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 177.

H-7 Adopt Sexual Ethics Policy

Sponsor: Steven A. Wolff

Responsible Parties: The Office of the Bishop and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Referred to Board of Ordained Ministry who will return a policy to the 2008 annual conference that has been reviewed by labor attorneys and human resource professionals.

H-9 Conference-Wide Capital Campaign for 2008

Sponsor: Camp & Retreat Ministries Team; UM Foundation

Responsible Parties: CFA, CRMT and the Oregon-Idaho Foundation.

Adopted.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference authorize the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries and the Oregon-Idaho Foundation to proceed with planning towards a Conference-wide Capital Campaign in July 2008 by the following steps:

To complete a feasibility study conducted by RSI, a professional finance campaign consulting firm, and if justified by this study,

To seek approval from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration for the campaign, and upon such approval,

To conduct a lead gifts campaign from October 2007 – June 2008, and

To report the progress of the campaign to the Annual Conference Session, 2008, for approval of the Conference-wide campaign, and upon such approval,

To conduct a Conference-wide Capital Fund campaign beginning around July 1, 2008.

H-11 Change Conference Rule 4.052

Sponsor: Laura Jaquith Bartlett, conference secretary

Responsible Parties: Rules Committee, Conference Secretary.

Adopted.

Change Conference Rule 4.052 to read as follows:

“All Members of the Annual Conference shall be entitled to receive at no charge a copy of the Annual Conference Journal within three months of the adjournment of the Annual Conference session. General distribution of the Journal to the membership may be in digital form with the option to substitute a printed copy by request.”

H-13 Change Conference Rule 4.053

Sponsor: Laura Jaquith Bartlett, conference secretary

Responsible Parties: Conference Secretary.

Adopted.

Change Conference Rule 4.053 to read as follows:

“Each local ministry setting of the Annual Conference shall be entitled to receive at no charge two printed copies of the Conference Journal within three months of the adjournment of the Annual Conference session. A ministry setting may purchase additional print Journals at a price to be established by the Conference Secretary and relative to the cost of production. Orders for such additional Journals shall be placed with the Conference Secretary not later than thirty days following the adjournment of the Annual Conference session.”

H-15 Health Care a Basic Right

Sponsor: Church & Society for Social Justice, Portland First UMC
 Responsible Parties: All congregations and ministry settings.
 Adopted.

Affirm that health care is a basic human right of all people and is a condition of physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

We affirm that all people in the United States are entitled to universal health care. We encourage every lay and clergy member of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to communicate this affirmation in their local ministry settings.

We refer people to the Standing Resolution titled “Health Acton Campaign,” found in the 2007 Conference Journal of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, on page 181.

H-17 Pray for Peace

Sponsor: Church & Society for Social Justice, Portland First UMC
 Responsible Parties: All congregations and ministry settings.
 Adopted.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference call upon all United Methodists throughout the World to pray for peace and stand up and speak out for public policies that promote peace, justice and reconciliation among all Peoples and Nations. We declare our opposition to a war with Iran.

H-19 Restorative Justice

Sponsor: Church & Society for Social Justice, Portland First UMC
 Responsible Parties: All congregations and ministry settings.
 Adopted.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference reaffirm its commitment to restorative justice and encourage all congregations to participate and study “Restorative Justice Moving Beyond Punishment,” a publication of the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC.

H-21 Elimination of the Death Penalty

Sponsor: Church & Society for Social Justice, Portland First UMC
 Responsible Parties: The Bishop’s office to send a letter stating the motion and the content of Standing Resolution “Capital Punishment” as printed in the 2006 OR-ID Conference Journal to Oregon and Idaho State legislative representatives and federal supreme court, and for conference congregations to actively discuss the issues during the ensuing year.
 Adopted.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference support the elimination of the death penalty (capital punishment) from all criminal codes.

H-23 New Conference Rule – Lay Persons Assigned

Sponsor: Scott Harkness & Laura Jaquith Bartlett

Responsible Parties: Conference Secretary and database managers.

Adopted.

Add to Chapter One of the Conference Rules a new rule that will grant conference lay membership to lay persons assigned as pastors of local churches. The proposed text of the new rule is:

- 1.xxx A lay person assigned to serve as the pastor of a local church within the annual conference shall become a lay member of the conference as of the date he/she begins the assignment and shall continue in membership as long as his/her assignment is active. The membership of the lay pastor assigned does not replace that of the local church's elected lay member of annual conference."

H-25 New Conference Rule – Lay Members of CLT

Sponsor: Conference Leadership Team

Responsible Parties: Conference Secretary and database managers.

Adopted.

Add to Chapter One of the Conference Rules a new rule that will grant conference lay membership to the three at-large lay members of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT). The proposed text for the new rule is:

- 1.xxx The at-large lay members of the Conference Leadership Team shall be lay members (if not already).

H-27 Revise Rule 13.000

Sponsor: Ministry Cabinet

Responsible Parties: The Ministry Cabinet.

Adopted.

Revise Conference Rule 13.000 to read:

13.000 There shall be a Conference Nominating Committee.

1. This committee shall be composed of two persons, one lay and one ordained, from each District. They shall be elected by District Conferences or district caucuses of Annual Conference members at the seat and time of the Annual Conference session next succeeding the adjournment of the regular session of the General Conference.
2. Ex-officio members of the Conference Nominating Committee shall include the District Superintendents, District Lay Leaders, one youth designated by the Conference Youth Ministries Team, and one ethnic representative named by the Conference Commission On Religion and Race.
3. A The chair of the Conference Nominating Committee shall be designated by the Ministry Cabinet and may be either clergy or lay. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall serve as a consultant to the committee.
4. An Executive Committee from the Conference Nominating Committee shall be composed of the Chairperson, the Director of Connectional Ministries, one District Superintendent and two others. The total membership shall include at least two lay persons and two clergy persons.

H-29 Revise CLT Structure – Conference Rule 9.015.2

Sponsor: Conference Leadership Team

Responsible Parties: Rules Committee; Conference Secretary will print revised rule in Journal.

Adopted.

Revise the structure of the Conference Leadership Team by establishing a seat with voting privileges for the Conference Board of Trustees.

Conference Rule 9.015.2 would be revised to say:

“~~Four~~ **Five** 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.”

Then add to the list: “5) the board of trustees president (or designee).”

H-31 Petition on Sudan Crisis

Sponsor: Christ the Reconciler

Responsible Parties: The Board of Pensions, Board of Finance and Administration, and other church boards holding investment funds.

Adopted.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference support the elimination of the death penalty (capital punishment) from all criminal codes.

H-33 Conference Advance Specials

Sponsor: Conference Outreach Ministry Team

Responsible Parties: All congregations and ministry settings as they deem appropriate.

Adopted.

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference authorize Conference Advance Special status during 2007-2008 for the following projects relating to OR-ID churches and affiliated organizations. Starred projects are new this year. Others have been approved in previous years, but each submitted an updated application form this year.

*Camp Hope –Camp Magruder, OR

Common Cup Family Shelter – Sunnyside UMC, Portland, OR

Creation Vacation (formerly Bishop’s Initiative...)-Camp Magruder, OR

*Crossbridges—Zimmerman Community Center, Portland OR

David’s Harp—Portland, OR

Disaster Response Fund—conference-wide

Habitat for Humanity—within conference borders

Hispanic Ministries—in both OR and ID

*Hispanic Ministry Training Institute—Salem, OR

Klamath Basin Cooperative Ministries—Klamath Falls, OR

Klamath Basin Council on Children and Youth—Chiloquin, OR

Our House Residential AIDS Care—Portland, OR

Rebuilding Together—Washington County, OR

Seafarers’ Ministries—Portland, OR

Strength for the Journey, operating fund and endowment—Portland, OR

United Methodist Retirement Center—Salem, OR

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission(UVIM)—all OR/ID churches

Woodlawn Community Resource Center (formerly Children of Promise)—Portland

H-35 New Rule - Lay Membership for Peace with Justice Coord

Sponsor: Scott Harkness

Responsible Parties: Conference Secretary and database managers.

Adopted.

Add to Chapter One of the Conference Rules a new rule that will grant conference lay membership

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to the Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator. The proposed text for the new rule is:

1.xxx The Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator shall be a lay member (if not already).

H-37 Revise Rule 12.062 – The Sale of a Parsonage

Sponsor: The Cabinet

Responsible Parties: The Cabinet.

Adopted.

Revise Conference Rule 12.062 as follows:

12.062 ...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, with the approval of the Cabinet 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 with the approval of the Cabinet 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.

ACTION REQUESTS FOR STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Note that the text of Standing Resolutions that were adopted can be found with all the Oregon-Idaho Standing Resolutions, beginning on page 177.

I-5 Sexual Orientation

Sponsor: Marilyn Belcher and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

I-7 Open Membership

Sponsor: University Park UMC

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

I-9 Standing Resolution on Iraq War

Sponsor: Church and Society for Social Justice Committee, Portland First UMC

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

I-13 Legal Recognition of Same Gender Relationships Benefits the Children of Those Relationships

Sponsor: University Park UMC, Morningside UMC, OR-ID Reconciling UMs

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

I-15 Seeking Peace & Justice in Holy Land

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action; Active for Peace and Justice (Corvallis First UMC)

Responsible Parties: Local churches, Conference Board of Pensions and the Conference UM Foundation to review and identify companies that profit from sales of products or services that cause harm to Palestinians or Israelis and divest from these companies. Local churches and individual United Methodists are asked to study and discuss this issue.

Adopted.

- I-17 Socially Responsible Investment**
 Sponsor: MFSA, Conference Witness Team
 Responsible Parties: The Conference Witness Ministry Team, in cooperation with the CFA, to help provide information to local churches so they will be better informed when making investment decisions.
 Adopted.
- I-19 Community-Based Corrections**
 Sponsor: Witness Ministry Team; MFSA
 Responsible Parties: Clergy, Lay Members to bring concerns to congregations.
 Adopted.
- I-21 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**
 Sponsor: Marilyn Belcher and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
 Responsible Parties: The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference in contact with their Senators; the Conference Witness team through the Peace with Justice Program. The Peace with Justice Coordinator will forward or issue action alerts informing the PWJ network and the members of the Conference through the UM Connector and other forms of Conference communication.
 Adopted.
- I-23 Renew Standing Resolution titled “Cuba Embargo”**
 Sponsor: MFSA
 Responsible Parties: Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Witness Team to provide background materials and updates for local churches and individual members.
 Adopted.
- I-25 Embracing the Sojourner**
 Sponsor: MFSA and OR-ID Hispanic Ministry Training Institute (HMTI)
 Responsible Parties: Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Witness Ministry Team and the Oregon-Idaho Hispanic Ministry Training Institute (HMTI) to provide updates and background materials for local churches and individual members to use in advocacy efforts.
 Adopted.
- I-27 Gun Violence and Child Protection**
 Sponsor: Witness Ministry Team and MFSA
 Responsible Parties: Parents and congregations. Conference Witness Team to provide updated information, publicize national and Conference resources and to monitor this Resolution.
 Adopted.
- I-29 Military Spending**
 Sponsor: Witness Ministry Team and MFSA
 Responsible Parties: The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference to contact their members of Congress, and The Conference Witness team working through the Peace with Justice Program. The Peace with Justice Coordinator will forward or issue action alerts informing the PWJ network when appropriate.
 Adopted.
- I-31 Star Wars**
 Sponsor: Conference Witness Team, MFSA
 Responsible Parties: The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference and The Conference Witness team working through the Peace with Justice Program. The Peace with Justice

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Coordinator will forward or issue action alerts informing the PWJ network when appropriate.
Adopted.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS

These petitions, along with those passed at the 2007 annual conference session, are submitted to the 2008 General Conference on behalf of the entire Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. To review the 2006 petitions, see the 2006 Conference Journal, beginning on page 172.

*Each petition begins with this phrase: **I/We propose that the 2008 General Conference...***

J-5a Paragraph 2702.1a, Chargeable Offenses

Sponsor: Marcia Hauer and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
Adopted.

Amend Paragraph 2702.1a: ~~immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;~~

J-5b Paragraph 2702.1b, Chargeable Offenses

Sponsor: Marcia Hauer and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
Adopted.

Amend Paragraph 2702.1b by deletion: ~~practices declared by The United Methodist church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~

J-7 Paragraph 612, Responsibilities of the Conf. Council on Finance and Administration

Sponsor: Velma Duell McConnell and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
Adopted.

Amend by deletion of Paragraph 612.19: ~~To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational event where the Church's official position is fairly and equally presented.~~

J-9 Paragraph 806, Fiscal Responsibilities

Sponsor: Velma Duell McConnell and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
Adopted.

Amend by deleting paragraph 806.9: ~~It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.~~

J-11 Amend Constitution of UMC, Paragraph IV

Sponsor: Velma Duell McConnell and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
 Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
 Adopted.

Amend the Constitution of the UMC Paragraph IV:

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

J-13 Paragraph 341, Unauthorized Conduct

Sponsor: Karen Crooch and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
 Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
 Adopted.

Amend by deleting Paragraph 341.6:

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

J-15 Paragraph 304, Qualifications for Ordination

Sponsor: VRobert (Bob) Harvey and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
 Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
 Adopted.

amend Paragraph 304.3 by deleting the final two sentences, so that the paragraph will read:

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

J-17 Paragraph 161C The Nurturing Community: Marriage

Sponsor: David Weekley and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists
 Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
 Adopted.

Amend the Social Principles Paragraph 161C The Nurturing Community, Marriage to read:

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

J-19 Amend Preamble to Paragraph 162, The Social Community

Sponsor: Jeanne Knepper
 Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

amend the Preamble to paragraph 162, the Social Community, of the Social Principles Statement, by adding a sentence to the end of the preamble.

Add at the end of the preamble: **Our respect for the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and implementation of the principles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible and inalienable rights.**

J-21 Paragraph 162H, The Nurturing Community: Human Sexuality

Sponsor: David Bean and Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

Amend the Social Principles Paragraph 162H Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation.

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

J-23 Seeking Peace & Justice in Holy Land

Sponsor: MFSA; and Active for Peace and Justice (Corvallis First UMC)

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are the members of my family you did it to me. Matthew 25:40.

WHEREAS, we affirm Israel's right to exist within permanent, recognized and secure borders, and affirm Palestinians' rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state with secure borders and air space, water rights, and passage rights to the land in their state, whether it is through a one-state or two-state solution,

WHEREAS, by a vote of 877 to 19, the General Conference in 2004 resolved that, "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings;" [Book of Resolutions, 2004, #312], and

WHEREAS, we are called to support members of Christ's church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land due to Israel's confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation, and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal (as defined by UN Resolution 242) Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or the destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards, and lives, and

WHEREAS, we are committed to ensuring that our denomination's finances are used in a manner consistent with Christ's teaching, our beliefs, and international law, and

WHEREAS, the illegal destruction of Palestinian homes and economy, confiscation of Palestinian land, and violence and loss of Palestinian lives, primarily innocent children and civilians, are made possible by the use of armored bulldozers, helicopters, gunships, tanks and other equipment supplied to Israel; and the destruction of Israeli property, violence, and loss of innocent Israeli lives are made possible by the use of mortars, guns and bombs supplied to Palestinians; thereby creating such harm on both sides from complex and simple weapons, equipment, and supplies that are provided by national and multinational corporations that profit from such violent and deadly activities, and

WHEREAS, the resolution on Investment Ethics in the United Methodist Book of Resolutions states our denomination's policy on "Avoidance by Divestment", to wit: "This policy prohibits investment in enterprises that have policies or practices that are so morally reprehensible that investment in these companies is not tolerated by the church. Our denomination traditionally has avoided investment in liquor, tobacco, and gambling. Historically many church investors have refused to invest in major military contractors, companies with nuclear weapons contracts, or companies when they were doing business in South Africa under apartheid. In some cases, they have divested of such companies, making public their action as a moral statement."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary submit this resolution to the 2008 General Conference in order to call upon the United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the General Council on Finance and Administration, and other general church agencies with investments to review and identify companies that profit from sales of products or services that cause harm to Palestinians or Israelis and divest from these companies.

J-25 Online Course of Study

Sponsor: Oregon-Idaho Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
 Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.
 Adopted.

add the following to the Book of Discipline:

4121.3.d: Prescribe a Course of Study for local pastors that include studies for license for pastoral ministry and the five-year Course of Study curriculum. All work in the Course of Study shall be taken in programs approved by the Division of Ordained Ministry. **Upon approval of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, a candidate may complete up to one-half of the work through on-line courses developed by the Division of Ordained Ministry.**

322.1(3): completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry in addition to the studies for license as a local pastor, ~~no more than one year~~, **up to one half of** which may be taken by correspondence or online/distance learning courses;

324.6.c): completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry, ~~of which no more than four courses of which one-half~~ may be taken by correspondence or Internet; and up to one half **of Course of Study may be on-line courses.**

J-27 Petition On Taiwan Security, Stability And Self-Determination

Sponsor: Milo L. Thornberry

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

Adopt this resolution as an act of support to the people of Taiwan for their hope of security, stability, and self-determination; and further

- that the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church reaffirms its supports of the democratic achievement and aspirations of the people of Taiwan;
- that The United Methodist Church, under the leadership of the Council of Bishops with the assistance of the General Board of Global Ministries and General Board of Church and Society and their Annual Conference networks, inform themselves about the history of the Taiwanese people, study contemporary issues, including the changing application of the “One China” policy;
- that upon their study, the same bodies in The United Methodist Church prayerfully promote the rights of Taiwanese for security and self-determination as well as regional stability and membership in the United Nations, in accordance with the United Methodist Social Principles and the United Nations Charter;
- that the leadership of the Division of United Methodist Women on the General Board of Global Ministries, promote an ecumenical international mission study on Taiwan and the holistic ministries of the church be conducted as early as possible;
- and that the 2008 General Conference forward this resolution to the President of The United States, the U.S. legislators; and the General Secretary of the United Nations.

J-29 Petition on Sudan Crisis

Sponsor: Christ the Reconciler

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

Send this petition to the 2008 General Conference directing that all financial entities within the Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church complete an audit of investment funds to search for companies doing business with the government of Sudan and that these financial entities immediately divest themselves of these investments in these funds with the exception of companies that are providing humanitarian services. This audit shall be performed annually until such time as the United Nations Peacekeeping forces are allowed to establish control over the Darfur region.

J-31 A Call For Peacemaking

Sponsor: Witness Ministry Team; MFSA

Responsible Parties: Secretary of the Annual Conference.

Adopted.

adopt the following General Conference Resolution:

A Call for Peacemaking

God’s earth is aching for peace. Domestic strife, civil conflict, ethnic and racial clashes, religious schism and interfaith rivalry, terrorist attacks, wars between nations, and threatened use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons – all of these prevent us from achieving God’s shalom. In response we who are disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be peacemakers for the transformation of the world.

The biblical foundation for peacemaking is the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Mt.5:9), “Don’t react violently against the one who is evil” (Mt 5:39, Scholars Version), “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44), and

pray to forgive those who trespass against us (Mt. 6:12, 14-15). Paul echoed Jesus' teaching when he instructed Christians in Rome, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:14-21). He told the church in Corinth that through Christ we have a "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

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

Therefore, the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon:

- United Methodist children, youth, and adults as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ to become peacemakers wherever they are -- at home, school, work, in the local community and the wider world -- and to show the love, compassion, and concern for justice that Jesus taught and lived.
- Local congregations as an expression of Wesleyan social holiness to teach and practice peacemaking, to study underlying causes of conflict among social groups and nations, to seek positive remedies and become instruments of peace.
- Annual conferences to undergird congregations through training, encouragement, and active support for peacemaking activities and to be voices for peace, justice, and reconciliation within the conference area and beyond.
- Bishops to encompass peacemaking in teaching what it means to live the United Methodist way, engage in conflict resolution where appropriate, and offer a prophetic voice for peace and justice.

The 2008 General Conference calls upon boards and agencies to incorporate peacemaking into their regular programs and budgets, including but not limited to the following:

- The General Board of Discipleship to develop, publish, and distribute Christian education material on the biblical basis of peace and justice and ways in which children, youth, and adults can be peacemakers and seekers of justice and to publish devotional material for peacemakers.
- The General Board of Church and Society to serve as public policy advocate for actions that promote peace and oppose war, to provide resources on peacemaking to annual conferences and local congregations, and to facilitate training for nonviolence that applies Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.
- The General Board of Global Ministries, its Women's Division, and United Methodist Women to continue and augment peacemaking activities in their ministries in the United States and around the globe.
- The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to work with United Methodist seminaries and Africa University for encouragement of research, teaching, and publications on the theology of peace and methods of peacemaking and peace building with justice.
- United Methodist seminaries to teach the theology of peace to students, clergy and laity and provide training for peacemaking.
- JUSTPEACE: Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation to promote a culture of just peace in the church and in the world and to provide training for peacemaking practitioners within annual conferences and local congregations.
- The General Commissions on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Religion and Race, the Status and Role of Women, and United Methodist Men to illuminate causes of injustice and intergroup tension, engage in advocacy for peace and justice, provide training for conflict resolution, and become instruments of peace.
- The Connectional Table to facilitate cooperation among United Methodist boards, agencies, conferences, and congregations on peacemaking endeavors.

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The 2008 General Conference requests the following reports for submission to the 2012 General Conference:

- By the Council of Bishops to summarize peacemaking activities of bishops and annual conferences during the 2009-2012 quadrennium and offer recommendations for further peacemaking activities during the 2013-2016 quadrennium.
- By the Connectional Table, with staff assistance from the General Board of Church and Society, to describe the substance and results of peacemaking activities of general boards and agencies during the 2009-2012 quadrennium and to present recommendations for further peacemaking activities during the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

H-29 (2006)

Note: The 2006 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference approved Action Request H-29, which is a petition to the 2008 General Conference. The text of H-29 is printed on pages 175-176 of the 2006 Conference Journal. Although the text is printed correctly, the formatting of the font is NOT correct, which unfortunately leads to an understanding of the action request which is in direct opposition to its intent. The corrected version is presented here:

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....."

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.

1. 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). In Idaho, information can be obtained from www.deathpenaltyinfo.org.

2. CHILDREN OF SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS (2007)

Sponsor: University Park UMC, Morningside UMC, Oregon-Idaho Reconciling United Methodists

The 2000 Census established that same-gender couples are raising children in 96% of all counties in The United States. Children of same-gender parents often experience economic, legal, and familial insecurity when their bonds to non-biological parents are not legally recognized. Moreover, legal recognition of same-gender relationships increases the ability of adult couples to provide and care for one another and fosters a nurturing and secure environment for their children. Because scientific data overwhelmingly demonstrates that there is no relationship between the sexual orientation of parents and any measure of children's emotional, psychosocial, and behavioral adjustment [Pediatrics, July 2006]; and because The United Methodist Church believes "the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity" [Paragraph 161A, page 99, 2004 Discipline]; and because The United Methodist Church "encourage[s] social, economic, and religious efforts to maintain and strengthen relationships within families" [Paragraph 161A, page 99, 2004 Discipline]; we conclude that civil marriage, civil unions, and legally recognized domestic partnerships are beneficial to children, regardless of the gender of the parents, because they strengthen families and help foster financial and legal security, psychological and social stability, and an enhanced sense of societal acceptance

and support. We support efforts to legally recognize same-gender relationships and claim that laws which ban the legal recognition of same-gender relationships actively harm the health and well-being of children all over the nation.

3. 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).

4. COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS (1982, 1986, 1989, 1992, Revised 1995, 1998, 2001, Revised 2004, Revised 2007)

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, the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program/Community Mediation Service and the Alternatives to Violence Project. We encourage our churches to seek out ways to actively support and/or establish these services in their communities.

5. COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (1993, Revised 1994, Revised 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2004, Revised 2007)

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

We affirm the prophetic position of our bishops in their 1986 foundation document and 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."

6. 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.

7. CUBA EMBARGO (1995, Revised 1998, 2001, Revised 2004, Updated and Rewritten 2007)

We continue to call for our Government to lift the Cuban embargo and seek to resume better diplomatic relations with Cuba, and that we encourage individual members of all churches within the conference to urge their U.S. Congressional Representatives to work for legislation to lift this embargo.

8. EMBRACING THE SOJOURNER (2007)

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action; Oregon-Idaho Hispanic Ministry Training Institute

We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and its congregations study and call upon local and state governments to enforce fair and just immigration policies that will protect the rights and well being of all immigrants in our midst, and that they promote educational resources in local churches to help members advocate for the same.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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) and the Energy Stewardship Pledge," or EMO's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light, and through the National Council of Churches of Christ (www.nccusa.org or www.ncccjustice.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)

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.

12. GUN VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTION (2001, 2004, Revised 2007)

We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference stand in public witness to the sin of gun violence in the towns, cities and rural areas in Oregon and Idaho and across the United States. We call upon our churches and upon individuals to join in a national commitment against gun terrorism in America so that children can play in their yards and walk to school without fear, by taking some or all of the following actions:

- 1) Support common sense gun safety, and gun safety education measures by participating with their respective member of Congress in expressing the need for legislative action on gun measures protecting their children.
- 2) Remove guns from their home if at all possible.
- 3) Foster a climate of nonviolent conflict resolution in their home, children's school, congregations and community.
- 4) Monitor the television programs their children/youth watch; monitor how they use the internet, use of violent video games, and educate themselves regarding rating systems.
- 5) Focus public attention on child gun deaths. Talk about this crisis in church; lift up the names of children/youth in the community killed by gun violence; contact the media; and above all, talk with their children/youth.
- 6) Research community needs, provide children/youth with alternatives to violence so they can be safe and protected.

13. 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."

14. IRAQ WAR (2007)

Sponsor: Church and Society for Social Justice Committee, Portland First UMC
The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference resolves to:

*Pray for the military personnel and their families who have sacrificed as a result of this war, and for a swift end to the destructions and violence raging in Iraq,

*Support withdrawal of all military troops and bases from Iraq.

*Support the call for the United Nations to appoint a Peace Envoy to encourage and cooperate in talks to explore a political settlement to the conflict,

*Call for multinational support for regionally generated plans to rebuild Iraq and other Middle Eastern Nations.

15. MILITARY SPENDING (1980, 1981, 1982, Revised 1986, Revised 1990, Revised 1993, 1996, 1999, Revised 2000, Revised 2004, Revised 2007)

We propose that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference continue 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.

The United States continues increased unchecked military spending with a military budget amounting to \$620 billion in FY2007 and rising to nearly \$650 billion for FY2008 while making incessantly drastic cuts in health care, social services, education, environmental programs, and other vital services.

16. OPEN MEMBERSHIP (2007)

Sponsor: University Park United Methodist Church

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference expects and encourages its congregations and clergy to abide by the principle: Membership in any local church in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference shall not be denied on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, economic condition, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, or any other status.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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."

21. 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.

22. SEEKING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND (2007)

Sponsor: Methodist Federation for Social Action; Active for Peace and Justice (Corvallis First UMC)

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are the members of my family you did it to me. Matthew 25:40.

WHEREAS, we affirm Israel's right to exist within permanent, recognized and secure borders, and affirm Palestinians' rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state with secure borders and air space, water rights, and passage rights to the land in their state, whether it is through a one-state or two-state solution,

WHEREAS, by a vote of 877 to 19, the General Conference in 2004 resolved that, "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings;" [Book of Resolutions, 2004, #312], and

WHEREAS, we are called to support members of Christ's church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land due to Israel's confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation, and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church should not profit from the illegal (as defined by UN Resolution 242) Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or the destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards, and lives, and

WHEREAS, we are committed to ensuring that our denomination's finances are used in a manner consistent with Christ's teaching, our beliefs, and international law, and

WHEREAS, the illegal destruction of Palestinian homes and economy, confiscation of Palestinian land, and violence and loss of Palestinian lives, primarily innocent children and civilians, are made possible by the use of armored bulldozers, helicopters, gunships, tanks and other equipment supplied to Israel; and the destruction of Israeli property, violence, and loss of innocent Israeli lives are made possible by the use of mortars, guns and bombs supplied to Palestinians; thereby creating such harm on both sides from complex and simple weapons, equipment, and supplies that are provided by national and multinational corporations that profit from such violent and deadly activities, and

WHEREAS, the resolution on Investment Ethics in the United Methodist Book of Resolutions states our policy on "Avoidance by Divestment," to wit: "This policy prohibits investment in enterprises that have policies or practices that are so morally reprehensible that investment in these companies is not tolerated by the church. Our denomination traditionally has avoided investments in liquor, tobacco, and gambling. Historically many church investors have refused to invest in major military contractors, companies with nuclear weapons contracts, or companies when they were doing business in South Africa under apartheid. In some cases, they have divested of such companies, making public their action as a moral statement," and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary submit this resolution to the 2008 General Conference in order to call upon the United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the General Council on Finance and Administration, and other general church agencies with investments to review and identify companies that profit from sales of products or services and the names of all such companies shall be made public via the Conference Director of Communications.

23. SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT (2001, Revised 2004, Revised 2007)

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*, ¶213 **Investment Ethics**, and that individual United Methodists be encouraged to do likewise.

24. STAR WARS (1993, Revised 1994, Revised 1997, Revised 2000, Revised 2004, Revised 2007)

We urge the Annual Conference and its members to contact members of the U.S. Congress urging them to 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.

1. The Star Wars National Missile Defense System (NMD) is being supported by our current administration with \$10 billion annually, expecting to raise to 19 billion by 2013; 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*:

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.

25. 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. (1 Cor. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.